

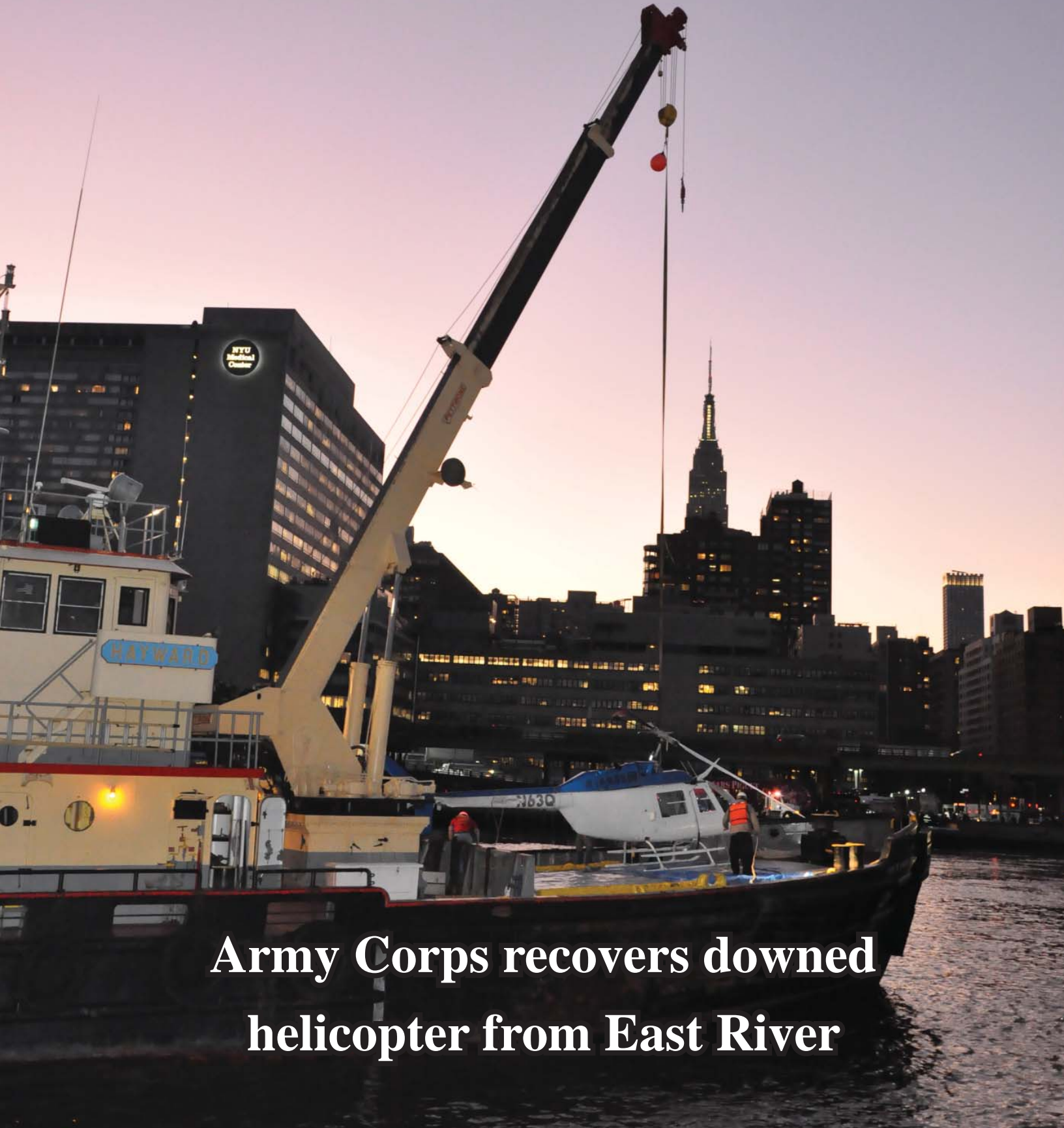


**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
New York District

**Building Strong<sup>®</sup>**

November Edition 2011

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District



**Army Corps recovers downed  
helicopter from East River**

# The New York District Times

is a publication of the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New York District



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## On the Cover...

DCV Hayward with a helicopter recently recovered from the bottom of the East River. (Photo by Chris Gardner, New York District public affairs)

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Authorization: The New York District Times is an authorized unofficial newsletter of the New York District. It is published in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Circulation: 1500 copies per issue in print and available on internet at: [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil)



# Colonel's Corner

**FY12** — Back to the Basics

I'm proud to say that FY11 was another great year for the New York District team. We accomplished a lot, including meeting our BRAC deadlines and having a successful year-end with several important contracts being awarded. And, oh yeah, Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene tore through our region as the fiscal year ended and the team responded in a big way, working with our partners, helping communities after the storm and making sure our own operations were able to continue.

That being said, I want this year's goal to be to continue to build on our District's culture of success. Through focusing on the basics of Building Strong teams I know we can keep improving upon our big successes.

Continuous improvement and ensuring our team remains on the right track really involves getting back to the basics of Building Strong teams in the first place — competence, confidence and discipline.

Competence is about developing the skills, knowledge and abilities that will lead to success, which ultimately leads to increased confidence, and both of those tenets are rooted in a strong foundation of discipline.

A successful team operates with disciplined thoughts, actions and people. A team that follows through, gets work done on time and holds teammates accountable for their actions both good and bad. Here at the District this includes turning difficult situations into learning experiences and ensuring teammates are recognized when they excel. It's also ensuring that we utilize the tools and processes we have in place already, like the Project Management Business Process and the Quality Management System. These are tools to help streamline and standardize our actions.

Competence is achieving the skill sets necessary to succeed, and that comes from continued training, on the job experience and professional certification. Each office should commit to getting people the coursework they need and giving them the work opportunities to grow. It's important that we as a Corps stay on the cutting edge of our fields, which for instance means deepening our skills in designing and constructing projects with renewable energy and decreased energy demands. Many of those opportunities to grow can also be in the form of domestic or overseas deployments or developmental assignments. A lot of people took the opportunity to work in the Emergency Operations Center during our Irene response activities and got the chance to serve the District while expanding their experiences and skills. I recommend looking for new courses and taking advantage of opportunities to work and train in different settings in order to keep growing professionally.



Col. John R. Boulé II  
Commander



***BACK TO THE BASICS cont'd on 23..***



# Corps crews recover crashed helo from East River

**By Chris Gardner, public affairs**

The Army Corps of Engineers carries out a variety of missions in the waters around New York City ranging from survey vessels conducting hydrographic surveys of channels to drift collection vessels picking debris out of the water that could be hazardous to navigation.

