



SPN SURVEYOR

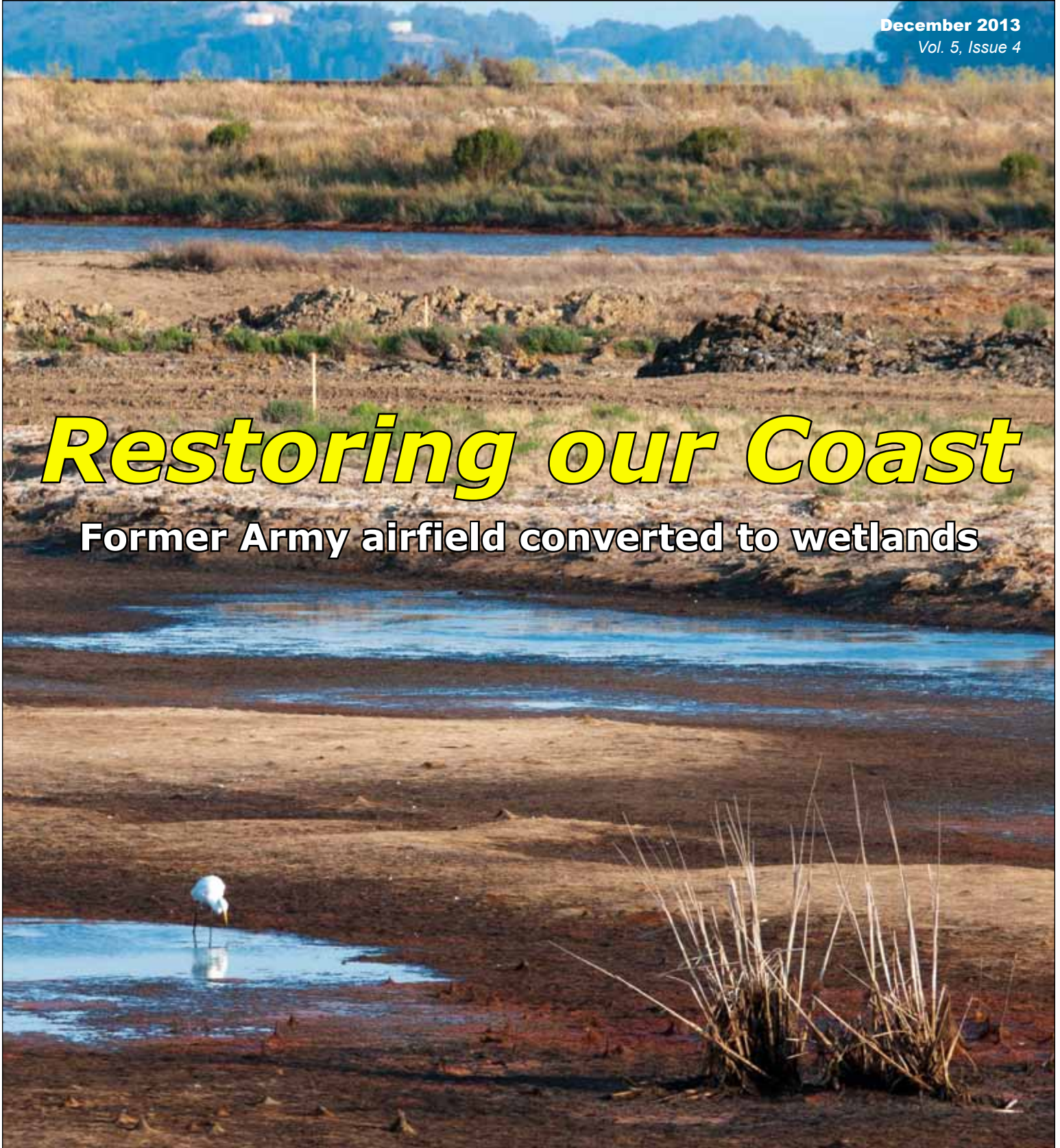
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Restoring our Coast

