

Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume I, Issue V

February 2011

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Corps of Engineers becomes a MACOM (major command)

In an oral history interview, LTG John W. Morris, USA (Ret.), Chief of Engineers from July 1976 through September 1980, stated that the events leading to MACOM status started after Jimmy Carter was elected president in November 1976. As a candidate, Carter criticized the Corps' civil works activities. During an Army commanders' conference shortly after the election, General Morris asked the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Bernard Rogers, for an opportunity to address the group. (Members of the Army staff, such as General Morris, attended the commanders' conferences as observers, not participants.) General Morris asked the commanders for their support in convincing the new president of the importance of maintaining the Corps' civil works mission in the Army; he received the commanders' full support.

After the meeting, according to General Morris, General Rogers, his former West Point classmate, suggested that the Corps become a MACOM. At that time Corps headquarters, the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE), was part of the Army staff, and the Corps' divisions, districts, and other field organizations were HQDA field operating activities under the command of the Chief of Engineers. General Morris persisted, however, arguing that MACOM status would improve understanding of the Corps' missions and capabilities by the rest of the Army, increase the Corps' integration into the Army, and improve its relationships with the other MACOMS and Army staff agencies. The Chief of Engineers argued that MACOM status would "reinforce in my people and throughout the Army, visually and organizationally, the bond between the Army and its Engineers." The Secretary of the Army approved the general order making the Corps of Engineers the 14th MACOM. The order took effect on 16 June 1979, the 204th anniversary of the date when the Continental Congress authorized General George Washington to appoint a chief engineer and two assistants in the Continental Army.

SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA
(worn on left shoulder)

Symbolism: The globe refers to the activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers both in the Continental United States and overseas. The dividers are symbolic of design and planning and the tower signifies the construction mission. Scarlet and white are the colors traditionally associated with the Corps of Engineers.



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA
RIGHT / LEFT (worn on each epaulette)

Symbolism: The eagle, our National symbol, stands behind the scarlet and white tower representing the Corps of Engineers and its construction mission. The worldwide scope of the Corps' mission and its service to the Nation in the past, present, and future are suggested by the sun symbol and globe. The olive branch connotes the peaceful nature of the Corps' mission and the oak stands for fortitude. The Corps' historic motto, "ESSAYONS" meaning, "Let Us Try" is held in the eagle's beak.



"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected - through the years and across the miles."



Paula Van Antwerp
Honorary President

The Gavel ...a note from our Honorary President


Greetings Engineer friends,

Van and I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and productive 2011! It will be quite a year for us! We are nearing the end of our wonderful four year tour as the 52nd Chief of Engineers (and spouse!) The new Chief will soon be announced and we will begin the transition!! It has been a joy for us to serve. The years have passed so quickly....and we have made so many new friends....and deepened the bonds of friendship with so many more of you. We look forward to whatever is in our future after the Army; but desire to finish out these next three months strong: Army Strong! "Building Strong" is the Corps of Engineers tag line. Van and I hope that we have encouraged and equipped the Engineer community to continue "Building Strong" long after we leave active duty! We are preparing for the Winter Leader Conference next week...and the joy of seeing many of you at the Castle Ball! Our AESC is preparing to recruit new officers for the 2011-12 year. Change is healthy; and both the Corps and our club are ready and waiting for new leadership this coming year!! It is a great investment of your time and energy to partner with others in serving our Engineer community. Our AESC has a rich history. It provides valuable opportunity to the next generation through scholarships. It encourages those who have gone before us through outreach to Knollwood and the Fairfax. Our membership meetings, Castle Gram, and Red book connect our members with current information and opportunity for fellowship. Our club is seeking to build a strong bench of Engineer spouses that will continue the necessary growth and change AESC requires; while at the same time, providing continuity and treasuring the history of this unique club. Our current President Roz Riley, has modeled this challenging balance beautifully! Thanks Roz! She has reached the term limit of her Presidency. We are trusting that one of you will step up and welcome the opportunity to lead our club into an exciting future. This may be your year to commit and become a vital part of the "Building Strong" legacy of our AESC!!

Serving in a cause that counts!!

Essayons,

Paula

For 
all that you are
and *all* that **YOU** do
and *for* the
MANY ways
you *make* my
HEART
sing.

-Leland Thomas

Greetings from Sunny Kabul...

