



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

(From left) Col. Thomas Roth, 2nd Engineer Brigade commander; Col. Russell Hula, 673rd Civil Engineer Group commander and Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, unveil a sign post renamed from 2nd Street to Talley Avenue during a ceremony by the headquarters building Oct. 24.

## Street dedicated in honor of legendary military engineer

By Curt Biberdorf  
Public Affairs Office

Second Street on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson was renamed Talley Avenue and dedicated during a ceremony at the corner of Fairchild Ave. Oct. 24.

Col. Russell Hula, 673rd Civil Engineer Group commander; Col. Reinhard Koenig, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District commander and Col. Thomas Roth, 2nd Engineer Brigade commander, unveiled a new road sign honoring the late retired Brig. Gen. Benjamin B. Talley, who is considered the “father” of military construction in Alaska.

“(Today) is a celebration of the legacy of engineering in the far north, particularly here in Alaska,” said Koenig.

Talley was a military engineer who became a living Alaska legend after a distinguished career spanning more than a half century.

His achievements include leading

construction of Elmendorf Air Force Base in 1940, preparing Alaska to defend itself from Japanese invasion in World War II, and overseeing the reconstruction of Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska after the Good Friday earthquake in 1964 as a civilian engineering manager.

Talley came to Alaska in 1940 as a captain to supervise construction of Yakutat Airfield. After building the airfield in only four months, he took charge of \$300 million in construction for all Army and Air Corps projects in Alaska except on three islands. From January 1941 to June 1943, he was responsible for establishing air bases at Cold Bay, Adak, Attu and Shemya Island.

In 1943, he went to Europe to serve with V Corps as deputy chief of staff for plans, and oversaw planning for American troops landing in Normandy, France. On D-Day, he commanded a Signal Corps team whose purpose was to advise the Air Command Post Afloat

**Continued on Page 2**

## Town hall meeting updates work force

By Curt Biberdorf  
Public Affairs Office

The “state of the district” and findings of the command climate survey were discussed at the district’s town hall meeting at the JBER-Elmendorf Theater Oct. 11.

Recent awardees were also recognized during the event, including all soldiers and civilians in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps received the Army Superior Unit Award for the execution of requirements to support the Base Realignment and Closure program and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from Nov. 9, 2005 to June 21, 2010.

In FY2011, the district’s performance was “phenomenal” with every mission. The district executed a workload valued at more than \$650 million and an operating budget of nearly \$68 million, said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander.

For this fiscal year, Pacific Ocean Division approved the district’s budget based on conservative estimates of income and expenses, and the district will continue to execute that

budget until told otherwise, he said.

However, in FY2013 the probability is high that a few programs will shrink, particularly military construction, Koenig said.

Efforts in Washington D.C. to cut the national budget to reduce the deficit and debt will likely continue to impact the district. A sign of that last year was when the continuing resolution delayed FY2012 project awards, he said.

When an appropriations bill will be passed is unknown, Koenig said, but he expects—without knowing anything specific—several projects to be eliminated from the district’s for FY2013 workload based on reductions requested by the Department of Defense.

“What it means is that we as a district have to take a hard look at ourselves internally and make sure we are positioned to be effective for the future,” Koenig said.

Short-term actions in a budget-tightening environment are a hiring freeze, with exceptions only authorized by the commander, travel cutbacks and other immediate ways to

**Continued on Page 3**

# Talley

Continued from Page 1

of the landing progress.

For his leadership and bravery under fire on D-Day and during the period immediately following the landings, Talley was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Each member of his unit was decorated for gallantry in action. It was reported to be the second largest Army unit to be so honored in World War II.

Talley later commanded the Normandy Base Section and Omaha Beach Command consisting of the 5th and 6th Engineer Special brigades, the 4th Major Port and other attached units. As a colonel, he led as many as 63,000 soldiers, a job normally assigned to a two- or three-star general.

Talley took the 1st Engineer Special Brigade from Utah Beach to the Pacific for the Okinawa Operation, and after VJ-Day, went to Korea as deputy commander of the Army Service Forces.

He continued an engineering career after the Army, including as a resident manager of an Anchorage firm following the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

A resident of Anchor Point since

retiring from his civilian career in 1964, Talley was prominent in Alaskan civilian and military communities for more than 30 years.

