



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Alaska District

GOLD NUGGETS

'Building and preserving Alaska's future'

April 2011

Engineer detachment returns from Iraq

With welcome home signs, flags and balloons in hand, family, friends and colleagues greeted members of the 62nd Engineer Detachment at Ted Stevens International Airport March 25 returning from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

The detachment activated Feb. 22, 2009, the first in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and departed almost two weeks later to support overseas contingency operations in Iraq in their role as a Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance.

"Words can't describe how happy I am to be back," said Tom Baker, cartographer. "I'm going out for a Mexican dinner and sleeping for three days."

Maj. James Thompson, detachment commander, Sgt. 1st Class Keith Baltozer, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Reynaldo Singson, electrical engineer, also returned on the same flight. Three other team members flew to their homes outside of Anchorage as they were hired before

they could move to the area.

"It's time to fix some things at home, take a vacation and get back to work," said Baltozer.

The detachment spent the year in Nineveh Province supporting the 3rd Brigade, 45th Infantry Division, conducting initial critical infrastructure assessments on sewer, water, environmental, school and trash systems; providing technical engineering and design assistance; and providing limited contracting support. They had reachback capabilities for assistance from staff throughout the Corps of Engineers and associated Corps laboratories.

The 34th Engineer Detachment from the Seattle District has replaced the Alaska District unit and is being assisted by Ron Jackson, contract specialist.

A redeployment ceremony for the 62nd Engineer Detachment is scheduled for April 27 at 1 p.m. in the district headquarters atrium.

From staff reports



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Maj. James Thompson, 62nd Engineer Detachment commander (left), Sgt. 1st Class Keith Baltozer, noncommissioned officer-in-charge (second from left), and Tom Baker, cartographer (far right) exit the gate area at Ted Stevens International Airport March 25 after returning from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Officers explore projects in Southeast

By Capt. Brett Witters
Southern Area Office

Touring the coast of Southeast Alaska on a professional development trip, Alaska District's military officers reflected upon the past as well as looked at current and future U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory and civil works projects in Sitka and Juneau Jan. 24-26.

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander; Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, deputy district commander; Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley, contract specialist; Maj. Justin De Armond, contract specialist; Capt. Daniel Fox, project manager in special projects; Capt. Jesse Anderson, project engineer in the Northern Area Office; and Capt. Brett Witters, project engineer in the Southern Area Office, flew to this region of islands and coastal towns and cities accessible only by water or air.

Bordered by rugged Alaskan or Canadian terrain and the Pacific Ocean, cities such as Sitka and Juneau must harness the power of land and sea to provide electricity and protection to their coastal homelands. Visiting these cities and project sites clarified to the group the importance of civil works projects to these communities.

Starting in Sitka, local officials briefed the team on the importance of the city's breakwaters and dam, providing a history of projects and elaborating on plans for future harbor, breakwater and dam projects.

Local police watercraft took the group on an up-close visit of the existing breakwater and where the city plans to build onto the breakwater to enhance protection of the city's main harbor.

Back ashore, a quick trip to the Blue Lake Dam powerhouse allowed for further discussion on the proposed 83-foot dam extension and expansion of the lake, which doubles as the city's main source of drinking water.

Before returning to wrap up the day's discussion and events, the team stopped at the city's future industrial park, which has plans to build a new harbor in the empty lot of the former pulp mill adjacent to the fish hatchery and cannery.

No officer professional development tour would be complete without a little history.

The team climbed to Baranof Castle Hill, a state and national historic landmark in Sitka that also offers a panoramic view of the downtown and waterfront. Once a strategic location inhabited first by Tlingit natives and then

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Southeast

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Russians, Castle Hill is where Russia officially transferred ownership of Alaska to the United States in 1867.

The next stop was to Juneau to fly with local Alaska National Guardsmen in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter north along the coast and across the bay to

tour Kensington Mine.

After meeting some of the staff, training on mine safety and receiving personal protective equipment, the Corps officers observed what daily occurs inside and outside of the mine. They toured the crusher mill and



Photo by Maj. Justin DeArmond

Seven soldiers from the Alaska District toured the Kensington Gold Mine near Juneau during an officer professional development trip to Southeast Alaska Jan. 24-26.