On a normal day, the District's drift collection vessels will pull large pieces of docks that may have broken off, driftwood and flotsam and jetsam. However, on a day like October 4, 2011 when a helicopter carrying tourists crashed in the waters off of midtown Manhattan, Army Corps crews worked with emergency responders on the harbor to lift the downed helicopter from the bottom of the East River. The helicopter crashed in the East River near the East 34th Street Heliport in Manhattan around 3:30 P.M.

The helicopter had five people onboard, including the pilot. One of the passengers died in the crash and another died later from crash-related injuries according to media reports. City emergency responders were quickly on the scene to help rescue the passengers they could and assess the situation.

The Army Corps of Engineers was called on to provide assistance with the removal of the downed helicopter which was estimated to be about 40 to 50 feet below the water's surface.

When the call came in for support, SV Dobrin happened to be in the area conducting surveys and was the first Army Corps vessel on the scene.

DCV Hayward had docked for the day (New York District's vessel crews start their days at 7 a.m.) when the helicopter crashed, so when the call came in for assistance the vessel had to be staffed and then it headed from the District's Caven Point Marine Terminal in New Jersey just southwest of the Statue of Liberty toward the site of the crash.

Before DCV Hayward could move into position for the actual lift though, SV Dobrin surveyed the area around the crash to ensure there were no obstructions below the water's surface.

"We did three passes," said Mike Skalitza, operator of SV Dobrin. "The survey technician kept a close eye on the monitors to make sure there were no other obstructions that would damage the crane vessel, Hayward."

DCV Hayward's crew coordinated with New York City Police Department scuba divers so the divers could secure harnesses to the helicopter while it was still underwater in preparation for removal.

"Whenever a crash like this does happen, we deal with these guys a lot so we have a really good working relationship with the (NYPD) divers," said Dan Pietri, assistant master of DCV Hayward. "They know us, we know them. We know all the equipment they need and have it out on the deck before they even get alongside us. They know how we like to rig everything, how we want the helicopter to come up."

Once the divers secured the harnesses to the helicopter and SV Dobrin's crew detected no hazards, DCV Hayward moved into place for the lift. Working methodically, DCV Hayward raised the helicopter from the bottom of the East River and placed it on its deck.

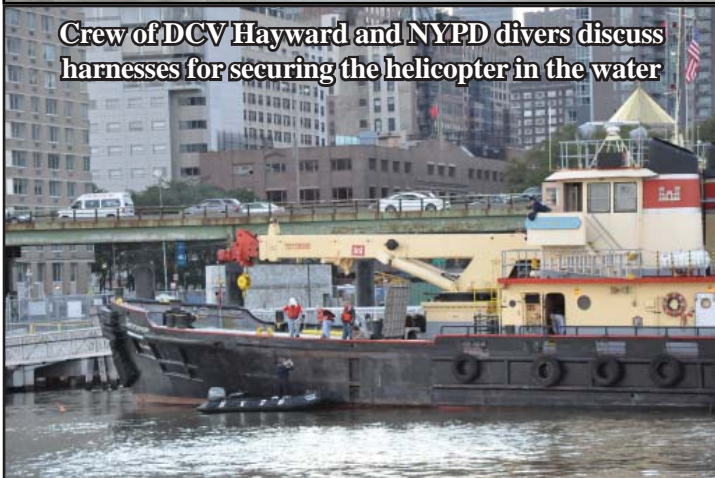
The Hayward transported the helicopter to a nearby pier where city and federal officials boarded the vessel to begin conducting post-crash inspections. The harnesses were then adjusted and secured again so the aircraft could be lifted and placed on the pier and handled by officials on land.

"It's always very rewarding to show the Army Corps is there to help," Pietri said after DCV Hayward's mission was complete... for the day.

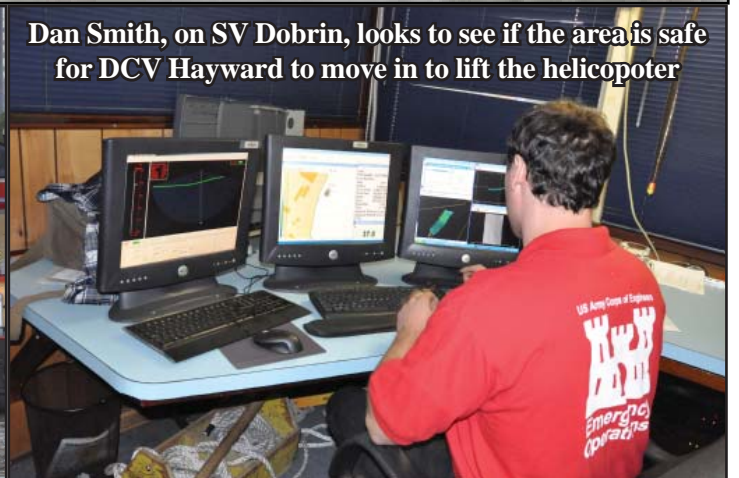


# Photos from downed helicopter recovery on East River

## DCV Hayward on scene with other emergency response vessels



Crew of DCV Hayward and NYPD divers discuss harnesses for securing the helicopter in the water



Dan Smith, on SV Dobrin, looks to see if the area is safe for DCV Hayward to move in to lift the helicopter



DCV Hayward moves recovered helicopter toward land



DCV Hayward places recovered helicopter on the pier

More photos of this event and other District activities at [www.flickr.com/photos/newyorkdistrict-usace/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/newyorkdistrict-usace/)



# District responds to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene

By Chris Gardner, public affairs

In August 2011, Hurricane Irene, a Category 3 storm at its peak, churned its way through the Atlantic Ocean toward New York City. It struck parts of New Jersey as a Category 1 hurricane and by the time it struck New York City on August 28, Irene had been downgraded to a tropical storm. While the storm didn't wreak too much havoc on New York City, it was strong enough to cause power outages throughout the tri-state area, a significant amount of damage in upstate New York and significant flooding along the coast of Long Island and throughout northern New Jersey.

In New Jersey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coastal storm damage reduction projects performed very well during the storm but the tremendous amount of rain from the storm combined with the saturated ground from an already wet month led to extreme flooding inland.

In Bound Brook, N.J., New York District is currently working on one of the largest Civil Works projects in the country, a flood risk reduction project to help communities that suffer from chronic flooding. With the recent injection of funds from the President's "stimulus" program, the District was able to move forward on multiple pieces of the complex project, which involves levees, floodwalls, pump stations, gate closures and more.

While work in Bound Brook is not completely done, residents and officials there said they noticed a big difference from previous storms and that the pieces in place helped to mitigate what could have been a much worse flooding situation.

