



# SPN SURVEYOR

Published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District

July/August 2013

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## ***Sustainability in Action***

# District leads with green projects

### Also inside this issue . . .

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*Youth assist with coho release, page 10*

*SPN joins Operation Warfighter, page 15*



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## Mid-Point Perspective: We've a Lot to be Thankful For

By Lt. Col. John K. Baker  
San Francisco District Commander

It's been a year since I had the honor and privilege of joining the San Francisco District, and I'm even more honored and humbled to serve with you than when I first came on board. My first observations were of the talent and diversity of our workforce, and how you all are contributing to our district's proud history. I've built on that first impression to shape a message I share with everyone about our district:

**1** We are the oldest USACE district on the Pacific Coast, providing Value to the Nation since 1866.

**2** We are strategically significant. Our navigation, regulatory permitting and other projects enable and contribute to the \$535 billion gross domestic product (GDP) of the SF Bay Area that ranks 19th in the world. We are participating in the state's largest wetland restoration projects and in an estuary with international significance. We provide flood risk management for



Silicon Valley and a population of over 6 million. We are helping to inform the National debate on sediment management and sea-level rise. We own the last viable species of endangered Coho salmon and are successfully helping recover it, at our fish hatchery. We tell the story of the Army and USACE in an iconic part of the United

States with limited military presence.

**3** We have a talented and diverse workforce with a culture of teamwork and innovation. At this month's district picnic, I recognized some of our talented teams and individuals with honorary awards.

We have much to be thankful for, not just the accomplishments above, despite our Federal government's sequestration, furloughs and declining district workloads. We just recently lost our third employee this calendar year. The passing of Frank Smith, Hyun Shin, and Letitia "Tisha" Ponciano-Galapia highlight the frailty of life, and that we should make the most of every day. Enjoy time with your families. Enjoy time doing what you love. When you are working, make it count and make a difference.

I'm proud of all this district has accomplished, I'm thankful to be part of this great team, and I'm thankful for all that each of you do every day. I look forward to the future.

*Essays! Building Strong!*

### SPN SURVEYOR

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## Event honors, informs SPN employees

By Ryan McClymont  
District Public Affairs Office

**B**ananas, granola bars, bottled water and blankets, along with health, fitness and wellness advice, were free for the taking from representatives of Federal Occupational Health, the Wellness/Fitness Center, Kaiser Permanente, BlueCross BlueShield, Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program and GEHA Dental.

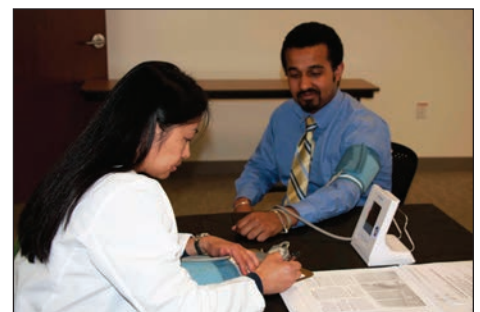
The reps visited 1455 Market Street May 28 to provide health, fitness and wellness information to employees as part of Public Service Recognition Week.

"We are really celebrating [PSRW] and wellness,"

said Pamela Vavra, senior account manager for BlueCross BlueShield's Federal Employee Program.

"This is our way of saying thank you, and we appreciate the public service you provide."

Celebrated since 1985, PSRW is time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.



McClymont

*Wincy Chow, a Federal Occupational Health nurse, checks the blood pressure of Rede Shifferaw, a SPN contract specialist, May 28.*

If you missed this event, your next opportunity to meet with these representatives will be during Open Season taking place Nov. 11 to Dec. 12. More information will follow on the specific date the representatives will be available.

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## Army News

### DoDEA, USACE partner to advance STEM education



Courtesy of U.S. Army

*Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general, and Marilee Fitzgerald, DoDEA director, listen to students from W.W. Ashurst Elementary School's third-grade STEM club explain their robotics projects.*

**By Elaine Kanellis**  
DoDEA Release

The Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Defense Education Activity chose an elementary school to announce a new partnership meant to advance science, technology, engineering and math education in schools.

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Marilee Fitzgerald, director, Department of Defense Education Activity, visited with students at Ashurst Elementary School on Marine Corps Base Quantico, May 20, and also signed the agreement that signifies the new partnership.

The purpose of the partnership is to advance science, technology, engineering and math, also known as STEM, education at DoDEA elementary and secondary schools around the world.

Bostick, who is the commanding general and chief of engineers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, paid tribute to teachers and stressed the importance of education, especially in the STEM fields. He said the Army Corps of Engineers is ready to be an active partner in the undertaking.

