

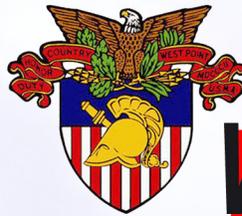


US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

Building Strong®

August Edition 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District



West Point ***Science Center***

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
★ BARTLETT HALL ★

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On the Cover...

West Point Science Center, Bartlett Hall, constructed in 1913, along with the academy's old library has been renovated and combined to create one large science center. It will take science education far into the 21st century.

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Colonel's Corner

Our programs will change, but taking care of people will continue to be key to our success

Teammates,

It's no secret that the Corps of Engineers, including us here at the New York District, could be in for some lean times in the coming years. With talk of reining in federal spending as well as the completion of large missions like BRAC, the President's stimulus and the Harbor Deepening we will need to take a strategic approach to manpower issues as we move forward.

While these challenges will not be simple ones to overcome, I'm confident that the New York District team can manage them. In order to better manage these sort of budget and workload fluctuations, District leadership has been working with the Workforce Assessment Committee and Human Resources on forecasting and assessing workload and manpower figures in an attempt to find a solid balance between the two for the present as well as in the future.

The goal of this Workforce Assessment Team is to help ensure the District stays healthy through the years, whether in lean times or flush times so we are positioned for success if large-scale missions or programs come our way as they did with the President's stimulus and BRAC 2005.

Two main parts of ensuring a healthy future are taking advantage of and expanding opportunities to serve the public and our partners and, most importantly, taking care of our workforce.

Exploring additional opportunities to contribute as other agencies downsize is critical to the District's future and will help us to take care of our personnel in the long run.

This means exploring more prospects for work across all our technical functions in the Interagency and International Support program, which in FY12 included about \$13 million in work and in FY13 is projected to have approximately \$81 million in work.

We are already working closely with partners like the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Environmental Protection Agency and New York City on projects and have shown them the value and expertise the Corps brings to the table. As we continue to engage them, we need to make it clear that we're able to support more of their programs to help them achieve their goals.

We also need to look at the possibility of providing more reachback support to forces overseas in places like Afghanistan where the District has already awarded contracts for more than \$45 million in work this calendar year.

By diversifying and expanding the District's portfolio, we're creating opportunities for employees already here to further develop their skill sets and be challenged while contributing to the mission.

Expanding the District's portfolio isn't a silver bullet though and the possibility of workload reductions is a real one. That's why the District's Human Resources team is aggressively working to manage workforce balance issues as they arise without having to resort to drastic force reduction measures.



Col. John R. Boulé II
Commander

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Science Center helps cadets reach for the Stars

By JoAnne Castagna, Public Affairs

In the late 1960's young Shane gazed at his TV screen in awe as he watched astronauts walking on the Moon. It was at that time that he set his sights on becoming one of them. Today Col. Robert "Shane" Kimbrough, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut and active duty Army Colonel, looks back and believes that the science education he received at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York helped him to reach his dreams.

The academy's science education is about to get even better. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District is constructing a new science center for the cadets at the academy that is maintaining the look of the historic 200-year old campus and taking their science education well into the 21st Century.

The academy is known as one of the world's preeminent leader development institutions and has graduated a number of famous individuals including two presidents of the United States, numerous famous generals, seventy-four Medal of Honor recipients and many successful NASA astronauts, like Kimbrough who graduated from West Point in 1989.

"The science education I received piqued my interest and made me want to do things I normally didn't think of doing. It also was a huge foundation for me becoming an astronaut.

The academy provided me an incredible physics, chemistry and biology education and skills in problem solving

and experimentation techniques all of which are invaluable skills I need as an army officer and NASA astronaut" said Kimbrough who has flown on the Shuttle and performed several spacewalks.

Kimbrough is excited about the new science center being constructed by the Army Corps and says the cadets will be even more prepared for what the future brings.

The Army Corps' New York District has performed a number of construction projects for the academy over the years and was asked to construct a new science center as their old science building and equipment were getting outdated and they want to stay competitive with other educational institutions of the same caliber.

