

# DISTRICT OBSERVER



Summer 2011

US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Philadelphia District



## ON THE COVER

If this issue of the Observer came with a soundtrack it would probably be that old favorite by Barbra Streisand, "People."

In his column on page 4 the District Commander reflects on the people who make up the Philadelphia District and how their diversity both increases our collective wisdom and enriches our daily lives.

To celebrate this workforce, Tim Boyle gathered a group of photos, mostly shot at random by a roving Rich Pearsall, and fashioned them into a Liberty Bell, that enduring image for all things Philadelphia, including the District. "Out of many, one," the nation's motto goes.

The photos are representative, not comprehensive, so don't be disappointed if you don't find yourself. Fitting all 500 or so District employees would require a much bigger bell.

-The editors

## HOLIDAY PARTY!

A special "heads up" for retirees. The annual Holiday Party will be held at Citizens Bank Park this year, on Dec. 9, from noon to 4pm in the Hall of Fame Club. Retirees wishing to attend should reserve a spot as soon as possible. Employees should wait for later announcement to place their reservations.

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# Diverse? You bet we are

This issue of the Observer finds the District, as usual, with much to celebrate.

More projects have been completed along our coast, at Dover Air Force Base, at Aberdeen Proving Ground and in Afghanistan. The District received a Coastal America Award for its role in restoring and protecting the Lower Cape May Meadows, a virtual paradise for birdwatchers. The deepening of the Delaware River, while still opposed by some, moves ahead supported by science, economics and the courts. Our C4ISR Team received the national U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2011 Project Delivery Team of the Year Merit Award. All are tremendous accomplishments that significantly impact our region and Nation.

But it's people, not projects, that I want to comment about.

I said it a month after arriving. I said it at the Corps of Engineers Day. I'll continue to say it until my final day as your commander: You all amaze me every day. Generally I add, "with all the things you do." But today let me just say that you amaze me simply with who you are.

This Observer's cover celebrates the PEOPLE of the District. Tim Boyle, who is currently working in the Public Affairs Office, put together the collage to illustrate what a unique collection of characters we have working here. We are a diverse bunch, in ways both profound and superficial. "Diversity" has threaded its way into the American culture. It's no longer an add-on or a dictate, but an integral part of the places where we earn a living, a key ingredient in our recipe for success. And while it has become familiar, it's worth thinking about from time to time lest it be taken for granted. Bill Bouyer, our cheerful advisor of the Equal Employment Opportunity Program, certainly doesn't take it lightly.

As a military professional, I've spent my career in a diverse environment. But even placed against that backdrop, the Philadelphia District stands out as exceptional. Being a largely civilian organization opens the District's door to even greater diversity than the uniformed Army.

We are an interesting jumble, the PEOPLE of the Philadelphia District, diverse not just in race, but gender, age, physical challenges, creed, ability and, really, a host of other ways. Look around. You'll see "kids" just out of high school or college working next to senior citizens. White collar types out in the field, blue collar types in cubicles. Biologists with doubts about certain construction projects, engineers with suspicions about biologists. People who have trouble seeing working with people who have trouble hearing. People who are shy, people who can't stop talking. People who smile, people who don't. People who work at a frantic pace and those that simply roll with the flow.

The Public Affairs Office, I'm assured, is committed to telling these individual stories on a regular basis, in the Observer, on the intranet, and in videos. It's all part of getting to know one another. We are of necessity divided into different divisions and branches and committed first and foremost to getting our jobs done. But we do have time to appreciate one another and be grateful. It's said of schools and colleges that students learn more from each other than their teachers. Something similar could be said of the Philadelphia District.

I look forward to my second year of command and getting to know each of you a little better!

You all amaze me every day... with who you are! 🏠



**Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III**

# District supports MilCon at Tobyhanna

By Steve Rochette



The Corps' Baltimore District built the 78,000-square-foot C4ISR Finishing Center at Tobyhanna. It is designed to expand and modernize the depot's capacity to repair, refinish and apply protective coatings to large, tactical C4ISR systems maintained by Tobyhanna for the U.S. military.

The District welcomed 10 new employees to its ranks in March as the staff of the Tobyhanna Army Depot Resident Engineer Office formally transitioned to the Philadelphia District team.

The Army Corps of Engineers opened the Resident Engineer Office at Tobyhanna Army Depot in 1985. The Resident Engineer Office has always operated under the Baltimore District and served a variety of missions, including civil works and regulatory enforcement. Now, it manages military construction projects for the installation's Department of Public Works.

In April of 2010, the North Atlantic Division decided projects and staff would be managed out of Philadelphia.

"We welcome the new mission and the great group of folks that are joining our team," said Philadelphia District Commander Lt. Col. Philip Secrist. "Tobyhanna is an important facility for our military."

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the largest full-service electronics maintenance facility in the Department of Defense. They repair everything from radios to



Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Defense Department's largest center for the repair, overhaul and fabrication of a wide variety of electronics systems and components, from tactical field radios to the ground terminals for the defense satellite communications network

night vision goggles.

"The District is identifying the future workload," said Lt. Col. Secrist. "But we're looking forward to providing quality services and a quality product. We also value the capabilities we'll gain as a District by working with them."

As Resident Engineer, Jim Harbert manages the 10 employees on site. He plans to adjust to small changes, but said it's the same Army Corps running things.


"I'm going to have to learn some new faces, names and probably some subtle differences in Standard Operating Procedures and processes, but otherwise we will be executing the mission in the same way," said Harbert.



The Philadelphia District began supporting military construction efforts at Tobyhanna Army Depot this year. The installation first opened in 1953 and is home to 5,600 personnel.

The Resident Engineer Office has constructed many different buildings on post from family housing facilities to electronic maintenance shops. The team is currently completing an \$8.4 million radar test range. One of the larger projects is the \$23.46 million C4ISR Finishing Center, which will enable personnel to repair, refinish and apply protective coatings to equipment. The facility is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2011.