Former Army airfield converted to wetlands



COMMANDER'S CORNER

FY13 closeout, budget brings district future into focus

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

The San Francisco District completed Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 in an extremely successful fashion, and I extend my gratitude to all of our employees and stakeholders. We accomplished our mission "to deliver vital engineering services, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize the economy and reduce disaster risk." We also demonstrated our continued commitment to public safety, environmental stewardship and proper use of taxpayer dollars to improve public trust. Take pride in all of your accomplishments, the highlights of which I've listed below:

Over 270 employees delivered nearly \$120 million in products and services across 74 federally-funded projects. We completed approximately 1,000 regulatory actions impacting an estimated \$30 billion in economic development, and nearly 1 million people visited our three recreation facilities and visitor centers.

Supporting the Warfighter: We supported our Nation's overseas contingencies operations as 11 teammates



volunteered to serve and support reconstruction operations in Afghanistan with project and program management, construction, internal review and legal expertise.

Supporting Our Veterans: We completed a two-year, \$21 million electrical upgrade project for the San

Francisco Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center facility five months ahead of schedule. The 80-year-old facility, comprised of 37 individual buildings, provides medical care to 38,000 veterans each year and is home to the VA's largest research program. The district additionally accepted a \$2 million project with the National Cemetery Administration to design and construct a fence at the Golden Gate National Cemetery.



SF Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Supporting Navigation: We provided for the safe commerce and recreation through seven federal ship channels

Continued page 5

SPN SURVEYOR

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Public gets peak at district restoration efforts



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District invited the public to join the Hamilton Restoration Advisory Board on a site tour of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project Aug. 8. Close to 100 people attended the event that featured a bus tour of the project along with a tour of the project greenhouse, which is helping to restore native vegetation to the future wetlands.

About six million cubic yards of material has been hydraulically pumped onto the site to help recreate seasonal and tidal habitats.

-- Reporting by J.D. Hardesty

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In the News

SF Bay recognized as wetland of importance

By Garrison Frost
Special to SPN Surveyor

Confirming its vital role in the natural health of the hemisphere, San Francisco Bay/Estuary has been designated a "Wetland of International Importance" under the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention. San Francisco Bay is home to more than 1,000 species of mammals, birds, invertebrates and more than 130 species of fish—all of which enhance the lives and livelihoods of Bay Area residents.

"We've long known that the Bay is of hemispheric importance to migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, and this recognition just solidifies that stature among the international community," said Andrea Jones, coastal stewardship program director with Audubon California. "We hope that this will bolster efforts to restore and protect these critically important habitats."

While this designation will not result in new legally-binding protections for wildlife and habitat in the Bay, it does focus international pressure on agencies to step up conservation efforts and may lead to additional funding for wetland restoration.

"This designation should be a point of pride for anyone living in the larger San Francisco Bay Area," said Beth Huning, coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. "Despite intense urban pressures, San Francisco Bay nonetheless endures as one of our country's great natural treasures." ...

The designated site includes wetlands and waters of the nearly 400,000 acres in and around the Bay, and encompasses a variety of land-owners—both public and private—dedicated to protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Frost is a marketing and communications director for Audubon California.



On the cover

An egret wades in one of the seasonal wetland areas that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District has created in the last few years at Hamilton. Formerly a U.S. Army airfield, the project site is currently being restored to its previous wetland habitat. Construction continues at Hamilton in preparation for next year's tidal breach. (Photo by Ryan McClymont, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District)



Steve Roehner ties down a line, while Rick Curry, below, prepares the rope on the Dillard deck.



Dillard crew members Steve Roehner, left, and Rick Curry secure lines during an emergency towing exercise with Coast Guardsmen July 9.



Dillard crew trains with local Coast Guardsmen

Story & photos by Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

Crew members from the M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr., a San Francisco District command and control vessel, conducted emergency towing exercises with U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Pike July 9.

The two crews met just south of the Bay Bridge near Treasure Island, where they completed a series of tow and be-towed maneuvers under gray skies. The exercises took just over an hour, and for the two crews, it was a chance to get reacquainted.

"Each time, we get a better working relationship with the Coast Guard," said Kixon Meyer, captain of the Dillard. "It's all about speaking the same language."

