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Engineer Update

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Many homes were completely destroyed by Supertyphoon Pongsona, leaving thousands in Guam homeless.

Corps teams tackle Guam Supertyphoon

Article and Photo
By Michelle Cain
Honolulu District

On Dec. 8, Guam was pummeled by Supertyphoon Pongsona, described by many as the *worst* natural disaster ever to strike the tiny U.S. territory in the Pacific nearly 4,000 miles southwest of Honolulu.

Several hours of sustained winds up to 180 miles per hour caused significant damage, leaving the island without electricity, water, or phone service, and many families homeless. The neighboring Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) also sustained significant damage. President George Bush declared Guam a federal disaster area on Dec. 8, followed by CNMI on Dec. 11. In early Jan., the *Guam Pacific Daily News* reported damages on Guam in excess of $73 million.

Within hours of the typhoon striking, Pacific Ocean Division (POD) deployed a power team. Five Corps disaster recovery specialists arrived on Dec. 10, the first federal responders to Pongsona. A few Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employees were still on the island closing out recovery operations from July's Typhoon Chataan, to which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also responded.

When it became apparent that the storm was going to hit Guam, the Corps tasked 18 soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) to deploy to the region. Water, debris, and temporary housing teams from around the Corps had been on alert and were directed to deploy also, according to Joel Hendrix, Honolulu District's Chief of Emergency Management.

The Honolulu District and POD emergency operations centers (EOC) were activated Dec. 8 and began 24-hour-a-day operations, according to Ed Yoshimura, district EOC dayshift officer-in-charge. The district EOC provided support to the division EOC with 11 people working 12-hour shifts seven days a week for the first two weeks.

Within hours, Corps employees from around the country were on their way to Hawaii to in-process through the EOC's Aloha Reception Center before continuing to Guam.

"The Aloha Reception Center's job is to make sure everybody gets there," said Yoshimura. This includes coordination with the home district, arranging the resources such as money, flights, and rental cars, and ensuring everyone has a passport and any necessary shots. "It's very important to the overall process."

By Dec. 18, more than 100 members of the Corps, representing all eight divisions, were on the ground conducting $20 million worth of missions to clean up the second, and by far the worst, disaster to hit Guam in six months.

"The Corps has partnered with FEMA to help the people of Guam," said Hendrix. "FEMA provides the money and the mission; we execute it. Our customer is the government of Guam, the real victim here."

FEMA is in charge of the federal recovery effort, with help from other federal agencies as needed. The agency tasked the Corps, which has extensive emergency response capabilities, to execute nine primary missions. The teams and their responsibilities are:

Building Safety Assessment Team: Assess the safety of building structures and their infrastructure, which includes mechanical (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning), electrical, structural, and environmental sub-systems. Conduct site visits to the buildings and facilities deemed by FEMA as the most critical.

Water/Sewer Team: Verify and evaluate damage to deep well pumps, booster pump stations, sewer lift stations, and sewer treatment plants.

Water Team: Acquire, transport, and distribute bottled/bulk water to affected areas. Determine potable water needs and provide technical assistance on bulk potable water distribution.

Debris Team: Oversee and manage all contractor operations for debris collection, reduction, and removal. Debris consists of miscellaneous metals, vegetation, construction and demolition debris, and household appliances.

Continued on page three

Competitive sourcing plans move ahead

By Bernard Tate
Headquarters

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' leadership is moving ahead to develop an implementation plan for the competitive sourcing effort required by the Presidents' Management agenda, and executed by the Office of Management and Budget.

"Last September, we submitted a competitive sourcing plan to OMB as part of our civil works budget request," said Ray Navidi, the Corps' competitive sourcing program manager. "In our plan we proposed reviewing about 20 percent of the workforce."

The plan currently falls below the target that OMB provides agencies. "With the President's budget announced, we must show progress toward implementing our plan. At the same time, we are working with the Army on the Third Wave," said Maj. Gen. Robert Griffin, Director of Civil Works. The Third Wave is the Department of the Army's effort to divest itself of as many non-core functions as possible.

According to a directive issued by the Secretary of the Army on Oct. 4, 2002, the thrust of the Third Wave initiative is to free resources for fighting the war on terrorism.

"While we have a commitment to OMB to start competing a number of our positions in fiscal year 2003 (FY03), as we indicated that we would in our report, we did not want to start implementing our competitive sourcing plan until we developed our Third Wave plan and presented it to the Army leadership."

Original schedules called for presenting the Corps' Third Wave plan to the Army leadership in February or March. But the milestone dates are changing, and at this time the briefings are scheduled to begin in June, possibly later.

"This delay created a dilemma for us," said Griffin. "If we wait until we present a Third Wave plan to the Army, and then start implementation of our competitive sourcing plan, we would be non-responsive to OMB. Therefore, the Corps is now proceeding with development of an implementation plan for competitive sourcing in accordance with the plan submitted to OMB, which calls for competing about 7,500 Civil Works and Military Programs funded positions during the next six years, starting with 1,300 positions in FY03.

"It's important to remember that we're talking about spaces, not faces," said Navidi. "If you analyzed my job, you'd find that some of the

Continued on page two

Insights

'I look like all my friends.' -- A *real* love story

Article by Col. Lowell Moore
Chaplain, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Artwork by Jan Fitzgerald
HECSA

Valentine's Day.

Now this has to be the biggest and most famous of all the Hallmark holidays. I've heard so many stories about the history of Valentine's Day that, except for the fact that it has something to do with Saint Valentine, I'm not sure I could separate the truth from the fiction in any of them.

One of the most beloved stories claims that a priest named Valentine had a great love for children and spent his life trying to make life better for them.

Later, Valentine was imprisoned and persecuted in an effort to get him to denounce his faith. The children of the town would write notes of encouragement and at night they would toss them through the bars on his cell window. These notes were later referred to as the first Valentines.

Encouraged by the notes from the children, Valentine remained true to his faith until he was martyred on Feb. 14. His strong faith and good deeds eventually caused Valentine to be granted sainthood.

A nice story, but the only truth may be that there was a priest named Valentine who became a saint. But it really doesn't matter because today Valentine's Day has little to do with that kind of love. Today, Valentine's Day is associated with cards, candy, and flowers that are usually intended to express the romantic feelings between a boy and a girl.

Lately, balloons and even cards from *pets* are starting to show up as part of Valentine's Day! However, most of this commercialism has nothing to do with love. In fact, most of us would be hard-pressed to even define love.

Well, I heard a true story last month that gave me an example of true love. Not a romantic emotion, but *real* love.

My niece and her husband own a house that they rent. Their current renter is a single mother who provides for her 14-year-old son, Steve, and her six-year-old daughter, Lydia, by driving a truck. So she is often gone two or three days at a time.

While she is gone, Steve does his best to care for Lydia, but they usually go to school dirty, unkempt, and hungry. While the authorities are aware, there seems to be little they can do, so my niece and her husband have done what they can to help the family. This includes doing the laundry, cooking meals, etc.

Recently, Steve went to live with his father, and the frustrated mother wondered how she could continue driving the truck and care for Lydia.

My niece's associate pastor and his wife heard about the situation and offered to care for the girl, and the mother quickly agreed. The pastor and his wife took Lydia shopping and got her a cute purple blouse, matching shoes and socks, and a stylish pair of coveralls. On the girl's first day of school after moving into her temporary home, the pastor's wife got Lydia up, dressed her, and spent a little time curling and combing her hair. When Lydia looked into the mirror for the first time and saw how pretty she looked she said, "Oh, now I look like all my friends."

Now *that* is a true love story! It lacks the candy, cards, and flowers, but has *real* love.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not against cards, candy, and flowers. In fact, if you haven't got your special guy, gal, (or dog) something for Valentine's Day, you better get something fast or you might find yourself in the doghouse. But don't stop there. *Do* something for someone that really demonstrates love.

Remember, a smile is prettier than a flower, and a kind word is sweeter than candy. Flowers and candy may not be appropriate for the guy in the next cubical, but smiles and kind words are always appropriate.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! J

(The opinions in this article are those of the writer and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.)