The Army Corps is constructing the new science center by renovating and combining two existing buildings, the academy's old science building Bartlett Hall that was



originally constructed in 1913 and the academy's nearby old library.



Since the campus is a national historic landmark and home to many historic sites, buildings and monuments, the Army Corps was asked to perform the work by keeping the gray and black granite shells of both neogothic buildings intact.

The Corps is doing this by gutting and renovating the interiors of both buildings and connected them to create one large science center.

The new science center when completed will be an expanded and modernized multi-purpose science facility that will sit on 300,000 square feet of property. The complex will have larger classrooms and labs and new equipment for the cadets to study physics, optics, laser technology, chemistry, life sciences, biology and biochemistry.

The Army Corps is working in collaboration with the academy to make renovations that will improve the science education for the cadets and accommodate the needs of the faculty.

These improvements include constructing larger labs with more state-of-the-art equipment to accommodate the 4,400 cadets that are all required to take chemistry and physics.

At West Point we encourage the cadets to perform hands on science experiments and this building's new design is helping us expand on this. The Army Corps is taking this opportunity to re-think how the science needs to be taught," said Col. John Graham, Associate Dean for Research and Chief Scientist, U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "Instead of having five or ten cadets doing the same experiment, two are now doing it. This is amazing. Whenever you do science in a large group, obviously someone always gets left behind in the group, but when there are two they both can play an active role in the work. We are revolutionizing how we do science here."

Graham who is a West Point graduate added, "We used to have limitations on what scientific experiments are cadets could do because it wasn't safe. Now they can do them. Our faculty is very excited."

For example, piping was placed strategically so that the cadets can move fluids around during chemistry experiments and outlets were located to better facilitate the use of the computers in the labs."

The cadets are already benefiting by the Army Corps'

work. They are performing the renovating in one area of the construction site while classes are safely taking place in another area of the site. This allows the cadets to get their courses completed without any delay due to the construction.

The Army Corps may be modernizing the academy's science education, but they are maintaining the historic look and feel of the campus. They are doing this by preserving the building's granite exteriors with their old glazed leaded glass paned windows.

They are also preserving other historic elements of the buildings including some of the interior stone walls, marble, slate and wrought iron railings and tile flooring. As well as a staircase and ceiling arch ways.

"The goal for historic integrity is not to try to copy or mimic. It's to try to blend in and replicate and make it look new but still take on some of the details of the old architecture," said Jeffery Friese, senior project engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

Doing this is not easy said Friese, "It's very challenging to just gut the interior and leave the exterior. This is especially so when you have limited access to the building because there is limited space around the building, limited areas to get in and out of the building and when there is an occupied building next door. This is a very congested area of the post."

Another challenge for the engineers is the wiring. "When you turn a library into a science building there is just no ceiling space for all of the wiring," said Timothy Cain, Contracting Office Representative, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

"It's a challenge to coordinate and organize all of the wiring, science lab items, utilities and plumbing in the ceiling. It was a massive coordination effort to get everything to fit and everything to layout the way we liked it," said Cain.

The building may appear untouched from the outside, but the Army Corps is modernizing the center to make it a safer environment for the cadets and faculty.

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Winning the Energy Savings Battle in NJ

By JoAnne Castagna, Public Affairs

In 2004, Master Sgt. Mark Rizzo's U.S. Army convoy was traveling north on a route in Baghdad, Iraq.

"I was in an armored Humvee with a driver, team leader and gunner when we were hit by a roadside bomb. Our vehicle shook and the driver moved the vehicle to the right of the road, which saved all of our lives," said Rizzo.

"Our driver acted in a way that helped save us from further attack. He could have easily panicked and ran off the road into a barrier or flipped our 13,000 pound vehicle.

Because he had been trained at the Battle Lab and understood the capabilities of the vehicle he reacted in a way that saved our lives and helped us get through our mission."

Last spring, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District completed the construction of a solar power project to provide energy to the Battle Lab or New Jersey Army National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center.

