



Corps News Bites

Media Tips and Events from the Norfolk District

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October 2007

Note to the Media --

Corps News Bites is a new monthly bulletin from the Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District for members of the print and broadcast media. It is designed to offer story ideas, promote local events and provide insight into the Corps' varied and diverse missions. If you are interested in covering any of these subjects, please contact Nancy Allen in the Public Affairs Office at 757-201-7059.

Dry Wetlands in Your Backyard?

Protecting wetlands is an important mission of the Norfolk District since wetlands filter pollutants, slow floodwaters during major storms, and provide habitat for different types of vegetation and animals. Wetlands can be permanent or temporary, like a vernal pond. These ponds fill with rainwater each spring or fall, but may become dry over the summer. Dry wetlands serve an important function as they absorb and retain large volumes of water during heavy rainfall periods, which provides back-up sources of water for wildlife and stock. Contact the Norfolk District if you are interested in doing a story demonstrating the Corps' role in minimizing the effects that development has on local wetlands. Regulatory staff members make hundreds of site visits each year to determine the presence of wetlands, providing an excellent visual opportunity for reporters and photographers to learn more about this important resource.

Keeping the harbor safe for boats large and small

In the Corps' role as Supervisor of the Harbor, Norfolk District is on call 24/7 to remove debris from the federal channels in Hampton Roads, ensuring that vessels from the smallest recreational boat to the largest container ship will be able to transit safely. Over the years, crews have removed pieces of pilings and piers, abandoned vessels and even a dead whale. Norfolk District's debris vessels, the Mobjack and the Harrell, patrol the local waterways regularly on the lookout for debris. Media are welcome to join the crew for a day on the job.

Big Contracts for Local Small Businesses

The Norfolk District has surpassed the federally mandated goals for granting contracts to local small businesses including women-owned businesses, historically underutilized businesses, and businesses owned by service disabled veterans. The services that small business provide range from supplies, architectural assistance, engineer services, or construction. Several local small businesses were recently awarded contracts including a \$10.8 million contract for Newport News-based company Bay Electric, a \$10.6 million contract with Ft. Sill Apache Industries, and a \$1.5 million contract with the Yorktown-based company York River Electric. In the past, local small businesses had contracts on projects such as the modular facilities project at Fort Lee, the military recruiting facilities in Chesapeake, the deployment staging area at Fort Eustis, and the spillbox at Craney Island. Contact the Norfolk District to learn how it works with local businesses of every shape and size to support the Corps' diverse missions.

