



## Col. John R. Boulé II takes command of New York District

By Public Affairs

On July 24, 2009, Col. John R. Boulé II took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. Boulé relieved Col. Aniello “Nello” Tortora, who is scheduled to take command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Alabama.

Col. Boulé accepted the command flag from Col. Peter “Duke” DeLuca, commander, North Atlantic Division and with it full responsibilities for the District’s operations and personnel.

The ceremony was held at the Alexander Hamilton Custom House in lower Manhattan and attended by District personnel, military commanders from other districts and state, federal and city officials whose organizations work closely with the Corps in the tri-state area.

Boulé becomes the District’s 50th commander and spent the past year working at Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. His previous assignments include deploying to Iraq for both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also deployed to Somalia and to southern Florida after Hurricane Andrew. At the ceremony, Boulé called the area that makes up New York District “an area that has defined much of (his) life.”



**Col. John R. Boulé II accepts the command flag from Col. Peter “Duke” DeLuca, commander, North Atlantic Division at the Change of Command Ceremony on July 24, 2009. Former New York District Commander Aniello “Nello” Tortora(l.) and Deputy Civilian District Engineer Joseph Seebode (r.) also took part in the ceremony. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs**

“This is the only job I asked the Army to give me,” said Boulé, a native of Plattsburgh in upstate New York near the Hudson River and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He has also been assigned to Fort Drum with the 10th Mountain Division during his career.

He pledged to continue building on the District’s success and do everything in his power to strengthen existing relationships while also fostering new ones. “I feel connections to a lot of people and a lot of places in the District’s area of responsibility,” Boulé said. “And I’m excited to make more connections.”



## In This Month's Issue

New York District Times  
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New York District

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



District employees from  
Contracting Division and  
the Office of Counsel got  
a chance to see some of  
the projects they work on  
regularly as part of a team-  
building exercise with their  
counterparts in the Opera-  
tions Division

On June 30, 2009 Operations Division staff from  
Technical Support, Dredged Material Management,  
Management Support and Surveys Sections spent  
the morning side-by-side with Contracting and Of-  
fice of Counsel onboard the MV Hocking for a team-  
building exercise. The exercise was an opportunity  
to bring together the technical elements of a typical  
O&M dredging project delivery team (PDT) with  
the support staff in Counsel and Contracting at the  
project site to see firsthand the challenges in deliver-  
ing such a project in New York District.

Project engineers from the Technical Support  
Section gave briefings to the group on the status of  
projects underway and provided critical insight into  
dredging operations. The group visited several on-  
going dredging projects in New York Harbor to see  
dredges in action. For some this trip was their first  
opportunity to see a dredging operation up close.

Page 3	Colonel's Column
Page 4	Col. DeLuca visits New York District
Page 5	FENIB
Page 6	New York District chosen as pilot for new website
Page 7	New York District chosen as pilot for new website
Page 8	DCV Gelberman gets a visit
Page 9	Employee Recognition Awards
Page 10	City of Water Day Photo Collage
Page 11	Change of Command Photo Collage
Page 12	Employee Day Picnic Photo Collage

The New York District Times welcomes Submissions:  
Please send articles & photos to: kenneth.wells@usace.army.mil



## Col. Boulé's Initial Thoughts Upon Taking Command



### A Little About Me

- I want to be here!
- I am familiar with our Area of Responsibility
- I have an Engineering & Leadership background
- I speak limited USACE & New York District-ese

### What I've Heard

- NY DISTRICT is performing VERY WELL - GREAT in many ways
- Therefore- I am NOT here to "Fix" the Organization

### What's This About?

- It's NOT about Me
- It IS about Us- the DISTRICT Succeeding

### What's Most Important? Delivering!!! Achieving the Campaign Goals

- Ready for All Contingencies
- Engineering Sustainable Water Resources Solutions
- Building Effective, Innovative, Sustainable Solutions
- Recruiting and Retaining Strong Teams

### What Else is Important? Values

- Army Values - LDRSHIP
- Support of the AED Warfight: #1 Priority (Delivering in AED is more important than Delivering in NY District...)
- I am the Only One in the District who can Deny a Deployment Request
- Non-Negotiables - Integrity; Loyalty; Life and Limb Safety; Illegal Drug Use

### Caring

- AURA: Acceptance; Understanding; Recognition; Appreciation
- Make Systems Work for Teammates
- Treat Employees Like your Own Family
- Work Areas: Clean, Orderly, Good Repair, Leader Presence
- Safety! We Set the Standard!
- Counseling: Feedback is the Breakfast of Champions!

