



# SPN SURVEYOR

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Vol. 5, Issue 1

## Picking up after Sandy

*Read full story, page 8*

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*Chief of Engineers tours district, page 5*

*SPN dive team completes mission, page 7*

*Debris teams remove boat, page 10*





# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## New Year's Resolution:

## Personally Supporting USACE Goals on a Shoestring Budget

By Lt. Col. John K. Baker

San Francisco District Commander

My previous messages have addressed the talent and diversity of our team of about 300 employees, as well as our success closing out 2012 with a \$100 million program comprised of about 160 active projects. The talent of our team and success of our district were showcased to our Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, during his San Francisco visit in January.

Lt. Gen. Bostick used his brief time with us to highlight the four USACE goals (three words apiece) whereby we would accomplish the USACE mission: "Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, strengthen our economy, and reduce risk from disaster."

The New Year of 2013 has brought significant fiscal uncertainty and the promise of fewer resources with which to accomplish our mission. However, we can still support the four USACE goals, if even on a "shoestring budget," so I propose that we each commit to personally accomplishing what we can. I have some ideas to share below, most of which have little to no monetary cost.

**Goal 1: Support the Warfighter.** You



may volunteer to serve overseas. Even if you don't, support those who do with care packages, letters or e-mails. We have nine district employees deployed overseas now, and more are deploying this year. We have their addresses.

**Goal 2: Transform Civil Works.** Commit to doing your job with the greatest degree of fiscal responsibility. Spend each dollar as if it were your own. Continue to safely deliver quality projects on time and on budget. Keep commitments to our stakeholders and deliver the customer service you would want to receive.

**Goal 3: Reduce Disaster Risk.** Volunteer

to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts on the East Coast. We have two employees doing so now. Even if you don't, support those who do with care packages, letters or e-mails.

**Goal 4: Prepare for Tomorrow.** Help our organization to continue its success for years to come. Be a lifelong learner. Find a mentor. Commit to mentoring a junior employee. We have wonderful opportunities in our district for sharing knowledge, from monthly technical brown bag lunches, monthly "Water Savvy" book of the month lunches, mentoring events at San Francisco Giants baseball games, and our leadership development program. Create your own opportunity if you have a better idea. Share the San Francisco District and USACE story with all you encounter. Your talent and competence will be obvious, and your passion will be infectious.

I continue to be proud, honored, and humbled to serve with you. We no doubt have fiscal constraints and challenges ahead, but the talent, diversity, and teamwork of this district has carried us through successfully since 1866. We need every team member to commit. Our Nation and stakeholders are counting on us, even on a shoestring budget.

Thank you for your service. Essayons! Building Strong!

### District Commander

LTC John K. Baker

### Deputy Commander

MAJ Christopher W. Crary

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### *Army News*

## Volunteers deploy with PRT teams



Beach

*Frani Nelsen, a civilian employee with the Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, helps remove storm-damage debris in Queens, N.Y., Nov. 22, 2012. Nelsen is one of more than 250 Corps of Engineers volunteers from around the U.S. who responded to Hurricane Sandy.*

**By Clayton Church**  
*Special to "SPN Surveyor"*

The iconic WWII recruiting poster of Uncle Sam pointing comes to mind when asking people to volunteer for possible deployment following a disaster. Recent events with tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and even tsunamis demonstrate a continuing need to recruit talented individuals for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning and Response Teams. These teams provide assistance in time of disaster to help people recover and set a path to return to normalcy.

The team members for these PRTs come from every USACE district, division, center and organization. People with almost any skill set, background, training or specialty may be used. The main underlying factor is an individual with the proper skill sets for the particular team, along with an attitude of flexibility tem-

Continued page 9

## On the cover

*An excavator sorts storm-damage debris at Jacob Riis Park, a temporary collection site set up in Queens, N.Y., following Hurricane Sandy. Since Sandy made its landfall on Oct. 29, 2012, more than 250 volunteers from districts around the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have helped with recovery efforts in the states of New York and New Jersey, including five employees from the San Francisco District. To this day, SPN continues to send volunteers. (Photo by Brandon Beach)*

## SF VA Medical Center Electrical Upgrade Project



Hardesty



Liviu Tanase

[Above and left] The San Francisco VA Medical Center facility electrical upgrade is a complex project aimed at completely reworking the approximately 29-acre 4.18-kilovolt power system into compatibility with the public utility suppliers' 12-kilovolt system.

[Right] San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. John K. Baker (left) presented Sgt. Matthew P. Moore, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., currently stationed with the 249th "Prime Power" Engineer Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C., with an Army Achievement Medal for providing quality assurance work for the Corps of Engineers' Veterans Affairs Medical Center Electrical Upgrade Project in San Francisco. [Far Right] Baker also presented an Army Achievement Medal to Sgt. Eric G. Halvorson, a native of Bessemer, Mich., for his work at the SF VA Medical Center.