In recent years, the depot's support to Overseas Contingency Operations has increased, as their team repairs survival radios, Blue Force Tracking GPS systems, and a variety of other critical communications equipment. Tobyhanna also operates a number of Forward Repair Activities around the world.

Tobyhanna Army Depot first opened in 1953, although the Army has had a continuous presence at the location since 1912. The installation encompasses about 1,300 acres and the total value of land facilities is estimated at \$1.28 billion. It is the largest employer in the Pocono Region of Pennsylvania with approximately 5,800 personnel. 

# TOBYHANNA



# Wounded warrior finds healing and fun at F.E. Walter

## HUNTS FOR HEALING

Healing wounded warriors with outdoor challenges

By Steve Rochette

A wounded warrior, his family and a group of military mentors camped at the Francis E. Walter Dam for five nights this summer as part of the first camping trip organized by Hunts for Healing, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping wounded servicemembers.

The Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District helped host the Hunts for Healing group, which aims to heal physical and emotional wounds through outdoor recreation.

"We're all about healing and being outdoors can make a tremendous difference," said Mindy Picotti, co-founder of the organization. "It helps us get in touch with our spiritual side and enables servicemembers to focus their attention on fishing, hunting and other activities."

Juan Rivera and his wife, Maria, and three children, Justin, Oseas and John, arrived at the Francis E. Walter Dam June 8. They camped in tents in the pavilion area adjacent to the F.E. Walter Maintenance Building and participated in numerous outdoor activities including fishing, white-water rafting, biking and geocaching (scavenger hunts with GPS technology).

"We had a blast and did things we hadn't done before," said Rivera, who was wounded in 2004 in Iraq while deployed as a gunner with the 1st Infantry Division. His unit's vehicle was traveling in a convoy and went off road, injuring his shoulder and back and placing him on bed rest.

Now, he works as a civilian at Fort Hamilton, NY and is in the Wounded Warrior program. He added having the opportunity to be with family and fellow servicemembers made the camping trip a positive experience.



Juan Rivera and his family participated in the first camping trip organized by Hunts for Healing, an organization dedicated to helping wounded warriors. Philadelphia District personnel from the Francis E. Walter Dam (right side) partnered with Hunts for Healing to host the trip.

Retired Master Sgt. Larry White organized the event with the help of Army Reservist Sgt. Rebekah Hasselman; Army Reservist Sgt. Michael Pirog and Mike Dreisch, a former Marine and veteran of the Gulf War.

"I retired, but this is one way for me to keep serving," said White. "The best part about this program is being around other soldiers because we have a common understanding of each other's experiences."

The other mentors said they greatly benefitted from the experience.

"This is great for Wounded Warriors and their families," said Sgt. Hasselman. "But the mentors get a lot out of this too. Many of us have deployed and are dealing with our own issues as well."

Hunts for Healing holds its events at the Ringneck Ridge Hunting Preserve and Lodge in Laceyville, Penn. where wounded warriors participate in hunts every year alongside military mentors. The camping trip marked the first event away from the facility, but Picotti hopes to make an annual tradition and have up to six families participate next year.




John Rivera shows off his catch after a fishing trip with family during a camping trip sponsored by Hunts for Healing and supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Photos by Steve Rochette

"The Army Corps of Engineers has been great," she said. "They've done everything they can to support us."

F.E. Walter Dam Tenders Dave Williams, Josh Dinko and Brett Anderton learned about the organization through their contact with Pheasants Forever. They decided they could help accommodate a camping trip because of space in the pavilion area and the easy access to outdoor activities.

"We had quite a bit to offer them and groups like Whitewater Challenges had interest in supporting as well," said Head Dam Tender Dave Williams. "Everything worked out well."

The F.E. Walter team helped the group obtain temporary fishing licenses and worked with Whitewater Challenges and other local businesses that supported the activities. 

For more information, visit

<http://www.huntsforhealing.org/>



# Blue Marsh Lake trails receive national recognition



Blue Marsh Lake offers 30 miles of trails open to biking, hiking and all other non-motorized use. They recently received national recognition from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

By Steve Rochette

The multipurpose trail system of Blue Marsh Lake received designation as a National Recreation Trail by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Kenneth Salazar during a ceremony June 2.

The trail system is one of 41 trails around the country being recognized by the National Park Service.

"This is recognition for all of the hard work of staff and numerous volunteer organizations to create a fabulous outdoor opportunity for the public," said Blue Marsh Lake Natural Resource Manager John Cave. "We're proud and honored to receive the designation."

National Recreation Trails may be designated to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance. The program's goal is to promote the use and care of existing trails and stimulate development to create a national network and realize the vision of "Trails for All Americans."


The Blue Marsh Lake multi-use trail is a 29.7-mile trail that encircles the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Blue Marsh Lake project. It is located in Berks County in Southeastern Pennsylvania and is open to all non-motorized use, including hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

The trail was constructed over a period of years by Army Corps of Engineers employees, local volunteers such as Scouting groups, local school classes, civic groups and community service workers. The Army Reserve 333rd Engineer Company has used the trail for their monthly training exercises and in the process has graded and improved the trail surface. In 1995, the editors of *Bicycling Magazine* listed the Blue Marsh multi-use trail as one of the best single-track mountain biking trails in the United States.

There are many other recreational opportunities at Blue Marsh Lake in addition to the multi-use trail, including hunting, dog-walking and bird-watching.

## USACE Recreation Strategic Plan

In May, the Army Corps of Engineers released a Recreation Strategic Plan that seeks to transform and reposition the recreation program while maintaining its role as a major federal, water-based recreation provider.

The Corps hosts more than 370 million visits annually at its 422 lake and river projects in 43 states. Visitation has steadily increased in recent years resulting in increased demands on the agency. 



# Corps' top civilian comes calling

By Richard Pearsall



In top photos, Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy tours the fish ladder on the Schuylkill River. Below she is briefed on the necessity for maintenance dredging and beach restoration at the Cape May Coast Guard Base.

