



# DISTRICT TIDES

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## Shipwreck recovered from Lynnhaven Inlet

By Megan Nelson

Ten years ago, a Norfolk District dredging project revealed a mysterious shipwreck in the Lynnhaven Inlet. Since then the wreck has been largely left alone and the identity of the ship has remained unknown.

The wreck, which is located along the western edge of the inlet's entrance channel, is about 2,300 feet north of Lesner's Bridge. Boaters have navigated around the wreck for years.

"Unless you're really familiar with that inlet, if it's foggy and you go to make that turn to the west, you can completely miss it and run aground...it's a safety problem," said Gregg G. Williams, the Corps' project manager.

So the shipwreck had to come up and historians hoped that in the process, some details about the ship's origin would be revealed.

The removal of the shipwreck will allow entrance channel realignment providing a safer navigation channel. The entrance channel is part of the FY2005 overall maintenance of the project. Along with realigning the entrance channel, an estimated 230,000 cubic yards from all segments of the project will be removed. Navigation studies involving the Pilot's Association located in Lynnhaven Inlet came up with the best alignment



*David Whal from Tidewater Atlantic and workers from Crofton Contractors wrap the cannon in plastic and sludge to protect it from the air and sun. (Photo by Keith Lockwood)*

through virtual simulations.

Work began on Wednesday, September 22 to raise the remains of the possibly 250-year-old boat. The first few scoops revealed not much more than sand and more sand, but slowly the scoops started to change with a hunk of wood, then a ballast stone.

By Thursday morning, the debris took up one-third of the 100-foot barge. The mystery

slowly unraveled. With each scoop more artifacts were discovered: a cannonball, bits of a wooden barrel and bucket and a "bar shot", two cannonballs linked by an iron bar designed to tear down enemy sails and lines. Strategic pieces of wood were marked and sent to a lab, where scientists could compare samples of known species of wood or put under a microscope.

David Whal, a marine archaeologist with Tidewater Atlantic Research (TAR), is assisting with the investigation. He said, "We're getting a lot of info, and we may be able to narrow things down. It may open some other doors too."

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## Commander's Corner

**Col. Yvonne J.  
Prettyman-Beck**

### **To all members of the "Coolest and Tightest District" - Holiday Hooah Greetings!**

I am so disappointed that time is slowly but surely beginning to add up for me and I'm probably more than halfway through my tenure as your Commander. (All right, let's not have everybody celebrate at once.) I still have lots to learn, lots to do and so much more to positively contribute in the telling and sharing of OUR wonderful story every day...and am honored to do so!

At times it seems that so many changes are falling out of the sky that it's hard to keep track of them and even harder to ensure everyone has a basic understanding of what it means to you, the District, our Corps and our customers. However, I am a firm believer that good things have more added value and meaning when gained or accomplished after a little hard TEAMWORK and application of consistent education! And yes, TEAMWORK is how you so brilliantly accomplish OUR mission in support of the Army's overall mission. If everyone continues to do their part as outlined in our Vision and Goals by remaining... *"A full spectrum engineer force of high quality, dedicated people who know how to take care of themselves and others; take charge when in charge (and) when not, be an active team player; be strategic, innovative thinkers, communicators and active listeners who are part of producing a solution based on a synergistic "win-win" approach (and who always remember that) Life is Priceless; Be Safe and Enjoy It!"* ... Then we as a TEAM can accomplish anything we set our minds to do.

How do we equate Telling Our Story to the numerous projects and programs that Norfolk District makes happen on a daily basis? Glad you asked. Over the past year and (almost) a half I have seen our teams work diligently in all our key mission areas to ensure national security, enhance the environment and energize the economy. For instance, we're providing direct and indirect support to the Global War on Terrorism and hurricane recovery operations. We're providing professional oversight, management, and execution of designs, military construction and civil works projects to include breaching dams, building bridges and USAF combat fighter wing facilities. We're constructing piers to transport large military equipment, and erecting beautiful aerial delivery (parachute rigger) facilities and military entrance processing stations (MEPS) to induct our new Soldiers. Our TEAM led an optimistic and successful charge to communicate the impacts

of funding issues on maintaining navigable waterways and deepening the harbor.

I have seen first-hand how our TEAM is cleaning up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS); resolving sensitive real estate and regulatory issues; and managing and moving forward complex studies whose multi-tiered team members include congressional representatives, 3 and 4-star generals, local, multi-state and federal partners. Closer to home, many of us are benefiting personally from the innovative ideas and outstanding work our TEAM is putting into the Fort Norfolk and Norfolk District's beautification project.

So how do you communicate so many successes? It's really not that hard. Communication is not just about public affairs. It's about all of us working towards a common goal of sharing our success stories and lessons learned. And it's about more than the media. And we can't be fearful of negative press. We must maintain an open dialogue with our partners, stakeholders, and citizens, as well as the media.

It is of paramount importance that we find innovative ways to tell our numerous magnificent stories. Indeed, this gallant effort is much bigger than Norfolk District - the existence of our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers depends on each of us as individuals and every Corps TEAM to share and tell our Corps stories.

I am proud to say that Norfolk District is on the forefront of strategic communications in the Corps. Print and broadcast reporters both locally and nationally have interviewed many of our team members over the past year on a variety of subjects. We must remain responsive and continue to be open in dealing with the media. (For some helpful tips, see related *Tides* article on handling a media interview.)

Of course, the best news stories are the good news stories. One area we've been particularly successful in this year is working with the correspondent who covers the Corps for Soldiers Radio & Television and the Pentagon Channel. Wonderful pieces about Norfolk civil works and military projects have aired or will air shortly around the world. It takes so many people behind the scenes to make any media interview a success and I want to thank all of you who have been a part of these stories.

If we all commit to making strategic communications a part of every project or program, we will see tangible results—relationships will be strengthened, goals will be met, and Norfolk District will continue to find success in everything we do.

What you do every day is important, so this Holiday Season find time to relax and share OUR good news stories with family and friends. You deserve the great recognition for your accomplishments and TEAM effort!! I am as always deeply honored and proud to serve with the Coolest and Tightest District TEAM in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers! My family's prayers and peaceful thoughts for a wonderful and safe holiday season are with you!!

**With Great Admiration and Lots of HOOAH!!!  
Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck**

## *Update from BG Bo Temple:*

# Think as a Region, Act as a Region

The North Atlantic Division is transforming itself. Under USACE 2012, the Division and its Districts operate together as one cohesive unit, the North Atlantic Regional Business Center (RBC)—one of nine regional centers working with our Washington, D.C. headquarters to align the Corps for success in its future missions, workload and capabilities. The North Atlantic Regional Business Center, using Project Management Business Processes, *integrates* the capability of six unique Districts, who *collaborate* to efficiently and effectively deliver projects, and serves *customers* by leveraging the resources of the Region and the Corps.