Courtesy photo

In Sitka, the group visited Baranof Castle Hill State Historic Site where Russia transferred ownership of Alaska to the United States in 1867. From the left are Col. Reinhard Koenig, Capt. Brett Witters, Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, Maj. Justin DeArmond, Capt. Jesse Anderson, Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley and Capt. Daniel Fox.

testing laboratory before heading into the darkness of the mine itself.

Inside the mine, the group glanced at a rescue pod, walked through the underground maintenance shop, journeyed through hundreds of vertical feet of tunnel, witnessed drilling of the tunnel floor for further demolition and picked up a shiny rock or two along the way to take home as a souvenir.

The day culminated with a trip to the water treatment plant and lower slat tailings treatment facility. The tailings are being deposited into the bottom of a nearby lake, which is raising the lake elevation and expanding the water surface area to create a longer shoreline for future wildlife habitat.

The water is treated and then mixed with clean water from an adjacent lake before flowing into lower tributaries and eventually the ocean.

On the last day of the trip, the group flew south of Juneau in the morning for a bird's-eye view of the chain of dams, towers and powerhouses that provide Juneau's electricity before landing to visit Snettisham Dam, a project built by the Alaska District.

Carved into the mountain, the dam blends with the natural surroundings. The group toured the underground powerhouse within the mountain, which generates hydropower from a gravity-fed manmade tunnel originating at the bottom of Crater and Long lakes.

Nearby is one of Juneau's fish hatcheries, with the fish of choice being sockeye salmon. The few staff members of this secluded hatchery are permanent residents to the small piece of shoreline. They keep busy tending stock that will feed into the Pacific Ocean as well as a batch bred specifically to be flown into Canada's high-mountain lakes.

Returning to Juneau, the group met the harbor master for a final tour of the harbors and a short stop at Mendenhall Glacier for one last photo opportunity. Basking in the cool blue beauty and the chilly winds that rush down its icy expanse, the glacier truly is one of Alaska's many great wonders.

GOLD NUGGETS

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District promotes leaders in Construction Operations, Engineering

By Pat Richardson
Public Affairs Office

Three Alaska District managers have been promoted to new leadership positions.

Dave Frenier, P.E., was selected as Engineering Division chief to replace Trish Opheen who is retiring this spring. David Gerland was named Construction Operations Division deputy chief to replace Mike Redmond who is retiring, and Jackie Fabrizio, P.E., was promoted to Military Technical Engineering Branch chief. She assumes Frenier's former position.

In addition to the duties as the engineering chief, Frenier will become a member of the district's corporate board, a member of the Pacific Ocean Division Regional Management Board and federal co-chair of the Alaska State Immediate Action Working Group on Climate Change.

Frenier has served the district as Military Technical Engineering Branch chief since January 2006 and as Technical Services chief in the Engineering Services Branch from 2000-2006. Before joining the district, he was director of the Department of Public Works Building Safety Division for the Municipality of Anchorage.

Frenier began his career with the Corps as a commissioned officer, serving 24 years of active duty, including a tour with the Alaska



Dave Frenier



David Gerland



Jackie Fabrizio

District from 1981-1984 when he served in the Construction Division as a project engineer in the Fairbanks Resident Office and in the Engineering Division as an Air Force section project manager.

Frenier graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and holds a master's degree in engineering physics from the University of Virginia.

Gerland joined the Alaska District as the Fort Greely resident engineer in December 2007, working with the Missile Defense Agency.

He advanced to become the Denali resident engineer in February 2010, responsible for the growing program for International and Interagency Services, and providing support for the Environmental and Special Programs Branch.

He has worked for the New York State Department of Transportation in New York City, and the Corps' Buffalo and Jacksonville districts.

He later served in the North Florida

Area Office as the office engineer and as a project engineer for 11 years. His last position before moving to Alaska District was chief of the Construction Administration Section in Jacksonville District.

Gerland received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in engineering from State University of New York at Buffalo.

Fabrizio has comprehensive experience in executing military construction projects and in providing review and technical analysis of contractor claims.

She served as an active-duty Army officer with a final assignment as a captain in the Alaska District where she transitioned to a civilian career in the Southern Area Office.

