

## Their Service Helps Keep Us Safe

**F**or 41 DEP employees, their commitment to serving the public doesn't begin when they report to work in the morning and when they go home at night: these are the DEP employees who are currently reservists in the U.S. armed forces. Since September 11, 2001, 21 of them have been activated by the military and taken involuntary leaves of absence from the agency, ranging from a few days to extended periods. Together, these individuals on active duty, who work in almost every bureau in the agency, have served a total of more than 40 years. Members currently in the U.S. Reserves work in almost every bureau at the agency.

The variety of work here at DEP reflects the broader skillsets of



DEP workers who are currently serving in the Reserves. For example, BWS Chief of Capital Planning **Matt Warne** sees strong ties between his day job and military service. As a Lieutenant Colonel assigned as the Operation Officer for the 411th Engineer Brigade in New York, he oversees the training and readiness of the brigade

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## Spotlight on Safety

### Use your tools properly and safely

Everybody uses tools at some time or other, even if it's just to hammer a nail. Although tools have different functions, from hand tools to power tools, the same basic safety rules apply to all of them.

- **Select and use the right tool for the job.** Don't risk a serious injury by using a heavy pipe wrench as a hammer.
- **Inspect tools before use.** Make sure they're in good condition and safe to use. Get replacements for broken or defective tools from your supervisor.
- **Use tools correctly.** Follow safety directions in the instruction manual for power tools.
- **Take good care of your tools.** Keep them clean and sharp, and store them properly.

- **Wear appropriate PPE.** This includes safety glasses to protect your eyes from chips and particles, safety shoes and gloves. For some power tools, hearing protection may be needed.
- **Transport tools safely.** Carry them in a toolbox, tool belt, bucket, or cart. Doing so eliminates the risk of a serious injury or worse, especially if you are working at heights.
- **Handle tools safely.** Never toss a tool to a co-worker; rather, hand it over with the handle toward the receiver.
- **Pay attention while using tools.** Focus on what you're doing. A moment's inattention could end up in an accident and severe injury.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY. 📞

## Commissioner's Corner

This Thursday, November 11, is Veterans Day. It originally commemorated the day that fighting stopped between the Allied Nations (which included the United States) and Germany in the First World War: 11:11 AM on 11/11/1918. In 1954, President Eisenhower converted "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day" to honor the service of veterans in all wars. Here at DEP, we are proud to have a committed group of employees serving as reservists in the armed forces, including 21 who have been called to active duty since 2001:

**Joseph Bravo**, BWT; **Alejandro Cuervo**, BWT; **Bradley Dromazos**, BWS; **Kevin Fitzpatrick**, BEDC; **Peter Flynt**, BWT; **Christian Gallagher**, BPS; **Curvin Hamilton**, BWSO; **Henry Jaen**, BWS; **James Letohic**, BHRA; **Percival Luke**, BPS; **Carlstein Lutchmedial**, BEC; **Robert Mateer**, BPS; **Joseph McShea**, BWS; **Lawrence McGivney**, BWT; **Mark Newman**, BWS; **Samuel Polsky**, BWT; **John Quinn**, BWT; **Amilcar Rodriguez**, BWSO; **David Ryan**, BWT; **Jeanne Schreiber**, ACCO; **Rolando Villacres-Brito**, BWT.

You can read more about some of these dedicated members of the DEP team in this week's feature story; join me in thanking all of the dedicated veterans at DEP who have served our country, and now continue to serve the people of New York City. (Please note, if you are a veteran, have served in the military, or are currently serving in the armed forces in any capacity, we want to know about it. Get in touch with us at [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov). If we should have included you in this week's Pipeline but neglected to, we'll make up for it in a future issue.)

Last week, the City launched the "Run Your Tap" campaign. DEP recently detected slightly elevated levels of lead in tap water samples taken from homes with lead plumbing. These findings do not indicate a problem with New York City

water—our Bureau of Water Supply, under the direction of Water Quality Director **Steve Schindler**, conducts more than 500,000 water-quality tests each year, and they confirm that NYC Water is virtually lead free in our reservoirs and throughout the distribution system maintained by our Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. But lead was a common construction material before it was prohibited by state and federal regulations, and some homes still have lead service lines (those built before 1961), or internal plumbing joined by lead solder (installed before 1987).

NYC Health Commissioner **Tom Farley** joined me at Lefrak to announce the "Run Your Tap" campaign, and made clear that the elevations detected in our recent tests have been too small to pose a clear health risk. In fact, the incidence of lead poisoning—which primarily affects young children and is mainly attributed to lead paint, not lead in tap water—has been dropping dramatically in New York City since the 1990s. Still, the best level of lead exposure is zero, and running your tap is the simple, easy, and inexpensive way to deal with the issue.