Competitive sourcing

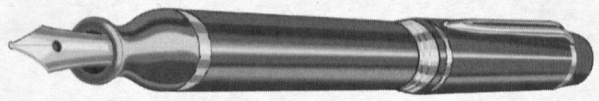
Continued from page one

work I do is governmental, and some of the work I do is commercial. That's true of most jobs in the Corps."

In the next several weeks, Corps Headquarters will hold a workshop with major subordinate command representatives to refine the competitive sourcing plan and to develop an implementation strategy. This group will address many issues – how best to package the functions to be competed, the types of review and competition for various functions or business units, how the reviews will be conducted, resource requirements, and more. Once the Corps has a clear picture of the impact, we will consider a targeted freeze on recruitment.

"I want to emphasize that *all* we'll do in the next few months is develop a detailed implementation plan," said Griffin. "Once we have a detailed plan of execution, we can then begin implementation as we continue to coordinate with OMB and the Army. The Chief of Engineers remains committed to ensuring that our workforce is informed of any latest development."

Letters to the Editor



Sergeant major headline

I enjoy reading the *Engineer Update,* and was very surprised at the recent headline and photo caption that, in my opinion, hurt the credibility of the *Engineer Update.*

The headline on the front page of the January issue stated, "Sergeant major change of command."

A sergeant major does not (officially) command. So when one retires, it is *not* a change of command. A better headline would have been "Command sergeant major honored". The word "command" in his title differentiates him from the other sergeants major in the command as the one who directly represents and advises the commander.

Second, command sergeant major is an *enlisted* rank, the highest, and one that carries great respect. However, enlisted soldiers are *not* saluted. I suspect the soldiers are saluting the American flag. All soldiers know not to salute a sergeant major. Command Sgt. Maj. Dils, of course, knows it, too, which is why he is not returning the salute in the picture.

I realize most USACE employees won't pick up on this, but I suspect all of the military and former military members of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will, and will wonder how far removed the Corps is from the Army.

Dave Gonzalez
Headquarters

Thank you for your letter, and I'm glad to hear that you enjoy the "Engineer Update."

Yes, my headline was misleading. It was officially a "Change of Responsibility and Retirement Ceremony," according to the program used that day. But it sure looked a lot like a change of command to me, so I took the path of least resistance.

Your suggested headline would have been safer.

However, those soldiers ***were*** *saluting Command Sgt. Maj. Dils. Dils served a long, successful career in the Army. During his sunset tour, he took on a tough and unusual (probably unique) mission, and did it well. Dils was a respected soldier at every echelon of the Corps of Engineers. I was there, and that salute was a spontaneous, heartfelt honor.*

The "Engineer Update" welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed, and the editor reserves the right to edit for length and grammar.

Mail letters to bernard.w.tate@usace.army.mil, or to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CEPA-CI (Engineer Update), 441 G St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20314-1000.

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Lewis & Clark events begin nationwide

Article by Hank Heusinkveld and Denver Beaulieu-Hains
Photos by Hank Heusinkveld
Headquarters

A ceremony on Jan. 14 at Monticello, home of President Thomas Jefferson, launched the 200th commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Events are planned all across the nation.

The Army

When Jefferson planned the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, he needed men who possessed loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. He looked no further than an organization of which he was commander-in-chief, the U.S. Army.

But the fact that Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery was an Army expedition has been almost lost to history.

"We know Lewis and Clark in this country as buckskin-clad pioneers who looked more like rendezvous fur traders than soldiers," said Craig Rockwell of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "And so the concept of them being an Army expedition has been lost."

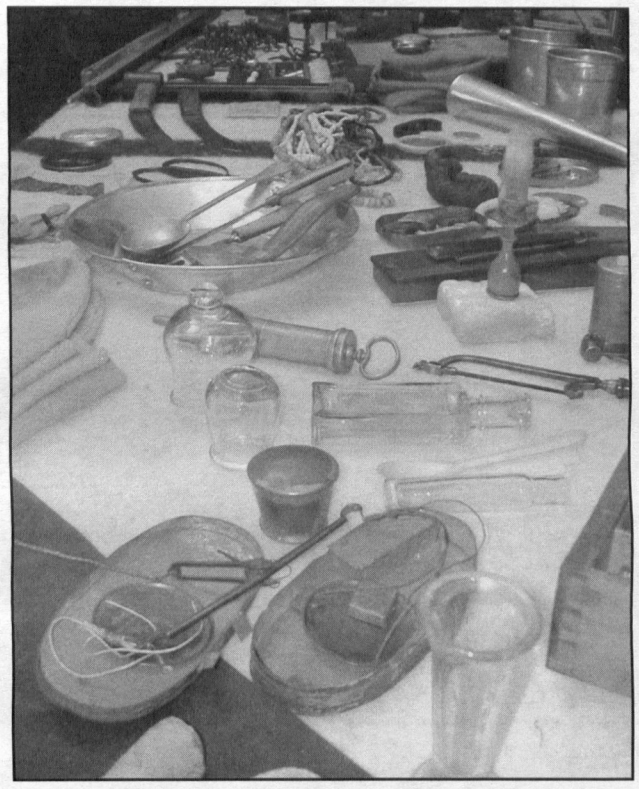
"Everyone should know the story," said Jeanine Nauss, National Coordinator of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial for the Corps. "The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an *Army* expedition. The Army funded the expedition; their supplies came from Army stores; members of the team were soldiers; they carried the standard Army weapons and equipment of that day. Most people grow up not realizing this was an *Army* expedition."

Today, the Army is reasserting its historical significance as the military organization that met the challenge of Jefferson's vision.

"The Army shares a legacy of scientific exploration and innovation with the Corps of Discovery that continues today as we pioneer into the 21st century with a transformed Army," said Thomas White, Secretary of the Army. "The story of Lewis and Clark is one of adventure, hardship, commitment, and achievement. The U.S. Army is part of this story, and should rightfully be credited as the enabling force behind the success of the expedition."

Gen. Eric Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, says the professionalism that has passed down the Army for nearly 228 years was key to the expedition's success.

"It is neither coincidental nor surprising that two Army officers and 36 Army recruits comprised the majority of the Corps of Discovery," said Shinseki. "The experiences and values learned by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during their service in the Army well-equipped them for the hardships, sacrifice, and unwavering determination required of these extraordinary men's expedition of discovery and exploration."



Replicas of some of the equipment that the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery carried on their expedition westward.

The history of the expedition usually focuses on the two officers who led and accomplished their difficult mission. But people are beginning to look at the role of non-commissioned officers and soldiers who were also part of the Corps of Discovery.

Army Capt. Meriwether Anderson Sale, Jr. is a sixth-generation nephew of Lewis. He serves in U.S. Army Europe, and finds it fascinating that the loyalty and dedication his famous relative received from his troops is similar to what he receives today as an Army commander.

"The soldiers were really the backbone of this expedition. They were the ones out there gathering food and game; they were hauling the keelboats up the river. And as the soldiers and non-commissioned offers were the backbone of the expedition then, they are absolutely the backbone of the Army now."

Traveling exhibit

The "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future," an interagency traveling exhibit about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, debuted at the Monticello Visitor Center in Charlottesville, Va.

The exhibit travels in a tractor-trailer painted with spectacular graphics. At each stop the trailer will unfold museum-quality interpretive exhibits, and a "living history" performance tent, which includes live demonstrations, lectures, cultural presentations, and audiovisual shows.

It will travel the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from Virginia to the Oregon coast from 2003 through 2006 commemorating the expedition and its success. It will visit several hundred cities and educate millions about the importance of the Lewis and Clark expedition to our nation's history.

University exhibits

Exhibit booths in Newcomb Hall at the University of Virginia campus show the complexity of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration. A booth from St. Charles, Mo., starting point for the expedition, coaxes visitors to see full-size, hand-built replicas of the boats Lewis and Clark took up the Missouri River.

