

THE CHESAPEAKE ENGINEER

SUMMER 2021

**MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION**

**SPRING VALLEY
MISSION COMPLETE**

**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**

**FROM WICOMICO
TO DEAL ISLAND**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Baltimore District

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR OUR
NATION'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

THE CHESAPEAKE ENGINEER

MAGAZINE

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Oyster shells sit in stainless steel containers before being placed in setting tanks at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Oyster Hatchery in Cambridge, Md. (U.S. Army photo by Christopher Fincham)



The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is to deliver vital engineering solutions in collaboration with our partners to serve and strengthen the Nation, energize the economy and reduce disaster risks.

DOD Disclaimer

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**COMMANDER, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District**
Col. Estee S. Pinchasin

**DEPUTY COMMANDER, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District**
Lt. Col. Geoffrey Kuhlmann

**CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
OFFICE CHIEF, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Sarah Lazo

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Brittany Crissman
Christopher Fincham
Cynthia Mitchell
Greg Nash
Nicole Strong

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Christopher Fincham

Send change of address to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Baltimore District, Corporate
Communication Office,
2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve with you and honored to be the 69th Commander of the Baltimore District. I look forward to working together with our many partners and diverse stakeholders on such impactful projects. Thank you to those I've had the pleasure of meeting already – from our workforce and our partners – for sharing your knowledge and experiences with me and providing such helpful suggestions. I truly appreciate your insights and opinions,



which will be critical as we work through the upcoming workload and take on some of our region's toughest engineering challenges.

As I have met with you and our partners, I have realized that many of our fellow citizens don't realize what it takes to build our country and the collaborative teamwork it requires to deliver these vital services. We need each other – all of us, from the earliest conceptual phases to turning a project over to the end-user. It is amazing for a life-long end-user like me, and as a military end-user and family, to see the USACE team, partners and stakeholders in action and to understand the effort behind every project.

My predecessor, Col. John Litz, orchestrated a productive transition, introducing me to many key partners and orienting me to our important missions and projects. I plan to continue visiting as many locations as possible in the coming weeks and the first quarter of the next fiscal year. I am committed to learning as much as I can from you and will do my best for all of you, and serving USACE with integrity, purpose, and pride.

BUILDING STRONG!

Col. Estee S. Pinchasin
Commander and District Engineer
USACE, Baltimore District

Col. Estee S. Pinchasin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, commander, alongside Dave Morrow, the Baltimore District's deputy district engineer for programs and project management, while visiting the Port of Baltimore. (Courtesy photo)



WITH THE 69TH DISTRICT COMMANDER

COMPILED BY
SARAH LAZO

Q: What do you most look forward to during this command?

A: I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know the people of Baltimore District and visiting with them to learn about their projects and efforts. I am excited to hear about what each team member does and better understand their contributions to our programs and partnerships. It has been inspiring to see the personal pride and passion our teammates have in their work. I am amazed every single day at the tremendous work our team is executing and delivering for our country on a daily basis. I am so honored and proud to be a part of this team, and I truly hope to best represent their incredible talent and support their needs to enable their success.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish during your command?

A: I'm focused on our people, our whole team, and our collective readiness, which includes our families and our partnerships. My overarching

goal is to support and enable our people – all our teams within the district, our current and future leaders, and our stakeholders – to build readiness and resilience for our country, as we face national security challenges and internal domestic challenges of building and improving our country. We have an enormous amount of work coming our way, and I am excited to work together to figure out how we will grow and structure this team to execute our programs. I tend to check myself and my thinking with respect to our strategic objectives, which is like a mental azimuth check. That is why it is very important to me to understand the purpose for our projects, the needs and concerns of our stakeholders and end-users. Our projects and programs have far-reaching, long-term impacts, and I hope

to enable the advancement of the planning and programming already in progress. One of my top areas of emphasis is our enduring mission of the Washington Aqueduct, and working together to set the team to hopefully execute significant capital improvements over the next few years. I am focused on building and growing our team and capacity through aggressive talent acquisition and retention efforts, robust leader development, and adapting our workplace environment to meet mission requirements for our technical divisions and especially our support teams in Contracting, Resource Management, Human Resources, and Office of Council. With so much on the horizon, I'm looking forward to tackling it together and charting our way ahead!

Col. Estee S. Pinchasin, commander and district engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.
(U.S. Army illustration by Christopher Fincham)



Q: What do you like to do in your limited spare time?

A: I love spending time with my family, doing anything and everything. We love to travel and spend time outdoors biking, hiking, running races and visiting national and state parks. But we also like playing games, reading, cooking together and working on home improvement projects. I try to create time (for family time) by going to the playground on the way to the supermarket with my son, exercising together, or visiting our recreation sites. I love cooking and baking, especially trying new recipes and inventing new sweets and treats. Baltimore is a foodie's dreamland, so I'm looking forward to getting into Chesapeake Bay flavors and favorites.

Q: Have you visited Baltimore and this region before taking command?

A: The last time I was here was in 2006 for an Orioles-Yankees game. I didn't get to see much of the city, but we are making up for that now! Our son is seven and is unable to receive the COVID vaccine, so, unlike the rest of us who are protected by being vaccinated, nothing has changed for him from that respect, but thankfully, there are so many outdoor parks and activities here. We love living in the city of Baltimore and exploring all there is to do here and in the surrounding area. We just spent a year stationed at Carlisle, Pa., but were unable to maximize our adventures there because of COVID. We're very happy to be closer to our parents on the east coast.