Fabrizio graduated from the U.S. Military Academy with a bachelor's degree in engineering physics. She holds a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Judged

Birdie Budnik, regulatory specialist in the Regulatory Division, takes notes while judging science and engineering fair entries at Orion Elementary School on JBER-Richardson March 17. Seven Alaska District volunteers, one employee with the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and personnel from the Port of Anchorage helped judge the school's entries. Volunteers determined scores by assessing the purpose, title, discussion of results, hypothesis, procedure, materials, tables and graphics, conclusion and acknowledgements, and references of each display. Michelle Sappa in the Construction Operations Division and two port volunteers stayed into the early afternoon to interview the top students from the morning's science judging. Besides Sappa and Budnik, district volunteers were Michael VonBuhr, Dave Case, Jessequa Parker, Mary Leykom and Joe White. Ann Staples volunteered from CRREL. (Photo by Pat Richardson)



Medal awarded to district employee



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Craig Lance displays the Wheeler Medal presented at the Anchorage Post Society of American Military Engineers annual banquet in Anchorage Jan. 22.

A civil engineer in the Construction Support Branch received the Society of American Military Engineers Anchorage Post Wheeler Medal at the organization's annual banquet in Anchorage Jan. 22.

Craig Lance is a fellow in SAME and longstanding member on the Anchorage Post board of directors.

He has held many officer positions for the Anchorage Post, including president in 2001. Lance is also a longstanding member on the board of trustees and treasurer for the B.B. Talley Scholarship Foundation.

Instrumental in updating the investment policy for the scholarship fund in 2010, he organized the review and selection process for the scholarship financial management company.

Lance was selected to be a Proponent-Sponsored Engineer Corps Training (PROSPECT) instructor for the beginner and advanced scheduling courses.

He has prepared and taught the construction scheduling course for the

Alaska District. He taught that same course in a one-day training seminar for SAME in February 2010, which earned \$8,000 for the scholarship fund.

As a claims analyst for Alaska District, he specializes in delay and productivity claims. Among his high-profile projects for the Corps of Engineers is the \$178 million Bassett Hospital Replacement project. Lance helped formulate the government's position in a negotiated settlement with the contractor.

The Wheeler Medal is named in honor of Army Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, and is presented for outstanding contribution to military engineering by a current or former civilian or military member of the Army. The medal was first awarded in 1955.

The award is given for outstanding contributions to military engineering through achievement in design, construction, administration, research or development culminating in the year for which nominated.



Photo by Tom Findtner

Air Force ambassador

Patrick Zettler of the Programs and Project Management Division receives the 2011 Pacific Air Forces Civilian Project Manager of the Year Award (Agent Category) from Col. Edward Kertis, Pacific Ocean Division commander, during a ceremony at Alaska District headquarters Jan. 19. Col. Reinhard Koenig, commander of the Alaska District, also congratulated Zettler on earning this honor.

Around the district

Employees of Second Quarter

Employees of the Second Quarter will be officially recognized April 13 at 1 p.m. in the headquarters atrium.

Outstanding Engineer/Scientist GS-05-12: Shane McCoy

Outstanding Engineer/Scientist GS-13-15: Patrick Zettler

Outstanding Support GS-02-10: Faith Martineau

Outstanding Support GS-11-15: Jeannine LaDuke

Outstanding Managerial/Supervisory/Team Leader: Christine Everett

Outstanding External Team Award, Total Building Commissioning Training Seminar Team: Craig Lance, Jadee Moncur, Fred Sayer, Lee Holmes (Support Services of Alaska), Raj Bhargava (RBA Engineers), Chris Turletes (University of Alaska Anchorage), Jim Watterson (Watterson Construction), Trent Larson (Unit Company), Matt Schierling (Air Force)

Employees of First Quarter

Outstanding Engineer/Scientist GS-05-12: Thomas Reed

Outstanding Support GS-02-10: Jana Allen

Outstanding Support GS-11-15: Herschel Deaton

Outstanding Managerial/Supervisory/Team Leader: Bruce Sexauer

Celebrate Safety Individual Award: Staff Sgt. Paul Routhier

Outstanding External Team, Philippines Road Project for Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Team: Bob Glascott, Crystal Labrecque, Larry Phyfe, Clare Jaeger, Steve Geppert, Dave Frenier, R. David Williams, Von Dean Christley, James Saucedo, Mike Gaulke, Alona Schue, John Emmerson (POD), Sheryl Lewis (HQ).