The rains from the remnants of Irene also caused severe flooding in Westchester County, in upstate New York along the Hudson River and in the Mohawk River Valley. Completed Corps projects in Ulster County helped mitigate flooding for some communities along various waterways. The recently completed repairs to the Asharoken Sea Wall on the North Shore of Long Island also held up during the



New York District Commander Col. John R. Boulé, District personnel and local officials check out some erosion on a levee that overtopped in Bound Brook, N.J., during Tropical Storm Irene. The overtopping was by design at the part of the levee partially because it is next to a pump station. (Photo by Dan Desmet, public affairs)

storm, protecting the only road in and out of the Village of Asharoken from coastal storm damage.

The story of completed projects working as designed to protect life, property and infrastructure was a common thread throughout the District's area of responsibility, but a storm of Irene's magnitude still caused considerable damage, putting the Corps in a position to assist with emergency response and post storm damage work.

In keeping with the Corps of Engineers emergency response roles, District personnel deployed throughout the region in support of local and federal agencies, inspecting completed projects and damaged areas, and working to get navigation and commerce back to normal.

New York District personnel worked in FEMA's Joint Field Office at the New York State Emergency Management Office in Albany, N.Y., where response and recovery operations for New York were managed.



## SUPPORTING FEMA AND PARTNERS

Corps personnel from across the country worked in the JFO to manage Emergency Support Function #3 (Public Works and Engineering) missions in support of FEMA, which included things like managing the installation of a handful of emergency generators for critical public facilities on Long Island and providing technical assistance regarding debris removal operations.

Through a FEMA tasking, New York District worked closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to help with post-storm inspections of non-federal dams throughout disaster declared counties. Corps engineers teamed with DEC dam safety personnel to visit dams in the DEC's registry classified as "high hazard." Dams are classified as high hazard when they are located in areas where a significant population and property would be affected in the event of a dam failure. The classification does not reflect a dam's structural integrity in any way.

The post-storm inspections were not full inspections of the dams, but rather looking for signs of damage or potential issues caused by Irene, like erosion, overtopping, debris in outflows, etc.

Engineers from the Army Corps' Baltimore and Norfolk Districts deployed to Albany to augment this



Nicole Walsh, civil engineer from Baltimore District, and Dave Harmon, an environmental engineer from the New York State Department of Environmental Protection, check for damage at a dam in Dutchess County after Irene. (Photo by Chris Gardner, public affairs)



Ronald Pinzon, New York District project manager, and Charles Frey, chief of the Foundations and Dams Section, Baltimore District, work together in Albany. Pinzon managed New York District's post-Irene dam inspection support to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which Baltimore District greatly helped. (Photo by Chris Gardner, public affairs)

mission, which involved inspecting more than 80 dams, spread across several hundred miles.

FEMA also requested New York District conduct infrastructure assessments on more than 50 buildings throughout the state. These included important public facilities water filtration plants. Engineers from the Army Corps' Buffalo District supported this effort.

With roads often impassable due to flooding and assessments spread throughout the state, visiting facilities was sometimes no easy task. Structural engineer Sean O'Donnell was working with civil engineer Sital Bhakta on infrastructure assessments and driving to inspect the Binghamton Water Filtration Plant wasn't an option.

"We went with state troopers and had to take a helicopter to Binghamton and then rode an airboat through the streets of Binghamton," O'Donnell said.

The pair were looking to see what impact the flooding was having on the plant, which filters water from the Susquehanna River into tap water.

New York District engineers also performed post-storm assessments of several upstate bridges in support of FEMA and the New York State Department of Transportation.





Roy Messaros, a coastal and hydraulic engineer, and Alicia Gould, a project manager, both with New York District, conduct a post-storm assessment on the status of the Molly Ann's Brook flood risk reduction project in Passaic County, N.J. Corps personnel assessed the storm's impacts to completed projects throughout the District's area of responsibility after Irene. (Photo by Hector Mosley, public affairs)

While New York District managed ESF #3 missions in New York, Philadelphia District was responsible for coordinating ESF #3 missions in New Jersey. However, New York District personnel deployed to New Jersey, worked with FEMA and other partners there and were on the ground in parts of northern New Jersey where New York District has projects and studies.

## ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

In addition to supporting damage assessment missions in Upstate New York, project managers, planners, engineers and others toured the District's area of responsibility following the storm to check on the performance of completed works, look for new damage and conduct post-storm assessments of hard-hit areas and impacts to shorelines.

This involved boots on the ground and eyes on projects, as well as meeting with local officials to discuss storm impacts. Some projects did suffer minor damage including, levee erosion from overtopping and loss of rip rap that armors shorelines. In the case of completed projects that have been turned over to local sponsors, the Corps provided technical assistance to ensure the projects are restored to post-storm

conditions, making them ready to provide protection during future storm events.

Corps personnel also met with elected officials, town mayors and congressional representatives in flooded areas without completed projects, touring the damage to assess impacts and discuss ways to curtail damage from future storms.

In fact, President Barack Obama paid a visit to Paterson, N.J., after the storm, where there was severe flooding. Paterson is in the Passaic River Basin, where New York District has studied large-scale flood risk reduction projects for decades, but none of the major projects proposed have moved forward due to lack of local support/interest/funds and/or local opposition.

## NAVIGATION

In order to ensure navigation channels were safe after the storm, New York District, working in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard, performed post-storm hydrographic surveys of navigation channels identified by the Coast Guard as having possibly been altered during the storm.

With any large storm, debris in the New York and New Jersey Harbor is likely to increase as storm



The crew of DCV Gelberman, while patrolling the New York and New Jersey Harbor for debris following Tropical Storm Irene, work to secure a large piece of floating debris that broke off of an old pier in the Erie Basin in Brooklyn and was creating a hazard to navigation. (Photo by Chris Gardner, public affairs)







Crews work to clear debris out of Troy Lock after Tropical Storm Irene caused severe flooding in upstate New York, eroding banks and sending big and small debris down the river. (Photo by Chris Gardner, public affairs)

surge pulls items from the coast into the water and may damage older piers and other structures. Irene was no different and New York District's drift collection vessels went to work right away clearing tremendous amounts of debris from the Harbor that could be hazardous to marine navigation, ranging from small flotsam and jetsam to huge pieces of old piers that broke off.

In just one morning post-Irene, DCV Hayward collected approximately 17,000 pounds of small debris in its catamaran. It also used its crane to collect additional debris which was stored onboard the vessel's deck.

On top of the additional debris within the Harbor, flooding along the Hudson River eroded banks and caused significant damage upstate, resulting in additional debris hazards flowing down the Hudson into the Harbor. This large debris ranged from trees and power poles to entire docks that broke away from the shore.

The flooding conditions at Troy Lock, on the Hudson River just north of Albany, required cleanup and inspection by New York District's Albany Field Office in order to return to normal operation. Highly skilled Soldier divers from the U.S. Army's 544th Engineer Dive Team were doing an exercise at the District's Caven Point Marine Terminal in Jersey City, N.J., when the storm hit and then re-routed

afterward to Troy Lock to help find and remove submerged debris in the lock entrance and inspect the lock itself.