Nothing in the USACE 2012 concept changes the fundamental requirement for Districts to execute and deliver products and services to our varied customers. Integrating our capabilities means leveraging resources across district boundaries to get the job done, pooling expertise within the Region to meet technical challenges, and removing communication barriers to streamline customer service. Since all of you are members of or provide support to one or more teams, *everyone* in the Region, by extension, supports and is affected by our RBC.

“In this regard we’re finding opportunities to deliver quality work faster and to reduce costs on a regional basis. To make that happen, the Corps is shifting its focus from regional *cooperation* to regional business *operations* in order to support and facilitate better District delivery to our customers,” says Brig. Gen. Bo Temple, Regional Commander. “As a result, we all need to think and act regionally.”

The North Atlantic Regional Business Center (RBC), chartered in 1998, made tremendous progress in regional cooperation, and it has moved to its USACE 2012 “Initial Operating Capability” on October 1, 2004. The RBC—the Region—is one team of some 3,500 Corps of Engineers professionals located in six districts under one regional office.

“Every one of the Corps’ activities enhances the U.S. economy, supports our natural environment, and enhances our national security,” says Temple. “As a Region of the Corps, we will be a better steward of public trust by developing regional efficiencies and capabilities. We will maintain and leverage regional capabilities where it is not cost-effective to maintain expertise at every one of our districts so that we can deliver more cost effective, high quality, safer products and services to our customers.”

Regional cooperation has helped ensure the success of a wide variety of projects completed in fiscal 2004, especially on a district-to-district basis:

- The New York District, constrained for in-house resources, engaged the Europe District to prepare the design package for

an \$8 million Explosive R&D Loading Facility at Picatinny Arsenal (N.J.). Europe then tapped the Norfolk District for civil, electrical and geotechnical expertise. The customer, the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), was pleased enough with the result to request the same team for a similar project.

- In its successful award (on extremely short suspense) of a \$500 million contract for construction and rehab of Buildings, Schools, and Health Facilities in Iraq, the Philadelphia District drew upon New England and the North Atlantic Division Office for contracting support.

- To oversee demolition of the Tacony Warehouse, a former Army facility in northeast Philadelphia, the Baltimore District found the help it needed right down the street, bringing in the Philadelphia District for construction management and quality assurance.

- Baltimore and Norfolk are sharing resources and preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement for the proposed introduction of a new oyster species into the tidal waters of Maryland and Virginia.

- Initially Europe District, then ultimately all Districts have provided support to GWOT by deploying over 186 regional employees in direct support, with nearly all in general support to this vital wartime effort. Furthermore, the region deployed over 176 employees to support South Atlantic Division in post-hurricane recovery efforts in devastated areas of our country’s Southeast in 2004. Our support to these contingency missions, and those who remained at the home station and shouldered additional responsibilities, is a true testament to the flexibility, spirit, and professionalism of every NAD team member.

In terms of actualizing the RBC concept, the region has within the past year embarked on a number of initiatives designed to better integrate our capabilities:

- The **Regional Technical Specialist (“Tech-13”) Program** applies the Region’s best technical expertise in specific disciplines to improve civil works planning while enhancing career paths for non-supervisory technical specialists. There are currently 18 GS-13 Regional Technical Specialists (RTS), each designated part-time for such tasks as project technical review.

- Through **Virtual Design Teaming (“VTeam”)**, physical location no longer restricts the composition of a project’s design team. This “tele-engineering” approach, using video teleconferencing and electronic data transfer, has enabled the districts, especially Europe, to work together on projects without regard to the usual travel constraints.

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## North Atlantic Region, *continued from Page 3*

- The need for consistency across district boundaries in dealing with non-federal partners helped bring about creation of the **Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Team**. Dredging and placement of sediment from federal channels falls under the Corps' navigation mission, but its applications include hurricane and storm damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, and affects cross-district regulatory issues. The RSM Team will engage appropriate stakeholders at all levels on these sometimes competing demands and a range of other issues in order to develop better regional solutions and support to affected customers.

- Contracting, Resource Management, Logistics, Information Management and Public Affairs, all formerly independent functions, are now single-team **Regional Support Functions** that also continue to support the districts where they are located. Each of these teams has already developed a series of initiatives that will provide better support regionally and will make more efficient use of existing resources.

- Three NAD-based **District Support Teams**, each dedicated to two districts (Europe/New England, New York/Philadelphia and Baltimore/Norfolk), supply the region-to-district link in the Corps' vertical integration team approach. The DST's complete the vertical link by communicating with the **Regional Integration Team (RIT)** in the Washington HQ. This RIT provides dedicated national support to the North Atlantic Regional Business Center. There is one RIT per RBC. These teams, together with the Districts, are operationalizing the Corps' "One Headquarters" concept.

In the future, plans are being made for continued progress in fiscal 2005, building on last year's accomplishments, and laying the foundation for further regionalization in FY 06 and beyond:

- Workload management will be fine-tuned based on customer needs and on regional resources and capacities.

- P2, the automated system being used for project management, will continue to be a major focus area to better support all activities.

- The RBC will continue to define the Region's core competencies and to make effective use of the Tech-13 program and other technical capabilities, region-wide.

- Regionalization of support functions under USACE 2012 will continue as **Communities of Practice (CoP)** take shape within each function.

- The **Regional Program Budget Advisory Committee** will study and prepare for implementation of cost control measures and regional rates in fiscal year 2006.

- Better integration of teams (District PDTs, DSTs, RITs, CoPs, etc.) and greater delegation of authorities will likely occur by FY 06 as well. *So if you are a member of, or provide support to, one or more of these teams, you will be directly affected*

*by our regionalization efforts.*

- Regionalization also will drive the TAPES performance objectives for all members of the Regional Management Board, GS-15s throughout the Region, and others rated by regional leadership.

"We will think as a Region and act as a Region, delivering quality projects through our Districts, on time at the lowest cost, safely," says Brig. Gen. Temple. "We have done and are doing great work in the service of the Army and the Nation. But working together we can always improve, and as a Region, I know that we will. I am extremely proud and grateful for all that you do daily to support our Region, our Regiment, and our Nation. ESSAYONS!"

## Shipwreck, *continued from Page 1*

On Friday, workers found what they had wanted most: a cannon noted during previous research at the site but reburied by shoaling. Keith B. Lockwood, an environmental scientist with the Corps, said a salvage crane was bringing up less and less debris when it hit something big and heavy. When the load was dumped onto the barge, "there was a loud boom." The cannon measured 5 feet 1 inch long, with a 10 ¼-inch muzzle and a 3 ¼-inch bore.