Photos by Steve Rochette & Tim Boyle

Pursuing her stated objective of visiting every district in the Army Corps, Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy journeyed north this spring to tour the Philadelphia District.


Ms. Darcy combined travel with site-seeing on her way to Philadelphia, viewing the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the Delaware River from the Army helicopter that transported her from Washington to Philadelphia April 14. Chief of Operations Tony DePasquale accompanied the secretary on the flight, explaining how the canal fosters shipping between Philadelphia and Baltimore and pointing out the five bridges that the District owns and operates across the canal. Flying up the Delaware gave DePasquale a chance to show Ms. Darcy the scope of the 90-mile long deepening project. Once in Philadelphia, Ms. Darcy received a more detailed briefing on the deepening project from its local sponsor, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, as well as District officials.

After a working lunch at which Ms. Darcy was briefed on the challenges of the Corps' planning process and how it might be shortened without sacrificing effectiveness, the assistant secretary visited the Marine Design Center, where Director William F. Gretzmacher III elaborated on the services this unique center of expertise provides, keeping the Army Corps' vast "floating plant" up to date.

From there it was off to the Schuylkill River and tours of the trail at the Schuylkill River Park and the fish ladder at the dam that spans the river at the site of the old Philadelphia Water Works, two projects in which the District played a vital role.

Friday the entourage, led by the District commander, Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III and including Lt. Col. Thomas Tickner, former District commander and now an aide to Darcy, headed for the Jersey Shore. First stop was Stone Harbor and Avalon, site of a beach

replenishment project aimed at repairing damage done by the Nor'easter of 2009. Then it was on to Cape May for lunch at the Coast Guard base, a tour of parts of the base plagued by erosion and a plea from the base commander for the Army Corps to continue pumping sand on to the base to combat the erosion.

Ms. Darcy completed her two-day visit with a trip to Cape May Point. There she presented a Coastal America Award to the Philadelphia District and its partners in protecting and restoring the Lower Cape May Meadows. In presenting the award she took the opportunity to cite the area as a good example of what President Obama has been promoting in his "America's Great Outdoors" initiative. 





# Restoring Cape May gem garners Coastal America Award

By Richard Pearsall

Birds love the Lower Cape May Meadows. Nestled between Cape May City and Cape May Point, the Meadows constitute the perfect stopover spot for birds migrating along the Atlantic flyway as they either prepare for or recuperate from the long flight over the Delaware Bay.

So its no surprise that birdwatchers love the place too. "One of the most celebrated destinations in the world for birdwatchers," Pete Dunne, director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, says of the Cape May Peninsula.

For its role in restoring and protecting the Meadows, the Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers was honored this spring.

Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, journeyed to Cape May to present a Coastal America Award to the five agencies --- federal, state and local ---- that joined forces to ensure that the Meadows continues to be a natural treasure.

A stiff wind blowing in from the ocean forced the ceremony off the hawk platform at Cape May Point State Park and down to more sheltered ground below. But spirits remained high as Darcy presented the presidential award to the five partners: The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection; the Nature Conservancy, the non-profit group that owns a large portion of the Meadows; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the borough of Cape May Point; in addition to the Army Corps.

The partners restored the beach and berms in front of the freshwater wetlands and rehabilitated the wetlands themselves, which had been degraded by saltwater intrusion and the spread of invasive species such as phragmites.

Darcy praised the partners for their respective roles and singled out a number of individuals for special recognition, including Dwight Pakan, the Corps' project manager for beach replenishment in the area; and Beth Brandreth, the Corps biologist who oversaw the design and planning of the wetlands restoration.


"Working together you have restored a 1.3-mile long, 350-acre area of undeveloped oceanfront land," Darcy told the partners. "Your project team has restored eroded beachfront and restored and protected wetlands that were severely degraded through saltwater intrusion. As a direct result of your efforts the Lower Cape May Meadows survives as an internationally significant coastal freshwater wetland and one of the most important migratory bird stopovers in the world."

Prior to the awards ceremony, Darcy joined a bird walk hosted by the State Park, giving her a chance to see firsthand the scope and vitality of the restored area. A third of the Meadows lies within the state park, the remaining two-thirds in land owned by the Nature Conservancy.

Joining Darcy on the tour, and as a speaker at the awards ceremony, was Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III, commander of the Philadelphia District. Also on hand was Lt. Col. Thomas Tickner, former commander in Philadelphia and now an aide to the assistant secretary of the Army.

Virginia K. Tippie, the director of Coastal America, presided over the ceremony and offered warm words of welcome and praise to the participants.

The Coastal America Partnership consists of 16 federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Energy and Labor and the Environmental Protection Agency, which consult and collaborate on ways to protect and improve the coastal environment.

In addition to taking a tour and presenting the award, Darcy took the opportunity to discuss America's Great Outdoors, President Obama's effort to call attention to natural treasures such as the Lower Cape May Meadows and encourage Americans to get out and enjoy them. 



Lt. Col. Philip Secrist accepts Coastal America Award, presented by Top Corps Civilian Jo Ellen Darcy.

Photo by Tim Boyle



# When duty calls ---- here or ab

By Steve Rochette



Bob Hill, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District, surveys the tornado-stricken landscape of Joplin, MO during a break in debris removal operations July 24.



Perry Copes, a mechanic with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District, gives instructions to a contractor during debris removal operations in Joplin, Mo. July 24. Copes is one of more than 300 Corps employees who volunteered to support federal recovery operations after an EF-5 tornado ripped through the city May 22.

The Philadelphia District deployed 37 personnel in the spring and summer of 2011 to support emergency response efforts around the country. This marks the most since the Hurricane Katrina response.

Deployments began at the end of April when the Power Planning and Response Team traveled to Alabama after devastating tornadoes affected numerous communities. The team is staffed by Philadelphia District personnel and is one of seven national response power teams around the country. Most of the 18 people who deployed were assigned to Maxwell Air Force Base and assisted with contracting the installation of generators for sewer pumps, water pumps and command posts.

