



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
San Francisco District

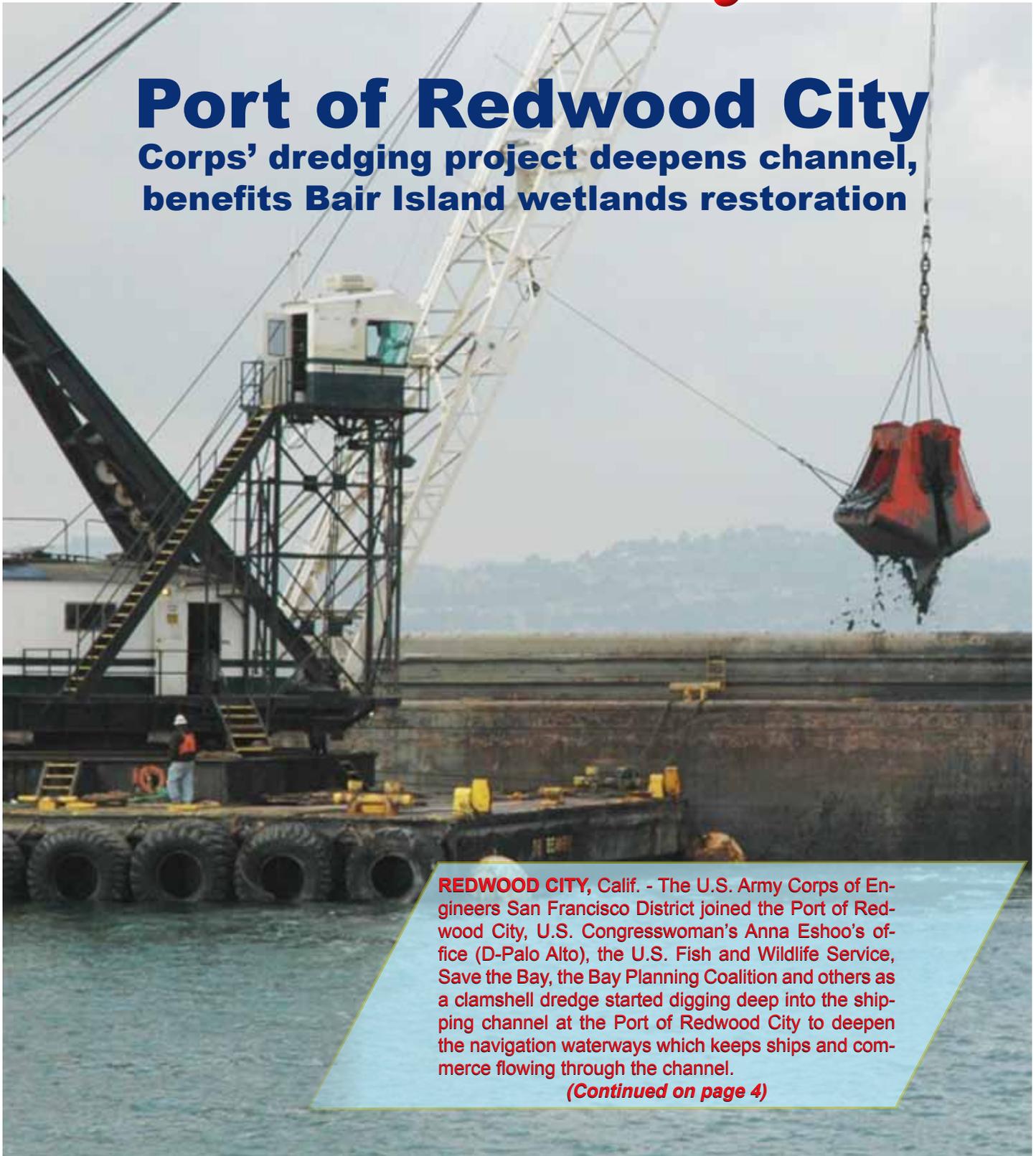
SPN

January 2009

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Surveyor

Port of Redwood City Corps' dredging project deepens channel, benefits Bair Island wetlands restoration



REDWOOD CITY, Calif. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District joined the Port of Redwood City, U.S. Congresswoman's Anna Eshoo's office (D-Palo Alto), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Save the Bay, the Bay Planning Coalition and others as a clamshell dredge started digging deep into the shipping channel at the Port of Redwood City to deepen the navigation waterways which keeps ships and commerce flowing through the channel.

(Continued on page 4)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

This is a new year, a new beginning and a fitting time to introduce our new command information newsletter.

Each time I talk with you – whether at a town hall, one-on-one or, now, through this column – my intent is to give you valuable information and to express my appreciation for the work you do.

Speaking of valuable information, if you haven't seen our new district web site, I suggest you take a look. We have transformed the old version into a highly visual, streamlined, up-to-date web site which is responsive to our sponsors, our stakeholders and the general public.

I call your attention to the "Work for Us" section. Under "Career Opportunities," click on any of the organizations' names; on the next page, be sure to "mouse over" the employee photos. The quotes are real. And they show that our district offers a lot more than just a job and a paycheck. As you can see, your colleagues' opinions are that we offer great opportunities to protect the environment and to help California's economy.

And we're hiring!

If you have friends who are looking for a career with opportunities to make a difference, I think you'd be doing them – and, of course, us – a good turn to direct them to our web site recruitment section. As always, all Corps

career opportunities are listed on USAJobs (www.usajobs.gov).

But our web site is not our only recruiting tool. Our district projects continually provide professional challenges which attract outstanding engineers, environmental specialists, managers and others.

For example, we recently entered an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to perform "vertical construction" (design and construction of buildings), which is a new area for our district. Traditionally, our district has performed mostly "horizontal" construction (infrastructure such as flood control, earth-moving, civil works).