The project is not only supporting a facility that is preparing Soldiers for battle and helping to save their lives, but saving the National Guard and taxpayers' considerable money and energy.

The Battle Lab is located at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, a United States military facility that is located 18 miles southeast of Trenton, N.J.

The Battle Lab is a one of a kind, high profile, state-of-the-art facility where up to 20,000 military and related personnel from all armed forces agencies around the country come annually to be trained to prepare for battle.

"This is the battle up where Soldiers are trained for all types of missions, including stateside missions, like the rescue operations during Hurricane

Katrina," said John Hastings, Energy Program Manager at the New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs who works with Rizzo, who today is the Operations Sergeant with the lab.

According to Hastings, this technology uses considerable energy. The lab uses 1,833,800 kilowatts annually.

Two years ago, the New Jersey Army National Guard asked the Army Corps if it could construct a solar power project so they could save energy and money as they had done for them on previous solar power projects.

In May 2011 the Army Corps completed the solar project with the assistance of contractor, P & S Construction of Lowell, Mass. The project consists of a solar photovoltaic power panel array that is mounted on the roof of the Battle Lab's 128,000 square foot facility. There are three different roof structures ranging in height from 13 feet to 25 feet above the ground.

The new array covers approximately 71,000 square feet of the roof and was placed next to a pre-existing array that has been providing energy for the lab and was constructed by Sun Power Corp of San Jose, Calif.



This aerial of the New Jersey National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center shows the solar panels the Army Corps of Engineers managed. The installation on top of the facilities as well as over the parking area in the top left. (Photo by U.S. Air Force, Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



Panel arrays are composed of modules made up of several solar cells or photovoltaic cells that absorb sunlight that produce electricity. The larger the panel, the more electricity is produced.

Electricity in the form of direct current is produced by the panels, which is not directly usable energy for a building. Most buildings require alternating current at a higher voltage. To make usable building power, the solar panel's direct current is fed into an inverter that transforms it into alternating current at a higher voltage.

This alternating current power is then sent to the building's main transformers where it can be used by the building for its energy needs.

"This new array along with the pre-existing array is doubling the amount of energy that is being produced for the lab. Together they are providing nearly 30 percent of the lab's annual energy needs and saving the National Guard and taxpayers' approximately \$118,000 annually," said Jose Diaz, project manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

This project is also tied to the public power grid so that excess energy can be shared with the public.

In addition, the project is under the State of New Jersey's Solar Renewable Energy Certificate Program. Under this program, solar system owners that generate over 1,000 kilowatts of electricity per year that's connected to the public power grid, receive certificates.

These certificates are then publicly sold and traded to New Jersey businesses and individuals, enabling them to receive solar power benefits without building a solar power system them-



The new solar array is a non-penetrating ballasted roof mounted SCHOTT POLY 230 Solar PV system that covers approximately 71,000 square feet of the Battle Lab's roof. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has partnered with the New Jersey National Guard on several solar power projects in recent years with the next one slated to be done in Lawrenceville, N.J. (Photo by JoAnne Castagna, public affairs)

selves. The revenue is returned to the solar system owners.

The New Jersey National Guard expects to generate anywhere from \$100,000-\$140,000 annually in extra income from this facility and like they've done in the past, will reinvest this money to fund other energy reducing projects at other New Jersey Army National Guard locations.

Diaz said, "I enjoyed working on this project because it makes me feel a sense of pride knowing that these projects will reduce our dependency on foreign oil and will help our country to achieve energy independence, as well as the benefits to our environment."

He continued, "It's also great that the Department of Defense is embracing the use of renewable energy and leading the way in the use of these technologies. This was evident at a U.S. Army/US Air Force Energy Forum I recently attended where the

motto was 'Power the Force. Fuel the Fight.'"

SIDEBAR: This coming fall, New York District will be completing another solar power project for the New Jersey Army National Guard in Lawrenceville, N.J. - constructing a rooftop mounted project the New Jersey Homeland Security Center of Excellence, Headquarters of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This will complete the 7th solar power system and generate a combined 1.7 megawatts of power with an annual cost savings of \$325,000.