First, run your faucet for at least 30 seconds, until the water gets noticeably colder, before using it for drinking, cooking or making baby formula. This will flush out any water that has been sitting in older pipes that potentially can leach lead into water. Second, always start with cold water for cooking and drinking. Hot water can actually help dissolve lead more easily and boiling water does not remove lead. If you are still concerned after taking these steps, call 311 to request a free lead testing kit from DEP. For more information, visit our updated web page on the topic here. Remember, the easiest way to avoid potential exposures comes down to three words: Run Your Tap.



Sergeant **Chris Gallagher** joined the U.S. Army Infantry immediately after high school and spent the next eight years travelling around the world before finally settling in New York. When he left the Army, Sgt. Gallagher looked for a change of pace that would allow him to serve the community and enjoy the outdoors—it was a natural fit to join DEP as an Environmental Police Officer (EPO). As an EPO, Sgt. Gallagher is a member of the Emergency Services Unit, which handles high risk calls, confined space rescues, and hazmat operations; he also spends part of his time patrolling DEP infrastructure throughout the watershed. On spending one day in the

Bronx and the next upstate he says, “It’s nice to have a job that isn’t in the same place every day.”

Sgt. Gallagher’s service didn’t end with his return home: instead he joined the National Guard after September 11, 2001 and was deployed to Iraq for 11 months in 2004. Though the setting is vastly different, some of Sgt. Gallagher’s duties at DEP and the National Guard actually overlap—he is a trainer in both places and teaches other EPOs how to use some of the same tools that the military uses overseas. Sgt. Gallagher appreciates his ability to draw from experience in the Army and the National Guard: “I finally feel like I have enough experience to give back.”

When he’s off the clock Sgt. Gallagher enjoys climbing, fly fishing, and spending time with his kids. But most of all he notes how lucky he is that his unit has only been deployed once. “There are quite a few other City employees who are coming up on their second and third tours. We should recognize that they are making a huge sacrifice on our behalf.”

## Did You Know?

...that DEP’s 14 treatment plants handle an average of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater a day. This generates up to 1,200 tons of sludge.

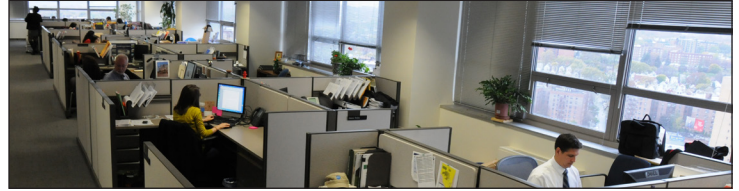
## Kudos Corner



After four years of hard work, Director **Gerard Cox**, Construction Chief **Sean McAndrew**, Executive Project Manager **Paul Costa**, Design Chief **Paul Smith**, Site Project Manager **Melissa Beristain**, and Administrative Engineer **Jim Teevan** helped DEP reach a major milestone on October 15, when the hazardous material remediation was finished at the Kensico Dam. Since 2005, the BEDC team has overseen the overall reconstruction of this dam, bringing it to first class operating conditions. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Q. In reading the article about how your bullpen worked out so well you’re expanding it to the 19th floor, it would have been nice to see a picture of what it looks like. Some of us never get a chance to get to Lefrak and it would be nice to see it. Maybe you can post a picture of it in your next article. Like the old saying goes, it’s nice to put a name with a face. Thanks!

A. As requested, here is a picture of the newly expanded bullpen area.



**This November 17 is “Thank a Vet” day.** Please take time to say thank you to these courageous men and women who represent the best of our country by risking their lives to defend the freedoms we enjoy every day. This year we observe the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, and pay special tribute to those who served in Korea. To learn more about New York City veterans please click here

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to conduct engineering missions during times of peace and contingency operations. He took these vital support and technical skills to Iraq in 2004-2005. But more than additional experience, he sees his contributions to the military and DEP in terms of teamwork and public service. “I enjoy serving the citizens of New York and our country and feel very privileged to wear both hats,” he says. “The great work we do as an engineering community can indeed help our nation and other countries prosper around the world.”

In addition to active service members, DEP also has a strong contingent of retired veterans. Retired Lieutenant Colonel and BWS Division Chief of Western Operations **John Vickers** attributes his

choice of career to his time at West Point and in the Army. Not only did work at DEP appeal to him for its core mission of delivering clean drinking water to “one of the greatest cities on earth,” but 20 years of engineering experience relating to the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities—along with a strong sense of teamwork—gave him the necessary skills to take on parallel responsibilities as a civilian.

In summing up the agency’s appreciation, **Commissioner Holloway** said, “We are so honored that the same individuals who serve their country through military service also chose to serve their city through work at DEP. We all benefit from their dedication and are lucky to have them as coworkers and friends.”

### DEP Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive

Thank you to all who have donated to the Thanksgiving Holiday Food Drive. If you haven’t yet done so, there is still time to make a contribution. The last day for food collection is Wednesday, November 17. For more information on the food drive, please click here .