How do we build Strong Teammates





## Col. DeLuca visits New York District

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

On July 7 & 8 of 2009, North Atlantic Division Commander, Peter “Duke” DeLuca paid a visit to New York District for an in-depth look at the various projects and studies currently underway. Col. DeLuca was greeted by former District commander Col. Aniello Tortora as well as future District commander John R. Boulé as well as a host of District chiefs and project managers. New York District was DeLuca’s fifth District tour out of the six Districts that make up the North Atlantic Division since taking command.

The visit began with comprehensive presentations from Milcon, Civil Works, Harbor programs and IIS—all of them designed to provide Col. DeLuca with a comprehensive picture of the District’s area of responsibility. Following the presentations, Col. DeLuca was given a personal tour of various project sites by Col. Tortora. Some of the stops included a trip out on the New York/New Jersey Harbor to help illustrate firsthand the District’s varied missions, including surveying, harbor deepening, environmental initiatives and the drift and floatables collection programs.

Col. DeLuca also visited the District’s Caven Point Marine Terminal in New Jersey. Other destinations included Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., for a look at some of the District’s military construction projects, ongoing Formerly Utilized Site Remediation Action Plan (FUSRAP) cleanup work in Maywood, N.J., and Green Brook, N.J., for a look at the ongoing flood damage reduction work.



**Incoming New York District Commander John Boulé, far left in uniform, and new North Atlantic Division Commander Peter “Duke” DeLuca, center in uniform, tour ongoing flood damage reduction work in the Green Brook Sub Basin in New Jersey. The two toured several New York District projects during the week to get acclimated to the District’s many projects and missions. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs**



**John Mraz, lead cartographic technician in New York District’s survey branch gives Col. DeLuca a firsthand look at the survey equipment used by New York District during his visit to the CAVEN POINT Marine Terminal. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs**



**New York District Chief of Operations Tom Creamer, right, gives new North Atlantic Division Commander Col. Peter “Duke” DeLuca, left, a brief on some of New York District’s missions in and around the New York/New Jersey Harbor overseen by the District’s operations division, like drift and floatables collection and hydrographic surveys. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs**



## FENIB Column

**FERS Sick Leave Measure:** An amendment to the Defense authorization bill containing several federal employee benefits, including the FERS sick leave credit was withdrawn. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, withdrew the amendment saying he will look for other bills to offer the amendment to.

**Retirees:** The Senate approved an amendment from Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, to S1390, which would allow agency heads to waive the requirement for retirees who are rehired part time to take a cut in their annuity checks. The authorization bill passed. Under current OPM regulations, federal retirees can return to work for the government part time, but in most cases their annuities are reduced by the amount they earn on the job, unless they receive a waiver from OPM.

**NSPS:** THE Defense Departments pay-for-performance system received a stay of execution when an independent review board said the program needs major “reconstruction” but did not recommend abolishing it. The board did not spell out what reforms should be adopted, but drew some conclusions about the shortcomings. For now, the board’s initial report will not mean any changes for the 205,000 employees under the system. The board suggested that the moratorium on adding more employees to NSPS should continue until the system is fixed.

**FERS AND TSP:** In June, President Obama signed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, into law. Effective 5 July 2009. Participants covered by the Federal Employees’ Retirement System are immediately eligible to receive agency TSP contributions. This means all new hires will get a head start on those marching contributions, which can be worth as much as 5 percent of their biweekly pay.

**Tsp Web Site:** TSP officials said they are on track for their user-friendly web site in 2010. A random sample of participants will be able to log on to the new site come fall. The site will offer enhanced access to individual account profiles and a revamped retirement calculator, according to administrators.

**Employees Student Loan Program:** A new program will allow people who work in federal and other public service jobs to reduce their monthly federal student loan payments and have the balance of their loans forgiven after ten years of service. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Option, announced on July 1 by Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Md., and Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry, will cover full-time federal and other public service employees with federal student loans in the direct loan program, where the Education department is the lender. Federal direct loans covered by the option include Stafford, Grad PLUS or consolidation loans. Public service employees with federal loans in the Guaranteed Federal Family Education Loan Program, where lenders are private entities such as Sallie Mae or Citibank, will be able to consolidate their loans in the Direct Loan program to qualify for forgiveness. There is no limit on how much can be forgiven. The 10 year service required to qualify for loan forgiveness does not have to be consecutive.



