



BIOUPDATE

BELVOIR INTEGRATION OFFICE, FORT BELVOIR, VA.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009



PROJECT TEAMS
WELCOME
SECARMY

*Solving the
BRAC
Puzzle*

IN THIS ISSUE

4 Solving the BRAC puzzle

Individually and collectively, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects at Fort Belvoir represent the largest of all BRAC 2005 projects — more than \$4 billion in all. Numerous projects in close proximity, along with an aggressive schedule, created a puzzle for North Atlantic Division leaders, and they used innovation to solve it.

7 Project teams welcome SECARMY

Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, and Keith Eastin, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, caught a first-hand glimpse of Fort Belvoir's future during a visit to three Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects here Feb. 27.

DEPARTMENTS

2 ▶ First Word

5 ▶ In Focus

5 ▶ Corps World

9 ▶ Parting Shot

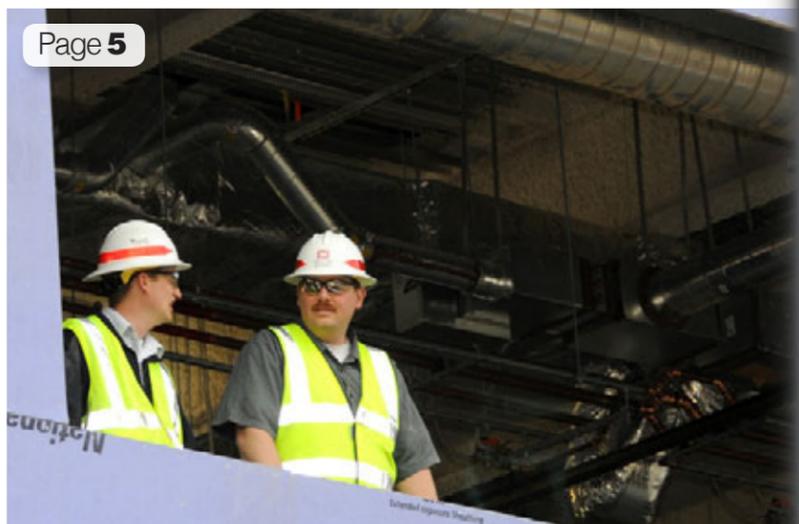
ON THE COVER



▶ Senior Construction Manager Buddy Billington (right) briefs Secretary of the Army Pete Geren on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency New Campus East project at Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Ground Feb. 27. For more on this story, see Pages 7-8. (Photo by Marc Barnes) **Baltimore District**



Photos by Marc Barnes



Page 5

Division leadership speaks with ONE VOICE on Voluntary Protection Program

Story by Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander

As we execute our North Atlantic Division (NAD) Implementation Plans, we must ensure leaders and employees at all levels maintain their focus on accident prevention. Our challenge in going from "very good" to "great" demands we integrate safety into every fiber of the organization, mission and all operations.



FIRSTWORD

OSHA Partnership

To help with this, NAD management and labor have volunteered to begin a partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and have agreed to implement the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) safety management system. This system requires an organization to go above and beyond general safety standards. This