I am asked all the time "what is your work over there?" We focus on three kinds of products: Structures and programs for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA); structures and programs for the Afghanistan National Police (ANP); and structures for the US or international military, to include our own facilities. With all structures and programs, there is an underlying emphasis on "Afghan First" -- i.e., developing the local national business sector by contracting through Afghan-owed, Afghan-run firms (very much like our federal small business program), also called "capacity development." Within either the ANA or ANP program, the range of functions is the same as one would see at a stateside Corps project: land acquisition (obviously, a little more complex in this environment); perimeter fencing (and de-mining within the fence -- not something we have to do with every stateside location); site engineering and design; contracting; construction oversight; and now that we are at the stage of turning finished sites over, we are also finding that we must set up and run operations and maintenance service contracts (again: Afghan First emphasis). The ANA and ANP facilities are wide-ranging: Utilities; wastewater treatment; solid waste management; barracks; vet clinics and kennels; hospitals; training facilities; roads. We even run a Dari and Pashtu literacy and basic math program for soldiers and police, to counteract widespread illiteracy. We "collaborate" with the relatively new Afghan National Military Academy -- this is an engineering academy patterned after our own West Point, and has actually graduated its first 4-year BA cadre. We "collaborate" with many more trade schools -- unlike Iraq, where a large, skilled middle class exists to rebuild the nation, Afghanistan must grow entire categories of skills. As LTG Van Antwerp says, "Huge tasks." We endeavor to accomplish these tasks despite acts of nature (rock slides, floods) and acts of man (read the front page).

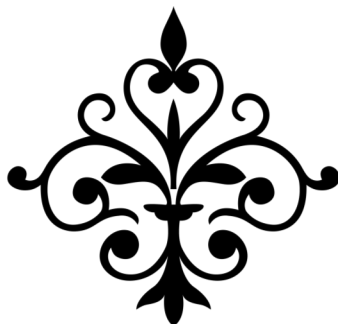
Hopefully this has answered a few of your questions (or maybe created more). That's it for now. Carry on -- do good work and be proud of yourselves!

Devorah L. Waesch
Chief, Resource Management Office
Afghanistan Engineer District, North
Kabul, Afghanistan



**Devorah
Wasche**

"With all structures and programs, there is an underlying emphasis on "Afghan First" ...





Karen Durham-Aguilera

GLOBAL NEWS

“One of the lessons learned from Katrina that we must never forget is that flood risk reduction can only be accomplished as a system: levees, floodwalls, gates, pump stations, and other features stretch across Parish boundaries and need to work together.”

Task Force Hope

(reprinted from the Sep 23, 2010 edition of the Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter)

Dear Editor:

Upon completion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), the Greater New Orleans area will have the best perimeter defense in its history. Extensive modeling, lessons learned, collaboration, risk informed processes and external peer review have enhanced the Corps' design criteria and on-the-ground construction. Scientific and engineering rigor underpins all the HSDRRS work. The HSDRRS is being accomplished in a relatively short time, as nearly \$15 billion has been funded upfront for this essential construction. In comparison, the Corps of Engineers normal national civil works construction program is about \$2 billion annually. The Corps has a duty to be stewards of the taxpayer's money, and a professional project management and engineering responsibility to provide a safe workplace, care for the environment, stay within budget, deliver on schedule, and maintain quality. Quality, schedule and budget are ALL important for public safety. Through continual and rigorous analysis, and careful program management, we have determined that the HSDRRS and the authorized work in the Southeast Louisiana (SELA) project can be executed within current funds. Reprogramming is necessary from time to time to assure the funds are in the right places at the right times. Floodwalls and transitions between floodwalls and levees are armored during initial construction; over 420 locations have been armored to date. The final levee lift must be completed before levees are armored for resiliency. The Corps is testing a variety of armoring materials including grasses, turf reinforced mats and stabilized soils using one of the world's largest wave overtopping simulators at Colorado State University. Corrosion is an important design consideration for all HSDRRS projects. The Corps uses several measures to inhibit or compensate for corrosion, depending on the project design and environmental factors, all of which are consistent with accepted engineering principles and practices of other federal and state agencies, and private industry. The purchase of additional-steel-thickness for steel pile foundations does provide extra strength, while compensating for the potential of future corrosion. The Seabrook Gate Complex is on schedule. Features will be in place by June 2011 to defend against storm surge. The cost of building Seabrook will be accomplished within the funds on hand. The GIWW West Closure Complex, another state-of-the-art engineering effort, is now over 95% designed and 40% constructed. This very complex project is successful due to careful engineering and collaboration with our partners. One of the lessons learned from Katrina that we must never forget is that flood risk reduction can only be accomplished as a system: levees, floodwalls, gates, pump stations, and other features stretch across Parish boundaries and need to work together. It also means effective partnerships between federal, state, local governances and all stakeholders are needed to deliver the complete system. It is our duty and responsibility to make decisions considering the comprehensive system, to ensure public safety, and serve the citizens of Greater New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E.SES
Director, Task Force Hope
Mississippi Valley Division



Birthdays.....

