



DISTRICT TIDES

Published in the interest of the people of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Vol. 17, No.4

Fall-Winter 2003

Looking Back, Looking Forward -- 2003 in Review

By Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck
Norfolk District Commander

Members of the Coolest and Tightest District - Norfolk Team,

What an incredible year! And for me, it's only been an action-packed four months! We have weathered one of the most damaging storms ever to hit this area while in the midst of dealing with our own District personal challenges. Your selfless service was instrumental as we rallied to assist the Commonwealth of Virginia, our military customers and surrounding communities so devastatingly affected by Isabel. We saw the significant impact of our work developed and constructed over the many years come to fruition by withstanding the tides and surge of Isabel, ultimately saving invaluable lives and more than \$100 million in potential damage.

Every member of this district is a vital part of our team. Your contributions, small and large, are responsible for our District's success and great reputation. I salute all of you in this wonderful endeavor. We lead the way in sharing our story with the public due to your commitment in executing our public information mission. Recently, I had the privilege of meeting the majority of our regulatory team members here at the district...what a pleasure to see our team members managing and executing Corps policies on point in the midst of some very remote locations. I can't say enough about the heroic efforts our team in Operations provided to clear the navigation channels in the wake of Isabel. And you did all this without any interruption to our vital dredging work. Our team at Craney Island is very busy, as they maintain current operations and prepare the facility to receive dredge material associated with the Maersk port terminal project.

All of our team members associated with the end-of-year budget process and contracting did an absolute fantastic job taking care of the district and so many customers under some pretty intense moments. I'm equally impressed with the care exhibited by our team working the numerous maintenance and facility upgrades for our district. One of our goals next year is

to focus on you the team as we display and recognize some of the many accomplishments you have achieved. Exceeding our goals in the area of Small Business is a mainstay in our organization...outstanding commitment by all involved in making this an extremely successful program. Additionally, the new goals reached in receiving security accreditation for our network system is a vital achievement which impacts our daily operations.

Our civil works projects are on the fast track. The Great Bridge Bridge is on schedule for early completion. We renewed our partnership with the maritime community to study the future of Craney Island. And these new projects are in the "Planning" stage: Chesapeake Bay Shoreline Erosion and Buckroe Beach Nourishment, Tangier Island and the project to protect the lighthouse at New Point Island.

Throughout this past year we have succeeded in modifying the harbor deepening project to accommodate much needed beach-nourishment and we are on the verge of accomplishing the requirements to initiate one of the most innovative environmental programs in any district, including native and non-native oyster restoration and a development of a Trust to assist in the restoration of the Elizabeth River. In the area of environmental clean-up, we've ensured a safe beach at Buckroe, we've been cited for having one of the best community relations programs at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot and Avtex just got the extra funding it needs to cross the finish line in the future.

Ongoing construction projects at our military installations are keeping our field offices and project delivery teams quite busy. And what an outstanding job everyone is accomplishing! The newly renovated YMCA at Fort Monroe is a first-class fitness center and we are actively engaged in hurricane recovery projects there as well. Fort Eustis is receiving its much-needed second access route and a new pier. Construction of the headquarters building at Defense Supply Center Richmond and the F/A-22 and housing projects at Langley Air Force Base are

**Please see Looking Back, Looking Forward,
Continued on Page 2**

Looking Back, Looking Forward, From Page 1

on schedule. We even found time to dedicate another beautiful fitness center at Langley recently. We conducted a ground breaking for a new Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) facility at Fort Pickett and we are over 50 percent complete on two major projects at Fort Lee, the Aerial Delivery and Field Training Facility and the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)...all and so much more indicative of the high quality work you perform everyday.