During the 1980s, Talley volunteered to assist with the production of a documentary film about World War II history in Alaska. The award-winning film, "Alaska at War," premiered in Anchorage in 1986 and aired on Public Broadcasting Service stations.

Another lesser-known achievement is that Talley formed the Anchorage Post of the Society of American Military Engineers in 1943, Hula said, who is president of the organization.

"I believe it is fitting and proper to dedicate the road that leads to the headquarters of our Alaska District Corps to a man who epitomizes selfless service to our country, Alaska, the Corps and the engineering profession," he said.

Throughout the years he encouraged scholarship and development of young engineers through personal example and financial support for the post scholarship fund, which was named in his honor in the 1970s, Hula said.

In April 1996, Talley was inducted as a SAME fellow.

In 1997, the Talley Scholarship Fund was established to manage the scholarship fund assets. Today, the fund has more than \$200,000 thanks to several gifts by Talley, who died in 1998, and his wife, Virginia, who died in February.

"The Anchorage post continues the legacy left to us by this great warrior and great engineer," Hula said.

Each year in his honor the Anchorage post awards thousands of dollars to deserving college students in science and engineering. The post also supports programs at all levels of education that promote learning with a focus on skills needed in science and engineering careers, Hula said.

The street joins another place named after Talley. The Alaska District headquarters building dedicated its main conference room in his honor in 1984. In return, Talley donated a substantial portion of his historical memorabilia for display in the room.

*Pat Richardson contributed to this story.*

## Corps assists in conservation of 4,800 acres of habitat

Nearly 4,800 acres at the mouth of the Knik and Matanuska rivers will be conserved through an easement by Eklutna Inc., the native corporation for Anchorage, for traditional uses, such as hunting and fishing by shareholders, and public access for those with permits.

The project was made possible through a collaborative effort with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mat-Su Salmon Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Cook Inlet Region Inc.

The property contains habitat for all five species of salmon in Cook Inlet as well as many other wildlife species. Additionally, the property is adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and Chugach State Park. Travelers crossing the Knik River Bridge on the Glenn Highway can view the land that will remain under the ownership of Eklutna Inc.

Great Land Trust has been working to conserve wetlands

and other important habitats in southcentral Alaska since 1995. Eklutna Inc. is the largest private landowner in the region, and both organizations anticipate more conservation projects in the future.

Eklutna Inc. will be paid \$1.95 million for the conservation easement. Funding for the easement was made possible through resources set aside to offset habitat losses associated with the Port of Anchorage expansion project.

Eklutna Inc. has been working in the past several years to make more land available and to master plan sections of its lands to meet the need for more residential, commercial and industrial real estate development for Anchorage, said Curtis McQueen, Eklutna Inc. chief executive officer. At the same time, he was honored to protect habitat.

Phil Shephard, Great Land Trust executive director, praised the effort and said he looks forward to the next project with Eklutna.

*Eklutna Inc. and Great Land Trust news release*

### GOLD NUGGETS

**Commander**

Col. Reinhard W. Koenig

**Deputy Commander**

Lt. Col. James R. "Bobby" Stone

**Director of Programs and Project Management**

Dr. Larry D. McCallister

**Chief of Public Affairs**

Tom Findtner

**Media Relations Specialist**

Pat Richardson

**Editor**

Curt Biberdorf

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# Town hall

Continued from Page 1

match income to expenses.

Long-range steps are more important and require more sacrifice, but “we’re really trying to see that we position ourselves to make it as painless as possible” and effectively reshape the district, Koenig said.

To help do that, the district’s senior leaders since 2010 have been working on a seven-year plan to ensure that the district is the right size and shape to execute its future missions.

Scheduled to be published by November, the document outlines a series of steps that the district might take, such as consolidating workforce management specialists or merging resident offices, and some definite actions to be effective around 2017. It allows room for changes along the way since nobody can predict the future, Koenig said.

Employees will need to be flexible and, when necessary, be willing to apply their skills in other programs as the workload shifts. Still, income from several programs appears to remain solid. “They’re big and getting bigger, or they show a lot of promise,” Koenig said.