Another 12 employees deployed to Joplin, Mo. to support a FEMA-assigned debris mission following a tornado that killed more than 150 people. Other employees supported flood fighting efforts along the Missouri River and the Mississippi River and tornado recovery in Massachusetts. The District's Emergency Management Office handled the increased workload supporting all of the individuals who deployed.

Photos U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## **Alabama**

Robert Kleint  
Marc Wallowicz  
Danny Doerr  
Boyd Moser  
Paulson Vayaliparambil  
Edward Bonner  
Derek Burleigh  
Richard Dayton  
Gerald Delaney  
Adriana Dunaway  
Travis Fatzinger  
Mark Gaughan  
Michael Kelly  
Megan McMullen  
Lawrence Quinn  
Robert Ransome  
James Rogy  
James Ryan  
Clarence Snapp  
Harry Steiner



The Emergency Power Planning and Response Team, based out of The Philadelphia District, deployed to Alabama in support of tornado recovery efforts.

## **Springfield, Mass.**

Joseph  
Hollshwander  
**Memphis, Tenn.**  
Steve Rochette  
**Omaha, Neb.**  
Sarah Rivette  
Michael Bartles  
Tricia North  
Robert Phillips  
**Joplin, Mo.**  
Robert Hill  
Robert Ransome  
Steve Long  
Richard Dayton  
Joe Cieslak  
Steve Long  
Eric Majusiak  
Clarence Snapp  
Jose Caraballo  
Perry Copes  
Timothy Moore



# broad ---- Philadelphia answers

## Overseas Contingency Operations



Marguerite Amon  
Afghanistan



Francisco Barba  
Afghanistan



Paul Burke  
Afghanistan



Charles Davis  
Afghanistan



Patrick Dougherty  
Afghanistan



Lanier Drake  
Afghanistan



Dan Fitzpatrick  
Afghanistan



Jim Heasty  
Afghanistan



Cesar Lopez  
Afghanistan



Charles Loupe  
Afghanistan



Jack Markland  
Afghanistan



Steve Osbourne  
Afghanistan



Larry Piazza  
Afghanistan



Cherita Williams  
Afghanistan



Ken Rimmey  
Iraq



# From Surf City to Fenwick Island, beaches get a lift

By Steve Rochette

Coastal work has been in full-swing in 2011 as the Philadelphia District works to restore beaches from Long Beach Island in New Jersey all the way to Fenwick Island in Delaware.

The District is repairing existing federal projects in Delaware and New Jersey by putting sand back on beaches that had been lost from erosion.

The process to restore the beaches began in November of 2009 when a strong nor'easter battered beaches along the New Jersey and Delaware coasts. A disaster declaration was issued for the region and the two states asked for assistance under the Corps' National Flood Control & Coastal Emergency Program, prompting the District to survey the beaches and assess the damage.

The FCCE program is a Corps-operated fund that enables Districts to repair completed projects damaged from extraordinary storm events. With coastal projects, that means restoring them to pre-storm conditions by placing sand onto the shore and dune system, as well as repairing dune cross-overs, sand fencing and plantings associated with a project.

"Generally, the projects held up pretty well," said Frank Master, Chief of Civil Works Program Branch. "But the damages impacted their ability to protect public and private infrastructure from future storm events."

The District produced and submitted reports on 11 coastal projects. Corps headquarters determined seven of the projects were eligible for repair under the FCCE Program.

"Getting the projects funded through the FCCE program is very significant because some scheduled renourishments haven't been funded through annual appropriations in recent years," said Master. "So this funding provides another opportunity to repair the beaches to pre-storm conditions and provide some much needed storm damage reduction benefits."

## Measuring the damage

The District's Coastal Planning Section led the effort to write reports on the damages.

"One of the things we knew early on is there's no single accepted measure of nor'easter storm severity," said Jeff Gebert, chief of Coastal Planning Section.

Based on tide gauge data, the planning team determined the November 2009 storm produced the 20th highest water level at Atlantic City during the last century; however there are other factors that contribute to damages.

The Coastal Planning team relied on recent research from the Stevens Institute of Technology. The research integrates several parameters in order to develop an objective, standardized method to quantify and rank storm intensity and damage potential. The parameters include storm duration, beach slope, peak wave height, and maximum water level.

The research tool indicated the storm was the second most powerful storm event of the past 20 years for the mid-Atlantic region after the December 1992 event.

## Restoring the beaches

Work started in Delaware with a combined contract to restore the three existing projects along the coast – Bethany and South Bethany Beach; Rehoboth and Dewey Beach; and Fenwick Island.

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company was awarded the contract for \$22.7 million to place approximately one million cubic yards of sand back onto the beaches. They started pumping sand onto Bethany Beach in January, completed work there, finished work at Fenwick Island and will return to finish at Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches and South Bethany.

"Delaware has been very grateful to get this project for protection purposes and also for local recreation and tourism interests," said Paula Retzler, project manager for Delaware coastal projects.


In New Jersey, the District is restoring beaches at Surf City on Long Beach Island; Brigantine Island; Atlantic City and Ventnor on Absecon Island; and Avalon and Stone Harbor on Seven Mile Island – each through a separate contract.

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company was awarded contracts for the projects on Absecon Island and Seven Mile Island while Weeks Marine Inc. completed work on Long Beach Island.

The work to restore the beaches has not been without challenges.