Heavily encrusted after spending at least 200 years beneath the sea, the cannon was otherwise in good condition. What hopes to find some markings. "It may have a date or manufacturer or a country origin stamped into it," he said.

The cannon was immediately set in plastic sheets and filled with seawater and muck to prevent damage from the air and sun, and was moved to the Corps' Craney Island facility in Portsmouth for storage. It was then transported to TAR's facility to undergo electrolysis that will remove the sediment that has been forming over the last couple of centuries. The process will gently clean the cannon to maintain any markings. This may take a few months to even three years to complete.

Tidewater Atlantic Research has begun studying the recovered ship and says it is too light to have been a warship, but because of the cannon on board it may have been used for transporting. A marking was also found on some wood with the letters "CSS"; this may link it to the *CSS Virginia*, or another Confederate States naval ship; however, this has yet to be confirmed.

The cannon is currently property of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Corps has coordinated with the state to further study the wreck and hopefully solve the mystery of where it came from. It is up to the state as to where the cannon will ultimately be displayed and restoration funds are also an issue.

Dredging of the channel is set to begin in spring 2005. The project will include the beneficial use of material from the entrance channel and mooring and turning basin by placing it along Ocean Park Beach for storm damage reduction. The removal of the shipwreck as well as the maintenance to the channel is entirely federally funded.

## F/A-22 team awarded at USACE conference

By Megan Nelson

Marking a first for Norfolk District, the Fighter/Attack-22 (F/A-22) Bed-down Project Delivery Team (PDT) was awarded the USACE Project Delivery Team Excellence Award for 2004. The prestigious award was presented Oct. 28, at the annual PDT Conference in Dallas, Texas. This was the highest award presented at the conference.

Corps Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, commended the team, saying: "The Norfolk District Fighter/Attack-22 Bed-down PDT has demonstrated exceptional teamwork in accomplishing the planning, design, and continuing construction of this very complex project for the Air Force at Langley Air Force Base. Your efforts are commended for an extraordinary job well done."

The F/A-22 Bed-down PDT was established to construct a complex range of facilities for the bed-down of the first operational wing of the new F/A-22 Raptor jetfighter. America's newest superiority jetfighter, designated for Langley, will form the first operational wing of fighter pilots ready to deploy to real world, war-fighting operations.

The overall project includes nine military construction (MILCON) facilities programmed at \$105 million and 61 supporting operation and maintenance (O&M) projects totaling \$26.9 million. The team's challenges include having facilities ready to support arrival of the first wing of aircrafts in December, and to support the initial operational capability (IOC) date of December 2005. Additionally, the entire project

must be accomplished while the flight line remains operational at all times.

"In the case of the F/A-22 project, a great team was developed between customer, agents and users," said Barbara Wilt, F/A-22 project manager for Air Combat Command. "Due to the location, it was critical to coordinate and maintain the active airfield missions at Langley. The outcome is a world-class facility and state-of-the-art squadron operations."

At the start of the project, the team developed a comprehensive master schedule for the bed-down project. This master schedule identified the critical relationships and served as a guide in developing acquisition strategies that would meet required construction completion dates.

The F/A-22 team established a closely integrated project delivery team. All primary team members are located as closely together as possible — either in the same building or no more than a 3-minute walk apart. Supporting team members are constantly available by cell phones provided by the team.

Jonathan Jones took over for George Gogel as district project manager in February. "There were no challenges coming in mid-project because of how things were set up. I stepped into a goldmine with top-notch professionals," said Jones.

Acquisition strategy was established early, allowing full design of all facilities for a design cost of only 6.3 percent of the program amount. This strategy has resulted in savings of approximately \$12.4 million which will be used to fund additional drainage work not anticipated at the time of initial programming.

"The F/A-22 facilities PDT embodies the central tenet of the project management business process — project-focused teamwork," said the district's Chief of Military Branch, John Adams. "Effective communications were established from the beginning, and the team was empowered to do whatever was necessary to maintain commitments to ensure project success. All team members feel a deep sense of pride in the execution of this project which has solidified partnerships with all involved."



Accepting the award were, (L to R), Mark Hunt, Air Combat Command; Jon Jones, Norfolk District Project Manager; Debbie Gray, Norfolk District Contracting Office; John Adams, Norfolk District Military Branch Chief; Barbara Wilt, Air Combat Command; George Gogel, Air Combat Command; and Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Norfolk District Engineer.

# New Deputy District Engineer promoted

By Megan Nelson

Major David L. Pedersen Jr. became Norfolk District's Deputy District Engineer in August. He comes to Norfolk District after serving as the Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations with the Baltimore District.

On Oct. 27, Maj. Pedersen was promoted to lieutenant colonel by District Commander, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck. Pedersen's wife, Lisa, and parents, David and Lucy Pedersen, had the honor of pinning on his new silver maple leaf insignia.

Pedersen grew up in Buxton, Maine, with two brothers and a sister. As a child he knew he wanted to be an Army engineer. Even though he dabbled in show business with an appearance on the popular children's show *Romper Room*, he couldn't resist building dams in his parent's driveway.

Pedersen graduated in 1987 from Norwich University, Norwich, Vt., with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. During his senior year, he met his wife Lisa, then an Army Signal Corps officer, while she was undergoing a physical fitness test. Pedersen went on to earn two master's degrees from Stanford University in structural engineering and construction engineering management.

He is also a graduate of the Army Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses; the Combined Arms and Services Staff School; and the Army Command and General Staff College.

Pedersen's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Army Commendation Medal (two awards), Army Achievement Medal (two awards) and the National Defense Service Medal.

He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

His key Army assignments have included: Director of Public



From L to R, Col. Prettyman-Beck, Luke and Lisa Pedersen look on as Lt. Col. Pedersen's insignia of rank is affixed by his parents, Lucy and David Pedersen. (Photo by Nancy Allen)

Works in Schweinfurt, Germany; Associate Professor of civil engineering at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; adjutant and company commander with the 299<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo.; as well as other assignments in Germany.

With all the great places Pedersen has worked and lived, he said, "I'm still not sure where I want to ultimately settle down after the Army." He likes living in Norfolk and being around the water and having the ability to go to the beach. His family also enjoys fishing and crabbing near their home.

When not working diligently at Norfolk District, Pedersen enjoys playing with his children, Samantha, 13 and Luke, 4. He also likes to run, read books, play computer games and lift weights.