This was the fourth towing exercise between the two crews in the last two years.

"It's good training for us. They're required to do it, so we're a good asset for them," said Meyer. "We're out here anyway looking for debris," adding, "It makes it cheap training really, as much as I know the budget is a big deal."

The Pike, which is based on Yerba Buena Island, is an 87-foot patrol boat responsible for search and rescue, homeland security and law enforcement missions in the San Francisco Bay Area. This past summer, the Dillard and Pike teamed up to provide security during America's Cup races at Marina Green.

Corner continued ...

and San Francisco Bay. Our dredging, debris removal (over 900 tons in FY13) and surveying contributed to a \$68 billion annual maritime industry, and we supported the U.S. Coast Guard and the Port of San Francisco for the 34th America's Cup, which brought over 1 million visitors and an estimated \$1 billion to the Bay Area's economy.



M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr.

Partners for Preservation: Our collaborative ecosystem restoration efforts in the Russian River with the Sonoma County Water Agency, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Dry Creek Rancheria

Band of the Pomo Indians completed the first of six miles of habitat restoration on the Dry Creek tributary to help recover the endangered Central California Coast coho salmon, earning designation as a NOAA "Habitat Blueprint for Success."

Wetlands Restoration: The district continued to work on the region's three largest wetlands restoration projects—South Bay Salt Ponds, Napa Salt Marsh and Hamilton Airfield Wetlands—through our design, construction and studies. The SF Bay-Estuary, which comprises 70 percent of the state's wetlands, was designated a RAMSAR Wetland of International Significance. Our efforts to beneficially reuse dredged material will allow for even greater restoration efforts in the future.

I regret the negative impacts of the federal government shutdown on



Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project

our workforce and our projects. For our employees, thank you for your professionalism and patience working through this adversity; your dedication illustrates the Value to the Nation each one of you provides. Your dedicated and loyal public service does not go unnoticed, and your continued work is important to our district accomplishing our FY14 mission.

For FY14, our projected workload of \$82.4 million is comprised of \$72 million in Civil Works funding with an additional \$12.4 million projected from International and Interagency Support (IIS). We have managed our workforce to meet this fiscal challenge, and I want to ensure you we will continue to place our "mission first, and people always."

Despite these fiscal constraints, we will continue to provide professional development opportunities and training for our workforce so that we can maintain our core competencies and successful mission execution. The most strategic and important thing that we can do for our district and Nation is to safely deliver quality work on time and on budget.

Success breeds success. Thank you for your outstanding 2013 performance. Continue "Building Strong!" throughout 2014.

USACE leader visits Bay Area



Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite held a town hall meeting at the San Francisco Public Library Dec. 5. He used the opportunity to discuss the state of the Corps of Engineers and its future goals and challenges during his first visit to the San Francisco District.



Army Corps accelerates wetland creation at old Hamilton Airfield

Story & photos by Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

With the finish line clearly in sight, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District is working to complete the final construction phases of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project in time for next year's tidal breach. "We anticipate breaching at the beginning of next year," said Robin Liffmann, Hamilton project manager. "We're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and that's really exciting."

SPN staff photo

Formerly a U.S. Army airfield, Hamilton is a 988-acre site near Novato, Calif., and one of the largest wetland restoration projects on the West Coast. A decade in the making, the project aims to create a complex landscape of seasonal and tidal wetlands, as well as a multi-purpose trail for public access.

One of the key components to restoring wetlands is dredged material, or mud. It serves as the foundation for building the kind of topography conducive for growing plants and attracting wildlife. To date, the Corps has placed approximately six million cubic yards of dredged material at Hamilton for beneficial reuse, much of it coming from the district's Oakland Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, which deepened the nation's fifth largest port from a depth of minus-42 feet to -50 feet in 2009.

"We are essentially using the mud to raise the elevation of the site, which would have happened naturally if we breached it, but it would take decades longer," said Eric Jolliffe, Hamilton environmental planner. "This is a critical area for a couple of endangered species—the salt marsh harvest mouse and the [California] clapper rail—so there's an advantage to creating this site as fast as a possible."