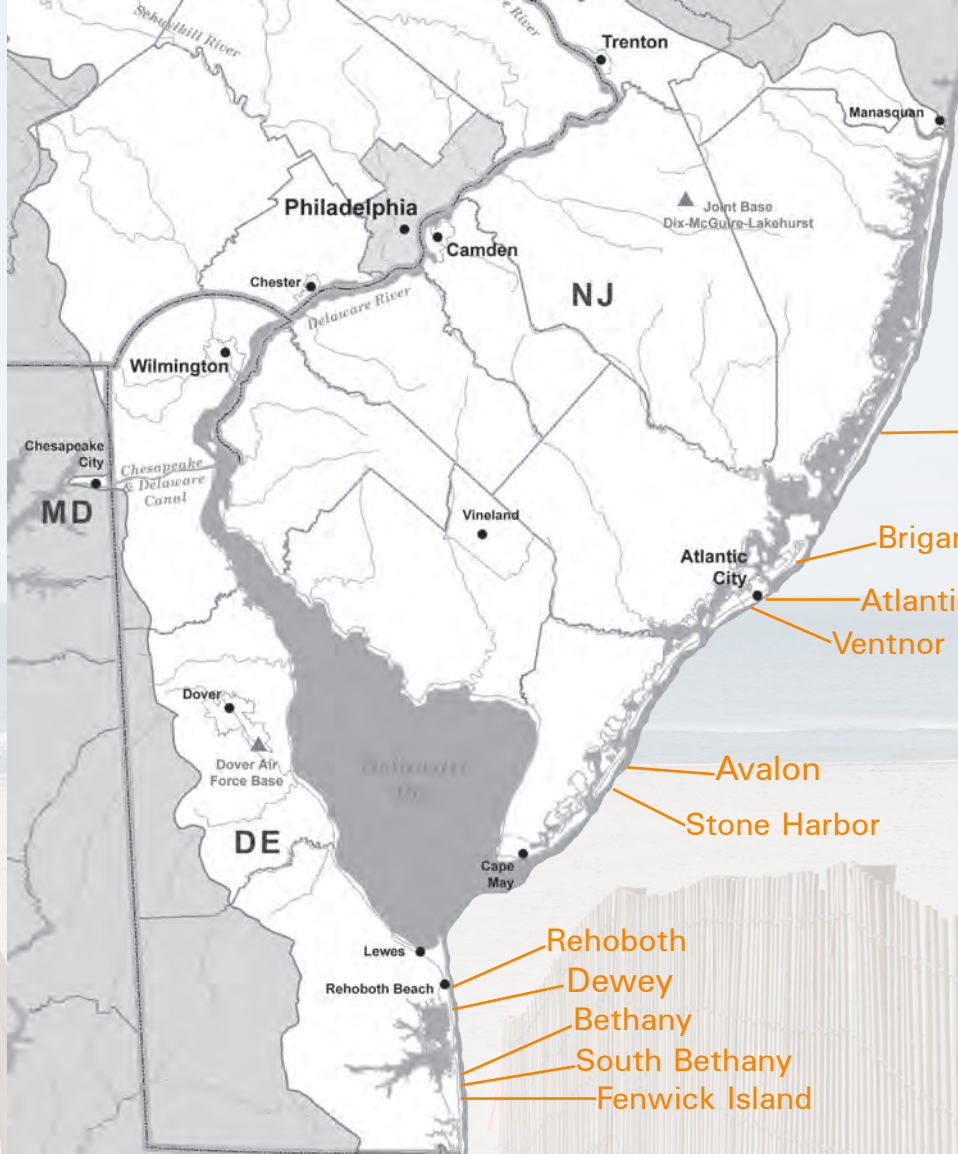
"With any coastal project, we try to avoid scheduling work during the summer peak season," said Master. "Getting these projects approved and funded was a significant accomplishment and an overall team effort."

Emergency Management Office, Planning Division, Engineering and Construction Division, Operations Division, Programs & Project Management Division, Contracting Division and the Office of Counsel all played roles during the process. For their efforts, this multi-disciplinary Project Delivery Team was awarded the Philadelphia District's Internal Partnering Award for 2010.

Coastal work will continue in the fall of 2011 as the Army Corps of Engineers release a work plan with approximately \$60 million in funding for District projects in New Jersey and Delaware. The District plans to award contracts before the end of the 2011 fiscal year. 







Corps contractors restoring beaches at Atlantic City and Ventnor, N.J. this summer.



Photos by Ed Voigt



# MDC helping Coast Guard design new inland fleet

By Richard Pearsall

What do the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard have in common?

Boats, for one thing. Lots of boats.

So when Leaders of the two storied military organizations met last year and agreed to pursue joint ventures, one of the first initiatives to bear fruit was an agreement signed right here in Philadelphia.

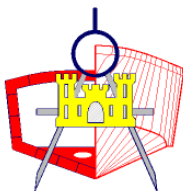
Rear Admiral Ronald Rabago, the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Acquisition, and William F. Gretzmacher III, Director of the Corps' Marine Design Center, agreed to cooperate in developing a plan to replace the Coast Guard's aging inland fleet.

The average age of the 35 vessels that constitute the Coast Guard's inland fleet is upwards of 45 years. The "queen" of the fleet, the cutter Smilax, is 66 years old, having begun its service as a construction tender during World War II. The fleet also lacks standardization, with nine subclasses within the three basic types of craft: River tenders, buoy tenders and construction tenders.

The Coast Guard's attention and resources have been focused in recent years on deepwater activities ---oil spills, drug interdictions, and overseas deployments ---and the vessels that fulfill those missions.

Enter the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with the design of an inland fleet.

The Corps owns and operates 2,500 vessels, many of them small, riverine craft.



**Marine Design Center**



Rear Admiral Ronald Rabago, USCG, left, and MDC Director William F. Gretzmacher III make it official

Photo by Steve Rochette

Keeping that fleet running and up-to-date is the responsibility of the Marine Design Center, the Corps' go-to center for help with everything from repairing old vessels to designing new ones.

The \$850,000 Individual Support Agreement signed in March allows the Marine Design Center to "provide technical support and design expertise for the evaluation of alternative concepts to replace the existing Coast Guard inland fleet."

Speaking of the project, which kicked off in April and will continue into next year, Gretzmacher emphasizes its cooperative nature and the fact that both organizations stand to gain.


"We're here to supplement their engineering capability based on our experience with the inland river system," Gretzmacher said. "That's what our mission has been. The bulk of their recent experience has been with coastal projects ---'blue water' craft. We've been involved more with 'brown' water projects. Any time engineering organizations work together there's an automatic exchange of experience. Every one learns something from the other party."

