



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
San Francisco District

SPN Surveyor



A day in the park

District hosts annual picnic at San Francisco landmark

Page 18

San Francisco District employees and their families spend the day in Golden Gate Park July 30 during the district's annual organizational day. The event saw more than 230 people come out for food, games and camaraderie. (Photo by Brandon Beach)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

FY 2009: Looking back, looking ahead

By Lt. Col. Laurence M. Farrell
San Francisco District Commander

At the stroke of midnight on Sept. 30, the San Francisco District will mark the end of Fiscal Year 2009 and the start of FY 2010. The beginning of the new year presents us with the opportunity to review the past and to plan for the future.

Looking back at FY09, our district accomplished more than \$130 million worth of work in projects, programs and services. We met important goals and major milestones. For example, the Oakland Harbor 50-foot Navigation Improvement Project marked completion of Inner Harbor and Outer Harbor deepening; the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project placed almost two million cubic yards of dredged sediment onto the wetland; the Petaluma River Project finished reconstruction of the Petaluma Railroad spur line; the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Pipeline Project constructed the mainline distribution pipeline for recycling water; and our U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program reached an agreement to provide construction support for a VA collaborative research center adjacent to the Bay Model Visitor Center.

It takes outstanding people to achieve such exceptional results, and I consider our San Francisco District team to be comprised of professionals



equal to any I have known. One of the reasons for our excellence is, of course, our diversity.

Our commitment to diversity is more than worth it. We all benefit from the different experiences and perspectives that various ethnic heritages and cultures contribute.

Throughout FY09, we celebrated our diversity through the Special Emphasis Programs with a spectacular array of guest speakers: Ben Servino, career counselor at California State University, East Bay for Disability Employment Awareness Month; Nick Tippon, chair of the Sacred Sites Committee of

the Federated Indian Graton Rancheria for Native American Month; Reverend Amos C. Brown of 3rd Baptist Church, San Francisco for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Debra A. Johnson, chief of staff/director of administration for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, for Black History Month; Col. Janice L. Dombi, commander, South Pacific Division, for Women's History Month; and San Francisco Supervisor Carmen Chu, for Asian/Pacific-Islander Month.

Looking ahead, we clearly have the team to meet FY 2010's challenges. To paraphrase Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp's metaphor, "We have the right people in the right seats on the bus," which enables us to more than double our district work to an amazing \$273 million in FY 2010.

Our projects will achieve many new milestones in the coming year. The Oakland Harbor Deepening Project plans its final grading for the Middle Harbor Enhancement Area; the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project will complete shaping the Northern and Southern seasonal areas; the Petaluma River Project expects to complete construction of a sheetpile-wall flood control structure; the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Pipeline Project will award a \$10 million construction contract which will include American Recovery and

Continued next page

District Commander

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SPN Surveyor

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Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds; and our VA program will award four contracts (three construction and one design-build) for the San Francisco VA Medical Center. And we have only scratched the surface.

Speaking of ARRA funds, we continue to award contracts for the over \$84 million that Congress appropriat-

ed for our civil works projects, which will mean new jobs in the community.

As we enter FY 2010, I pledge to you my unwavering support for all that you do, my continued effort to recruit the best people for our positions and my personal commitment to diversity and equal opportunity in the workplace.

Thank you for a successful FY09.

Security Alert

Mobile Communication Devices

Mobile communication devices (includes Blackberry phones, iPhones, smart phones in general) have become indispensable tools for today's highly mobile society.

Small and relatively inexpensive, these multi-function devices can be used not only for voice calls but also text messages, e-mail and Internet access along with stand alone applications similar to those performed on a desktop computer.

A significant amount of personal, private and/or sensitive information may accumulate or be accessed via these devices. Additionally, some of these devices may allow you to access your home computer or your corporate network.

How To Protect Yourself

- o Use a password to access your device. If the device is used for work purposes, you should follow your organization's password policy.

- o If the Bluetooth functionality is not used, check to be sure this setting is disabled. Some devices have Bluetooth-enabled by default.

- o Do not open attachments from untrusted sources. Similar to the risk when using your desktop, you risk being exposed to malware when opening unexpected attachments.

- o Do not follow links to untrusted sources, especially from unsolicited e-mail or text messages. As with your desktop, you risk being infected with malware.

- o If your device is lost, report it immediately to your carrier or organization. Some devices allow the data to be erased remotely.

- o Review the security settings on your device to ensure appropriate protection. Be sure to encrypt data transmissions whenever possible.

For the complete version of this notice visit the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team online at www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST06-007.html.

Beating the Odds: The Oakland

Several district offices led by Office of Counsel team

By Joe Barison

District Public Affairs Office

The Oakland Inner-Harbor Tidal Canal Project is the story of one canal, four bridges, two cities and two squatters living on federal property.

And just for good measure, our story begins over a century ago, in 1882, when the U.S. Government acquired the canal that runs between Oakland and Alameda — a two-mile-long, 400-foot-wide strip that includes a 50-foot swath of land on both sides of the water. The purpose of the acquisition was to construct the Port of Oakland.

Fast-forward to World War II, when large defense-industry plants were set up in Alameda, and workers streamed into the area. Some of these defense workers built or bought houses along the Alameda-Oakland federal canal, partially or completely on U.S. Government property. Looking back, it's not clear whether these squatters were defiant, indifferent, or simply ignorant of the law. In any case, legally, they were all trespassing. What's more, these canal residents illegally dumped their sewage and gray water (bath, house-cleaning, and dishwashing water) into the canal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was the agency of jurisdiction.

Everything remained status quo for the next 40 years, in part because it costs money to evict squatters, and budget priorities were elsewhere. However, in the mid-1980s, the Corps



[Above] An aerial view shows all three houses along the Oakland Inner Harbor Federal Canal. The red boundary line shows the houses occupying U.S. Government property.

[Top Right] Two houses down, one to go. SF District legal action, supported by Programs & Project Management, Regulatory and ETS Divisions, shows dramatic results (Photo taken Aug. 2, 2009.)

[Right] The three Oakland houses sat on federal property before SF District launched an all-out, coordinated effort to remove the squatters. (Photo taken May 23, 2008.)

determined the canal and both of the adjacent Oakland and Alameda land strips to be in excess of federal-project needs. According to San Francisco District Counsel Merry Goodenough, the law provides that “if we have any property that’s not in furtherance of an

Army mission, we’re supposed to get rid of it.” Yes, but how? Sell it? And to whom? Initially, the cities of Oakland and Alameda were not interested in paying for the land.