Q: Where's your favorite place in the world?

A: Hawaii is the first place that comes to mind. I fell in love with Hawaii when we were assigned there in 2011 and was

in awe of not only the beauty in everything around us, but really appreciated the people, their meaningful traditions and sense of family. I also love my hometown and the New York City area in general because of the people, its energy and family atmosphere.

Q: What song would you sing at Karaoke night?

A: First, I would definitely make sure I was not alone at the microphone and that I had a few friends with me (and hope as many people not on the stage would join in and sing along). The song I'd sing is Michael Jackson's Man in the Mirror.

Q: What has prepared you for taking command of the Baltimore District?

A: For over 23 years, I have been working alongside people with different backgrounds on a variety of missions. Leading different types organizations throughout my career has been incredibly rewarding because of the people around me – the people in the organization I was honored to have the opportunity to lead. I have learned so much about myself because of them and would not be here had it not been for the mentorship and coaching I've received from my teams, peers and superiors, alike. On the organizational side, I previously served in two USACE districts, one being New York District and the other downrange in Afghanistan. I also served with the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I gained strategic perspectives and operational planning experience while serving as a Future Operations Planner for the U.S. Army's First Corps and employed enterprise-level talent management at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. But as

I reflect on these experiences, I see how each contributed to my preparation and for who I am as a leader today.

Q: What are your greatest career lessons you've learned so far?

A: I learned the danger of mistaking professional competence for personal character. When people show you who they are as a person, believe them. I also learned the importance of real communication – not just transmitting information, but getting through and explaining the “why” behind what we are doing and what is happening. I learned that things happen because or despite underlying conditions – that there is more to the story, and more than one side of the story. I've learned that it is important to routinely go back and validate previous assumptions and make sure you're still solving the right problem. Sometimes, what we see as the problem is really only a symptom of something else and the real problem is underneath it all.

Q: What leaders inspire you and why?

A: Honest, humble and caring leaders inspire me. I really appreciate leaders who own their mistakes, admit and work on their faults, and share those hard lessons to help the team learn and be better. I admire truly selfless leaders with moral courage and integrity, who share of themselves and empathize with the needs of others – not just when things are going well, but when character is tested by ethical dilemmas and difficult circumstances. I get inspired by leaders who empower and trust their people and do their very best for the team. I am most inspired by seeing how people treat others, subordinates and peers, especially when no one is watching. ■

MISSION COMPLETE GLENBROOK RD

Baltimore District completes decades-long cleanup of WWI-era military disposal site in Washington, D.C.

By CYNTHIA MITCHELL

The nearly 20-year cleanup of a residential property located at 4825 Glenbrook Road N.W. in Washington, D.C., once a World War I chemical weapons testing and disposal site, is now complete. The Glenbrook Road property is

located within the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site and is part of a larger area known as the American University Experiment Station (AUES), where the U.S. government researched and tested chemical agents, equipment and munitions.

AUES-related waste, including more than 500 munition items, 400 pounds of laboratory glassware and 100 tons of contaminated soil, were recovered and safely removed from the property during investigations from 2000-2002 and then again from 2007-2010. In August 2010, several agencies within the Department of Defense as well as regulatory partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and District Department of the Environment made the decision to separate the 4825 Glenbrook Road property from the Spring Valley neighborhood site to expedite the cleanup process.

USACE began excavating under the property's foundation in November 2012, shortly after the residential property was demolished. Since then, more than 3,300

cubic yards of soil have been removed, as well as more than 670 pounds of AUES scrap glass, 230 pounds of scrap metal, and 16 metal munitions debris items, including 12 closed-cavity 75mm projectiles.

"The effort at Glenbrook Road required overcoming so many obstacles and challenges that it was only possible through the dedication and diligence of many individuals and organizations – a true team effort that would not have been achievable by any single person or agency," said Dan Noble, senior project manager. "It is also crucial to offer a big thank you to the residents and community that call this street their home for all their patience and forbearance through the years as the clean-up unfolded; we couldn't have done it without them." ■