The MDC chief noted that there are a number of other organizations that work

with floating plant, among them the Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Military Sealift Command and the Maritime Administration.

"The potential for cooperation is there," said Gretzmacher, who noted that such work is welcome and fits in with the Corps' stated objectives of "increasing technical ability and efficiency" and "recruiting and retaining a strong team of personnel."

Leading the Corps' team on the Coast Guard project are Gregory Lee, the chief naval architect, Tim Keyser, senior naval architect and Nick Hirannet, the project manager.

Hirannet reported in July that the team had nearly completed work on a concept for a tow boat and was beginning work on a concept for a barge. It will also be looking at the feasibility of installing hybrid, diesel-electric power plants on board the inland craft and at the possibility of building single-hull craft that would combine tow boat and barge in one vessel. 





# River unites District, museum



Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III signs the Comber over to museum.

By Richard Pearsall

One of the first exhibits a visitor to the Independence Seaport Museum encounters is entitled “Fighting the Elements.” Through words, pictures and models it explores the various challenges man faces keeping the Delaware River open to navigation. Breaking ice. Maintaining wharves and piers. Clearing sediment from the bottom.

Front and center in the exhibit is a model of the Dredge Comber, an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopper dredge that from 1947 to 1982 helped maintain the depth of the shipping channel of the Delaware at 40 feet.

Long on loan to the Philadelphia museum, the model was officially deeded to it in June as part of a refurbishment of the whole “Fighting the Elements” exhibit.

Lt. Col. Philip M. Secrist III, commander of the Philadelphia District of the Corps, and John Brady, interim chief executive officer of the museum, signed the transfer document at a ceremony at the museum. Looking on were employees of the Corps and the museum and members of the Dredge Operators Association, a group of Corps personnel in town for a conference at the Hyatt hotel.

Following the ceremony the guests were treated to an “insiders” tour of the USS Olympia, the cruiser that served as Commodore George Dewey’s flagship during the battle of Manila and was the site of the famous “You may fire when ready, Gridley” order Dewey issued to the captain of the ship, Charles Gridley.

In addition to touring the main deck, the bridge, the officers’ and enlisted men’s quarters, the guests were treated to a below decks visit to the engine and boiler rooms of the 19th century warship.




District Commander takes the helm of the Olympia.



Model of Dredge Comber.

Photos by Richard Pearsall

The updating of the “Fighting the Elements” exhibit was carried out under the direction of museum curator Craig Bruns with the help of Tony DePasquale, operations chief for the Philadelphia District, and Jim Amadio, the operations manager for the Hopper Dredge McFarland, the Comber’s successor.

At the June ceremony CEO Brady and Lt. Col. Secrist expressed hope for more cooperative ventures in the future, noting their organizations’ shared interest in the Delaware as a vital contributor to Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. 



# Welcome to the District

By Richard Pearsall

## Curtis Heckelman: Deputy District Engineer; Chief of PPMD



Having spent the better part of the last decade overseas --- in Egypt, Iraq and Korea --- the District's new top civilian is looking forward to settling into the City of Brotherly Love.

"It really feels like coming home," Curtis Heckelman said in an interview shortly after taking over as the Deputy District Engineer, noting that he started with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in another old city with a similar atmosphere.

Heckelman joined the Corps in 1998 in Baltimore, making the move to the public sector from Stone and Webster Engineering, where he was working as a senior environmental engineer.

More recently he has worked as Chief of the Corps' Egypt office; as Deputy for Programs and Project Management in Iraq; and as Chief of the Relocation Program in Korea.

A look at his educational background provides a clue to his varied interests.

He earned his bachelor's degree in naval architecture and marine engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's in engineering management from George Washington University. By going to school nights and weekends, he also picked up a degree in culinary arts from the Baltimore International Culinary College.

"I always wanted to cook," he said, speaking of a desire rooted in his childhood on a farm in Milan, Ohio (pronounced MY-lan, population about 1,000). How that interest evolved is a story for another day. Suffice it to say for now that it had something to do with rising before dawn to milk the cows.

Heckelman, his wife, Karen, and their two children, Ian, 5, and Eva, 2, are looking for a residence, or were as of this writing. "We're truly enjoying exploring all of Philly and the surrounding areas during the great adventure known as house hunting," he said.

The biggest challenge he foresees for the District will be to "maintain and grow our program" in the current economic climate. He looks forward to getting to know the team that will carry out that goal, a team that extended him a warm welcome.

"I am a people person and I have already found that the District is a very friendly place to be."

## Kishayra Lambert: Chief of Contracting



Kishayra Lambert comes to Philadelphia from the Army Contracting Command in Aberdeen Proving Ground where she was responsible for one of the largest multiple award task order contracts for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) services known as Strategic Services Sourcing. Providing engineering, logistics, and business operations support to Army Team C4ISR during a Base Realignment and Closure required a sophisticated approach. And so did arranging and executing the \$19.25 billion dollar program that it took to get the job done.

Among the other areas that Lambert worked on at Aberdeen were major weapons systems, radars, services and research and development. In her final assignment at Aberdeen she was responsible for coordinating and implementing information technology in support of the contracting process.



Lambert began her career with the government in 2000 as an Outstanding Scholar with the Defense Logistics Agency. She held various positions with that agency, including Supervisory Contract Specialist, until moving to the Army and Aberdeen in 2008.

In her new job as chief of contracting for the Philadelphia District, she views training as both her biggest challenge and her greatest source of satisfaction. Both the policies governing contracting and the technology needed to implement them are constantly changing. She is resolved to help her 31 employees stay on top of that evolution.

"If we understand the regulations we are carrying out, if we understand that there are reasons for them, then we are empowered. With things changing all the time the danger is you get to the point where you feel you can't catch up."

Lambert has long made education a priority. A Philadelphia native, she graduated from LaSalle in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Sociology. "I originally thought of becoming an FBI agent," she said.

She went on to earn a Master of Business Administration degree, in management, from Regis University and is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Contract Management. She expects to receive that degree this September from the Naval Postgraduate School.