Two new examples are the program building humanitarian assistance projects in Southeast Asia and foreign military sales, which brought a C-17 aircraft project to India and likely will bring another smaller project for C-130 aircraft to Mongolia.

Although not new, the environmental program is growing. “Every time I turn around somebody is somewhere asking this district to do more environmental work because we continue to deliver excellence,” Koenig said.

Other potential opportunities also exist, such as construction for the Port of Anchorage expansion project, he said.

Changes have been common throughout the history of the district and the Corps.

For instance, during Koenig’s first tour in the Alaska District during the 1990s, the Army military construction program was nowhere near the size it has been in the past several years.

The district has been successful because of its ability to change, and the challenge is to continue the legacy of positive change, Koenig said, adding that the future is “bright” as the district accomplishes missions for Alaska and the nation.

Another bright area is how employees feel about working at the district and how they relate with their supervisors and each other, based on a command climate survey given last spring that had a 70 percent response rate.

“You are all telling us, and I fully agree with you, that this is a great place to work and people really feel that they are treated well,” Koenig said.

Trends are up based on the 2009-2011 survey data. After the initial evaluation, the plan is for division and branch chiefs to continue the command climate discussion to ensure the district stays on the “good to great” path in this area because it can’t be taken for granted, Koenig said.

He intends to continue to monitor the command climate, and one way he does that is by visiting various offices.

Koenig reminded everyone of his open-door policy and willingness to talk about any issue, but will inquire if it was something that the chain of command first had an opportunity to take on and solve.

Another way to present issues to him is through a virtual open door. Employees can send Koenig a message on the employee intranet anonymously, semi-anonymously or fully-sourced. He said he wants to know about those areas that concern the work force.

“From a command climate perspective, I like to keep my finger on the pulse of the organization to make sure that we keep moving things forward,” Koenig said.



**Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, pins the Army Superior Unit Award on Pat Coullahan, chief of the Construction Operations Division, during a town hall meeting Oct. 11 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.**

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers earned the decoration for outstanding meritorious service in the execution of requirements for both the Base Realignment and Closure program and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from Nov. 9, 2005 to June 21, 2010.**

**In recognition of this Corps achievement, the district’s soldiers and civilian employees are authorized to wear the emblem. (Photo by Curt Biberdorf)**

# Environmental programs break record

By Curt Biberdorf  
Public Affairs Office

District environmental restoration programs broke a record in fiscal year 2011.

The Formerly Used Defense Sites program (FUDS), Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) and military environmental program together executed and obligated more than \$135 million worth of projects.

The district received \$63.2 million of the \$456 million allotted to the national FUDS program in FY2011 after starting the year with a \$40.2 million budget. That extra money was brought in by congressional appropriation and reprogramming of Army money, said Ken Andraschko, FUDS program manager.

“We planned for it early on and knew the potential for it to happen, so we had the contracting mechanism in place to allow us to place a lot of money at year-end under contract,” Andraschko said. “Had we not (prepared), there would have been zero chance at getting the extra funding. It was great effort by everyone involved.”

The staff worked on 77 FUDS properties covering nearly 90 projects. More specifically, team members tackled 193 phases and completed 19 of them. Of the 19, six were “remedy in place/response completes” and two were official project closeouts.

Tasks varied from simply taking care of required paperwork to extensive

coordination, field work, investigations and contamination removal. Other activities involved positioning and planning for work in FY2012 and beyond.

For many properties, extra funding advanced the work date by a year or two. For example, the \$30 million Northeast Cape project will move faster with the \$17 million it received, Andraschko said.

“Everyone played a key role in executing the projects we worked on last year,” Andraschko said. “(Their) commitment and dedication to the environmental programs is what makes it so successful every year.”

One of last year’s projects gained national attention when the FUDS team earned the Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Restoration as well as a Department of Defense team achievement award for the accomplishments on the Manning Point-Jago River project. It marked the second year in a row that the FUDS team won the Army award.

In the past, the FUDS program annual budget typically ranged from \$20 million to \$30 million. FY2012 is off to a strong start with a \$45.5 million budget.

Alaska’s NALEMP reached new heights by executing \$5.8 million for 11 cooperative agreements with Alaskan tribes. Valerie Palmer and her teams executed half of the nationwide NALEMP workload.

