



# Information Bulletin

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Engineer Research and  
Development Center

Topographic Engineering Center

*2002 Army Research and Development  
Organization of the Year*

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## OFFICIAL

### OGC Award Recognizes Corps' Contribution

The Open GIS Consortium (OGC) recently presented the first annual "OGC Vision Award" to the Corps of Engineers. Lt. Gen. Flowers accepted the award. This award recognizes the outstanding contribution the USACE has made to the organization and growth of OGC, an international public/private partnership working to make geographic information and services openly accessible across multiple platforms and devices.

In 1993, the Corps' spatial technology team at CERL germinated the interoperability concept that led to the creation of the OGC. A unique Cooperative Research and Development Agreement helped to create the OGC Specification Program, which today enables a broad representation of industry to address the geoprocessing interoperability issues and needs of the user community, of which USACE is a member. Since OGC's creation, major contributions to the OGC process have been made by ERDC, USACE's research community, which includes CERL and six other laboratories. ERDC has been instrumental in the creation and success of OGC's Interoperability Program, an ongoing series of testbeds, pilot projects and other activities related to the rapid development and testing of interoperability specifications.



Kevin received an award from the OGC for his contribution. (Photo by Terri Stowell.)

This award recognizes not only the institutional contribution of the Corps, but also the remarkable leadership of individuals at the Corps who have helped shape OGC's vision of the future. Bill Goran at CERL provided essential early ideas and encouragement and arranged critical material support for the founding and early development of OGC programs. Kevin Backe at TEC was instrumental in launching the OGC program of interoperability testbeds and pilot projects and in bringing other agencies to work together with USACE, pooling requirements and resources to maximize the government's benefit from OGC's efforts. Other Corps attendees included Dr. James Houston, Dr. Walter Morrison, Mr. Robert Burkhardt, Dr. Alan Moore and Mr. M. K. Miles.

***2002 Army R&D Organization of the Year***

OGC is an international industry consortium of more than 240 companies, government agencies and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface specifications. OpenGIS® Specifications support interoperable solutions that “geo-enable” the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. The specifications empower technology developers to make complex spatial information and services accessible and useful with all kinds of applications.

### **Opening Event for “Corps of Discovery II” on the Mall**

Federal agency officials, American Indian leaders and performers, and the U.S. Army’s 1802 Color Guard will be among those providing a preview on the Mall of the centerpiece of the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on March 7 at 9 a.m. They will showcase the exhibit and living history program called “*Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future*,” which travels to cities across the country in a 53-foot trailer with a full-color mural featuring Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea and her son Jean Baptiste. The Corps of Discovery II - named after the original Corps of Discovery led by Lewis and Clark -- opens to the public on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on March 8 and runs through March 24. Admission will be free with daily programming from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This touring federal interagency exhibition has launched a 4-year odyssey extending from Virginia to the Oregon coast for the 2003-2006 Bicentennial.

### **Corps of Engineers on the History Channel**

The History Channel program “Modern Marvels: Army Corps of Engineers” is scheduled to air on March 18 from 10-11 p.m. EST. Check local listings to confirm the airdate.

### **Japanese Delegation Visits**

A five-person Japanese Delegation visited TEC on Feb. 25. Accompanying the visitors was former TEC Director, Professor William Roper (Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, George Washington University), and Mr. Noel Raufaste (President, Knowledge Access and Services International). The visit focused on the areas of Remote Sensing for Emergency Response Planning, Safety, Rapid Response, and Disaster Risk Management.



**Tom Jorgensen (r), Chief of the Data Representation Branch with Japanese visitors. (Photo by Terri Stowell.)**

## **National Women's History Month**

March is National Women's History Month. The 2003 theme is "Women Pioneering the Future", which incorporates both pioneering women from U.S. history, who lead and won struggles for equality and civil rights, created and advanced educational and professional opportunities, and made great contributions to the arts, sciences, and humanistic causes, and innovative women of today who further these efforts and continue to expand the frontiers of possibility for generations to come.

## **Bulletin Publication Change**

With the establishment of an ERDC-wide Information Bulletin, which will be published every 2 weeks, individual site Bulletins will now be published in the "off" weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles and information for the site Bulletin. The next Alexandria Site Information Bulletin will be published on March 20.

## **Handling Calls from the Media**

When you receive calls from media representatives (local reporters, technical, trade, or general news media), please refer the caller to the Public Affairs Office (PAO) before responding to any questions. PAO will work with you, the reporter, and our command staff to determine how TEC as an organization can best respond. PAO will arrange an interview between you and the reporter if appropriate, and will answer any follow-up calls. This procedure will help TEC personnel prepare properly for answering media questions.

The intention of this request is not to restrict anyone's freedom to speak to the press. It will, however, ensure all concerned, when speaking as representatives of TEC, have the big picture and a complete background on the issue at hand. It also ensures the coordination with our executive staff, which is ultimately responsible for the image portrayed by TEC to the press.

## **Commander's Mailbox**

ERDC team members are reminded that an electronic mailbox has been established to allow employees to send questions and/or comments to the Commander. If an employee wishes to remain anonymous, his or her name will be deleted from the question before it is forwarded to the Commander for comment. Employees' questions will be answered via return e-mail. Answers to anonymous and frequently asked questions will be posted in the Employee Information Bulletin.

The address in Outlook is, "ERDC Commander." Again, all information is kept strictly confidential and all questions are addressed directly by the Commander.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

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BOBBIE J. GALFORD  
Chief, Public Affairs Office  
Engineer Research and Development Center

## **U N O F F I C I A L**

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for March 7 at the Casey Building Room 140 A and B from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Linda Bartlett, RN, HECSA Health Unit, Room M-5, Kingman Building, 428-7379.

### **Circus Trip Scheduled**

The Fort Belvoir Civilian Employee Fund Council (CEFC) is sponsoring a trip to the Ringling Brothers Circus at the D.C. Armory on April 13 at 1:30 p.m. Sign up begins March 11 and will continue through March 28 or until filled. Tickets are limited so this offer is on a first come, first serve basis to Fort Belvoir DoD Civilian employees and immediate family members only.

For more information, contact Mary Pumphrey, CEFC Office, (703) 805-4126, Bldg 210 (Basement), from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

The Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club is sponsoring an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast (sausage, eggs, coffee and more) at the First Baptist Church of Springfield, 7300 Gary Street on March 29 from 7-11 a.m. The cost is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door or contact Linda Graff in Room 428 or at 428-6454 (ICOM 2221).