Continued page 16



## On the cover

*More than 2,200 solar panels absorb the sun's rays to produce energy from atop the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito, Calif. The solar-panel system is the largest of its kind owned by the Army Corps within the South Pacific Division and is one of many green energy programs utilized by the San Francisco District. (Photo by Ryan McClymont)*



photos by Richard Benoit, NWP

USACE divers Steve England of the Philadelphia District and Andrew Rapp of the San Francisco District float in the waters near Okinawa, Japan.

# SPN divers join team for Okinawa mission

**Release**  
NWP Public Affairs Office

Four countries, three continents, eight cities and towns and two islands; this hectic schedule is that of the USACE Forward Response Dive and Survey Team during its 2012 inaugural season.

By the end of the year, the team and its members, including San Francisco District's Derrick Dunlap and Andrew Rapp, combined to travel more than 50,000 miles during 80 operational days, flawlessly executing six separate underwater and two survey missions. Dunlap and Rapp participated in the team's 20-day September mobilization to Naha Military Port, Okinawa Island, Japan.

"I truly appreciated being able to be a

part of these overseas dive missions," said Dunlap who served as a diver and dive supervisor. "It was an outstanding opportunity to work with divers from other districts as well as a great opportunity to learn from each other's unique experiences."

The mission, which was stalled by Super Typhoon Sanba for three days, included underwater structural inspections of Naha Military Port's 60-year-old wharfs, ship berths, seawalls and breakwaters. Aside from Dunlap and Rapp, members of the Naha Military Port FRDST team included Adam Hamm of Buffalo District, Steve England of Philadelphia, Army Sgt. 1st Class Amaury Garcia of 1st Special Forces Group Airborne Torii Station, Rick Benoit, Allen Stewart and Lee Loomis of Portland.

"Yeah, you can say we've been just a little bit busy," said Benoit, FRDST pro-

gram manager and Okinawa team lead. "However, it's been a labor of love getting the program off the ground to the point where we are working underwater wherever and whenever we are needed."

Conceived shortly after arriving at the Portland District six years ago from the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, N.J., it was not until January of 2012 that the team Benoit envisioned first saw action. That mission was jointly facilitated utilizing USACE divers from Portland and San Francisco, as well as from the Navy Dive Locker in Bangor, Wash. The mission was ironically an emergency operation to assist the U.S. Coast Guard at Station Coos Bay, Ore.

"The Coos Bay mission was the begin-

Continued next page

continued ...

ning of what has become an extraordinary regional dive asset for the Corp's North-western, Southwestern, South Pacific and Pacific Ocean Divisions," said Benoit, who mentored San Francisco District divers including Dunlap during their initial USACE dive certification class in 2009. "Putting a Forward Response Team together to include Derrick and Drew is of great benefit to the

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*"Putting a Forward Response Team together with Derrick and Drew is of great benefit to the team due to their skill sets and work ethic."*

**Rick Benoit**

*FRDST Program Manager*

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team due to their skill sets and work ethic."

The FRDST's overseas missions are in collaboration with the USACE Engineering Research and Development Center of Hanover, N.H., to provide structural inspections and surveys of ports and water-

front facilities managed by the Army's Installation Management Command. Funded by the Army Transportation Infrastructure Inspection Program, which is managed by Kevin Haskins of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, the 2012 team also inspected ship berths, wharfs, seawalls and landing ramps at Aki-zuki, Hiro and Kure, Japan in June, Pier 8, Busan, South Korea in October and Camp Darby, Livorno, Italy in November. In all, there are 15 Army installations with water-front facilities requiring inspections at least once every four years.

"It was a pleasure working with such an awesome team," said Dunlap who was very enamored with Okinawa's culture and society. "I really gained a lot from the experience and would hope to work together again sometime. We also greatly applaud the efforts and commitment of the Corps and its missions."

Additionally, Dunlap, deputy chief of Operations and Readiness and Rapp, a civil engineering technician with the Survey Branch, are members of the District Dive Team. Under Dunlap's direction, the district continues to develop its in-house capabilities by adding a portable surface-supply dive station trailer and dive boat.

Since its inception, the Forward Response Team has also worked with divers, dive supervisors and surveyors from throughout USACE, including New England, Buffalo, Portland, Philadelphia, Nashville and Honolulu. During the Corps



*Derrick Dunlap, SPN Operations and Readiness Division deputy chief, prepares for his dive near Okinawa, Japan last year.*

of Engineers Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, Benoit and England collaborated on an emergency dive providing safety oversight to stop the flow of untreated waste water at a Pennsylvania treatment plant.