Our involvement in the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) is another success story. As the Corps' Real Estate Center of Expertise for Department of the Army RCI, Norfolk District has been responsible for privatizing 18,812 housing units at six installations this year. The six RCI projects have been privatized at a government investment of \$146.90 million, which yielded \$2 billion in private initial development. This is an exciting endeavor in our Real Estate Branch that you will



Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers, with the Norfolk District Executive Staff. From left to right: Mr. James N. Thomasson, Mr. Joseph R. Loschi, Lt. Col. Joe S. Wyte, Lt. Gen. Flowers, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck and Mr. William A. Sorrentino.

continue to hear more about in the coming years.

In the midst of all this excitement we also dealt with plenty of challenges and opportunities. We hosted the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, and our division chief, Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple. You graciously bid farewell to Col. Dave Hansen and Lt. Col. David Dougherty and welcomed me with one of the most memorable changes of command I have ever witnessed.

Of course global change has also affected us here. We trained a Field Force Engineering Team and sent some of our best to support our nation's efforts overseas. We give thanks for the safe return of deployed members Chris Service and Ryan Nagel and keep in our prayers Maj. Corey Spencer, Christian Brumm and Lisa Bobotas, who are still currently deployed. And I would like to commend the phenomenal volunteer spirit displayed by all our team members in this holiday season.

In the coming months, we will host the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John Paul Woodley; dedicate the Great Bridge Bridge; and breach the Embrey Dam to restore an important fish migration route.

As we face additional challenges and opportunities in the year ahead, I ask for your input and support as we continue to reorganize our Corps into a more efficient, responsive organization serving the American public and the nation's engineering needs. As we turn the tide of a New Year, we have so much to be thankful for...our families, friends and each other. Your personal pride is exemplified in all that you do and I am very proud to serve with you. Our Nation, the US Army and the US Army Corps of Engineers are forever indebted for your service and commitment. Please accept my personal congratulations and appreciation for your enduring support and exemplary leadership and on behalf of the Executive Staff, we wish you all a most **safe** and **wonderful** Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!

District's Small Business program tops Corps goals

By Jerry Rogers

The civil, military and environmental branches of the Norfolk District, Army Corps of Engineers, enjoyed another banner year in FY 2003 – thanks to the success of its Small Business Program.

Under the leadership of Jack Beecher, Small Business Deputy, the district awarded approximately \$119 million or 49 percent of its total obligations to small businesses across the North Atlantic region, exceeding its assigned goal of 44 percent. Putting \$119 million into the region's economy has a positive impact on all the affected communities, said Beecher, and it helps small businesses keep local people employed, which is one of the goals of the Federal Small Business Program.

Norfolk District excelled in two categories, contract awards to Small Disadvantaged Businesses or 8(a), and awards to HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) small businesses. "We awarded \$61 million and \$46 million

respectively in these two programs," said Beecher. "We ranked first in both these categories within the North Atlantic Division, and fourth and second respectively Corps-wide."

According to Beecher, the district also awarded approximately \$1.2 million to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses. "While we did not meet our 3 percent goal, we were first in the division and ranked fifth in the Corps in supporting Service Disabled veterans."

With FY 2004 under way, Beecher said the district's Small Business Program is currently working on awarding two sole source 8(a) projects at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Both 8(a)s are also HUBZone-certified and one is a Women-Owned company. "We have also advertised a Competitive HUBZone Environmental Services solicitation, and we expect to make up to four contract awards from this solicitation that could obligate some \$60 million in our HUBZone category over the next five years."

Norfolk District responds to Hurricane Isabel

When Hurricane Isabel hit Virginia and North Carolina on Thursday, Sept. 18, Norfolk District team members were ready to serve the Commonwealth in a number of ways. For the full story on the District's emergency response efforts, check out the latest issue of Engineer Update Online at <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/pubs/nov03/story7.htm>.

District photographers caught the team in action following Hurricane Isabel. **Upper Right:** David Monicelli shows off some of the ice staged at Ft. Eustis with a contractor; **Middle Right:** Col. Prettyman-Beck and Bill Sorrentino greet workers at the mobilization area at Ft. Eustis; **Lower Right:** Stan Ballard and Craig Jones work at the Alt. EOC in Richmond; **Lower Left:** Members of the debris removal assessment team survey the damage at Sunny Meadows in Surry; **Near Right:** Lt. Col. Joe Wyte, Alt. EOC Commander.



