



New board cuts e-mail traffic

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Changes are now in place to lower the stack of e-mail on employee computers without missing information shared by others.

Notes about a missing piece of jewelry, retirement party or other topics intended to reach a widespread audience formerly sent via mass e-mail distribution lists have a new home with the district's message board on the intranet at <https://pod-sp2fts.pod.ds.usace.army.mil/podd/PODPortal/POA/default.aspx>

Policy letter No. 38, posted on the Quality Management System intranet page, covers the topic of mass distribution e-mail and online message board.

The board started in late June as part of the new SharePoint template for the home page. The intention is to eliminate the sending of messages—sometimes containing large attachments—that unnecessarily increase network traffic and to keep e-mail as business-specific as possible, said John Poll, information technology chief.

"We don't need that stuff clogging our inboxes," he said. "Now it's one file in one place. The response has been good, with mass e-mail traffic plummeting. I think most everybody is getting it. Otherwise, I would be hearing about it."

Alaska District senior leaders and individuals designated on their behalf are still permitted to use the statewide or local Outlook distribution lists. In addition, staff with the Emergency Operations Office, Safety and Occupational Health Office, and Security Office will use e-mail for emergency notices.

Exceptions to this policy will be considered when employees submit announcement requests to the Public Affairs Office as a Word document. If approved, Public Affairs will send the message to the work force.

Only in rare cases will such a request



be granted as the intranet message board is the primary place for this information, Poll said.

Mass messages

As an alternative to e-mail, district employees may post any messages conforming to standards of conduct that have a general district-wide value on the intranet message board, which is maintained by Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology.

Opening the Internet Explorer browser should take all employees to the district intranet as their start page. The message board is prominently centered on the page.

The most recent 10 messages stay on the home page, but users can view archived messages 100 at a time by clicking on "POA Message Board."

If employees don't want to check the board, they can set up an alert by clicking on "POA Message Board." Under the dropdown menu of "actions," select "alert" for an e-mail notification of any new messages posted or changes to existing messages.

Message board categories are announcements, contract awards, Corps events, employment, retirements/

departures and system messages. Some examples of non-mission-essential announcements are open houses, health fairs, carpool requests, thank you notes, funeral arrangements, office closures and supply giveaways.

Posting a message on the board is as simple as clicking on "Add new announcement" at the bottom of the intranet home page. That will open a screen "Announcements: New Item" to fill out.

Required fields are the message, title and selected category from a dropdown menu. A block is available to type the message and above that are options to attach files and check spelling. One more area to select is the expiration date. The final step is to click OK.

The person posting the announcement can edit or delete it with a dropdown menu next to the message.

Alaska is ahead of other districts with the switch to SharePoint for the intranet, and people will have to get accustomed to using it, Poll said. Meanwhile, with the Corps still working on Web migration, expect a new look for the district public Web site at <http://www>.

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Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Worldly perspective

Geospatial experts from across the Pacific Ocean Division collaborated on geospatial matters and issues at the second annual 2011 POD Regional Geospatial Workshop at the Alaska District July 18-20. Sponsored by Thomas Taam (fifth from right), POD geospatial leader, 11 participants from the information technology and geospatial sections representing each district and POD headquarters presented geospatial topics. The networking, collaboration, sharing of lessons learned, and team building resulted in innovative solutions and increased technical competency, said Ted Bales of the Alaska District's Technical Integration Section. These workshops assist the region in becoming more efficient and effective in executing the mission, he added.

E-mail

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poa.usace.army.mil in the year ahead.

Dashboard

A section just above the message board is the job vacancy dashboard, which is handled solely by workforce management specialists, and also keeps these messages out of e-mail.

"This gives our folks a chance to apply for a job before it's announced to the public," Poll said. "Just as with the message board, employees can set an alert under 'actions' when anything changes on the dashboard."

These job opportunities can be permanent reassignments, temporary reassignments, details and even promotions for 120 days or less.

"With a shifting workload, the dashboard announcements will give

employees opportunities to grow into positions of greater responsibility, and enhance workplace morale and effectiveness," said Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, deputy district commander.

Bulletins

For personal classified ads and topics that don't fall into the intranet's message board categories, Microsoft Outlook's general interest bulletin board is still available.

For years, it's been the source of many and varied messages, some of which would now qualify for posting on the intranet message board.

Topics restricted on the general bulletin board are unauthorized fundraising, private commercial advertisements, political messages

prohibited by the Hatch Act, and anything that reflects adversely on the Army or is incompatible with public service.

