



## Chief of Engineers visits Baltimore District

By **Katisha Draughn**  
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, paid a visit to the Baltimore District Aug. 9 to see a few of the projects and meet employees and senior leaders.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp began his one-day visit at National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and then headed to the Real Property Services Field Office for a classified briefing given by Randy Winemiller, chief of RSFO and several employees.

"His visit to RSFO was uplifting since most of what we do here cannot be discussed in an open forum and he is one of just a handful of individuals with whom we can freely discuss our programs and projects," said Winemiller.

Later in the day, more than 400 Baltimore District employees took advantage of the opportunity to hear the Chief of Engineers when he conducted a town hall meeting at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center.

"One of our flagships is the Baltimore District," said Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp. He took District employees on a trip down history lane highlighting the work from the first Chief of Engineers, Col. Richard Gridley, and some of the earliest civil works missions.

"In 1827, the flooding along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers caused Congress to pass laws stating that



Photo by Fred Furney

**Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, addresses Baltimore District employees during a standing-room only town hall meeting Aug. 9.**

the Corps of Engineers would be in the water resources business," he said.

He also commended Baltimore District for its superb work with environmental mitigation and the projects at the surrounding military installations.

"When people ask how we get it all done I say 'We have awesome people,'" he said.

Robin Armetta, a new environmental protection specialist in the Planning Division, evoked laughter from the audience when she got the opportunity to come on stage with the general and engage in amusing dialogue. Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp then presented Chief of Engineer coins to 14 District employees for

outstanding achievements in their particular career field, and participated in a question-and-answer session on topics such as Base Realignment and Closure, deployments, and the Enhanced Use Leasing Program.

Following the town hall meeting, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp received a tour of the Baltimore Harbor and Masonville Dredged-Material Containment Site, met with the Maryland Port Administration, and participated in an informal conversation with the Corporate Board members back at the City Crescent Building.

"Getting a chance to personally

*TOWNHALL cont. on page 8*



# Commander's Comment

## Couldn't be prouder: Showing off a great team

**By Col. Dave Anderson**  
Baltimore District Engineer

I've had several opportunities lately to show off the fantastic people and work of the Baltimore District.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, paid a visit to the Baltimore District Aug. 9 to see a few of the projects and meet employees and senior leaders. General Van spoke to a standing-room only crowd at a town hall meeting where he presented 14 coins to District employees. While here, he toured the Baltimore Harbor aboard our survey vessel, the Linthicum, met with Maryland Port Administration leaders and threw the first pitch at an Orioles game attended by corporate, military and emerging leaders.

General Van said he was grateful to the District for the opportunity to explore the area's waterways and see first-hand an element of the Corps that few know about, but from which nearly everyone benefits. Nearly \$2 trillion worth of trade travels up, down, in, and out of our Nation's harbors and waterways. Baltimore is one of 926 ports and harbors and leads to some of the 12,000 miles of our Nation's federal channels. The Corps is responsible for keeping those ports operational and those channels open.

Two days later, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey visited the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Integrated Program Office and received a briefing on North Atlantic Division's integrated delivery of the Belvoir BRAC program, an overview of all Belvoir

projects and a tour of the NGA Main Office. The CSA addressed employees from the observation deck of the NGA NCE project office and presented coins to 12 employees, acknowledging the phenomenal contributions that USACE is making on behalf of the Army and the nation. Casey said the military and civil works projects the Corps has managed in recent years is "historic and absolutely phenomenal." He praised the magnitude and the scope of the work at Fort Belvoir.

Our outreach went beyond the U.S. borders in August as a group of eight Iraqi public works officials visited the Washington Aqueduct's Dalecarlia plant to receive an orientation on our business practices and regulations and tour and discuss the treatment operations. The officials left impressed with our facilities and with the professionalism of our people.

As part of a U.S.-Brazil exchange program, the Chief of Engineers for the Brazilian Army, along with several other members of a Brazilian delegation, came to the District on Aug. 24-25. They were briefed on the District's Military and Civil Works programs and our Environmental program. We showed them how a large district in the Corps operates. General Avena, the Brazilian Chief of Engineers called our work, "Impressivo!" (Impressive!)

This summer we had them all – from military leaders to foreign dignitaries. Each left impressed with the scope and quality of the work we do.