Many government processes, such as putting land up for sale, take awhile, and soon it was the 1990s. In a new development, the Water Resources Development Acts of 1990 and 1996 allowed for the transfer of certain federal land to cities without compensation. Still, the two cities, each for its own reasons, did not want the land.

As of the 1950s, 16 houses were partially on city land and partially on federal land. Six were entirely on federal land. In the 1960s, the homeowners removed three of these six houses. At the start of the 21st century, three houses, all on the Oakland side of the canal, remained fully on Army Corps of Engineers property.

When I came to work for the Corps, people told me the U.S. attorney would never take this case, and the two cities would never take this property. It was fun to be given the opportunity to prove them wrong.

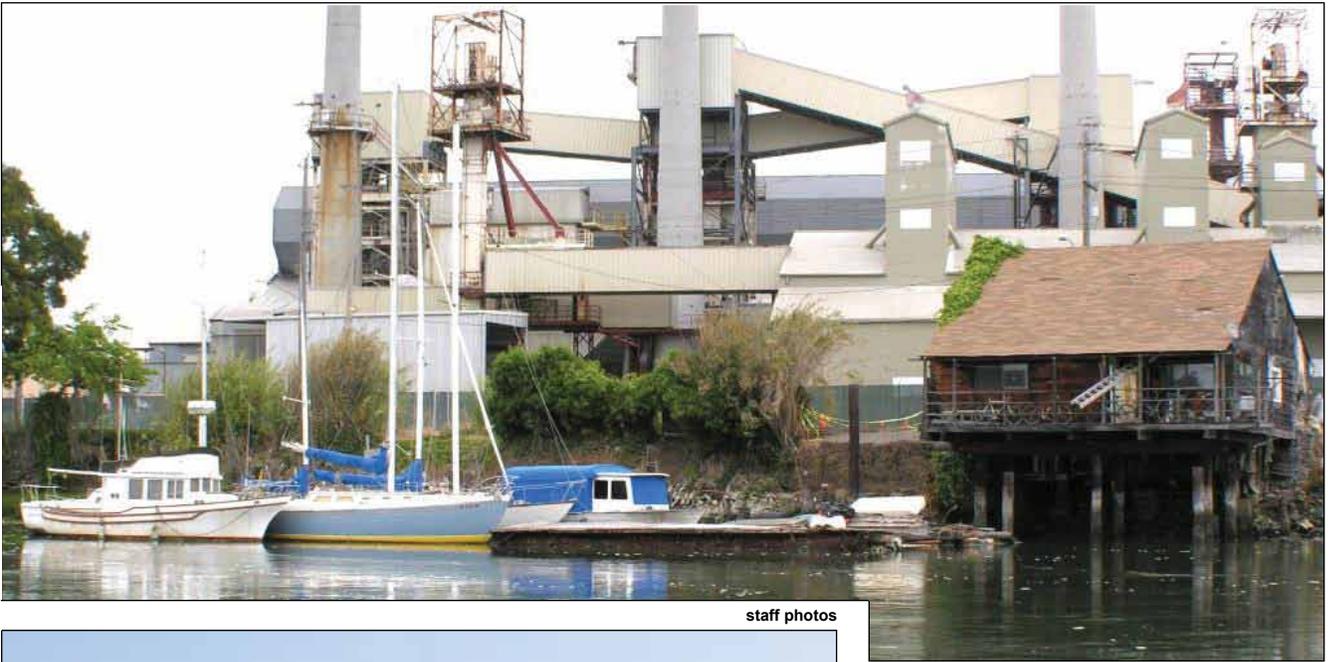
Mary Goodenough
District Counsel

Inner-Harbor Canal Project

together to remove illegal squatters from federal property



staff illustration



staff photos



property in violation of the law. One owner held one of the houses (3221 Alameda Avenue); a different owner held two houses (3223 and 3225 Alameda Avenue).

The district's team effort, officially called the Oakland Inner Harbor Tidal Canal Project, required the close cooperation of the district's Office of Counsel, Programs and Project Management Division, Regulatory Division, and Engineering and Technical Services Division. On July 24, Office of Counsel learned that the 3223 Alameda Avenue house was removed. Two down, one to go. But as Yogi Berra said, "It's not over 'til it's over." Still, the end to this 125-year saga does seem near.

Reflecting on this long and winding case, which included so many people and government offices, District Counsel Merry Goodenough recalls, "Ejectment/trespass cases are not common in USACE. I had to do it from scratch. I know for a fact this is the only ejectment case our region has ever had." But persevering and winning does have its satisfactions. "When I came to work for the Corps, people told me the U.S. attorney would never take this case, and the two cities would never take this property. It was fun to be given the opportunity to prove them wrong."

In 2002, then district commander, Lt. Col. Mike McCormick, made ejecting the squatters a high priority. Al Paniccia, a new Corps project manager, drew the assignment. "It was a little daunting, trying to understand all the issues surrounding the canal. But we assembled a team and slowly developed a plan for disposal," said Paniccia. "One of the major issues we faced was the three houses on the Oakland side. We couldn't very well require regulatory and real estate compliance from the Alameda side of the

canal when we had those three houses staring at them from the Oakland side. We knew we had to do something about those houses."

In 2005, as the saying goes, business started to pick up. The City of Oakland received funding to create The Bay Trail along the canal. USACE was legally obligated to divest itself of the land. And Water Resources Development Acts allowed Oakland to obtain the land for free. The San Francisco District began work to eject the three houses remaining on federal

Cleaning Up



Story & photos by Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

The Guadalupe River is getting what many might consider an environmental makeover.

In May, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — San Francisco District began a three-month flood control project here to give the river a slightly more curvy look.

“It means water flow is more controlled, protecting houses from the 100-year flood,” said Robert Kwan, the project’s chief engineer, referring to levels of flood water expected in the area in the next 100 years. “When a channel is straight, it’s more susceptible to flooding.”

The project occupies an 1,800-foot section of the river, between Almaden and Koch roads in San Jose. Currently, construction crews have begun grading the channel using sophisticated dozers and GPS technology to measure and cut embankments. During this time, the Corps has temporarily diverted the flow of water away from the project site using a batch of pumps and a pipeline.