The DoD created NALEMP to



Courtesy photo

**Ron Pratt (left), NORTECH chemist, collects samples from the excavation for further analysis and Walter Marchuk (right) records the location at the former Eielson Farm Road anti-aircraft artillery site. The property, located 10 miles southeast of North Pole, was established in the early 1950s to protect Eielson Air Force Base. About 34,100 tons of contaminated soil was excavated during September and October.**

address environmental impacts on Indian lands and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act-conveyed properties from former DoD activities and facilities. Many Indian land sites are in the FUDS inventory of projects, but are not scheduled to be dealt with for an extended period of time. Because of this situation, Congress directed special funding for impacts of significance to the tribes, according to the DoD Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange.

Finally, military environmental programs reached \$52 million for the Air Force and more than \$14 million for the Army.

The overall goal for all of these programs is to clean up property to remove the environmental liability for the Department of Defense and other customers, such as the Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration.

For FUDS, about \$1.2 billion worth of work remains on 75 properties in Alaska. The district’s program is predicting an average annual budget of \$50 million for the rest of the decade.

“The only way we’re going to complete these projects is with lots of money,” Andraschko said.



Courtesy photo

**Bulk bags of contaminated soil from the Northeast Cape site on St. Lawrence Island are loaded onto a barge at Cargo Beach in August. Field work was conducted from July-October. The site was used by the military from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s as a surveillance station providing radar coverage as part of an Alaska-wide White Alice Communications System.**



Courtesy photo

(From left) Maj. David Spencer, Eielson Resident Office project engineer; Maj. Justin De Armond, contracting officer; Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, deputy district commander; Maj. Jesse Anderson, Northern Area Office project engineer; Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander; Capt. Corey Warren, 62nd Engineer Detachment (FEST-A) commander; Master Sgt. Darnyell Parker, contract specialist; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Contreras, 62nd Eng. Det. (FEST-A) noncommissioned officer-in-charge; Staff Sgt. Paul Routhier, Prime Power production specialist in the Environmental and Special Programs Branch; and Capt. Brett Witters, Richardson Resident Office project engineer, visit the Northern Rail Extension Project Phase 1 during an officer professional development trip to Interior Alaska Oct. 25-27.

## Trip takes military staff to Interior Alaska

**By Capt. Brett Witters**  
Richardson Resident Office

Interior Alaska was the destination as the Alaska District military staff embarked on a professional development trip to learn about the Corps' past, current and future projects in the area Oct. 25-27.

Vast wetlands, low hills and the occasional winding river and stream make up the terrain of Interior Alaska. This mix of geographical features and extreme temperatures—ranging from 60 degrees below zero in the winter to the 90s in the summer—make the region unique. To live in such an environment, which is also prone to floods and forest fires, requires a different set of rules to survive.

The group experienced just a fraction of winter from its visit there but gained a fuller understanding of the crucial role the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has for those calling this area of Alaska home.

The soldiers' first stop was at the Salcha Railroad Bridge crossing site for the Northern Rail Extension Project Phase 1.

Aaron Hunting from Kiewit Infrastructure West Inc. led the tour starting at the southernmost end of a levee where he explained the process involved in its construction. At the

project offices and construction staging yard, he discussed the many challenges involved in spanning the river and touched on the extensive permitting process that was required to approve this project. The Corps issued a regulatory permit for the project in June.

The purpose of the rail extension is to provide a safe, reliable and efficient transportation alternative to the Richardson Highway for freight and passenger service in the region while allowing the military reliable year-round access to the Donnelly Training Area.

Traveling to North Pole, the group stopped at a popular place for visitors and locals: the district's Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project, which was built to prevent flooding in Fairbanks. In 1967, the city was devastated by a flood causing the loss of four lives and \$85 million in damages.

At the new administrative office, Chena Project Manager John Schaake discussed the renovation and expansion of the building and led the team around the grounds to see the "Bullwinkle Special" ceremonial compressed-air cannon and new log cabin built by volunteers to lodge paralyzed veterans during the annual moose hunt.

Schaake next drove the soldiers to Moose Creek Dam for an inside look at its operations. After a windshield tour

of the recreation area, the team finished the visit by warming up at the masonry heater in the administrative building.