With the mud in place, the Corps has focused much of its current construction efforts on contouring the site using backhoes and bulldozers in order to create a network of channels, ponds and islands.

"You have ponds that stay inundated during certain times of the season for various types of birds," said Liffmann.

Work is also being done to finish a wildlife corridor that will serve as a pathway for wildlife moving between the bay fringe and

the upland areas of the site.

"The corridor will be 300-feet wide with a very gradual slope, almost imperceptible, to maximize the area of transition between wetland and upland," said Jolliffe. "This transition is a rare type of habitat, and there will be a whole series of plants that grow just in this zone."

Biologists for the Corps have been propagating most of these native plants—such as oak, buckeye, coyote bush and snowberry—on site since the opening of a large-scale plant nursery last year at what was formerly a water treatment facility. With time being critical, a nursery in close proximity to the project allows biologists to grow native plants and get them in the ground quickly.

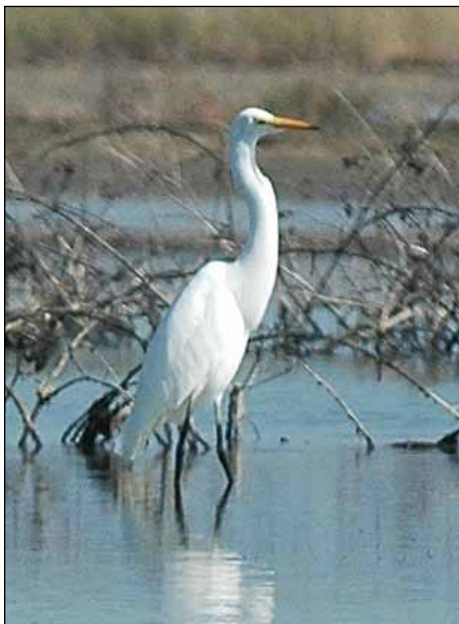
"You avoid an invasion of plants you really don't want," said Liffmann. "The point is to set it up with the plants you want, so it will be sustainable in the future."

Helping this effort has not only been the Corps and its two partner agencies—the California State Coastal Conservancy and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission—but local volunteers.

"The nursery is one of the hubs of the project," said Liffmann. "People definitely want to come visit and see what's going on out there."



The Hamilton Nursery was opened by the Corps last year, providing biologists, such as Volunteer Coordinator Christina McWhorter, pictured above, a place to grow native plants for the project.



A variety of birds—from the egret [above] to the long-billed dowitcher—call Hamilton home.



SPN staff photo

Breaching the site to tidal action is also expected to be a major event sure to attract the crowds. Quite simply, the process involves cutting down the site's outboard levee to the level of the marsh plain and creating a channel cut to allow the bay tides to flow in and out of the site unimpeded. It will be the last step toward restoring the level of hydrology that existed at Hamilton more than a century ago.

"If we had just breached the levee and let nature take its course, the estimate was 50 years before it would start forming what we're creating now," said Liffmann. "In this respect, we're helping nature along."



The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians hosted 10 Northern California tribes for a "Big Event" at their new redwood brush arbor July 27.

Tribe hosts "Big Event" at Lake Sonoma



By J.D. Hardesty
District Public Affairs Office

The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians returned to their ancestral homelands under the shadow of Warm Springs Dam July 27 for the "Big Event," a 10-tribe pow-wow-style celebration.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District and the Pomo Tribe signed a 25-year lease for 27 acres downstream of the dam. The lease includes four 25-year renewals.

The Pomos built the new redwood brush arbor where they host cultural celebrations for the first time since the Corps of Engineers built the dam that created Lake Sonoma in 1980.

The 27 acres run along Dry Creek where the Corps of Engineers, Pomos, Sonoma County Water Agency, land owners and business have collaborated to restore fish habitat for Coho and Steelhead.



Photos by Brandon Beach





More than 75 San Francisco District employees rang in the holiday season with an afternoon luncheon Dec. 10. Held at Sinbad's Pier 2 Restaurant in San Francisco and the district's headquarters building, the two-hour event was capped with live music, spectacular views of the Bay, plenty of food, an assortment of sweets, and an appearance by Santa Claus. The event was hosted by the SPN Activities Council.

