



BIOUPDATE

BELVOIR INTEGRATION OFFICE, FORT BELVOIR, VA.

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**TAKING
COMMAND**
NAD welcomes DeLuca

March/April 2009

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▶ Col. Peter A. "Duke" DeLuca took command of the North Atlantic Division April 17. For more on this story, see Page 4. (Photo by Marc Barnes) **North Atlantic Division**



Photo by Chris Gardner, New York District Public Affairs



Photo by Marc Barnes, Belvoir Integration Office Public Affairs



FROM THE CHIEF

General looks forward to 'new and proud chapter' in Corps

Story by Lt. Gen. Robert L. "Van" Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, signed by President Obama in February, provides us with a tremendous opportunity to serve and support the Nation through these challenging economic times. It is a reflection of the confidence the President and Congress have in us to get the mission done! Now we have to deliver "superior performance" on every project!

We, along with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the Administration, have released the lists of projects that best meet the funding criteria of the ARRA. The legislation appropriated \$4.6 billion to the Corps for its Civil Works program and about \$1.676 billion in military construction funding. The ARRA provides more than \$3 billion in sustainment, restoration, and modernization funds for Army, Air Force, and DoD health facilities, but the specific amount that the Corps will execute is undetermined at this time.

Our goal is to use the stimulus funding to quickly put fellow Americans to work on Corps projects, while achieving lasting value in each project we build. We'll need accurate cost estimates, aggressively achievable schedules, innovative contracting, and timely execution to deliver.

The list of civil works projects that qualify for ARRA funding include 178 construction projects, 892 Operation and Maintenance projects, 45 Mississippi River and Tributaries projects, 67 Investigations projects, and nine projects under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Regulatory Program funds are distributed to Corps districts based upon workload, and all projects on the lists have received appropriated funds in prior years' Energy and Water Development Appropriations acts.

The ARRA also provides us with a robust Military Construction mission, as we serve as the Department of Defense's construction agent. Projects for the Army include seven Child Development Centers (\$80 million), two Warrior Transition Complexes (\$100 million), and 11 Family Housing Construction (\$34.5 million) projects. For the Air Force, facilities include seven Child Development Centers (\$80 million), Troop Housing (\$56.7 million), and one Family Housing project (\$26.2 million). There is one DoD medical project with funding totaling \$707.9 million.

ARRA will also fund DoD's Energy Conservation Improvement Program. Projects include 15 Army projects

worth \$29.4 million; one Air Force project, worth \$3.1 million; and three projects at other DoD agencies worth \$3.1 million. The Corps' Real Estate program is actively engaged with the implementation and expansion of the Homeowners Assistance Program, which assists eligible homeowners who face financial loss when selling their primary residence homes in areas where real estate values have declined because of a base closure or realignment announcement. This program will receive \$555 million.

We are already moving forward with our military responsibilities, and we expect to award the first Army ARRA

contract in the next few days to design and construct a "Warriors in Transition" complex on Fort Bliss, Texas.

The impact of these programs and projects will have lasting implications. Economists estimate that Corps Recovery Act projects will create or maintain approximately 57,400 direct construction industry jobs and an additional 64,000 indirect and induced jobs in firms supplying or supporting the construction and the businesses that sell goods and services to these workers and their families.

We are committed to transparent communications with regard to how we spend the stimulus funds and the progress we are making. To that end, we've established a Web site at www.usace.army.mil/recovery that provides details on our role in the recovery act, as well as helpful links to other military and government Web sites charged with accomplishing their component in economic recovery missions.

This is an unprecedented time for the Corps in our service to the Nation. In addition to this stimulus package, we must continue to execute our ongoing national and international military and civil missions. That work includes our support to overseas contingency missions; the largest military construction program since World War II; and the ongoing support to the recovery of the Gulf Coast from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

It is my privilege to serve as your commander, and I am honored to be serving by your side as we help the Nation move forward. Together, we will write a new and proud chapter in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Army and our Nation!