DECISION DOCUMENT SIGNED
& REMEDIAL ACTION BEGINS

JULY
2012



DEMOLITION BEGINS AT 4825
GLENBROOK ROAD NW

FALL
2012



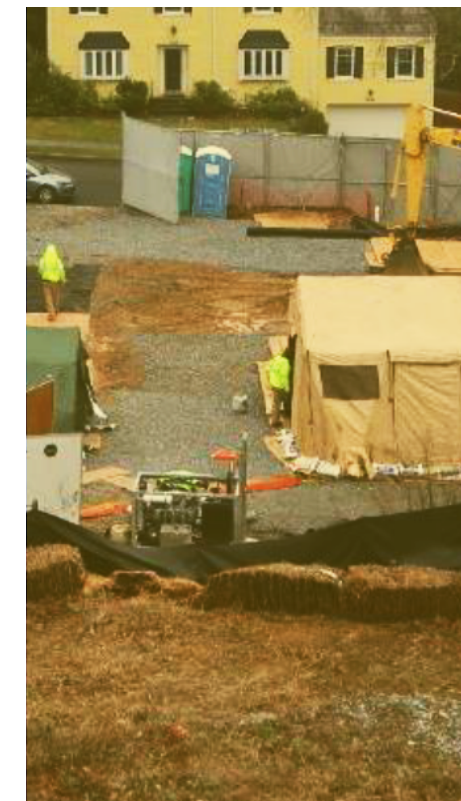
HIGH-PROBABILITY
EXCAVATION

2013-
2016



LOW-PROBABILITY
EXCAVATION

2017-
2019



HAZARDOUS & TOXIC WASTE
OVER-EXCAVATION

2019-
2020



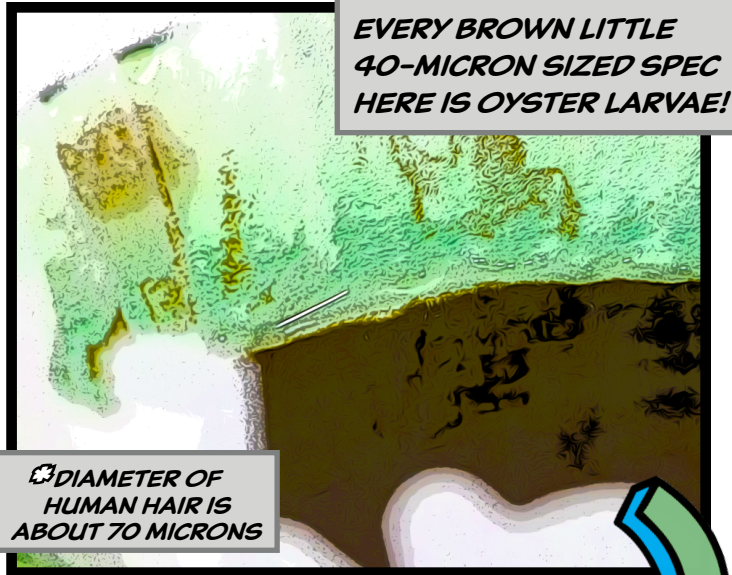
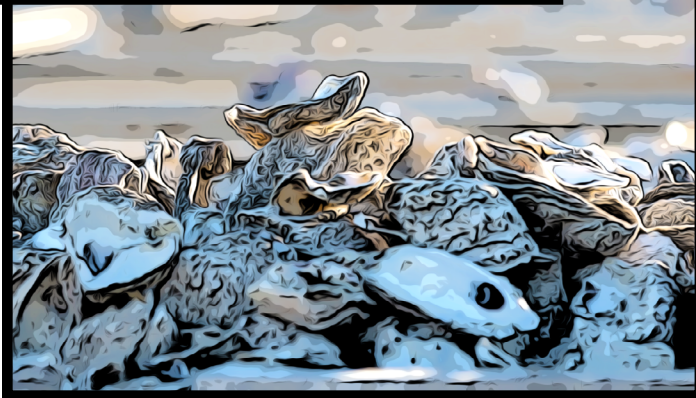
SITE RESTORATION

2020-
2021

OYSTER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

...IT TAKES PARTNERSHIP

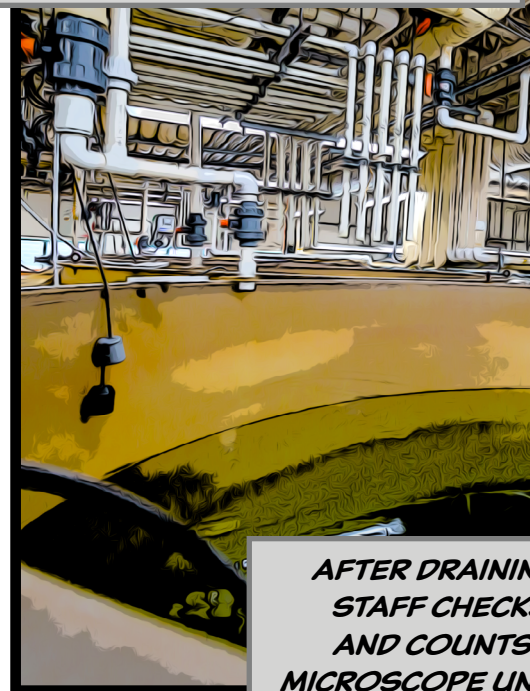
THERE'S A LOT THAT HAPPENS AT THE HORN POINT OYSTER HATCHERY BEFORE OYSTERS CAN GET ON A SHELL, AND OUT INTO THE BAY.



EVERY BROWN LITTLE 40-MICRON SIZED SPEC HERE IS OYSTER LARVAE!

DIAMETER OF HUMAN HAIR IS ABOUT 70 MICRONS

WHILE SWIMMING AROUND IN A 10,000-GALLON TANK THAT IS DRAINED, CLEANED & FILLED TWICE A WEEK FOR 14-20 DAYS.



A SPECIAL DIET - A CULTURED SOURCE OF MICRO-ALGAE - HELPS THEM GROW,

AFTER DRAINING THE TANK, THE STAFF CHECKS THEIR HEALTH AND COUNTS THEM UNDER A MICROSCOPE UNTIL THEY GROW TO MORE THAN 250 MICRONS!