## District's Small Business Program enjoys banner year

By Jerry Rogers

Under the leadership of Program Manager Jack Beecher, the Norfolk District's Small Business Program enjoyed another record-setting year, awarding more than \$84 million in military and civil works projects to small businesses during fiscal year 2004.

The \$84.9 million awarded to small businesses allowed Norfolk District to exceed its overall Small Business goal of 40 percent. The district awarded 46 percent of its obligations to small businesses and also met or exceeded three other goals – Small Disadvantaged Businesses; HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone); and Women-Owned awards. The two Small Business goal categories not met were awards to

Service Disabled Veteran (SDV) Owned Business and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Awards to SDVs were 2 percent, with a goal of 3 percent. No contracts were awarded in the HBCU category. These two categories are receiving command-wide emphasis during fiscal year 2005.

Some of the high-profile contracts, all HUBZone, included: a \$2.4-million Rinse Facility, part of the overall F/A-22 Bed down project at Langley Air Force Base, Va; new Training Support Facility at Fort Lee, Va., valued at \$6.4 million; a \$2.2-million Security Upgrades project at Fort Lee; \$2.8-million Storm Sewer Repairs contract at the Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Va.; and a \$2.8-million Auditorium Repairs contract for the Joint Forces Command, located in Norfolk, Va.

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## Communications 101: Surviving a media interview

By Megan Nelson

Last year, then Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, mandated that a renewed focus be given to strategic communications in the Corps. In a letter to Corps leadership, he stated, "We need to do a much better job of communicating both to the American public and to ourselves. Today, we are 'red'-unacceptable-and must move to 'green'-successful- in our Corps strategic goal of communication."

One of the best ways Norfolk District can tell its story to the public is through the mass media. Given the high visibility of so many of our projects and initiatives, it is more than likely that many team members here will have to interact with the media at one point or another. Anyone can handle a media

interview with a little preparation and insider knowledge.

So what happens when a member of the media calls? If you are called directly by a reporter, ask yourself if you are the most appropriate person for the interview? If so, coordinate with the Public Affairs Office and your chain of command. Provide names of other subject matter experts they might want to interview, and let them, as well as your project partners, know about the interview.

Before the interview begins, know who you are talking to: their name, organization, phone number and deadline. You have the right to establish some ground rules for the interview:

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## Small business, *continued from Page 6*

To be certified as a HUBZone contractor, a business must be located in a HUBZone area and agree to hire at least 35 percent of its workforce from people living in that zone.

"By directing these contracts to HUBZone firms, Norfolk District has helped put money directly into the hands of employees in some of the most-distressed communities in the Commonwealth," said Beecher.

Construction work continued in FY 04 on other Norfolk District record-setting Small Business contracts.

- The Maneuver and Training Equipment Site (MATES) facility at Fort Pickett, Va., is the largest construction award in Fort Pickett's 63-year history, valued at more than \$17.6 million. It also represents one of the largest HUBZone awards in the United States and the largest ever awarded by Norfolk District.

- The Hazardous Waste Tanks project at Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Radford, Va., is the district's largest award made to a Veteran-Owned Small Business. The \$3.4-million contract is also the largest Small Business contract awarded at the plant.

- The \$1.3-million Security Upgrades project at the strategic Army National Ground Intelligence Center, Charlottesville, Va., awarded to a Women-Owned 8(a) sole-source company, speaks volumes about the professionals in the Small Business arena, says Beecher.

With the Corps' command emphasis that districts ramp up their efforts to award more contracts to qualified Small Disadvantaged, Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses, in May Norfolk District awarded a \$200,000 contract to Robra Construction. Aubrey Wilson, owner of the Virginia Beach, Va.-based company, recently completed the construction of an Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Chesapeake, Va. A retired

and disabled Army E-6, who served from 1975 to 1983, Wilson says he just "kept knocking on doors until his knuckles bled."

Robra's been a subcontractor on jobs for the Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but this was his first job as a prime, and it's already led to more government business. "It's a recruiting center, and that's high-priority," Wilson says. "When you do a good job on one of those, everybody hears about it."

Wilson added that if it weren't for Jack Beecher, Allen Bevins and other Norfolk District staff, he would still be knocking on doors. "They mentored me every step of the way and set me up for success," says Wilson.



Norfolk District Engineer, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, presents a District Coin to Robra Construction owner, Aubrey Wilson (second from left), and members of his construction staff, James Quintal and Charlotte Chenette, during the opening of the new Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Chesapeake, Va. Flanking the district engineer is District Project Manager Allen Bevins (Photo provided by Real Estate).

## Media, Continued from Page 7

subjects to be covered, length of the interview and points to discuss. Ask about the general nature of the questions prior to the interview.

Some of the best advice on how to handle the media comes from fellow Norfolk District employees.

Craig Seltzer, an ecosystem biologist in Planning, who often works on multiple projects at one time, said, "It helps to review recent information and developments and if you need support, talk to key people."

When the interview begins, it is okay to feel the reporter out before the questions start. Rick Henderson from Regulatory suggests small talk to get to know the reporter and feel what angle he or she is coming from.

During the interview remember that you are the expert and you are in control. Keith Lockwood, an environmental scientist in Operations, has found, "It works best to be as open as possible when dealing with difficult questions and to put the answer in a positive light. Preparation is important."

There may be details about a project that cannot be revealed to the public. Determine what you can and cannot talk about before the interview. If asked about these details, do not say "no comment." There is always a comment you can make without sharing the details. Always remember what you say around a reporter is considered, "on the record."

Sometimes reporters will ask your opinion on whether or not you agree with a statement. Alice Allen-Grimes from Regulatory says, "Give a fact when asked if you agree...don't let them bait you."

According to Jason Skog, a reporter for the *Virginian-Pilot*, "The biggest mistake would be to lie. Don't lie to the press...It should be obvious, but for some, it's not. When we catch you in a lie it magnifies whatever pain telling the truth might have caused. It is also the simplest rule to follow. Be truthful."

Remember to keep it simple and avoid technical terms the public may not understand. Pretend you are talking to your grandmother.

When doing an interview either for print or television, keep

in mind that you will be quoted. "Misquoting is a constant battle," said Seltzer. Avoid out-of-context quotes by being consistent, avoiding offhand comments, but repeat key messages. One way Project Manager Robert Pretlow, Civil Branch, avoids misquoting is by preparing a handout for the reporter and taking his quotes from there.

Sometimes during an interview you may not know the answer to everything. It's OK! Follow up with the reporter to provide the answer or refer him to someone who knows.

Also be available for further questions and always provide the reporter with any promised information. At the conclusion of the interview, ask the reporter when the piece will air or be published.