Nearby is a booth from Oregon where visitors can buy a five-ounce silver ingot. The non-profit organization Pacific County Friends of Lewis and Clark uses the proceeds of sales to ensure the educational legacy of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

And further down the main room lingers a smell like beef jerky in a smoker. But it's actually a buffalo-skin teepee similar to what members of the expedition may have been invited to stay in by gracious tribes along the route. Smoking the inside of the shelter made it waterproof.

There are more booths from Nebraska, South Dakota, and the Umatilla Tribe, all showcasing the specific role their particular state or tribe had during the expedition.

"The state booths provide a lot of information," said Wayne Mogielnicki, Director of Communications for Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va. "Idaho doesn't get much ink in central Virginia, so it's good to see something from that state. Also, there are booths from other organizations — some of the tribes and craftspeople that you don't see around here often."

One goal here at the launch of the national observance of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial is to point out that this is a *national* story.

"We're getting the message across that people from Virginia had a role in it; that training and purchasing was done in Philadelphia. Pittsburgh had a role, so did Harpers Ferry, Va.," said Mogielnicki. "Its shows that Charlottesville, Va.; and Lewiston, Idaho; and Astoria, Ore.; and Billings, Mont., all have something that links them together.

"Hopefully it will lead to an exchange of knowledge between the East Coast, the middle of the country, and the West Coast that could only lead to good things," he said.

Supertyphoon

Continued from page one

Containerized Tactical Operations Center Team: Provide communication assets and resources for the Division Commander (Forward). Consists of a VSAT satellite system, Inmost telephones, VHF and HF radio systems, Iridium telephones, and laptop computers, fax, and printers.

Temporary Housing Team: Support the government of Guam by providing technical assistance and planning in providing shelter to disaster victims.

Emergency Power Team: Provide emergency generator power to areas without commercial power. The team works with Prime Power and a contractor to perform site power assessments and haul, install, operate, maintain, and recover government furnished generators.

Logistics Planning and Response Team: Assist FEMA with inventory management of equipment, supplies, and materials received and transferred from FEMA to USACE. Provide support for incoming USACE personnel, which includes travel management, hotels, and rental cars. Provide support to receive and process generators of various sizes, and received bottled water and transferred it to FEMA for storage and distribution.

Geographic Information Systems Team: Provide accurate spatial information and analysis by generating maps, tables, and answers to spatial quandaries for all deployed teams.

The bulk of the Corps' team falls under the POD Division Forward Headquarters, commanded by Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David Press. The Division Forward coordinates and supports the Corps' teams that perform the assigned missions.

Daily video teleconferences (VTC) allowed Press to speak face-to-face with Brig. Gen. Ronald Johnson, POD commanding general. The one-hour call ties them in with other Corps elements that may be called upon to provide support.

"I'm pleased with the support I've received from all the Corps' divisions and districts," said Press. "I could not be happier with the Corps employees taking care of missions in Guam and CNMI. The Corps family came together over the holidays to help the people of Guam and CNMI. I'm proud of this Corps team."

"These people gave up their Christmas with their families to help the people of Guam," said Hendrix. "That's selfless service, the highest calling of our nation."

To show their support during the holiday season, the POD and Honolulu District Special Emphasis Program Committees collected donations and sent a Christmas care package full of cookies and other goodies to the Division Forward team.

In his weekly radio address Dec. 18, the governor of Guam, Carl Gutierrez, thanked several federal agencies, including the Corps, for their help. "You folks are always here for us," he said.

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, visited the division and district EOCs on Dec. 19 and participated in the daily VTC and briefing. He said he was impressed with the hard work and dedication of the Corps' soldiers and employees both in Guam and CNMI, and those working in the Eons.

"What you are doing is important and we in the Corps and the Army appreciate it, the country appreciates it, and so do the people of Guam and CNMI," said Flowers. "You have our gratitude and we're proud of the job you're doing. Well done, and keep up the good work!

West Point

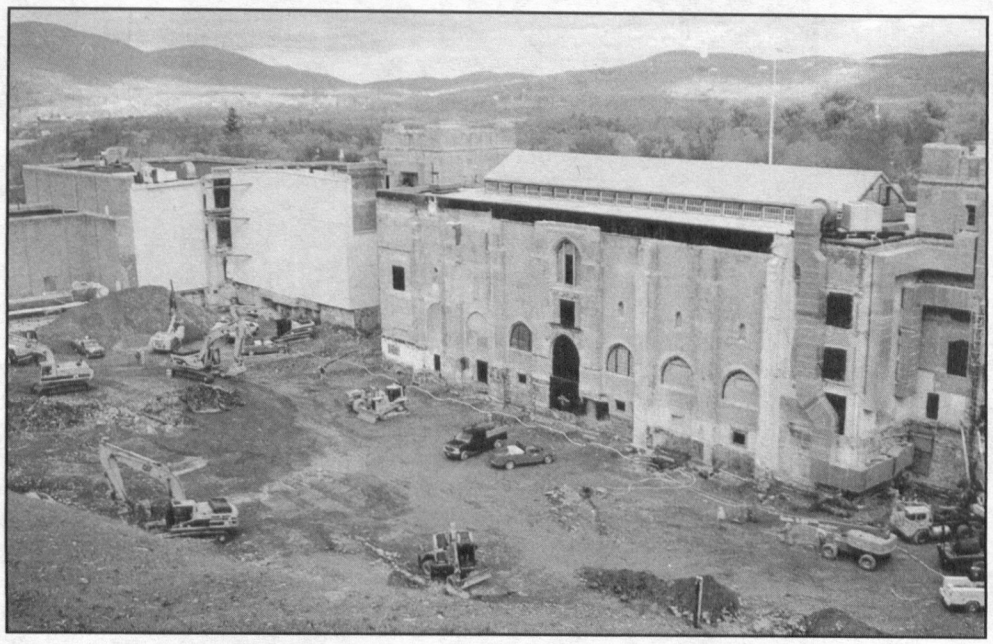
Corps building new facilities to prepare, teach future Army leaders

Article by Ken Wells
Photo by Francis Delfino
New York District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has always been an integral part of the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, N.Y. During the past few months, the academy has undergone a transformation.

New York District is overseeing several ongoing construction and renovation projects at the nation's oldest military post in continuous operation. Many of these projects have significantly enhanced the quality of life of the residents, cadets, and employees, yet retained the historic appearance of West Point.

Recent projects include the design and renovation project of the Arvin Gym, Kimsey Athletic Center, Thomas Jefferson Library, and New Brick Housing.



Construction continues at West Point's Arvin Gym.

Arvin Gymnasium

Since 1802 the USMA has trained our nation's soldiers in the doctrines and procedures that allow them to effectively serve this country. Now with help from the Corps, West Point is about to take a major step forward with the construction of its new physical development center.

Meticulously planned, Arvin Gymnasium will become the backbone of the academy's physical education program as envisioned by Tom Horn, director of faculty operations and program support for West Point.

According to Horn, the original plan for the physical development center involved renovating historic Hayes gym. But careful inspection revealed the grand old structure was in need of significant upgrades to the building's functional layout, seismic, structural, mechanical, and electrical systems. Additonally, the existing structure woul d not accomodate the handicapped, and there was no room for male and female locker space.

So many issues, coupled with the funding required to correct them, made the renovation project cost prohibitive. So a plan was forged to build a new gymnasium within the "footprint" of the old one.

A task force went to Yale, the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, and the University of Georgia. These institutions possess state-of-the-art facilities and provide good working models from which the Corps and USMA officials could determine exactly what they needed to better serve the interests of the modern cadet.

"The Army, unlike the Navy and Air Force, places a higher priority on ground-based exercises," Horn said. "Therefore we need a physical development center designed to meet that type of curriculum."

To this end, the Corps and West Point officials are doing everything in their power to ensure that the new Arvin cadet physical development center will be a state-of-the-art facility designed to eliminate all the downfalls of its predecessor and better aid cadets in their transformation into soldiers of the new millennium.