The San Francisco VA Medical Center project is large. We will be performing \$37.5 million in work comprised of demolition; designing and constructing a new building; and performing a seismic upgrade, as well as carrying out an electrical upgrade for their entire campus.

What's more, we've opened the door to do more VA work in northern California and for other federal agencies.



Laurence Farrell
Lieutenant Colonel
San Francisco
District Commander

The proposed national stimulus package calls for rebuilding America's infrastructure. We stand ready to answer that call.

This vertical-construction work will present us with a new array of technical requirements which should attract talented engineers looking for a challenge. We, in turn, will offer these engineers the opportunity to do professionally interesting work while they enhance VA's ability to care for our nation's

veterans.

Many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans turn to VA to get help for serious physical and psychological injuries. Congress appropriated money to ensure that our nation can provide for our wounded warriors with the best care – at military hospitals and in VA. VA's Sierra Pacific Network, which includes the Bay Area, is carrying out improvements and upgrades to serve local veterans. In our work for VA, we are playing an important supporting role.

This synergy of job satisfaction while being of service is what I believe makes our district an outstanding place to work.



SPN Surveyor

District Commander
Lt. Col. Laurence Farrell

Chief, Public Affairs
J.D. Hardesty

Staff Contributors
Joe Barison

Submissions:

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KEEPING EVERYONE 'IN THE KNOW'



SPN Surveyor will be a great place to keep everyone informed about activities across the District footprint. To keep fellow employees "In the Know," send your notices, posters and Powerpoint slides of activities in your area to Public Affairs. They will all be compiled and included in the next edition of the newsletter. E-mail items to:

John.D.Hardesty@usace.army.mil or Joe.Barison@usace.army.mil.

How to contact the ACE-IT Enterprise Service Desk

The ESD can be contacted by calling 1-866-562-2348 or through the Remedy Requestor Console available on ACE-IT Online at: aceit.usace.army.mil/esd.htm. The ESD is available 24x7, 365 days a year.

USB Banned Devices

Working with the USB device ban

As many of you are already aware, there is a Department of Defense directive banning all USB storage devices.

ACE-IT has deployed DeviceLock tool to block the use of USB thumb drives and other USB storage devices.

Digital Signatures

ACE-IT recently sent instructions on how to digitally sign e-mail messages in response to policy changes being implemented requiring all messages to be digitally signed. Additional information is available at: <http://aceit.usace.army.mil/usb.html> or by contacting the ESD.

FRONT COVER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District joined the Port of Redwood City, U.S. Congresswoman's Anna Eshoo's office (D-Palo Alto), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Save the Bay, the Bay Planning Coalition and

others as the a clamshell dredge started digging deep into the shipping channel at the Port of Redwood City to deepen the navigation waterways which keeps ships and commerce flowing through the channel.



From left: Ellen Joslin Johnck, executive director of the Bay Planning Coalition; Laura Thompson, Bay Trail Project Manager, Association of Bay Area Governments; Maj. Adam Edwards, Deputy San Francisco District Commander; Eric Larson, Biological Programs Manager for the Bay Delta Region, California Department of Fish and Game; Mendel Steward, manager of the National Wildlife Refuge Complex for the Fish and Wildlife Service celebrate the start of the \$5.6 million Port of Redwood City Harbor dredging with civic and organization leaders from across the region.

SF Bay Area partnerships blend economic development with environmental investment

Continued from front page

According to Mike Giari, executive director of the Port of Redwood City, the Redwood Creek shipping channel is dredged every three years and fills up quickly with silt washing in from the Bay. That can cause problems for ships arriving with a full load.

With Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto helping secure the \$3.6 million funding, "This is truly historic because using dredge material for wetlands restoration is the ultimate in recycling.

DDM Crane and Rigging will dredge the two-mile shipping channel and dispose of the bay sediment on Inner Blair Island to help raise a portion of the island by more than two feet and create a tidal marsh wetlands.

Although Eshoo was called back to the Capitol and was unable to attend, Richard Gordon, a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, read a letter on her behalf which

highlighted "the environmental and economic partners to have joined efforts to keep the port vibrant and restore the wetlands. This project will work as a model for future projects around the bay."

Previously, the dredge material was shipped 20 miles to Alcatraz. Now, the sediment will travel about one mile, saving federal resources while restoring the island.

"This is historic. It truly is the ultimate in recycling," said Redwood City Mayor Rosanne Foust.

Bair Island, the largest nature reserve in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, once

"This project is an outstanding example of federal, state and local governments joining forces with non governmental organizations and private citizens to achieve a common goal.... And, shows what we can do when we all come together with a shared vision."



Maj. Adam Edwards
Deputy District Commander

consisted of 3,000 acres of rich tidal marsh.

Throughout the years the island was diked off into a series of smaller islands and used for growing hay and other saline-resistant crops. Ground-

water subsidence caused Inner Bair Island to sink several feet below sea level, according to Mendel Stewart, manager of the National Wildlife Refuge Complex for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

“This project is an outstanding example of federal, state and local governments joining forces with non governmental agencies and civic leaders to achieve a common goal,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy District Commander Maj. Adam Edwards. “And, shows what we can do when we all come together with a shared vision.”

The concept of recycling Bay mud for local restoration is not new. Dredge materials from the Port of Oakland have been spread as far away as the Sonoma Baylands. But this is the first time a project has benefited from such a close source of soil, and it’s a first for the South Bay.



Left and above: A DDM Crane and Rigging Company clam-shell dredge starts the \$3.6 million, two-mile deepening of the navigation channel in the Port of Redwood City Harbor. The sediment is being recycled to raise Bair Island .