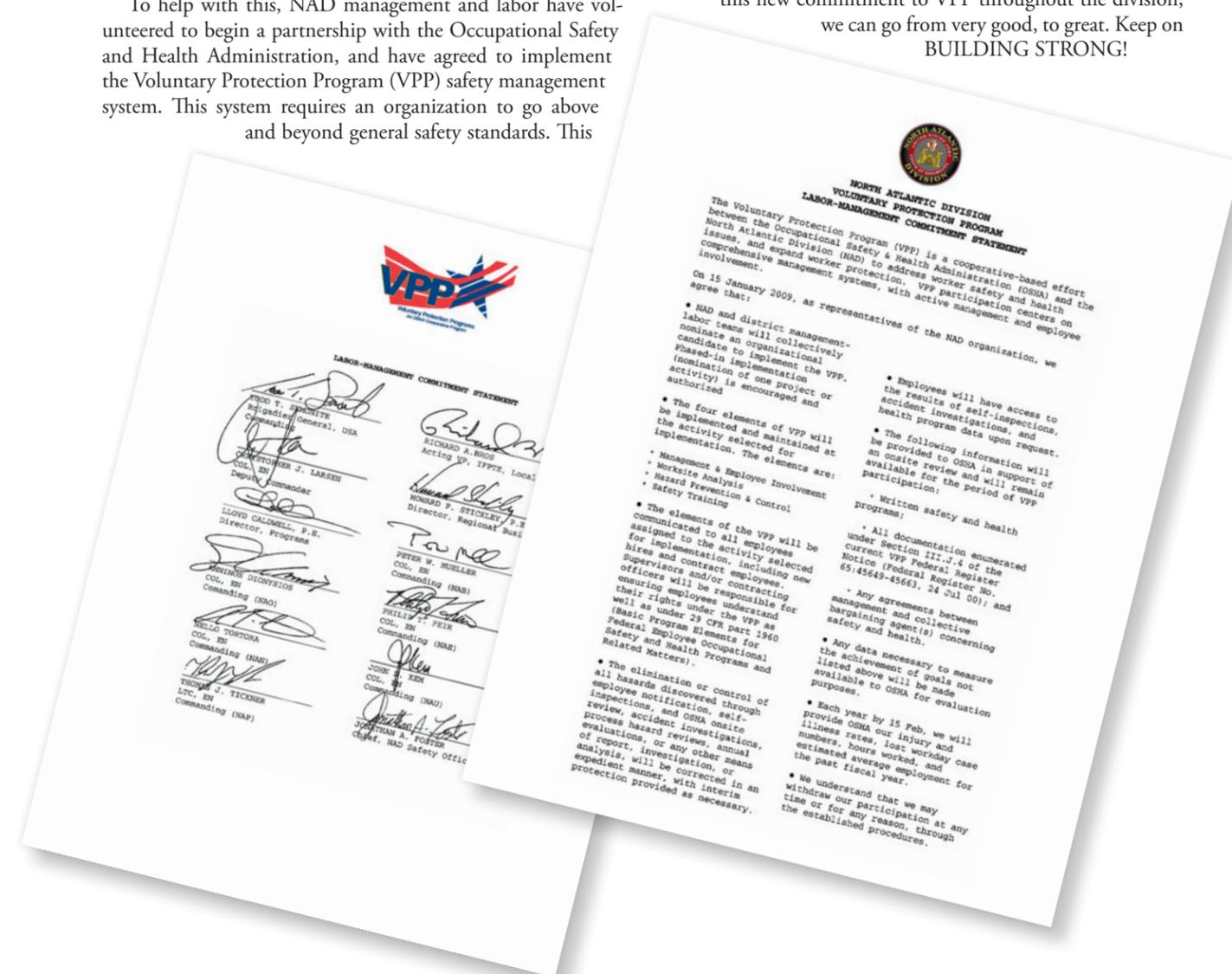
equates to increased requirements and involvement with the four basic VPP elements — management, leadership and employee involvement; worksite analysis; hazard prevention and control; and safety training.

Implementation

Phased implementation of the VPP is encouraged and authorized throughout NAD. I look to our senior commanders and leaders to lead this effort, and to our workforce as a whole to share our commitment to execute VPP.

Building Strong

We already have a very good safety program, led by some of the best safety experts in the Corps, but we can do better. With this new commitment to VPP throughout the division, we can go from very good, to great. Keep on BUILDING STRONG!



introducing BIOUPDATE

Story by Marc Barnes, Belvoir Integration Office Public Affairs

Welcome to the first edition of **BIO Update**. This magazine is one tool the North Atlantic Division (NAD) commander will use to keep Corps of Engineers NAD project teams at Fort Belvoir informed of issues and activities taking place here, and throughout the Division and Corps as a whole. **BIO Update** will be published bimonthly, and delivered via e-mail to its subscribers.