Award photos by Mary Bridgewater

# Soldiers take care of Soldiers in 'pay-it-forward' assignment

By J.D. Hardesty  
District Public Affairs Office

Their war may have ended, but battles still linger for veterans and their families seeking medical assistance at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

On March 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln affirmed the government's obligation to care for our veterans in his second inaugural address when he spoke the words, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

President Lincoln's words have stood the test of time and stand today as a solemn reminder of the VA's commitment to care for

those injured in our nation's defense and the families of those killed in its service.

For two 249th Engineer Battalion "Prime Power" Soldiers from Company B in Fort Bragg, N.C., providing electrical upgrade Quality Assurance for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District, it was Soldiers taking care of Soldiers in a pay-it-forward assignment that will benefit the entire 80-year-old facility and the 400,000 veterans receiving medical care here each year.

San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. John K. Baker presented the U.S. Army Achievement Medal to each of the Soldiers, Sgt. Eric G. Halvorson, a native of Bessemer, Mich., and Sgt. Matthew P. Moore, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Between inspecting and writing their Quality Assurance reports, the Soldiers interacted with veterans traversing the campus.

"Hey, you guys have it much tougher than us," yelled one Vietnam-era veteran. "We knew who our enemy was. How much is base pay now ... I got \$200 a month."

Another veteran, an amputee wheeling himself in his wheelchair, explained to the two Soldiers as they walked from the "chow hall," heading back to the Corps's local office, "I'm ready to go again, but they just won't take me. The Army was the best time of my life."

"It is always a great feeling to help those who came before us," said Halvorson, who

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# U.S. Army Chief of Engineers tours district

By J.D. Hardesty

District Public Affairs Office

The senior military officer overseeing most of the nation's civil works infrastructure received an overview of key San Francisco Bay navigation, restoration and water resource projects Jan. 17 during his first visit to the Corps' San Francisco District since taking the helm as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, who also serves as the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, visited the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito, was briefed on San Francisco Bay restoration projects and talked to most of the district's 300 employees in town halls as he shared his four major priorities: Support the Warfighter; Transforming Civil Works; Respond to Disasters and Prepare for Tomorrow.

Discussing the district's mission to remove debris from San Francisco Bay's federal shipping channels, the general said, "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through our great San Francisco District, removes about 1,200 tons of debris from the bay annually, and this keeps shipping lanes safe and open, it helps commerce, keeps commuter ferries operational, and it is also going to help the 2013 America's Cup."

USACE owns and operates 702 dams, maintains 12,000 miles of waterways, operates and maintains 236 locks and 926 coastal, Great Lakes, and



McClymont

Jessica Burton Evans, SPN Navigation Program manager, briefs Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, on the district's navigation missions while aboard the John A. B. Dillard, Jr., Jan. 17.

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*"The bottom line is we have to deliver."*

**LTG Thomas Bostick**  
Chief of Engineers

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inland channels and harbors.

The oldest USACE district on the Pacific Coast, the San Francisco District removes debris, dredges channels and ports, restores wetlands with

reuse dredge material and provides a \$64 million boost to the local economy while improving the quality of life for 6.5 million people living in the district's operating area, an area that comprises 900 miles of shoreline, three coastal watershed sub-regions, and the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast.

The Corps' mission is to deliver vital engineering solutions to secure our nation, energize our economy, and reduce risk from disaster. The Corps remains committed to fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Lt. Gen. Bostick has the

Corps' responsibility and stewardship focused on Transforming Civil Works.

"We have a great organization, but there are some things we have to do differently in this environment," he said. "We need to plan in a synchronized way working at all three Corps levels [national, regional and local districts]. The bottom line is we have to deliver."

The Corps' leader stated the organization's future is in its people.

"In my mind, there is nothing more important than people,"

Continued next page

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## VA continued ...

joined the Army eight years earlier after trying college. "And we could follow in their footsteps and use these same medical facilities in the future."

The facility electrical upgrade is a complex project aimed at completely reworking the approximately 29-acre, 4.18-kilovolt power system into compatibility with the public utility suppliers' 12-kilovolt system.

The upgrade consists of:

- 120 manholes and pull boxes
- 40,000 low frequency underground conduits
- 42,000 feet of low frequency medium voltage cable
- 27,000 low frequency feeder conductors
- 450 pieces of electrical equipment
- 54 site poles and fixtures

The electrical upgrade will include 30 of the center's 37 buildings, requiring replacing

transformers as well as installing an extensive network of new underground connections.

A total of 62 miles of electrical conduit and wire will be placed, strung, spliced and installed in an extensive network of underground connections which will power the entire 37-building complex.

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Learn more about the 249th Engineer Battalion at [www.usace.army.mil/249thEngineerBattalion.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/249thEngineerBattalion.aspx)

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## City of St. Helena, USACE sign cost-share agreement

By J.D. Hardesty  
District Public Affairs Office

The City of St. Helena and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a Federal Cost Share Agreement Dec. 7 to study its Comprehensive Flood Protection Project.