Once funding for the project was granted, the Corps set to work on building the 350,000-square-foot structure that would support not only the student body but the intramural and club team programs as well. Part of the challenge involved integrating the old add-on buildings with separate utility systems into a modern, efficient complex. The Corps also had to secure the roadway behind the construction site by installing braces beneath it to prevent a cave-in during excavation.

Division I-A varsity wrestling and swimming teams will be stationed in Arvin, while the football, basketball, and hockey teams will begin operating out of the Kimsey Athletic Center this spring *(see below)*.

The physical development center will also be a social gathering place for many the cadets, who aren't permitted access to motorized transportation until their senior year. The nearest town, Highland Falls, N.Y., is not large, so it can be a challenge for underclassmen to find suitable diversions when they aren't studying or training. To combat this problem, Horn said Arvin will also feature lounges for parties, and other amenities for cadet enjoyment.

Until Arvin is completed, West Point's student population will conduct classes in temporary facilities.

However, while NCAA sports and casual interaction are part of Arvin's purpose, transforming our nation's youth into better soldiers remains the primary goal. "Arvin is a classroom like any other," Horn said.

Taking this statement to heart, the Corps will install three Olympic-size swimming pools that can be used for survival swimming classes. New cadets are required to take 19 lessons in swimming, and each cadet is carefully screened to determine his or her level of proficiency. Experienced beginners are allowed to move onto scuba diving if they desire, while all the classes focus on a cadet handling himself or herself in deep water with combat gear in tow.

The military movements curriculum will be accommodated by rope climbing apparatuses, obstacle courses, and a special maze whose artificial twists and turns will require students to navigate the terrain while confronting dangerous situations. The facility will also provide handball and racquetball courts, cycling machines, physical therapy rooms, and aerobic equipment.

West Point's personal fitness and welfare courses stand to benefit from the additional space too, since they focus on teaching a student how to set up fitness areas for their units when transferring from place-to-place in the field.

The new space also provides a rebirth to martial arts activities for the academy's 4,000 cadets. In total, Arvin will boast three swimming pools, nine individual gymnasiums and three weight rooms.

"Once the physical development center is completed, we'll be better to build lean, mean, fighting machines," Horn promised.

Arvin's construction will be done in three phases at a cost of nearly $100 million. The contractor for the project is J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc., in Rocky Point, N.Y. The facility scheduled for completion by April 2005. It is scheduled to open to cadets at the start of the 2006 academic year.

Kimsey Athletic Center

When fans trek up to Michie Stadium this year to see the Black Knights play football, they will witness not only the present team, but its future as well. That's because near Michie stadium is the soon-to-be-completed Kimsey Athletic Center.

"We are a Division I-A football program with Division III facilities," said Robert D'Jovin, a project manager for the Directorate of Housing and Public Works for the USMA. "Kimsey Athletic Center will help us correct that problem."

Originally slated to be called the Michie Stadium Athletic Complex, the project received both a name change and significant financial boost from James Kimsey, a West Point alumnus, class of 1962, who donated $7 million to the project. Kimsey's donation makes this the largest gift West Point has received to date, and the money is being used in both the design and construction phases.

Once the project is completed, Kimsey will be a four-story football operations building to centralize the football team's activities and facilitate development of Randall Hall, another new athletic facility to be built on the remains of the Annex, which is scheduled to be demolished as soon as the football team moves into Kimsey this spring.

Randall Hall, named after the late Bob Randall, class of 1956, will be the new base of operations for West Point's basketball and hockey teams. It will be accessible through Kimsey by a connecting bridge.

The Annex is an outdated facility with too little space to accommodate today's modern athletes and their equipment, particularly in the off-season when inclement weather can be a factor. Some challenges the Corps faced in building Kimsey included realigning the roads directly outside Michie Stadium, which used to run through the Kimsey site and wrap around toward the rear of the stadium.

Natural rock had to be excavated, along with many utilities, which were relocated outside the building footprint.

D'Jovin explained that Kimsey's designers planned to make good use of the improved space by designating each floor for specific purposes. For instance, the first floor houses the player equipment and lockers with provisions for 151 players, a shower room, and a sports medicine department with a therapy pool and Jacuzzi.

The second floor will be the athletic center's main lobby and strength development center, a department that includes a 20,000-square-foot weight room. (The old weight room in the Annex was only 6,000 square feet.) Other improvements to Kimsey's strength development center include a 40-yard sprint track, administration unit, and equipment repair facility.

"Visitors will access the building through elevators and stairwells in the main lobby as well," D'Jovin said. "Coaches and players will be given separate elevators and stairways for their personal use."

Coaches' offices will be on the third floor along with recruitment offices, administrative staff, audio-visual equipment, interview areas for the media, and meeting rooms for the offensive and defensive units.

There are also plans to transform 6,000 square feet of space in the southern end of the third floor into a Hall of Army Sports where the accomplishments of all 26 athletic teams will be memorialized.

The fourth floor is designated as a multipurpose room to hold 300 people and dividing into three smaller rooms. It contains two open-air balconies that provide a view into the stadium below.

"The multipurpose room can also be rented for tailgate parties, retirements, and other functions," D'Jovin said. "There is even a food preparation room where the stadium caterer can warm up meals."

The roof level or penthouse will house all the mechanical functions such as boiler and air circulation units. It also provides an ideal location for filming Saturday's games on the north side, and Monday-Friday practice on the south side.

The Kimsey Athletic Center is sched-

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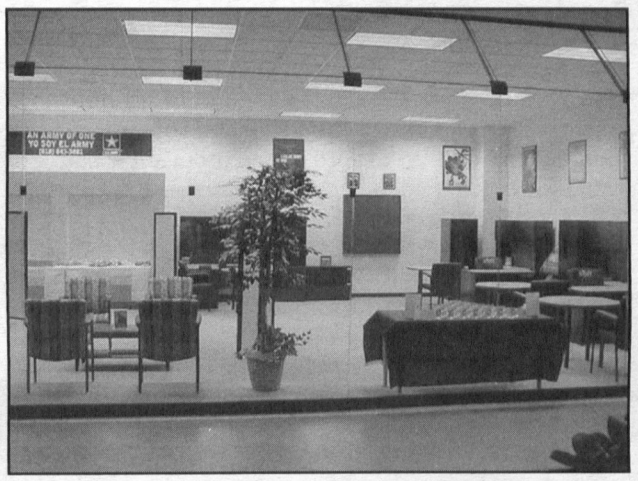
Recruiting

Shopping mall stations project positive image to young people

Article by Mike Tharp
Photos by Greg Fuderer
Los Angeles District



The recently-opened Burbank Career Center presents a modern image that reflects the military's quest for dedicated professionals seeking a career in service to the nation.

One overlooks the Rose Bowl Parade route in Pasadena, Calif. The other sits in a two-tier Burbank, Calif., mall anchored by such retail icons as Macy's, Ikea, and Sears. One sets its sights on health care professionals. The other seeks any qualified person who wants to join any of the four major armed forces.

Both are new military recruiting stations, and Los Angeles District's Real Estate Directorate nurtured both into existence.

"We (the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) conduct all the leasing activities for all the armed forces," said Real Estate chief Hector Angeles. "DoD comes out with regular procedures for new offices or upgrades to existing facilities and we carry out the orders for the armed forces."

In any Corps District with a military programs mission, the Real Estate Directorate is DoD's executive agent for the Recruiting Facilities Program, the Homeowners Assistance Program, and the Defense National Relocation Program. That includes appraisal, planning and control, acquisition, management, and disposal of land. Sort of a super realtor for America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

Here's how it works on the ground. The armed force (Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines) decides on a location that meets its recruiting mission, based on a formula within the area it has established as its target market. Real Estate Directorate team members then check out the lay of the land and handle negotiations with property owners and leasers. They also compile and keep the paperwork.