Belvoir Integration Office

If you haven't guessed it yet, the "BIO" in the title is short for Belvoir Integration Office — the office created here by the commander to support the various NAD Districts administering and executing projects at Fort Belvoir, the majority of which are a result of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions. The BIO public affairs staff will compile stories, photos, graphics and other content and publish **BIO Update** bimonthly.

What's inside?

The majority of content will cover work being done by NAD project teams at Fort Belvoir. We'll also provide limited coverage of Corps of Engineers projects and organizations worldwide.

Can I get involved?

The **BIO Update** editorial staff encourages your suggestions and input to make the publication most useful.

That being said, it's important to remember that someone has to call the shots regarding what is included in each issue. The editorial staff will determine the content, while doing our best to consider and incorporate submissions which are consistent with the commander's intent for this publication and with **BIO Update** editorial policy.

To submit your ideas, simply send an e-mail to bio.pao@usace.army.mil. If you're submitting something you'd like

us to consider for publication, send it no later than the 15th of the month, during the month of publication. Publication dates will be the final day of the month, every second month. Because this issue is the January/February 2009 edition, the next issue will be published April 30. Content for that issue should be received no later than April 15.

Departments

Each edition will include several recurring columns, referred to as "departments" on the table of contents page. These departments, and the guidelines for their content, are as follows:

First Word: the NAD commander's column, and he decides the content.

Local Briefs: this department will become part of the magazine in future editions, as we continue shaping the publication to meet our customer's needs. Local Briefs will include short announcements about events and activities affecting Corps of Engineers employees at Fort Belvoir. Content may be submitted by readers.

Safety Net: also coming in future editions, this column will include safety news and views. Content will be developed by the BIO staff.

In Focus: this puts the spotlight on Corps people assigned to Fort Belvoir through photos, congratulatory announcements and hails and farewells. Photographs should be high quality, and content may be submitted by readers.

Corps World: this department will give you a glimpse of the Corps picture beyond Northern Virginia, featuring stories from around the world. Content will be determined by the BIO staff.

Parting Shot: this will be on the last page, and will be one of our favorite photographs taken during the prior two months. Content will normally be developed by the BIO staff, but we'll consider submissions from readers as well.

BIOUPDATE

BIO Update is an unofficial publication under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published bimonthly by the North Atlantic Division (NAD) Belvoir Integration Office (BIO) for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NAD project teams working at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Letters to the editor are encouraged. All photos are U.S. Army photos unless otherwise noted.

BIO Update will be published bimonthly, six times per year. The deadline for submitting articles, photos and other content is the 15th of the month during the month of publication.

E-subscriptions are available free of charge but must be requested in writing.

Requests may be e-mailed to bio.pao@usace.army.mil, or mailed to:

Belvoir Integration Office
EDITOR, BIO UPDATE
6020 Goethals Rd.
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

To contact the **BIO Update** staff, send an e-mail to the address shown above, or call (703) 806-6098.

NAD Commander
Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite

BIO Director
James Turkel

BIO Deputy Director
Lt. Col. Eric Harter

BIO Communications Officer
Ann Johnson

Managing Editor
Marc Barnes

Solving the BRAC Puzzle

Story and graphic by Marc Barnes,
Belvoir Integration Office Public Affairs

When the recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission became law on Nov. 8, 2005, it marked the start of preparation for some of the largest Military Construction (MILCON) projects in Corps of Engineers history — projects which, according to BRAC law, must be completed by September 2011.

With many of the BRAC 2005 projects occurring in the region served by the North Atlantic Division (NAD) — many of them at or around Fort Belvoir — NAD leadership quickly realized the impending workload and aggressive schedule had created a bit of a puzzle.

Individually and collectively, the projects at Fort Belvoir represented the largest of all BRAC 2005 projects — nearly \$4 billion in all. MILCON projects here are normally the responsibility of the Division's Baltimore District and its Belvoir Integrated Program Office, but the massive scope and aggressive schedule of the BRAC projects would require a new approach.