The project, authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, provides for federal reimbursement, but requires the feasibility study be conducted before the funds reimbursing the federal government's share are appropriated. Congress appropriated funds for the study in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

"This is a big day for St.

*"The City and the Corps share in the common interest to minimize flood risk to the community."*

**Lt. Col. John Baker** ▶  
San Francisco District Commander

Helena," said Rep. Mike Thompson. "This effort is not simply about repaying the City for the federal share of the project. It's about ensuring that our community gets the funding it needs for other important public works and environmental projects that will improve

the health and safety of our community. I will continue working with my colleagues in the Congress, the Administration, and the Corps to get the funding we need to keep this expedited study on track and to repay

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photos by Hardesty

## Congratulations, Dan Dykstra!

District Public Affairs Office

Dan Dykstra, San Francisco District Office of Counsel deputy chief, was honored at his retirement ceremony Dec. 18. Dykstra's career spanned 40 years of government service including three deployments to Afghanistan. One of the several awards given to Dykstra for his outstanding service was the de Fleury Medal, which was created by senior Army Corps of Engineers leadership to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.



photos by McClymont

*Merry Goodenough, San Francisco District counsel, presents Dan Dykstra a retirement gift for his 40 years of government service Dec. 18 in San Francisco. [Below] The ceremony was interrupted by a surprise visit from the Blues Brothers, performed by Ian Clunies-Ross, right, and Jack Kearns.*



### Chief continued ...

he said. "We can have the best equipment, we can have the best plans, and we can have the best ... you name it ... but at the end of the day, we will never get away from needing outstanding people. We need to recruit them, we need to retain them, and we need to develop them. There is nothing more important in my mind than our people."

## Employee News

### Hails & Farewells

• **Marc Goodhue**, SPN Geo-Tech Section chief, was selected and accepted a position as senior civil engineer at the South Pacific Division.



Janes

• In December, we bid farewell to our Resource Management chief, **Valerie Lee**, who PCS'd to her home state of Hawaii.



Romabiles

• In January, two new employees joined SPN: **Kelly Janes** (Planning Branch) and **Elvira Romabiles** (Resource Management). Welcome to the team!

### Special Recognition

• **Rachel Coyner**, project engineer for the SF VA Medical Center Electrical Upgrade Project, was selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as one of the 2013

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# SPN dive team replaces anodes on vessel

By Ryan McClymont  
District Public Affairs Office

The San Francisco District dive team performed underwater maintenance on the Raccoon, one of the district's debris collection vessels, in Sausalito, Calif., Dec. 13.

The SPN Dive Team is the only fully-capable USACE dive team West of the Rockies and assists the four districts of the South Pacific Division with inspections of breakwaters, bridges, levees, dams, locks, environmental surveys and dredging hydro-surveying and is evolving into a regional effort working from Los Angeles all the way to the Seattle District.

"Our mission today is vessel husbandry which is basically maintenance on the bottom of the vessel that can be accomplished without pulling the boat out of the water," said Derrick Dunlap, SPN Deputy Chief of Operations and Readiness.

Four members of the dive team took turns searching the bottom of the Raccoon inspecting and replacing zinc anodes. The anodes protect metal parts of the vessel below the waterline from corrosive electrolytic action and are inspected twice



McClymont

Greg Cox, right, makes adjustments to diver Derrick Dunlap's equipment prior to a Dec. 13 dive in Sausalito.

a year and replaced when necessary.

"The water and the electrical currents will go after the zinc anodes before it goes after the hull of the boat," said Dunlap.

The scheduled inspection and replacement of the anodes ultimately saves the Corps money by eliminating the possibility of having to remove vessels from

the water to repair parts compromised by corrosion.

During these dives, the frigid and murky water made working with the small washers and bolts that connect the anodes to the vessel difficult.

"Most of our work is in zero visibility, so we are kind of like robots down there," said Dunlap.

Before entering the water, each diver had to decide between wearing dive gloves to protect against the cold versus the increased dexterity gained by going without.

At the end of the day, all of the Raccoon's spent anodes were replaced, and the dive team moved on to the next vessel.

## St. Helena continued ...

the City for its early protection work."

Civil Works infrastructure funding is an investment in the Nation's economy, security and quality of life -- now and in the future. Completion of the 15-month study is scheduled to be completed in spring 2014.

"The City of St. Helena and the Corps of Engineers share in the common interest to minimize flood risk to the community," said the Corps' San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. John K. Baker. "Protecting lives and property remains a stalwart focus where we live and work."

The cost-share agreement is just one step in the reimbursement process for the already completed flood project. The \$1.2



Congressman Mike Thompson provides remarks during the Dec. 7 ceremony.

million cost of the study to review the flood protection project to ensure it meets Corps standards will be split equally.