Don't overreact if the story doesn't go well. Expect opinions quotes from others. If the reporter has really botched the story, you may coordinate with Public

Affairs to send a letter to the publication editor; however, don't expect or demand a retraction. If there is a factual error, usually a call to the reporter, editor or station manager will get a correction reprinted.

If you are faced with your first interview, keep in mind some suggestions from seasoned veterans of the press and also fellow Corps employees.

Jini Ryan, Corps correspondent for Soldiers Radio and Television, recommends, "If you're doing an interview for the first time, just think of it as having a conversation with a potential employer. There will be some nervousness, but your objective

is to come across as personable and knowledgeable."

Skog suggests that if you are doing an interview for the first time, it helps to know the ground rules. "Tell the reporter that you've never been interviewed by the press before and that you have some questions. Most journalists I know are happy to do a little hand-holding for first-timers."

Remember that you can't guarantee how your interview will turn out, but as Henderson says, "Most reporters want an accurate story and to do a good job. Don't avoid the media...be straightforward."



Matt Byrne, chief of the Operations Branch, faces the media at Craney Island to talk about mosquito control strategies. (Photo by Nancy Allen)

### Remember the 10 Commandments of Good Media Relations.

Always be...

**Honest**

**Brief**

**Timely**

**Fair**

**Flexible**

**Objective**

**Positive**

**Informed**

**Professional**

# Fort Pickett evolution continues; Corps delivers expanded MATES facility

Story and Photos by Jerry Rogers

Fort Pickett, located in central Virginia near the town of Blackstone, has historically played a key role in providing quality maneuver training areas for active, reserve and Army National Guard units. Since World War II, Fort Pickett has evolved to meet the changing missions of the Army and today is home to the Army National Guard. With over 42,000 acres of maneuver training areas and ranges, Fort Pickett offers the best in both mounted and dismounted training for combat arms, combat support and combat service support units.

On Dec. 9, 2003, Fort Pickett took another key step in its evolution as construction started on the \$18.5 million Norfolk District-managed project to increase the size of its Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) to over 153,000 square feet. This design-build military construction project will eliminate the need for the existing World War II vintage facilities, where much of the maintenance on equipment supported by MATES currently takes place.

Established as the Annual Training Equipment Pool in 1961, the concept was for Guard units using Pickett as a training site to locate some of their larger equipment at the installation, rather than incurring the high cost of shipping the equipment from home station whenever training took place. With 31 full-time employees maintaining about 100 armored vehicles housed in old warehouses and two locomotive repair shops, the facilities were adequate for the mission at that time. In 1986, a MATES upgrade was completed, but even with the new spaces, the maintenance facilities did not meet the increasing demands of

the mission.

Today over 100 highly skilled MATES employees, with about 50 percent working out of the original WW II facilities, maintain over 600 items including Abrams tanks, self-propelled howitzers, armored and command carriers, as well as related support equipment from over 80 Army National Guard units in Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

One of those employees, who as an Army staff sergeant in the 1980s repaired armored vehicles in one of the WW II facilities, was among the dignitaries who turned the first shovels of dirt for the MATES project. Lt. Col. Tom Perkins is now the superintendent of the Fort Pickett MATES facility.

He has experienced firsthand the difficulty of working out of these cramped, obsolete facilities, but he says through the years his teams have always completed their assigned missions. "Our employees are thrilled about moving soon into a spacious, modern and safer facility, but their focus has always been about the mission, regardless of the facilities, and the fact that the customer is Job No. 1," said Perkins. "It's all about 'pride of ownership' and the fact is these vehicles are ours until the units come to retrieve them."

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*The expanded MATES facility (shown at left), set for completion in September 2005, will increase the facility's size to over 153,000 square feet. MATES equipment maintenance crews continue to complete the mission, despite working in cramped, obsolete World War II facilities (shown above).*

## EEO events celebrate nation's diverse cultures

By Megan Nelson

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) has been busy over the last several months putting together events to raise Norfolk District's awareness of other ethnic cultures.

Letty Remley, chief of EEO, said, "Our observance of the different cultures provides us the ability to remind ourselves that our country is made up of a diverse group of people that bring different values, morals, beliefs and culture to the American way of life."

Women's History Month was celebrated during the month of April. The theme for this year's event was "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." The program included guest speaker Ms.

Cheryl D. Orr, director of Human Resources, Norfolk State University, and a humorous presentation by Victoria Boone of History Chicks, Inc.

In May, the Corps celebrated Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. The guest speaker was Dr. Marissa C. Galicia-Castillo. She is currently a staff member at Depaul Medical Center and Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in Norfolk, where she practices internal medicine with a concentration in geriatrics. The celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage also included a dance performance by children from the School for Creative and Performing Arts.

On Aug. 30, Norfolk District celebrated Equality Day and

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Perkins also revealed that their mission has been made more difficult in recent months due to the high number of deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of our nation's War on Terror. "We've had to restructure our specialized equipment maintenance crews to ensure all of our equipment inventory is maintained," said Perkins. But despite the juggling act, he stressed, "we continue to complete our mission."

The Guard's Project Manager for Facility Management, Bob Tabor, said this has been the easiest project he's ever had to oversee. "This is the first time we've employed the services of the Army Corps of Engineers, and we (the Guard leadership here) have been blown away with the speed, efficiency and all the disciplined design-build and other in-house expertise Norfolk District brings to this project," said Tabor.

Back in April 2003, the Fort Pickett leadership asked the district to consider this project for execution, explained Chief of Engineering Section, Peter G. Reilly. "Realizing that a construction award had to be made by Sept. 30, the task at hand was very difficult; however, working closely with the staff at the MATES facility as well as the Guard, a Project Management Plan for success was developed assigning this project as a design-build candidate. To ensure smooth project development, our senior technical staff developed the solicitation, which took only 70 days to complete," said Reilly, who assumed the design technical lead for the project.

The expanded MATES facility project will contain four new structures and two additions to existing facilities. Key in the development process was ensuring that the project constructed was flexible enough to adapt to the ever-evolving mission of the Guard at Fort Pickett, Reilly continued. Special care and attention went into the details of mission requirements, he said, as well as the requirement to keep the project as "friendly" with the environment as possible. "Probably the one most

important feature that the new facilities would have to have was the absence of interior columns, a major drawback of the existing facilities," said Reilly.

With the new facilities absent of any interior columns, the equipment maintenance crews will be able to work more freely on all the armored vehicles, especially the Abrams tank, with its 360-degree rotating turret.

Following receipt and evaluation of contractor proposals, the actual construction contract award was made Sept. 19, 2003. Throughout the pre-award process, the one most important reason for the success of this project was the total integration of the MATES staff, the Guard staff and district team members into a highly performing team, said Reilly. "We were all about the same task, with the same goal in mind. Without the dedication of the staff at Fort Pickett, this project could never have even made it to the contracting community for execution."