[1] Members of the SPN Band, (from left to right), Tom Kendall, Blair Jackson, guest singer Robin Liffmann, Lisa Mangione and Dan Tiscareno, belt out a holiday tune. [2] Cora Delago, right, and Elvie Romabiles, pose with Santa (PAO specialist Ryan McClymont). [3] Lt. Col. John Baker, SPN commander, presents Mike Donnelly, with a survey marker for his distinguished service. Donnelly celebrated his retirement earlier this year. [4] Judy Labaria, middle, joins members of the SPN Band for a holiday tune. (Photos by Brandon Beach)

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



Program helps employees stay connected

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

A new program at the San Francisco District will help employees stay connected to professional development opportunities, despite decreased funding for training.

"We have to find ways to reach out and do things on our own to improve our professional skills even during times of budget austerity," said Rachel Coyner, a SPN project engineer.

Coyner and Project Manager Katherine Reyes teamed up to create SPN Connect, which is scheduled to launch in October. The program is a revitalization of the district's long-standing

mentorship program. SPN Connect still has a mentorship component, but it has expanded to add three new areas—leadership, professional skills and social/networking/outreach.

"We had a lot of people tell us, 'I would love to get involved, but I don't have time for a mentor,'" said Coyner. "That's when we started to think about how we could shape the program to meet the needs of all district employees."

With mentorship no longer the catch-all, the first step was finding a name that also encompassed the three new program goals. Coyner and Reyes threw out a few ideas for vote, and what emerged was SPN Connect.

With a new name, mission statement, slogan ("Building Strong People"), SharePoint site and activity calendar, the program is now ready to launch.

"It's open to all district employees," said Coyner. "All of our existing mentors and men-

tees will now be under the umbrella of SPN Connect."

Employees can find information on upcoming events on the SPN Connect Outlook shared calendar. In the works is a group outing to a San Francisco Giant's baseball game, luncheon with senior leaders, a StrengthsFinder session with Pat Gacutan of the South Pacific Division Business Management Division, and a brown bag seminar on public speaking led by J.D. Hardesty, Public Affairs chief.

"It's a great opportunity to improve your professional skills while helping to build the San Francisco District team," said Coyner.



Reyes

SPN Connect members attend a Giants baseball game.

How to join

To join the SPN Connect mailing list, email Rachel Coyner at rachel.c.coyner@usace.army.mil or Katherine Reyes at katherine.m.reyes@usace.army.mil.

The official kickoff party is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m., at O3 Bistro and Lounge on Van Ness. Everyone is welcome to attend.



District 'prepares for tomorrow' with outreach events

Story & photos by Ryan McClymont

District Public Affairs Office

Part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers campaign plan is to "prepare for tomorrow by building great people, teams, systems and processes to shape and deliver strategic solutions to its customers."

The San Francisco District took that challenge head on in July by hosting two events to forge relationships and educate local engineers on the role of the Corps of Engineers in the Bay Area.

The first event was sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers, which held its "Friends and Family BBQ" at the San Francisco District's Bay Model Visitor Center on July 13. Over 60 people attended the day's events to learn more about the district's mission in the Bay Area and to socialize.

"Lt. Col. [John] Baker spoke at our January meeting and called the Bay Model one of the jewels of the San Francisco District, and I thought what a great place for a program like this," said Nancy Barnes, program director for the local SAME post.



Ranger Linda Holme, middle, leads a guided tour of the Bay Model for SAME members during the "Friends and Family BBQ" July 13.

"It's an opportunity for people to get their family and friends together and learn a little bit more about the Corps of Engineers."

Located in Sausalito, Calif., the model is a 1.5-acre, 3-D representation of the San Francisco Bay and the Delta. The event included tours of the Bay Model by district Ranger Linda Holme, a barbecue lunch and a tour of the M/V Raccoon, a district debris removal vessel, by Captain Joe McCormick.