Messages remain on the board for two weeks before getting cleared, but employees can always re-post. Another point to consider is to keep messages and attachments to less than two megabytes to ease use for employees operating computers in remote sites.

To find the general bulletin board, look under the "Go" dropdown at the top of the Microsoft Outlook menu, find "Anchorage" in the POA public folders, and under "POA public folders," select "General Interest Bulletins." For quick access, select the tool to create a shortcut.

GOLD NUGGETS

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Employee Spotlight

What is your job?

I'm a project manager in the Regulatory Division, and work on permitting for oil and natural gas projects on the North Slope.

What do you like about it?

I like working with the public and being a civil servant. I like giving back to my country and working hard to make sure that development occurs in an environmentally-responsible manner. It is exciting to be an integral part of developing the resources of this great state.

What has been your career progression?

I started as an engineer in training, and after two years graduated from the Department of the Army intern program. I started in Civil Works as a planner for three years before moving into my current position.

How did you end up in your career field?

After high school I was working as a coffee roaster and barista at a local coffee shop. I remember thinking this is not a good career field for the long term, so I would quiz my customers about their jobs as I was making their morning java. It seemed like the engineers had the best jobs and got to do the most fun things at work, so I decided to be an engineer and enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Why did you choose to work for the Corps?

I had a college professor who worked for the Corps for many years. He inspired me to join the Corps through all of his tales of traveling the world with the organization. It sounded like a very stimulating place to work.

What's the biggest thing you learned in your career?

The most important skill a person learns in school is working constructively with others. Everything else can be learned on the job, but if you don't know how to work with others and get along with people who you may not enjoy, then you are in big trouble professionally.

What are your educational achievements, licenses and/or professional group affiliations?

I received my professional engineering license in 2006 in civil engineering and am a member in American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of Women Engineers and Society of American Military Engineers.

What major awards have you received during your federal career?

In 2007, I was one of a handful of young engineers from across the nation named a New Face in Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

How are you involved with the special emphasis



Chelan Schreifels

program?

As the Special Emphasis Program Manager for federally-employed women, I try to stay connected with the female work force at the Alaska District by promoting networking and identifying barriers to gaining and maintaining employment for women. I host brown bags on various topics and am in the process of starting a support program for nursing mothers who are returning to work. I am always open to new ideas for how I can make things better at the Alaska District.

What does Women's Equality Day mean to you?

Women's Equality Day is a day to remember how lucky I am to have been born in this day and age.

I am thankful for the rights I am afforded. It is a reminder that women still struggle every day in the United States and in other countries for equal rights.

Do you have any favorite moment, memory or accomplishment in your time with the Corps?

Getting the district commander to sign a policy letter to dedicate a space in the district for nursing mothers was a major accomplishment.

What kind of opportunities or benefits are available for women considering a career with the Corps?

The Corps is a great place for women to work no matter their life stage. The opportunities are endless for the young professional. The experience one gets is incomparable to any private sector company. For a woman who is trying to balance work and a family, it is amazing. My supervisors have been very flexible and supportive with alternate work schedules.

I started a jobshare position this past year with another employee in Fairbanks, and it has been the best thing for me professionally and personally. I know that we are the only employees in the Alaska District who are currently doing jobshare, and I hope that supervisors will be open to it in the future because I have been approached by many women who would like to do something similar.

It can be so stressful for a woman to simultaneously wear the professional and mother "hats," and my supervisors have been very accommodating.

In a few years, when I am ready to go back to work full-time, I know that the Corps will still be my employer of choice. Supervisors need to realize that people have needs and capabilities that will fluctuate during their careers.

The Corps has many programs at its disposal to retain employees as they go through these life stages. I hope that supervisors be open to using the programs such as jobshare so that more women can maintain their careers as they have children and family responsibilities increase at home.

Safety excellence

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presented the Alaska District Safety Office with the district category 2010 Chief of Engineers Safety Award of Excellence. The award is for exceptional performance in safety and occupational health program management. In FY2010, the Alaska District reduced its civilian accident rate to zero and cut its contractors rate by more than 57 percent.



(Left) Dorko congratulates Doug Wootten, safety specialist, at the Northern Area Office July 29. (Photo by Doug Hart)

(Below) Dorko (far left) and Koenig honor the achievements of Greg Vernon, safety specialist; Pat Coullahan, Construction Operations Division chief; Buster Godwin, Safety Office chief and Dave Case, safety specialist, at district headquarters July 26. (Photo by Luis Menendez)



Photo by Luis Menendez

Environmentally-acclaimed

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (left) and Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, recognize the Manning Point Jago River Formerly Used Defense Sites team at Alaska District headquarters July 26. The team won the FY2010 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for environmental restoration, installation category. The award represents the highest honor in the field of environmental science and sustainability conferred by the Army, and it 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 formerly used military sites on Tanaga and Ogluiga islands.