The next day's air transportation was grounded because of poor weather, allowing time for an impromptu visit to the Fairbanks Regulatory Field Office. Supervisor Ben Soiseth explained the different types of permits and process required to build in a wetlands region, and everyone met Ellen Lyons, project manager for the Northern Rail Extension Project Phase 1. Their knowledge and enthusiasm for their work overflowed, and it was obvious to the group that they enjoyed their jobs.

South of Fairbanks, the team traveled to Eielson Air Force Base where the Corps will soon replace two of six boilers inside the base's coal-fueled power plant. The boilers developed cracks because of the daily flux in boiler temperature, leaving them idle.

Trains are normally not associated with the Air Force. However, the base owns a train used to transport coal to the plant, which is burned at a rate of up to 30 tons per hour on especially frigid days. The group toured the plant and learned about the stricter Environmental Protection Agency standards that will soon affect the operation, efficiency and cost of running the plant and supplying the base with heat and electricity.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Commentary

# Fourth-graders learn about humanitarian assistance

By Maj. Justin De Armond  
Contracting Division

Changing the world one person at a time—that is the fourth-grade mission at Betty Kiefer Elementary School in Rathdrum, Idaho.

Before visiting the town while on vacation, Corey Friis, one of two fourth-grade teachers at the school and my sister-in-law, asked me to speak Oct. 5 for about 30 minutes with all 64 of the school's fourth-graders about how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Alaska is changing the world and to help the students expand their understanding of what life is like outside of their tight-knit community.

I was more than happy to accept her invitation and prepared a slide show with assistance from Public Affairs to help show the fourth-graders the mission of Alaska District's Humanitarian Assistance Program in Bangladesh, one of five countries in Southeast Asia where the district is managing these projects.

I started my presentation by asking if anyone knew where Bangladesh was located and received some unique answers—Alaska, Hawaii and Europe to name a few.

Next, I tried to explain the size and population density of the country. I used New York state as an example since it is about the geographical size of Bangladesh, but Bangladesh has about 142 million people compared to New York's 19 million population.

The classroom was filled to the brim with one class sitting at their desks and the other class sitting on the floor. I told them to imagine that this classroom was the size of New York and explained that the crowding they were experiencing would be similar to what they might see in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is the 12th most densely populated country on the planet, and as far as larger countries with more than 100,000 square miles of land, it is the most densely populated in the world. I explained to the class that around 7 million people live in the capital city and showed them pictures of the masses of people and how a majority of the population lives in poverty.

These living conditions combined with the threats of climate change



Courtesy photo

**Maj. Justin De Armond, contracting officer, shows photos of humanitarian assistance projects in Bangladesh during a presentation to fourth-graders at Betty Kiefer Elementary School in Rathdrum, Idaho.**

and cyclones caused a great deal of potential danger for the people in Bangladesh. Therefore, the government of Bangladesh declared the need for more than 2,500 multi-purpose cyclone shelters to be built in the rural areas to protect its citizens and provide a more secure location to educate children.

As it is the fourth-grade mission to change the world one person at a time, I discussed how the Corps and its Humanitarian Assistance Program is working to help the people of Bangladesh and make a difference one project or shelter at a time.

The Corps in conjunction with the U.S. Agency for International Development plans on building more than 70 shelters over four years, with 17 already built before the latest contract was emplaced in June.

I explained to the class that each shelter would be a school that houses around 120-150 children, but in an emergency the shelters could hold as many as 1,200 people.

Both teachers helped describe how crowded that would make the shelter. They compared it to their elementary school gym packed with triple the school's enrollment. The children

understood immediately and seemed very aware of how lucky they are to live in the United States.

Next, I showed photos from across the country that included my travels as a contracting officer. I explained to them how flooding, cyclones and climate change will affect Bangladesh in the future.

In addition, I was able to show them a current school that will be replaced with a shelter.

The images did the majority of the talking. I was able to convey that the old school made of local wood, corrugated aluminum and mud floors with one blackboard per classroom was all that they had in the area for a school. I then asked the kids look around their room at what they had available for learning. Again, the kids let out an "ahhhh" and realized that they had a much more favorable environment to learn in than children in Bangladesh.

At the end of my talk, I answered their questions, which was one of the most rewarding parts of my visit.