## New York District chosen as ‘pilot’ for Corps Web overhaul

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

New York District’s website will be undergoing a complete overhaul this summer as part of the web migration plan handed down by USACE Headquarters. The site will be modeled after the newly redesigned Headquarters site, which was unveiled earlier this year and is scheduled to be up and running by fall 2009. The site will not only share design features with the Headquarters site, but will also be maintained and updated using the same software – which will be a departure from how the site was managed in the past and will require each office to take a more hands on role regarding their online content.

New York District will be the “pilot District” for the Corps-wide “Web Migration,” as it’s called. The overall long term web migration plan is an overhaul of all Corps websites – which will eventually all share the same structure, basic design and software.

### New Look and Feel

“The idea is for people who visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers online to have the same experience no matter what site they visit and be able to navigate the different District sites with ease,” said Tesia Williams, public affairs specialist in charge of web planning and development at Headquarters. “The Corps delivers superior products and performance to our customers in the US and abroad, and our web sites should reflect that. The sites are our primary means of communicating with the public.”

For most people in the District, the biggest difference coming from the web migration will



After the redesign, New York District’s page might look something like this mock-up - which is modeled after the Headquarters site. Employees can explore the HQ site to get a feel for how it is set up before the District makes the switch at [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil).

be the design and how to find things. Since the site will be modeled after the Headquarters site, it might be a good idea to explore that site, [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil), and become familiar with how it is structured in preparation for the District’s change.

The main layout features will be a global navigation bar toward the top of the page and a content panel on the left side of the page. As visitors choose where to go from the main bar on the top of the page— which never changes as visitors navigate—the panel on the left will generally display what pages, files and links are available on the page visitors are looking at. As visitors continue to navigate around the site, the panel on the left will continue to display links relevant to the section of the site being looked at. Another change for people used to visiting the site will be a culling of online documents, and pages. Right now, the server is inundated with a



## New York District chosen as ‘pilot’ for Corps Web overhaul

large amount of overlapping files and obsolete pages. Many of these will be deleted when the District’s website is transferred over to its new server.

### New Method of Maintaining and Updating Information

Anyone interested in preserving material—especially older files that could be used for reference or other essential tasks is advised to download onto your own computer in case it isn’t transferred to the new server. Along with a new façade, the site will be totally different behind the scenes. Each office will be responsible for maintaining their portion of the site and uploading

relevant updates and documents. Each office chief will be considered the “content owner.”

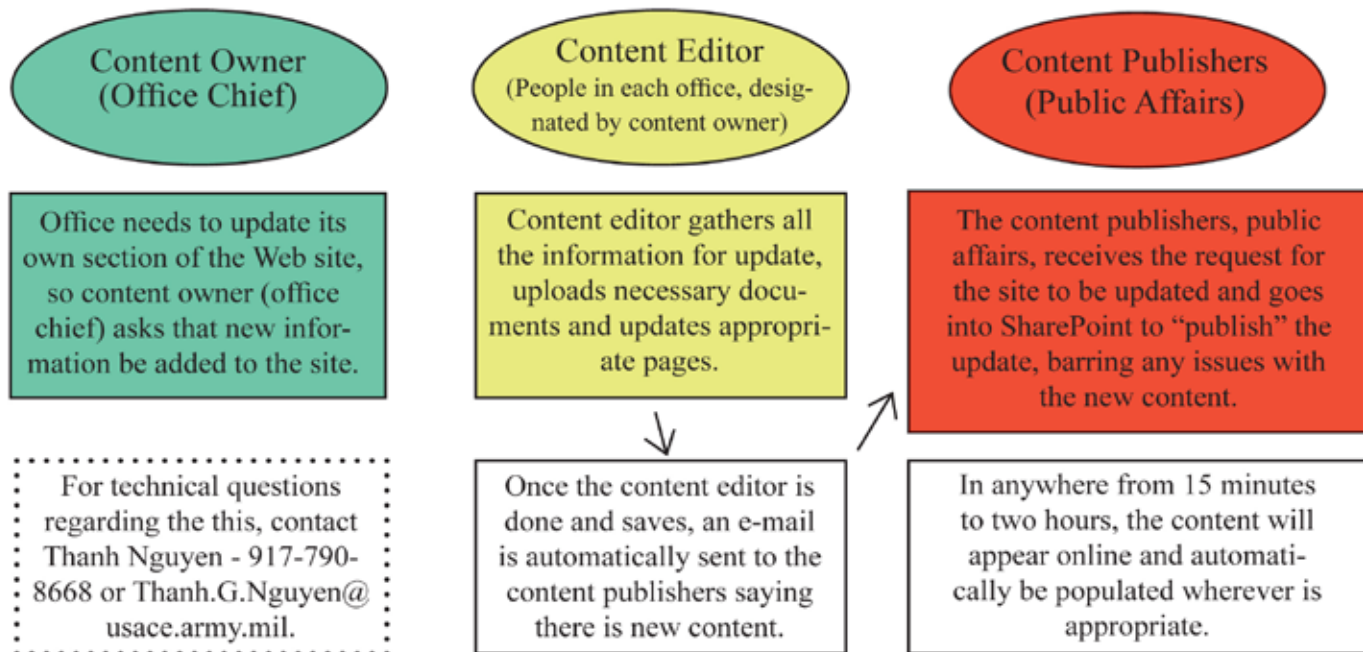
That means they’re responsible for all of the information on their portion of the website. An office chief can handle this responsibility personally or delegate it to a member of their staff.

