

DEP Environmental Police Academy Graduation



Last Thursday, **Commissioner Holloway** swore in 25 new Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) from DEP's Environmental Police Academy. These EPOs will be immediately deployed to help the rest of DEP's police force protect the water supply that 9 million people depend on, under DC **Kevin McBride's** DEP Police & Security.

Our new officers completed 30 weeks of intensive instruction involving training in counterterrorism, the environment, police science, environmental conservation law, firearms training and defensive tactics. It's rigorous, but the best water supply in the world deserves the best protection possible. DEP's police have an enormous job to do: our upstate watershed measures about 2,000 square miles—roughly the same size as the state of Delaware.

Even before swearing to protect the City's water supply, many of our 25 new EPOs have already distinguished themselves in the military, law enforcement, or emergency response. **Matthew Kruger**, of Ulster County, served in the United States Army in Operation Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom; **Thomas Terminelle**, of Queens, volunteered in the NYPD Auxiliary Police as a Sergeant in the 100th Precinct in Queens; **Christopher Carr**, of Ulster County, worked as a patrolman for the Village of Montgomery Police Department; and **Jaime Vasquez**, of Queens, worked for the NYPD Traffic Enforcement Division.

Besides being sworn in, certain officers received special awards for particularly noteworthy conduct during their training. The graduating

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Spotlight on Safety

BWSO Injury and Illness Tracking

"Think Safety." We often hear this slogan. Although it's simple, it captures a critical component of strong safety management – accident prevention.

Data collected by BWSO EHS show that the injury rate rose slightly from 10.6 recordable cases per 100 employees in 2008, to 11.5 in 2009. This increase is due to a 10% rise in "over-exertion" injuries (lifting, pulling). The good news is that rates in other areas, notably "slips/trips" and "struck by" injuries are lower (by -5% and -2.5% respectively). Over

the last two years, BWSO has conducted education on fall prevention, which appears to be paying some dividends.

EHS will be looking closely at ways to reduce lifting and other over-exertion injuries through job safety assessments, education, identification of and use of improved work practices.

Most injuries are preventable. Planning and awareness of our surroundings, tasks and conditions are the best defense against injuries!

Click here for more information 

Commissioner's Corner



Yesterday, I announced the appointment of **Kathryn Mallon** as the new Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering, Design & Construction. Kathryn was formerly head of In-House Design, and brings more than 20 years of experience to her new role. I have asked Kathryn to focus particularly on the scope, schedule, budget, and delivery of our capital projects, and to work closely with our operating bureaus—BEDC's clients—to ensure that our capital investments meet DEP's operational needs. I also announced that **James Mueller** is taking on a new challenge as Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Capital Projects in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. We are strengthening the planning capacity of BWT, BWSO, and BWS, so that BEDC can focus on design and construction, and Jim has agreed to lead that effort. Please join me in congratulating Kathryn and Jim on their new roles and in meeting the challenges ahead.

It was a great honor to swear in 25 Environmental Police Officers last Thursday at a ceremony in Kingston. The officers play a vital role in supporting the agency's mission and I welcome them to our ranks. To read about the ceremony and to learn more about some of the graduates, check this week's Feature story.

This past weekend I visited the Hunts Point and North River Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. Deputy Plant Superintendent **Jeff Weil** led a tour at Hunts Point that focused

on the energy, odor control, and Biological Nutrient Removal upgrades that are part of a \$470 million plant rehabilitation currently under way. **Matt Osit** from BEDC, DC **Vincent Sapienza** and **John Petito** from BWT, Deputy Commissioner for Operations **Kathryn Garcia**, and Local 1320 Vice President **Tom Custance** were also on hand, and we made a quick stop on the deck of the sludge boat Red Hook, that was docked during our stay.

On Saturday, April 17, I visited the North River WWTP accompanied by DC Vincent Sapienza, John Petito, and Kathryn Garcia. Plant Superintendent **Steve Askew** provided an overview of this unique plant's history and layout. He explained that the entire plant is enclosed and that the Riverbank State Park on top of the facility was really the first "green roof" in NYC. He discussed energy usage at the plant and that BWT is currently looking at means to reduce reliance on utility power such as cogeneration. Steve also described the plant's complex odor control systems, consisting of both wet scrubbers and carbon absorbers, and the massive ventilation systems at the plant, which are major contributors to the plant's energy usage. A short plant tour included the screenings area where BWT has installed screenings pumps to replace the satellite container system, the boiler room that was recently rehabilitated through a NYSPA funded contract, and the North Odor Control Room where Steve showed us a handful of carbon from one of the absorbers.

This week is Earth Week, and we're preparing to open our new Visitor Center at Newtown Creek this weekend April 24 and 25. If you can make it, the festivities start at 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days.

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. 

Focus on the Field



Carlstien Lutchmedial joined DEP in April 1987 as a part-time office aide. Since then, he's become a full-time "Terminator."

Working as the Director of Enforcement under **Krish Radhakrishnan** in the Asbestos Control Program, as part of DC **Michael Gilsenenan's** Bureau of Environmental Compliance, Carlstein investigates asbestos-related issues citywide. From building collapses to illegal asbestos dumping to illegal removal, Carlstein cases out the sites and makes sure that New Yorkers are protected from this hazardous material.