Photos by Diana Bailey and Jerry Rogers.

Governor Warner visits Hampton Roads to announce details of ERP trust

By Nancy Allen

Governor Mark R. Warner stood on the bow of the HRT Elizabeth River Ferry with local schoolchildren on Wednesday, Sept. 10, discussing the future of the river once called one of the most polluted in the country.

Warner, a Democrat elected in 2001, was in Hampton Roads to announce the formation of the Elizabeth River Restoration Trust Fund and pledge \$100,000 in start-up funds.

The governor commended the Corps and the Elizabeth River Project for their

“innovative” public-private partnership, saying that it should be a model for other key waterways in Virginia.

Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Norfolk District Engineer, also mentioned partnerships in her remarks.

“Today highlights the key partnerships we must maintain and strengthen as we work together to balance environmental concerns with economic needs,” Col. Prettyman told the crowd in her first speaking engagement since taking command of the Norfolk District. “The approach we’re seeking for the Elizabeth is to reach this objective with forces massed, all working together to accomplish the goal of river restoration.”

While operational details of the Trust are still to be decided the theory is that regulatory mitigation funds can be placed in the trust in lieu of project-specific mitigation. The funds in the Trust will be used to implement parts of the Project’s 1996 Watershed Action Plan, which was created to outline a restoration plan for the Elizabeth.

“There will always be development. There will always be some level of degradation. But now mitigation fees paid into the trust will be used to clean up the Elizabeth River,” said Governor Warner.

The first contributor to the trust is expected to be Maersk



Above: Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Norfolk District Commander, greets Gov. Mark R. Warner. Left: On the ferry ride, children from Kemps Landing Intermediate School discuss the state of the Elizabeth River with the governor. (Photos by Nancy Allen)

Sealand, who was recently granted a permit to build a private shipping terminal in Portsmouth.

The governor arrived in Norfolk where he was greeted by Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim and Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf. Students from Kemps Landing Intermediate School and Western Branch Middle School acted as the governor’s river guides for the day. The group boarded an HRT ferry to cross the river and was greeted in Portsmouth by Mayor James Holley and Chesapeake Mayor William Ward.

Other attendees included David Paylor, assistant secretary of natural resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Bobby Bray, chairman of the Virginia Port Authority; Virginia Beach City Councilman Peter Schmidt; Norfolk Delegate Randy Wright; and representatives from Sen. George Allen’s office, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality and Hampton Roads Transit.

During his remarks the governor mentioned the “high level of cooperation” between the Elizabeth River Project, the maritime industry and the port, the Corps and the local cities.

“We must take the momentum in this community, establish the trust and create a public service for all,” Warner stressed.

Norfolk District groups spread holiday cheer

Members of Norfolk District's chapter of Federally Employed Women (F.E.W.) recently made Christmas a little brighter for women staying in the H.E.R. (Help Emergency Response) shelter. The shelter provides a haven for women and their children escaping from abusive situations.

The Norfolk District F.E.W. chapter collects donations year-round for the shelter. The latest delivery made by Barbara Strudwick, chapter secretary, included bags of clothing, wall pictures, toiletries, a lamp and a computer. The items will either be used by women at the shelter or given to women who are moving into their own apartments, as part of the shelter's "aftercare" program.

In addition, the chapter purchased a \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card. This will allow a woman in the Aftercare program to Christmas shop for herself and family.

"Whenever I go there I see old women, young women, women dressed real nice, women dressed not so nice, happy faces, sad faces, children — I see you and me except for one thing," Strudwick told chapter members after her delivery. "These women are fleeing abusive relationships with great courage, often a lot of fear and not much to go on. It's not an easy thing to do especially with children to support. Be proud of your support of them."