St. Helena City Manager Gary Broad explained, "We're excited to be entering into this cost-sharing agreement with the

Corps, which could allow the Corps to find our project plans feasible, and find the award-winning project to be something it would have constructed. Flood protection project construction has been huge in reducing flood risk to our community and we're looking forward to the ultimate federal reimbursement in order to reinvest in the City's future.

The area of the study is in the vicinity of the confluence of the Napa River and Sulpher Creek extending upstream from Deer Park Road and approximately two miles downstream to Zinfandel Lane, past the City of St. Helena's (City) Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Learn more about this project at [www.spn.usace.army.mil/projects](http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/projects)



photos by Beach

Residents from one neighborhood in Rockaway Beach, a suburb of Queens, N.Y., devastated by Hurricane Sandy, show their appreciation to volunteers.

# SPN volunteers join Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts in NJ, NY

By Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs Office

When Hurricane Sandy devastated large parts of the East Coast last October, several employees from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District volunteered to deploy.



Fowler

Among those receiving individual taskers were Maj. Christopher Crary, deputy district commander, and Cynthia Joe Fowler, a district environmental planner, to include the writer of this article.

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*"We had to get it right. What went out in our brief was what the Corps reported to everybody."*

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**Cynthia Joe Fowler**  
SPN Volunteer Responder

Three days after Sandy hit on Oct. 29, making it the second costliest disaster in U.S. history, Fowler was on a plane headed to the USACE Operations Center in Washington, D.C., to serve as an assistant team leader.

She joined a team of other USACE volunteers brought

together to prepare the daily mission reports for the Army's chief of engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick. Those reports were on his desk every morning at 6 a.m., meaning Fowler and her team worked a 12-hour night shift.

"Put big quotes around 12-hour," said Fowler. "I didn't

have much downtime. I slept until 4:30 [p.m.], was at work by 6:30."

With the Corps coordinating numerous recovery missions—from debris removal to emergency power—throughout the states of New Jersey and New York, Fowler and her team had the job of sifting through the enormous volumes of data.

"We had to get it right," she said. "What went out in our brief was what the Corps reported to everybody—from FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] to the newspapers—all the way up to the President."

Fowler spent three-and-a-

Continued next page

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*Elton Choy of the USACE Honolulu District inspects an emergency generator in Queens, N.Y.*

continued ...

half weeks deployed to D.C. Other than an occasional jog around the National Mall after her shift ended, she said her days consisted primarily of work and sleep.

"It's amazing though your brain is just in this 'go' mode," said Fowler of the deployment experience.



Crary

to Trenton, N.J., on Nov. 6 to serve as the opera-

tions officer for USACE Forward New Jersey, set up in the state's Emergency Operation Center.

"I went on four hours sleep for the 10 days I was deployed," he said.

Crary said the staff that made up USACE Forward New Jersey worked tirelessly to establish the early mission assignments that set the pace of recovery, managed the USACE assets on the ground and controlled the "battle rhythm" of operations.

"We were integrated with everybody—FEMA, the state—trying to help bridge the common operating picture," he said.

Now that he is back at

SPN, he offered some advice to those considering volunteering for a Planning and Response Team.

"Be prepared as you possibly can," he said. "Because of the situation, resources will be scarce. Be self sufficient when you arrive. If you have a GPS device, pack it."

Four months has passed since Sandy made landfall, and SPN continues to send volunteers to help with recovery efforts; most recently, Jeff Ertle (Logistics) and A.R. Smith (Safety) deployed.

## Volunteers continued ...

pered with patience and the ability to work with a team on a common mission.

These missions come primarily from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through Emergency Support Function #3, "Public Works and Engineering," one of 15 ESFs under the National Response Framework. Skill sets most desired for the teams and particular questions may be directed to your emergency management office or supervisor. Typical ESF#3 assistance provided by USACE includes the following:

- **Needs Assessments:** Participation in damage/needs assessments.

- **Temporary Power:** Provision of emergency power to public facilities.

- **Ice and Water:** Management and emergency contracting to support public health and safety, such as providing potable water and ice.

- **Debris Management:** Emergency debris clearance and removal and disposal management of debris from public property.

- **Emergency Infrastructure Assessments:** Assessments of damaged streets, bridges, ports, waterways, airfields and other facilities necessary for emergency access to disaster victims.

- **Critical Public Facility Restorations:** Emergency restoration of critical public facilities (including temporary restoration of water supplies and wastewater treatment systems).

- **Demolition / Structural Stabilization:** Emergency demolition or stabilization of damaged structures and facilities.

- **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance including inspection of private residential and commercial structures.