Outstanding Internal Team, Alaska Regional Ports: Lorraine Cordova, Gordon Culpepper, Christine Dale, Pat Fitzgerald, Don Fore, Karl Harvey, Tu Nguyen, Dale Oliver, Hillary Palmer, John Rajek, Kimberly Tripp, Andria Werning, Laura Breedon, Annie Perry, Luis Menendez, Jonathan Brown (Buffalo District), Darin Lazzaro (Portland District ACE-IT), John Eric Taylor and Jeffrey Ottesen (ADOT&PF), Sarah Barton and Cynthia Olstad (RISE Alaska), Pat Burden, Michael Fisher and Alexis Bond (Northern Economics Inc.).

Safety Team, Celebrate Safety: Christopher Morgan, Paul Schneider, Heidi Clay, Lynn Maurer, Jana Allen, Vicki Bell, Holly Thibault, Jessica Skinner, Annie Perry, Luis Menendez, Curt Biberdorf, Ernie Woods, David Prado

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Photo by Tom Findtner

Design excellence

Project delivery team members for the Alaska Regional Professional Military Education Center on Elmendorf Air Force Base receive the 2011 Pacific Air Forces Facility Design Award from Col. Edward Kertis, Pacific Ocean Division commander, during a ceremony at Alaska District Headquarters Jan. 19. Col. Reinhard Koenig (far left, back row), district commander, participated in the event as well. Alaska District employees recognized for this achievement are (from left): Peter Lam, structural engineer; Greg Wilcox, architect; Tom Lubeck, civil engineer; Surendra Wadhwa, project engineer for design; Jadee Moncur, project engineer for construction; and Chris Dalsfoist, project manager.

Upcoming events

April 11	ULDP Level II graduation
April 13	Quarterly awards presentation
April 27	62nd Engineer detachment ceremony
April 27	Civil Works lessons learned meeting
May 9-12	POD 2020 Conference in Seward
May 19	Safety Day
June 6-9	Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko visit
June 13-17	USACE Infrastructure Conference

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Contracts awarded

Umiat Test Well No. 9—An award for nearly \$10.4 million will provide remedial action at this Formerly Used Defense Site.

Fort Wainwright Addition to Religious Education Facility—The district awarded JKM General Contractors LLC a contract for \$1,449,512 March 21 to construct an addition to Bldg. 3429 with space for fellowship, group counseling and a heated passageway to the adjacent chapel.

Denali Commission—The district received awards for eight new projects. The FY2011 program totals are \$550,000 for studies, \$400,000 for designs, and \$6 million for construction.

Projects completed

JBER-Richardson Child Development Center was turned over to the customer Jan. 5. The project provides a standard design child development center for children primarily between the ages of 6-10 and an outdoor activity area. The design-build contractor, Bristol Design Build Services, completed the project with minimal time and cost growth.

The JBER-Elmendorf F-22A Corrosion Control/LO/MX/Composite Repair Facility, Phase 2 final inspection was March 8 with the base taking beneficial occupancy the same day. The F-22A Squadron Operations/AMU/6-Bay Hangar and F-22A Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Facility final inspection was held March 15. The facility was turned over to the Air Force March 17.

Dam committee representative named

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Steering Committee selected Marcus Palmer, Alaska District's dam safety program manager, to serve as a district dam safety program manager representative on the national committee. The appointment is for four years, and his first committee meeting is Aug 3-5.

Conference shares navigation facts

Bruce Sexauer, Lorraine Cordova and Pat Fitzgerald participated in the Spotlight on Canada-U.S. Collaboration: Arctic Marine Shipping and the Environment Conference in Anchorage Feb. 25. This stimulated sharing of navigation information between Canada and numerous agencies and stakeholders from the United States.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska has been electronically tracking the trip paths of all commercial vessels longer than 65 feet for the past several years, and it has documented increased vessel traffic to the Arctic. This all supports Gov.

Sean Parnell's request to evaluate potential Arctic ports under the ongoing Alaska Regional Ports Feasibility Study, which is being cost-shared with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Fort Greely improvements examined

The district has been asked to prepare a concept for developing a Fort Greely infrastructure improvement plan to identify and prioritize the infrastructure and building system changes that are needed on the Missile Defense Complex. Additionally, the Missile Defense Agency is attempting to fund a planning effort to evaluate the Missile Defense facilities on the Fort Greely cantonment area for modification or construction of new facilities.

Mitigation banks approved

Regulatory Division has the Su-Knik, Harmony and Natuhini wetlands mitigation banks and is working to approve the Pioneer, Heritage Land, and Salcha Soil and Water Conservation District banks.