...MEANWHILE, IN THE TRED AVON RIVER.

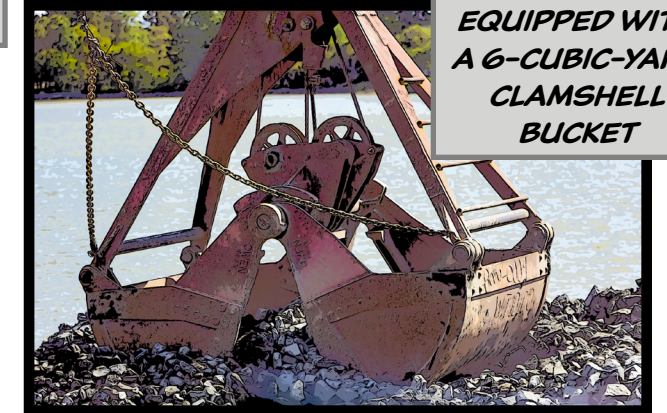
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT, ALONG WITH FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS, CONSTRUCT OYSTER REEFS.



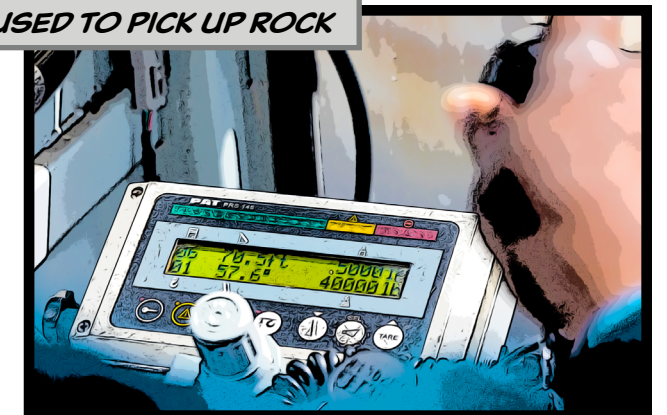
AN 80-TON CRANE



EQUIPPED WITH A 6-CUBIC-YARD CLAMSHELL BUCKET



IS USED TO PICK UP ROCK



& EXPERTLY PLACE IT IN THE RIVER.



ABOUT 130 ACRES OF REEF HAVE NOW BEEN RESTORED, COMPLETING THE FINAL STAGE OF INITIAL OYSTER RESTORATION IN THIS MARYLAND SANCTUARY - PROVIDING HABITAT FOR NOT ONLY OYSTERS, BUT OTHER ESSENTIAL BAY CRITTERS AS WELL.

BACK AT HORN POINT OYSTER HATCHERY...



THE OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP CLEANS & FILLS STAINLESS STEEL CONTAINERS WITH SHELL, BEFORE THEY'RE PLACED IN SETTING TANKS -

THE SPAT HARDEN BY EATING, GROWING, AND PUTTING MORE STRENGTH INTO THEIR SHELL.



THE TANKS ARE FILLED WITH AMBIENT RIVER WATER & THE TEMP AND SALINITY ARE ADJUSTED TO PROVIDE AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT.

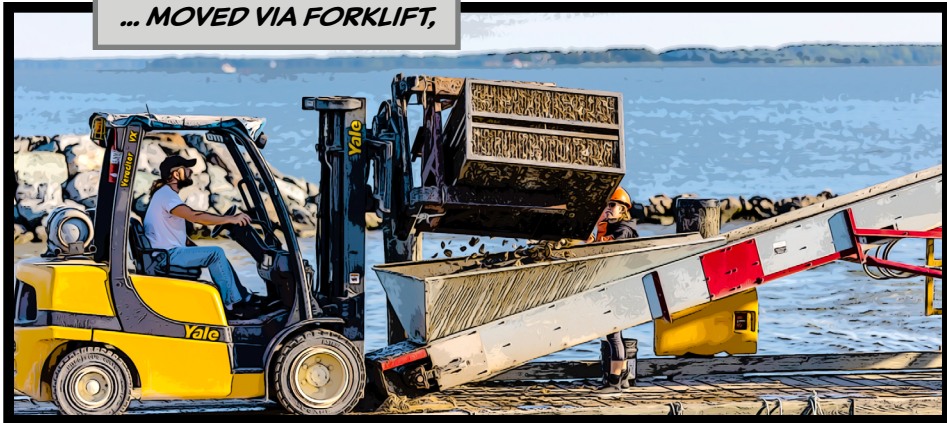
- LARGE OUTDOOR TANKS THAT HOLD CONTAINERS OF SHELL WHERE THE EYED LARVAE ARE INTRODUCED TO BECOME SPAT.



WHEN THE SPAT-ON-SHELL ARE READY FOR PLANTING, THE CONTAINERS ARE HOOKED UP AND LIFTED OUT OF THE TANKS BY CRANE ...



SINCE 2011 THE HORN POINT OYSTER HATCHERY HAS PRODUCED OVER 38 BILLION EYED LARVAE.