Inspiring the Next Generation

By Jean Lau, New York District



Traditionally “Take Your Child to Work Day” is a time for employees to bring their children with them to the office to see what mommy and daddy do all day. Instead of just accompanying their parents to work, New York District planned an outstanding day of fun learning activities. District volunteers, representative of various divisions, planned a program showcasing the many career fields within USACE.

The committee was led by Jean Lau (EEO) and members: Nathanael Wales (PL), Carissa Scarpa (PL), Matthew Lubiak (CT), Anthony Schiano (EN), Lou Benard (EX) and Thomas Capowski (SA). Together they organized activities intended to inspire the next generation towards careers in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM).

This year’s program began with a safety briefing led by Capowski, followed by a presentation about architectural design and a visual tour of New York City’s landmark buildings led by Benard. Demonstrations about solar power and static electricity were led by Schiano, a bridge building contest where teams were set up and tasked to build a stable and strong structure made with only jellybeans and toothpicks was orchestrated by Wales. An exercise about stratigraphy, (study of rock layers), a show-and-tell of artifacts discovered at USACE project sites and do-it-yourself time capsules was given by Scarpa.

The day’s events concluded with a contracting presentation and exercise demonstrating the bid process, how-to calculate profit margins, and government contracting principals led by Lubiak. Twenty children participated in this year’s program and it’s anticipated that it will continue to grow each year. Take Your Child to Work Day is a great opportunity for kids to see what their parents do for the Corps.



The Bridge Building Contest

Photo by Linda Purcell



Nathanael Wales explains the process of building a bridge made with jellybeans and toothpicks to a group of children.



Around the New York District



This year, the Family Readiness Unit held the first annual Chili Cook-Off Contest. It had all the makings of a great party for a good cause, with good food. Competition was fierce and the panel of judges and the attendees were treated to some really fantastic chili. All proceeds from the event went to the Family Readiness fund in support of deployed employees. Diane Deptula won first place with her “Merciless No Bean Chili”. Second place went to Steve McDewitt with his “Three Alarm Chili”, Fred Reich, Sean O’Donnell, Courtney McCathern and Tom Shea all received honorable mention.



Asian Pacific Heritage Month

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, joined by other federal agencies and organizations, celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 30, 2012.

President Obama proclaimed the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month to highlight the Asian American and Pacific Island community and their contributions to America.

Wellington Z.Chen, Executive Director, Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation, a guest speaker at the event, emphasized the importance of unity and the development of Chinatown incorporating many different Asian cultures. Arthur Chi’en a reporter with WPIX TV in New York shared his childhood experience growing up in America and related some of the racial tension he faced as an Asian American.

Guests were treated to a performance of an Asian cultural dance, with artifacts, given by children from the Chinatown Head Start Program. Following their performance, Lt. Col. Michael Clancy, New York District deputy commander, presented awards of appreciation to the young dancers.

“This program was a great way to showcase diversity” said Jean Lau, equal employment opportunity specialist, New York District. For an aspiring professional, the program helped show that leaders can come from all walks of life and that leadership is a quality that transcends race, gender and other demographics”.



Science Center helps cadets reach for the Stars

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They are doing this by removing asbestos and lead paint, providing handicap accessibility, improving the air ventilation system, installing a new roof, improving the building information systems, and installing shatter proof windows inside of the old leaded glass paned windows which will prevent glass shatter from earthquakes and provide some energy efficiency.

The project is expected to be completed in 2016. Graham said, "When we are done we are going to have not the same capabilities, but new capabilities. We are going to be at the cutting edge of physics, chemistry and laser technology. The Army Corps is using this opportunity to shift us way into the future and beyond. This was not a chance just to get up to standard; it was a chance to get into America's future."

Kimbrough looks forward to seeing the new center when it's completed. "I think a center like this will spark the interest of so many cadets and years from now they'll look back and they'll be asked why they're doing what they're doing now and they will say because of that science center that was built at West Point. I think the future is really bright and it's only going to be brighter now."