With that in mind, NAD set out to solve the puzzle in a way which would meet schedule and budget requirements, while at the same time taking advantage of the experience available within the Division. In the end, Division leaders decided that leveraging the capacity and talent of the entire Division, as opposed to a single district, would be the key to completing the projects safely, on time, and on budget.

The puzzle began coming together when Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, NAD Commander, distributed Fort Belvoir project responsibilities among four of his six districts, with New England, New York, Baltimore and Norfolk districts each playing a critical role.



Norfolk District is managing construction of the \$806 million Community Hospital on main post, while Baltimore District leads various projects, most notably \$152 million in infrastructure construction, and the \$1.7 billion National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency New Campus East project at Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Grounds. In addition, New York District is the lead for the \$1 billion BRAC 133 project in Alexandria, while New England District is the lead for designing the \$180 million National Museum of the U.S. Army project on main post.

While deciding how to divide responsibilities between districts, NAD leaders recognized that the quantity of projects, all going on at the same time and in close proximity, would require yet another piece to solve the puzzle. That piece is the Belvoir Integration Office, or BIO.

The BIO is a forward deployed element of NAD, tasked with integrating district design and construction missions at Fort Belvoir. In addition, the BIO serves as the link between the districts; between the Corps and Fort Belvoir; and between the Corps and the local communities affected by the projects.

"Our staff spends a large amount of time communicating," said Lt. Col. Eric Harter, the BIO Deputy Director. "Amongst the sea of stakeholders on

these projects, our principle customers are the districts and the (Fort Belvoir) Garrison. Without the BIO, these stakeholders would be, to some degree, disconnected. Our staff serves as the Corps' node for coordination and works hard to keep communication flowing, while identifying and addressing risks to the NAD mission."

The BIO staff currently includes nine people — the director, deputy, master portfolio planner, program planner, communications officer, public affairs specialist, two project managers and a safety coordinator. Another staff member, a program support assistant, will join the staff in March.

While the BRAC deadline is still more than two years away, Harter said the quantity of work which remains is enormous, but he's confident the NAD project teams are on schedule to deliver quality facilities and infrastructure on budget.

"We do have a bit of a puzzle here," he said, "and while we have all the pieces, we're still working to put them all together. Our teams and the Garrison face new challenges every day. But, with the aid of repetition, we are becoming quite effective at beating down the obstacles which pop up from time to time. There's still much to be done, but we're on track, and I believe we'll be successful."



▶ Robert Kraatz (right), Quality Assurance (QA) Team Leader, and Sean Mahar, QA Construction Representative, wait for Army Secretary Pete Geren to arrive at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital project site Feb. 27. Kraatz and Mahar assisted in preparation for the secretary's visit, but their primary responsibilities on the project site include reviewing plans and inspecting every aspect of construction to ensure the work meets or exceeds specifications. **North Atlantic Division, Norfolk District**

Building **BIG** in New Orleans

Story courtesy of Task Force Hope Public Affairs

Defense of Greater New Orleans' most vulnerable area from storm surge began Dec. 11 with the groundbreaking of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lake Borgne surge barrier project.

This is the biggest civil works project in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The IHNC surge barrier project is a significant piece of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System because it will block the powerful Gulf of Mexico storm surge from entering the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

When completed in 2011, the \$700 million surge barrier will extend from the Michoud Canal floodwall along the GIWW to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) levee just south of the Bayou Bienvenue control structure. It will reduce the hurricane and storm surge risk faced by the people in the surrounding communities of St. Bernard, New Orleans East, Ninth Ward, and Gentilly to a one percent chance in any given year.

"When we see this surge barrier, we will know that it is a

stance we've taken for the betterment of the people in New Orleans," said Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers.

About 200 local residents, political leaders, and USACE officials celebrated the start of the largest design-build, civil-works project in the Corps' history aboard a USACE inspection barge anchored near the middle of the two-mile-long project site.