Below: Redwood City Mayor Rosanne Foust speaks to civic leaders and stakeholders highlighting the five-week project to remove nearly 200,000 cubic yards of bay mud and transport the slurry refuge to Bair Island to help restore wetlands as “truly the ultimate in recycling.”



The ATF Project:

COUNTING ON

By Joe Barison
Deputy PAO

The Aquatic Transfer Facility (ATF) may be the only Corps project to have started in a Fisherman's Wharf hotel.

In 2002, Corps engineers and project managers from a half-dozen districts around the country gathered at a wharf hotel for an off-loaders workshop (An off-loader is a floating barge that receives dredged material from boats). The workshop focused on the best ways to manage such material until it was ready for placement at another underwater location or at a wetland-restoration project.

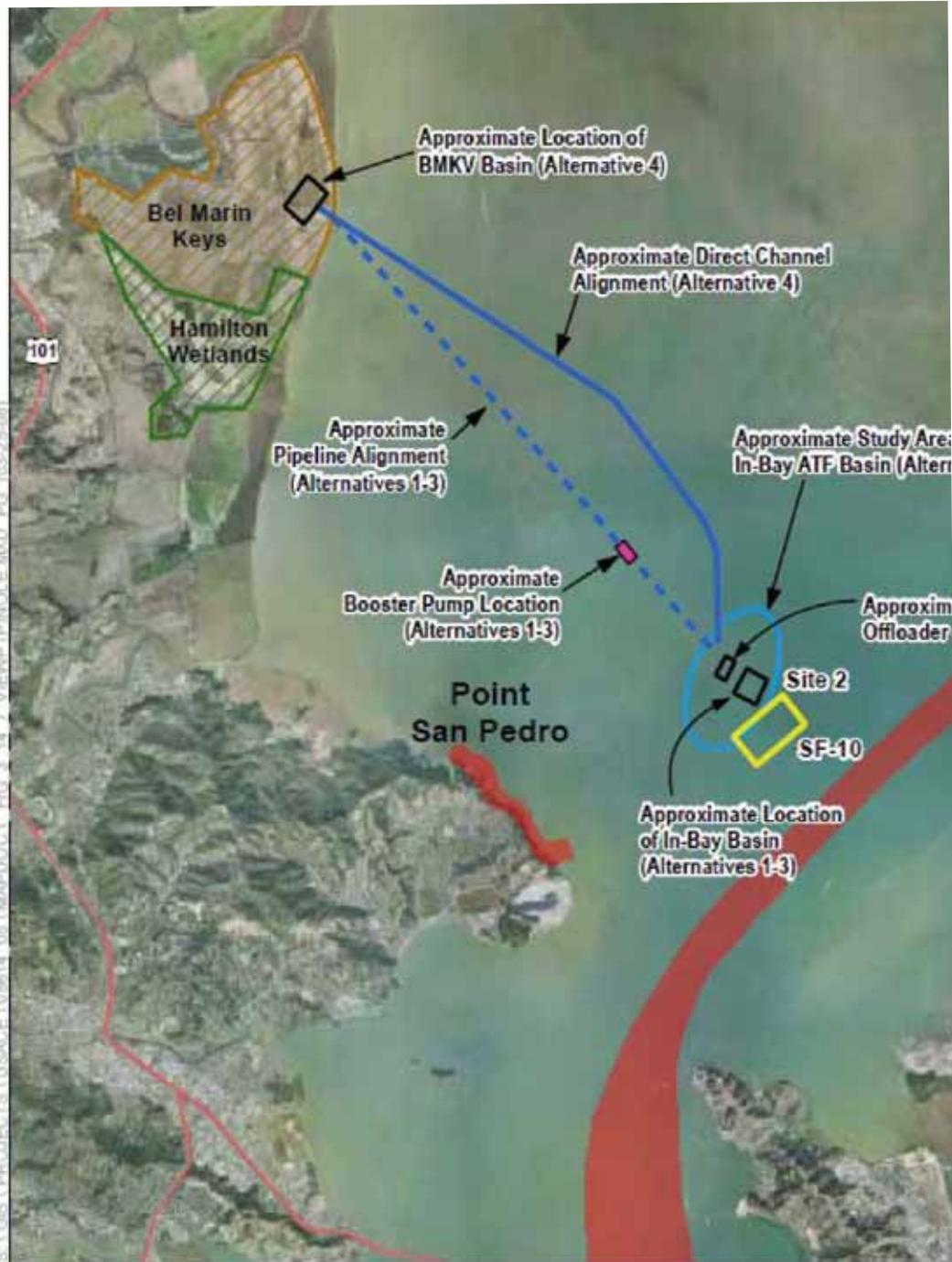
Peter Mull, the future ATF project manager, participated in that workshop and recalls a comment by Bob Hopman, then a Corps national dredging expert. Hopman said that multiple projects depending upon receiving dredged material will never work efficiently with off-loaders – simply because the off-loader process is too slow. Off-loading requires a long line of barges to wait their turn to unload. Instead, Hopman argued, an underwater “rehandling basin” should store sediment until needed.



Photo courtesy of Peter Mull

Peter Mull
Aquatic Transfer Facility
Project Manager

Mull, who was then lead design engineer for the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project, had been looking for a better way to bring dredged material to Hamilton. He knew there were en-



ICF Jones & Stokes

an ICF International Company

vironmentalists who would not accept a rehandling basin because releasing a continual stream of dredged material into the water, letting it sink into a basin, would create water cloudiness

(also known as turbidity) that could harm fish.

But Mull had an idea.

“Why not have a coffer-dam-type facility?” he asked. “A coffer dam would

January 2009

THE COUNTERINTUITIVE



Figure 3.14-8
Photo Viewpoints from Point Pinole

place underwater, sheet pile walls around a basin, so once dredged material drifted down, it would stay within the basin's walls." Even the bay's strong tidal currents could not stir things up in
January 2009

side the barriers.