According to Benoit, three major developments allowed the FRDST team to materialize as it has: the hiring of Portland Deputy District Dive Coordinator Todd Manny, collaboration with ERDC to serve as its dive safety office and participation of USACE-certified divers from throughout the Corps.

"Without a doubt, working with Todd as well as Derrick and Drew helped us move forward with this program," said Benoit. "Engaging guys like Todd, Derrick and Drew was truly the final piece to the realization of this exceptional dive team and USACE asset."

Manny, a retired Navy senior chief, brings to Portland and the NRDST 22 years of military experience as a first class and saturation diver as well as operational expertise with remotely-operated vehicles, underwater robotics and cameras known as ROV's. Manny was dive supervisor for the Coos Bay emergency dive.

"We have an exceptional dive program made up of very dedicated people including Derrick and Drew," said Manny who joined the Portland District in 2009. "Together we've been able to safely and effi-



*Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Forward Response Dive and Survey Team stand outside the headquarters building of the 835th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion in Okinawa, Japan.*

Continued page 16



Beach

The Raccoon, a San Francisco District debris-removal vessel based in Sausalito, Calif., is using for the first time a new biofuel called B99.

## District powers vessel with biofuel

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

Soybeans are helping power a debris-removal vessel operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District.

Mechanics at the district's baseyard in Sausalito, Calif., overhauled the M/V Raccoon in 2011, to allow its engine to run for the first time on a non-petroleum fuel made entirely from soybeans called B99. The results are already being well received on deck.

"The best thing about it is it's clean. It puts out less emissions; it has less odor, which makes the crew happy, particularly the boat operator, because he's up there by the stacks, and the diesel exhaust would come right

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*"It's really the right thing to do because it gets us away from the dinosaur oil."*

**Ken Danielson**

*Former SPN Navigation Branch Chief*

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into the pilot house," said Ken Danielson, former chief of the district's Navigation Branch.

In contrast to the petroleum-based diesel used on the Raccoon for more than half a century, B99 is completely biodegradable and non-toxic.

The new fuel is being used not only on the Raccoon, but on five other boats as part of a pilot

program to test how clean energy can help fuel the Corps' fleet.

"It's really the right thing to do because it reduces our carbon footprint and gets us away from the dinosaur oil," said Danielson.

With the Raccoon operating daily in the greater San Francisco and San Pablo bays, any reduction with respect to the

boat's carbon emission levels will be considerable over time. And if biofuel proves successful on the Raccoon, other San Francisco District boats may be next.

"When the Dillard's engines are out of warranty, we will consider switching that one too," said Danielson.

The M/V John A.B. Dillard, Jr., is the San Francisco District's newest command and control vessel, commissioned into service in 2010. It joins the Raccoon in providing emergency response and debris-removal capabilities in the Bay Area.

Together, these vessels remove more than 1,200 tons of debris every year keeping navigation channels in the Bay open and free of hazards.

Continued next page

July/August 2013

# Solar system installed atop Bay Model

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

In 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District installed a rooftop solar-panel energy system at its Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito, Calif.

With 2,200 panels stretched across in rows atop the visitor center's barrel-shaped roof, the system is the largest of its kind owned by the Army Corps within the South Pacific Division.

SPN completed the project in August 2011 with funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The system helps move the district closer toward meeting President Obama's Executive Order 13514, which seeks to reduce federal government emissions by 28 percent before 2020.

Not only is the new rooftop system designed to supply energy to the 145,000 square-foot Bay Model Visitor Center, formerly a World War II-era shipbuilding warehouse, but to the district's adjacent baseyard as well.

Power production of the system averages more than 777,000 kilowatt hours per year. The potential exists not only to zero out the two facilities' energy usage, but to also produce a surplus of energy that can be sold back to the grid, with Pacific Gas and Electric Company cutting a check.

"On the high side, we're looking at \$120,00 a year," said Dillabough. "With that money, 50 percent would go to the Treasury [Department], and 50 percent would go to a special account for us to use for future environmental improvements."

Such improvements could be as small as switching to energy saving light bulbs across



[Above] The Bay Model was used by scientists to simulate tides, currents and river flows. Today, it is a public museum. [Right] More than 2,200 solar panels absorb the sun's rays to produce energy from atop the Bay Model.



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*With 2,200 panels, the system is the largest of its kind owned by the Army Corps within the South Pacific Division.*

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the district to installing more solar panels at facilities in Sausalito or at the district's two lakes—Sonoma and Mendocino.