*[Above] Josh Jimerfield, a debris engineer with the USACE Sacramento District, assesses a home in Rockaway Beach, N.Y., devastated by Hurricane Sandy. [Right] A structural assessment team surveys storm damage at Rockaway Beach, N.Y.*







# Corps debris, dive teams remove sunken boat

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

**U**.S. Army Corps of Engineers scuba divers and debris deck hands from the San Francisco District worked in tandem Jan. 25 to remove a 50-foot, 15-ton hazardous sunken ship stranded across half of the

Noyo River impeding travel in the federal channel for fishing vessels, recreational boaters and U.S. Coast Guard ships navigating into the harbor.

The *MV John A.B. Dillard* and

Continued next page



## Boat continued ...

crew teamed with the district's divers to remove the vessel under the authority of 33 U.S. Code, Chapter 9, Subsection 409 (Obstruction of navigable waters by vessels; floating timbers; marking and removal of sunken vessels.)

The harbor entryway, located along the Northern California coast in Mendocino County, is the second narrowest along the West Coast, which meanders up river into the forested hills to a parade of restaurants, retail outlets, fishing canneries, docks and the U.S. Coast Guard Noyo River Station.

USACE maintains 926 coastal, Great Lakes and inland harbors.

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*I think [the crew] did a great job removing the hazard from the channel.*

**Mike Dillabough**  
SPN O&R Chief

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The deck hands and divers raised the "Jeanne" from a depth of 12 to 15 feet, pumped water from her cargo holds and towed the ship to the Coast Guard Station, before transferring control and custody of the ship to the Noyo Harbor District.

This was the first joint salvage operation for the two crews working in tandem.

Drew Rapp, a civil engineer technician with the district's Survey Branch, was the first diver to slip into the 48-degree river, placing eyes on the ship's underwater issues as dive and debris team leaders started employing vessel husbandry operations to recover the fiberglass-over-wood hulled



*The 50-foot sunken boat blocked the Noyo River federal channel to fishing vessels, recreational boaters and U.S. Coast Guard ships (in background) navigating into the harbor.*



*San Francisco District Operations and Readiness teammates Derrick Dunlap (dive master), left, Kixon Meyer (salvage master) and Ken Danielson (recovery operations) discuss the salvage plan of stabilizing the vessels, right the ship, raise the sunken boat with air bags and pumping water out of its cargo holds so that the vehicle could be towed and removed from the federal channel Jan. 25 at Noyo Harbor.*

"Jeanne" from blocking boats seeking safe passage in and out of the harbor.

Rotating at 30-minute intervals, the divers deployed airbags around the crippled ship, while the Dillard attached nylon straps and lifted the vessel with its 14,000-pound, pedestal-mounted grapple crane to stabilize the craft aided by the river's ebb, yet battling current surges topping a steady 1.5 knots.

Other divers included Derrick Dunlap, deputy chief for Operations and Readiness; Greg Cox, a civil engineer technician at Lake Sonoma; Erik Romani, an engineer working on the MV Raccoon Debris Vessel; and Josh Burkhead, a park ranger from Lake Sonoma.

As divers were having trouble fighting the current and towing the bags to an effective depth, Kixon Meyer, who captains the Dillard and served as the salvage master for the mission, came up with the quick fix of rolling the bags into a "burrito" to remove as much air as possible and eliminate the boxing match between diver and bag by minimizing the surface area the river could pound against the bags, while the divers strategically placed them to raise up and right the boat into a floatable position.

Kixon and his crew, Dan Denofrio and Ken Samples from the district's Base Yard; Ken Clark,

mechanical engineer; Rick Curry, working as a deck hand and crane operator; and deck hands Steve Rohner and Mark Gibson, tightened ropes attached to the "Jeanne's" bow and stern to stabilize the boat.

With the boat right-side up, the team worked to raise the vessel high enough so that the river's water wouldn't flow into the cargo holds.

The mission's success was being measured in inches of water lapping onboard the ship and into the cargo holds.

"Up on one," Meyer said as he motioned to the crane operator with his fingers to inch the boat out of the water, its 15 tons carrying exponential water weight.

"Out on two," he added to extend the crane horizontally to methodically increase its control on the vessel.

Slowly, with the river waning toward low tide while simultaneously lifting the water-logged boat until the cargo holds could breathe air on its own, two gas and one electric water pump were placed aboard to siphon water from deep inside the boat until it could float on its own.

After pumping water out of its forward and rear cargo holds, the Dillard's crew lashed two string lines to the damaged vessel unable to float on its own. The 80-ton Dillard tucked the damaged ship close by as a big brother to a younger sibling and towed the ship to the Coast Guard Station.