It was difficult to call on them as three-fourths of the kids held their hands up.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Around the district

### Campaign runs through Nov. 30

The 2011 Combined Federal Campaign is under way and runs through Nov. 30, but it's never too early to contribute. Last year the district exceeded its goal of \$47,500 by \$8,000. Here's an opportunity to repeat that accomplishment.

Gifts that donors are eligible to receive depending on pledge levels are: \$400 or larger, Todd Salat's "Northern Lights" four-pack notecard set; \$800 or larger, 50th anniversary edition decorative eagle; and \$1,200 or larger, Todd Salat's limited print of the Great One on a clear day titled "Denali North."

Key workers are available to answer questions and help with filling out a printed form or donating online. The Alaska CFC Web site <http://www.alaskacfc.org> is set up for easy use and navigation. Those who pledged online last year can even use the same account. For online pledges, remember to choose the print option in order to have a paper copy to sign and give to a key worker.

Key workers are: Executive Office and Support Staff, Herschel Deaton; Program and Project Management, Cindy Saldana; Engineering, Sophie Jorgensen; Construction Operations, Joe Williams; Counsel, Erica Wilson; Contracting, LaQuida Barlow; Resource Management and

Real Estate, Natalia Soto and Jennifer Sprott; Regulatory, Cynthia Chappell and Bryan Herczeg; Southern Area and Resident Offices, Sharon Thomas; Northern Area Office and Resident Offices, Bert Kammer

### Winter weather reporting guidelines

To mitigate safety and health hazards associated with snow, ice and extremely cold temperatures, district employees will follow the guidance of the installation commander at their assigned duty station.

When weather and road conditions are a concern, personnel may obtain official status updates by dialing the applicable phone number: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 552-INFO, Eielson Air Force Base 377-6127, Fort Wainwright 353-7109 or Fort Greely 869-3480.

In most cases, recorded messages for these numbers are updated by 6 a.m. However, employees should not rely on the hotlines as their sole source for information. Each member of the work force is responsible for monitoring media newscasts and determining whether it is safe to report for duty.

Sources providing reliable reports about the status of the weather, roads and military installations include: Alaska Department of Transportation by dialing 511 or visiting <http://511.alaska.gov/>, National Weather Service Information Line at 1-800-472-0391 and JBER-Elmendorf operator at 552-1110.

In addition, several radio and television stations provide regular updates in the Anchorage area. Updates are available at Alaska's Total Traffic Network by dialing #847 or by listening to radio reports broadcast weekdays from 6-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. on the following stations: KENI 650 AM, KTZN 550 AM, KYMG 98.9 FM, KBFX 100.5 FM, KGOT 101.3 FM and KASH 107.5 FM.

If the local school district or other government offices are closed, it's likely that the installation will be affected, too.

Remember weather and road conditions may vary significantly between an employee's home and workplace. Therefore, people should always assess their personal situation before getting into a vehicle. If you think that it is

**Continued on Page 8**

### Trip

**Continued from Page 5**

On the return to Fort Wainwright, Maj. Jesse Anderson, project engineer in the Northern Area Office, took the group on a windshield tour of current project sites.

The first stop was at the old railhead, where all that remains is a few warming trailers. In contrast, the new railhead facility has an equipment staging yard large enough for an entire battalion, including an indoor training facility, warming building and restrooms that run off of an independent water system.

Other projects visited on post were the new operational indoor Stryker vehicle wash facility, an indoor unit storage building under construction, recently completed Supply Support Activity facility and administrative portion of the new helicopter hangar under construction.

Lastly, the team walked through multiple buildings that make up the completed Warrior Transition Unit, which is awaiting turnover to the Army.

The group's final morning started with a basketball game to promote team cohesion and competition. Unfortunately, an injury disrupted the action and day's planned activities.

Minus two members, the team's final visit was to the Corps' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Permafrost Tunnel, a short drive north of Fort Wainwright in Fox.

Kevin Bjella gave an overview and tour of the tunnel. It was excavated in 1963 by the Army for the study of permafrost, geology, ice science, and mining and construction techniques specific to permafrost environments. Today it is also being looked at by many other sciences as more bone and material are uncovered along its walls.

CRREL is currently digging a second 1,000-foot tunnel that will connect to the existing one in two locations and be used for future studies.