... MOVED VIA FORKLIFT,

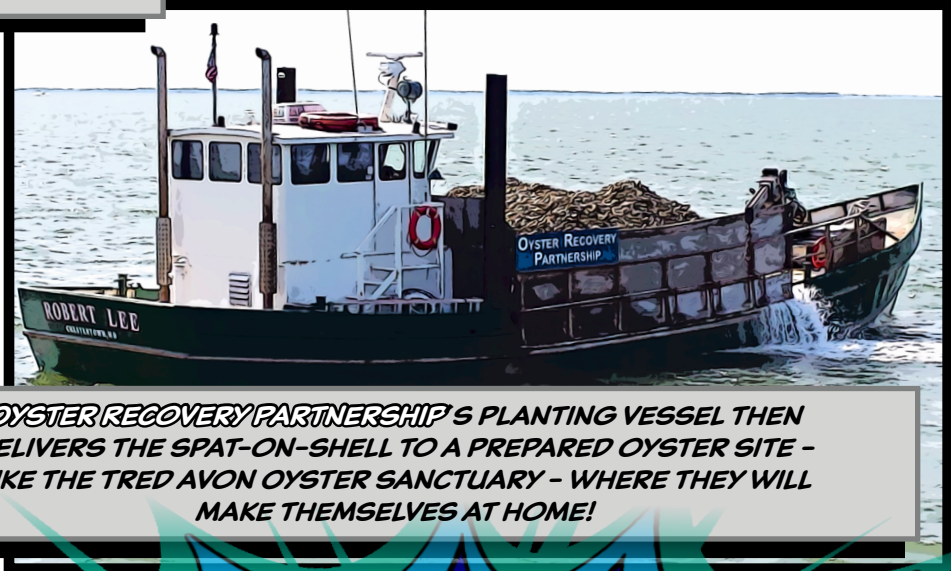


AND DELIVERED ONTO A CONVEYOR BELT

RANDOM SHELL SAMPLES ARE ALSO TAKEN BACK TO THE HATCHERY FOR COUNTING, WHICH ENABLES STAFF TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF SPAT BEING PLANTED FROM EACH TANK.



THAT CARRIES THEM ONTO THE DECK OF THE PLANTING VESSEL.



OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP'S PLANTING VESSEL THEN DELIVERS THE SPAT-ON-SHELL TO A PREPARED OYSTER SITE - LIKE THE TRED AVON OYSTER SANCTUARY - WHERE THEY WILL MAKE THEMSELVES AT HOME!

MADE POSSIBLE BY

THE OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP,
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, &
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
HORN POINT OYSTER HATCHERY

THE **BALTIMORE DISTRICT** HAS A ROBUST, MULTI-STATE, AND MULTI-INSTALLATION **MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.**

MILCON

SUPPORTING SERVICE MEMBERS IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., PENNSYLVANIA, AND WEST VIRGINIA.

The Baltimore District's Military Program is responsible for the overall project management, financial management, project controls, and schedules of a variety of military construction projects, from the initial design phases, through construction and fiscal close-out.

The program works with teams of senior program managers and technical managers who actively support a wide variety of missions throughout the entire region. Projects include everything from the design and construction of administrative spaces, medical and laboratory facilities, to training facilities, childcare centers, and barracks.

"The work we provide to and for our military partners is so expansive and diverse. I'm incredibly proud of the work we do to improve the quality of life for our service members, ensure their safety and support our Nation's military readiness and security," said Dave Morrow, the deputy district engineer for program and project management.

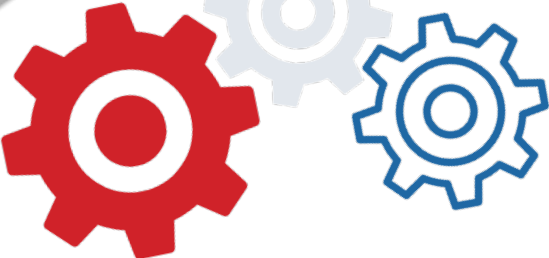
In addition to the military construction mission, Baltimore District provides real estate, design, and construction

services to the nation's classified community. These services support an ever-growing list of emerging security requirements including cybersecurity and homeland security that engage sensitive information, serve the warfighter, and, ultimately, protect the nation.

"We are making a difference not just locally but on a global stage," Morrow said. "Earlier this year, our team completed the structural steel erection of the \$85 million General Instruction Building on the U.S. Army War College Campus on Carlisle Barracks. This facility will provide educational programs to develop our Nation's next strategic leaders. Work also continues on the final commissioning of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases replacement facility on Fort Detrick. This new space will significantly increase USAMRIID's capabilities to research biological threats and pathogens – leading to the development of critical tools to protect our people, like vaccinations." ■



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Baltimore District



CARLISLE BARRACKS

ARMY WAR COLLEGE

JOINT BASE ANDREWS

FLIGHTLINE

LABORATORIES

FORT DETRICK

CHILD CARE CENTERS

MISSION READY

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PROJECT MANAGEMENT

CONTROL TOWER

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP

FORT MEADE

SECURE FACILITIES

FORT MCNAIR

RENOVATIONS

THE PENTAGON

FIRE STATION

SECURITY

ACCESS CONTROL POINTS

FAMILY HOUSING

CONSTRUCTION

JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL

TRAINING FACILITIES

SOLDIER BARRACKS

DINING FACILITIES

FORT BELVOIR

VETERINARIAN CENTER

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

MANAGING

\$1B+

ANNUALLY

IN SUPPORT OF

ONE OF THE

LARGEST & MOST VISIBLE MILITARY MISSIONS IN THE COUNTRY

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR OUR NATION'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES



REAL ESTATE DIVISION CHIEF SIGNS NEW LEASE

After more than 41 years of federal service, Susan Lewis, chief of Real Estate Division, is retiring.