Before grading could begin though, workers took on the enormous task of removing more than 30 years of discarded trash from the area. Most surprisingly, said Rachel Coyner, a district student trainee, was the number of shopping carts pulled from the river, which she estimates was in the hundreds.

“That’s one of the nice things about this project. We’re cleaning up the river,” she said, “and giving it a new look.”

That new look will extend out to the river’s edge as well, as the Corps is set to add vegetation to the area. Trees, said Kwan, provide the necessary shade to cool water temperatures for migratory fish such as steelhead and salmon, not to mention being habitats for birds and other animals.

“Right now, the river is very much open to the sun,” he said. “We’re going to change that.”

The new meandering channel will be completed by Oct. 15, just in time for the annual migration of steelhead and salmon to the South Bay shores.

District seeks to restore Guadalupe River, enhance flood control posture



2

3

[Background] A dozer grades a section of the Guadalupe River. [1] The Corps is using pumps and a pipeline to divert water flow during the three-month construction phase. [2] The project occupies an 1,800-foot section of the river between Almaden and Koch roads. [3] A rock grade control structure will slow down water flow and any sediment traveling downstream.

Ready to Represent

By Joe Barison

District Public Affairs Office

The Office of Counsel (OC) is the San Francisco District's own full-time law firm. In fact, OC is much like a small, private civil-litigation firm with an emphasis on preventive law. The office focuses on the laws of civil works, contracting and procurement, real estate, fiscal matters and torts, the environment, regulatory, employment, Freedom of Information Act and ethics.

"Everything we do is tempered by a whole host of laws and regulations, authorizing our civil works projects, emergency management, environmental work, as well as enforcement and compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act," said Merry Goodenough, district counsel. "In addition, we protect the agency and its employees in relation to the Civil Rights Act and related employment laws."

Goodenough explained that as long as a district employee is operating within the scope of his or her official responsibilities, the employee has the agency's legal protection and cannot be sued individually.

But what would happen if all of a sudden there were no Office of Counsel? How would life in the district be different starting the very next morning? Posed this question, Goodenough paused to think through the likely scenario. "The district would lose its preventive law



Merry Goodenough
District Counsel

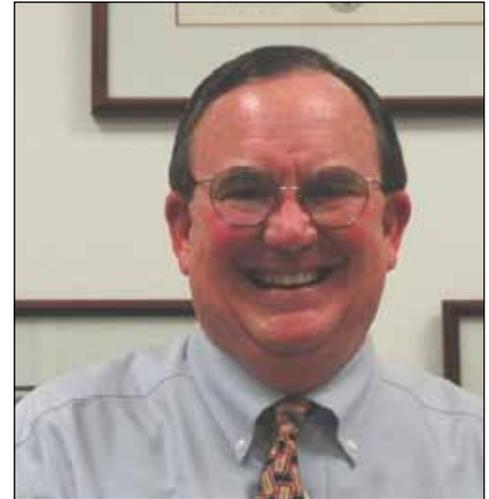
- Joined Corps of Engineers in 1992
- Earned Masters from George Washington University-School of Law

"The beauty of working as a lawyer for the Army Corps of Engineers is you get to handle a complex case from cradle to grave, with a great deal of autonomy, unlike in a lot of federal agencies."

function, which provides the outer-limit legal safety net. If OC suddenly disappeared, the district would be very vulnerable to litigation, which would cost the government a lot of money," she said.

But the cost would not be only in money. Day-to-day life in the district would be dramatically different for many project managers, engineers and scientists.

"Employees would be tied up in costly and time-consuming litigation, with little time to carry out their mission-critical functions, thus greatly re-



Dan Dykstra
Deputy District Counsel

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 1977
- Earned Masters from the University of Arizona School of Law

"The Oakland Deepening and Hamilton Wetland projects were quite a challenge to make all that work, contractually and legally – to get the complexity of the two projects to dovetail together."

ducing mission efficiency. Clearly one of OC's most vital roles is to maintain legal harmony and to practice preventive law. This allows employees to perform their jobs without interruption and in a legally defensible manner," Goodenough said.

District Counsel Goodenough summarized it all: "Office of Counsel is not the arbiter of the right or wrong decision. We're here to facilitate so that management and our clients – every employee of the San Francisco District – reach the most legally sound decision possible."



Jack Kerns

Assistant District Counsel

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 2001
- Earned law degree from George Mason Law School

He said he finds the most interesting part of his work to be “the variety...and definitely the people of the district.”



Kathleen Sato

Assistant District Counsel

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 2007
- Earned law degree from University of San Francisco Law School

Earning her Bachelors degree from Brown University - “At the time, it was the only Ivy League school with no core curriculum. You could take anything you wanted with all classes pass or fail.”



Tina Patrick

Legal Technician

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 1990
- Attended Modesto Jr. College

She finds many aspects of her work interesting, including serving as training coordinator, travel administrator and budget manager, among other responsibilities. Her personal interests include golf, and she proudly displays a golfing trophy near her desk.



Ian Clunies-Ross

Assistant District Counsel

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 2008
- Earned law degree from University of California Berkeley School of Law

A native San Franciscan, the Eagle Scout spent his summers hiking and camping in Mendocino County. “Now, I visits those places as the District’s lawyer.”



Adrian Humphrey

Para-Legal and FOIA Officer

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 2000

A native of Sacramento, after high school, her first job was as a professional chef in a downtown restaurant. “I just loved it,” she said. “To this day, I still have a catering service. Good family, good friends and good food all go together.”



Kimberly Smith

Legal Intern

- Joined Corps of Engineers in 2009
- Currently attending the University of California Law School

“This experience is great because lawyers in this office cover so many specialties. They represent a full range of legal interests. It’s perfect for a law student.”