Norfolk District's F.E.W. chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month for lunch with a guest speaker. Membership is open to all Norfolk District employees. For more information contact Denise Huffstickler, F.E.W. chapter president, at 441-7734.

Other district groups are also making the holidays brighter for Hampton Roads residents as well. The Welfare Council sponsored a canned food drive to benefit the Foodbank of South Hampton Roads. Council members made one delivery prior to Thanksgiving and will make another before Christmas.

The Welfare Council is also responsible for setting up the Angel Tree in the foyer of the Waterfield Building. There are 81 angels this year, each with information about one child at the St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children. Norfolk District team members were asked to take one of the angels and replace it with gifts for that child. The gifts were delivered Dec. 17.



ABOVE: Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck greets two residents of the St. Mary's home, Isaiah and Rocco, and Shirley Parham, director of activities at the center, prior to the tree lighting. LEFT: Norfolk District's Corpsaleers warm up before gathering the gifts under the tree and transporting them to St. Mary's. (Photos by Jerry Rogers)



Norfolk District family member benefits from community fundraiser

Editor's note – You may have heard about a recent fundraiser for the husband of district employee Amy Clipston. This is her family's story.

By Amy G. Clipston
Planning and Policy Branch

It started out with just a few bags of clothes, crafts and toys given by a couple of my friends at the district. But, in less than a month, our garage was filled with furniture, toys, books, shoes, clothes and every other kind of item you'd find at a yard sale. When three more truckloads of donations arrived via my brother-in-law, we stood scratching our heads wondering where to put them. My mother simply shrugged and suggested, "Put them in the dining room." Before we knew it, we couldn't walk from one end of the dining room to the other. My mother-in-law's garage and two sheds at our church were also full of donations.

All of these donations were for a fundraiser held for my husband, Joe, on Nov. 8, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach. The event, which included a silent auction, rummage sale and bake sale, raised money for medical expenses for Joe's upcoming kidney transplant.

Joe was diagnosed with disease of the kidney filters, or more technically *membranous glomerulopathy*, in 2000, at the age of 28. Although it is usually a slow-moving disease, Joe's illness progressed quickly. His doctors tried to slow it down and Joe even participated in a study that utilized an experimental drug. However, in February 2003, Joe's kidney levels were extremely low, and we were told that he would have to start dialysis immediately. His diagnosis changed to End Stage Renal Disease, also known as kidney failure. Joe choose Peritoneal

Dialysis, which he administers himself four times per day, as opposed to Hemodialysis, which would have involved Joe's going to a center three times per week.

While dialysis helped, the real solution would be a kidney transplant. We started working with the Transplant Center in May 2003 and found out that Joe's mother is his closest match as a kidney donor. She was just recently cleared for the donation and the transplant should be scheduled for February 2004.

Joe and I learned that although the anti-rejection drugs he will need after the transplant are covered by insurance, the remaining cost will exceed \$400 per month. After we learned what we would face financially, I went to our pastor, Rev. John Himes, to ask for help with medical expenses. Pastor Himes talked to the church Social Committee and the members of the committee planned the fundraiser.

Once the word got out about our event, Joe and I received donations for the sale from our coworkers, neighbors,

family members, friends and even strangers. Joe's brother Jason is a firefighter for the City of Chesapeake, and he received several truckloads of donations for the sale, along with checks and cash also donated by his coworkers. What I thought would be a small yard sale turned into a large flea market.

Our church hall was filled with bags of clothing and other items and about 50 members of our church volunteered to help out. We spent several hours the night before the sale organizing the furniture outside of the church. Early the next morning, a crew of teenagers from the Confirmation Class helped carry and organize the clothes. Four large racks were full of clothes and in the furniture area we had everything from dressers to beds to store display cases. A half-dozen tables of baked goods



Amy and Joe Clipston with their son, Zach, in front of the sign donated by Media East.