"To achieve these project goals, the Corps, the state, our local partners, and the local communities must all work together," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Task Force Hope Director. "It's all about teamwork."

Six features make up the IHNC Lake Borgne surge barrier project. The GIWW features include the GIWW north floodwall, the GIWW gates, and the GIWW to Bayou Bienvenue floodwall. The Bayou Bienvenue features include the Bayou Bienvenue gate, and the Bayou Bienvenue to MRGO south floodwall. The final feature of the barrier is the MRGO south floodwall.

USACE awarded the IHNC Lake Borgne surge barrier project contract to Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure of New Orleans in April. Shaw has completed nearly 50 percent of the design for the project.

USACE expects to complete the IHNC Lake Borgne surge barrier project in 2011, with advance measures implemented during hurricane season in 2009 to reduce the flood risk for people in the Greater New Orleans area.

CORPSWORLD

BUILDING STRONG Alliances

Story and photo by Kim Chong-yun, Far East District Public Affairs

SEOUL – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District (FED) hosted a South Korean Ministry of National Defense (MND) Exchange Training course at the FED compound Feb. 9-March 2.

The annual training program began in 1985 when officials here recognized the need for understanding between FED and South Korean engineers. During this year's training, 14 students — four military and 10 civilians from various South Korean military and government agencies — spent three weeks learning about the district's organization, business procedures and processes.

Starting with the orientation and overview on the first day of training, the instruction covered various aspects of FED business, including program and project management, design reviews, laboratories and field work observation, quality assurance, construction services and safety.

The attendees also visited the FED's Humphreys Area Office in Pyongtaek and learned the roles and responsibilities of resident offices.

While at Humphreys, the attendees met with contractors and quality assurance representatives, and discussed how to solve pending problems such as using local Korean construction materials, and building access roads to relocation sites.

Ha Chae-un, Pyongtaek Resident Office, briefed the attendees about field office business processes and showed them various construction sites at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. Ha said the training is meeting its objective of strengthening understanding between MND and FED engineers.

"This is the third year that I instructed this training and it is a good chance for me personally to meet a lot of MND folks, some of whom I still keep in touch with," he said.

"I really enjoyed this great chance to learn about FED. I think having this kind of training and not having one is very different. My understanding of FED and its business procedures has



▶ Yun Yong-han, Far East District Geotechnical and Environmental Branch, explains a Pile Drive Analyzer to South Korean Ministry of National Defense students during a recent exchange training course at the district. **Far East District**

greatly improved," said South Korean Air Force Capt. Kim Sung-woo. "I really want to recommend my co-workers attend this training in the future."

South Korean Army Maj. Jeong Baek-seon, MND Defense Installations Agency, said he was particularly impressed with the Far East District's focus on safety and quality.

"FED delivers quality products with an incredible safety record," Jeong said. "I learned how important safety regulations and keeping them helps building quality products. What I learned in this training will be very helpful as I work the relocation program with our U.S. counterparts."

Col. Clarence D. Turner, FED Commander, spoke at the graduation ceremony for this year's training class. He noted the importance of the exchange training in the future, as host nation programs move into in-kind programs.

"It is indeed an honor and a privilege for us to have an opportunity to have a close relationship with our allies," said Turner, "and what we are doing is strengthening our alliance because throughout (our) partnership we are going to provide quality facilities for the U.S. Forces here in Korea, and (for) civilians and family members."



► Sean Wachutka (left), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Manager, BRAC 133, discusses the timeline of the project with Secretary of the Army Pete Geren (center) during the secretary's visit to the site Feb. 27. Also pictured are Daniel Ward (right), USACE Senior Construction Manager, BRAC 133; and Col. Mark Moffatt (partially hidden), Fort Belvoir Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC. Geren visited the hospital and two other Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project sites here along with Keith Eastin (not pictured here), Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment. **North Atlantic Division, New York District**

PROJECT TEAMS WELCOME SECARMY

Story and photos by Marc Barnes, Belvoir Integration Office Public Affairs

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren caught a firsthand glimpse of Fort Belvoir's future during a visit to three Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects sites here Feb. 27.