NEW EMPLOYEES

Many new faces join SPN team in summer



Anita Carse
Office Clerk
Safety Office



Alma Aguila
Student Trainee
Engineering Branch



Laurie Monarres
North Branch Chief
Regulatory Division



John Boonstra
Survey Technician
Construction Branch



Tessa Bernhardt
FCIP Intern
Engineering Branch



SSG Gregory McCoy
Safety Noncommissioned
Officer-in-Charge
Safety Office



Carolyn Evans
Reserve Officers' Training
Corps Cadet
Engineering Branch



James Zoulas
Geographer
Engineering Branch

Serving the Nation

Global War on Terrorism Certificates

Kenneth Brown	Mike Pornnang
Michael Dillabough	Victor Reynoso
Derrick Dunlap	David Whedon
Marvin Horton	Charles Ingraham
Eileen Nixdorf	Fari Tabatabai

Accolades: District awards service medals

10 Years

John Dane
Kevin Heape
Terry Marks
Keith Richardson
Keley Stock
Frank Sun
Kevin Vestal

15 Years

Valerie Marvis
Michael Stevens

20 Years

William Brazil
Paul Chen
Derrick Dunlap
Michael Stevens
William Brazil
Paul Chen
Derrick Dunlap
Ilse Gonzalez
Eric Jolliffe

Lorraine Louie
Paul Sibal
Laurie Suda
Kathleen Ungvarsky
Cynthia Vangilder

25 Years

Jimmy Britton
Sidney Carlson
Richard Carruthers
Michael Dillabough
Michael Donnelly
Chris Gallagher
Jack Kerns
Virginia Madlaing
Paul Schimelfenyg

30 Years

David Ammerman
Steve Chesser

Richard Curry
Peter LaCivita
Rogelio Palomar
Arijs Rakstins
Magdalena Ramos
Duke Roberts
Richard Stradford
David Whedon

35 Years

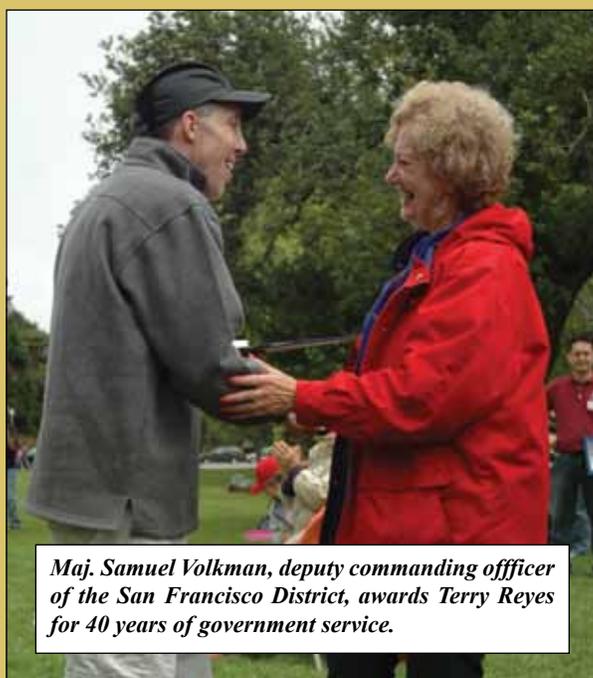
Burt Nash

40 Years

Terry Reyes

Military

1LT Matthew Brauer (5 yrs)
MSG Lam Van Tran (10 yrs)
1LT Clifford Lopez (15 yrs)
MAJ David Kaulfers (15 yrs)
MAJ Samuel Volkman (15 yrs)
MSG Wayne Brandt (25 yrs)
LTC Don Davis (25 yrs)



Maj. Samuel Volkman, deputy commanding officer of the San Francisco District, awards Terry Reyes for 40 years of government service.

Brandon Beach

John McCoy *District budget analyst keeps life cooking*

Story & photo by
Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs

Good cooks don't always follow the recipe. That certainly has been the case with John McCoy, a budget analyst with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — San Francisco District.

McCoy's story begins back in 1969, when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 19 years old, a graduate of Peabody High School in Alexandria, La., and headed to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif., for boot camp. Six weeks later, he was in Vietnam. He returned before his 20th birthday.

It was at Camp Lejeune, N.C., though, his next duty station, where McCoy charted a new course. He had tested high on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which he took prior to his enlistment date. His scores gave him the opportunity to switch his military occupational speciality from the boots-on-the-ground world of infantry to accounting.

"I was always fascinated by numbers," said McCoy. "It was a great move for me personally."

At the time, accounting was an emerging MOS, explained McCoy, so the Corps didn't offer much in the area of formal schooling. Marine accountants, like McCoy, learned how to balance the books on the job.

He retired as a master gun-



John McCoy, a San Francisco District budget analyst, barbecues pork ribs during last month's organizational day in Golden Gate Park.

**My mom was
a cook. She had
all boys, so I
picked it up. I
love to see
people eat.**

**John McCoy
On Cooking**

nery sergeant in 1990. Along the way, he had spent four years in the 1970s at Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan, a place that he would later call home for more than 10 years as a civilian accountant with

the 45th Signal Company, 58th Sig. Battalion beginning in 1992.

Many things changed for McCoy in Japan. He met his wife, welcomed two daughters and started yet another career venture — catering.

"My mom was a cook. She had all boys, so I picked it up," said McCoy. "I love to see people eat."

At first, McCoy catered to small family events, like birthday parties, he said. He had a knack for barbecuing, especially smoking meat like pork ribs and roasts. So much so that he even developed his own oversized steel drum smoker, in which the meat is hung vertical-

ly, a technique he said he learned years back from his ex-father-in-law.

"The heat comes straight up," he said. "It's a slow cooking process."

Family birthday parties soon became larger events for McCoy, as most of the military installations on the island, like Kadena Air Base, the largest U.S. Air Force base in the Pacific, host annual festivals.

Fast forward now to 2004, the year McCoy joined the district's Resource Management Branch, leaving Okinawa for the Bay Area of California, a transition he describes as "kind of a reverse culture shock."

"I was used to riding my bicycle to work," he said. "Now, I drive 40 miles from my home in Mountain View. I'm getting used to it."

