



DISTRICT TIDES

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Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck becomes 54th commander of Norfolk District

By Jerry Rogers
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Clouds hovered over Fort Norfolk on Monday, Aug. 4, threatening to dampen the celebration to welcome Norfolk District's 54th commander.

Instead, by the time the more than 400 guests and district employees had gathered, it was a picture perfect Hampton Roads day.

Held on the grounds of historic Fort Norfolk in downtown Norfolk, Va., and overlooking the Elizabeth River, Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck accepted the mantle of command from the North Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple, who presided over the time-honored ceremony. As the ceremony unfolded, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy tall ship *Eagle*, sailed past the festivities

and a school of dolphins made their way down the river. The day also marked the U.S. Coast Guard's 213th anniversary.

"Friends of the District" who addressed the gathering included Congressman J. Randy Forbes (R-4th); State Senators Yvonne B. Miller, D. Nick Rearras and Frank Wagner; Petersburg Mayor Rosalyn Dance; Suffolk Mayor E. Dana Dickens III; Norfolk Mayor Paul D. Fraim; Virginia Beach

Mayor Meyera Oberndorf; Tangier Mayor Edward Parks; Chesapeake Mayor William E. Ward; Princess Elizabeth who represented the Elizabeth River Project; and Charles Brinley, president of the Hampton Roads Maritime Association.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck comes to the Corps after serving as operations officer in the Joint Operations Directorate, the



Col. David L. Hansen, Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple and Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck stand at attention and salute the Color Guard as they approach during the Change of Command Ceremony on August 4.

Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. As Norfolk District Engineer, Prettyman-Beck will oversee the Corps' water resources development and the operation of navigable waterways for four river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is also responsible for the Corps' military design and construction projects for Army, Army Reserve and Air Force installations throughout Virginia.

All the guest speakers praised the leadership of outgoing

District Engineer, Col. David L. Hansen, and promised their continued support to Col. Prettyman-Beck and the Norfolk District team. "Remember, Col. Prettyman-Beck, I'm always just a phone call away," said Congressman Forbes.

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Meet the new Deputy District Engineer



Lieutenant Colonel Joey (Joe) S. Wyte became the Deputy District Engineer, Norfolk District, on 21 July 2003, after serving as an Assistant Professor for the Center for Army Leadership, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, from July 2001 to June 2003.

Lieutenant Colonel Wyte hails from Kings Mountain, North

Carolina, and has more than 19 years of service in the U.S. Army. He was commissioned as an engineer lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves in May 1984, through the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. He entered active duty in May 1987. He has a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Technology from Western Carolina University and received his master of arts degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University. His military education includes the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the Command and General Staff College.

Previous assignments include platoon leader, company executive officer and battalion adjutant, 9th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized), Aschaffenburg, Germany; assistant, G-3 Operations and commander, A Company, 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light). As Commander of A Company, 41st Engineer Battalion, Captain Wyte deployed to Somalia in support of *Operation Restore Hope* on two separate occasions.

He then served as an exchange officer with the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers; observer/controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA; and chief of inspections, inspector general and executive officer, 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light).

Among his military decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (four awards), National Defense Service Medal (with Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Joint and Army Superior Unit Awards.

Lieutenant Colonel Wyte is married to the former Julia Bourneuf of St Louis, Missouri, and they have three children, Jacob, Emily and Anna.

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Hansen, who departs to become the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Va., led Norfolk District to achieve several milestones during his two-year command:

- Construction began on the replacement of the Great Bridge Bridge in Chesapeake, Va.
- The district began the multi-million dollar military construction project at Langley Air Force Base, Va., to house the F/A-22 Raptor jetfighter.
- A study was launched to restore the Lynnhaven River Basin, part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- A Project Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Commonwealth of Virginia to deepen the inbound channel of Norfolk Harbor to 50 feet.
- After decades of effort, the district awarded a contract to provide a strategically important second access road to Fort Eustis, Va.
- Ongoing district efforts to clean up the Elizabeth River resulted in an Environmental Protection Agency declaration proclaiming the Elizabeth River restoration project as a model for the nation.