While the ship was tied to the Dillard, floating as if mimicking seaworthiness with the aid of the crane, the "Jeanne"

Continued next page

## Boat continued ...

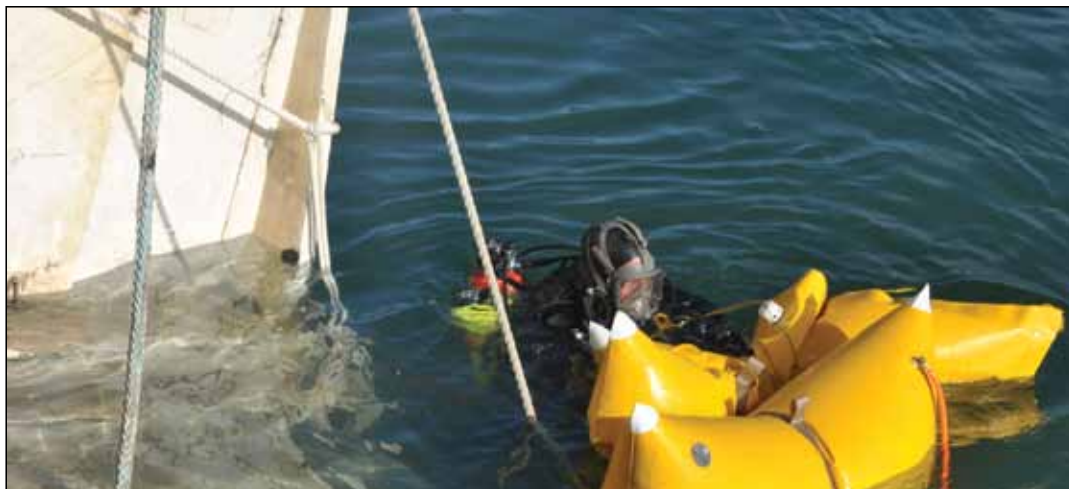
couldn't be placed on a trailer and removed from the river until Sunday morning as high tide rolled into the harbor.

Meyer removed the nylon straps and crane that held the ship afloat overnight.

"Release the spring lines ... untie the stern but keep the bow line tight," Meyer said as the back of the 50-foot vessel which was moored in Noyo River mud drifted downstream and away from the Dillard.

"Now, release the bow, let the bow line go free," his orders from the balcony outside the bridge literally transferred control and custody of the former sunken ship to the Noyo Harbor District – the organization which had requested the Corps' assistance.

"I think they did a great job getting the vessel to float, removing the hazard from the channel to provide safe passage for commercial fishing boats, recreational boaters and the Coast Guard, which is often called upon to quickly respond to distressed calls or perform emergency rescues," said Mike Dillabough, chief of the district's Operations and Readiness Division.



[Above] A San Francisco District scuba diver deploys air bags to raise the "Jeanne," a 15-ton sunken boat blocking half of the Noyo River federal channel.

[Left] The MV John A.B. Dillard, Jr., is docked at the U.S. Coast Guard Noyo River Station after removing a sunken boat stranded across half of the Noyo River.

The Dillard was officially christened and launched June 25 at the Sausalito, Calif., Base Yard. The 80-ton multi-purpose vessel, named after Major Gen. John A.B. Dillard, Jr., who led

USACE until being killed in action in South Vietnam, teams with the "Raccoon" and Grizzly" to keep navigation and shipping channels free of floating debris. The three vehicles

combine to remove more than 1,200 tons of debris annually.

The SPN Dive Team was created in June 2010 and is the Corps' only certified dive team on the West Coast.

## ACE-IT measures success one customer at a time

Story & photo by Ryan McClymont  
District Public Affairs Office

ACE-IT's mission is to provide prompt, consistent, professional Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) services to their customers—anytime, anywhere. ACE-IT internationally provides IT support to USACE serving a \$35.2 billion enterprise with 41,000 customers working in over 100 countries.

"I look at us as being the primary customer interface for information technology," said Mark Douglas, SPN IT operations officer. "Success is measured not only by meeting the customer's requirements, but by doing it in a timely manner and to their satisfaction."

The highly-skilled and diversified team of ACE-IT professionals working here exceeded that goal in 2012 by supporting the San Francisco District and South Pacific

*We are here to  
be a force  
multiplier for the  
SPN mission.*

**Dave Johnson**  
IT Chief

Division Headquarters' missions by:

- Completing more than 2,545 service requests for computer repair/support and systems administration.

- Refreshing and upgrading 171 computers to the Windows 7 Operating System, which will be the new standard begin-



Tom Ngo, an ACE-IT system administrator at the San Francisco District, installs a hard drive into a desktop computer Jan. 30.

ning September 2013.