The second event was held at the district headquarters building in San Francisco,

where the American Society of Civil Engineers held its "Evening with USACE" July 17. About 30 young engineers from ASCE and the Society of American Military Engineers attended the event, representing 15 different local organizations.

This is "a great opportunity to showcase the important missions of the Corps in the Bay Area and throughout the Nation," said Rachel Coyner, a district project engineer and the event coordinator. "Many people may have heard of the Corps, but they don't realize we play such a large role in everything from recreation to disaster response."

The evening started with a networking and socializing reception followed by a presentation from Baker on the district's mission, vision and campaign plan. After a question-and-answer session, the event concluded with a walking tour of the district's offices and facilities.

"I got so much positive feedback from ASCE members," said Coyner. "I think it gave everyone a unique perspective on the history of the Corps and our current proj-

Continued on page 16

Postcard from Afghanistan



USACE AED staff photo

Chuck Hadley, a construction representative with the San Francisco District, recently deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of the nation's Overseas Contingency Operations. He is shown in this photo outside of an Afghan Corps base currently under construction.

Hello from Kandahar,

Just checking in with a little of what I am currently working on here in Afghanistan. I have 10 projects at about \$100 million. I am currently working on a wastewater treatment plant, power plant, hospital, police headquarters, multiple gun ranges and a 25-building Afghan Corps base.

One of the biggest differences here is adapting to how materials are installed. For example, the Afghan workers have their own way of installing ceramic tile. I could explain it, but it would take too long.

My time here so far has been a great experience. I work at a small forward operating base with a small office of eight of us (3 PE, 3 Con Reps, 1 RE and 1 OIC). My coworkers are a great bunch. We seem to all get along for the most part, but that's expected in

a small office working in close quarters seven days a week, but they have been great to work with.

The building behind me is part of the Afghan Corps base I am currently working on, worth approximately \$18 million.

I would say since being in a remote part of Afghanistan the only way in or out is by helicopter. If you need to get to a project site, helicopter is the only way to get there. It's now not as exciting to go on a helicopter ride as I take them so often.

I can say it has been an experience of a lifetime, a different culture and lifestyle. I wish you all well at home, and we will see you all soon.

Regards,

Chuck

Wounded Warriors get tour of the Bay

Story & photo by Ryan McClymont
District Public Affairs Office

Roughly 300,000 active duty military service members transition back into civilian life every year and many, having faced rapid deployments to dual wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, struggle with the change from warrior to civilian.

"As an organization that serves combat veterans, we identify groups within the community that work with veterans and help them to make a successful transition back into the civilian world," said Maurice Delmer, an outreach specialist for the Veterans Affairs Center in Concord. "We really appreciate the Corps of Engineers opening up this opportunity to us. Outings like this let the vets know that their service is appreciated and acknowledged."

Crew members from the M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr., a San Francisco District command and control vessel, escorted 12 wounded warriors from the Concord Vet Center on a day of recreational therapy July 10. After boarding the Dillard and receiving a safety brief, the veterans were given a quick tour of the San Francisco Bay before heading to AT&T Park to watch the Giants



Crew members from the M/V John A. B. Dillard, Jr., a district command and control vessel, escorted 12 wounded warriors from the Concord Vet Center on a tour of the SF Bay July 10.

take on the Mets. The group of veterans served in conflicts going back to WWII and represented all five branches of the military.

"Time passes, and people forget some of the sacrifices that these vets have made for us, so this is a way of giving back to them and showing how much we appreciate their service to our country," said Joe Aguila,

Equal Employment Opportunity specialist.

Aguila attended the event to represent the San Francisco district's EEO office and to reach out and assist veterans looking for employment opportunities.

"I found out about this through a work

Continued page 16

Employees take on corporate running challenge

By Brandon Beach
District Public Affairs Office

Under the backdrop of AT&T Park and McCovey Cove, 16 San Francisco District employees and two from the South Pacific Division competed in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge Sept. 3.

Held annually in San Francisco, this year's "challenge" started at the Lot A parking area near the iconic baseball stadium by the bay. The 3.7-mile loop course led runners through parts of China Basin, over Lefty O'Doul Bridge on 3rd Street, around the ballpark and back.