In her "spare" time, Lambert owns an event planning company which she started in 2004 called Dream-Real Events that she runs out of her home in Delaware, and is also interested in modeling for print publications.

## Paula Klotzbach: Chief of Counsel



She's been an attorney in private practice and in the public sector. She was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps before she began working for the Army as a civilian. She was a prosecutor both in the Navy and as an Assistant U.S. attorney. She's worked on the East Coast and the West Coast, in the North and the South, and closer to the "heartland" when she returned for a time to work in her native West Virginia. She even served a stint as a legal advisor to that most news-generating of all federal agencies, the Transportation Security Administration.

Yet with all that experience, Paula Klotzbach is eager to learn new aspects of her profession. In a recent interview, she described her principal challenge as the District's new chief counsel as mastering the details of what makes the District unique, the projects and programs, and peculiarities of the legal issues.


"I'd say I'm still on a learning curve," Klotzbach said.

A veteran of one Corps District and one Corps Division, Klotzbach is accustomed to dealing with procurement, civil works and employment issues. She finds the Philadelphia District particularly demanding on the environmental front. The litigation swirling around the Delaware Deepening requires constant monitoring, as well as legal developments surrounding the issue of "fracking" (a technique that uses water to extract natural gas from shale) in the Delaware River Basin.

"By working closely with the other attorneys in the Philadelphia District, North Atlantic Division, and Headquarters, it is my hope to build upon the strengths of Philadelphia District's legal team and ensure that the legal team continues to provide expert legal support to the Philadelphia District."

Klotzbach was raised in West Virginia and went to college there before going on to law school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Graduating in 1999 with her Doctor of Jurisprudence, she joined the Navy as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps. Much of her time in the Navy was spent at Naval Station Mayport, near Jacksonville, Fla.

Klotzbach served as an assistant division counsel with the Corps' South Pacific Division, and before that, as an Assistant District Counsel with the Los Angeles District, before joining the Philadelphia District as District Counsel in December 2010.

"There is such a close knit group of teammates working in the Philadelphia District. It feels like you're part of a family when you step off the elevators. It is nice to come to work in a place where everyone cares so much about one another. I feel lucky to be a small part of the Philadelphia team." 

Photos by Richard Pearsall



# Safety's not his only passion

By Richard Pearsall

Long before he began reminding people to be careful, Bill Bartel was drawing pictures of them.

"I think I was about eight," Bartel, the District's Chief of Safety and Occupational Health, recalled about the start of his other career as an artist.

"I used to like to draw the comics in the newspapers. My father always read the papers, the Bulletin and the Inquirer. I would draw every box in every cartoon."

Growing up in South Philadelphia --- 27th and Tasker, to be precise ---- Bartel did not receive any formal art training. But he never stopped drawing, a pastime that he took with him when he joined the U.S. Navy at age 18.

The guided missile destroyer he was serving on in the early 1960s put into a northern European port around Christmas time one year as part of a "show the flag" tour. As a radar man, Bartel worked in the Combat Information Center, a room with lots of Plexiglas screens on which various data and courses would normally be plotted with a grease pencil. Bartel wiped off the grease and painted Christmas scenes, much to the delight of the visitors touring the warship.



Untitled Landscape, oil on canvas 16" x 20".

**"I use scenes  
for inspiration"**



Untitled Landscape, oil on canvas 24" x 18".

Today he paints mostly in oil and landscapes remain his favorite subject.

"I'm more into realism. I try to make things look like they are." Which is not to say that his objective is the same as a photographer's.

"I use scenes for inspiration," he said. "A picture may not come out looking like what inspired it in the first place."

Andrew Wyeth, the late great painter of the people and places around his home in Chadds Ford, Pa., is Bartel's favorite artist.

Today Bartel paints for both pleasure and profit, working out of a studio in his home in Deptford, N.J. Employees in the District know his work from the many drawings and cards he has done for those about to retire as well as for his oil paintings. He is also an avid woodworker, turning out crafts from the shop set up in his garage.

While he has done a number of portraits and still entertains requests to do them, they are not his favorite pursuit.

"Portraits are a struggle for me. They take a lot of underpainting, a lot of understanding of anatomy, which I've never studied."



# BARTEL

"Besides, they don't always come out the way people think they should. I'm trying to make people feel good with my art, not upset them."

Stress is something Bartel deals with all the time --- his own as well as others'. As safety director for the District, Bartel is charged with doing whatever he can to promote the safety and well being of District personnel as well as the public that is impacted by District operations.

Stress is a key part of that and for Bartel, there's nothing like painting to reduce it.

"When I get painting I get so involved I'm not thinking about all the things that cause stress."

Bartel's interest in art, ironically, is one big reason he's in safety today.

After 10 years in the Navy, Bartel, married by then and with a growing family, decided to return to Philadelphia and civilian life. He learned pipefitting at the Atlantic refinery in South Philadelphia, then took his trade to DuPont's Chambers Works in Deepwater, N.J.

"The engineer I was working for there got an assignment to do safety," Bartel said. "He was going to run the safety program and wanted someone with artistic ability to help him develop a series of billboards. He knew I was artistic."

Bartel's been working in safety ever since, first with DuPont, later for 17 years at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. He moved up Broad Street to take over the safety program for the Army Corps in 1995.

Now 72, the father of five children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, Bartel looks back on all those years of drawing and painting with some wonder. It was more than 60 years ago that he first picked up a pencil and began copying the comics from the funny pages of the newspapers.

He continues to enjoy a little game that he started with his kids and now plays with their kids and their kids again.

"They'll scribble something on a piece of paper. I'll make something of it. Its fun watching what turns up."



Photo by Richard Pearsall



Swan, oil on canvas, 11" x 14".



Untitled Landscape, oil on canvas 16" x 20".