Corps crews also worked long hours to remove the incredible amount of debris that had flowed into the lock, ranging from downed trees to derelict boats to smaller flotsam and jetsam.

Hydrographic surveys were conducted just north and south of Troy Lock as well and, with the lock cleared and operational, it was determined that navigation through the lock could safely begin about two weeks after the storm shut the lock down.



Crews work to clear debris out of Troy Lock after Tropical Storm Irene brought all kinds of debris into the lock, temporarily shutting it down. (Photo by Chris Gardner, public affairs)



# Wounded vets' artwork shines at BRAC 133

By JoAnn Castagna, public affairs

Heather Miller of Saint Charles, Mo., remembers a horrific day - October 20, 2009.

“My husband Greg sent me a text message telling me he was going to take his life and that he will send me a message with the location of his body.”

Luckily, she found him hours later safely in a hospital bed. Greg Miller suffers from severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and this was one of several suicide attempts he's made after his last deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq in 2008.

Today, Greg is a retired Staff Sgt. with the U.S. Air Force and is on the road to recovery. He and his wife attribute this in large part to his love of art.

“His talents and ability to complete art projects have literally saved his life,” said Heather. “It also makes Greg feel good to finally have his passion of artwork get noticed.”

One of Greg's works of art will be displayed in the new Department of Defense (DoD) administrative office complex in Alexandria, Va. as part of the Spirit of Wounded Warriors and Veterans: Healing the Soul through Artistic Expression program.

“This program is a way for us to thank our wounded veterans for their service and provide them a venue to display their artwork. The residents of the complex will also benefit by being able to view the works of art,” said Joanne Hensley, chief, project development, BRAC 133. Hensley created this program in cooperation with personnel from other federal agencies.

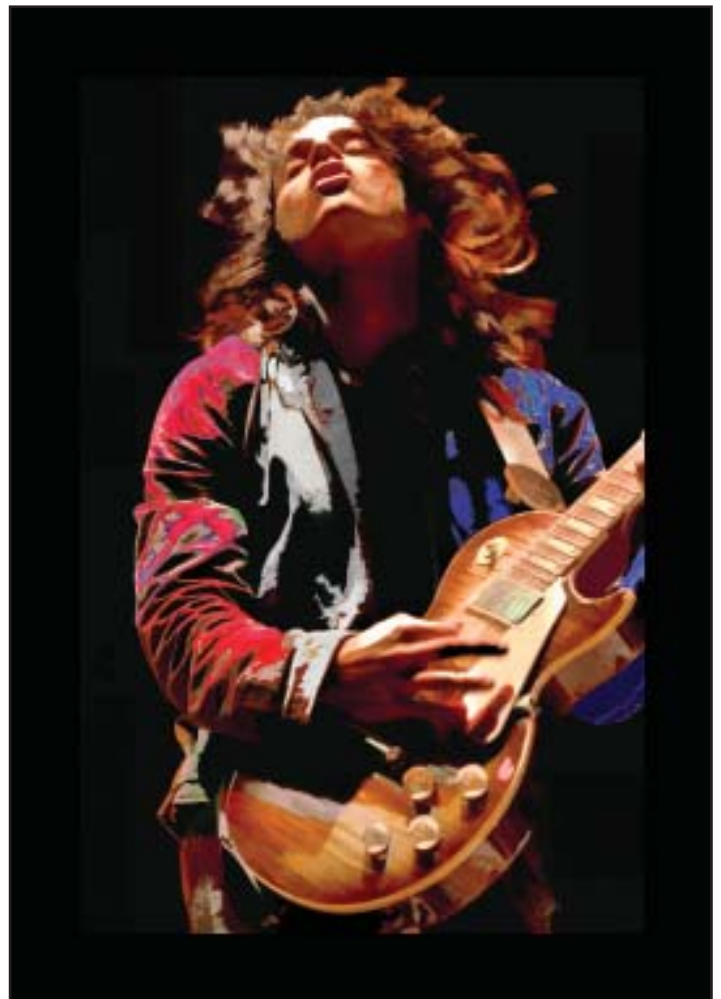
Hensley and her team announced the program by creating a flyer and distributing it to various veterans groups and hospitals. They received many art submissions from around the United States, including Hawaii, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Illinois. Submissions came from veteran's that served in different wars, such as the Vietnam Era. Artwork they received included paintings, photography, sculptures

and quilts. Two dozen of these were selected to be displayed.

Miller's artwork was one of them. Miller spray painted a mountain landscape with a lake at the bottom of the mountains and a moon in the sky with the American flag as a back drop. “I'm still very patriotic. I love my country and that we are free and this is what I wanted to portray in this work of art. We live in a beautiful part of the world.”

Andrew Bourne's artwork was also selected. He, like Miller, also suffers from PTSD and brain injuries after serving in the Gulf War in the 1990's and more recently in Husaybah, Iraq for the Marine Corps.

Bourne, a retired Staff Sgt. who is in the process



“The American Rocker” (Artwork by Andrew Bourne)



**Retired Air Force veteran Greg Miller shows off artwork he submitted to the Wounded Warrior Art Program. (Courtesy Photo)**

of moving to New York with his family, submitted a Giclée, fine art digital print made on an ink-jet printer, named ‘The American Rocker.’

The image shows a guitar player in the throes of his music. “You look at this picture and it says America. It takes you back. I’m in my mid- forties and I look at it and it means Jimmy Paige, Led Zeppelin, the heyday of early Rock n Roll. It says different things to different people.” Both men heard about the program through their recovery care coordinators who also encouraged them to use art as a form of therapy.

Both men feel that artwork is a good outlet for wounded veterans. Miller said, “When I’m doing my artwork I go into a different zone. I can tune everything out and focus on my art. It’s kind of a getaway.”

Bourne said, “Creating art has been a family-saver. It keeps my wife and I close. It’s a way for me to get my brain to relax more, get it to refocus and learn how to think.”

For both men, their confidence in their art has grown into fulltime careers. Miller has always enjoyed artwork and after getting out of the service he and his wife started an interactive art studio named My Handy Works that provides art classes and camps for children.



**Retired Air Force veteran Greg Miller works with children from his art classes. (Courtesy Photo)**

Bourne said, “This whole thing went from my therapy just to get my brain going and sort of as a distraction - all the way to its own career.”

He and his wife are starting their own company named Epic Artwork & Photos. This fall, the agencies involved with the construction of the complex in collaboration with the Fisher House Foundation, an international non-profit organization that provides assistance to families of critically injured service men and women, are holding a ceremony to showcase the artwork and introduce the artists.

Both plan to attend and are honored that their artwork was selected and feel this program is very good for disabled veterans. Bourne said, “It gives somebody that may not necessarily have all of their confidence levels rebuilt. This is one of those things that can help.”