- Completing 250 Visual Information service requests to include photography,

Continued page 14  
Feb/Mar 2013



# Black History Month celebrates historic crossroads

Special to "SPN Surveyor"

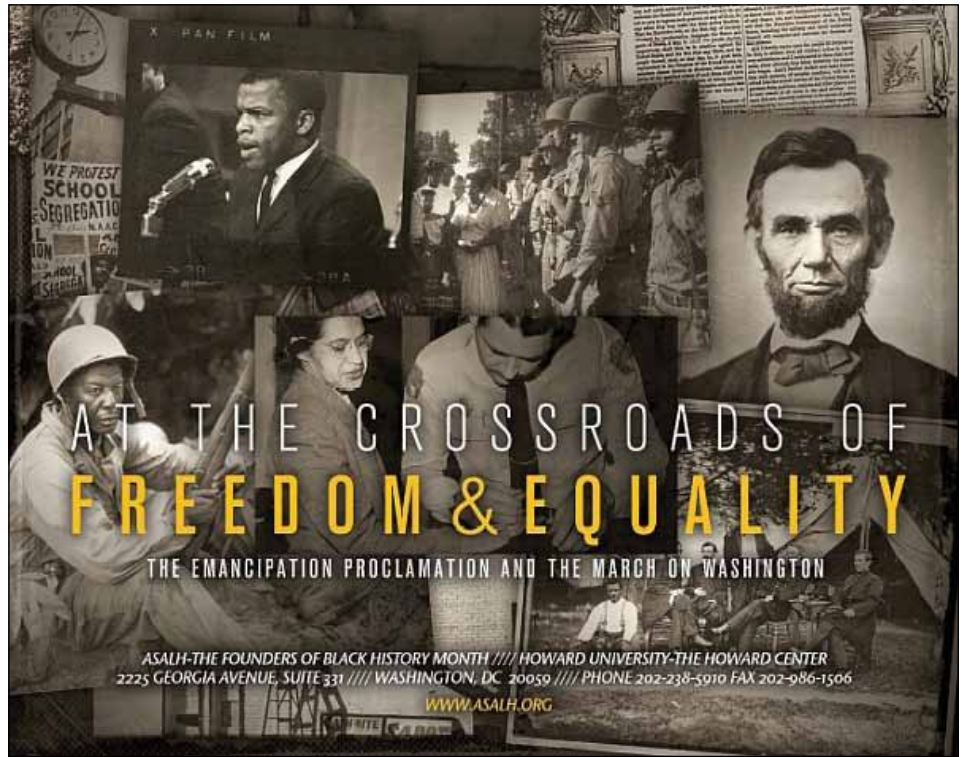
The 2013 theme for Black History Month, celebrated in February, is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." This year's theme addresses a complex topic of huge importance.

- 2013 marks the 50th- and 150th-year anniversaries, respectively, of two parallel events, occurring in 1863 and 1963.

- In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln's deeply controversial Emancipation Proclamation was enacted, freeing all slaves in the United States.

- A full century later, 1963, marked a tipping-point in the civil rights movement: the March on Washington, an event that remains in living memory of many older Americans today.

Read the full text at [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org), the official website for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founders of Black History Month.



## San Francisco District employees 'stand down' for suicide prevention training

By Brandon Beach  
District Public Affairs Office

"Be bold" was the message to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees during suicide prevention training in San Francisco.

"We are asking that you put your antennas up," said Lt. Col. Dann Ettner, deputy command chaplain of the 63rd Regional Support Command at Moffett Field, Calif. "Be bold in asking the question, 'Are you thinking of killing yourself?'"

With a spike in suicides this year, the Army is asking its soldiers and civilians to find the courage to speak up. In September, it ordered a service-wide "stand-down" day to bring the subject of suicide to the forefront.

On Oct. 11, more than 200  
Feb/Mar 2013



photos by Beach

Wincy Chow, a Federal Occupational Health nurse, checks the blood pressure of Rede Shifferaw, a SPN contract specialist, at a free clinic set up during suicide prevention training last year.

employees from the Corps' South Pacific Division and San Francisco District gathered to listen to the 63rd RSC chaplain and other Bay Area healthcare professionals speak on the issues of suicide.

"We have to not be afraid to get into other people's lives and be that person that cares," said Ettner. "That's something we are all capable of doing--caring for someone else."

Continued page 14

## Employee News continued

New Faces in Engineering Awards. She will be recognized by the National Engineers Week Foundation. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the New Faces Recognition Program.

- Legese Abebe, SPN civil engineer, was selected as a Modern-Day Technology Leader for the Black Engineer of the Year Awards. Abebe is one of 13 USACE employees that received this recognition.

- Peter LaCivita and Bill Brostoff from Environmental Section A were coauthors of a peer-reviewed technical journal article "Interannual variation of reach specific migratory success for Sacramento River hatchery yearling late-fall run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout" recently published in Environmental Biology of Fishes. Their article describes the migratory patterns of salmon and steelhead through the Delta and Bay in relation to naturally varying environmental factors. The USACE team is working with UC Davis on another technical publication to be released later this year.

## ACE-IT continued ...

video-editing, audio-visual setup, graphic arts and print reproduction.