What we do in the Baltimore District is extremely important and very "high viz." I relish every chance I get to "show you off." Thanks for all you do - I truly couldn't be prouder!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District

### CONSTELLATION

**District Engineer:** Col. Dave Anderson

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## CSA visits NGA project at Fort Belvoir IPO

By Ann Johnson

Fort Belvoir IPO Public Affairs Office

FORT BELVOIR NORTH AREA, Va. - Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Army chief of staff, lauded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the magnitude and scope of military construction and civil works projects the agency has undertaken over the past five years during a project visit here Aug. 11.

The general received a status update on more than \$4.5 billion worth of Base Realignment and Closure 2005 projects under the auspices of USACE at the installation, and touring the Army's largest military construction project since the Pentagon was built in 1943, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency New Campus East. The campus is on what was formerly known as the Engineer Proving Grounds in Springfield, Va.

Casey met with leaders of the USACE, its North Atlantic Division, Baltimore District, Fort Belvoir Garrison and NGA, who are directly involved in the design and construction of the \$1.77 billion facility that will house 8,500 federal workers who are currently in leased space throughout northern Virginia.

Escorted by Army Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, USACE deputy commanding general, and Baltimore District Engineer Col. Dave Anderson, the general met with Jim Turkel, North Atlantic Division representative for the Fort Belvoir military construction projects and Col. Mark Moffatt, Fort Belvoir garrison deputy commander for transformation and BRAC.

The general praised the work undertaken at Fort Belvoir and nationwide by the Corps.

"This is historic and absolutely phenomenal," Casey said, referring to the military and civil works projects the Corps has managed in recent years. "The magnitude and the scope of the work, both here at Fort Belvoir, and in New Orleans, are huge. It is great to be here, and to be able to thank you for your efforts."

During the visit, key leaders from USACE and the garrison told the general about various aspects of the BRAC 2005 projects, including the innovative approach that NAD used to leverage its regional resources to meet the BRAC deadline of Sept. 15, 2011.

While Fort Belvoir projects are typically executed by Baltimore District, Division senior leaders implemented



Photo by Marc Barnes

**Buddy Billington (left), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Campus East senior construction manager, gives Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. (center), a tour of the NGA project at Fort Belvoir Aug. 11.**

a regional solution to leverage the talent and expertise of all six Districts to successfully fulfill this mission, Turkel told Casey. Currently, five of six Districts are directly engaged in managing complex, multi-million dollar construction projects at Fort Belvoir. All are dedicated to ensuring the safe and successful execution of the Division's BRAC mission. "We will complete and deliver all of the projects on time, and we are well on the way to success," Turkel said.

Deputy Garrison Commander for BRAC and Transformation, Army Col. Mark Moffatt, took the general on a 4-D aerial tour of the projects at Fort Belvoir, pointing out the significant infrastructure improvements to roads and utilities under way at Fort Belvoir to prepare for the influx of agencies and personnel.

After the briefing, Casey held a ceremony recognizing several USACE employees from the Baltimore and New York districts for their outstanding contributions to the Fort Belvoir BRAC mission at NGA NCE and BRAC 133 by awarding them his personal coin.

## Baltimore District's value engineer receives notable award

**By Katisha Draughn**  
Public Affairs Office

Since starting her engineering career in 1999, Carrie Ozgar has been exposed to the full gamut of the engineering world. She has even been called, "the best of the best." That proved to be true when Ozgar received a prestigious award after only working for the District 18 months.

Ozgar, a value engineer in the Engineering Division, was recognized as the 2010 Value Engineering Professional of the Year at the Summer Leaders Conference held in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2. This award is given to a field District or Division value engineering employee who exemplifies the best traditions of value engineering service to the nation in the performance of a specific act or consistently exemplary acts during the previous 12-month period.

"As the value engineering officer for the District, I am responsible for the management and execution of the Value Engineering Program," said Ozgar.

Ozgar reestablished the value engineering program at the District and filled the position that had been vacant for almost two years. She works with the project manager and the design manager to develop a plan to perform value engineering studies for all applicable projects. The planning of a study includes scheduling, funding, document gathering, determining the team composition, preparing scope of work for the study, and contracting a team. Upon completion of the study, Ozgar is responsible for tracking and reporting the results of the studies for the District. She also



Photo by F.T. Eyre

**Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp (left), Chief of Engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal L. Buxbaum (far right), Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, present Carrie Ozgar with the 2010 Value Engineering Professional of the Year Award at the Summer Leaders Conference Aug. 2.**

hosts various in-house training sessions to educate staff on the value methodology.

"[Carrie] exhibits exceptional communication, organization, and team building," said Ron Maj, chief of the Engineering Division. "She has the exceptional ability to learn the value engineering program and communicate expectations to peers and senior leaders."