BY NICOLE STRONG

Susan Lewis began her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in December 1979 and has been with the Baltimore District during her entire tenure.

Starting as a GS-2 realty clerk, she supported the recruiting program, coordinated contract requirements for janitorial services at Armed Forces recruiting offices, processed invoices and handled issues and complaints, all while attending college classes in the evenings.

"I never intended for this to be my career," Lewis said. "I planned to get my degree and move on, but the more I learned, the more I wanted to stay."

Lewis quickly began taking on new roles and progressing in her career. She was accepted into the Realty Specialist Intern Program in 1984 and

had the opportunity to work in all the programs that Baltimore District supports. Lewis started out in the Joint Forces Recruiting Program, leasing operating space for recruiters. She then moved to the Civil Works Support Branch, assisting that program for both Baltimore and Philadelphia districts. In this role, she was responsible for preparing real estate planning reports, working on real estate acquisition and managing property at USACE Civil Works sites. After that, she moved to the Special Projects Branch where she supported the International and Interagency Support mission. In this role, her greatest achievement was working to obtain new office space for the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1994, Lewis became a supervisor as the Chief of Civil Projects and Support Branch where she managed a team that provided support for cost-shared projects and managed real estate at Civil Works projects for both Baltimore and Philadelphia districts. In 2001, she became the Real Estate Environmental Program Manager, in which she managed a team that provided real estate acquisition and relocation support to the USACE Formerly Used

Defense Site program, EPA Regions II and III, Customs and Border Protection, NASA and other agencies. In 2011, Lewis became Deputy Chief of Real Estate Division, and, in 2014, she took over as Chief. During this time, she also served as the leader of the USACE Real Estate Relocations Sub-Community of Practice from 2004 to 2014.

"When I became Chief of Real Estate, my focus was on helping

position our organization for the future, making sure our team had the right organizational structure, resources and business processes to execute our mission," Lewis explained.

Every project begins and ends with real estate. Looking at the vast number of interesting projects the District has accomplished, it's important to recognize none of them would have been possible without the Real Estate Division having some part in it.

Lewis has spent her career in all facets of real estate and has been involved in many unique projects. She has managed projects for many high-profile agencies, acquiring residential and commercial properties and relocating residents and businesses from those properties into new spaces. The largest single relocation her team handled was for a concrete form manufacturing plant in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, which took three years and \$5 million to complete.

"I've stayed with the Corps all of this time because there's always a new challenge or an exciting new project. People may wonder how one can stay with the same organization for 41 years, but I can honestly say that I've never been bored. When I considered other opportunities, they didn't offer the same diversity of mission," Lewis said.

Lewis looks back on her time in Baltimore District and recalls the District Headquarters move to be the most rewarding project that she was a part of. The four-year process included the solicitation and award of the new lease, and the move from the City Crescent Building to the current location at 2 Hopkins Plaza in Baltimore in 2018. The move required coordination with many different stakeholders and was completed on time and within budget and has produced real benefits to the District.

The District Headquarters move was considered

a huge success by both the General Services Administration and USACE, and the processes and specifications used have since been shared as a model for other districts who are undertaking similar efforts. This project changed the way spaces are used by reducing the sizes of offices and cubicles, adding more collaborative spaces, augmenting access to natural light, and reducing the utilization rate, culminating in a more efficient environment.

She is excited to start a new chapter, and although she will miss the people, Lewis knows she leaves the division in good hands.

"My favorite part about Real Estate Division, no question, is the people and the comradery. Our folks are quick to step up and help each other," she explained. "There are many of us who have a long history of shared personal and professional experiences, while others are new and bring a lot of great energy and ideas. We have a strong team that can take on the most complex real estate challenges."

Lewis refers to herself as being a planner in most cases, but she's letting the next chapter of her life unfold on its own. She looks forward to having the time to pursue other interests and do some volunteer work. She plans to travel, especially to Europe, spend some time on the beach, kayak and enjoy time outdoors with her family and two grandchildren. ■

"I never intended for this to be my career. I planned to get my degree and move on, but the more I learned, the more I wanted to stay."

THIRD SHIFT

As most of Washington, D.C. sleeps, the third shift at the Washington Aqueduct, managed by Baltimore District, ensures there is enough clean water to meet the morning demand.

BY PATRICIA KIME, SPECIAL TO USA TODAY

With a skeleton crew that usually includes four workers, the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift bears an enormous responsibility, maintaining and monitoring a system that delivers 135 million gallons of water each day to residents and businesses in the District of Columbia and northern Virginia.

"In the morning when you wake up, you can be sure you are going to have the best water possible and that it's safe," says Eli Bermudez, a chemist and senior water treatment operator at the aqueduct. "But we also contribute

to national security - we have the water for the Pentagon, for the FBI, the CIA, (Department of) Homeland Security, all the big buildings in Washington."

While the other shifts have a full cadre of maintenance personnel, engineers, water and reservoir monitoring workers, third shift does these tasks themselves, walking the facility to monitor the water and filtration systems, adding the correct amount of chemicals to remove sediment, repairing any systems that break in the process and ensuring adequate production.