That same team commitment extends to the project's Small Business (HUBZone) contractor, Purcell Construction Corp., based in Watertown, N.Y. "From day one Purcell's goal was to deliver this construction project on schedule and in budget," said Corps Construction Representative, Kevin D. Arthur. "To date their performance has been exceptional. The expertise and flexibility they exhibit toward meeting the exacting standards of the project's design is commendable."

Set for completion in September 2005, the expanded MATES facility will position Fort Pickett as a key military training site in the mid-Atlantic area. "Our objective is to make Fort Pickett a 'training center of choice' for the units on the east coast, including Army National Guard-enhanced brigades located in the Carolinas, and the Stryker Brigade projected for Pennsylvania's 28<sup>th</sup> Division," said Col. Glenn Walker, National Guard Bureau.

**Editor's note:** Public Affairs Officer, Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter III of the Virginia Army National Guard, contributed to this story.

## District facilitates Eastern Shore Partnership

By Nancy Allen

The Eastern Shore of Virginia, located on the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, is less than 20 miles wide at its broadest point and only 75 miles long. Bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, it is home to small communities and thousands of citizens who depend on its waterways for their livelihood.

While only 696 square miles, there are 19 federally funded navigation projects on the Eastern Shore, all of them overseen by the Norfolk District. With the exception of one, the projects are all shallow draft dredging, a category that was drastically cut in the FY '05 budget. Facing a severe shortage of available funds for these projects, NAO has taken the innovative step of asking the communities for their help in prioritizing dredging needs.

On May 27, some 100 citizens, elected officials, waterway users, regulators and Corps employees gathered in Wachapreague, Va., for the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Shore Partnership, a group formed "to work together to provide navigation on all tides, while maintaining the heritage, culture and environment of the Eastern Shore."

"This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint," said Norfolk District Engineer Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck at the beginning of the day. "If you can set priorities, we'll do our

best to pass those along. We need to look at how we can do it, not why we can't do it."

The meeting generated a high level of interest from elected officials. Then-Congressman Ed Schrock (R VA-2) offered opening comments to the group. "The history, culture and ecosystem of the Eastern Shore is too valuable to lose," he said. "We are working doggedly to get this money."

Also in attendance were representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator John Warner and State Senator Nick Rerras.

One of the goals of the meeting was to explain the Corps' process for budgeting, developing and executing dredging projects. Corps representatives stressed guidelines provided for establishing and documenting a project's "Value to the Nation". Stakeholders and local sponsors were urged to help gather facts and figures regarding commerce, safety and public health, national, state and local security, recreation, environmental factors and their consequences.

"We need credible information with sources," Richard Klein, chief of the Design Section, told the group. "Under new constraints, the budget is shrinking and the backlog is growing. We need your support in gathering measured values."

But perhaps the greatest case for why the dredging was so

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women's right to vote. Judge Ramona Taylor from the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Court was guest speaker. Judge Taylor was the first African-American female prosecutor for the City of Virginia Beach, and is the first African-American female judge for the city.

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated during October, with a display of crafts and literature depicting many of the Hispanic countries, and a sampling of native food, including empanadas and flan. Latin and Afro-Caribbean dances, such as the salsa and meringue, were performed. Several brave souls even volunteered to strut their stuff.

On Oct. 14, Ms. Christina V. Garcia-Kramer, president of Anchor Tidewater Mortgage Company in Virginia Beach, spoke to the district about the challenges she faced growing up as an Hispanic and how her perseverance allowed her to overcome obstacles. She now devotes her time to helping other Hispanic-Americans in the Hampton Roads community.

Panamanian folklore dancers of "Conjunto Tipico Panameno" also provided entertainment with traditional dances, while adorned in beautiful costumes. A sampling of Panamanian foods completed the District's observance.

EEO is hard at work planning more cultural events for the district. "Our ethnic month observances aim to help create an ongoing excitement for learning about other cultures and will recognize groups accordingly," said Remley.



*During Women's History Month in March, History Chick Victoria Boone gave a humorous presentation about traditional medical remedies. Here she demonstrates on Marlo Camon. (Photo by Jerry Rogers)*

# Returnees from Afghanistan deployment share memories of comraderie, service

By Megan Nelson

Afghanistan has been plagued by wars, tribal infighting, religious persecution and extreme drought for several decades. The majority of its infrastructure has been destroyed and what is left, many Allied military officials regard as non-inhabitable. Many of the Afghan people fall prey daily to the thousands of minefields buried throughout the country. Although they have had a difficult past, the people of Afghanistan are making tremendous progress toward rebuilding their country, thanks in part to the work of the Army Corps of Engineers.

This year, several volunteers from Norfolk District, many of them part of the Corps' Field Force Engineering, joined others



The Norfolk District volunteers in Kabul, from L to R: Dave Thomas, Farzin Zakeri, Johnnie Saunders, Chris Service, Sherri Jefferies and Jaime Hernandez.

from around the Corps in Kabul, Afghanistan, for a 4-6-month deployment to aid in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. While deployed, their jobs varied from administrative and logistical support to Computer-Aided Design (CAD) operator to construction management — all playing a vital role in the Corps mission to rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure.

"I was so glad that I volunteered to go to Afghanistan," said Johnnie Saunders, who deployed for four months and is the district's carpentry specialist in the Logistics Management Office. "It was the best adventure and most fulfilling challenge of my life. I was able to do things that I had never done before in my job here."

"While inside the TAC (Trans-Atlantic Center) House compound, I wouldn't have thought I was in Afghanistan," revealed Sherri Jefferies, administrative secretary in the Executive Office. The former CBS news headquarters in Kabul is home for the volunteers during their deployment and it has all the creature comforts of home. There was air conditioning, heat, running water, and even a TV, DVD player, telephone, and of course, computer to surf the web.

"It was better than I expected," said Jaime Hernandez, a program management specialist who recently departed Norfolk District for assignment to the Europe District.

With volunteers deploying to Afghanistan from Corps districts around the world, Chris Service, mechanical engineer technician, said, "It's amazing to see how much is done in such a short time. People are really carrying out the mission of being one Corps."

It isn't all work and no play for the volunteers. If brave enough, they would battle the traffic to visit other compounds to shop at the local bazaars. There was also fun to be had within the Tac House compound. Thursday and Friday was considered the weekend, prime time for parties. "Norfolk District was the most popular," exclaimed Jefferies. "Our district would send

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valuable came from the project users who spoke later that day.