Maj. Gen. Bo Temple takes a tour of the new Science Center at West Point.



Completion of Warrior in Transition Complex

By Edward R. Sim, Fort Drum

Col John R. Boulé II, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' New York District attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the completion and turnover of the second phase of the Warrior in Transition Unit Complex held at Fort Drum May 14. The complex is capable of future expansion for wounded Soldiers, if the need arises. The four-year project estimated at \$52 million, established a complex for the 3rd Battalion, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment, better known as the Warrior in Transition Unit (WIT).

The complex consists of a 144-person barracks, a two company administration facility, Headquarters Company building and a Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC).

The 3-85th Mountain Infantry Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) was so designated in honor of the 10th Mountain Division unit with which the former Sen. Robert Dole served when he was injured during World War II.

Boulé, called the facility "state of the art" and stated "this is one of approximately 192 projects totaling almost \$3 billion completed at Fort Drum by USACE in the past 25 years."

The ceremony featured several dignitaries, including Rep. William L. Owens, who stated that "this to me represents how we measure ourselves as Americans."



Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony (L to R) are Col. John R. Boulé, Col. Mark W. Thompson, Lt. Celia FlorCruz, Rep. William L. Owens and Maj. Gen. Mark A. Miller

In his prepared remarks, Maj. Gen. Mark A. Milley, the Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division commander, appeared to address those issues, noting the need for battalion leaders to focus on helping their Soldiers. "We've gone from a capability that was dispersed and not super well-coordinated ... to now it's coordinated; it's all on one campus."

Col. Mark W. Thompson, the commander of the installation's Army Medical Department Activity said "We as a medical community and a leadership community have to be attuned that there are 300 different individuals here, and each of them are going to have their own separate needs, their families are going to have their own needs that we need to try to help them fulfill."

The battalion helps prepare Soldiers

to return to their units or move out of the Army into civilian life. The unit has 98 Soldiers, a number that includes 78 active duty, 13 reservists seven National Guard, to go with 54 civilian personnel.

The barracks provide three 2-person suites that are American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and all other barrack suites are ADA compatible (configured to be easily converted to ADA compliant).

The newly-completed SFAC provides space for counseling and assistance with education, finance, human resources, Military and Veteran benefits, social services and Army wounded Warrior Programs. The Battalion Headquarters, not co-located in the battalion complex, provides administrative support and command and control of the WTB.



A Vision of a World Class Harbor Estuary

By Lisa Baron, New York District



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (NY District) and its regional partners are actively committed to achieving the vision of a “World Class Harbor Estuary.” This vision balances the economic revitalization of the Port of New York and New Jersey with natural resources protection and restoration, and critical infrastructure protection.

Over the past 15 years, the NY District and The Port Authority have deepened more than 35 miles of shipping channels to accommodate the large container ships dominating worldwide shipping today. These improvements are essential to keeping the Port of New York and New Jersey competitive and viable, particularly with the expansion of the Panama Canal scheduled to be completed by 2014.

The Port of New York and New Jersey is a key regional and national economic engine providing about 280,000 total jobs in NY and NJ, nearly \$11.6 billion in personal income, more than \$37.1 billion in business income and almost \$5.2 billion in tax revenues while serving 35 per-cent of the U.S. population.

The NY/NJ Harbor Deepening Project (HDP) has beneficially used more than 60 million cubic yards

of sediment including the construction of over 100 acres of tidal marsh, establishing offshore reefs, nourishing beaches, capping landfills and Brownfields, and capping the Dredged Material Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) in the Atlantic Ocean. As the HDP nears completion, over

dredged material has been the policy at the NY District since the inception of the HDP. A recent NY District effort - the NY&NJ Harbor /Jamaica Bay Multi-Project Initiative - exemplifies this policy in every way, attempting to use as much of the sand dredged to remediate, restore and pro-



3.6 million cubic yards of high quality sand is being dredged from Ambrose Channel alone in order to complete the 50-ft pathway from the ocean to Port Elizabeth and Newark by December 2012. The overall HDP will be completed in 2014, providing the pathway to the NY Container Terminal on the Arthur Kill Channel.