Geren was accompanied by Keith Eastin, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, as the pair visited sites of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital on main post, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) New Campus East at the Engineer Proving Ground, and the Department of Defense (DoD) BRAC 133 project in Alexandria, Va.

After a quick visit to each of the sites, Geren praised the monumental efforts of the Corps of Engineers, the Garrison, and surrounding communities to ensure success as the projects continue moving forward.

"The scale of this is truly extraordinary — great work by the Corps," he said. "We've seen great cooperation between the Garrison, Fort Belvoir, the Corps, county and state officials, and city officials in this region."

"The Secretary of the Army's on-site visit to the major Fort Belvoir BRAC projects is in itself a show of the great collaborative effort going on here between the Army's senior leadership, the Corps, and Fort Belvoir's staff," said Col. Jerry L. Blixt, Post Commander. "It was very important to me that he was able to be here and see first-hand what



► Geren and Eastin also made a brief stop at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) New Campus East project site during their visit to Fort Belvoir. Pictured here from left to right, are: Eastin; Buddy Billington, USACE Senior Construction Manager, NGA New Campus East; Geren; and Mike Rogers, USACE Project Manager, NGA New Campus East. **North Atlantic Division, Baltimore District**



► Phil Federle (right), USACE Project Manager, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH), and Brian Boynton (center), USACE Senior Construction Manager, FBCH, discuss the project with Geren during the secretary's visit to the hospital site. **North Atlantic Division, Norfolk District**

the largest overall BRAC program in DoD looks like."

The secretary said tough issues had to be addressed, and many things taken into consideration to make sure the new facilities meet the needs of Fort Belvoir, the organizations that will use them, military personnel and their families, and the citizens of northern Virginia.

"Investments like this affect everything in the region," he said. "My hat's off to the leadership of the Corps and the leadership of the Garrison for their work, as well as (local and state) officials."

In addition, Geren noted the environmental considerations during design and construction of the new facilities. All three projects are working to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver ratings, under the LEED Green Building Rating System by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Geren said it's critical for the Corps of Engineers, and the Army as a whole, to continue responsible management of the environment, no matter the project.

"Whether managing 17 million acres of range that we have across the country, or the many environmental projects the Corps undertakes all over the world, or work on construction like this, we do everything we can to protect the environment and be good stewards of the resources taxpayers entrust to us," he said.

While citing the progress on all of the projects, the secretary said

he was very impressed with cooperation of the Corps and its contractors on the community hospital, noting the facility's impact on the quality of life for service members and their families.

"The new hospital is going to bring top quality healthcare to this entire region," he explained. "It's going to be a joint hospital, and all services are going to cooperate in providing quality health care for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in this region, as well as their families. It's a facility that will be state of the art, and one of the most outstanding hospitals in America."

The Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District is managing construction of the community hospital, while Baltimore District manages NGA New Campus East, and New York District manages BRAC 133 construction in Alexandria. All three districts are part of the North Atlantic Division (NAD), headquartered in New York. The Division is leveraging its resources to meet construction requirements for more than \$4 billion in projects — all projects at Fort Belvoir — by regionalizing the workload here among four districts.

Construction of the hospital, NGA and BRAC 133 buildings began as a result of BRAC 2005, and the three are the largest BRAC projects at Fort Belvoir. They are scheduled for completion by September 2011, to comply with BRAC 2005 law.

▶PARTINGSHOT



▶ President Barack Obama shakes hands with James Turkel, Director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Belvoir Integration Office, while Tim Kaine, Virginia Governor, and Col. Mark Moffatt, Fort Belvoir Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC, look on. President Obama visited the construction site of the Fairfax County Parkway during a brief trip to Springfield, Va., Feb. 11. The parkway, which runs through Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Ground, is being constructed in support of ongoing Base Realignment and Closure projects here. (Photo by Michael L. White, Virginia Governor's Photographer) **North Atlantic Division, Belvoir Integration Office**