In the island community of Tangier, Va., everything must come in by boat. "Without the dredging, the Coast Guard ice breaker boat might not be able to get in," said Town Manager Bill Reynolds. "This could leave citizens without food and supplies for days."

According to Miles Aschler, a member of the Charter Boat Association, eco-tourism is a growing industry on the Eastern Shore, "but we can't develop and sell these opportunities without dredging."

Bill Bagwell, owner of Bagwell Oil Co., who barge in 12,000 – 15,000 tons of oil every year, can't fully load his barges due to shallow water.

Since the meeting was held, representatives of Norfolk District have held several one-on-one meetings with project local sponsors and project proponents. They are also continuing to gather economic and other data that would support the "Value to the Nation" criteria for funding.

"The District is carrying out similar efforts for all our local sponsors that have shallow draft dredging projects in need of funding," said Doug Stamper, project manager. "On the Eastern Shore, we had a cluster of projects the required attention all at once. The Partnership meeting was a good forum for getting a lot done efficiently."

Stamper says a similar partnership would probably be helpful for projects on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay and along the James River, to name a few. "It helps local sponsors take a regional view, even if it is a small region."

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huge care packages with party supplies. People from other districts were jealous of how supportive Norfolk was.”

When asked about their tour in Afghanistan, each volunteer had a different story to tell, but all were equally touched by their experiences.

Jaime Hernandez was impressed with how resilient the Afghan people are after a generation of destruction. “They are rebounding so quickly. It used to be such a beautiful country. Now the Afghan people are working to better themselves – with cars, cell phones, modern appliances – and in such a short time,” revealed Hernandez.

Former President Ronald Reagan passed away while Sherri was in Afghanistan. The local nationals sent an e-mail to the members of the Corps expressing their condolences and how deeply saddened they were. They also mentioned that President Reagan was a good man who did many good things for their country. For Jefferies, “that sealed the deal. I’m doing the right thing by being here and they want us to be here. The Afghans are grateful for American aid, not just now, but even during Reagan’s presidency.”

For Chris Service, seeing the children out playing showed that things were getting better. “Kids are out being kids,” he said. He noted that the people of Afghanistan want what everybody wants: a safe environment to raise a family and an opportunity to improve their lives.

Johnnie Saunders recalled an experience while speaking with a local Afghan worker through an interpreter while on his job

site. The young man was sitting on the ground with his artificial leg lying near him. The man told Saunders that 13 years ago

warlords were shooting rockets at each other and one exploded in the man’s home. Saunders told him, “I’m so sorry that you suffered so much. I’m humbled to see how much the people here have suffered.” The man was so moved that his eyes filled with tears as he thanked the American for caring, for sitting on the ground with him, and for coming to his country to make it better.

Civil Engineer Farzin Zakeri had a slightly different experience than anyone else deployed because he speaks the native language and had an understanding of the culture of the region. His mission was to build police stations throughout the country. It was easier for him to understand what the people wanted in their facilities. “The people were more comfortable and

easier to talk to when speaking directly to me, not through an interpreter. It was faster and easier to make decisions,” said Zakeri.

David Thomas was the Deputy District Engineer for the Afghanistan Engineer District. As the Deputy Engineer, Thomas visited work sites throughout the country and was able to see firsthand the work being accomplished by the Corps volunteers. He said, “Our volunteers are devoted and loyal to the (American) flag. I encouraged them to get out of their lanes and experience new things.”

Overwhelmingly, each district volunteer said their experience in Afghanistan was positive. They want to return to Afghanistan one day and see the great strides being made to rebuild the country, and the spirits of the Afghan people.



*Scenes from Afghanistan, clockwise from top: Dave Thomas (pictured on the right) inspects the scene of a hospital collapse with COL John O'Dowd, commander of the Afghanistan District; Johnnie Saunders shares a moment with a young boy in an orphanage; and Sherri Jefferies trains at a firing range. (Photos provided by Afghan team members.)*

# Summer students learn valuable skills at Norfolk District

Story and Photos by Katie Taran

While thousands of young adults across Hampton Roads earned money over the summer by lifeguarding, flipping burgers, or selling today's latest fashions, several students had the unique opportunity to work right here in Norfolk District. While their jobs and stated goals differed, they definitely had one thing in common: They all had good things to say about their experience working for the Corps.

Of all this summer's student-employees, Karen Duggins was more familiar with Norfolk District. She worked here from 1987 to 1989 and was back again. A clerk in the Equal Employment Office, she liked having the opportunity to meet a lot of different people and work on challenging assignments, and claimed the only thing she disliked about her job was "when the day is over!" A determined woman, Duggins won't let being hearing-impaired hinder her from achieving her goals. Someday, she wants to be an office manager for a major corporation or government agency.

Krystal Brown, a rising senior at Norfolk State University, enjoyed her first summer at Norfolk District as a clerk for the Environmental Branch. Much of her work involved handling documents involved with the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Like most of the other students, Brown believes the best thing about Norfolk District is its people. "The environment here is very friendly," she said, "People are very productive and very supportive of everything you do."

With his "rat" year at Virginia Military Institute under his belt, Jonathan Fredericks is not wasting any time. He worked at Norfolk District as an engineer's aide during the day and managed to find time to work at a restaurant at night. Fredericks said he was unaware of the civilian aspect of the Corps and was equally impressed to find out the Corps' role in regulating waterways and ports. As an economics major, he said he'd

definitely be able to use his experience working here, and hopes he might be able to join the Corps in the future.

About half of the summer student employees found themselves following their dads to work, Lindsay Robson finished up her second summer in the District as a clerk for the Engineering Branch. Often introduced as "Bill's daughter," Robson described working in the same place as her dad, temporary Chief of Business Resource Division, William Robson, as "not bad." In fact she claimed, "It's the best job I've ever had."

Imagine being able to proofread your father's report and hand it back to him, red marks and all. That's what Lindsey Pretlow had the opportunity to do over the summer. A clerk for the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Pretlow is the daughter of Project Manager Robert Pretlow. Unlike many of the other students, Pretlow and her dad work in the same branch. Initially worried about what it would be like working in an office, Lindsey, a recent graduate from Kempsville High School, was quite surprised. "They actually look after you and make sure you're doing alright," she said, gratefully.

Another student who got to work in the same branch as dad was Ryan Seltzer, son of Project Manager Craig Seltzer. Seltzer's job involved a broad array of duties, from photocopying and stuffing envelopes to writing reports and taking sediment samples out in the field. Although he disliked being inside on nice summer days, he said he had a lot of fun and that it was "cool" getting to see what his dad does. Seltzer's favorite thing about working at Norfolk District? "I can say I work for the federal government," he



Many of the summer students were children of Norfolk District employees. Pictured above are Craig Seltzer and son Ryan, and Robert Pretlow and daughter Lindsey.