Excited by what seemed a way to use the Hopman concept of an underwater basin, but without the turbidity problem, Mull quickly wrote out sizes,

dimensions and cost estimates.

He speculated that if the bay-bottom basin were enclosed, it might just work. Multiple barges could simultaneously deposit their dredged material, and water-clouding (and therefore environmental impact) would be minimal.

And so, the concept of the San Francisco District's ATF Project was created.

Mull's next step was to demonstrate to his project delivery team (PDT) colleagues, as well as to Corps



Joe Barison photo

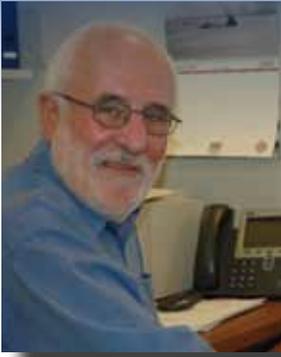
Eric Jolliffe
Environmental Manager
ATF PDT Member

"I was initially averse to the ATF idea because the method in place had little environmental impact. But I changed my mind when I saw the cost savings...and how much faster the Hamilton Airfield wetlands project will restore habitat. The ATF would be highly unusual...I don't think we've ever had this type of facility...we haven't had the need. It shows a creative solution to a complicated problem. Certainly there are environmental issues...but we're taking special care to make sure these impacts are addressed."

upper management, that the ATF idea warranted a full feasibility study.

That study took place, lasting one year, and confirmed that an ATF would be more efficient than the old, off-loader process; and it would have minimal environmental impact.

Still, a full environmental study was



John Azeveda
Engineer
 ATF PDT Member

“Back in 2002, I thought the ATF was a good idea...You could see the flexibility of that [ATF] system versus the off-loader. With the ATF, you can take the material [for placement at the Hamilton wetland restoration site] anytime. That’s the beauty of it. “When potentially you can save [up to] \$300 million, increase the speed of [Hamilton wetland restoration] completion, that’s something! That’s a regional success story.”

required. The full study, conducting a large amount of new scientific research, took an additional 18 months. Mull’s ATF idea once again withstood the test, and the full study’s findings became the source material for the 2008 draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), two studies required by federal and state law.

Today the ATF is still not quite a “go,” because the Corps is awaiting public comments on the draft EIS/EIR. However, nearly all of the involved major environmental organizations endorse ATF as the best way to proceed, agreeing that the project will potentially save

over \$200 million and at least eight years on the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project.

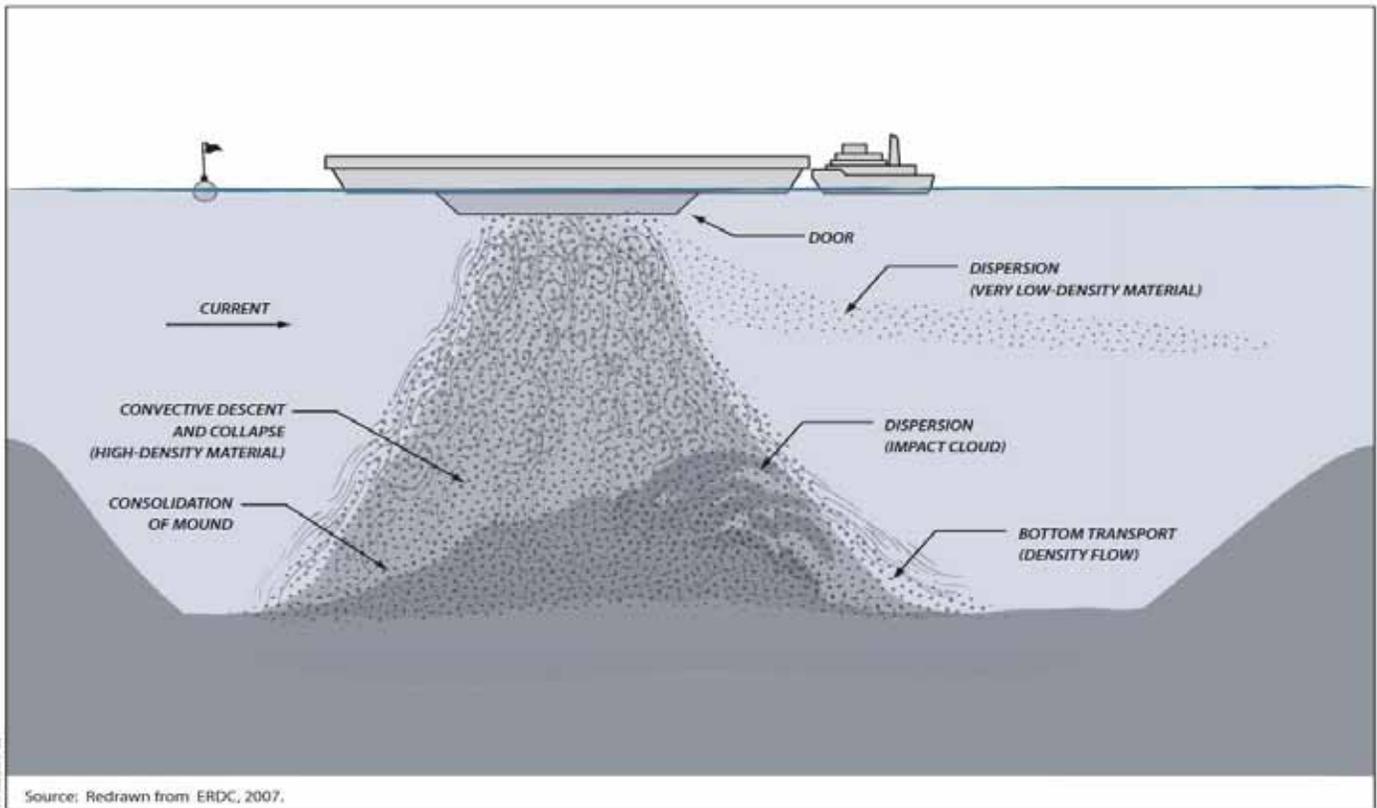
Alexis Strauss, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Pacific Southwest Region Water Division, said, “An ATF will...restore the Hamilton wetland more quickly...improve the bay’s water quality...and thus hasten the creation of hundreds of acres...for endangered species.” While Mull provided leadership, “No man is an island” applies to Corps projects and none more so than the ATF. Over the past six years, an all-star array of SF District professionals has served on the ATF PDT, without whom, plain and simple,

the ATF concept could not have developed.