- Processing over 4,200 pieces of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Conducting, setting up and establishing 11 records management training seminars and district-wide training for conversion to the HP TRIM Electronic Records Data and Management System.
- Ensuring that all requisitions for forms, publications, records management and storage were processed in an efficient and timely manner.
- Performing lifecycle replacement support of IT systems to insure the timely delivery of the latest allowed technology.

As a new year begins and new challenges arise, the Enterprise Service Desk is available via phone and Internet 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to promptly respond to customer requests.

“We wouldn’t be here without the customer; so as a result, we have to be adaptable to the customer’s operating environment,” said David Johnson, SPN IT chief. “We are here to provide the resources and tools to be a force multiplier for the SPN mission.”



## Training continued ...

Jeanette Longtin, a psychological health expert, works with Ettner at the 63rd RSC. She meets regularly with soldiers who suffer from severe mental health issues, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Longtin said that most people who are suicidal do give warning signs, such as withdrawal, changes in personality, anxiety and increased alcohol and/or drug use.

“If you see something that’s atypical for somebody else or you are noticing in yourself that things are not quite right, that’s the time to speak up and say, ‘I need help’ or ‘Let’s get you the help you need,’” she said during her presentation.

The mentality that the situation will eventually get better on its own is never the solution, she added.

“Very often people are waiting way too long to get the help they need. By the time I see them, many have been suffering for years,” she said. “That can also happen in the civilian world as well, where you just don’t know where to go for help.”

One of the resources available to Corps employees is the Employee Assistance Program offered by Human Health Associates. The program provides no-cost confidential counseling services to employees dealing with everyday stressors.

“Oftentimes, we run into situations



*Lt. Col. Dann Ettner and Jeanette Longtin discuss suicide prevention at SPN.*

where we don’t have an immediate answer. We feel like we need someone outside ourselves to help us cope,” said Dr. James Wallace, president of HBA, during his remarks.

Other representatives from the American Heart Association, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Kaiser Foundation and Federal Occupational Health were on hand following the three-hour training to talk with employees and answer questions.

With each healthcare provider, the message was clear. When it comes to suicide, nobody should feel alone.

*For more information on the Employee Assistance Program, go to [www.calhba.com](http://www.calhba.com) or call 1-800-937-7770.*

## Engineers Round Table



Beach

*Blair Jackson, a San Francisco District civil engineer, talks with students at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, Calif., about engineering careers during an “Engineers Round Table” Nov. 8. Also participating in this Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event was Lisa Andes and Carmen Cheung, both SPN engineers.*





# Happy Valentines Day

It's February, which means Valentine's Day is upon us. Where will Cupid be aiming his arrows this year? Find out about the couples who have found love over the years here at the San Francisco District.



**Tessa and Brandon Beach**  
*(Tessa is a district environmental planner. Brandon is a PA specialist. They met at the 2009 Corporate Challenge Fun Run at Crissy Field and married July 2012.)*



**Caleb and Allison Conn**  
*(Caleb is a SPN project manager. Allison works for SPD. They were married Aug. 2011. Baby Johanna Marie was born Dec. 20, 2012.)*



**Greg Cox and Nina Cavett-Cox**  
*(Greg is a civil engineering technician, and Nina is a regulatory project manager. They met 10 years ago. Both were park rangers at Lake Mendocino. They married in 2009.)*



*Dear Deployees,*

Thanks for playing an integral part of the Corps' mission in Afghanistan. Office of Counsel is cheering for you and looking forward to your safe return. Go for broke!

*Jasmine,*

Congrats on being named USACE Civilian Journalist of the Year. That's awesome! Look forward to your next great story.



*Brandon*

## MESSAGES FROM HOME TO OUR DEPLOYEES

*Dear Kathy,*

You're a constant in our thoughts and hearts. We miss you very much. We're very proud of you, and we look forward to your safe return.



"Drake"

With love and aloha,

*Your Family*

*Dear Daren,*

We know you are working fast and furious in support of OEF. We miss you here at the office. As always, until your return, safe travels and stay safe! PS: And your desk is getting dusty. Sincerely,



*Your mates in Civil Design*

# ENGINEERING CHALLENGE



**Legese Abebe**  
Last challenge winner

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

## The Problem

**A group of biologists has been tasked with performing fish surveys along the entire length of the San Francisco Bay to Stockton Shipping Channel.**

**The channel is approximately 70 miles in length. The biologists can only travel using the equipment they have on hand which includes 5 small motorboats, each with a full tank that has the capacity to go 100 miles when fully**

**loaded. Two fully-loaded boats can hold all the biologists and their equipment and data.**

**You must have enough gas after the survey is complete to be able to return all the biologists and their equipment and data back to the base of operations at the starting point of the channel. Using these 5 boats, is it possible for the biologists to accomplish their task? Explain how you came to your conclusion.**

*-- This challenge was submitted by Kelly Janes, a district planner.*

**Submit your answers via e-mail to Brandon Beach at [brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil](mailto:brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil).**