"I first met Dave (Hansen) 'in the box' at the National Training Center out at Fort Irwin, Calif., and I was immediately impressed with his energy, attention to detail, adherence to the highest training standards and tremendous leadership," said Brig. Gen. Temple. "His greatest accomplishment and contribution to this organization has been the development and implementation of the Corporate and Career Development Program, or CCDP, which has focused on building individual skills in support of stronger and more effective teams."

General Temple then offered congratulations to Col. Prettyman-Beck and welcomed her entire family to the North Atlantic Division and the Norfolk District family.

"Yvonne and I go back a little ways as well, since I was her first career assignments officer – just a 'few' years ago," said a smiling Temple. "She comes to us as a highly qualified and professional officer and leader, and I know we can count on her to continue to propel this district to even greater accomplishments. Yvonne, take care of the customers, the mission and the people of this wonderful organization – if you do that you can never go wrong."

Colonel Hansen addressed the audience, focusing on the synergy achieved by the district and its customers.

"Over the last 25 months, I have dedicated the efforts of this district to find balance," said Hansen. "Balance between federal and state interests, between economic development and protecting the environment and balance in adhering to policy

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Langley dorm contractor makes the best of weather delays

With all the recent rainy weather, several District construction projects have been delayed and continue to experience legitimate delays.

However, OK James, the contractor for the Langley A.F.B. 03 Dorms, is finding ways to move forward with their project, an example of outstanding customer service and support to the nation.

Steps taken included:

- Not waiting for all the exterior masonry to get done before they begin the next step.
- Staging the work – the third floor is getting sheet rock over steel stud framing, the second floor is getting windows installed and the first floor has windows installed.
- Placing column capitols first then building the supporting columns from the bottom up so that the column caps can be level and in line along the length of the building with each column straight and plumb. This technique was based on experience with a previous dorm project.



Despite the recent rain and muddy conditions, work is continuing on Langley Air Force Base's new dormitories. Photo by Joe Miller.

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while taking risk to support initiatives in remaining relevant.

“No longer does any one level of government or one agency or one service have the resources to go it alone. This world of ‘making things happen’ will never return to unilateral decision-making – it is one of coalition building, of partnering and of collaboration.”

After acknowledging the guests, stakeholders and ceremony participants for “honoring us with your presence,” Col. Prettyman-Beck turned her attention to Team Norfolk.

“I am proud to be your Commander and District Engineer,” said Prettyman-Beck. “I wholeheartedly pledge my total

commitment to this great team. Your superb reputation and outstanding accomplishments clearly speaks for itself and impacts positively on this community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, our Army and nation.”

Colonel Prettyman-Beck then closed with a slight variation of a district theme popularized by Col. Hansen. “I’m told that Norfolk District is the ‘coolest’ district in the Corps,” said Prettyman-Beck. “For the 25 and under generation, Norfolk District is also the ‘tightest’ district in the Corps.”

Editor’s note: Colonel Prettyman-Beck’s complete biography can be found on the district web site at: <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Executive/bioprettyman-beck.html>



Col. Prettyman is already hard at work meeting Norfolk District employees and visiting project sites. On Aug. 14 she toured the Great Bridge Bridge and Resident Office, the Deep Creek Bridge and Locks and the Dismal Swamp Canal. Here she discusses the new Great Bridge Bridge with Andy Spendlove.

Deployed Norfolk Team Members

Several members of Team Norfolk have been deployed to spots around the world to serve our country. Please keep them in your thoughts:

Ryan Nagle (Afghanistan)
 Christopher Service (Iraq)
 Joseph Blackburn, Michael Roach and
 Ronald McPeters (Israel)
 Jamie McCormick (Germany)

New Main Pier construction at Ft. Eustis' Third Port set for 2004 completion

By Jerry Rogers, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

The soldiers of Ft. Eustis' 7th Transportation Group, armed with their motto of "Always Resolute," patiently await the construction of a new, modern \$14.8 million main pier at Third Port. The military construction project is managed by the Norfolk District, Army Corps of Engineers, and is set for completion September 2004.