Please see Fundraiser, Page 7

Fundraiser, continued from Page 6

sold quickly, while another area displayed miscellaneous toys, household goods and knick-knacks. Donations of more rummage sale items also arrived throughout the day.

In the silent auction area we had a large playhouse, donated by a little boy in my Sunday School class. We also had NASCAR die casts, a quilt made by our Pastor's wife, a scooter, a lighthouse painting, a Persian-mix kitten, legal services donated by a local legal office, a Longaberger basket, Princess House items, a car donated by a church member, framed prints, and automotive services donated by the dealership where Joe works.

Media East, a local printing and design firm that I had dealt with since coming to work for the Norfolk District in 1995, donated a large, beautiful billboard to advertise the event. When Channel 3 news reporter Priscilla Monti saw the billboard one morning on her way to the Virginia Beach courthouse, she got an idea for a story. Two days before the event, Priscilla interviewed Joe and I about the event and Joe's illness. She told us that she'd like to do a follow-up story after the transplant.

Joe was featured on the news again by another reporter the night of the fundraiser and a story about him appeared in the local paper as well.

The outpouring of support was overwhelming. Old friends, coworkers and strangers came and bought nearly all of the items we had for sale. While a group of teenagers stood by the road with signs to advertise the event, passersby stopped and handed the teenagers money. One man paid \$50 for a \$2 bake sale item. When a church member told another customer that a slide he wanted cost \$10, he replied, "You said \$50, right," and handed her a check for that amount.

The sale raised more than \$5,000, and we still receiving financial donations every day from coworkers, friends and strangers who have read Joe's story. The church has already begun planning a golf tournament in the spring.

Words can't describe how much the generosity of our community means to us. It's amazing how people want to give and help a stranger. We've learned that in times of need, the hearts of the community will open.

Hickory High students continue oyster efforts

By Jerry Rogers

Oysters were once so abundant throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed that they formed reefs that posed hazards to ships and boaters. Over the years, over-harvesting and disease have significantly reduced this once abundant organism. In the mid-1990s, a grass-roots effort to restore the native oyster population began in earnest. Students and citizens joined with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to raise oysters and place them on reef sanctuaries established in historic oyster reef locations. Today, continues the Foundation's replacement strategy.

Hickory High School students in Chesapeake, Va., who are members of the school's Environmental Club, have accepted the challenge to continue this restoration effort. They've started raising 2,000 hatchery-bred native oysters *Crassostrea virginica*. As in the past, these baby oysters, or spats, have been bred from a parent stock that had been exposed to the two common oyster diseases MSX (*Halosporidium nelsoni*) and Dermo (*Perkinsus marinus*), so these spats are considered disease resistant.

The Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers has granted permission for the students to maintain their oysters at the Great Bridge Locks in Chesapeake. On a monthly basis these students will

monitor and observe the growth of their oysters during the course of the school year. They will also check basic water quality factors such as water clarity or turbidity, salinity and temperature. They will also randomly measure a sample of their oysters for growth. At the end of the school year, the students will transplant these oysters onto a local reef sanctuary.

"This project has introduced students to the effects of human impact on our local environment," said Cheryl Coronado, Biology teacher and Environmental Club co-sponsor.

Club members hope to use this learning experience to help in the restoration effort as well as to continue to promote environmental awareness at their school.



Left: Club members Tarasita Davis and Kristen Chambers lift an oyster garden cage from the Corps of Engineer's Great Bridge Locks, where they are grown. Below: Biology teacher Cheryl Coronado shows club members Tarasita Jones, Christin Reece and Ashley Neice a crayfish hitching a ride on the oyster cage. (Photos by Jerry Rogers).