Asbestos is made up of fibers so small that they can be inhaled. Because they're virtually indestructible, they can lodge themselves in the lining of the lungs and create scar tissue, which can then cause various diseases, including cancer.

Building contractors have improved their work over the last couple of years, and we've seen fewer violations because Carlstein and his staff are so vigilant. "The contractors know that the Enforcement unit is watching them 24/7," says Carlstein.

And that's really no exaggeration. During his most complex case, Carlstein participated in a massive criminal investigation into various contractors. As part of a sting operation, Carlstein was asked to inspect a building where one of the abatement contractors was removing asbestos late one night. He had back up, though, including a stake-out team watching the contractors with a high-powered telescope, and other officers waiting to move in. Carlstein entered the building wearing a wire, and as soon as the contractors spotted him, they screamed, "The Terminator is here!"

As the workers scrambled to cover up the illegal removal, Carlstein took pictures. He had caught them red-handed in the middle of the night, and issued several violations as well as a criminal charge for bad rigging. Carlstein has been recognized by federal agencies and the US Attorney's office as an expert in his field.

But don't let his negative nickname "Terminator" fool you—Carlstein has an even greater record of public service. Last year, he served as a captain in the US Army in Iraq. He is active in his own community and raised \$3,000 for his local high school, painted classrooms, donated whiteboards, and assisted in the scouting movement. This "Terminator" isn't such a bad guy after all.

DEP: Then & Now



carried the water 42 miles from the New Croton Dam. It also connected with the Old Croton Aqueduct and distributed water in 49-inch cast iron pipes to the Central Park Receiving Reservoir. This drawing dates from September 4, 1886. (Drawing: DEP Archive)



of Design and Construction, the gatehouse reopened in October 2006 as the Harlem Stage / Aaron Davis Hall booking performances by artists from around the world and host to the annual Harlem Film Series.

Then: The 135th Street Gate House located at the corner of Convent Avenue in Harlem was completed in 1890. Designed and built under the Aqueduct Commission, the gatehouse was the terminus for the New Croton Aqueduct which

Now: In 1981, the gate house was designated a NYC landmark and in 1983 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. It was taken out of service by DEP in 1989. Renovated by Ohlhausen Dubois Architects under the Department

Ask Cas

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- Q.** A few years back I remember seeing a lot of stories in the newspapers about the leak in the Delaware Aqueduct. At the time it seemed like people were expecting it to fail at any time. Can you tell us what is being done to keep that from happening? - **Anonymous**
- A.** We don't expect the tunnel to fail, but it needs to be fixed, and that's a complex effort that takes years of preparation. **Jamie Canale** in BEDC is overseeing the use of a small, unmanned submarine to photograph the tunnel between Rondout and West Branch so we can determine the scope of the leak; we're preparing to install state-of-the-art pumps at Shaft 6 that will be used to de-water the tunnel when it is shut down to be repaired; and an In-House design team led by **Burjor Kharivala** in BEDC will be leading the design of a by-pass tunnel that will enable us to go in and do the repair work.

Milestones

Congratulations to **Murat Acikgoz**, Mechanical Engineer II, of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment, who has been selected to participate in the 2010 Management Academy, a Citywide Executive Development Program for new and emerging leaders. At the Academy, Murat will develop a fuller understanding of the formal and informal processes that drive City government, learning how to meet the unique demands of City government. The Academy is offered by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and you can learn more about it on their website (here)

Congratulations to **Joseph Miller**, BWS on the birth of his daughter on 4/8 and to **Maria Roca**, ACCO, on the birth of her son on 4/1.

Best wishes to the following DEP April retirees: **Mel Hanson**, BWSO, 35 years and **Phil Saglimbene**, BWSO, 32 years.

(DEP Environmental Police... - continued)

class named Matthew Kruger as the class leader and **Kevin Greany**, **Joel Martinez** and **Anthony Ruberto** as Squad Leaders. During the graduation ceremony several EPOs were given awards for outstanding performance during the training. Anthony Ruberto received the Academic Proficiency Award; **Sean Kinane** received the Physical Fitness Award; **Edward Dolenk Jr.** received the Firearms Proficiency Award; and **Joseph Novak** received the Best Overall Officer Award.

DEP's police do literally everything as they patrol both sides of the Hudson River. It's a complete-

ly comprehensive force, including a Canine, Aviation, Dive Team, Emergency Services Unit, Strategic Patrol, and an Emergency Response Team capable of performing swift-water rescues. The 25 new EPOs raise our total force to 189 officers, the most we've had since World War II.

Making the event more memorable was the tremendous turnout of family and friends in attendance, demonstrating the great support these officers get when they're off duty.

For more information, including photos and the full list of our newest EPOs, please click here.

Event Calendar:

April 24 – 25 Opening of the Visitor Center at Newtown Creek – 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

April 21 Earth Day - LaGuardia Community College Atrium 10am – 4pm

April 22 Earth Day - NBC Universal – NYC "Water on the Go" Station 49th & 5th Ave. 7am–3pm

April 22 Earth Day -Times Square – NYC "Water on the Go" Station 43rd & Bway & 47th & Bway - 7am–3pm

April 22 Brooklyn Block Association Event - Boro Hall 5pm-8pm

Thursday, April 22, DEP will be participating in the City's annual "Take Our Children to Work Day."

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.