Around the district

Anti-terrorism month remembered

August is Anti-terrorism Awareness Month, an Army-sponsored program designed to enhance awareness to prevent and protect people and information from terrorism.

During the month, the Army is emphasizing the importance of measures designed to help personnel prepare, prevent and protect themselves from terrorist acts.

"We can all make a big difference by remaining alert and reporting suspicious activity in a timely fashion," said Maj. Gen. Meredith Temple, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acting commander.

With the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks approaching, it's vital that everyone is capable of detecting and deterring against the full range of attacks, he added.

"By integrating anti-terrorism doctrinal principles with constant anti-terrorism awareness and vigilance, USACE ensures the safety and security of its valued work force while ensuring mission success," Temple said.

If not already completed, the work force must take the Level 1 Antiterrorism Awareness Training by Sept. 15.

Women's Equality Day celebrated

This year marks 40 years since the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day to ensure that

the history of American women is recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces and communities throughout the country. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

It was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. The observance also spotlights women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

To celebrate this achievement, Chelan Schreifels, the district's federal women's program manager, is co-hosting a mentoring workshop with lunch scheduled for Aug. 26 from 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alaska Experience Theatre.

This will be a professional networking opportunity for women from the public and private sector. Top female federal, state and local government executives as well as non-governmental organizations and small business owners will be available at each table to share career strategies and insights.

Then Carol Comeau, Anchorage School District superintendent, will serve as the keynote speaker and give an inspirational message. Registration is first-come, first-served. For more details about this event, contact Schreifels at 753-5527.

For more information about the history of Women's Equality Day, visit <http://www.nwhp.org/> or query "Women's Equality Day" on an Internet search engine to learn about the efforts required for women to earn the right to vote.

Consultant discusses breastfeeding

Expectant parents and spouses curious about breastfeeding are invited to a brownbag lunch presentation by Sarah Stevens, board-certified lactation consultant, Aug. 30 from noon-1 p.m. in the Talley Room. The event is hosted by the federal women's program.

Stevens received her training from the Lactation Consultants at Providence Alaska Medical Center. She is also a birth assistant at Geneva Woods Birth Center.

District photo on sale

As a fundraiser, the Social Activities Committee is selling prints and digital images of the Alaska District work force photo taken June 22. Photos can be ordered from Natalia Soto in the library until Aug. 31. Then the SAC will be ordering the prints for delivery. Each print and digital image will include a diagram identifying the people in the photo. Prints are 36 inches wide and cost \$35. Digital images are available for \$20. Both may be purchased for \$45.

Contracts awarded

JBBER-Elmendorf Add/Alter Air Support Operations Squadron Facility—The district awarded this FY2011 design-build project to Tunista Construction LLC July 19 for \$4,236,945. The project will construct a seven-bay vehicle support garage facility to store tactical air support weapon systems. It will feature six secure keyless entry storage

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Photo by Luis Menendez

Retired

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Barbara "Bobbe" Reilly during a retirement ceremony Aug. 1 in the headquarters atrium. She departs the district with 21 years of service and most recently operated as engineering quality coordinator.

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rooms for associated tactical equipment, one storage/bench work space room for logistic and radio maintenance tools/equipment, secure room for simulator training, briefing/training room to support 50 personnel, and additional office and storage space.

JBER-Richardson Railhead Operations Facility—Alaska District awarded this FY2011 design-bid-build project to G2 Construction Inc. July 21 for \$9,486,739. The project will construct new loading and unloading spurs and ramps, a staging area for marshaling tactical vehicles, container transfer pad and rail operations building.

JBER-Fort Richardson Brigade Complex Phase I Company Operations Facility—Alaska District awarded this FY2011 design-build project to Watterson/Davis JV July 28 for \$17,186,625. This is the third contract of three for Phase I and will construct a COF for four companies. This is the last presidential budget Army military construction contract award for this fiscal year.

Environmental Engineering Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity Contract Award—Fairbanks Environmental Services was selected from three highly-rated proposals for a small business set-aside contract. The contract value is \$7.5 million over a five-year base period with no options.