"Between the Bay Model and the base-

yard, we have tons of roof space still available," said Dillabough. "The goal has always been to make the power plant into a megawatt capability versus the kilowatt capability it is right now, and we're close. I see no reason why we can't achieve this."

## About the Bay Model

A piece of Bay Area history since it was built in 1957, the Bay Model is a three-dimensional replica of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Delta. It was used by scientists to simulate tides, currents and river flows. Today, it is a public museum open Tuesdays to Sundays. Tours are available for groups with advanced reservations.

## Biofuel continued ...

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers strives to protect, sustain, and improve the natural and man-made environment of our nation and is committed to compliance with applicable environmental and energy statutes, regulations and Executive Orders. Sustainability is not only part of the Corps' decision processes but is also part of its culture.

Photo of the M/V John A.B. Dillard, Jr., by J.D. Hardesty





# A day in the park

*Employees, families enjoy organizational day*

1



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2

[1] San Francisco District employees and their families spend a sun-filled day at Coyote Point Park in San Mateo June 21 during the district's annual organizational day. The event, hosted by the district's Activities Council, had more than 100 people attend.



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[2] Olivia Grate, workforce management administrator, promotes the Family Readiness Program. [3] John McCoy, budget analyst, slow cooks pork ribs. [4] J.D. Hardesty, left, chief of Public Affairs, volunteers his time to serve food. [5] A.R. Smith, chief of Safety and Occupational Health, explains the value of owning disaster survival equipment. (Photos by Ryan McClymont)



4





[1] District Commander Lt. Col. John Baker looks on after Col. C. David Turner, the new South Pacific Division commander, made a surprise visit to the picnic to make some opening remarks and introduce himself to the district. [2] The Activities Council cooled things off and marked the end of a day filled with fun, sun and relaxation by providing ice cream from “It’s It”. [3] Tamara Wood, left, the district Equal Employment manager, Mike Pornnang, Logistics manager, and Sgt. 1st Class Gregory McCoy, the district Safety non-commissioned officer, showed off their barbecue skills by helping to grill food for over 100 organizational day attendees. [4] Maj. Chris Crary, San Francisco District deputy commander, spikes the ball during a mid-day volleyball match.

The District Commander thanks the members of the Activities Council and the many volunteers for making this a truly special event.



# SPN in the Schools

## Youth help release coho in Dutch Bill Creek

Story & photo by Ryan McClymont  
District Public Affairs Office

A group of kids laughing, joking and catching fish along a creek bed is a scene that will be played out across the nation this summer, but for a group of inner city kids from the Bay Area this was their first hands-on experience in nature. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District worked with Westminster Woods Camp and Conference Center to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) awareness by inviting elementary school students to assist in the release of hundreds of juvenile Coho salmon, also known as smolts, April 11.

“Every day we had kids going out and feeding the smolts and just making sure they were growing, that the water was still flowing, and they kept getting bigger and imprinting on these waters here in Dutch Bill Creek,” said Bec Detrich, Westminster Woods Camp and Conference Center education director.

The smolts spend 21 days living in a tank at the release location. During this time, creek water is pumped into the tank for the juvenile fish to imprint on. This process will encourage the mature fish to return to Dutch Bill Creek when they spawn.

“This creek is one of our original source streams in which we captured our original brood stock,” said Ben White, a district fisheries biologist. “So some of the last wild runs of Coho salmon were found here in Dutch Bill Creek and really this stream allowed us to jump start the Coho recovery program.”

The students used nets to move the smolts from the imprinting tank, to buckets, and then formed a bucket brigade to move the fish to the creek. For many of the kids, who live in urban environments, to “interact with the salmon, to touch them, to watch them swimming around, to catch them with nets and then to release them out to the creek is an incredible opportunity and a phenomenal experience,” said Detrich.

From the creek, the fish will travel along the Russian River Watershed out to the Pacific Ocean where they will spend the next two years. If things go as planned, the adult fish will return to Dutch Bill Creek where they were released and continue the spawning cycle and produce a new generation of Coho salmon.

“Westminster Woods has been an integral part of [Coho recovery] in terms of allowing us access to conduct releases on their property,” said Ben White. “It’s really a win-win for the Corps of Engineers allowing us to be able to recover this population of salmon here in this watershed, but it also allows us to give back to these kids and provide this educational aspect of the program and teach the next generation



An elementary-age student tries to net juvenile coho, as Ben White, a SPN fish biologist, looks on April 11 at Westminster Woods Camp.

about salmon recovery, ecology, and the environment.”

The Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program was created in 2001 through collaboration between several federal agencies and non-profits to prevent the extinction of Coho salmon in the Russian River Basin. Based out of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Don Clausen Fish Hatchery at Lake Sonoma, the goal of the program is to re-establish self-sustaining runs of native Coho salmon into streams within the Russian River Watershed.

The National STEM Awareness Program is designed to engage inner-city and rural 5-12 grade students in activities that stimulate interest in the applications of technology and open doors to academic achievement in STEM subjects.

## Welcome to the Story of America

A musical by Nora Youna’s 2nd grade class at Redding School

Highlights from Nora Youna’s second-grade class performance of an original piece called “Welcome to the Story of America.”

This past March, several military members from the Corps’ San Francisco District gave a history lesson on the American Revolutionary War to Mrs. Youna’s class at Redding Elementary School. Two months later, on May 23, it was her students bringing history to life

with a memorable performance attended by Maj. Ryan Thompson and Sgt. 1st Class Gregory McCoy from SPN.



# SPN rangers team with Bobber at lakes

By Ryan McClymont  
District Public Affairs Office

**B**obber, the water safety dog, made a special appearance during a life jacket exchange event at Lake Mendocino May 24. With his help, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' park rangers, in partnership with the California Department of Boating and Waterways, were able to distribute 31 U.S. Coast Guard-approved type III life jackets to park visitors at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma.

"The Corps has recognized that nearly all drowning that occurs in this county involves people who are not wearing life jackets," said Joel Miller, a San Francisco District park ranger. "To fight this, we actively partner with other local, state and federal organizations to educate the public about water safety."

According to the Center for Disease Control, about ten people die every day from unintentional drowning, making it the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury death in the United States. Extra life jackets from the exchange program were distributed to the parks' "Life Jacket Loaner" stations located at boat ramps and popular swimming beaches.

"Every park visitor is valu-



able and worth protecting," said Miller. "We are so concerned about our visitor's safety that

we make life jackets available to them free of charge any time, day or night, at several life

jacket loaner stations."

USACE is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation opportunities, managing more than 420 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 370 million visits per year.

For more information on Army Corps of Engineers recreation sites and activities, visit [corpslakes.usace.army.mil](http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil).



SPN Ranger Joel Miller poses with Bobber, the water safety dog of the Army Corps of Engineers, at a life jacket exchange event at Lake Mendocino May 24.

## School outreach with Woodside High School

Woodside High School seniors met with a team of San Francisco District planners to discuss ideas for restoring Redwood Creek May 17.

The four students are part of an after-school program called Senior Year Networking and Analysis for Problem-Solving Enterprise, or SYNAPSE. In the program, students are asked to imagine they are employed at a company, identify a local problem and develop a proposal.

The district team included Lisa Andes, far right, Joël Benegar and Zach Talbott, middle.



Beach



photos by Beach



[Above left] Lt. Col. John Baker, San Francisco District commander, presents Nick Malasavage, a district civil engineer, with the 2012 District Commander's Leadership Award during Organizational Day June 21 at Coyote Point Park. [Above] Mary Bridgewater, Eileen Nixdorf, Rachel Coyner, Lyn Gillespie and A.R. Smith received the district team award for their work on the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center Electrical Upgrade Project Delivery Team, during the picnic. [Left] Olivia Grate, San Francisco District workforce management administrator, is awarded the FY 12 USACE Family Readiness Individual Excellence Award by Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, commanding general and chief of engineers, during the South Pacific Division change of command ceremony at the Bay Model Visitor Center June 19. (Photos by Ryan McClymont)

## Accolades: District awards service medals

### 5 Years

Zachary Talbot  
Dominic MacCormack  
Joseph Aguila  
Robin Liffman  
Roberta Morganstern

### 10 Years

Joe Canoy  
Bryan Matsumoto  
Frank Wu  
Michelle Lopez  
Christina Cavett-Cox  
Brandon Beach

### 15 Years

George Fong

### 20 Years

Lyn Gillespie  
Shelah Sweatt

### 25 Years

Jerry Escosa  
Sanny Nguyen

### 30 Years

Mary Bridgewater

### Overseas Contingency Operations

Jere Harper

### Certificate of Appreciation

A.R. Smith

### Commander's Leadership Award

Nick Malasavage

### Engineer of the Year

Frank Wu

### Employees of the Year

Joél Benegar  
Christina Cavett-Cox  
Dave Patterson

### District Team Award

Mary Bridgewater  
Eileen Nixdorf  
Rachel Coyner  
Lyn Gillespie  
A.R. Smith

[Right] Lt. Col. John Baker, San Francisco District commander, congratulates Mary Bridgewater, Construction Branch chief, for 30 years of federal service June 21.