Now, let's get 'er done! BUILDING STRONG.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The message above was sent via e-mail to Corps of Engineers employees April 29.

FIRSTWORD



Summer safety campaign: 'Never give safety a day off'

Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff of the Army and Sergeant Major of the Army Spring/Summer Safety Message

With the onset of spring and summer come warmer temperatures, outdoor activities and national holidays. Memorial Day and the Fourth of July provide opportunities for countless Americans to take time away from their everyday activities to honor those individuals who paid the ultimate price to keep our country free, and also to celebrate our Nation's independence.

During this period each year, injuries are incurred and lives are lost due to preventable accidents. Unsafe use of privately owned vehicles and motorcycles continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers, Civilians, and their Family members. Everyone must understand and recognize contributing factors which lead to accidents, and take necessary precautions to protect themselves and others. Speeding, misuse of alcohol, and the lack of seat belt use are three hazards that we must eliminate. Slow down and ensure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up. Use alcohol only in moderation.

We want each and every member of our Army team to have a wonderful spring and summer experience and return from all outings safely. Deployed members of the Army team face different hazards, and they also must remain vigilant and safe.

Leaders and supervisors, at every level, must employ tested and proven accident preventive measures to protect our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members. They

must address every member of their command to raise awareness about accident prevention as we prepare our travel plans and spring and summer activities.

The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center stands ready to provide additional accident prevention information and tools to assist you in this effort, at <https://crc.army.mil>.

We wish each member of our Army team, an enjoyable and safe spring and summer season. Army Safe; Army Strong.

SAFETYNET

BIOUPDATE

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► With the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in the background, Col. Peter DeLuca, new Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division, speaks to attendees on the Bluff at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., during the change-of-command ceremony April 17. **North Atlantic Division**

TAKING COMMAND

North Atlantic Division welcomes DeLuca

Story by Lou Fioto, NAD Public Affairs; Photo by Chris Gardner, New York District Public Affairs

FORT HAMILTON, N.Y. — Colonel Peter A. (Duke) DeLuca became Commander and Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division (NAD) April 17, after commanding the 20th Engineer Brigade at Fort Bragg, NC.

DeLuca assumed command from Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, who will next command the Army Corps of Engineer's South Atlantic Division in Atlanta, Ga.

NAD is one of eight permanent Army Corps of Engineers regions providing engineering and construction services to the nation. It is the Corps' regional business center in the Northeast and more than 100 other countries, with district offices in Concord, Mass., New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Va. and Wiesbaden, Germany.

As Division Commander, DeLuca oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources and restore and enhance the environment within an 180,000 square mile area along the Atlantic Coast. This includes more than \$7 billion in work to support the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 authorization.

He is also responsible for a variety of division engineering and construction activities for international, federal, state and local governments and agencies in the United States and overseas, including Europe and Africa.

While commanding the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat (Airborne) at Fort Bragg and in Iraq from June 2006 through December 2008, DeLuca led the brigade through an extremely busy and challenging period in its history. It supported the

deployment of two airborne combat engineer battalions to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, as well as the deployments of the 19th Engineer Battalion to OEF and 326th Engineer Battalion to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

DeLuca gained his commission through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps or ROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania in 1983, after earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Mechanical Engineering. Before serving with the 20th Engineer Brigade, he held a senior service college fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

He served as Assistant Chief of Staff, engineer (CJ-7) at Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, from June 2004 to June 2005, where he led a \$3 billion construction program to support the creation and effectiveness of the emerging Iraqi Security Forces. He also commanded the 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne-Assault) during its participation in Kosovo peacekeeping operations, Noble Eagle security operations in the United States

and in the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns.

DeLuca has two previous tours at Fort Bragg. He is also a Eurasian foreign area officer and a graduate of the Defense Language Institute's Russian course, the Columbia University Master of International Affairs program, and was a Senior Fellow at the George C. Marshall Center for European Security in Germany.