In addition to John Azeveda, an engineer on the project and Eric Jolliffe, environmental manager, other PDT members who made vital contributions include Caleb Conn, Jessica Burton Evans, Bill Firth, Cynthia Jo Fowler, Sarah Gaines, Elizabeth Garcia, Larry Graham, Ed Keller, Peter Krembs, Susan Miller, York So and Frank Wu.

Looking back, Mull said his biggest challenge was “building consensus, because the Hamilton project has such a broad spectrum of stakeholders – and satisfying all their concerns took some doing.”

The ATF idea did indeed stir controversy from the start. Even Mull acknowledges that “it’s counterintuitive that something that appears to do harm by digging a hole and letting dredged material cloud up some water will actually stir up less material and be completed far faster than if we do it the old way.” But now he’s looking ahead. “I’m hoping people will look at the big picture and the long-term benefits for the environment and the economy of the Bay Area.”



Source: Redrawn from ERDC, 2007.

Figure 4.4-1
 Sediment Transport during Dredge Material Placement

Moffett Field

Partners break ground on new Armed Forces Reserve Center



By J.D. Hardesty
Chief, Public Affairs

Without a partnership of understanding, the 270,000 square foot Armed Forces Reserve Center/Regional Readiness Sustainment Command Headquarters for the 63rd Regional Support Command and the California National Guard would not be built.

The \$76 million project will house 14 different military units and provide support to America's Soldiers/Civilians spread across the seven southwestern states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The contract for the 63rd Regional Support Command partnered with NASA's Ames Research Center was originally awarded in April 2008. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco and Sacramento districts, state and federal agencies and organizations worked through water easements, permitting issues, street expansion and utility requirements to bring the Military Construction project to the San Francisco Bay peninsula.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District has teamed with the Sacramento District, California National Guard, The U.S. Army Reserve, and several other local, state

The state-of-the-art facility, which will house a projected 1,500 employee workforce... 200 positions would have to be filled locally.

Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella
Commander
63rd Regional Support Command



and federal agencies and organizations to bring the Base Realignment and Closure mandated build-out to fruition. The three-building footprint, set to be complete in August 2010, will bring an economic stimulus to the Mountain View region beyond the life of the construction project.

The state-of-the-art facility, being built in response to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's streamlining efforts, will house a projected 1,500 employee workforce. Val Gutierrez, construction representative for San Francisco District and Cynthia Baksys, Sacramento program manager, will manage the project.

While the construction project will boost the local economy, Casella told the those in attendance that 200 positions would have to be filled locally. Another 80 employees will be technicians from the National Guard and Army Reserve currently working on active duty.



Top (from left to right) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District Construction Representative, Val Gutierrez, Deputy Center Director, NASA Ames Research Center Lewis S.G. Braxton III, 63rd Regional Support Command Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, California Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-22), Deputy Chief, Army Reserve for Operations Brig. Gen. Julia A. Kraus and a representative from the WallBridge-Overaa construction company pose after the ground-breaking ceremony Jan. 10 at the site of the future Armed Forces Reserve Center to be built on Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif..

Below are architectural renderings of the three buildings that will be built to support Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers from seven southwestern states. The project is scheduled for completion in fall of 2010.



Fitness Center

Specializes
in
Fitting
You

Susan Ma, an environmental manager, focusing on torso rotation at the Fitness Center.

Joe Barison photos



Carol Coleman, fitness center coordinator, “walking the walk” in her gym. In addition to helping people develop a fitness plan, Coleman sends Fit2Win e-mails of support throughout the San Francisco District.



Nina Cavett of Regulatory Division goes through her triceps kickbacks using free weights. Cavett is one of several Regulatory Division workers who schedule exercise as part of their work week.

By Joe Barison
Deputy PAO

It's still dark on a typical weekday morning when personal trainer Carol Coleman arrives at the San Francisco District's Wellness & Fitness Center.

Coleman does not need to turn the lights on because several district staffers – usually Robin Liffmann, Mark D'Avignon and District Commander Lt. Col. Laurence Farrell – are already well into their workouts in this 24/7 gym. Coleman is the center's wellness/fitness coordinator, a position she has held since 2002.

A San Francisco Bay Area native who grew up in Castro Valley and Hayward, “Carol,” as everyone calls her, earned a master's degree in communications and started teaching adults' and children's programs locally, as well as in Europe and South America.

After years of teaching and travel, she sensed it was time for a change. Wanting to be more fit and active – as well as help others with their health – it seemed only natural for her to become a fitness professional.

Today, she holds various professional certifications, including those for personal trainer, special-populations (i.e. medical-issues) trainer, Pilates trainer and wellness coach.

Coleman is passionate about the benefits of working out. “I read the research, and it's clear you get back 20 times what you put in. Stop and think about it – a 20-to-one return on your investment. Besides, if you don't have your health, you really have nothing.”