Norfolk District celebrates diversity

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Compiled by Eliseo Rivera

National Hispanic Heritage Month was started in 1968 as National Hispanic Heritage Week, incorporating September 15 and 16, the independence days for Central American nations and Mexico, respectively. In 1988, it expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the individuals of Hispanic heritage in their efforts toward equality. The Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) is a special emphasis program established by President Richard Nixon on November 5, 1970, to ensure equal opportunity and representation for Hispanics in all aspects of Federal employment. In observance, we recognize those Hispanics who have contributed in the advancement of Hispanics in employment equality. We also recognize those Hispanic Americans who have played an integral role for the right to own property and businesses, equal pay for equal work, serve our county as a military service member, and other liberties gained through personal sacrifice. The expansion of democracy has been gained through effective leadership at the federal, state and local government levels in creating laws that prohibit discrimination against Hispanics and recognize the contributions Hispanics make to the world we live in. During this month, we recognize and honor the achievements and advancements Hispanics have made in the world of science, technology, medicine and industry, as well as their contributions in the humanities, arts and higher education.

Some Notable Hispanic-Americans in Military History and Government Service

Dennis Chavez became the first Hispanic elected to the U.S. Senate in 1935 and held that Senate seat until his death in 1962. Chávez introduced the Fair Employment Practices Bill, an important predecessor of the Civil Rights Act.

In 1981, Henry G. Cisneros became the first Hispanic mayor of a major U.S. city when he was elected Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, the nation's 10th largest city. He also served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during President Clinton's term of office.

Edward Hidalgo was the first Hispanic to serve as Secretary of the U.S. Navy in 1979. Hidalgo was born in Mexico City and immigrated to the U.S. as a child.

In 1981, Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first Hispanic ever appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the Veterans

Please see Hispanic-Americans, Page 9

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in the month of November being designated "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month."

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kan., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On Dec. 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

In 1990 President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994. National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art and traditions of the American Indians.

One group of Native Americans who made significant contributions to America's long military history are the Navajo Code Talkers. The code talkers took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. They served in all Marine divisions, transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their native language—a code that the Japanese never broke.

The idea to use Navajo for secure communications came from Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos and one of the few non-Navajos who spoke their language fluently. Johnston, reared on the Navajo reservation, was a World War I veteran who knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He also knew that Native American languages—notably Choctaw—had been used in World War I to encode messages.

Johnston believed Navajos answered the military requirement for an undecipherable code because Navajo is an unwritten

Please see Native American, Page 9

Native American, continued from page 8

language of extreme complexity.

Early in 1942, Johnston met with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as code. In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp. Then, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., this first group created the Navajo code. They developed a dictionary and numerous words for military terms. The dictionary and all code words had to be memorized during training. Once a Navajo code talker completed his training, he was sent to a Marine unit deployed in the Pacific theater.

Praise for their skill, speed and accuracy accrued throughout the war. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. Those six sent and received more than 800 messages, all without error.

The Japanese, who were skilled code breakers, remained baffled by the Navajo language. The Japanese Chief of Intelligence, Lieutenant General Seizo Arisue, said that while they were able to decipher the codes used by the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps, they never cracked the code used by the Marines.

Long unrecognized because of the continued value of their language as a security classified code, the Navajo code talkers of World War II were honored for their contributions to defense on Sept. 17, 1992, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Thirty-five code talkers, all veterans of the U.S. Marine Corps, attended the dedication of the Navajo code talker exhibit. The exhibit includes a display of photographs, equipment and the original code, along with an explanation of how the code worked. Their story was immortalized in the 2002 film "Windtalkers" starring Nicolas Cage.

Hispanic-Americans, continued from page 8

Administration.

The U.S. Navy christened the guided missile destroyer "Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez" after a Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in Vietnam.

President George W. Bush promoted Lt. General Ricardo S. Sanchez from Rio Grande City, Texas to be the top military officer in Iraq in June 2003. General Sanchez is a graduate of Texas A & I University, Kingsville, Texas.