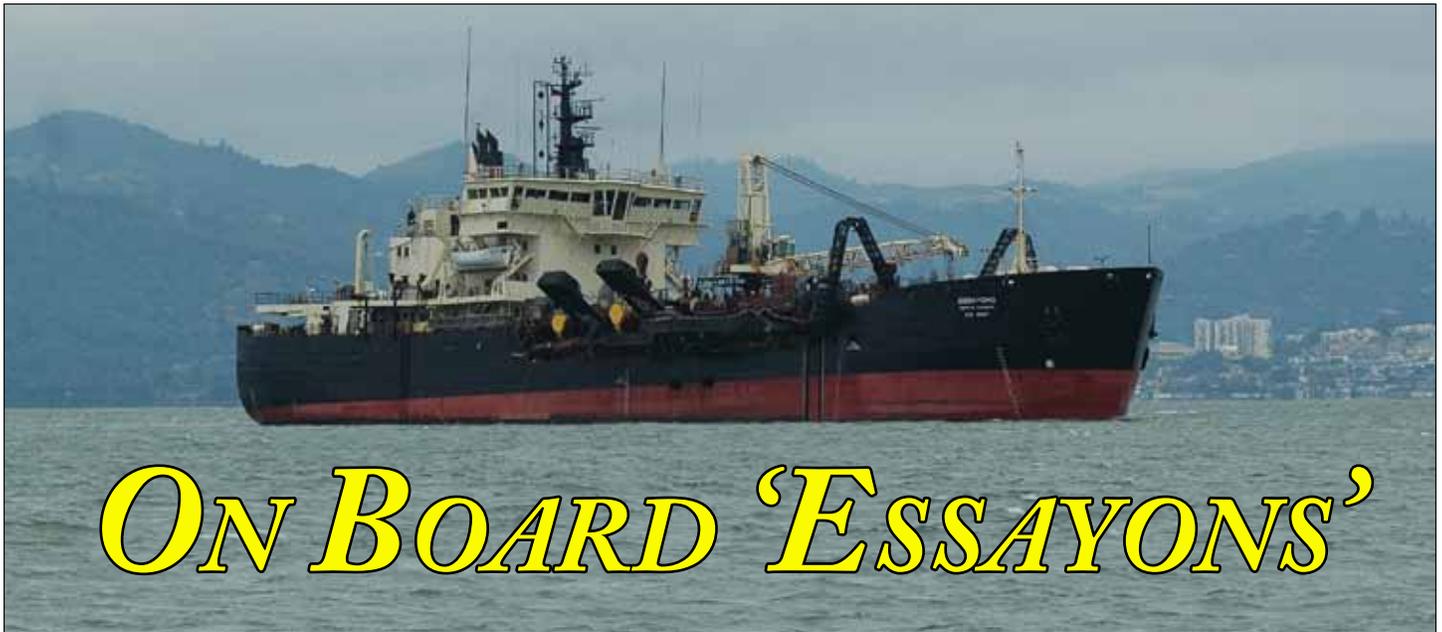
The commute hasn't affected his cooking skills, which were on full display for Corps of Engineer employees during the district's annual organizational day in Golden Gate Park last month.

Most recently, McCoy received a provisional patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for his smoker — an invention he has tinkered with for more than a decade.

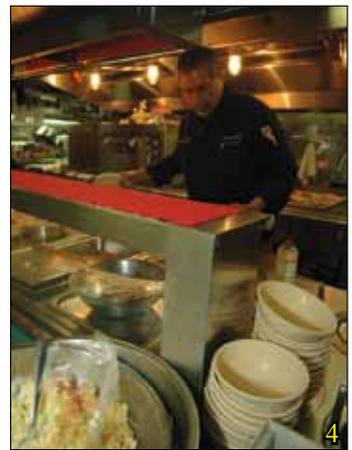
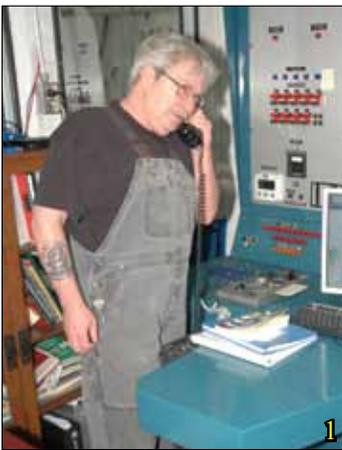
"I'm in the process of getting it marketed," he said. "Who knows what might happen?"

Whether it be cooking, accounting or anything else, the lesson is still the same for McCoy — add some seasoning and taste for flavor.





ON BOARD 'ESSAYONS'



[1] Chief Engineer Mike Oakes takes a phone call while working in the ship's engine room. [2] Chaz Delehant, a deck cadet from the California Maritime Academy, paints a section of the ship during his afternoon shift on deck. [3] Jim Holcroft, the ship's captain, points out Pinole Shoal Channel on a map. The channel, located in the San Francisco Bay, was the area where *Essayons* conducted a 20-day dredging mission in June. [4] Chief Steward Al Castillo greets crew members with a warm plate of food from inside the ship's kitchen.

Story & photos by Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

The 350-foot *Essayons*, operated by a 23-member crew from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Portland District, arrived in the San Francisco Bay June 2 for a 20-day around-the-clock dredging mission.

Referred to as a suction hopper dredger, the *Essayons* is able to vacuum up nearly 6,000 cubic yards of ocean sand in one hour using its two enormous drag arms.

Every year, the Corps' San Francisco District contracts the *Essayons* to dredge in the Bay Area. For this particular visit here, crew members focused their efforts on deepening the Pinole Shoal Channel, which is located near Mare Island.

Following multiple passes across the channel's floor, by which the ship can collect up to 600 dump truck loads of dredged material into 12 hopper bins, crew members then travel to one of three designated deposit sites to unload, in this case it was a location just off the coast of Alcatraz Island.

"We place it in an area where there are currents that will spread it out," said Jim Holcroft, the ship's captain. "We don't want it out of the bay, just out of the channel."

Keeping the bay's navigation channels open to maritime traffic, such as container ships and passenger liners, is one of the key responsibilities that the Corps has under the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Working at a non-stop pace, crew mem-

bers rotate every six hours, two shifts a day, explained Holcroft. Each crew member has a living quarters. Onboard, there is a fitness center, entertainment room and dining area.

Al Castillo, the ship's chief steward, who joined the *Essayons* in 1995, said he cooks three full-scale meals a day with a different menu introduced each week. Fridays are always surf and turf, with the main courses being filet mignon and shrimp scampi.

"Most of the time, we are on ship more than we are at home, so this is like our second home," said Castillo. "Food is number one in helping the morale of the guys."

Crew members stay active most of the year, as the *Essayons* dredges up and down the western U.S. coastline nearly 220 days out of the year.

Doing the District's Bidding

CORPS BUSINESS Is THEIR BUSINESS

By J.D. Hardesty
Chief, Public Affairs

The Contracting Office and their seven employees obligate between \$50 - \$60 million per year spread over 200 contracting actions.

"We expect those figures to double over the next year because of the American Recovery and Investment Act," said Linda Hales, chief of Contracting Office which supports San Francisco District and South Pacific Division.

They also partner with the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency and work with other districts to award contracts. We have the expertise and they pay us to let the contracts like clean-up and retrofit of leaking underground storage tanks.