# McFarland gets biggest overhaul in

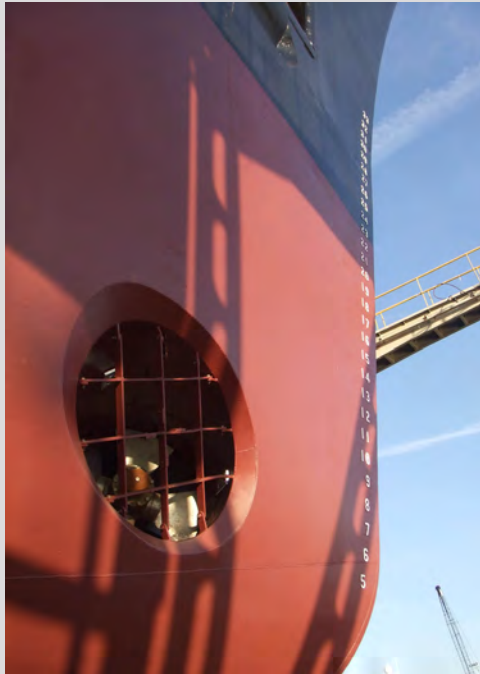
The Hopper Dredge McFarland returned home at the end of July, having completed the largest overhaul in its history at the Colonna Shipyard in Norfolk, Va. With a new electrical system, rebuilt engines and several fresh coats of paint, among other improvements, the McFarland took up station in the Delaware Bay and began putting its new gear through its paces.

The dredge will be doing maintenance dredging in the Delaware River, from Philadelphia to the sea, through September.

The McFarland was both wet berthed and dry docked during its stay in Norfolk, from February through July. The most complex and most urgent component of the overhaul entailed the replacement and upgrade of the vessel's electrical and dredging control systems, systems which had not had major improvements since the vessel was commissioned in 1967.

The electrical and dredging control system upgrades included:

- Replacement of the main switchboards and the dredge pump motor speed controls
- Replacement of the drag arm motors and drag arm hoisting controls
- Replacement of analog engine monitoring equipment with electronic monitoring devices




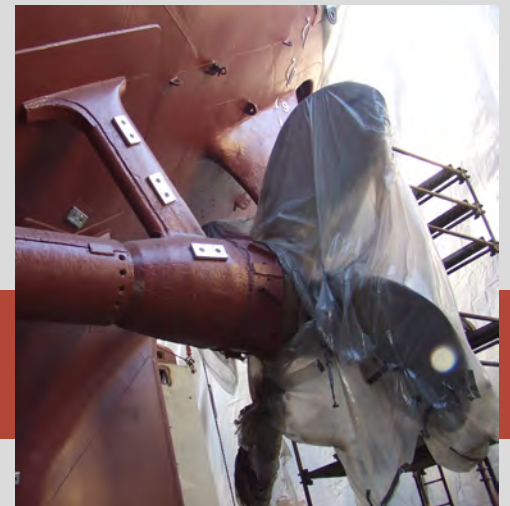
In addition to the electrical upgrades the work package also included other significant items such as:

- Removal and overhaul of both rudders
- Disassembly and extensive repairs performed on the operating mechanisms for all 12 hopper doors
- Replacement of components on both dredge pumps
- Complete overhaul of three diesel engines
- Cryogenic cleaning of the dredge pump motors, and alignment of the motors to the pump
- Water-blasting and painting of the hull
- Asbestos abatement
- Rehabilitation of dredge pump-out control station, the drag tender control stations, the officer and crew messes, and the bridge

While in the shipyard, the American Bureau of Shipping International Load Line Certificate and the U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection were both renewed. As part of those inspections:

- All fuel tanks and spaces common with the shell were cleaned and gas-freed and inspected by the regulatory bodies
- All sea valves were removed for inspection and testing
- Both anchors and anchor chains were removed, inspected, and painted
- The propulsion shaft bearings were inspected for wear, and new blades and seals installed on both controllable pitch propellers, then hydrostatically tested to prove leak free

The Hopper Dredge McFarland is one of four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-owned hopper dredges and the only one assigned to the East Coast, operating out of Philadelphia. The dredge was placed in Ready Reserve status in January 2010 in accordance with the Water Resource Development Act of 2007. In this status the ship is limited to 70 days of work in the Delaware River and Bay unless called to duty for urgent or emergency purposes. During her first year in Ready Reserve the McFarland was deployed for 96 days to address emergent dredging requirements in the Mississippi River Southwest Pass. 





# in its long history



Photos U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Photos clockwise, from top:  
-Chief Shawn Jennings.

-The "Mighty Mac" in drydock looms over visitors Tony DePasquale and Lt. Col. Secrist.

-Team members, from left, Austin Gerrard, Mark Saylor, Ken Goldberg, Capt. Tom Evans, Shawn Bailey, Lt. Col. Philip Secrist, Mil Cruz, Tony DePasquale.

-A new control panel, part of the complete overhaul of the electrical system.



# Scenes from The Philadelphia



The CRAB (aka the Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy) in the surf at Bethany Beach, Del., assisting the Army Corps and its contractor with the surveying used to monitor beach replenishment there.



The recently restored Backwater Branch of the Maurice River, near Vineland, N.J. The stream was restored and rechanneled as part of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's cleanup of the Vineland Chemical Company, a Superfund site.



# District



photo courtesy of the Northern Area Office

Constructed in 1972, The Beltzville Dam prevented an estimated 3.2 million dollars in damages during a March 2011 event.



Summit Bridge on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is getting a fresh coat of paint this year.



Surf City, N.J. following a restoration project in June 2011





Photo by Richard Pearsall

## New Mission for an Old Warrior

On Aug. 10, the hull of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a guided missile destroyer, was towed 28 miles to sea and sunk at a point about equidistant from Cape May, N.J. Lewes, Del., and Ocean City, Md. A number of former crew members and guests from the three states looked on. Now resting on the ocean floor, 130 feet beneath the surface, the ship will become an artificial reef, to the delight of fishermen, both commercial and recreational, and divers. Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland joined forces and shared the \$800,000 cost of the project. The Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the federal permit for the project after gathering input from a variety of sources and concluding, as District Biologist Ed Bonner said, that “the project is in the public interest.”



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