JBER-Richardson Renovate Defense Logistics Agency Energy's Petroleum Oil Lubricants Lab, Bldg. 986—This

Upcoming events

Aug. 1-31	Antiterrorism Month
Aug. 9-12	ASA (CW) Jo-Ellen Darcy visit
Aug. 10	Chena Project office grand opening
Aug. 15	Seven-year plan decision brief
Aug. 16	62nd Engineer Det. change of command
Aug. 17-19	ISO 9001 surveillance visit
Aug. 23-26	Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens visit
Aug. 24	NOAA Fairbanks facility opening
Aug. 26	Alaska District golf tournament
Oct. 3	Year End Celebration Headquarters
Oct. 6	Year End Celebration Northern Area

\$1.95 million project was awarded July 28. The work will raze the interior of the more than 50-year-old building. Major items to be replaced and upgraded include the roof, windows, doors, custom cabinetry, equipment benches, explosion-proof lighting, heating and exhaust systems. A fire protection sprinkler system will be installed. The engineering compliance analysis of the proposed building construction predicts annual energy use will be reduced by 41 percent.

Projects completed

JBER-Elmendorf AFB F-22 7-Bay Weather Shelter—This project achieved beneficial occupancy July 15 and constructed a seven-bay aircraft weather shelter for F-22s with flow-through capability. The weather shelter needs for the F-22s on JBER-Elmendorf are now complete.

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Photo by Doug Hart

Career milestones

(From left) Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, recognizes Doug Wootten, Safety Office; Andrew Posma, Office Engineering negotiator; Phil Salmon, resident engineer, Fort Wainwright Office; Mike Volsky quality assurance representative, Fort Wainwright Office; Ric Wiedmaier, resident engineer, Fairbanks Office; Roy Henry, Office Engineering negotiator; Bill Davis, lead equipment operator, Chena Project Office; and Keith Landerman, quality assurance representative, Fort Wainwright Office, for their years of federal service during a ceremony in the Northern Area Office July 8.

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Fort Wainwright Aviation Task Force Phase I Aircraft Parts Storage—The district held the final inspection July 25. Beneficial occupancy date was July 28. Phase I, with a programmed amount of \$95 million, was awarded under four separate contracts including barracks, consolidated vehicle maintenance facility, aircraft parts storage building and vehicle parking. The aircraft parts storage contract was awarded for \$8,357,215.

Denali Commission Program—Installation of 40 mooring points in Alakanuk, Anvik, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Mountain Village and Nunam Iqua in the Lower Yukon River Delta was completed July 29. These communities

were identified as priority sites in the Barge Landing System Design Report. Project closeout is now under way. This project was completed ahead of schedule and within the budget of \$13.1 million.

Deployments

Iraq—Sheldon Longnecker

Afghanistan—Warren Colburn, Leanna Dagley, Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley, Roger Green, Scott Haan, Sterlin Hill, John Keys, Patricia Lora, Heather Moncrief, David Purdy, Carmon Roy, Gary Weiler, Jim Wolfe

Returned—Ron Jackson, A’leisha Sorenson, Robert Weakland



Leanna Dagley, accountant in Resource Management Office, deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District as an accountant May 1 and is scheduled to return Nov. 5.

Patricia Lora, administrative assistant in the Regulatory Division, deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District as an administrative assistant July 3 and is scheduled to return July 1, 2012.

David Purdy, civil engineering technician in the Northern Area Office, deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District as a construction representative June 5 and is scheduled to return June 3, 2012.



Courtesy photo

Flood fight

Tu Nguyen, civil engineer in the Geotechnical and Materials Section, travels to the Williston Levee during a civil disaster deployment June 2-July 1 to assist Omaha District’s 2011 Flood Fight. Nguyen participated in 24-hour surveillance of the Williston levee system in North Dakota and provided technical assistance to federal levee sponsors along the Missouri River in Nebraska and Iowa.



Last man back

Ron Jackson, contract specialist, is welcomed by his wife, Deanna, at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage July 20 after returning from a six-month deployment to Contingency Operating Station Marez in northern Iraq. For the first three months, he filled a vacant contracting specialist position with the 62nd Engineer Detachment from Alaska. When the unit returned home, he stayed for the remaining time to assist the incoming 34th Engineer Detachment from the Seattle District. He provided history on the projects under construction as the replacement unit entered the project closeout phase. His commitment to serving in an active war zone ensured the overall success of the forward engineer support team mission by passing along the information that typically is not recorded in official project reports. (Courtesy photo)