In 2007, contracting functions became a national organization - the U.S. Army Contracting Command - with offices located at individual districts. They report through both commands.

They do business with what Hales called "Esprit de Corps unlike I have ever seen.

"The contracting office has been fortunate to assemble talented (1102 Career Series) staff members who require minimal supervision while cohesively taking on projects. Many are dual-hatted which is somewhat unique to our district. In larger districts job functions are not combined.

While some of the contracting staff have limits to the amount of warrants, the amount of money they can



U.S. Army Contracting Command

Distinctive Unit Insignia

Background:

The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 23 June 2008.

Symbolism:

Gold is the color of honor and high achievement.

Black is the color of financial solvency and the ability to meet future expenses.

The eagle is a symbol of vigilance and strength.

The curved division on the shield alludes to the globe and the organization's mission to provide contracting support for the warfighter's needs across the full spectrum of military operations.

The olive branch and arrows represent the peacetime and wartime contracting missions.

The scroll and quill highlight the writing of contracts to meet the Army's requirements. The motto translates to "Soldier, Emptor, Guardian."

obligate on behalf of the federal government, Hales has unlimited warrant authority. They train throughout their careers as federal regulations and laws change frequently.

Our primary responsibility is to assist commanders in commuting their district/division mission - it is our most important mission - outside of our direct command hierarchy.

The contracting staff includes:

□ **Rick Vredenberg** - a contract specialist who is also assigned as deputy for small business.

□ **Fernando Garcia** - a contracting specialist who is also the system administration for credit cards, special procurement systems similar to Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) for contract reporting.

□ **James Garror** is our contracting specialist in charge of large construction.

□ **Shirley Turnbo** - the Contracting Office's team leader.

The Contracting Office currently has two interns who just completed the first year of the two-year program: Fan Wa Wong and James Hallman.

"They are ahead of schedule for their contracting certification," Hales said. "We believe we bring economic viability in the bay area."

There is more to letting contracts than posting information on www.FedBizOpps.gov and finding someone to sign on the dotted line to supply the district with goods and services.

The Oakland Harbor 50-foot Navigation Improvement Project recently received \$7.8 million in stimulus funds to bring the \$380 million contract to fruition.

According to the Port of Oakland, completing the 50-foot deepening, combined with previous infrastructure improvements and expanded maritime facilities will help create 8,800 jobs, boost annual business revenue by \$1.9 billion and raise \$62 million in annual local taxes.

"Failure to timely let the contract would result in a loss to the State of California of more than \$1 million per day in sales tax revenue and wages.

District employee recounts Upper Midwest deployment

By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

When Cynthia Fowler deployed to Moorhead, Minn., with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 14, she confronted a different kind of flood fight.

Gone were the rising waters of the Red River that had dominated the news for more than two weeks. Gone was the threat that residents faced to homes and businesses when the river swelled to a record high of 41 feet on March 28.

What was left when the flooding finally receded was a town littered with more sandbags than it could possibly handle.

“When I went out to the neighborhoods for the first time, I really thought, ‘Wow! There’s a lot of work to do to clean up this mess,’” said Fowler, an environmental specialist with the San Francisco District.

Cleaning up the mess was not a mission traditionally assigned to the Corps. That guidance can be found in Public Law 84-99, which lays out specifically how the Corps responds to a flood emergency.

More than a million sandbags were passed to volunteers in Moorhead and neighboring Fargo, N.D., by the Corps to build temporary levees.

The good part was that the levees worked, giving residents a sigh of relief. But the levees soon outlived their stay.

“Literally, right down the middle of the street, there’s a levee, and you can’t get out of your own driveway,” said Fowler, who worked as an assistant team leader in the FEMA Region V Joint Recovery Field Office.

In order to remove levees as quickly as possible, FEMA invoked the Stafford Act and hired the Corps to lead the debris removal mission.

Restoring the town to its pre-flood days took more than three weeks of co-



courtesy

[Above] A loader removes temporary sand bags used to protect residential areas from flooding.

[Right] Cynthia Fowler discusses a report with Jamie Triplett, a resident engineer from the Corps’ Vicksburg District, during her month-long deployment to the FEMA Region V Joint Recovery Field Office in May.



courtesy

Literally, right down the middle of the street, there’s a levee, and you can’t get out of your own driveway.

Cynthia Fowler
Assistant Team Leader

ordination between the Corps, local contractors and residents.

Fowler returned to her district duties on May 15. As with most of her deployments since joining the Corps’ ATL cadre two years ago, it’s never easy to say goodbye to an assignment.

“When you work in that kind of environment, you work 12-16 hours a day, seven days a week with your co-workers.

“You hear them argue with their wives and husbands. You hear them tell their sons and daughters and friends, ‘Happy Birthday.’ You really get close with these people. On this particular deployment, I almost cried leaving,” she said.

Learn more about USACE Emergency Operations

www.usace.army.mil/Emergency/Pages/Home.aspx

www.noaa.gov



Members of the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team stack up in front of a door during forced-entry training at Moffett Field last month. The former military housing area, closed down in 2006, is set to be demolished by the Corps of Engineers by the end of this summer.

Supporting Community Agencies

Sheriff's tactical team trains at Moffett Field

Story & photos by
Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

Seven police officers stacked up outside a second-floor apartment at Moffett Field last month — two at the door, two on the landing and three on the stairwell. For a moment, nothing stirred at this three-story, six-unit building.

Then, one of the officers gave the notice to occupants. "Sheriff's office, search warrant." With three loud knocks and no response, the team readied itself for a forced entry. The lead officer swung a 30-pound ram into a pry bar wedged into the door jam by a second officer. The single blow broke the deadbolt, popping the steel door open. The two officers

There were zero injuries and zero time lost to the contractor.

Lt. Col. Don Davis
Corps of Engineers

who were crouched on the landing started to rush the entryway with assault rifles, but the officer holding the ram cleared to the left, not the right, blocking the oncoming officers.

The mistake could have proved fatal had the situation been life-and-death. Here at this vacant military family housing area, set to be demolished at the end of September by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers —

San Francisco District, it was a chance for law enforcement officers to practice breaching and assault tactics.

"Fortunately, we are training. We get a do-over," said Sgt. Dennis Owens, a member of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT). "If this was the real thing, there wouldn't be a do-over."

Of the many obstacles po-

lice officers confront, doors often pose the most threatening. There's just no telling what lies on the other side.