Maximizing the beneficial use of

the harbor estuary. The Initiative represents an innovative business approach consistent with the goals of the Corps’ Civil Works Transformation, utilizing integrated water resource management, collaboration and partnering to meet the challenges of federal and local constrained budgets, critical infrastructure needs and the societal goal of ecosystem restoration.



“The Army Corps has a strong commitment along with our partners and stakeholders to restore critical habitat within Jamaica Bay” said Col. John Boulé, commander, New York District. “We need to strike a balance between maintaining the ecological integrity of the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary, and the economic benefits of deepening the Port of New York and New Jersey to achieve our shared vision of creating a World Class Harbor Estuary for future generations.”

The success of this beneficial use initiative can be attributed to strong partnerships and consensus goals within the region. These strong partnerships and the steadfast commitment of many federal, state and local partners resulted in efficient coordination to develop complex plans and specifications, approval of technical reports, execution of funding agreements, secure federal and non-federal funds and issuance of permits. All actions occurred within an efficient and accelerated manner.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection and New York City Department of Parks & Recreation provided significant non-federal funds serving as non-federal sponsors. Other important partners include the National Park Service, NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, National Resources Conservation Service and many other stakeholders.

The combined forces of the regional partnerships within the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary are fundamental to advancing restoration at a time when funding is limited. The leveraging



of non-federal funds has resulted in the implementation of key priority projects for the region outlined in the USACE Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP), the Department of Interior Secretary Salazar’s and New York City’s Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s joint strat-

egy to restore Jamaica Bay, NYC’s Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, NYC Vision 2020 and PlaNYC. Furthermore, this initiative advances many restoration targets and goals outlined in the CRP, which when implemented, will advance the region’s vision of a “World Class Harbor Estuary.”



Federal Employee News in Brief

PAY AND BENEFITS: The House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee approved by voice vote a \$21.2 billion spending bill that would effectively freeze federal employees' salaries for the third year in a row, since it did not include the 0.5 percent pay raise President Obama requested in his fiscal 2013 budget. It is expected to pass the full committee.

PENSION: Federal employees will not have to contribute more to their pension funds according to the latest version of legislation agreed to by House and Senate conferees. The latest version also will allow eligible federal employees to partially retire while collecting prorated pension payments, provided they spend at least 20 percent of their employment mentoring new workers.

RETIREMENT: The backlog of federal retirement claims is down 19 percent since January 2012, according to the latest numbers from the Office of Personnel Management.

TRAVEL: The Defense Department has ordered a freeze on all large-scale conferences and conference-related travel. The order, signed June 3 orders the military service chiefs to review all upcoming conferences costing more than \$100,000 to ensure they are mission essential. Conferences expected to cost more than \$100,000 will require approval from top Pentagon officials.

Federal Executive Board Awardees

Chairman's Award for Continuous Excellence
Distinguished Executive
Call to Service
Community Service
Distinguished Government Service
Emergency Preparedness & Employee Safety
Exemplary Public Contact
Outstanding Student Intern

Col. John R. Boulé II
Ltc. Michael Clancy
Nathanael T. Wales
George D. Casey
Christina D. Carney
Jeffrey P. Ice
Sean B. O'Donnell
Cynthia Zhang

Teamwork

Johnny A. Enke, David Clarke, John L. Mraz and Miguel H. Surage



District's People

Darius Evans son of Diane Evans RM, is a returning 5th year senior team captain @ Divison II American International College, Springfield Mass. After a knee injury that sidelined him two seasons ago, he has battled back to a starting position as linebacker. Darius has completed his undergraduate degree (Sports Management) and is currently working on his Master's in Education. He plans on using his MA degree to teach middle school history in the near future.

Congratulations to Joanne Hemsley , PMP, LEED Green Assoc., C.B.C.P. Program Manager BRAC 133 Integrated Program Office. Joanne was just selected to receive the Region II Renewable Energy Innovator of the Year Award 2012.