She lists the benefits of working out, including lower blood pressure and lower risk of diabetes, heart disease and cancer. “And you'll look better, your clothes will fit better, you'll feel more confident,” she said.

So why don't more people work out?

According to Coleman, it's due to a total misconception about the time requirement.

“You truly do not have to spend hours in the gym to get benefits. It's the small changes that can make a big difference in your health. I hear both women and men say, ‘I'm too busy, I have projects and deadlines,

carpools,' endless reasons. But if you invest just 10 minutes a day into your health, it's much better than doing nothing."

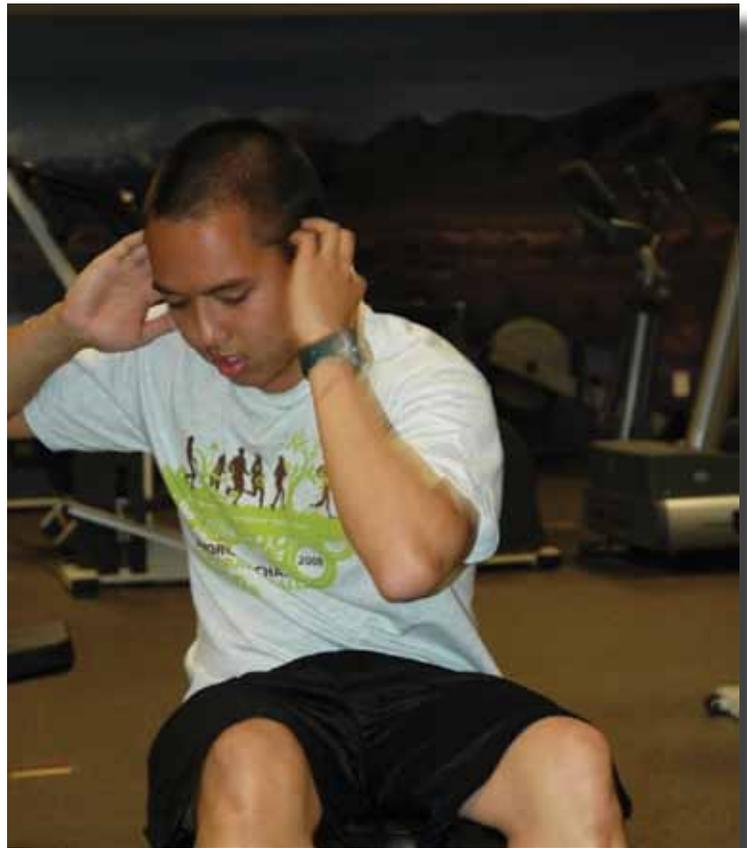
Ultimately, though, each person must make the decision, as Coleman explained, "It has to come from the heart. The person has to be ready to make that lifestyle change."

Coleman has set up an adaptable fitness program she described as "meeting the needs of a full spectrum of people...from the hard-core bodybuilder to the athlete to the person who has high blood pressure and needs to start exercising moderately for their health – and everything in-between."

District staff who work in Sausalito and at Lake Sonoma have their own mini-versions of the 1455 Market Street corporate gym. "They have the same categories of equipment – cardio and strength – just on a smaller scale," she said. "We don't yet have a gym set up at Lake Mendocino, but it's next."

Always one to walk the walk, Coleman does her own regular workout comprised of power-walking six miles per week, swimming 1,200 meters on the weekend, strength training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and stretching 25 minutes after each session

Getting started is simple? she said, "Just stop by the fitness center. We'll sit down and talk about what you want. I'll ask you what your goals are. Then, together, we can plan your program so you'll get the most from the time. I believe in working smarter, not harder."



Jonathan Guerrero of the Planning Branch working his abs.



Richard Dilgren, of Office of Counsel and Caleb Conn, a project planner, getting their miles in while watching television. Treadmills and exercise bicycles (ellipticals) provide a stationary cardio vascular workout where the exerciser gets fit and entertained.

PETER STRAUB:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By J.D. Hardesty
Chief, Public Affairs

Now one of the world's rarest plants grows in the Presidio.

Just a little more than two decades past, the Raven's Manzanita, the most critically endangered plant indigenous to the Presidio was clinging to its existence as one wild plant located by the World War II memorial was all that remained.

Peter Straub and the Raven's Manzanita became friends.

While caught in U.S. Army Corps of Engineer downsizing and realignment in the early 1980s, the San Francisco District's Peter Straub recalls one of his most memorable projects.

Continuing his federal service with the Department of the Army while working for the Directorate of Engineering and Housing. Straub, armed

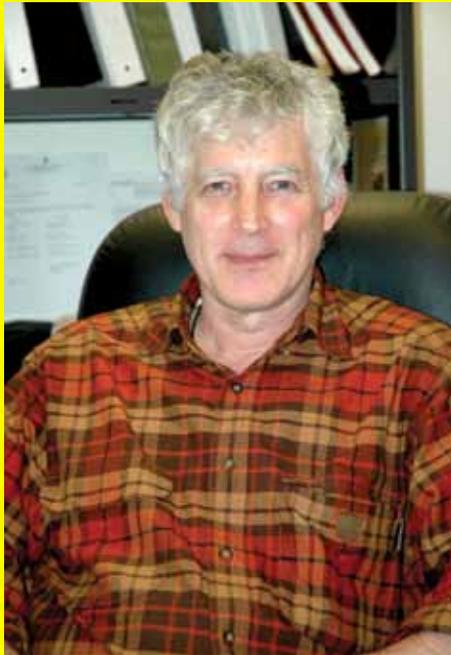
with his landscape architecture degree, battled through bureaucracy, documentation and regulations to receive U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permits to retrieve 50 cuttings to revive one of the most difficult to grow plant species.