Like most real estate deals, recruiting stations are all about location, location, and location. Ordinarily, Southern California recruiting stations sprout in strip malls because of their high traffic flow and accessibility. But lately, more are being placed in the sprawling shopping malls that dot the suburban landscape, the better to showcase a station. That's the case with the Burbank facility, which opened Oct. 16.

A few stations are tailored specifically for a niche clientele. In Pasadena the station is in an office building, a venue calculated to appeal to doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health care professionals who may be interested in signing on with Uncle Sam. "The image there is a little different from that of the foot soldiers," said Angeles.

As in almost any landlord-tenant relationship, problems unavoidably arise. Some landlords object to the increased traffic around their property; others may not like it that a potential recruit may occupy a parking space in a strip mall lot longer than an ordinary retail customer. "Every landlord has his own idea of the ideal tenant," said Angeles.

The 13-year Corps veteran, who also served as a Navy corpsman (medic) 1978-82, thinks the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 changed what happens at the recruiting stations his directorate handles. "If anything, there's more eagerness," he said. "From what we hear, people are sometimes beating on their doors. In the past, recruiters had to entice them to reel them in."

During the grand opening at the Pasadena site on Oct. 16, Lt. Col. John Cook, commander of the 6th Army Medical Dept. Recruiting Detachment, said the office "is connected to a larger strategy that will allow the Southern California Health Care Recruiting Company to better serve the health care market in the Los Angeles area." That unit, he continued, "recruits highly qualified and professional doctors, nurses, veterinarians, dentists, optometry-, medical services-, and health science-trained experts for both the full-time Army and the U.S. Army Reserve."

One example…Capt. Elizabeth Shin, a pediatric dentist in the L.A. area for more than eight years, became one of the station's first recruits as an Army Reserve Dental Corps officer. Shin will be stationed with 18th Medical Company Dental Services in Stanton, Calif.

Due west of Pasadena, in Burbank, senior military officers, civilian elected officials, and private sector businesspeople attended the grand opening of that recruiting station. David Laurell, mayor of Burbank, called on Americans "to look to those who wear the uniform with pride." Brig. Gen. Bernardo Negrete, deputy commanding general of the Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky., observed that "the Army recruits quality, not volume, and this new station will have an impact on drawing on that quality." He called it "a first-class operation."

An estimated 450,000 people live within five miles of the mall. The mall's name will change late this year from Media City Center to the Burbank Mall. The name change is part of a $25 million renovation underway at the mall, so the recruiting station seems poised to capitalize on the revitalization project.

Back at L.A. District, Angeles takes an almost paternal pride in the Real Estate Directorate's involvement in the recruiting process. "There's a fervor of patriotism out there that has made this job a little easier, and hopefully that carries over to the future."

West Point

Continued from previous page

uled for completion this April 2003. The project will cost $25 million and the contractor is J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc., in Rocky Point, N.Y.

New library

Officials at West Point are scheduled to break ground on the new Thomas Jefferson Hall Library in April 2004. According to Joseph Barth, head librarian, the new facility will help them transform the library from a place to keep books into an interactive learning center.

Built in 1964, West Point's library is no longer capable of meeting the space or technological demands of today's students.

"We removed our card catalogues in 1981 to make room for the first generation of computers at West Point," Barth said. "When we did, new utilities and cable had to be installed to accommodate the changes. Since then, we've had to repeat the process every five years to keep up with technological innovations, and each time the utilities and cables required more work."

Barth also explained how the current library only has four meeting rooms large enough to allow groups of cadets to discuss projects or assignments, but that will change when the new library is completed.

Thomas Jefferson Hall Library will be north of the existing library at the center of the Cadet Academic Zone. The new facility will integrate library and learning center functions such as collections, user services, administration, collection development, technical services, staff support, public services, and support services. There will be 10 meeting rooms to accommodate students, and provisions for wireless access that will allow cadets to log onto the libraries network using a personal laptop.

The building's exterior will also require additional cosmetic features such as granite facing and local historic details because of the site's location in West Point's history district. Once work on Thomas Jefferson Hall is completed, the old library will undergo an extensive renovation.

The building's first floor and basement will be converted to an archive and special collections area. The rest of the building will be incorporated into Bartlet Hall next door, home of West Point's science and physics department.

Thomas Jefferson Hall Library's cost is $58 million. The contractor is STM Construction, and the completion date is April 2006. The staff will move in during the summer of 2006, and open its doors to cadets at the beginning of the fall semester.

New Brick Housing

Call it a West Point version of "This Old House," with the Corps playing the role of Bob Vila. That is precisely what New York District is doing with its New Brick Housing revitalization project at the USMA.

On Nov. 8, 2001, the Corps started work on a three-phase plan top build 156 field grade officers quarters in multiples of 51, 51, and 54 units, with several designated for handicapped occupancy.

According to John Pavone, project manager for New York District, the two-story single-family houses will be gutted and reworked to include new roofs, doors, windows, interior plumbing, electrical and HVAC ductwork. The Corps will also handle the exterior, which include incorporating primary and secondary utilities into the existing electrical system, and paving new roadways.

The Corps also decided to enlarge the houses by combining two small bedrooms into one, and designating the new area the master bedroom. Space has also been allocated for first-floor family and dining areas. The laundry center also received a transformation, from a place to store the washer and dryer to a family room.

Additions include a kitchen on the first floor and a third bedroom on the second. Enclosed porches were also added to the backyard and will be surrounded by a four-foot fence. Each unit will contain two full baths and one half-bath.

Completion of the first set of housing is scheduled for mid-May. Volmar Construction in Brooklyn, N.Y., is the contractor for this project, which costs $18 million.

NWD wins first Military Programs award

By Vera Dwaileebe
Headquarters

Northwestern Division (NWD) received the first annual Military Execution MSC (major subordinate command) of the Year Award on Dec. 4. Maj. Gen. Carl Strock, Director of Military Programs, presented the plaque to the NWD commander, Brig. Gen. David Fastabend, at the Headquarters Command Council meeting.

A separate permanent plaque will be on continuous display in the Military Programs Directorate in Headquarters to record and honor the current and future recipients of this award.

Outstanding performance

Strock announced his intention to create the Military Execution MSC of the Year Award during a military programs review video teleconference on Feb. 1, 2002. The award's purpose is to recognize the efforts of the MSC that clearly demonstrates outstanding performance in the execution of their military program during each fiscal year.

Four factors

To determine the winner, a Headquarters team reviewed all Military Consolidated Command Guidance performance indicators, and selected the four indicators that they felt best represented program execution, and that could be rated based on available information.

Those factors were:

- Ready to advertise.
- Project execution.
- Design-to-cost performance.
- Environmental obligations.

Two additional indicators from the Headquarters customer survey (customer satisfaction for construction, and overall customer satisfaction) were also selected and used as performance indicators.

The team then rated and scored MSC performance against the criteria and factors using PROMIS/PPDS to extract project status information, Headquarters program manager input, and customer survey results to determine exemplary performance.

Re-evaluation

For fiscal year 2003, the criteria and rating factors will be re-evaluated as part of larger effort. A project delivery team of representatives from Headquarters, MSCs, districts, and customers will review existing performance metrics in the Program Management Business Process (PMBP) and learning environment.

Team effort

"Winning the award was a true team effort between HQUSACE Military Programs, the NWD staff, and our military districts, with the heavy lifting done by our districts and their contractor partners," said Fastabend. "The team maintained a strong focus on the customer needs and life cycle management of the budget. Following the PMBP and good programming documents really paid off for us."

HRcorner

POD leadership program has 6 levels

(Second of two parts.
The first part, published in the January "Engineer Update," detailed the basics of Pacific Ocean Division's leadership development program.
The second part explains how the program operates.)

Six levels

The six levels of the RLDP (Regional Leadership Development Program) are:

Basic Training — Orients all POD members to Corps culture, business processes, their local organization, and the Corps' strategic direction through self-study. It provides participants the opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss what they have learned in the self-study programs.