The Third Port at Fort Eustis is a deep-water port used to train Group soldiers in cargo logistics and vessel operations. The facility provides a safe harbor for the Army's considerable watercraft fleet and serves as a deployment platform for Army units. It also doubles as a joint service training facility for watercraft operators and cargo handlers. Pier berths provide vessel management and operations training. Its new landship, Hagglund crane, and winch farm facilities support training in terminal cargo handling.

The existing main pier, constructed in 1945 of creosote-treated timbers, is no longer capable of supporting the full complement of loading and unloading equipment used in Army port cargo handling operations. The Navy Public Works Center surveyed the condition of the pier in 1993 and found substantial deterioration of the piles and cross-braces. The survey indicated that the pier was safe for only one-third of the live loads currently required by Army port operations.

W. F. Magann Corp., based in Portsmouth, Va., began construction on the new main pier last July. Once the old pier was removed, the river bottom was cleaned and will be dredged prior to turn over. The new L-shaped pier is being constructed using reinforced concrete pilings and concrete decking. While the old pier was equipped with railroad tracks extending the length of the pier, the new pier will feature a railroad ramp connected to an adjacent off-site track to facilitate roll on/roll

off and load on/load off operations. The main part of the new pier will be 720-feet long by 85-feet wide. The L-shaped or river end of the new pier will be 152-feet long by 100-feet wide. The pier will also feature 23 mooring, turning and refueling concrete dolphins.

Assistant Superintendent Stan Magann says the biggest hurdle his company has had to overcome is Mother Nature. "We've been slowed down at times due to high tides, but overall the project is on schedule with no major surprises," says Magann.

The Fort Eustis Resident Office team, Catherine Field, Christian Brumm, Alfred Young and Terry Floyd work with the contractor staff, Rufus Jones, Ray Via, Kevin Nealon and Magann to address potential problems immediately and always work toward consensus. "W. F. Magann Corp. is a diversified general contractor of heavy industrial, marine, and concrete construction, and with more than 50 years experience, they have a proven track record of building state-of-the-art piers," says Young, project construction representative.

Brad Atkins, who served as the Engineering Branch Design coordinator for the in-house design project, says it takes a large team effort to put together a good design. "Russ Underwood from Mechanical and Electrical Section was the electrical designer, Ira Brotman was the Geotechnical designer, and Farzin Zakeri was the civil engineer. I had a lot of help with the structural design from Pat Jones, Carlton Lillard and Chuck Sanders, as well as Tom Szlest, Henry Justis and Robert Sweitzer from Civil Branch on the dredging portion. Norm Malbon provided the cost estimate," says Atkins. "I can't say enough about our support staff and the leadership of our Project Manager, Craig Jones. Without their help, we couldn't have put the design together."

"Soldiers of the 7th Transportation Group have waited a long time for a new, modern main pier, and they have definitely earned it," says Alfred Young.



The new main pier at Third Port, Fort Eustis, Va., features all-concrete pilings and concrete decking. (Artist's rendering courtesy Norfolk District Structural Section)