Travis Turnage, a water

treatment operator who has worked third shift for the last couple years, says he loves the responsibility and variety that the overnight shift brings. "You just don't think that there are people working in the middle of the night at a plant that is working 24 hours a day to make sure what is coming out of your tap is safe."

The Washington Aqueduct draws water from the Potomac River at two points northwest of downtown Washington - Great Falls and Little Falls - and screens and treats it. After it is disinfected and tested for purity, the water

goes to customers in Washington as well as Virginia's Arlington and Fairfax counties.

Both Bermudez and Turnage say they chose third shift for the challenge of running a large facility with just a handful of co-workers and for a schedule that gives them plenty of time with their families. They both say they relish their jobs as public servants.

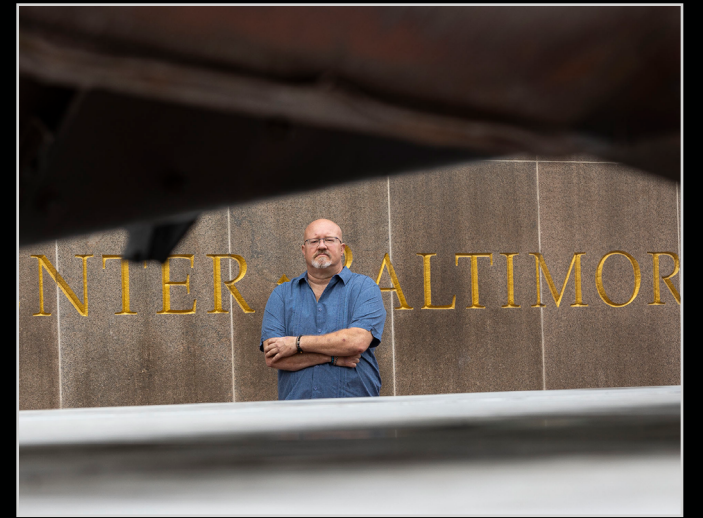
"I love being able to ... give people fresh water, the source of human life. It affects everybody and being able to be part of that process is amazing to me," Turnage said. ■



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Water Treatment Operator John Pasley. ■
Water Treatment Operator Eli Bermudez. ■
Water Treatment Operator Travis Turnage. ■
Water Treatment Operator Carl Moulden. ■
Turnage tests a water sample at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant. Turnage has been with the Washington Aqueduct for 12 years and holds an Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Water Treatment Operator Class II certification. ■ Moulden tests a water sample at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant. Moulden has been working for the Washington Aqueduct for 14 years. A native of Baltimore City, he holds an ABC Water Treatment Operator Class III certification as well as a Maryland Water Treatment Class IV certification. ■ Bermudez reviews data at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant while working on the third shift. He has been working for the Washington Aqueduct since 2007. He has a BA in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico as well as various water treatment certifications, including an ABC for Water Treatment Operator Class III. (U.S. Army photos by Christopher Fincham)

★ ★ ★
THE
WASHINGTON
AQUEDUCT



Twenty Years Later...

REMEMBERING 9/11



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Current and former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, employees pay tribute at the 9/11 Memorial of Maryland to commemorate their 9/11 recovery response efforts in Baltimore. USACE participated as the only Army major command with boots-on-the-ground missions in the wake of 9/11. ■ Jay Hershey, a former USACE, Baltimore District, debris mission specialist, traces inscriptions commemorating Sept. 11 at the 9/11 Memorial of Maryland in Baltimore. At the height of its operations in New York City, more than 300 USACE personnel were engaged in relief operations after the terrorist attacks. The largest mission was coordinating the removal and inspection of 1.6 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center. ■ Hershey refamiliarizes himself with a World Trade Center ground zero diagram at the 9/11 Memorial of Maryland in Baltimore. The memorial includes steel beams that spanned between the 94th and 97th floors of the World Trade Center North Tower. The memorial provides a place of contemplation and a site to remember and to reflect upon the events of September 11, 2001, where 69 Marylanders were among the victims who lost their lives that day. ■ Maria de la Torre, Baltimore District Real Property Services Field Office program manager, holds a photo of her performing 9/11 recovery efforts with her counterparts at New York City's 7 World Trade Center. In the wake of 9/11, de la Torre operated as a debris quality assurance inspector in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "9/11 helped shine the light on all the incredible assets USACE has to bring to the table as part of our regular missions, and emergency response efforts," said de la Torre. "I consider it a privilege to have responded during the recovery efforts. That experience made me very proud to work with USACE, its emergency response mission, and to have the opportunity to help on such a basic human level." ■ Frederick Furney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, safety technician, pays tribute at the 9/11 Memorial of Maryland to commemorate his 9/11 recovery efforts as a telecommunication specialist in Baltimore. (U.S. Army photos by Greg Nash)

WICOMICO TO DEAL ISLAND

Deal Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Somerset County to hold the material dredged from the Wicomico River, which will provide beneficial long-term environmental benefits.

BY BRITTANY CRISSMAN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and several local, state and federal agencies have been partnering up to find a new placement site on the eastern shore of Maryland for material dredged from the Wicomico River.