His decorations include the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Combat Action Badge.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
North Atlantic Division**



► Defense Department officials joined with industry partners to officially break ground for the BRAC 133 facility in Alexandria, Va., March 31. Pictured here, from left to right, are: Brian Abt, President, Clark Construction Commercial Division; Ralph E. Newton, Washington Headquarters Services, Defense Facilities Directorate Director; Col. Mark Moffatt, Fort Belvoir Deputy Installation Commander for Transformation and BRAC; Joseph Calcara, Army Deputy Assistant Secretary, Installations and Housing; Michael L. Rhodes, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Acting Director of Administration and Management; Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commanding General; Dennis Oklak, Duke Realty Corp. Chairman and CEO; Jim Turkel, Belvoir Integration Office Director; and Robert J. Bauer, Washington Headquarters Services, Defense Facilities Directorate, BRAC Program Office Director. **North Atlantic Division, New York District**

Breaking Ground

With ongoing construction as backdrop, officials turn shovels to celebrate BRAC 133 project start at Mark Center

Story by Julia LeDoux*; Photo by Marc Barnes, Belvoir Integration Office Public Affairs

With the turn of several ceremonial shovels, officials broke ground at the BRAC 133 site at Mark Center in Alexandria March 31.

"This is the last piece of the Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closure initiative," said keynote speaker Michael Rhodes, the acting director of administration and management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

"This site will be the home and place of duty for 6,400 military personnel, civilians and contractors, all of whom have dedicated their professional lives to serving this nation with the Department of Defense."

The BRAC 133 project involves the relocation of various DoD agencies' personnel, including Washington Headquarters Services, from leased space in northern Virginia.

Work is well underway on the two towers -- one 15 stories high, the other 17 stories high, with 1.75 million square feet of office space, two parking garages and a public transportation center that will serve Mark Center and the surrounding community.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is overseeing

the project and its New York District office awarded Duke Realty the contract for the \$1 billion project late last year.

Dennis Oklak, the chairman and chief executive officer of Duke Realty, said the company feels "a deep and strong commitment to delivering a solution that will help to fulfill the critical mission and vision of the Department of Defense and the Washington Headquarters Service."

When complete in September 2011, the complex will become part of Fort Belvoir.

"[Installation Commander Col. Jerry W. Blixt] is dedicated to fully integrating our new partners into the Belvoir community and we at Belvoir look forward to working with the City of Alexandria, Washington Headquarters Services, the New York District of the Corps and all our other partners here at this site in Alexandria," said Col. Mark Moffatt, Belvoir's Deputy Installation Commander for Transformation and BRAC.

Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, the *Commanding General of USACE North Atlantic Division at the time of the ceremony, noted the 2005 BRAC Commission delivered its report to then-President George W. Bush on Sept. 5 of that year.

"Its recommendations were to cut excess military infrastructure

between five and 11 percent and to save the American taxpayer over \$48.5 billion over 20 years," he said.

The towers are designed to ensure water savings, energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality, and should use 30 percent less energy than comparable office buildings, stressed Semonite.

"It gives me a great deal of pride knowing that these two office buildings will meet not less than a LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] silver certification, a national standard set by the U.S. Green Building Council to foster sustainable building design and construction," he added.

Semonite also said that the two parking garages are being designed to achieve a LEED gold certification.

"While we must focus on designing and constructing these buildings, this is really about the future users and the quality of our work in 10 years, 20 years, or in the long-term future," he said.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Julia LeDoux is a special correspondent to the Belvoir Eagle newspaper. General Semonite passed command of the USACE North Atlantic Division to Col. Peter DeLuca on April 17.*



► Shown here in an artist's rendering, the BRAC 133 facility at Mark Center includes two office towers, two parking garages, transportation and visitor's centers, and remote inspection and delivery facilities. The BRAC 133 project includes the relocation of various DoD agencies including more than 6,000 personnel from leased space throughout the National Capital Region. **North Atlantic Division, New York District**

Courtesy Duke Realty Corp.