This individual will hold the designation of “content editor” and be required to undergo some basic training to get them up to speed on the requirements and intricacies of making website updates and uploading documents for their respective offices. The public affairs

office also plays a role in this process, serving as “content publishers.” Whenever a content editor makes a change to their section of the site, public affairs will be automatically notified.

Public affairs will then make sure there are no issues with the requested update and then “publish” the update to the District site. Because of the way the SharePoint server works, once published the new changes should be available for everyone to see within an hour.

## Updating the District’s Web site after the migration:





## DCV Gelberman gets a visit

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

On June 1, 2009 DCV Gelberman got a visit from some familiar faces when the relatives of the vessel's namesake, Jacob "Jack" Gelberman, paid a visit. Three generations of Gelberman's family, including his son-in-law, granddaughter and great grandchildren stopped by to talk with the crew and get a sense of what the boat does on a daily basis. The family members also took a tour aboard the vessel, giving them an opportunity to get a firsthand look at how the Gelberman and its crew execute their mission in and around New York/New Jersey Harbor.

This included collecting floatables and debris that could be hazardous to navigation and/or the environment. The boat was named in honor of the late Jack Gelberman, who was chief of operations for New York District from 1961 until he died in 1973. "I don't want to lose touch with the boat," said Katy Gibney, Gelberman's granddaughter. She said it had been six years since her last time seeing DCV Gelber-



Relatives of the late Jacob "Jack" Gelberman recently visited the vessel bearing his name and got a chance to see it perform drift collection duties in and around New York Harbor. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs



Johann Aguilera (OP) talks with members of the late Jacob "Jack" Gelberman's family during a recent visit aboard the drift collection vessel. Photo Credit: Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

man, and at that time one of her daughters was still an infant and their youngest son hadn't been born yet. However, Katy's first encounter with DCV Gelberman came back in 1981 when she did the honors of breaking the champagne bottle at the boat's christening at the South Street Seaport in Manhattan.

"I remember being excited that I got out of school that day because it was a weekday," said Katy, a middle school student at the time. Jacob Gelberman started his career with the Corps of Engineers inspecting dikes and other structures for St. Louis District on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in the early 1930's. He also worked in Omaha District for a time before coming to New York District in 1937. Except for three years in the Navy during World War II, Gelberman stayed with the District until his death in 1973.



**Commander's Leadership Award**

**Edward R. Sim**

**Commander's Leadership Award**

**Joanne Hensley**

**Commander's Outstanding  
Contribution Award**

**Rudelei Khalil**

**Commander's Field Representative of  
the Year Award**

**Barbara Dindl**

**Commander's Leadership Award**

**Sheile Rice-McDonnell**

**Commander's Employee of the Year Award**

**Lisa A. Baron**

**Commander's Project Delivery Team  
of the Year Award Recipient: BRAC 133**

Edward G. Engbert (PPMD), Rodney Abrams (EN), Stanley Bloom (EN), Jannie Butler (RM), John Chew (EN), Arthur Connolly (EN), Thomas Danneman (EN), Johnny Downing (PPMD), Kally Eastman (OC), Mathew Emigholz (EN), Emily Eng (EN), Elaine Eubank (RM), Harry Donath (EN), Robert Gerrits (EN), Frederick Hands (EN), Robert Hanna (CO), Joanne Hensley (PPMD), Mark Jurcic (EN), Jack Kons (PPMD), Lorraine Lee(OC), Alfred Lin (EN), Loretta Parris (CT), David Rackmales (EN), Yadira Rivera-Villegas (RM), Claudio Sang (EN), Thomas Sessa (EN), Douglass Sommer (PPMD), Daniel Ward (CO), Pamela Wright (RM), Sean Wachutka (PPMD)