Maj, who has worked with Ozgar since she arrived at the District in January 2009, selected her to receive the award.

"Carrie is truly deserving of the award. Her contributions have been recognized by the leadership of the Baltimore District, the North Atlantic Division, and HQ USACE," said Maj. "She is an upcoming leader in the Corps."

In addition to Maj, Ozgar's father,

Thaddeus Bergling, chief of the Engineering Division's geology and investigations section, is proud of her.

"I've watched her grow into a professional engineer. I've seen the long hours she often puts in to make project submittals and deadlines, and develop a strong sense of responsibility," said Bergling.

Ozgar played a role with the District saving a substantial amount of value engineering money in fiscal 2009 and 2010. In fiscal 2009, Baltimore District reported Value Management/Engineering cost savings of more than \$50 million, with the bulk of the savings within the North Atlantic Division. In fiscal 2010, the District has saved more than \$20 million so far.

Ozgar said she really enjoys her job and the various people she gets to interact with on a daily basis.

"I enjoy being involved with the wide variety of projects, which are designed or managed by the Baltimore District, and interacting with the customers, installations, designers and the Corps team to enhance the value of our projects," she said.

Ozgar began her career in 1999 as a civil engineer working on residential, commercial and institutional land development projects for Morris and Ritchie Associates, Inc. in Maryland. In 2004, she became a professional engineer and worked as a project engineer specializing in Residential Land Development at Toll Brothers, Inc. As a result of the housing market downturn in 2008, Ozgar resigned from her position as assistant regional director of engineering for Toll Brothers and joined the Baltimore District as the value engineering officer in January 2009.

## District receives recognition for safety excellence

By Lisa Morris  
Public Affairs Office

This year at the Summer Leaders Conference in Seattle, John Houvener, chief of the Safety and Occupational Health Office, and Nancy Hammond, chief of the Environmental and Explosives Safety Section, accepted the Chief of Engineers Safe Performance Award of Excellence on behalf of the District.

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the Chief of Engineers gave this award, at the District level, for the first time ever, Aug. 2.

Usually given at the Division level, the award recognizes efforts that have been made to provide exceptional programs. Houvener is confident that his program deserves this award.

"I view the award less as recognition of my own accomplishments or my program management abilities, but more as recognition for the extraordinary efforts by the leaders of this District, the safety team, including my staff, the staff at National Geospatial -Intelligence Agency (where we instituted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program), the EESS staff in Engineering Division, and everyone in the District who takes safety as seriously as we do," said Houvener.

The District received the award for several reasons. It was recognized for institutionalizing risk assessment and hazard analysis for everything its employees do from military construction, to civil works projects and to water and boating safety.

The District was also recognized for having led the North Atlantic Division effort in implementation of OSHA's VPP as their Safety Management System.

"Success of our safety management system and our safety programs is based on the concept that every employee must value safety and must have the right attitude," said Houvener.

This is an action-oriented approach where the safety and occupational health staff, program managers, project employees, the DoD VPP Center of Expertise, and OSHA worked together to identify and eliminate workplace hazards and reduce illnesses and injuries.

"With all of the magnificent things being done by the Baltimore District and the extraordinary efforts that go



Photo by F.T. Eyre

**John Houvener, chief of the Safety and Occupational Health Office, and Nancy Hammond, chief of the Environmental and Explosives Safety Section, accepts the District's safety award from Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USACE Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Buxbaum at the Summer Leaders Conference in Seattle, Wash., on Aug. 2.**

into making our projects and recreation facilities safer places to work and play, I wasn't surprised, but I am humbled by the award," said Houvener.

In fiscal 2009, accident numbers in all areas reduced, worker's compensation costs decreased significantly, and there were no public fatalities. The award represents the increase in the health and productivity of all individuals working and recreating within the District.

"We've integrated safety into every fiber of the organization, leadership, mission, operations. This has led to significant improvements in our accident frequency rates," said Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer. "We did this while more than doubling our workload from previous years — we executed more than eight million man-hours on construction projects alone in fiscal 2009."

Among other tasks, the District demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement by taking unique initiatives such as the Washington Aqueduct's Water Safety Program. The award was well-earned and is a result of every employee's hard work.

"This recognition is a positive reflection on the safety culture that all Baltimore District members have worked hard to achieve," said Anderson.