At the conclusion of their learning, participants will be able to answer the questions, *"Do I want to be a Corps employee? Do I fit the Corps culture? Does the Corps fit my values?"*

Leadership Assessment — Provides participants the first in a series of experiences that increase self-awareness and understanding of their individual strengths and potential for leadership. They will also participate in an interactive workshop to enhance their understanding of basic leadership concepts.

Other learning experiences include reading, self-study, and facilitated discussions. At the conclusion of their learning, participants will be able to answer the question, *"Do I want to develop myself to become a USACE leader?"*

Team Leadership — Develops participants' understanding of their individual strengths and talents as they relate to relationships in teams, how they can best contribute in a team environment, and what we mean by team leadership. They will learn to value and creatively resolve conflicts in a team environment, and basic facilitation techniques for working in meetings.

Participants will also experience an interactive workshop to develop their team experiences with other district participants that will prepare them to work with their team to complete a district project. They will be coached and advised through this activity.

Other learning experiences include reading, self-study, and facilitated discussions. At the conclusion of their learning, participants will be able to answer the question, *"How will my leadership strengths insure the success of the team and customer?"*

Regional Leadership I — Offers participants the opportunity to develop their strategic as well as operational leadership abilities by providing a region-wide forum for learning. This includes attending leadership forums such as the Senior Leaders Conference, Regional Management Board, and Planning Review Board.

Participants will select and work with a mentor throughout their progress at this level. They will enhance their self-awareness as they relate to other regional team members in an initial weeklong retreat and interactive workshop. The workshop will prepare them to work collaboratively with regional team members on a small regional project that addresses a current leadership challenge.

Another 120 hours of formal training will increase their knowledge and add to their leadership toolbox. Other learning experiences include self-study, facilitated discussions, reviewing and developing a case study, and facilitating group discussions.

Regional Leadership II — Participants expand and enhance their regional leadership perspectives, their ability to influence organizational effectiveness, to operate at a regional level, and begin to interact at the national level. They will experience an intensive evaluation of their leadership strengths through two seminars, and will serve in a leadership role.

They will expand their perceptions and insights and import/export ideas regarding best practices through a 90-to-179 day developmental assignment in an external organization.

They will demonstrate influence on the organization by implementing a best practice that they will further describe in an essay.

Participants will attend formal training such as the Army Management Staff College to develop their leadership acumen, and expand their understanding of the working of the Army and other organizations.

Other learning experiences include self-study, facilitated discussions, and facilitating small group discussions.

At the conclusion of their learning, participants will participate with their mentor, supervisor, and commander in a formal evaluation of their effect on the organization. This discussion will also address their demonstration of the dimensions of leadership described in the Leadership for Learning doctrine, and their demonstrated willingness and capability to assume a leadership role.

Regional Leadership III — Participants will enhance their understanding of the right work for leaders and will apply their leadership strengths to do the right things today to create our ideal USACE future.

They will gain strategic perspectives through one or more courses such as the Stanford Executive Program, Tuck Executive Program (Dartmouth), and Federal Executive Institute. Participants will gain strategic insight through a Capitol Hill Workshop with visits with USACE leaders and Congressional delegates, and will familiarize themselves with leadership issues through selected readings.

They will quantify their development experience by completing the Executive Core Qualifications with consultation and review by their mentor.

They will serve as leaders developing leaders by conducting four leadership seminars to share their insights and perspectives. Participants will demonstrate their leadership effectiveness and influence by developing, marketing and implementing improvement ideas and solutions to POD leadership issues.

Approved and accepted

The RLDP has been briefed to POD senior leaders, the Chief of Engineers, and the USACE Learning Advisory Board. It has been approved and accepted for implementation in POD, and the first four levels are programmed to begin in February.

The RLDP is the Corps' first systematic approach to developing leaders at all levels. It is a strategy to:

- Develop leaders who will sustain and revitalize the POD and USACE strategic direction.
- Develop leaders for a learning organization who encourage innovation, teamwork and partnerships to insure customer success.
- Move from traditional training and teaching to continuous learning and education.

Additionally, the planning, concepts and the good ideas that form the RLDP will be shared Corps-wide. The forthcoming Learning Network plans to develop a template for LDPs that is based on our learning and leadership doctrine as well as experience from POD and other USACE leader development programs that will provide consistency across the Corps while encouraging local creativity.

Potentially, best practices and learning experiences will be shared through web-based learning methods.

The RLDP is underway in POD. Applications are now being taken for Levels 2 to 4, and the program will be initiated early in 2003. The RLDP and related information will be available on the POD website in the near future.

Around the Corps

The crew of the Corps boat *Gelberman* rescued this homeless dog from New York Harbor. (Photo courtesy of New York District)

Dog rescued

The crew of the Corps boat *Gelberman* rescued a homeless dog from the icy waters of New York Harbor on Jan. 8 around 7:20 a.m. The young dog, a male, was rescued from 45-degree waters in Claremont Channel near Jersey City.

It is unknown how the dog came to be swimming in the channel at that time, under those conditions.

The *Gelberman* crew pulled the dog aboard and wrapped it in a blanket. They also used a hair dryer to help warm the dog, who appeared to be suffering from hypothermia.

The Jersey City Police Department's Emergency Services Unit transported the dog to the Jersey City Animal Shelter, where it will be put up for adoption.

Corrections

Jan Fitzgerald created the artwork published with the "Insights" column in the January issue.

Ted Nicholson's name was misspelled in the caption of the photo with the article "Team supports Enduring Freedom."

Two states had incorrect information in the "From Sea to Shining Sea" special insert in the January issue:

Ohio — Willoughby Plant is one of more than 80 formerly used defense sites involved in a national scoping and security study to prioritize cleanup required at chemical warfare materiel sites.

Illinois — The Corps is pursuing residential hookup to the Naperville water supply due to a possible source of tricloroethylene contamination in local water wells from former Nike missile site. Community outreach helped to work out agreements with the municipality and residents.

New natural resources chief

George Tabb is the new chief of the Natural Resources Management Branch in USACE Headquarters.

Landfill class

When junior high school science teacher Timothy Wanzer wanted to give his students some practical experience in recycling and managing waste, he didn't have to look far.

Less than two miles from the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School in Ayer, Mass., was the landfill cap portion of the Devens Consolidation Landfill Project. Wanzer contacted the engineers and asked if he could tie his lesson into the landfill project.

The engineers provided two presentations with slides at the school on Nov. 21, followed by tours of the landfill site for about 75 junior high school students.

The $25 million Devens Landfill project is part of the Base Realignment and Closure environmental restoration performed by the Army. The Corps executed the project with the construction contractor, Stone & Webster Construction, Inc. Oversight and input was also provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Development Finance Authority.

Saltmarsh restoration

The Little River Saltmarsh in New Hampshire reaped the benefits of a unique partnership committed to restoring the environment. On Nov. 18 in Manchester, N.H., New England District (NED) and its Coastal America partners presented awards to agencies and individuals who participated in the project that transformed an ailing saltmarsh into a thriving environment for wildlife.

NED received a plaque, and Barbara Blumeris, Engineering/Planning, accepted a letter from President George Bush on behalf of the district.

NED initiated the study for the $1.2 million project in 1997 and completed it in 1999. The study findings were used for restoration efforts by the National Resource Conservation Service and other federal, state and local partners.

The saltmarsh is near North Hampton, N.H. The 48-inch culvert at Route 1A restricted tidal flow in the marsh, and invasive plants took over the area.

The project restored 170 acres of degraded saltmarsh. Project work included installing twin 6-by-2-foot box culverts at the main outlet and under road crossings, dredging sediments out of the tidal creeks, employing a new protocol for pre-restoration monitoring, and improving water flow and quality. Monitoring, land protection, and public outreach will continue, mainly through the University of New Hampshire.

Merrimack River

The Corps and five communities along the Merrimack River are conducting a comprehensive watershed study of the river.

Phase I has three objectives — characterize the amount of pollution into the river from urban and non-urban sources, quantify the impact of these pollutants, and identify a management plan for the watershed.

Besides measuring the pollution loads, the study will seek to measure transport times of pollutants in the river.