Fifteen plants were established in three locations in the Presidio in addition to the "mother plant" by the Park Service in 1987. The Park Service and the Land Trust of the Presidio continue to promote the Raven's Manzanita recovery.

After nearly 32 years of federal service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Straub is retiring from the Regulatory Division of the San Francisco District to pursue a life "enriched with a passion in gardening which runs on a pace that has no relation to a MUNI schedule.

Straub, born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and raised in New York, "was ordained to attend the Michigan University, by his mother. It was her Alma mater," he said.

He returned to New York to start his



Peter Straub, Regulatory Division is retiring after more than 32 years of federal service.



FOR 32 YEARS

applying for a Corps position in Savannah, Ga.

Needless to say, his career path traversed out of a bedroom in his parents house into the balmy south, which has the distinction of having both its weather and diction steeped in a dipping drawl.

Working for the Regulatory Division Straub often found himself "caught between a rock and a hard place, as applicants always want their permits yesterday.

"Yet, continues, "Working with environmental laws, endangered species act, Clean Water Act and civic and public agencies and organizations as coordination with other federal and state laws have to be looked at as well," he said. "There is just no one-stop shop for this kind of work."

After spending his career with the Corps "surviving bureaucracy," he said, In Regulatory, " surviving breeds a sense of accomplishment.

According to the Chief of the Regulatory Division, Jane Hicks, "Pete has an exceptional aptitude for absorbing new regulations and policies and applying them to the job," she said. "He is a good mentor to new employees, he is detail-oriented and an excellent writer. Many of his memoranda and decision documents have become templates for other regulators."

He will leave behind a crop of youthful

Regulatory staff, several honing greater skill sets because of his mentorship.

"According to Bryan Matsumoto, "Peter was one of the people that helped me with many Regulatory projects because he has a great understanding of the regulations, and excels at interpreting and applying new regulations to the Regulatory program," he said. "In addition, he would accompany me on site inspections/ jurisdictional determinations to instruct/assist me with my field work.

"He has been a wealth of knowledge for me and the entire Regulatory Division," Matsumoto said. Even before Peter became a supervisor, I would routinely visit him with regulatory questions that others may not have had experience with before. His mentoring has been an invaluable part of my regulatory career, ."

He will take decades of Corps Corporate Knowledge and as Hicks commented, he will take away his sense of humor. "His lively sense of humor kept things interesting," she said. With alarm clocks and MUNI lines nearly a thing of the past, Straub turned his attention to the future.

"I will have to buy a computer for the house, then I think I will work on the condo and take a vacation to Hawaii," he said.

"Pete's long tenure in Regulatory will make his institutional memory hard to replace," Hicks said.

Similar to the Raven's Manzanita he help survive for future generations, Peter Straub could be a Corps Regulatory Division staffer one-of-a-kind.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

District Employee Takes an Outdoor Office with a view

Chuck Ingraham is pictured in front of a secondary school project in Haditha, Iraq. Ingraham worked as a construction representative during his deployed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while serving in support of the Global War on Terror.



Photos courtesy Chuck Ingraham



San Francisco District has several employees supporting the Global War on Terror. Chuck Ingraham has deployed in support of the GWOT mission. Pictured above, Ingraham is inspecting the makeshift foundation of a perimeter fence around a boys schools near Qarabagh (Ghazni Province). Fences are primarily built with stone-masonry construction covered with a smooth coat of plaster. One common deficiency is the lack of mortar (sand & cement) used between the rocks (as shown here). Most contractors like to layer the mortar, thus leaving many voids between the rock

Ingraham discusses ins, outs of deploying

By J.D. Hardesty

Chief, Public Affairs

Thousands of the Armed Forces civilian workforce have deployed downrange in support of the Global War on Terror. They have worked in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Balkans, Kosovo, Pakistan answering the nation's call, often going into harm's way to help improve the quality of life for others.

Some volunteer to go, others were selected or recruited to fill taskers, others just wanting to work. One of those who recently returned from supporting "deployment in support of an emergency-essential mission" is Lake Sonoma Park Ranger Chuck Ingraham, a 21 year veteran of the Corps..

He recently returned from working as a Quality Assurance Roofing Inspector from September to November after volunteering to support Corps emergency-essential deployments to help those affected by Hurricane Ike in Houston.

His deployments seem to be an annual response:

2008-Houston

2007-Ghazni, Afghanistan-working as a construction representative for a Provincial Reconstruction Team.

2006-Gulfport, Miss.-Hurricane Katrina-served as a NEPA Compliance Officer.

2005-Al Asad Air Base, Iraq-served as a construction representative.

2004-Camp Fallujah, Iraq-served as a construction representative.

Why deploy across half way across America or half way around the world? Especially someone who never previously served in the Armed Forces.

"I wanted to serve my country lending a helping hand during our nation's disaster relief efforts," Ingraham said. "I also wanted to serve downrange. I understand the pay is good, but besides the fiscal windfall, I wanted to serve in essential areas primarily in support of the GWOT."

While deploying downrange has financial perks and other incentives career growth incentives, Ingraham raised his right hand and volunteered for service with the same reasoning as the countless thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Air Force and Marines who continue to defend the constitution and America "from all enemies, foreign or domestic.

"I feel proud to serve my country in this capacity," said the 1985 graduate of Sonoma State University where he earned a degree in environmental studies and planning. "Most deployments are considered emergency essential and demand is always high to fill these positions. It's satisfying to me to know that I have made a positive contribution to GWOT and disaster relief efforts."

Through the five major deployments, Ingraham said he has gained invaluable experience with construction and construction contracts.

Deployments are more than just the financial windfall; to the contrary, they are taxing and exhausting and not for everyone.



Pictured above is construction of a boys secondary school in the town Muqor (Ghazni Province, Afghanistan). The project was completed ahead of schedule, which is a rare feat for construction projects in Afghanistan.