INFOCUS



Above: Col. Dionysios Anninos, Norfolk District commander, briefs members of the Senior Military Medical Advisory Committee (SMMAC) on construction progress during the committee's March 25 visit to the hospital site. The SMMAC includes senior military medical officials, including all the surgeons general of the U.S. military branches.

(Photo by Marc Barnes)

Right: Mike Rogers (right) and Mark Kendall sign the back of the first pre-cast concrete panel installed on the exterior of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) New Campus East facility during a brief ceremony celebrating the milestone at the site March 11. Rogers is the Corps' Project Manager, and Kendall works for the design contractor.

(Photo by Marc Barnes)



Left: Matt Burkholder accepts a Star Partner award from Col. Peter Mueller during a March 16 ceremony at NGA New Campus East. Burkholder is an employee of McDonough Bolyard Peck, Inc., and was honored for his work as the Corps of Engineers Project Manager for NGA Central Utilities/Tech. Mueller is the commander of Baltimore District.

(Courtesy photo)

Below: Pam Sleeper accepts a Star Partner award from Mueller during a March 16 ceremony at NGA New Campus East. Sleeper is a Corps of Engineers employee and was honored for her work as the Chief of Design for the NGA Integrated Program Office. Mueller is the commander of Baltimore District.

(Courtesy photo)



Building Strong in IRAQ

Trauma Center to provide improved care

Story by Mike Scheck, Gulf Region North District Public Affairs

Zakho, Iraq – Automobile accidents and trauma injuries account for a large percentage of medical care administered in Zakho, a Kurdish border town with a treacherous road leading in and out of town that's dubbed "Suicide Hill" by locals.

Although the town has adequate medical facilities, the treatment of trauma patients has placed a heavy burden on hospital medical staff.

To ease the strain, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division is overseeing the construction of a \$2.6 million state-of-the-art medical trauma center which will alleviate the need for trauma patients to be treated in hospital emergency rooms. Construction began in April 2008 and is scheduled to be completed in August 2009.

"This facility represents a major improvement to medical trauma care in Zakho," said Terry Samson, the USACE resident engineer in Dahuk. "This is a state-of-the-art trauma center with surgical wards and both X-ray and MRI facilities. The medical staff will mainly consist of trauma surgeons and nurses highly skilled in emergency care."

The Zakho Emergency Hospital, being constructed with

Economic Support Funds provided by the United States, will have the capacity to care for a majority of trauma patients in Zakho. The general contractor for the project is the Kurdish-owned Siapan Company and the trauma center is being built on the grounds of the existing hospital.

The project includes the construction of a power plant building to provide the center around-the-clock dedicated electrical power. Other features include an interior parking lot, a security fence and a fully staffed security building. The ESF money also covers the medical equipment, an ongoing technical training program for staff members and funds to cover the operation and maintenance costs of the hospital.

Samson is also quick to point out the marble floors and ceramic tile walls throughout the hospital. "That's not something you'll see every day in stateside hospitals," he said.

"All USACE engineers in Iraq work on a number of projects. This hospital represents the crowning achievement for my work in Dahuk and something I will always look back on with pride," Samson concluded.

► An artists rendering shows the new Zakho Emergency Hospital in Iraq, which is scheduled for completion in August. The U.S. Army Gulf Region Division is managing construction of the \$2.6 million facility. The dedicated trauma center includes surgical wards and both X-ray and MRI facilities. **Gulf Region Division**



PARTING SHOT



► A steelworker at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital pushes a steel beam into place while working on Building C, a seven-story tower which will be the hospital's main building. When complete, the building will be named Oaks Pavilion, and will house the hospital's emergency and intensive care departments, in addition to 110 inpatient suites. Norfolk District is managing the \$806 million project. Construction began in October 2007 and is scheduled for completion in March 2011. (Photo by Marc Barnes) **North Atlantic Division, Norfolk District**