SPN / SPD

combined to field two men's teams, a woman's team and a co-ed team.

After the race, team members enjoyed a tailgate-style barbecue compliments of a generous donation by the SPN Activities Council.

This was the 29th running of the Corporate Challenge Series, with twelve cities hosting similar events. A record 10,781 participants raced in San Francisco representing 360 companies. Proceeds from the race went to support Larkin Street Youth Services.



Runners get set to start the race.



The SPN/SPD team included [from left to right, back row to front]: Cheree Peterson, Joël Benegar, Jack Hogan, Cynthia Fowler, Brandon Beach, James Zoulas, Andrew Smith, Jessica Burton Evans, Sahrye Cohen, Michael Davis, Emily Green, Rede Shifferaw, Joe Aguila, Maj. Adam Czekanski, Lt. Col. John Baker, Sarah Elgendy and Marisela Rocha. Not pictured is Richard Stradford. (All photos by J.D. Hardesty)

Tour highlights Coho recovery program

Story & photos by J.D. Hardesty
District Public Affairs Office

Leaders, environmentalists and biologists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District, Sonoma County Water Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service toured Lake Sonoma and the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery Aug. 29.

Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Samuel Rauch from the organization's Washington D.C. office and with the Pacific NFMS Administrator William Stelle, who will serve as the new West Coast Administrator as of Oct. 1, were briefed by federal, state and local agencies on the mitigation issues created by the construction of Coyote Valley Dam (Lake Mendocino) and Warm Springs Dam (Lake Sonoma) in the Russian River Watershed.

The Corps, Sonoma County Water Agency and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife team to increase the number of endangered and threatened Coho and Steelhead in the watershed with the fish hatchery operations and fish habitat restoration that NOAA selected as the first Habitat Focus Area under its Habitat Blueprint.

SCWA finished Phase two of its first one-mile fish habitat demonstration project in Dry Creek. The Russian River Biological Opinion addresses concerns to mitigate issues that reduced the fish population from construction of the two dams.

Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District completed the Dry Creek Reach 15 Restoration Project at Lake Sonoma in August. This portion of the Dry Creek restoration is a



National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Office Administrator William Stelle, middle, takes a look into one of the fish tanks at the Don Clausen Hatchery where Russian River Coho are housed.

*Record numbers of
Coho, Chinook and
Steelhead returned
to Russian River
tributaries this year.*

\$1.8 million project running along 1,600 feet of Dry Creek just downstream from the outlet works of Warm Springs Dam.

While the district's Russian River Coho Salmon Broodstock program has had continuing success at raising and releasing juvenile salmon, a National Marine Fisheries Service study found that survival conditions in Dry Creek were unfavorable after release. The newly-completed secondary channel runs parallel to Dry Creek to provide low flow for salmon to rest, feed and spawn in, especially during winter months when there is high flow from the dam.

According to fish biologists, record numbers of Coho, Chinook and Steelhead returned to Russian River tributaries this year.

-- Additional reporting by McClymont



Hardesty

Photo Feature

Modernizing the Concord Military Ocean Terminal

[Left] Lt. Col. John Baker (right), commander of the San Francisco District, briefs Gen. Dennis L. Via, commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, on the Corps' work at the Military Ocean Terminal in Concord, Calif., Aug. 28.

[Right] The Sacramento and San Francisco districts are collaborating on modernizing the piers at the installation, known as MOTCO.



Gon

Sausalito Art Festival

Organizers, USACE staff team to host 3-day event

By Brandon Beach

District Public Affairs Office

For the past 26 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model Visitor Center has been home to the ever-growing Sausalito Art Festival.

"It just seemed like a natural fit when it came here in 1988," said Chris Gallagher, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park manager at the Bay Model, "and it's great exposure for us."

The popular waterfront festival celebrated its 61st year of showcasing the art community during this past Labor Day weekend. More than 33,000 visitors walked through the doors making it a record year for attendance.

"People travel from all over the Bay Area to be here, even the country," said Cheryl Popp, the festival's publicist. "We get museum curators, collectors and people who just want to take in the art."