*Photo by Joyce Conant*

## Munitions on the beach

Baltimore District Ordnance and Explosives Safety Specialist George Follett, provided munitions safety training to a group from Harvey Cedars, N.J., Aug. 4, including these area lifeguards. The group included representatives from the Borough's public works department, township administrators and the police chief. They were taught the proper way to respond to munitions if one appears on the beach – “the 3 Rs” – Recognize, Retreat, Report. Harvey Cedars, which is close to Surf City where about 3,000 munitions were cleared during a formerly used defense site cleanup in 2007, has about 400 fulltime residents and up to 12,000 to 14,000 during the summer months.



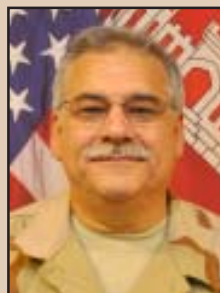
*Photo by Bill Donnellan*

## Squirrel sends safety message

Karl Hakala, Jennings Randolph Lake operations project manager, and his daughter Karli, pose with the Safety Squirrel during the Elk Garden, W.Va., early Fourth of July parade held July 2. Staff from JRL take part in community events like this parade to promote water safety.

## Baltimore District deployments

Baltimore District has 19 people deployed in support of overseas operations. Shown (left to right) are Lester Maurer, EN; Douglas McWilliams, RE; and Jean Nicolas, RSFO; who deployed this summer.



# Hurricane wind scale warns of potential damage

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 categorization based on the hurricane's intensity.

The scale provides examples of the type of damage and impacts associated with winds of the indicated intensity.

**Category One Hurricane** (Sustained winds 74-95 mph).

*Very dangerous winds will produce some damage*

People, livestock and pets struck by flying or falling debris could be injured or killed. Older (pre-1994 construction) mobile homes could be destroyed. Newer properly-anchored mobile homes may have damage to carports and sunrooms and may lose shingles, metal roofs and vinyl siding. Some poorly constructed frame homes may experience major damage, involving loss of the roof, porch coverings and awnings. Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof shingles, vinyl siding, soffit panels and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallow rooted trees can be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

**Category Two Hurricane** (Sustained winds 96-110 mph).

*Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage*

There is a substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets because of flying and falling debris. Older mobile homes have a very high chance of being destroyed and the flying debris generated can shred nearby mobile homes. Newer mobile homes can also be destroyed. Poorly

constructed frame homes have a high chance of having their roof structures removed especially if they are not anchored properly. Well-constructed frame homes could have major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks. Potable water could become scarce as filtration systems begin to fail.

**Category Three Hurricane** (Sustained winds 111-130 mph).

*Devastating damage will occur*

There is a high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Nearly all older mobile homes will be destroyed. Most newer mobile homes will sustain severe damage with potential for complete roof failure and wall collapse. Poorly constructed frame homes can be destroyed by the removal of the roof and exterior walls. Unprotected windows will be broken by flying debris. Well-built frame homes may experience major damage. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to a few weeks after the storm passes.

**Category Four Hurricane** (Sustained winds 131-155 mph).

*Catastrophic damage will occur*

There is a very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying and falling debris. Nearly all older mobile homes will be destroyed. A high percentage of newer mobile homes will be destroyed. Poorly constructed homes

can have a complete collapse of all walls and roof. Well-built homes also can also lose most of the roof structure and some exterior walls. Extensive damage to roof coverings, windows, and doors will occur. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**Category Five Hurricane** (Sustained winds greater than 155 mph).

*Catastrophic damage will occur*

People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris, even if indoors in mobile homes or framed homes. Almost complete destruction of all mobile homes will occur, regardless of age or construction. A high percentage of frame homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Extensive damage to roof covers, windows, and doors will occur. Complete collapse of many older metal buildings can occur. Most unreinforced masonry walls will fail which can lead to the collapse of the buildings. Nearly all trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

*(Information courtesy of the National Weather Service)*

**TOWNHALL** *cont. from page 1*

update the Chief of Engineers on the great work done by Washington Aqueduct employees was a real treat," said Tom Jacobus, chief of the Washington Aqueduct.

The general's visit concluded with him throwing out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles baseball game against the Chicago White Sox. The game was attended by corporate, military and emerging leaders.

"The baseball game was great and getting one-on-one time with the general in an informal setting was a plus. He was very personable," said Ayesha Bonnette, a financial management analyst in the Engineering Division and a Tier II Leadership Development Program student.

"It is always good for the most senior leader of your agency to take the time to visit and get a flavor for the wide variety of programs and projects being executed by the Baltimore District," said Winemiller.

"Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp is engaging and speaks to staff in a manner that everyone can relate to — he is a very dynamic leader."