"The most challenging aspects are putting in the 10-14 hour days, which are often seven days per week," he said. "Although this work is very rewarding, a day off is occasionally needed. GWOT and disaster deployments can also take a person away from close family members for an extended time. This becomes increasingly difficult when a family member may rely on this individual for every-day assistance.

"I felt that being a construction representative would enable me to expand my skills to areas outside my job as a Park Ranger," he said. "I believe this new experience helped me get a position as a construction representative at the Sausalito resident office, which I will start Feb. 1.

New jobs bring new challenges, something he is anticipating with his position change. It is challenges and opportunities like those that he mentors other employees about deploying overseas in support of GWOT.

"It gives you a person a feeling of accomplishment and self satisfaction," Ingraham said. Employees deploying will find themselves in a lifetime experience, increasing specialized skills and learning from new opportunities and challenges, learning skills that could open new USACE doors.

Though he starts his new job shortly, Ingraham is in the ready.... Still ready to volunteer as a current member of the Critical Incident Support Team . The CIRT offers "emotional first aid" to employees who have been through stressful situations or events. The goal of this program is to help bring the person back to adaptive functioning in the workforce.

"The deployments have made very positive impacts to my life, and I believe I have also made a productive and positive impact with USACE. I just wish I had the opportunity to stay longer overseas, but family support matters resulted in me limiting my stay to no longer than six-months.

January 2009

Commander briefs overview at Town Hall

By Joe Barison
Deputy PAO

The 2008 Leadership Development Program (LDP) class project was a full-district survey of morale; and, the large majority of San Francisco District's 300-plus staff had its say.

One of the key recommendations was for senior leadership to provide all district team members, regardless of profession or work location, with an overview of the district.

The recommendation rested on survey findings that few long-time employees knew little about the division next door or about the type of work of a person just one aisle away.

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San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Laurence Farrell carried out the LDP class's recommendation by holding district command briefs at town hall meetings at the Bay Model Visitor Center, Lake Mendocino, Lake Sonoma and district headquarters.

At each town hall, Lt. Col. Farrell gave a short district-history lesson, explaining how our district's background led to our current three major areas of focus: flood control, commercial navigation, and both the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act.

He then covered the district organization chart, emphasizing its value in showing how we operate. Farrell said that in the Pentagon, at Army's highest levels, virtually every briefing includes an organization chart. "If you know the org chart, you know how an organization works," he said.

The commander summarized some of the employee benefits that our district offers, including providing an excellent, fully-equipped gym (See "Fitness Center Specializes in Fitting to You" page 9) and the importance of maintaining physical fitness.

He talked about his own commitment to working out and underscored the ways in which fitness enables people to do those things that are most important to them, concluding with, "Don't exercise for me. Don't work out because the commander does it. Do it for yourself."

Farrell then presented Ian Clunies-Ross, Office of Counsel's newly ap-



Joe Barison photo

San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Laurence Farrell awards a commander's coin to Ian Clunies-Ross after the San Francisco District Town Hall meeting to update district employees on current operations and key projects. Using Town Halls to keep our workforce informed was one of the recommendations implemented from the last graduation Leadership Development Program class.

pointed an assistant district counsel, with the Commander's District Coin in recognition of his recently passing the California State Bar Exam.

But all of the opportunities are not just within our district boundaries.

Farrell gave an overview of the district's on-site support of the Gulf Region North District in Iraq. He described the real world of Corps civilian deployment, as well as his own recent

Iraq service as a district deputy commander based in Tikrit.

"You just derive great satisfaction from doing work that helps build schools and health centers in a nation that's been long-neglected in these areas by its prior government," he said. He gave frank assessments of the opportunities and the rewards of deployment to Iraq – as well as the substantial physical dangers.

Can you hear me now?

The 52nd Chief of Engineers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commander Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp speaks at a joint South Pacific Division/San Francisco District Town Hall meeting in the first quarter of FY09.



J.D. Hardesty photo

SPN Celebrates Black History Month

African-Americans Soldiers have served with distinction fighting for freedoms and liberties of all Americans in every major war throughout the U.S. Army's 233 years

One of those Soldiers, Pfc. Douglas W. Kearney recently received a Bronze Star for his World War II service.

Although the honor was bestowed more than six decades later, for one World War II veteran his service has not been forgotten.

Former Pfc. Douglas W. Kearney, 85, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal recently in his hometown of Milford, Conn., by retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré for meritorious achievement in combat.

"It all started 10 years ago when watching 'Saving Private Ryan,'" said Dr. Sheila Kearney. "My dad said, 'I was there'. I kind of discounted it since the Army was segregated, but he gave a lot of details, so I fact- checked."

Celebrating Black History Month

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will celebrate Black History Month in February with a kick-off Feb. 3, featuring Nathaniel P. Ford from San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority will be the guest speaker for the Brown Bag luncheon. The program will start at 11:30 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m.

During the search, Kearney found that her father served with Headquarters, 17th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division in campaigns throughout northern France, Rhineland and central Europe, including the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

"You rarely saw black Soldiers at that time," she said. "He was a machine gunner and rifle marksman. He did extra training."

Douglas Kearney was drafted into the military through the selective service process and was placed with a black unit out of Massachusetts, said Dr. Kearney. He was transferred to an integrated company with the 17th Armored and later deployed.

The award comes as the Army marks the 60th anniversary of desegregation of the U.S. military this year. The Bronze Star Medal came about thanks to the help of Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré. His sister and brother also served in the Army.



Pfc. Douglas W. Kearney
Bronze Star Recipient
World War II



Retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré congratulates former Pfc Douglas W. Kearney after presenting him the Bronze Star for achievement during combat in World War II.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army