**Commander's Engineer of the Year Award**

**David N. Rackmales**

**Commander's Supervisor of the Year Award**

**John M. Wong**

**Commander's Professional of the Year Award**

**Robert Gerrits**

**Commander's Administrator of the Year  
Award**

**Larry Smith**

**Commander's Health and Safety Award**

**George B. Paprocki**

**Commander's Wage Grade Employee of the  
Year Award**

**Dominick Parlatti**

**Commander's Team Leader of the  
Year Award**

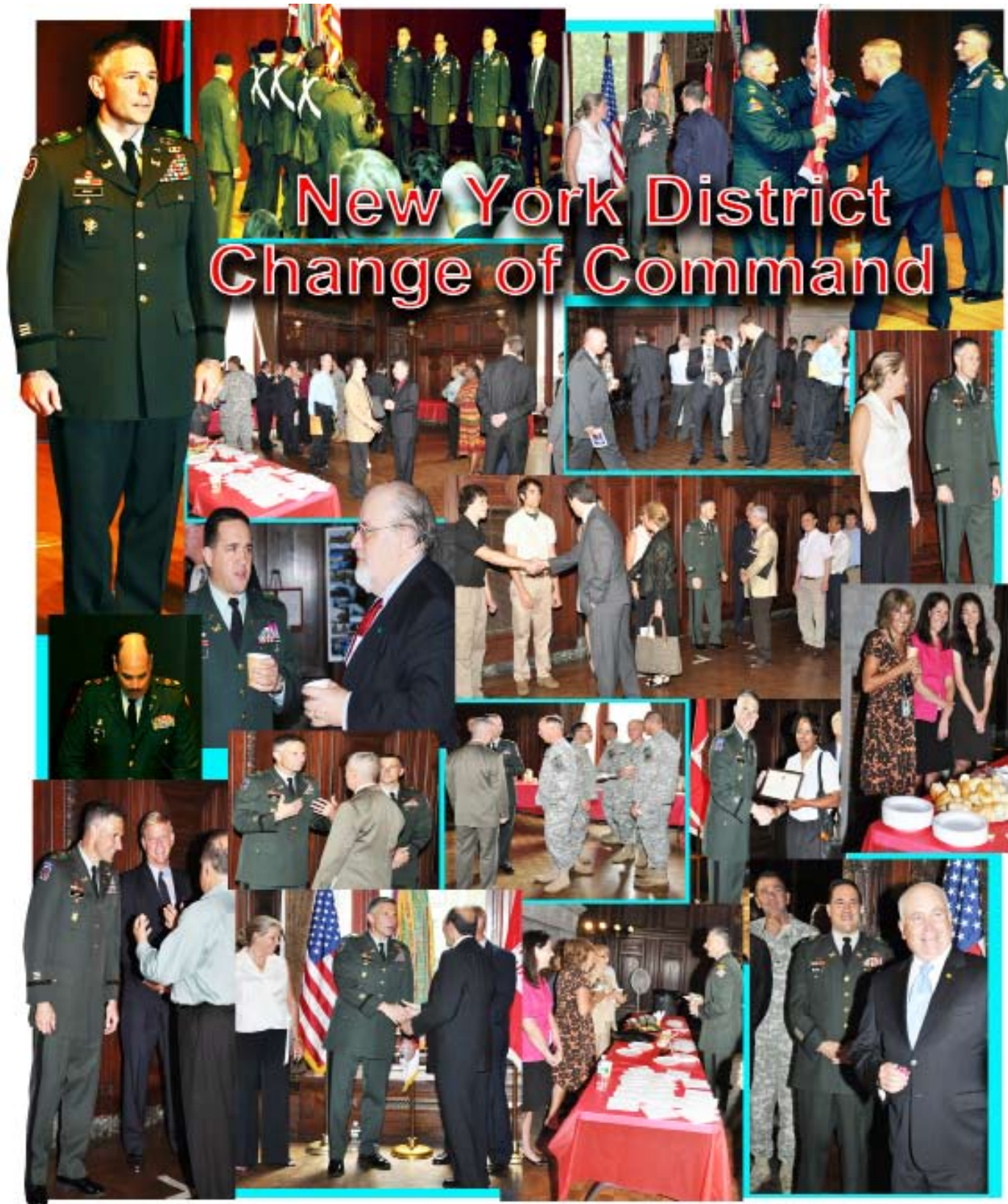
**Peter M. Weppler**

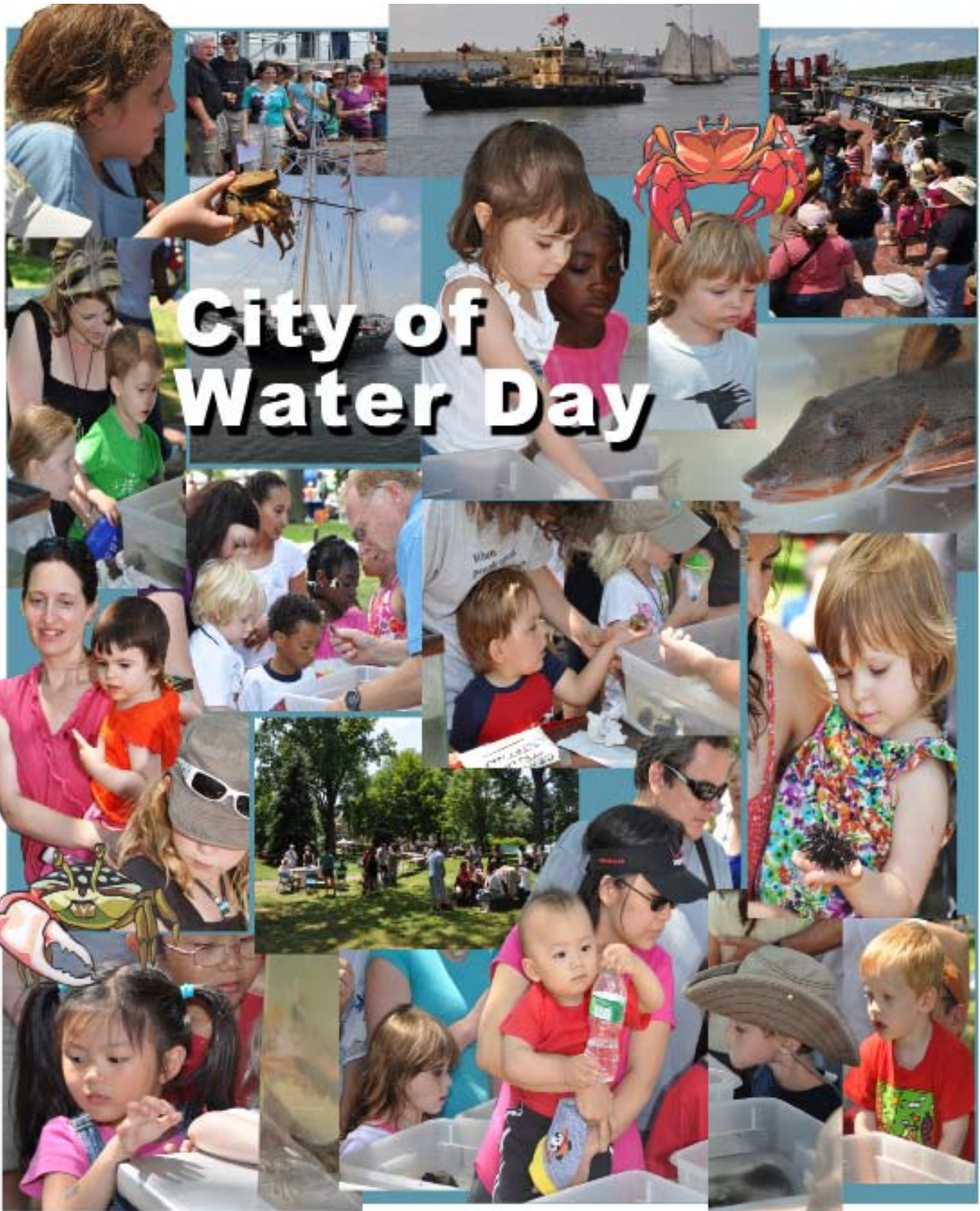
**Commander's Teamwork of the Year Award:  
Development Award of Regional MATOC**

Jan Bovier (CO), David Chestnut (PP), Mathew Emigholz (EN), Phillip Favret (PP), Anthony Felder (PP), Timothy Kelley (PP), Rudelei Khalil (CO), Chi Lau (EN), Lorraine Lee (OC), Cheryl Mesa (CO), Loretta Parris (CT), Jerry Rifkin (CT), Edward Sim (PP), Shaukat Syed (CT)



## New York District Change of Command





## City of Water Day



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New York District

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