After extensive research and evaluation, USACE and partners agreed on the Deal Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Somerset County to hold the material and also provide beneficial long-term environmental benefits.

The Wicomico River is an important tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. It serves many purposes for residents in Wicomico County and the rest of the eastern shore to include recreation, commerce and environmental habitat.

The Wicomico River is also home to the Port of Salisbury, which is the second-highest commercial port in Maryland. As a vital federal navigation channel, maintenance dredging is crucial for safe navigation of barge traffic passing through the river to ensure adequate fuel supplies for the Delmarva Peninsula.

"The Wicomico River serves as the water roadway providing critical fuel products up and down the Delmarva Peninsula, and it takes a lot of trucks off the road," said Kevin Brennan, Baltimore District Navigation Section chief. "One barge can move the equivalent of 70 large semi trucks."

Material dredged from this navigation project, comprised of mostly sand and silt, will be beneficially reused to restore approximately 72 acres of degraded wetlands on the Deal

Island WMA, owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The existing marsh will be raised to a target elevation of 1.5 feet to provide resiliency to the island and more efficient access for migratory birds.

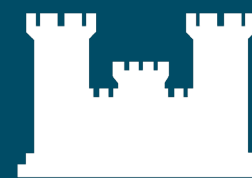
The material will be dredged via a cutter suction dredge, moving directly from the dredge to the placement site through a pipeline.

Maintenance dredging of the southern end of the Wicomico River is anticipated to start by fall 2021 and be completed by mid-February 2022, to comply with time-of-year restrictions established by coordinating agencies. Vegetation planting on the Deal Island WMA is scheduled to be completed in summer 2023.

"We are excited about the opportunity to couple the execution of our navigation mission with this restoration endeavor," said Danielle Szymanski, Baltimore District, Wicomico River project manager. "This project will contribute to protecting environmental habitat and expanding public access within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while also continuing maintenance dredging to ensure vessels can continue safely carrying fuel, materials and agricultural supplies to and from Eastern Shore communities. It's a win-win."

The project will be closely monitored over the span of five years to track and ensure restoration success. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Deal Island WMA is the new placement site that will beneficially reuse sediment from the Wicomico River to restore approximately 72 acres of eroded wetlands. (Audubon photo by David Curson) ■ The Black Rail bird is a threatened species that should benefit from habitat restoration efforts at Deal Island WMA. (Audubon photo by Scott Bowers) ■ A cutterhead is a rotating cutting tool used for the Wicomico River maintenance dredging work. (U.S. Army photo by Brittany Crissman) ■ The Saltmarsh Sparrow is a threatened species that should benefit from habitat restoration. (Audubon photo by Frank Lehman)



AROUND THE DISTRICT

POWERING THE CAPITAL REGION

U.S. Army Sgt. Nathan Holmes, 249th Engineer Battalion Charlie Company Prime Power production specialist, relays facility data to fellow soldiers during Empire Rising 2021 at the Washington Aqueduct in Washington D.C., July 14, 2021. The 249th EB provides technical expertise and performs assessments to determine generator requirements at facilities as well the connection materials required at critical public facilities during emergencies. (U.S. Army photo by Greg Nash)



NEW SURVEY VESSEL

Baltimore District's newest Survey Vessel BUCK has arrived at Fort McHenry. It is named after Mr. Richard Buck, who was the former survey chief for Baltimore District, with his career spanning from 1978 - 1995. BUCK is 26 feet long and powered by twin 200 horsepower motors. BUCK will become the workhorse for the small navigation projects and is equipped with single and multi-beam sonars for hydrographic surveys to help inform the District's critical dredging projects. (Courtesy Photo)



GROUNDING BALD EAGLET

Baltimore District staff and Pennsylvania Game Commission officers successfully coordinated the rescue of a grounded bald eaglet fledgling at Raystown Lake Dam, June 29, 2021. Brent Chronister, Raystown Lake's head dam operator, noticed the eaglet near the dam's spillway and within the proximity of the eagle's nest. After the rescue, the eaglet was transported to Centre Wildlife Care where it received necessary care. The nest at Raystown Lake Dam has been operational since 1999 and has fledged 37 eaglets. Throughout the Raystown Lake project, there are currently four Bald Eagle nests. (Courtesy Photo)



BEACH NOURISHMENT

Baltimore District, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources entered into an agreement allowing Baltimore District to use sand from the Outer Continental Shelf for beach nourishment scheduled for late summer 2021 as part of the Atlantic Coast of Maryland Shoreline Protection Project in Ocean City, Maryland. The agreement provides access to 1.3 million cubic yards of sand from Weaver Shoal for the nourishment of 8.3 miles of beach including 7 miles of sand dunes. The beach is a significant economic driver for Ocean City, which boasts more than 8 million visitors annually. USACE estimates that since the overall shoreline protection project began, it has prevented more than \$927 million in storm damage. (Courtesy Photo)

FRANK CIRINCIONE

Frank Cirincione, who started his career as a Junior Engineer in Training, served USACE and went on to become the Chief, Master Planning, Military Design Branch, Engineering Division, served the Baltimore District for more than four decades and was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees during an awards ceremony June 25, 2021, at the district headquarters. (U.S. Army photo by Gregory Nash)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Baltimore District



2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201



@USACEBaltimore



@USACEBaltimore



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