To understand and predict how far pollutants will travel downstream, two time-of-travel studies were performed the week of Nov. 10. The method involves placing dye in the river, and measuring the dye concentrations downstream.

The first study area was from the Massachusetts–New Hampshire state line to Tewksbury, about 13 miles. The second study area was from Lowell to Lawrence, about 9 miles. The non-toxic dye was rhodamine WT, and the concentration used was so low that it could not be seen with the naked eye.

Center of expertise

The Office of Value Engineering Study Team (OVEST) was designated a center of expertise for the USACE Value Engineering Program, retroactive to Oct. 2001.

The team has been used in this capacity for several years as they conducted value-engineering studies worldwide for the Corps.

As a center of expertise, OVEST will assist Headquarters with the value engineering program through training support, program coordination, reporting and publication of value-engineering documents, all subject to available to funding.

"This reinforces the Corps' desire to reinvigorate the value-engineering process," said Lt. Col. Peter Mueller, Charleston District commander. "The value-engineering process assures projects get an extra set of eyes, augmenting the project delivery team. It is part of the Project Management Business Process and the goal to make sure we deliver the best product to our customers."

State engineering awards

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) will present St. Paul District two Seven Wonders of Engineering awards on Feb. 21, one for designing and implementing emergency repair work to Rapid an Dam near Mankato, Minn., and one for the renovation of its Pine River Dam in Cross Lake, Minn.

The annual competition recognizes outstanding achievements in engineering. Fifteen projects were submitted, and seven were selected. This is the third year that St. Paul District received two of the seven awards.

Highway permits

The Corps in Arkansas has made a first-of-a-kind agreement with state and federal highway officials to streamline the permit process for highway improvements.

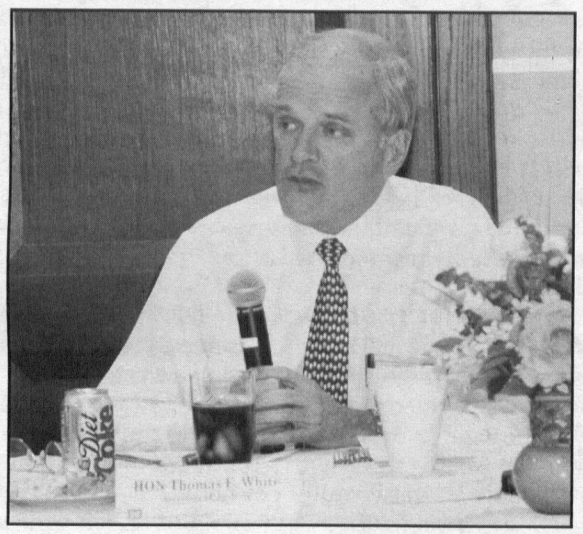
The agreement with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will give highway a single point of contact when applying for Department of the Army permits needed for many highway construction jobs.

Until now, they had to turn to Little Rock District, or Memphis District, or Vicksburg District, depending on where in the state the work was needed. Under the new agreement, AHTD and FHWA will fund a position in Little Rock District to process the hundreds of highway permit applications made each year.

Water management award

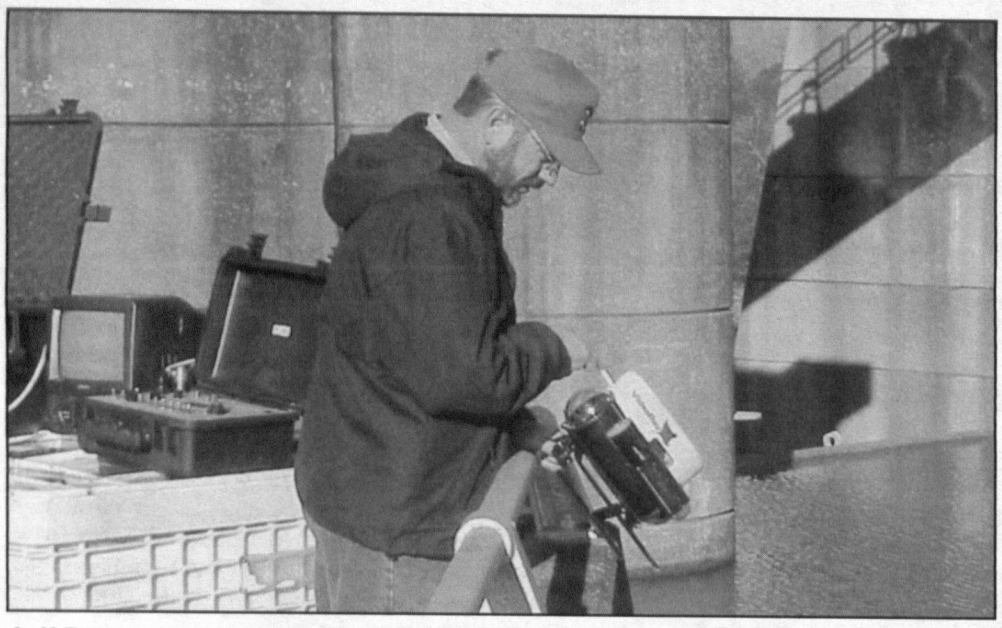
The Water Management Team of Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) recently received the 2002 Sandor C. Csallany Institutional Award from the American Water Resources Association (AWRA).

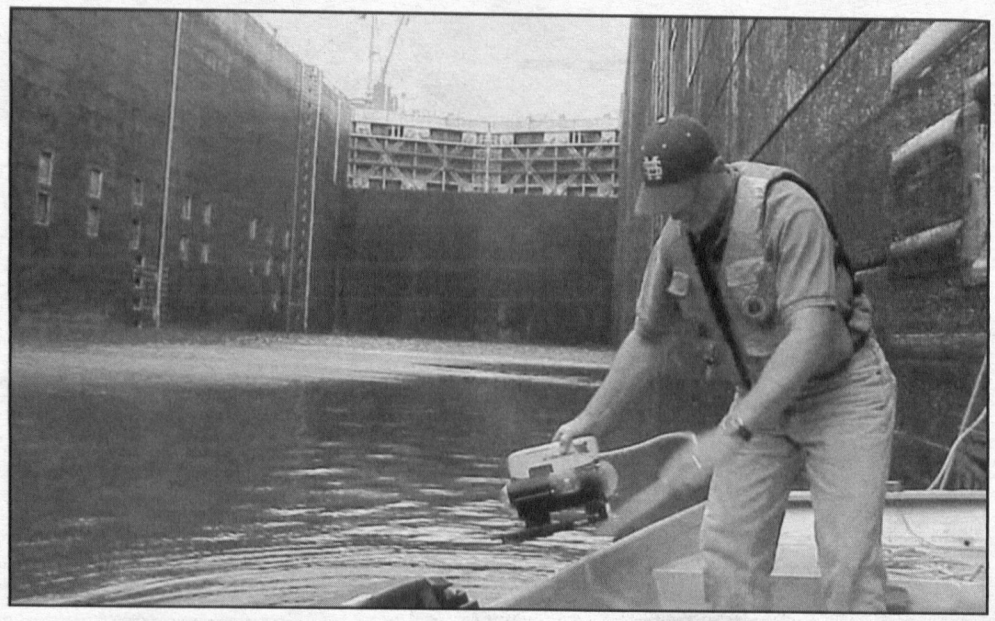
Since 1991, the AWRA has awarded only five water resources institutions that have achieve excellence in some aspect of managing our nations's water. LRD's Water Management Team is the fifth institution to receive the award, and this is the first award for the Corps.



Secretary of the Army visits

The Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Thomas White, visited Corps Headquarters Jan. 23 and addressed a working lunch during the New District Engineer Briefings. White spoke about the war on terrorism, Army Transformation, the Third Wave, and obtaining the resources to do those things. (Photo by F.T. Eyre, HECSA)





Jeff Byars uses the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in a wide variety of Corps underwater situations. (Photos courtesy of Mobile District)

Mini-subs handle underwater chores

By Kayla Patenaude

Small submarine cameras are saving money and increasing safety during underwater operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Human dives are expensive and hazardous, and the costs of accidents are tremendous. Pressure differentials and penetration dives (going inside a structure) are at the top of the list for hazards and expense when working around dams. Human divers remain the most popular way to perform routine and emergency inspections, but ROVs (remotely operated vehicles) are becoming popular as an inspection tool.