Bobby Buxbaum	Feb 16
Mariangela Gordon	Feb 3
Toni Mudd	Feb 29
Betty Swygert	Feb 4
Cheryl Waterworth	Feb 21
Deborah Wehr	Feb 4
Sue Wright	Feb 6



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND NEWS

Wonder what our Club would look like without a President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, etc etc???? Well... you might just find out in August. At this point, we have very few volunteers returning to their positions next year. A few have served in their position for many years. It is time for a new group to come forward and take our Club to the next level. Several of the jobs can even be done from afar! :)

This is your chance to step up to the plate and help our Club continue to thrive (or continue at all). If you have any questions please contact

Bette Meuleners at bmeuleners@gmail.com or Mollie O'Neill at mollieoneill@verizon.net



We need you to volunteer!!



KNOLLWOOD SERVICE PROJECT

Knollwood Bake Sale March 9, 2011

We are delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Knollwood, with baked goods, hors d'oeuvres and special goodies for diabetics. Knollwood is the home for retired military and their spouses. Our special treats are sold with all the revenue to return to Knollwood for the benefit of residents who need some financial assistance. We Engineers love to take care of our military families. So start making all types of baked goodies, hors d'oeuvres and other snack mixes. Please bring the goodies to Knollwood already priced.

Bar Cookies and Brownies - 50¢
Cupcakes -50¢
Mini Loaves \$2.00 each
Cheese, Sausage, or Spinach Balls - 12@ \$2.00
Mini Quiches - 4 @ \$2.00
Snack Mixes \$1.00/bag
Appetizers & Other Cocktail-Hour Nibbles - 6 @ \$1.50
Cookies - 1 dozen @ \$1.50 - \$2.00 depending on cookie size

We hope many of you will come join us for a fun day. Please plan to stay for lunch in the dining area.

If you can't make it to Knollwood (6200 Oregon Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015) on the 9th of March but would like to donate baked goods, give Priscilla Noah a call at 703-505-3182.

Reservation Information

Last Names
beginning in

A-M Pat O'Neill
(703) 378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

N-Z Sarah Pearce
(703) 815-7365
pearcesall@cox.net

YOU CAN HELP TOO!!!

**EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE DC METRO AREA OR CAN'T
DONATE BAKED GOODS, YOU CAN STILL HELP US WITH OUR
KNOLLWOOD SERVICE PROJECT.**

**WE ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE RESIDENTS OF
KNOLLWOOD.**

**Make checks payable to AEOWC (Knollwood Bake Sale) and mail to
P. O. Box 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306.**



This Year's Planned Programs for the DC Metro Area

February 12 - 7pm Couples' Wine Tasting (see below)

March 9 - Knollwood Bake Sale

April - Farewell for Paula Van Antwerp

May - AESC Awards Brunch

More details will be provided in future issues of the Castle Gram about each of our programs, to include RSVP deadlines and any costs.

If you live in the DC area or are visiting—plan to join us!!

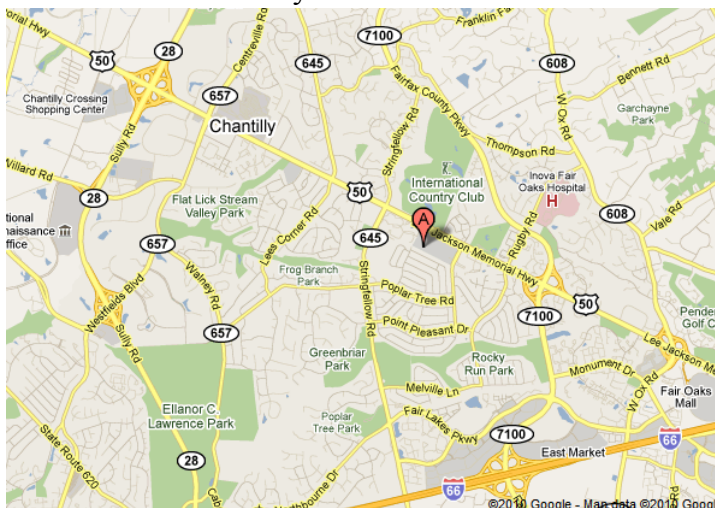
This year's couples wine tasting program will be combination wine tasting and wine class scheduled for:

Saturday February 12 at 7:00pm at the
Total Wine Store, Greenbriar Town Center, Chantilly, VA.
Cost is \$20 per person.