McClymont

# Lake Sonoma rangers get a helping hand

Story & photo by Ryan McClymont  
*District Public Affairs Office*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District partnered with the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps June 26 to improve public access at Lake Sonoma.

With over 40 miles of hiking, biking and horseback-riding trails, Lake Sonoma is the largest and most utilized park in Sonoma County. SCYEC crewmembers will be working with park rangers for the next two months to clear overgrown trails and improve access for hikers.

“The trails above Lake Sonoma are some of the county’s hidden gems,” said Joel Miller, a district park ranger. “Some trails are easy to hike, while others offer a challenge to seasoned hikers, horseback riders and bicyclists.”

SCYEC was created in 2009 through a partnership between the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board, the Sonoma County Human Services Department, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Office of Education and New Ways to Work, a non-profit organization.



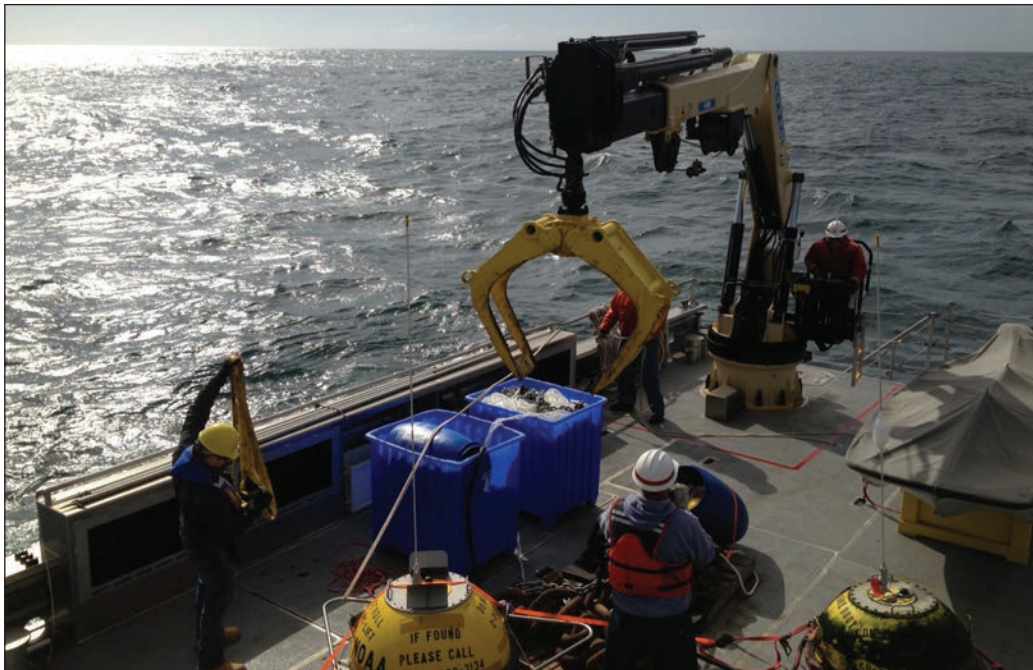
*Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps volunteers pose during clean-up operations June 26.*

To date, about 900 young people have been employed through the program, with an additional 200 joining this year. The Parks Alliance for Sonoma County did all

the fundraising for this crew, and Lake Sonoma along with other parks in Sonoma County will be the beneficiaries.

-- Learn more at [www.parksalliance.com](http://www.parksalliance.com).

## *Scripps Buoy Deployment*



Kixon Meyer

*The San Francisco District’s command vessel the M/V John A.B. Dillard, Jr., assisted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Scripps Research Institute and the Coastal Data Information Program to deploy two Wave Rider buoys off the coast of San Francisco and Monterey June 19.*

## Dear Col. Baker, et al.

Please extend my gratitude to the crew of the "John Dillard," "Grizzly" and "Raccoon" for their service to the City of Berkeley Marina. On numerous occasions, your crews will call and check with me or my staff to assist us in removal of tidal debris clogging the fairways. We tie off tons of drift materials on a yearly basis, and the "John Dillard," "Grizzly" or "Raccoon" have been phenomenal in service to us.