Forty Hispanics, starting with Private Joseph H. De Castro in 1864, and so far ending with Alfred Rascon, have received this nation's highest award for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

House passes spending bill with 4.1 percent civil service pay raise

The House has approved an \$820 billion fiscal 2004 omnibus spending bill, wrapping together the remaining seven appropriations measures, over the objections of many Democrats and some Republicans angered by what they regard as excessive "earmarking" of federal funds for unrequested home state projects. The final vote on the legislation was 242-176.

The fiscal 2004 Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill, which contains language granting white-collar federal employees a 4.1 percent average pay raise in 2004, was folded into the legislation.

"Though I voted against this bill for unrelated provisions, I believe that it was imperative that we provide federal employees, including those at the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, a fair pay raise to reward them for their dedication to serving and protecting our country," said Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md. "This pay raise respects the principle of pay parity, which ensures that both civilian federal employees and military employees receive fair pay adjustments for their service." (Reprinted from GovExec.com)



On Monday, December 1, Norfolk District Commander Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck traveled to the Ft. Eustis Resident Office to present Pat Devereux with the North Atlantic Division "Construction Manager of the Year Award" for 2002. Pat has been a Norfolk District team member for 23 years. Congratulations!

Survey team leader creates Norfolk District artwork



During this "Season of Giving," Norfolk District's Anthony (Tony) J. Smith, a 29-year Corps veteran, created a work of art born from 30 years of working with glass to share with his fellow co-workers. "I recently just got into stained glass art and wanted to do something with glass that related to the Corps," says Smith, Survey Team Leader of the Adams II Survey Party. The design of the Corps castle superimposed over the map of Virginia is taken from the same design of the new district jacket that many employees here have received for outstanding service. "The red, white and blue colors were an obvious choice," says Smith, "and the panel took me about a month to complete during my spare time and on weekends." Smith says he's never done any commissioned work, but recently started a project for a friend that involves two 4' x 4' windows. "It will have a large heron flying over a marsh on one panel with another heron standing in the marsh on the opposite panel," says Smith. Tony's gift to the district will adorn a window in the visitor's area outside the office of the Chief, Technical Services Division. (Story and photo by Jerry Rogers)

Antiterrorism Level 1 Training available



Did you know that all Department of Defense personnel must receive an AT Level 1 briefing at least once a year and before traveling overseas, and that completion of the training must be reflected on your orders?

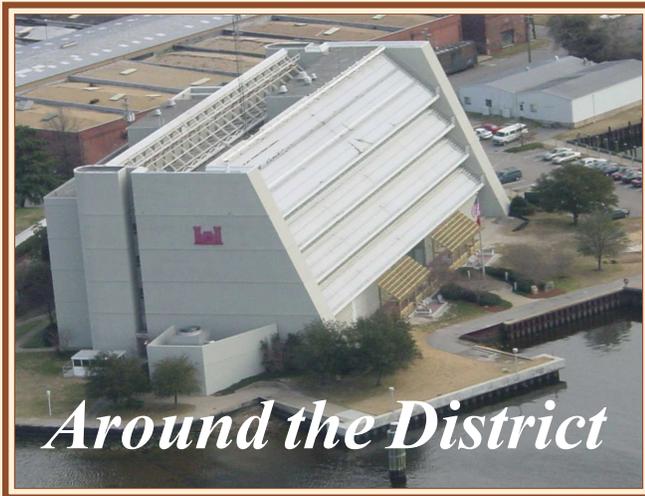
The Department of Defense has created a web site meant for the use of service members, civilian employees, family members and contractors. The purpose is to increase your awareness of terrorism and to improve your ability to apply personal protective measures to counter the threat. The information you will receive is required when traveling both overseas and stateside. There are web links and additional information ready to download. Also, completion of this training meets the annual requirement for Level 1 antiterrorism training prescribed by DODI 2000.16.

Simply log on to the site (<http://at-awareness.org/>) and follow the directions. When you have completed the training you will be given the option of printing out your certificate or having it sent via email. Bring the certificate to your antiterrorism officer for his signature and you will be Antiterrorism Trained.