### Humanitarian

**Continued from Page 6**

Many asked about how they could help the students in Bangladesh, how long it took to travel to Bangladesh and how many languages could I speak.

It was fun to interact with such a great group of kids. I'm sure they had no idea what I planned to discuss with them, but in the end, they all grasped what we are doing in Bangladesh and that far away from Idaho, there are people trying to help other people in the world.

The final highlight for me was the students' performance of "Stand Up" by Sugarland. They memorized this song to support their mission, and it was their way of thanking me for visiting them.

I left with a warm heart and the feeling that what we do throughout the Corps is helping to improve lives at home and abroad.

## Upcoming events

**Nov. 1-31** National Native American Heritage Month  
**Nov. 14-15** Consulting with Tribal Nations Training  
**Nov. 16-17** USACE Tribal Nations COP meeting  
**Dec. 10** Children's Holiday Party  
**Dec. 15** District Holiday Party

### Continued from Page 7

unsafe to drive, don't take any unnecessary risks.

Instead, contact your supervisor to request the use of annual leave, credit hours or compensatory time on that particular day.

Alaska District hotline numbers are locally 907-272-2572 and toll-free 1-866-204-8326. These phone numbers should be called when an emergency or crisis arises beyond the scope of adverse weather. In such instances, employees will receive instructions on appropriate safety and response measures.

## Contract awarded

**F-22 Add/Alter Weapons Release Systems Shop and**

**Alternate Mission Equipment**—The district awarded this FY2011 project at JBER-Elmendorf to Bristol Design Build Services LLC Sept. 29 for \$5,608,193. The project will renovate an existing facility and add a new alternate mission equipment storage facility to support the bed-down of 36 F-22 aircraft.

## Project completed

**Combat Pistol Qualification Range**—The district conducted the final inspection and achieved beneficial occupancy date for this FY2010 project at JBER-Richardson Oct. 7. The project constructed a standard combat pistol qualification course with 15 fully-automated lanes to meet current training requirements.

## Deployments

**Iraq**—Sheldon Longnecker

**Afghanistan**—Juliet Brown, Theodore Champine, Warren Colburn, Leanna Dagley, Capt. Daniel Fox, Scott Haan, John Keys, Patricia Lora, John Mitzel, Heather Moncrief, David Purdy, Gary Weiler, Jim Wolfe

**Returned**—Carmon Roy, Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

## Derby season

Stasia Wierzbicki, Internal Review officer (left) and Kathy Wooldridge, contract specialist, of the Frankenbabes skate warm-up laps before a bout with the Killer Clowns during a four-team showdown of the Rage City Rollergirls at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage Oct. 29.

## Farewells



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Dale Hartmann, mechanical engineer in the Construction Support Branch, at district headquarters Oct. 24 for his service from June 2003 to November 2011. He is credited with playing a key role in the fair, reasonable and timely decisions related to nearly \$60 million in construction disputes, as well as reducing and mitigating the district's litigation workload. Hartmann is moving to the Middle East District in Winchester, Va., to become a project manager.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Holly Thibault, workforce management specialist, at district headquarters Oct. 24 for her service from June 2005 to December 2011. Thibault's hiring practices helped deliver quality products to customers and ensured that the district minimized the number of claims. Thibault is retiring after 15 years of federal service.

## Accolades



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, recognizes Debra McGinnis, senior paralegal in the Office of Counsel, for receiving the Keystone Award at the 14th Worldwide Legal Conference in Denver, Colo., in August. The award acknowledges the indispensable role of nonattorneys in accomplishing the Corps legal services mission. As a paralegal and law office manager, McGinnis has served as first chair trial paralegal on more than 200 cases. She developed a multi-volume paralegal handbook for use by all members of the Corps counsel community of practice, created the first-ever paralegal workshop and was an instructor at the pilot multi-agency paralegal seminar at the Department of Justice National Advocacy Center.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents Jeannine LaDuke, realty specialist in the Real Estate Division, with the Real Estate Achievement Award for her contributions to the Real Estate community and Army. LaDuke was instrumental in the timely transition of Fort Richardson to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in accordance with the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure committee's recommendations. She also provided timely execution of the Port of Anchorage special legislative property disposal.