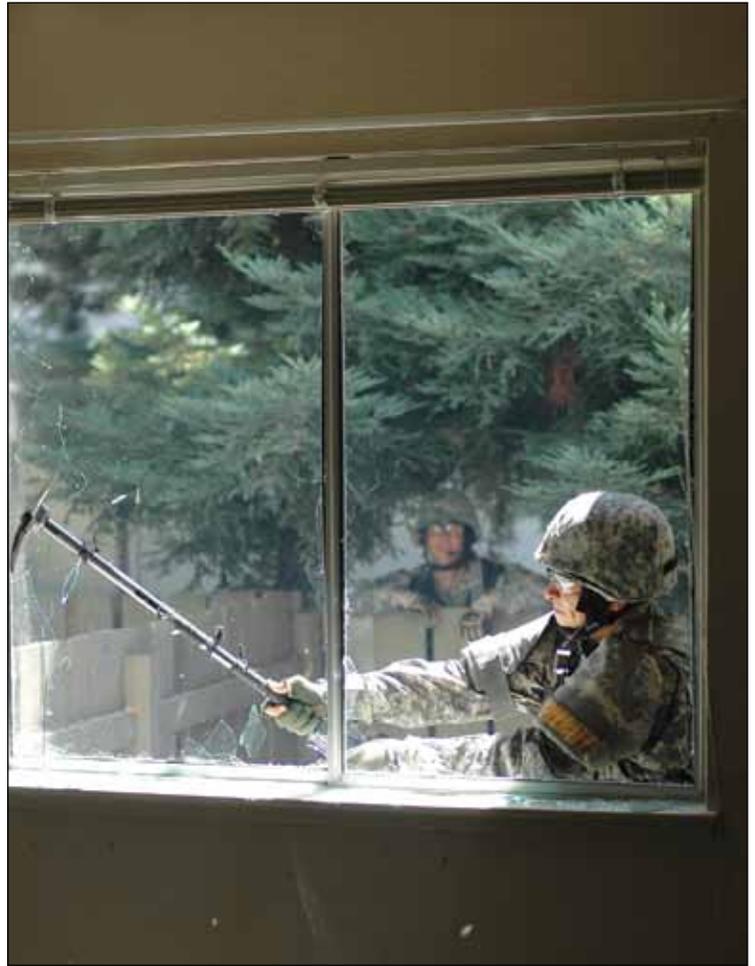
"It's the most vulnerable area for our law enforcement," said Lt. Mark Eastus, the SERT's tactical commander. "That's the most likely [place] someone is going to get shot and killed." Therefore, special operations units, like the Santa Clara County SERT, train several times a month at built-up urban ranges just on forced-entry situations, be it with explosives or manual devices, like rams and Hooligan bars.

Last month, officers had the green light from the Corps to bust things up.

"It's so much better than hitting a door that's not latched," said Todd Miyabara, a deputy officer. "Being able to actually feel



[Above] Members of the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team practice a second-floor assault at one of the vacated duplexes at Moffett Field. [Right] Deputy Officer Todd Miyabara rakes a window during training at Moffett Field last month.



the locking mechanism break on a door is the best way to train.”

The 58-building housing area of duplexes, threeplexes and fourplexes, which closed down in 2006, will soon be leveled by Bhate Associates, contracted by the Corps of Engineers, to clear room for a proposed U.S. Marine Corps regimental facility.

Eastus explained that law enforcement officials often solicit to corporations for use of their buildings to train personnel. Though it does create a realistic setting, a corporate building poses some obvious limitations.

“You can’t just break down doors and rake windows,” said Eustis. “Out here [at Moffett], we can use flash bangs and other explosive devices, and it doesn’t impact anybody.”

In June, personnel from six law enforcement agencies from Santa Clara, El Cajon, San Francisco and Fresno plus the California Highway Patrol met at Moffett Field for a four-day class on explosives breaching.



A dozer breaks up pieces of concrete during demolition work Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif., last month.

“They were able to conduct training in a real urban setting,” said Lt. Col. Don Davis of the Corps of Engineers. “There were zero injuries and zero time lost to the contractor.”

The four-month demolition is one of two major ongoing projects at Moffett Field. In December of last year, the District began work on an \$80 million construction project to build

a 103,500-square-foot Armed Forces Reserve center, which will be home to the 63rd Regional Support Command and 16 Army Reserve and California National Guard units.



1



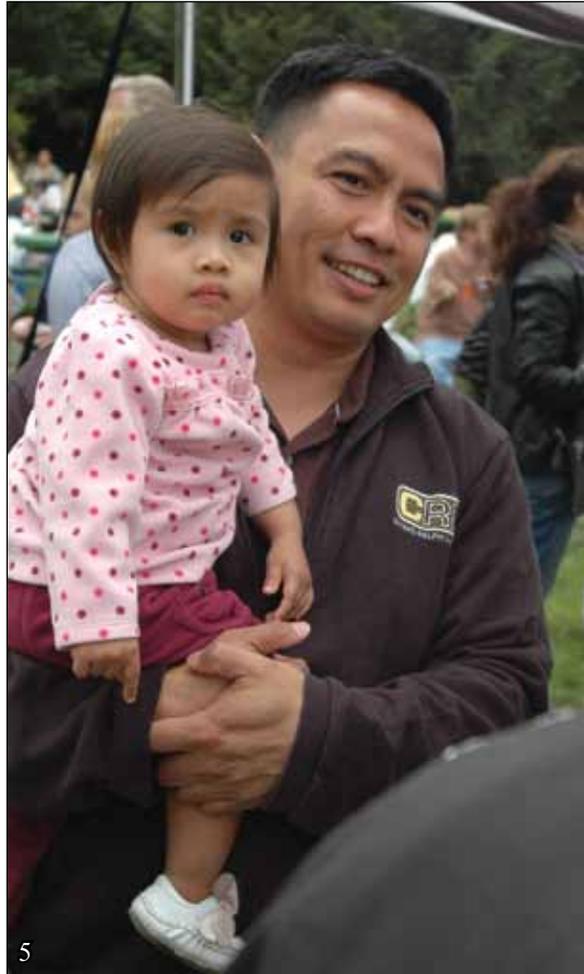
2

A day in the park

Employees, families enjoy organizational day



7



5



3



6



4

[1] San Francisco District employees and their families find a relaxing spot in Golden Gate Park to grab lunch July 31. [2] Jim Mazza tosses a Frisbee into a chain-link hoop, a game known as disc golf. [3] Football was one of many activities on hand as Mark D'Avignon looks to sail the ball down field. [4] Virginia Madlaing shares a smile while taking a bite of watermelon. [5] Lt. Clifford Lopez and his daughter, Caylee, age 1, enjoy their day in the park. [6] Tom Kendall and other district project managers work the barbecue line. [7] Dominic MacCormack, left, talks with A.R. Smith, the district's safety manager. (Photos by Brandon Beach)

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

ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

It's time to show off your engineering skills. Take on the engineering challenge in this month's SPN Surveyor. The first to solve this mathematical puzzler will receive a commander's coin, with the results being published in the Nov/Dec issue.