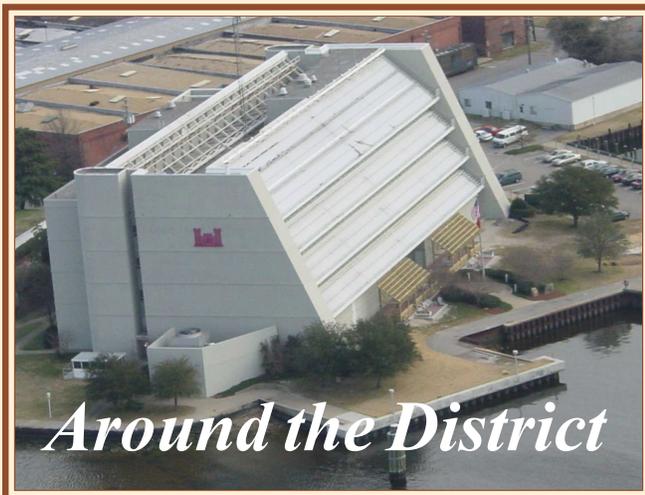
New Great Bridge project reaches major milestone

The Great Bridge Construction Project in Chesapeake, Va., reached a major milestone July 21, 2003, as the bridge's 250-ton north span was floated through the Great Bridge Locks for assembly over the next few days. Hundreds of community residents and onlookers viewed the massive span as it floated down the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. A representative of **Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA-4)** (whose efforts were key in gaining congressional authorization and funding), Chesapeake Mayor William Ward, city representatives and project officials spoke to the gathering praising the partnership between the Corps, the City of Chesapeake, the bridge designers, URS Corporation, and the construction contractor, Tidewater Skanska of Virginia Beach, Va. The south span was floated in Aug. 4 and successfully attached to the counterweight. The new five-lane bridge, with accompanying road improvements, will replace the antiquated swing-span, two-lane bridge by July 2005.



Left: The bridge span is transported by contractor Tidewater Skanska. **Bottom Left:** The barge approaches the old bridge. **Bottom Right:** The North Span is gently set in place. **Above:** Early on the morning of the 22nd work continued on the bridge's counterweight. Photos by Jack Hofbauer and Gerald Rogers.





Windfarm Permit Scoping Meeting

On August 19, 2003, the District held a public scoping meeting for the purpose of seeking public comment on the Winergy LLC permit application to construct 150 wind turbines between one and three miles off the coast of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. After a brief presentation by Winergy LLC, participants were broken up into small groups with Regulatory staffers acting as facilitators/recorders. After reassembling, the facilitator of each small group reported on their groups' top issues. The comments received will be compiled in a report by early October (after the close of our public notice advertising the project) and provided to those attendees who requested a copy. It will also be posted on the District's web site. The report will also be provided to Winergy LLC, with instructions on the issues they need to address so we can complete our environmental assessment. The environmental document will be used to determine whether or not an environmental impact statement will be required.

Visit from NOAA

Mr. Larry James with NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, has been working with Norfolk District staff in developing an infrastructure program at their Wallops Island facilities. He is proposing that the Norfolk District provide full programming, design, construction and operations support. On August 15, Mr. James briefed Col. Prettyman-Beck on the NOAA/NESDIS mission, program, challenges and proposed USACE role. A point of interest is that NOAA/NESDIS shows the Corps as part of their web-based organizational chart. In just 10 months, the Norfolk District has developed a strong partnership with our sister government agency.

Norfolk District gets national spotlight in Corps history vignette

USACE History Vignette #72 featured Norfolk District's unique Craney Island, a project that continues to bring economic and environmental benefits to local and regional governments. Take a look: http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/history/vignettes/Vignette_72.htm

Voice Mail Tips

Very few things aggravate a calling customer than to get a deadend, blunt "I'm out, leave a message" greeting on your Voice Mail greeting.

Callers want to know:

- Who did I reach?
- Are you qualified to help me? What do you do?
- If you are out, is there another way I can reach you?
- If not, is someone else qualified to help me?
- What does that person do?
- What was that other number again?

Would your outgoing message answer their questions?



A LOOK BACK...

This month's Look Back comes from the District's June 1977 Information Bulletin. On April 29, 1997, Col. Newman A. Howard, District Engineer, was presented with a letter from the National Park Service recognizing Fort Norfolk's addition to the National Register of Historic Places. The newsletter also detailed the Gathright Lake project's Annual Open House -- more than 1500 people attended!

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