All of the Soldier’s artwork from the wounded warrior program will be displayed on the first two floors of the BRAC 133 office complex which sits on a 16-acre campus at the Mark Center in Alexandria Va. The building was built as part of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Act and was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. It’s scheduled to open in August 2011.



# District completes 6-year long BRAC mission

By **Kenneth Wells, public affairs**

In September 2011, the Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, closed out one of the most challenging rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects in the district's history. BRAC involved the relocation of many commands and the closure of several installations across the country. Since 2005 the District has been working on projects to enable the Department of Defense to streamline its operations, save money and become more energy efficient at installations such as West Point, Picatinny Arsenal, and Fort Belvoir.

“New York District hit a grand slam on BRAC,” said New York District Commander Col. John R. Boulé. “From the massiveness of the BRAC 133 project down in Virginia to the complex research and development facilities at Picatinny Arsenal to building a world-class prep school at West Point, the team really delivered on this critical directive.”

The result was more than a billion dollars of construction projects—all of them designed to provide United States servicemembers and their families with top-notch facilities for training, education, security, research and a host of other capabilities.

At Fort Belvoir, the Washington Headquarters Services Building



**The BRAC 133 office complex at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., was New York District's largest BRAC project, totalling just over \$1 billion dollars and providing working space for approximately 6,400 Department of Defense personnel. (HDR photo illustration by Marc Barnes, Belvoir Integration Office public affairs)**

was designed to consolidate more than 6,400 DoD employees who'd been working out of commercially leased office spaces in and around Washington D.C., into a state-of-the-art, LEED Gold facility. The project, which cost \$1 billion, was completed on August 9, 2011, more than a month ahead of schedule.

At West Point, providing the next generation of Soldiers with top-notch facilities is of the utmost importance and as part of the BRAC initiative New York District was tasked with relocating

the Military Preparatory Academy from Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. The purpose of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) is to prepare select candidates for the academic, physical, and military challenges of the United States Military Academy at West Point. To achieve this goal, New York District set to work building a \$154 million facility that included cadet barracks, classrooms, administrative and dining facilities and athletic fields. The USMAPS facility is being conducted in two phases with



the first being completed in July 2011, which allowed cadets to move in, and the second phase is scheduled for completion in 2012.

The existing motor pool at West Point needed to be relocated as part of the USMAPS construction project and as a result a new \$43 million motor pool was constructed for West Point's Department of Logistics.

Picatinny Arsenal also saw an increase in military construction as part of the BRAC 2005 mandates. The Arsenal serves as a joint center of excellence for armaments and munitions research, providing products and services to all branches of the U.S. military. To aid in those research efforts, New York District constructed five new facilities, including a Fuze Engineering Complex, a Packaging Shipping Handling and Transportation Center, a Guns and Weapons System Technical Data Facility, a Guns Weapons Systems lab and an Electro-magnetic Research Facility.



**The Col. John M. McHugh Armament Integration Facility was one of several BRAC projects completed by New York District at Picatinny Arsenal. (Photo by Dan Desmet, public affairs)**

The cost for the Picatinny projects was \$50 million and they were all completed by the September 2011 deadline, as mandated by law. As part of the BRAC work at Picatinny Arsenal, the District constructed facilities for the U.S. Navy for the first time as part of BRAC included moving Navy commands from around the country to the New Jersey installation.



**Relocating the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School from Fort Monmouth in New Jersey to West Point was one of New York District's BRAC projects. Cadet Candidates moved into the facility in July 2011 after Phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 will be completed in 2012. (Photo by Dan Desmet, New York District public affairs)**



# More than \$170M in MILCON contracts awarded at Fort Drum in FY11

By Chris Gardner, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, awarded approximately \$172.8 million in construction contracts for various construction projects at Fort Drum during Fiscal Year 2011, which ended September 30. All of the contracts were awarded to local contractors based in the area around the installation.

The contracts were for various projects to support the missions and units at Fort Drum. The new facilities, and rehabilitation of others, will provide much needed space to allow for the expansions while improving the quality of the working and living environments. The extensive construction will provide new infrastructure, administrative, maintenance, aviation, living and general support type facilities; and will incorporate several energy saving features including solar walls and geothermal heating and cooling systems.

The approximately \$172.8 million in contracts were made up of nine awards for projects at the installation. The Army Corps awarded an \$18.6 million contract in September for the construction of a Company Operations Facility and Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility for the Combat Aviation Brigade at Wheeler-Sacks Airfield to Upstate Construction Services of Watertown. The COF will provide a new administrative headquarters and the TEMF will provide a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility. The contract also includes a fire support building, an oil storage facility and additions to the existing battalion headquarters, company operation facility and vehicle maintenance shop. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

The Army Corps awarded a \$46.4 million contract in September to Purcell-Lawman JV of Watertown for the design and construction of a new Operational Readiness Training Complex, which will consist of two four-story transient training barracks, battalion headquarters, an area for tactical equipment, a vehicle maintenance shop, a dining facility, and unaccompanied officer quarters. Construction is slated



Several construction contracts were awarded at Fort Drum during Fiscal Year 2011, including for work at the airfield there, like fuel tank work. (Photo by Dan Desmet, New York District public affairs)

to be complete in spring 2013.

The Army Corps awarded a \$15 million contract in July to Vetco Construction of Watertown for the design and construction of a new 20th Air Support Operations Squadron complex. The new facility will serve as the administrative headquarters for the 20th ASOS, which advises the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) on all aspects of air operations on the battlefield and coordinates and manages joint air operations with other branches of the military and allied air forces. Construction is slated to be complete in fall 2013.

The Army Corps awarded an \$11.6 million contract in July to Upstate Construction of Watertown for the design and construction of Aviation Battalion Maintenance Hangar addition, including expansion and upgrades to the existing maintenance hangar's electrical, heating, ventilation, lighting systems and the addition of overhead crane support. New construction will also provide additional aircraft maintenance hangar space with shops for the aviation unit operations, training, and arms room to support Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

*DRUM MILCON cont'd on 15...*



# Work begins, sand pumped onto beach on \$12.9M Monmouth Beach renourishment

By Chris Gardner, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, has awarded an approximately \$12.9 million contract to Weeks Marine of Cranford, N.J., for the placement of approximately 800,000 cubic yards of sand on Monmouth Beach as a part of coastal storm risk reduction efforts in the area.

The work is designed to reduce the risk of coastal storms to public and private property as well as infrastructure, but will also provide additional benefits for the local community.

“This work will reduce the coastal

storm vulnerability of Monmouth Beach community,” said New York District Commander Col. John R. Boulé. “Also, while this project’s purpose is primarily to reduce risk to public safety and property, we’re excited about the positive ancillary impact it will have on recreation and tourism as well.”