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# Historic Chamberlin Hotel at Fort Monroe to be developed as military retiree center

By Jerry Rogers

After facing 20 months of uncertainty, a new owner has emerged to buy the historic Chamberlin Hotel, located at Fort Monroe, Va., after gaining approval to transform the landmark building into a retirement center with emphasis on retired military.

OPC Hampton LLC signed an Army 50-year ground lease agreement on Nov. 30, executed by the Real Estate Branch of Norfolk District, Army Corps of Engineers. The Chamberlin Hotel has languished the past 17 months in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. This action clears the way for the Chapter 11 bankruptcy court to approve the transfer of ownership of the Chamberlin, effective Dec. 1.

"This lease signing results in a win-win situation for the U.S. Army, the developer and the Hampton Roads community," said Dillard Horton, Norfolk District Chief of Real Estate.

The new 50-year ground lease was approved through a

programmatic agreement between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) and the installation commander at Fort Monroe, Va., to satisfy issues raised on the future use of the Chamberlin.

The programmatic agreement allows the Chamberlin to be used as a retirement center, with initial emphasis on unassisted living. Approval was also granted to construct an additional building adjacent to the hotel to accommodate assisted living, and a 3-level parking garage with Fort Monroe utilizing the third level for their parking needs.

*Below, an artists rendering of the renovated Chamberlin Hotel and adjacent facility and parking garage.*



## Students, Continued from Page 14

said before quickly adding, "and I get a cool badge." He was also impressed by the motivation of the people with whom he worked.

Nathaniel Klein saw a different side of Norfolk District than most other summer student employees. Instead of being confined in a cubicle all day, Klein got to move around a lot. The Maury High School senior, and son of Civil Engineer Richard Klein, spent most of his time performing maintenance work, including cutting the grass and other tasks that keep our headquarters in working order. He liked being able to get a suntan while working outside and enjoyed meeting a lot of new people.

Jason Camsky also saw a different side of Norfolk District at the Great Bridge Bridge resident office as an engineer's aide. Camsky, whose father is section Chief of Finance and Accounting, Mark Camsky, was involved in keeping tally on the contractors through quality control reports and dealing with modifications in the actual contracts. "I learned a lot more here than I'd learn at any other job," said the George Mason University junior. With the goal of attending law school, Camsky was thankful for his real workplace experience.

Veteran summer student-employee Jonathan Nadal finished up his third summer at Norfolk District as an engineering aide with the Geospatial Section and Operations. Most of Nadal's time was spent writing database software. "They pay me to do something that I normally do for fun," he said with a smile.

He often had the chance to go to lunch with his father, Jorge Nadal, Chief, Environmental Branch, and brother Jorel, who was also a student summer-employee. Worried that his job would involve merely filing papers, Jon was surprised to find himself assigned to real projects.

This year's summer students all agreed their experiences will help them to achieve their goals and said they would miss the Norfolk District family. Certainly the Norfolk District family will miss them as well.

*Editor's Note: This article was written by Katie Taran, currently a sophomore at Virginia Tech, who worked as a student in the Public Affairs Office this summer. Katie is the daughter of Bo Taran in Technical Services Division.*

## *Around the District*

### Speakers' Bureau

**Hal Wiggins**, environmental scientist in the Fredericksburg Field Office, spoke on three occasions. The first was on June 12 to the citizens of Marlborough Point in Stafford County. He spoke about the National Historical Preservation Act. On Sept. 8, he met with the Lake Caroline Property Owners' Association. Wiggins spoke about the permit application for a 1,500-acre residential development adjacent to Lake Caroline. Hal spoke again on Sept. 10, with the Spotsylvania Planning Department about the Corps' regulatory program. Hal indicated that his presentation was particularly well received by the county planner.

**Steven Martin**, environmental scientist, spoke to graduate students at Christopher Newport University in Newport News on April 14. He discussed environmental restoration as it impacts military and civil works missions, and then focused on the Corps regulatory mission and its effect on environmental restoration.

**David Knepper**, environmental scientist, was one of four judges who on June 4 evaluated the environmental projects of Ms. Michelle Baird's gifted 7th grade students at Ruffner Middle School in Norfolk. The projects featured issues involved with drilling for oil in different biomes around the world.

**Michael Schwinn**, supervisory environmental scientist, joined several judges on June 3 for JayCox Elementary School's Annual Science Fair in Norfolk. Students in grades 2-5 were judged on their ability to communicate a clear understanding of the scientific process involved in their projects. This is the third year Michael has judged the Fair.

**Diana Bailey**, Chief of Public Affairs, taught a class entitled "Those Dam Builders! — The Corps of Engineers" on 21 Oct. at the Old Dominion University Center for Higher Education, Virginia Beach. The presentation was part of ODU's Institute for Learning in Retirement. The two-hour course included a brief history of the Corps, its evolving missions and a more detailed look at Norfolk District as a full service district. Diana discussed current projects and issues, such as the F/A-22 bed-down, Craney Island expansion study, Lynnhaven and Elizabeth River restoration, oyster restoration and the non-native EIS, Regulatory, disaster support and support to the Global War on Terror.

**Tim Thompson**, Environmental Branch, made a presentation on the "History of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway" at the National Maritime Heritage Conference held at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk on 30 Oct. The talk was part of a session entitled "What has the Government done for you lately?", and covered the development of the waterway since colonial times.

**Mark Mansfield**, Chief of Planning, and **Brian Rheinart**,

Civil Branch, participated in the 14th Annual Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 21 Oct. The conference theme was "Improving the Quality, Accuracy, and Visibility of Environmental Reporting." Mark and Brian made a presentation regarding the Embrey Dam removal project.

### Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Scharlene Floyd** on completing her Master of Science degree from Virginia Tech in horticulture/urban forestry. Scharlene has worked in Regulatory for four years and was accepted into the Student Cooperative Employment Program this past year.

Congratulations also go out to **John F. Regan**, environmental project manager with the District's Formerly Used Defense Site program, who recently earned Professional Engineer honors.

**Jack Beecher**, NAO's Small Business deputy, received the Rocky Bleier Award -- Government Sector for the district's contributions in supporting Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses. Since 2003, NAO has awarded more than \$6 million in contracts to this federal small business category.

On Dec. 3, Capt. Christopher Riemer, project engineer for



the Langley F-22 Resident Office, was promoted to major by District Commander, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck. Major Riemer, a New York native, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. He and his wife, Linda, and their four children arrived in Hampton Roads in June.

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