Notably, on March 20, the "Dillard" arrived to assist us with what we thought was a sunken dock at our launch ramp. This obstruction could have caused extreme damage to the public boaters who launch at that area on a daily basis. Much to all of our surprise, the sunken item turned out to be a stolen SUV out of Oakland. The responsible persons drove it into the bay at my ramp.

The crew of the "John Dillard" lifted the SUV and after discussion with the Berkeley Police, they loaded the vehicle on deck and took it to the Sausalito Sheriff's authorities because the depth of the marina at low tide would not allow the "Dillard" to move closer to shore to place on land. I want to commend the partnership and professionalism that your crew displays in their



Kixon Meyer

Rick Curry, a San Francisco District debris collection worker, operates a pedestal crane on board the M/V John A.B. Dillard, Jr., March 25. The Buick Enclave in the picture was recovered from the waters near the Berkeley Marina boat ramp.

work and dedication to helping other boating agencies and the general public. They reflect honor on the Army Corps of Engineers.

*Sincerely,*

**Ann Rial Hardinger**  
Harbormaster, City of Berkeley, Marina

## ENGINEERING CHALLENGE



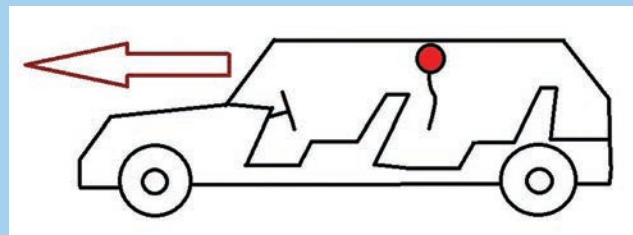
Mark Wiechmann  
Last challenge winner

Take on the engineering challenge in this month's SPN Surveyor. The first to solve this problem will receive a commander's coin, with the results being published in the Sept/Oct 2013 issue.

### The Problem

On your way home following a birthday party, your daughter places her red balloon in the middle of the car. The car's windows are all closed. You accidentally step on the accelerator, and the car moves forward instantaneously.

Will the balloon move to the back, front or stay in the middle of the car? Explain your answer.



-- This challenge was submitted by Gerardo Prado, a district engineer.

Submit your answers via e-mail to Ryan McClymont at [ryan.j.mcclymont@usace.army.mil](mailto:ryan.j.mcclymont@usace.army.mil).

# SPN joins Operation Warfighter helping wounded Soldiers find internships

Story & photo by Joseph Aguila  
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

An estimated 400,000 service members live with the invisible wounds of war including: combat-related stress, major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the Wounded Warriors Project site. Another 320,000 are estimated to have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment. These are staggering numbers.

Memorial Day is a day we remember the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. In fact, May is National Military Appreciation Month. With many service members returning home from such injuries, making the transition from war fighter to civilian is extremely difficult. To this reason, the Office of Wounded Warrior Care & Transition Policy, under the Department of Defense, developed Operation Warfighter, a DoD federal internship program that places wounded, ill and injured service members in supportive work settings.

To be clear, this isn't an employment program. It's a wellness program that focuses on transitioning recovering service members to: positively impact their recuperation through the return of work, augment their employment readiness as they either return to duty or separate from the military, and enable federal workforces to better understand the skill sets and challenges of transitioning wounded, ill and injured service members.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District is building strides to meet the OWF mission and goals.

District Deputy Commander Maj. Christopher Crary and Equal Employment Opportunity Manager Tamara Wood attended the 2013 Northern California Muster in Sacramento May 9.

Crary and Wood informed several service members of internship opportunities that do not have to align with their current military duties. They received a number of applications from potential service members expressing interest towards a diverse category of jobs.

Currently, the district EEO office is



*Maj. Christopher Crary, middle, district deputy commander, speaks to service members about internship opportunities during the 2013 Northern California Muster May 9 in Sacramento.*

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*Operation Warfighter  
is a wellness  
program that places  
wounded service  
members in  
supportive work  
settings.*

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matching service members' interests with job choices, placing as many as possible in their desired career field.

Hopefully, these internship opportunities will not only serve as an impetus to their recovery process, but provide them with the skills and knowledge to be gainfully employed if they so choose to transition out of the military.

There have been many success stories through OWF. Many agencies have hired recovering service members into permanent positions. Several of them have even indicated that OWF has restored a sense of normalcy in their lives and has positively impacted their recuperation process.

If you'd like more information on Operation Warfighter, please visit their website at: <http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/> or if you're interested in placing a recovering service member in your office, contact Walt Myhre, regional coordinator, Operation Warfighter, Office of Warrior Care Policy at: (210) 896-9535 or by e-mail: [wmyhre@afsc.com](mailto:wmyhre@afsc.com).