Jeffrey Byars, master of Mobile District's snagboat *Ros*, has worked with ROVs for a decade. He saw his first ROV pictures in diving school in the early 1980s. In 1992, while attending the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Diving Supervisory School at Key West, Fla., Byars learned that ROVs were a real option to sending people underwater. The next year, shocked by the prices of commercial ROVs ($60,000 to $150,000 at that time), he began building his own.

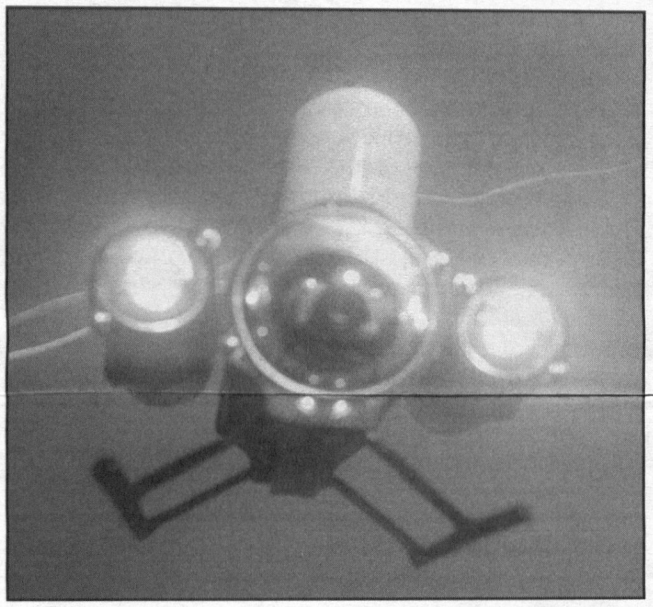
Byars built his first ROV for about $5,000 using off-the-shelf materials – PVC pipe, trolling motors, lights, and a video camera. He got good service from his homemade ROVs, but in 2000 Mobile District bought a commercial mini-ROV called a VideoRay. Essentially, it is a remote-controlled underwater video camera. It is quite different from the ROVs that explore the shipwrecks of the *Titanic* and *Bismarck*. Those cost millions of dollars, require a ship to mobilize, and need specially trained operators.

Small, affordable. Mobile District bought the VideoRay Pro II model, which is about 14 inches long, weighs about eight pounds, and has a control unit as simple as a video game. It is equipped with two 20-watt halogen lights, and its three thrusters make it highly maneuverable with a top speed of two knots (a little more than two miles per hour).

The ROV costs about $11,500, but "Each time we use it, depending on the job, we save anywhere from a couple of thousand dollars a day to about $23,000 a day that would be spent on divers," Byars said. "It can pay for itself very quickly."

There are several ROVs in the Corps, according to Mac Wimbish, Chief of Safety and Occupational Health in Vicksburg District. There are ROVs in Pittsburgh, Seattle, Mobile, and Wilmington districts. John Day and The Dalles dams in Portland District have one each. Nashville District has one on order.

Mobile District's ROV has proven itself in a variety of both routine and emergency inspections. Byars had just received the ROV and had no time to familiarize with it when he was called out to inspect an accident that had holed a ship. He arrived on the scene and



The ROV in operation underwater with its lights on. (Photo courtesy of VideoRay Co.)

lowered the submersible into the water, watching a monitor showing what the ROV saw underwater.

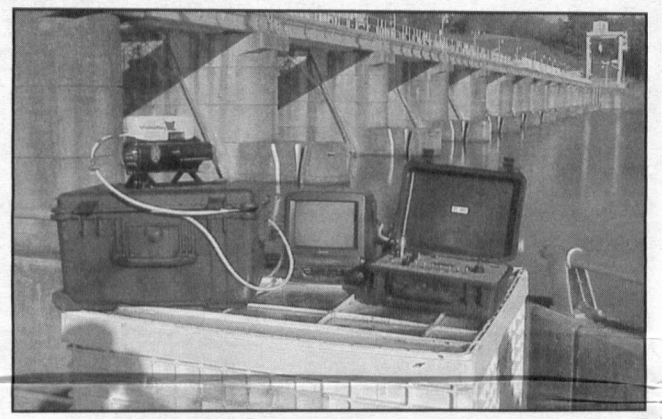
Byars' lack of experience proved to be no problem with an ROV this easy to use. Swimming the ROV around the scene, videotaping the exploration through the camera's eye, Byars quickly identified the abandoned dredge pipeline that caused the accident.

"The unit worked great, and the video is getting a lot of attention," Byars said. The shipping company named the Corps in a lawsuit, along with several others, but the video shows that the old dredge pipe was well outside of the navigation channel.

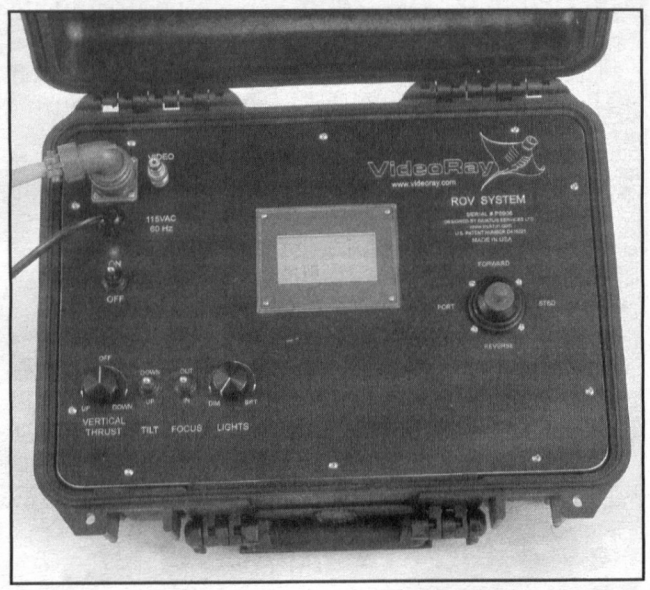
Routine use. Byars also uses the ROV for more routine tasks. He can inspect underwater construction, repairs, and corrosion more often than he could with divers. He can spot problems sooner, and he avoids the usual dive hazards, paperwork, and logistics of diving operations.

For example, an erosion area in the culvert system had been discovered and repaired during a scheduled dewatering of one of Mobile District's high-lift navigation locks. Byars wanted to inspect the area frequently (three-to-six months) during operation to see if the repair stayed in place. Bids for divers to inspect the repair were $23,000 and it would be a hazardous 175-foot penetration dive. According to Byars, he can inspect the area using the mini-ROV as often as he wants, with no hazards, and at a fraction of the cost.

Byars reports using the ROV on locks, dams, and powerhouses to inspect crest gates, intake structures, and clear bulkhead and stoplog recess areas. He often slips the little submersible in the water to inspect



The ROV and its equipment fits in two easy-to-transport boxes. (Photo courtesy of Mobile District)



The ROV's control unit is almost as simple as a video game. (Photo courtesy of VideoRay Co.)

navigation hazards, and inspect boats and barges.

Safety. The ROV can't replace divers for everything. their slow speed and the drag of their control tethers make them difficult to handle in a current.

But even when divers must go down, Byars still sometimes uses the ROV as a safety scout to spot and warn them of hazards.

"The mini-ROV industry has made great strides in providing a tool that can help avoid the hazards of diving," said Byars. "The VideoRay has provided the opportunity to inspect and prepare for diving operations, provide quality control and inspection after diving operations, and save money in the process."

(Kayla Patenaude is the Public Relations Director of the VideoRay Company. Tim Dugan of New England District also contributed to this article.)