Commander's Apple Certification of Appreciation presented to Programs and Project Management Team Lauded for Crucial Close-out of Civil Works Project

(L to R) Shawn Robinson, program analyst, Anthony Ciorra, chief, Civil Works Branch; Robin Tulsiram, program analyst; Jenifer Thalhauser, project manager; Joseph Seebode, deputy district engineer for programs and project management; Gloria Pinkney, program analyst; and Barbara Taylor, supervisor, Program Management Office.
(Credit: Vince Elias, USACE)



Intern Program Graduates

Col. Boulé congratulates the recent graduates of the New York District Intern Program. From (L to R) Joseph A. Durkin, Ryan M. Ferguson, Choteau R. Johnson, Erik R. Jarger, Col. Boulé, Kyle T. Davis and Patrick C. McKeivitt



Colonel Boulé - A Look Back

By JoAnne Castagna, Public Affairs

As Col. John R. Boulé II, district commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District retires from the U.S. Army and completes his tenure at the District, he reflects on his career.

He said that what has always been important to him was leading people, teamwork, values and making a difference in the lives of Americans and this is what he will be seeking in the next phase of his life.

“The best moments of my career were when I had the honor and privilege to lead and command in the Army. When you’re in charge of organizations and units and you get to lead people, learn from people, fight with people, and work with a team to accomplish big things. This is what satisfied me as an Army officer as well as working for the New York District,” said Boulé

In 2005, Boulé was a battalion commander in Baghdad in charge of leading 900 Soldiers who had suffered 300 attacks in the previous year. Boulé said, “As a leader it gave me great pleasure to stand in front of them and tell them that after their tremendous contribution to a challenging operation that they were all going home to their families. It’s a really warm feeling for a leader to be able to take care of my people. It’s a real big high.”

Taking care of Americans is also important to him. In 1992, Boulé was a staff officer and company commander with the 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain. In the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, he deployed his unit to south Florida in support of Operation Hurricane Andrew Relief.

“Performing this mission felt great. Usually when you’re an Army officer, you deploy to other countries to provide relief and be a peacemaker. In Florida we cleaned debris, cleared roads and removed safety hazards from neighborhoods. People in the active army don’t get to do this a lot. It was satisfying to deploy somewhere where we could have a positive impact on an American community for a change,” said Boulé.

He experienced the same working for the New York District. “Not too long ago I was out in Bound Brook, New Jersey where we are completing a huge flood risk management project. I was proud to stand out there with their mayor and tell him we are finishing this work and creating a system that is going to reduce the risk to the public, reduce damage and improve safety.”

Bound Brook is one of many successful missions that are serving the public that Boulé is proud to have been a part of. “Our agency had an unprecedented mission in the last three years. Our military program saw the success of BRAC, the Mark Center, and the transformation of Fort Drum. Our civil program is cleaning up land contamination, creating islands in Jamaica Bay, what I like to call our island building campaign, and deepening 30 plus miles of channels in the New York/New Jersey Harbor. These are just a few highlights that I was blessed to be a part of.”

Boulé said that having successful missions like these requires team work, something he says both the Army and District value and something he will miss. “What I enjoyed about the Army and the District is getting things done as a team. Building a team and working as a team towards a set of objectives and goals. Getting things done on the ground. This gives us a sense of satisfaction in our lives,” said Boulé.

Boulé will also miss the Army values. Boulé said, “The foundation of values that the army stands for, standing for something that is pretty noble and well respected. I will miss being in a noble organization and I hope I will be in another after this.”



He said he won't miss the packing and moving that all Army officers have to do, but he said he has always looked at this in a positive sense. "Every few years Army officers are required to move. You have to pick up everything you own and come out of a job you finally figured out and you are going to move into a new environment. You learn to look forward to this. It's a way to expand your connections, your opportunities, the diversity and meaningfulness of your work, increase your worldliness and be a part of history."

"When I came in I told everyone that the New York District is where I wanted to be. I had high expectations for the organization and the job and it's lived up to all of that. I had more fun in the last three years than I had any other place!"