The Problem

You are a Corps Regulator visiting a site in Napa County in the month of June to conduct a field wetland delineation for a potential development site. You want to determine the wetland boundary to identify Corps jurisdiction, and you pick a sampling point along the gently sloped edge of a swale. The site does not appear to be disturbed or problematic in nature.

You identify the following plants (and their percentages) in the herb stratum: *Lolium perenne* (30%), *Lotus corniculatus* (25%), *Trifolium subterraneum* (5%), *Juncus phaeocephalus* (8%), *Eleocharis macrostachya* (20%), *Centaurea calcitrapa* (7%), *Vulpia myuros* (5%).

You then dig a soil pit and find that the soil profile from zero to one inch consists of loamy soils with a Matrix color of 10YR 3/2 and redox features along the pore linings and root channels that make up approximately six percent of the soil. The profile from one to twelve inches consists of loamy soils with a Matrix color of 10 YR 4/2 and redox features along the pore linings that make up approximately five percent of the soil. You then look for indicators of wetland hydrology and note that there are flow patterns visible on the soil surface and the vegetation is bent over in the direction of the flow. You also note the water table at 16 inches below the surface.

Using the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (<http://el.erd.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/wlman87.pdf>) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (<http://usace.army.mil/CECW/Documents/cecwo/reg/trel08-28.pdf>) and associated wetland determination data form, determine whether the sample point is a Corps-jurisdictional wetland.

This month's Engineering Problem was submitted by Laurie Monarres, chief of North Branch, Regulatory Division.

Submit your answers via e-mail to John Jacobson at John.H.Jacobson@usace.army.mil.

Congratulations to last issue's winner!



Brandon Beach

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. Laurence M. Farrell, left, presents a commander's coin to Blair Jackson, a civil engineer and winner of the Surveyor's July/Aug. Engineering Challenge.

The Answer

In the last issue of the SPN Surveyor, readers were asked to determine the quantity of water flowing into a ditch. Here is how Blair solved the problem.

$$q = VA = KiA = K (\Delta h/L) A$$

$$K = 10 \text{ ft/day}$$

$$\Delta h = 20' - 5' = 15'$$

$$L = 400'$$

$$A = (2000') (5') = 10,000 \text{ sq ft}$$

$$q = (10 \text{ ft/day}) (15'/400') (10,000 \text{ sq ft})$$

$$= 3750 \text{ ft}^3/\text{day}$$

$$3750 \text{ ft}^3/\text{day} (1 \text{ day}/24 \text{ hrs}) (1 \text{ hr}/60 \text{ min}) (7.4805 \text{ gal}/\text{ft}^3)$$

$$= 19.5 \text{ gal}/\text{min}$$

(or with significant figures)

$$= 20 \text{ gal}/\text{min}$$

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Baseball museum founder to speak at district observance

District Public Affairs Office

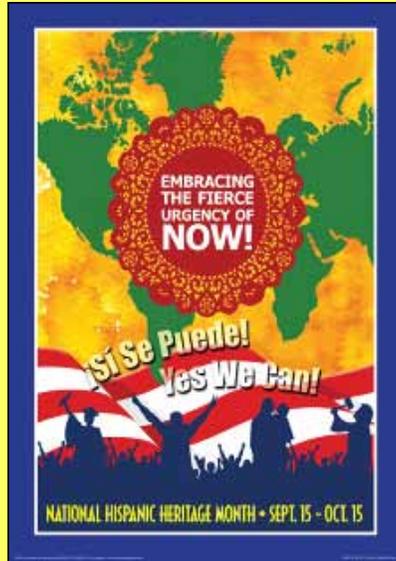
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — San Francisco District welcomes Gabriel Avila, Jr., founder of the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame, as the guest speaker at this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month observance

The event, hosted by the SPN Equal Opportunity Office, will be held Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m., in the ninth floor conference room.

Avila will talk about the history of his museum, from its founding in 1999 in San Francisco, Calif., to its first inductees in 2002. Currently, the museum organizes traveling exhibits at national baseball parks.

Avila will also discuss his work at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Palo Alto, Calif., where he helps veterans afflicted with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

For more about the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum, visit www.hispanicbaseballmuseum.com.



Just the facts

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this thirty-day period.

Hispanic servicemembers decorated with military's highest honor

Forty-three men of Hispanic heritage have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Of the forty-three Medals of Honor presented to Hispanics, two were presented to members of the U.S. Navy, 13 to members of the Marine Corps and 28 to members of the Army. Twenty-five Medals of Honor were presented posthumously.

The first recipient was Cpl. Joseph H. De Castro of the Union Army for his actions at Gettysburg, Pa., on July 3, 1863, during the American Civil War, and the most recent recipient was Capt. Humbert Roque Versace who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on July 8, 2002, by President George W. Bush.

Ten recipients were born outside the U.S. mainland, one in both Chile and Spain, four in Mexico and four in Puerto Rico.

The Medal of Honor is the United States highest military decoration. Sometimes referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Medal of Honor is bestowed "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in actual combat against an armed enemy force." The medal is awarded by the President of the United States on behalf of the Congress. Because of the nature of this medal, it is commonly presented posthumously.

Excerpt from www.army.mil.

Spotlight: Pfc. Harold Gonsalves



Pfc. Harold Gonsalves of Alameda, Calif., was a U.S. Marine who sacrificed his life to save fellow Marines in the Battle of Okinawa during World War II. For his heroism on this occasion, he was posthumously awarded the highest military honor of the United States — the Medal of Honor.

Gonsalves was decorated on June 19, 1946, during a ceremony in San Francisco. The award was signed by President Harry S. Truman with a citation that recognized his "valiant spirit of self-sacrifice."

Following the war, Gonsalves was buried with fully military honors in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, Calif., on March 20, 1949.