The project is being done in partnership with the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection, the local cost-sharing sponsor for the project. The federal portion of the project is 65 percent, through the Corps of Engineers, and the local portion of the project is 35 percent, through the NJDEP.

Rep. Frank Pallone, whose congressional district includes the project area, said he was excited about the project moving forward.

“I commend the Army Corps for moving quickly on awarding this contract,” said Pallone. “Hurricane Irene’s wrath proved how important beach replenishment projects are to our communities. These projects put people to work and strengthen infrastructure. I look forward to seeing work begin soon on this critical project.”

Renourishment work is slated to be completed by the end of the winter.

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## ***DRUM MILCON cont’d from 14***

The Army Corps awarded a \$12.4 million contract in July to Black Horse Group of Watertown for the design and construction of a new Training Aide Support Center, which will include warehousing, administrative and maintenance spaces as well as classrooms. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

The Army Corps awarded a \$35.4 million contract in August to Purcell-Lawman JV of Watertown for the construction of a new barracks for the Combat Aviation Brigade. The barracks for the Combat Aviation Brigade will be approximately 72,468 square feet to house 198 Soldiers and the second barracks will be approximately 114,924 square feet to house 314 soldiers. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

The Army Corps awarded \$18.2 million in August to Vetco Construction of Watertown for the construction of an approximately 40,000 square foot battalion/brigade headquarters facility for the Combat Aviation Brigade. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

The Army Corps awarded \$1.8 million in September to Cadence Construction of Black River for the rehabilitation and construction of “Solar Walls” at facilities on Fort Drum. Construction is slated to be complete in fall 2012.

The Army Corps awarded \$13.4 million in September to Green Jacket-DC Buildings Systems of Watertown for an aircraft fueling project at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. The work includes upgrades to the existing bulk fuel facility as well as the construction of a new fueling facility with two new storage tanks, loading and off-loading areas and piping. Construction is slated to be complete in spring 2013.

All of the contracts were awarded to local contractors and all of the awards for less than \$35 million were awarded to certified small businesses. As part of the contracts, new facilities must meet environmental requirements to be certified as at least LEED Silver as per the U.S. Green Buildings Council’s guidelines. The Operational Readiness Training Complex is designed to be certified at the higher LEED Gold level.



# More than \$130M in MILCON contracts awarded at West Point in FY11

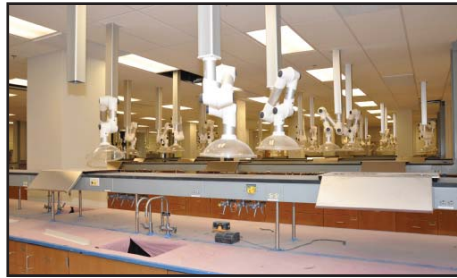
## By New York District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, awarded two major military construction contracts for work at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in Fiscal Year 2011 totaling approximately \$133.5 million.

The District awarded a \$105 million contract to Walsh Construction Company II LLC of Chicago in September for the completion of Phase 2, the second and final phase, of the West Point Science Center renovation project and a \$28.5 million contract to Morgan Construction Enterprises, Inc., of New York, N.Y., in September for the construction of an addition to the Keller Army Community Hospital Clinic at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The addition to the Keller Army Community Hospital Clinic will include outpatient, ambulatory care and clinical work. The project includes major utility relocation, storm water retention work in support of the new construction, as well as minor renovation work at the connection to the existing hospital. Construction on the hospital addition is slated to be completed by fall 2013.

The overall West Point Science Center project involves the renovation and upgrade of the school's old library, which was replaced by the new Jefferson Hall Library and Learning Center in



**The West Point Science Center project involves new laboratory facilities. (Photo by Dan Desmet, New York District public affairs)**

2009, and physically combining it with a renovated and upgraded historic Bartlett Hall to create a modern science center to serve the cadets and faculty at West Point.

The Phase 2 contract is for the renovation and upgrade of the school's science building Bartlett Hall, which is one of the oldest academic buildings still used on the historic campus. Part of Bartlett Hall was first completed in 1914 and the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its insides will be completely renovated and new classrooms, laboratories and administrative areas will be built. The renovation also includes a complete upgrade of the historic structure, ranging from handicapped accessibility to meeting security and fire safety standards.

Once completed, Bartlett Hall and the adjacent old library will become one expanded and modernized science center with more than 300,000 square feet for the school's biology, chemistry and physics programs and more.

Phase 1, an approximately \$50 million project, is the similar style renovation of the old library building and it is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Phase 2, the renovation and upgrade of Bartlett Hall, will itself actually be completed in two phases as part of one contract. Construction on Phase 2a is slated to begin in early 2012 and be ready for cadets by the end of spring 2014 and Phase 2b is slated to begin in summer 2014 with the entire project being completed in early 2016.

As part of the contracts, new facilities must meet environmental requirements to be certified as at least LEED Silver by the U.S. Green Buildings Council standards.



**The West Point Science Center project involves renovations to the old library at West Point, like the March 2011 work pictured. (Photo by Dan Desmet, New York District public affairs)**





# District personnel help Norfolk District pilot program with coring support

By Chris Gardner, public affairs

New York District personnel recently visited Norfolk District to help with sampling operations as part of a pilot program involving dredging and low-use navigation channels.

Physical Science Technician, Tom Wyche and intern Mike Folcik, Operations Division, shipped a special P-5 Electric Vibrocore system down to Virginia where it was used to take samples in channels in Mathews County, Va.

“We have a P-5 Electric Vibrocore that we routinely use here around the New York Harbor,” Wyche said. “We got a call from the Norfolk team that it would be helpful to their work and we worked with them on the logistics of getting us and the equipment down to Virginia.”

The coring system uses vibrations to get coring tubes deep into the ground below channels, allowing Corps personnel to gather samples to determine what kind of material they are dealing with. The system’s use of vibrations helps it get lower into tougher material.

The information gathered from sampling is used to make better informed decisions regarding dredging and plan for the management of dredged material that is removed from the channel.

Wyche, who works with the District’s Dredged Material Management Section, and Folcik, District Technical Support Branch, worked with Norfolk District personnel by gathering dozens of samples from Queens Creek and Horn Harbor.

“Coring can be a tricky operation at times,” Wyche said. “So much can go wrong to delay a coring operation, often events beyond one’s control

– things like bent core tubes, bad weather, tidal currents, vessel traffic, to name a few.”

He said the sampling operations in Mathews County went smoothly though and that all the sample sites were completed in 3 days without the loss of any gear or equipment.

Wyche and Folcik worked with Norfolk District’s Robert Huntoon, a geotechnical engineer, and Marc Gutterman, an environmental specialist, and their team. The work was in support of a pilot program regarding low-use navigation channels.

According to Huntoon, Horn Harbor and Queens Creek were identified to be the focus of the pilot program looking at the potential of working with local sponsors on having them undertake maintenance dredging of certain channels.