Each year, some 1,500 artists vie for 250 spaces at the festival. Artists are evaluated by a jury panel and compete in a variety of mediums from painting to sculpture.

"The quality of the art is



The waterfront festival, held at the Bay Model Visitor Center since 1988, welcomed more than 30,000 visitors.

much higher than what you might see at a local craft fair," said Popp.

With a maze of art booths lined up at Marinship Park, festivalgoers also took in the many other attractions—live music, food, local wine and tours of

the Bay Model, a working hydraulic model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System.

Before it settled at the Bay Model, the festival got its start back in 1952 setting up at a small beach area near downtown Sausalito. Over the years,

it has moved from the beach to a school parking lot to city hall to a public park.

"It just outgrew these venues," said Popp. "That's what prompted us to meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Bay Model just seemed like a prime location."

With sun-filled days and record crowds ambling through the many art booths, it also turned out to be a prime weekend for the 61st running of Sausalito's beloved festival.



Some 260 artists showcased a variety of works, from painting to sculpture to woodworking, giving many festivalgoers a reason to pause.



Members of Tainted Love, an 80s rock cover band, kept crowds on their feet. Other notable acts included Psychedelic Furs and Lisa Marie Presley.

California flood risk discussed at seminar

Story & photos by Randy Gon
South Pacific Division Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Water Resources joined forces covering topics from the "California's Flood Future Highlights: Recommendations for Managing the State's Flood Risk" during a technical seminar here at USACE, South Pacific Division Headquarters, San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 22.

The report, prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DWR and various other state agencies, identifies and addresses the barriers to improved flood management. As the first comprehensive look at statewide exposure to flood risk, the report also provides information intended to inform decisions about policies and financial investments to improve public safety, foster environmental stewardship, and support economic stability.

"Flood management in California is challenging because of the number of agencies that have flood management responsibilities," said Craig Connor, flood risk manager for USACE, San Francisco District. "Out of the 58 counties throughout the state, there are more than 1,300 flood management agencies, so that is one of the major challenges."

To tackle the information gathering, Connor and Jason Sidley of California DWR, started at the county level by contacting a representative from all 58 counties.

"We really wanted to involve the locals



Craig Connor, top right, flood risk manager for the San Francisco District, and Jason Sidley of the California Department of Water Resources discuss the California Flood Future Report Aug. 22 during a technical seminar.



and make sure they knew we were there to listen to them," said Sidley. "Twelve teams made up of contractors, DWR staff in the regional offices and Corps staff from among the four districts collected information over the course of six weeks."

After these teams conducted their interviews and understood the opportunities and challenges flood managers around the state face, certain themes surfaced according to Connor; among the most common were funding concerns.

"The trend is with less Federal money

available, it is going to take partnerships at the Federal, State and local level to make flood management work in the future," said Connor. He stressed sufficient and stable investments in flood management must become a public priority.

The Corps and DWR distilled 700 recommendations from local agencies and flood experts down to seven which they advocate in the report.

To read the full report, go to <http://www.water.ca.gov/sfmp/resources.cfm>

Events continued ...

ects in the Bay Area."

This perspective was emphasized in Baker's presentation which highlighted how San Francisco District "Solutioneers" have brought value to the Nation by managing aquatic resources, reducing flood risk, providing recreation opportunities and keeping commerce moving through debris removal and dredging operations.

The San Francisco District is continuing to prepare for tomorrow by supporting local Science Technology, Engineering, and Math events, focusing on profes-



Lyn Gillespie, chief of Engineering and Technical Services Division, takes participants on a walking tour of the district July 17.

sional development within its ranks and continuing its community outreach programs to increase interest,

understanding and cooperation between the Corps and the communities of the Bay Area.

Tour continued ...



Pete Tortorice, Jr., a Vietnam-era Navy veteran, salutes during the playing of the National Anthem before the Giants took on the Mets July 10 at AT&T Park.

study program at the vet center," said Jeremy Robinson, a Navy veteran. "I think it is a great event, and I'm glad they put it together for disabled veterans to show their appreciation for what we did."