After he packs his bags where will his next mission be? He said he is looking forward to the next phase of his life. He wants a second career where he can contribute in a large way with another organization and make a difference. "I would like to work in the private sector, possibly for the architectural or construction industry, and really get involved and try to work like the Army Corps does. I want to be involved with something meaningful, something I can say, 'I was involved with that.'"

The District Regulator Says Farewell

Richard Tomer, branch chief of the Regulatory Branch is retiring this summer and he likes to think he is leaving the Army Corps better than when he began with the agency 31 years ago.

In the past three decades, Tomer has worn several hats in the Regulatory Branch. "As the District's regulator, the vast majority of permit decisions and other regulatory actions were either done with my approval or oversight. I've probably touched thousands of permits," said Tomer.

Tomer said, "This has been a rewarding job for a number of reasons, including the times when I helped people get through complicated regulatory hurdles by troubleshooting their situations and getting them unstuck in the bureaucratic maze."

These people include his coworkers. "I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with so many great, intelligent and sharp people. I always felt like I had a very good support network behind me."

Tomer enjoyed working for the agency as a whole, "The Army Corps has a can-do philosophy and this has always appealed to me and I haven't seen this in other agencies. We are very decisive. Regulatory is all about making decisions. The Army Corps doesn't shy away from making decisions especially if they're tough challenging ones. We just jump right in and roll up our sleeves. We get to it and do it in a timely manner."

He added that one example of this was the Army Corps' work during the disaster operations of 9-11, "After 9-11 we basically had nothing. We had a supreme challenge and somehow we pulled through. I'm amazed at what we were able to do."

Tomer said, "Someone once said that the measure of what you've done is whether or not you left the place better. I like to think I've accomplished this because of three program efforts I helped move forward. These included the building of a new field office facility for our field staff at the Watervliet Arsenal in upstate New York, which was desperately needed, our digitization efforts almost all of our old permit files have been scanned and are accessible from an internet based search system and lastly our computer system which I've tried to push to the next level. For all of this, I like to think I'm leaving the place better than when I started."



“Best of the Best Urban Beaches” Westhampton Dunes

The Army Corps of Engineers, along with Mayor Gary Vegliante of Westhampton Dunes N. Y. will be accepting the award for Westhampton Dunes as the “Top Urban Beach” at the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association conference to be held in San Diego, Calif. in the fall.

The award, created a decade ago by the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association highlights the value of restored beaches and the importance of sound coastal management. The on line contest allowed beach lovers from around the world to cast their votes in support of their favorite restored beach. Over 24,000 votes were cast in the Urban division contest. The Westhampton Dunes won over such favorites as Virginia Beach, Va, Ocean City, Md and Cape May Inlet to Lower Township N.J.

The contest was held primarily to remind people that many of the country’s favorite beaches have been restored so successfully that visitors might not even realize that restoration took place the end goal was to promote awareness of the substantial benefits and prevalence of restored beaches on all of America’s coasts.

Colonel’s Corner cont’d from page 3

As missions end or evolve, like deepening the harbor shifting to a focus more on maintaining the deeper channels or new IIS partners come knocking or new projects emerge like the need for remedial investigation at former Fort Monmouth now that it has closed, we can immediately leverage our highly-skilled workforce. HR can work with program managers to ensure that the District’s workforce is matched up with the District’s workload.

Also HR has tools to help senior leaders shape their teams. Some of these are replacing departing employees from within the District to offering employees the option of Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments (VSIP).

Just like in the past, the District will be facing some complex challenges in the future, but senior leadership has been preparing for this eventuality and remains committed to executing our missions while also taking care of our people.

I’m confident the team of professionals here in New York District will not adapt to the upcoming challenges but will excel, setting the example for Districts across the nation.

Essayons!





**U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
New York District
Awards Ceremony & Annual Picnic**



Space shuttle Enterprise finds a home at the Intrepid Air, Sea and Space Museum.

Thursday June 7

After a procession up the Hudson River the space shuttle Enterprise was lifted aboard it's new home, the Intrepid Air, Sea and Space Museum.



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