## Other EEO News ...



Beach

*Katherine Reyes, left, Rene Lau and Joseph Aguila speak at the district's recognition event for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month May 21. The one-hour event featured personal accounts, cultural food and historical displays. This year's AAPIHM marked the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the 70th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act's repeal.*

# SPN crews remove hazardous wreckage near Carquinez Bridge

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District snagged more than 50 tons of hazardous debris floating near the Carquinez Bridge June 6.

Notified by a local resident who reported the debris to the Army Corps' Sausalito Base Yard, crewmembers from the M/V Raccoon and M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr., arrived on scene at approximately 8:30 a.m. The scattered debris represented wreckage from a damaged pier along the Crockett Waterfront near the C&H Sugar plant that had caught fire Jan. 15.

"It was only a matter of time before the pier would break loose in the water," said Kixon Meyer, captain of the M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr. "A good tide could have easily blocked the strait with that much debris floating around."

The day-long debris-removal mission involved pulling the wreckage out of the water using pedestal-mounted grapple cranes. According to Meyer, the debris proved challenging to stack on deck as the pieces were still bolted together.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., the two crews completed the removal and returned back to the Sausalito Base Yard. The debris was offloaded there and will later be



Joe McCormick

Crewmembers from the M/V Raccoon pull debris out of the water near the Carquinez Bridge.

processed for permanent disposal.

The M/V Raccoon, a World War II-vintage aircraft recovery vessel, and the M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr., christened on June 25, 2010, combine to remove more than 1,200 tons of debris annually from the San Francisco-San Pablo Bay area. One of the missions of the San Francisco District is to keep the federal shipping channels clear of hazardous debris and safe for the maritime community.

Dive team continued ...

ciently accomplish a lot of good work for the benefit of USACE as well as other military and federal agencies."

During 12 days in October, Manny and Benoit led a team of seven to Busan, South Korea, where a bottom sonar survey as well as a surface and below-water inspection to check the structural integrity of Pier 8 berthing and seawall was performed.

This inspection was truly an international, multi-agency effort as the bottom survey was performed by Portland District specialists Stewart and Loomis, along with Buffalo District divers Shanon Chader and Ed Gawarecki, along with Kyle Tanner of Nashville. Moreover, the dive team was escorted daily by a boat crew of four South Korean soldiers, while the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and the Army's 837th Transportation Battalion provided logistical support.

"In working with Rick and his team, I have been amazed by their persistence to get the job done," said Haskins. "All inspections have been completed on time and well under budget. In the first overseas inspection alone, Rick and his team saved my program one third the estimated cost. While each overseas effort has many unknowns, not only has Rick realistically anticipated these in the planning phase, he has done an outstanding job to mitigate new issues quickly and effectively."

STEM continued ...

The general said the U.S. is falling behind in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics career fields. He said young students who chose to focus on STEM education with a goal of entering related career fields as adults would help in keeping America competitive.

"Only 14 countries in the world produce a smaller percentage of engineers than the United States, including countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia and Cuba," Bostick said. "Out of 100 U.S. college graduates, four are engineers. In Russia, that number is 10.

In China, it's 31."

Fitzgerald expressed the enthusiasm and commitment of DoDEA's teachers and staff for the program.

"DoDEA is truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to focus on preparing the next generation to develop the skills, capacity, flexibility and perseverance they will need to ensure our nation continues to be a world leader in the STEM fields," she said. ...

The program will include the development of a specific civil works project or other USACE function that

directly relates to DoDEA's STEM content and curriculum. The USACE interns and DoDEA students will collaborate on projects and their efforts will culminate in a competition and awards ceremony held two times each school year.

The partnership's focus aligns with the White House's and Department of Education's focus on educating global leaders and preparing students for STEM careers in the global economy. ...

To read the full version of this article, go to <http://1.usa.gov/13SJVg1>

## Employee News

### Hails & Farewells

- **Alma Aguila**, logistics specialist, accepted a Pathways student position in South Pacific Division's Business Management. Congratulations Alma!

- **David Johnson**, ACE-IT chief, was selected for a job promotion to serve as chief of IT Services for USAFRICOM.

### Special Recognition

- **Robin Liffmann**, Ph.D., project manager, was selected as SPD's 2013 "Emerging Leader" and will attend the USACE Senior Leader Conference in August.

- **Lisa Andes**, coastal engineer, departed the district to pursue her doctorate degree at St. Louis University.