Also in the approval process are four In-Lieu-Fee wetlands mitigation programs with The Conservation Fund, Great Land Trust, Southeast Alaska Land Trust and the Interior Land Trust.

Photos wanted for Arctic Engineer

High-resolution photos of employees participating in various recreational activities or hobbies in Alaska,

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Team earns Army environmental award for Manning Point project

By Pat Richardson
Public Affairs Office

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District team won the Secretary of the Army's Environmental Award for Restoration of an Installation for the Manning Point (Jago River) Formerly Used Defense Site.

The award represents the highest honor in the field of environmental science and sustainability conferred by the Army.

The FUDS project, located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, removed and disposed of more than 1,400 drums, drum contents and associated soil contamination from the Jago River delta.

This work eliminated the possibility of future petroleum product releases into the Arctic Ocean. The project team transported equipment and supplies more than 800 miles to perform work that lasted three weeks during August of 2010.

The project was jointly executed with another project at Brownlow Point to save the government nearly \$500,000 in mobilization and demobilization costs. About 2,500 manhours were worked by the project team with zero lost-time incidents or accidents.

This is the second year in a row that the Alaska District received the Army's top environmental award. In 2010, the district received the award for investigating FUDS on Tanaga and Ogluiga islands in the Aleutian Islands.

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such as camping, fishing, skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, snowmachining, golfing, boating, flying, scenic cruising, riding the Alaska railroad, playing a team sport, visiting a national park or museum, are needed for a photo page in the Arctic Engineer magazine. Send photos to Curt Biberdorf.

News magazine wins award

“Arctic Engineer” took second place in the Army Corps of Engineers 2010 Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Contest.

Deployments

Iraq—Ron Jackson, Robert Weakland

Afghanistan—Linda Arrington, Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley, Nathan Epps, Anthony Garigliano, Roger Green, Scott Haan, Sterlin Hill, Deborah McAtee, Heather Moncrief, Daniel Nordstrom, Victor Ross, A’leisha Sorenson, Gary Weiler

Returned—Tamara Arnold, Tom Baker, Sgt. 1st Class Keith Baltozer, Morgan Benson, George Cashman, Nathan Epps, Phyllis Ritchie, Reynaldo Singson, Doug Sterk, Maj. James Thompson



Heather Moncrief, civil engineer in the Regulatory Division, deployed Jan. 30 to Afghanistan South District as an environmental engineer and is scheduled to return Jan. 29, 2012.



Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley, deputy chief of Contracting, deployed to Afghanistan North District March 20 as acting chief of Contracting and is scheduled to return Sept. 20.



Ronald Jackson, contract specialist, deployed to Iraq Jan. 23 to support the 34th Engineer Detachment as a contract specialist and is scheduled to return July 30.



Linda Arrington, deputy chief of Real Estate, deployed to Afghanistan North District Jan. 8 as a realty specialist and is scheduled to return July 2.



Deborah McAtee, geographer in the Regulatory Division, deployed Feb. 27 to Afghanistan North District as a geographer for the Afghanistan National Security Forces surge and is scheduled to return May 20.



Ron Shafer, civil engineer in the Engineering Division, deployed to Afghanistan North District as a civil engineer for the Afghanistan National Security Forces surge Feb. 27 and is scheduled to return June 19.



Photo by Tom Findtner

Distinguished

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, inducts Claude Vining into the organization's Hall of Fame with wife, Carole, at his side during a ceremony at district headquarters Jan. 6. Vining served as chief of the Engineering Division from 1991-2001. After a 36-year career in the Alaska District, he retired with 40 years of federal service in May 2002.



Graduates

(Clockwise from left) Jessequa Parker, geologist in Environmental Engineering; Binh Nguyen, civil engineer in Cost Engineering; and Hillary Palmer, geologist in Engineering Services Technical Integration, receive a certificate of completion from the Department of the Army Civilian Career Intern Program from Trish Opheen, chief of the Engineering Division, during a luncheon in the Talley Room March 25. Also completing the program but unable to attend the luncheon are Mike MacMillan, natural scientist in Environmental Engineering and Richard David, civil engineer in the Northern Area Office. Interns complete a two-year rotation of assignments in a variety of offices to ensure their careers are well-rounded and provide professional development opportunities. Upon completion, they take a permanent position. (Photos by Curt Biberdorf)