*Photo by F.T. Eyre*

Members of the Corporate Board meet with Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp to update him on the various projects and programs within their particular divisions.



*Photo by F.T. Eyre*

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp throws out the first pitch at the Baltimore Orioles baseball game against the Chicago White Sox Aug. 9.



*Photo by F.T. Eyre*

Timothy Kelly (far right), a project manager from the Philadelphia District, provides information to Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp on the Pearce Creek Placement Site during a tour of the Inner Harbor and Masonville Cove on the survey vessel, the Linthicum.

See more photos of the general's visit on our Flickr site at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/corps\\_of\\_engineers\\_baltimore/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/corps_of_engineers_baltimore/)



# President Obama orders agencies to improve workplace safety for federal employees

*The Baltimore District will use the fiscal 2011 Safety Management Action Plan as the roadmap to improve ... making offices and projects a safer place to work.*

**By John Houvener**  
Safety and Occupational Health Office

President Obama, on July 19, ordered all federal agencies to do more to protect federal employees from workplace injuries and illnesses.

Although the federal government has made progress in recent years, and the Baltimore District has done very well.

The president said that federal workers still filed more than 79,000 new claims and received more than \$1.6 billion in workers' compensation payments in fiscal year 2009.

The Baltimore District contributed nearly \$1 million to that total.

Since many of these work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, the District must do more to improve workplace safety and health, reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers, and relieve unnecessary suffering by workers and their families.

Accordingly, the president announced that he is establishing a four-year Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Reemployment (POWER) initiative, covering fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

The POWER initiative will extend prior workplace safety and health efforts of the federal government by setting more aggressive performance targets, encouraging the collection and analysis of data on the causes and consequences of frequent or severe injury and illness, and prioritizing safety and health management programs that

have proven effective in the past like OSHAs Voluntary Protection Program that the District has implemented.

Although the District has done well over the last few fiscal years, there is room for improvement and under the POWER initiative we will be expected to improve our performance in seven specific areas.

These areas include:

1. Reducing total injury and illness case rates;
2. Reducing lost time injury and illness case rates;
3. Analyzing lost time injury and illness data;
4. Increasing the timely filing of workers' compensation claims;
5. Increasing the timely filing of wage-loss claims;
6. Reducing lost production day rates; and
7. Speeding employees' return to work in cases of serious injury or illness.



ness.

The president stated in an address about the initiative that the Secretary of Labor will be responsible for leading the POWER initiative by measuring both government-wide and agency-level performance and reporting the figures to him annually.

The Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will coordinate with the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs to establish performance targets in each category.

The Secretary of Labor is expected to publish the initiative in the Federal Register soon.

The Baltimore District will use the fiscal 2011 Safety Management Action Plan as the roadmap and guide to improve all seven areas and will include other District-specific actions to make offices and projects a safer place to work.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

September is Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Heritage, Diversity, Integrity and Honor: The Renewed Hope of America." In celebration, the Equal Opportunity Office is extending an invitation to Corps employees to attend a Hispanic heritage observance Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. in the City Crescent Building, Room 11240. The guest speaker will be Carlos Lopez, a member of the Society of Hispanic Engineers.

## New library books

The following books have recently been added to the District Library: War Against Germany: Europe and Adjacent Areas; Building for Peace: U.S. Army Engineers in Europe, 1945-1991; Corporate Conver-

sations: A Guide to Crafting Effective and Appropriate Internal Communications and Protocol.

The library is located in the City Crescent Building, Room 9000-W and is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (410) 962-3423.

## Blood drive scheduled

According to the American Red Cross, summer has proven to be a time of short supply when it comes to one of the things that can mean the difference between life and death for many people; human blood.

A blood drive will be held Oct. 8 in the City Crescent Building. See your division or office point of contact to register or call (410) 962-2087.



*Courtesy photo*

## Ammunition to retail

Attendees pose at a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 26, commemorating the start of the destruction of historic buildings on former Frankford Arsenal to make way for the new shopping center, a 500,000-square-foot retail center to be built on 45 acres of the former 109-acre arsenal property. The shopping center is expected to bring more than 1,000 jobs to the northeast Philadelphia area. The Frankford Arsenal was a U.S. Army ammunition plant that operated from 1816 until 1977. The arsenal employed as many as 22,000 workers at its period of peak production during World War II. The arsenal developed many specialty weapons systems such as the Gatling gun, recoilless rifles, laser range finding and guidance systems, and pursued other research and development efforts in ballistics and optics.