The wine tasting will include both red & white wines. We'll have a wine expert & receive handouts. Cheese & crackers will be provided by the store. Please bring an appetizer to share..

The approximate length of the wine tasting is 2 hrs. At the end of the session everyone will receive a discount on any purchase of wine.

Please RSVP by Feb. 2nd.



Driving Directions

From I-495 (north or south)
Take exit 49 I-66 West. Go about 7 miles to exit 57B - Rt. 50 (Fair Oaks - West); After Fairfax Co Parkway, go to 4th light; turn left onto Plaza Drive (past Greenbriar Shopping Center sign); turn left into Shopping Center.

From Rt 28 (north or south) to Rt 50 East Go about 2 1/2 miles to Greenbriar Shopping Center; turn right onto Plaza Drive; turn left into Shopping Center.

Fairfax Co. Parkway (north or south) to Rt. 50 West At the 4th light turn left onto Plaza Drive (past Greenbriar Shopping Center sign); turn left into Shopping Center



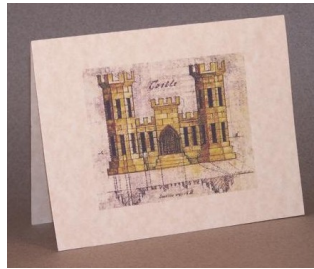
THE CAPITOL CONNECTION



**Kathy Candido
Services Chairman
(aka the Castle
Boutique Manager)**

Shopping in the Castle Boutique

This month is Valentine's Day and a good opportunity to have your "someone special" order a gift for you from the Castle Boutique!! Just a few well placed hints should do it.



\$5.00



\$20.00



\$12.00

\$12.00



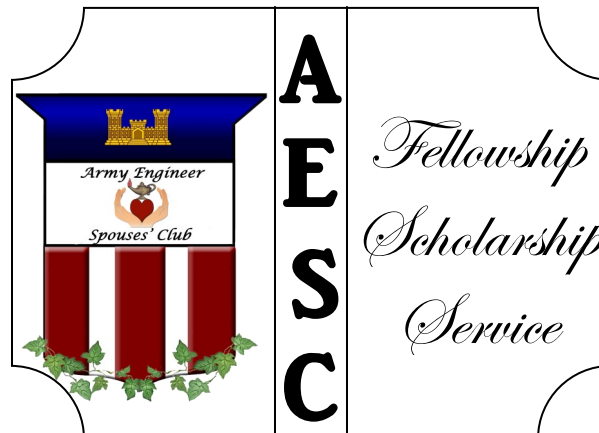
\$35.00



\$20.00



*"One Stop
Shopping for
Valentine's Day!"*



AESC 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses and family members over 18 years of age of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees: military grades E-7 and above and civilian grades GS-07 and above, whether active, retired or deceased; and with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who have been associated with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

PRINT NAME as you want to be listed in the Castle Directory (Redbook)

Last _____ First _____

Nickname _____

If you are in the military, provide rank & job title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail _____

The Castle Gram (in color) is sent to you via email. If you do not have email, a black and white copy will be sent to your home address.

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____ Anniversary Date _____

Preferred method of contact:

E-mail Home phone Cell phone Do not contact me

Check one:

New member - I was invited by _____

Returning member

Eligibility Information:

Spouse's Name _____

Is Spouse: Active Retired Deceased

Spouse's Rank or Title _____

Spouse's Assignment or job title: _____

If active duty, use official abbreviation. If retired, use current firm, if any.

AESC 2010-2011 Membership Application

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory and/or Castle Gram --our monthly newsletter. Membership runs from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011. Applicant information received by September 15, 2010 will be included in the 2010-2011 Castle Directory. After that date, new members will be announced in the Castle Gram. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____

Additional Castle Directory(ies) : \$5.00 each _____

Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

You may also print the application online at armyengineerspouses.com.



**Sandra Lowe
Membership
Chairman**

Dues: \$25.00

Benefits:

Castle Gram monthly;
one copy of the
Castle Directory;
10% discount in the
Castle Boutique; &
being a part of the
only Engineer network
for spouses.

**“Join today
and invite a friend!”**



AEOWC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306
armyengineerspouses.com