**Tom Wyche, Operations Division, with New York District’s P-5 Vibrocore system while working with Norfolk District in Virginia. (Photo by Mike Folcik, New York District Operations Division)**



**Norfolk District personnel work with equipment borrowed from New York District as they take coring samples in Virginia. (Photo by Mike Folcik, New York District Operations Division)**

The Corps would fund and provide expertise through things like planning, data collection, environmental permitting which would then allow the local sponsor to carry out the dredging.

“Overall, the trip was a great experience,” Wyche said. “We were extremely impressed with the professionalism and hospitality of the Norfolk team and I’m glad we could support the good work they’re doing.”



# Army Corps and partners celebrate 'Estuary Day'

**By Vince Elias, public affairs**

Balancing the Port and the environment are two components of a world class estuary – and on October 14, 2011 an alliance of local partners, with the support of elected officials, conveyed this important initiative to over 200 area students at the 9th annual Estuary Day celebration.



**Melissa Alvarez, biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, staffs a touch tank Oct. 14, 2011 at Estuary Day in Elizabeth, N.J. (Photo by Vince Elias, New York District public affairs)**

Conducted a few yards from the Elizabeth River in the Peterstown Center, students arrived by the bus and participated in an interactive experience complete with visual exhibits, live marine animals collected from the nearby estuary, classroom demonstrations on clean water issues, land usage and the environment.

Orchestrated by Future City Inc., and sponsored by the Elizabeth

River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association, the event's success is attributed to a concerted effort and steadfast partnership with strong local support. Partnering organizations include the City of Elizabeth, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, New York/New Jersey Baykeeper, Kean University, the offices of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, Rep. Donald Payne and Rep. Albio Sires.

The auditorium was filled with students, as the event kicked off at 10 a.m. With the sound of multiple camera shutters clicking, Elizabeth Mayor Bollwage took to the podium and addressed the group as he spoke about the importance of the event followed by brief introductions from participating partners.

Students enjoyed another opportunity to speak openly with Corps experts to better comprehend the history of the harbor estuary and its environmental state.

Lisa Baron, the Chief of the Army Corps' New York Harbor Programs elaborated about how the Army Corps has many roles, and its focus on improving the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary. "This is another great opportunity to learn about the Estuary and educate students about the Corps activities with regard to environmental restoration."

Baron and Kyle Davis, Engineering Division, lectured at the Corps' education workshop sessions about



**New York District Chief of Harbor Programs Lisa Baron and Kyle Davis, engineer, interact with students at the education workshop station Oct. 14, 2011 at Estuary Day in Elizabeth, N.J. (Photo by Vince Elias, New York District public affairs)**

the New York and New Jersey harbor estuary and the significance of balancing the Port and the environment, ecosystem restoration and mitigation, and port activities associated with restoration projects and studies.

"Environmental educational workshops like Estuary Day are tangible manifestations of a year round commitment to environmental education and stewardship within our watershed school consortia," said Michelle McBean, CEO of Future City, Inc. "Dedicated staff from Senator Menendez, Congressman Payne, Congressman Sires, Mayor Bollwage's Office, and the Peterstown Community Center worked closely with all partnering agencies to make this event a superb success. The City of Elizabeth schools' administration and science teachers have worked relentlessly in ensuring the workshops were educationally significant and integrated into their curriculum."



# Army Corps completes Kill Van Kull deepening contract

**By Vince Elias, public affairs**

As part of what is considered to be one of the biggest dredging contracts undertaken in the New York Harbor, the Army Corps completed the last major Kill Van Kull 50 foot deepening contract on September 24, 2011.

The Kill Van Kull is a 4-mile long tidal strait which flows between the borough of Staten Island, New York City and Bayonne, New Jersey and connects Newark Bay with Upper New York Bay and is one of the most heavily travelled waterways in the Port of New York and New Jersey. The waterway's name is derived from the Dutch word 'kille' meaning water channel, and 'Cull' bay referred to by the colonel era British.

To accommodate the passage of ever larger ships the strait has required continued dredging and deepening. The Kill van Kull deepening contract is part of the overall \$1.6 billion New York and New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project to deepen certain channels to 50 feet in order to allow the safe and economically efficient passage of the newest container ships serving the Port.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, dredgers began deepening the channel to a depth of 50 feet



**Three dredges work simultaneously in the Kill Van Kull near the Bayonne Bridge during deepening operations. (File Photo)**

along the bottom of the underwater highway, providing principal access for ocean-going container ships to reach Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal, the busiest port facility in the eastern United States, and the New York Container Terminal at Howland Hook, Staten Island

The first Corps contract' S-KVK-2' was awarded in March 2005 for the Kill Van Kull Channel and construction began west of the Bayonne Bridge and worked eastward through the channel until it was completed between Constable Hook and St. George, Staten Island connecting to the Upper Bay.

During the deepening operation certain areas made up of diabase rock, required drilling and blasting. Underwater explosions were needed to fracture the rock with an excavator which resembles a very large backhoe was used to remove as much rock as possible, then broken up into small pieces and safely removed. In certain areas the sandy bottom was excavated down to rock and in order to deepen the channel, and sand, mud, glacial till, bedrock along the channel floor was removed.

"Working closely with our partners, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and various contractors, we were able to successfully deepen the Kill Van Kull, a complex channel comprised of rock and a variety of sediments," said New York District Commander Col. John R. Boulé. "The deepening

of the Kill Van Kull is a great achievement that enables navigation to several of the ports in the New York and New Jersey area for the largest ships in the world, and the project's completion is a critical milestone in the development of a World-Class Harbor Estuary."

Port Authority Port Commerce Director Richard Larrabee said, "Deepening the harbor channels is a critical part of our strategy to grow the port business, which now supports 269,900 full-time jobs and \$11.2 billion in personal income. Deeper channels, a state-of-the-art on-dock rail system, and a modern port road network will give us the tools we need to continue to compete for international business."

"All Kill Van Kull underwater blasting, excavating and dredged material removal was accomplished without interrupting the vital flow of ships transiting the port," said Lisa Baron, the Army Corps' Chief of Harbor Programs, New York District. The completion of this project demonstrates the Corps' commitment to creating a world-class harbor estuary. Dredgers are currently deepening the Arthur Kill contract area north of Shooters Island in New Jersey waters to ensure a safe depth of 50 feet."

To bring all the area shipping channel depths to 50 feet, further dredging is needed in the Arthur Kill, Ambrose and Bay Ridge channels. The project is cost shared and involves dredging nearly 38 miles of channels between New York and New Jersey to bring them to a depth of 50 feet. The deepening project is scheduled for completion in 2013.