## Baltimore District's "Check It" Program: Programs and Project Management Division



*Photo by Lisa Morris*

Cheryl McCallum, program support specialist in Programs and Project Management Division, and Stephanie Ferguson, human relations specialist, discuss a recruitment selection package and check for accuracy before making a job offer to the selectee. The purpose of the Check It program is to remind employees of the importance of double-checking work for safety and accuracy. The Constellation focuses on a different organization each month.

## Baltimore District's "A Culture of Discipline" *Human Resources*



*Photo by Fred Furney*

According to her supervisors, **Kristina Spirko**, human resources assistant, is a wealth of information for new and experienced employees. She is responsible for providing advice and assistance in a variety of areas, to include retirement, health benefits, life insurance, thrift savings, and veterans' military buy back. She also provides pre-retirement, disability and survivor benefits counseling. Kristina's "can do" attitude and great customer service skills are excellent assets in her position. Her supervisors also report that they consistently receive compliments on the services she provides.

## Employees' Activity Association

The Employees' Activities Association was established in 1975 as an independent, private activities association formed to organize and finance activities beneficial to personnel regularly employed by the Baltimore District. Membership into the association is open to all and there are no membership dues. The association is supported solely by fundraising activities. For more information, call (410) 962-5675.

## Our Proud Past

*This series presents vignettes from Baltimore District's history. We welcome contributions from long-time employees and retirees.*

When one thinks of the Spanish-American War, the phrase "Remember the Maine!" and images of Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders charging up San Juan Hill in Cuba come to mind.

But our own city of Baltimore, and the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, had their own role to play.

In April 1898, when war with Spain seemed imminent, Brig. Gen. William P. Craighill, Chief of Engineers and former Baltimore District Engineer, contacted his successor, Col. Peter C. Hains, to "show what the Corps of Engineers can do when an emergency arises for which the country is unprepared."

Hains oversaw the fortification of the Baltimore Harbor at Hawkins and North Points and at Fort Carroll. The most dramatic action Hains took was mining the Baltimore Harbor. On April 3, 1898, eight days before war was officially declared, Hains was ordered to plant the mines. In order to protect the harbor but not interfere with commercial shipping, the mines were placed along the sides of the channel. Thus Baltimore Harbor was ready, both for commerce and for war.

The war was over in July. By August, Spain had surrendered and it was decided to detonate the mines underwater.

Baltimore District proved itself ready for war; even for the invasion that never came. It is still a part of Our Proud Past.

*This article was adapted from a portion of *The Mid-Atlantic Engineers, the Baltimore District History from 1774 - 1974*, available in the District Library, Room 9000-W.*

*Information provided by Steve Brooks, District librarian.*



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Official Business



## Baltimore Newsmakers



Printed on recycled paper

**Welcome to...** Robin Armetta, PL; Danielle “Nikkie” Grissinger, OP; Kimberly Matthews and Parris McGhee-Bay, CO; Karen Johnson, Belvoir-IPO; Deirdre Martinez, Denise Hopper and Maj. Richard Wulff, RSFO; Reggie Tillman and Sal Van Wert, EN; and Edwin Pena and Agapito Martinez, WA.

**Farewell to...** Marco Ciarla, PL, a summer employee who is returning to school; Dave Hand, CO, who has retired; Valdez Blackwell, DC-IPO, who is going to work overseas and pursue post-graduate studies; and Samantha Zimmerman, RE.

**Congratulations to...** Erin Mangle, HR, on her marriage; Wayne Chmielewski, BAO, for successfully completing the Intern Program; Mike Rogers, PPMD, on the birth of his daughter; Debbie Hardick, PL, on the birth of her son; Cassandra Anderson, IR, for being selected and participating in the Emerging Leaders Conference in Seattle, WA; Juan Baret, Belvoir-IPO, on the birth of his daughter; Linda Hakanson, RSFO, on the birth of her grandson; Carlen Capenos, RSFO, on her selection as a super-



*Photo by Fred Furney*

**Congratulations to (left to right) Chris Hubley, Megan Penn, Tesia Furman and Kent Dickerson, RM, on their engagements to Christine Bittner, Ricky Hicks, Eric Basso, and Tiffany Thomas.**

visory contract specialist; Robert Abbey, CO, on the birth of his son; and Chester “Chip” Tracewski, CO, on the birth of his daughter;

**Sympathy to...** Karen Austin, CO, on the loss of her mother; and Jane Ward, CO, on the loss of her mother-in-law and sister-in-law.