For more information contact your antiterrorism officer, Jim Gorka at 441-7087.



This holiday season, remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers all the men and women, both military and civilian, who are serving overseas to ensure our freedom, including our own Norfolk District team members --
Lisa Bobotas, Christian Brumm and Maj. Corey Spencer .



Kudos to the **entire Norfolk District** for their very generous contribution to the Combined Federal Campaign for 2004. NAO's total contribution was **\$38,948.90**...a whopping 52.74% ABOVE our \$25,500.00 goal. Cheryl Drum, chief of Contracting, was this year's Campaign Coordinator and the Division Coordinators were Bobby Belleza, Nick Konchuba, Jim Gorka and Keith Lockwood.

Milton Steele was recently named the 2003 Eggleston Services Employee of the Year and given the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Employee Achievement Award. Steel was awarded a plaque and certificate, along with a monetary reward. Steele and **Kelly Ferrell**, mailroom, celebrated their 10th anniversary at the district in October and received 10-year pins at Eggleston's annual banquet.

Congratulations to **Craig Seltzer** and **Tom Yancey** on their official registration in the Regional Technical Specialists database. They are both in the group of 85 national Corps employees who possess the requisite technical backgrounds to be included in the Corps-wide roster of specialists.

On Nov 2003, a recognition ceremony was held at NAD for the FY-03, NAD Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) Graduates and a kickoff for the FY-04 NAD ELDP Associates. **Jim Spratt** and **Doug Martin** from Civil Branch were recognized for successful completion of the program. **Bob Oswald**, Deputy Chief of Office of Counsel, was recognized as the selected NAO Associate for FY-04. Congratulations to Jim, Doug and Bob for an outstanding job.

Norfolk District Commander COL Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck played host to Baltimore District's ELDP Associate, **Mr. Rick Calloway**, on 8 - 12 Dec. Mr. Calloway, who works for NAB's Construction Branch, shadowed the DE for a week as part of the ELDP curriculum.

As a result of up to 4 inches of intense rainfall on Nov. 19, 2003, the reservoir at the **Gathright Dam and Lake Moomaw, Va., Project** rose 8.7 feet into the flood control pool. It is estimated that operation of the project lowered the peak stage downstream at Covington, Va., by approximately 8.7 feet. A total of \$4.4 million in damages were prevented by the project.

R. Harold Jones, chief of the Southern Virginia Regulatory Section, addressed the 6th Annual Wetlands Workshop on Oct. 27, 2003 in Atlantic City. The audience consisted of approximately 250 professional wetland scientists, regulators, consultants and students. Jones spoke about the status and trends of mitigation banking in Virginia.

Oscar Harts, NAO chief of safety, reports that there has been no contractor lost time injuries in the District since Feb 2003. For the second year in a row, the District has done better than the USACE goal for contractor and civilian accident prevention. Congrats to all and keep up the good work!

Following Hurricane Isabel, the district received the following letter from a couple traveling the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. In her reply, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck commended the **Navigation/Survey Operations Branch** for their incredible work clearing the Dismal Swamp Canal.

My wife and I are headed south in the Dismal Swamp Canal aboard our sailboat Lord's Prayer. At the visitor center they told us about the tremendous job your folks did in reopening the Canal after the carnage of Hurricane Isabel. My wife and I would like to express our thanks to you for the work your folks did clearing the Canal of over 670 trees and reopening it in just 21 days. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to travel in this historic waterway. Without the dedicated work of your crew, we obviously would not have had this opportunity.

*Thank you,
Jim & Christine Kidd
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

District Tides is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-81. It is published semi-annually for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District.

Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

Inquiries, comments and submissions can be forwarded by e-mail to nancy.e.allen@usace.army.mil

District Engineer: Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck

District Public Affairs Officer: Diana L. Bailey

Managing Editor: Gerald W. Rogers

Editor: Nancy E. Allen