## Around the District

# Bronx ecosystem restoration work begins



Map showing Soundview Park

New York District awarded an approximately \$4 million base contract to begin construction on an ecosystem restoration project in Soundview Park in the Bronx. The project is being done in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

The project will include the excavation of approximately three acres immediately north of the park's lagoon area and the creation of tidal wetlands in its place. Restoring the tidal wetland north of the lagoon will provide habitat for birds and marine life, improve water quality and promote an overall healthier ecosystem.

Fill from the excavation will be used as part of the creation of several acres of wooded and grassland areas to the northwest of the lagoon, which will replace areas that currently have invasive species, debris and other detriments to the ecosystem. Approximately 5,000 new trees will be planted in upland areas north of the tidal wetlands.

The contract contains options for an additional \$1.3 million of restoration work and items such as the construction of a bike path in the restored area as well as an educational station overlooking the tidal wetlands.

## NAD Transfer of Authority

Outgoing commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division, Brig. Gen. Peter "Duke" DeLuca, hands the Army Engineer flag to NAD Acting Commander Col. Christopher Larsen at a transfer of authority ceremony as DeLuca prepares to depart NAD.

DeLuca is leaving the post as commander of NAD, where he has led since April 2009, to take command of the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

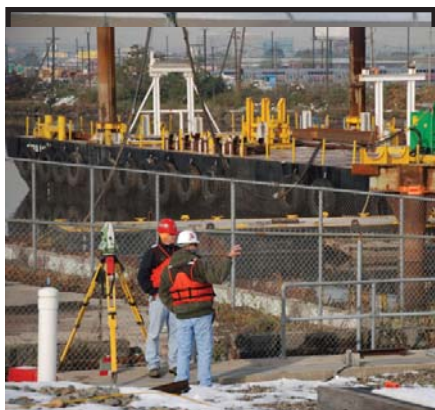
Larsen will command NAD until a permanent successor is chosen to replace DeLuca.

(Photo by Justin Ward, NAD public affairs).



## Around the District

# Corps, EPA announce lower Passaic cleanup



**Crews talk at the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in Newark, N.J. (Photo by Vince Elias, New York District public affairs)**

On Monday, Oct. 31, 2011 the Army Corps, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with elected officials made an announcement at the secured hazardous waste site at the Diamond Alkali Superfund site about work to remove contaminated sediment from the lower Passaic River, in Newark, N.J.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II are overseeing the work being performed at two sites.

Construction crews began work earlier this summer and over the past two months workers have prepared and secured the site floodwall along the Passaic. Work began on construction of a metal sheet pile enclosure in the river. Dredging is scheduled to commence next spring, with all work to be completed by the end of 2012. Contaminated sediment will be dewatered and loaded onto sealed containers for transport off-site for disposal.

Approximately 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be removed beginning in the Spring of 2012 from within a sheet pile enclosure adjacent to the Diamond Alkali site, then piped to a processing facility that will be constructed one quarter mile downstream.

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# Corps dredges Lake Montauk Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, awarded an approximately \$415,000 contract to North America Landscaping, Construction, and Dredge Company (NALCO) of Ellicott City, Md., for the maintenance dredging of the entrance to Lake Montauk Harbor with the beneficial reuse of the dredged sand on nearby West Jetty beach.

The dredging will help restore authorized dimensions to ensure safe navigation for both the large local fishing fleet and U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue vessels based at USCG Station Montauk.

Approximately 15,000-20,000 cubic yards of sand removed from the channel will be placed along the shore just west of west jetty at the entrance to Lake Montauk Harbor.

Commercially, the channel is primarily used for transport of fish, fish products and fuel oil, with average annual fish landings on the order of 6,000 tons of a wide variety of fish. The Coast Guard also relies on a sufficiently deep channel to conduct its critical search and rescue missions, including with its recent addition of the Cutter RIDLEY.

The maintenance dredging began in October and is slated to be completed by the end of the year.



# *Federal Employee News in Brief*

**TSP:** Federal employees will be able to contribute up to \$17,000 to the Thrift Savings Plan in 2012, the IRS said last week. That will be a \$500 increase from the 2011 maximum. The IRS sets the limits for before-tax contributions to the TSP and similar 401(k)-type plans. The catch-up contribution limit that can be contributed by participants who are at least age 50 will remain unchanged at \$5,500.

**FEHB:** President Obama last month announced a proposal that would streamline pharmacy benefits available under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program by allowing the Office of Personnel Management to negotiate prices for all program participants. Under Obama's proposal, which the administration estimates would save \$1.6 billion over 10 years, OPM would work with a single pharmacy benefit manager. Lawmakers have long supported changes to the government's prescription drug program. Observers say the move could limit access to drug choices.

**PENSIONS:** President Obama released a deficit reduction proposal that recommends increasing the amount federal employees contribute to their pensions beginning in 2013. The plan proposes raising the employee contribution rate by 1.2 percent over three years beginning in 2013 -- a rate of 0.4 percent each year during that time. The good news is that after two years without a cost-of-living adjustment, federal retirees will receive a COLA hike in 2012, beginning in their January checks. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System will see a 3.6 percent increase in their annuities, while retirees in the Federal Employees Retirement System will see a 2.6 percent increase.

**FAMILY LEAVE:** The Office of Personnel Management issued final regulations allowing federal employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to help a family member who is in the military and deployed overseas, or who is about to deploy. The regulations, which were published in the Federal Register Sept. 30 and take effect Oct. 31, amend the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover deployments for feds' spouses, sons, daughters or parents. Employees can use sick or annual leave under FMLA, but if they run out, they must take unpaid leave.

**MILITARY:** Obama administration's cost-saving proposal released last month would mandate annual fees under TRICARE-for-Life, which pays beneficiaries' out-of-pocket Medicare costs. Fees would start at \$200 in 2012 and increase annually to align with those paid by all TRICARE enrollees. The proposal also would eliminate pharmacy co-payments for generic mail-order drugs while shifting retail co-pays from a dollar figure to a percentage. The change would affect military families and retirees, but would not apply to active-duty service members. The administration also recommended the creation of a panel to look at reforming military retirement benefits.



## ***BACK TO THE BASICS cont'd from 3***

Confidence is the true belief that you can accomplish the hardest tasks and that kind of confidence ultimately comes from succeeding. It comes from taking the skills you've honed and using the experience you have to make good things happen. A successful year-end builds confidence. Successfully completing more than a billion dollars worth of BRAC work on time builds confidence. Responding effectively and supporting recovery operations when a storm like Irene hits builds confidence. Being able to deliver several temporary school facilities quickly enough that students who have had their lives turned upside down by a tornado can start school on time builds confidence.

More important than past successes though is building upon them. This District has had a pretty amazing and successful year, but we can't rest on our laurels, rather we need to work on ensuring we continue succeeding... and that comes from focusing on the three tenets of building a successful team — competence, confidence and discipline. Let's make sure we make that a top priority in FY12.

# ***Essayons!***



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