

# USACE HOLDS FIRST REAL ESTATE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE CONFERENCE

BY PRISCILLA W. PAIGE

The US Army Corps of Engineers Real Estate community held its first Community of Practice (CoP) Conference in Orlando, Fla. May 3-7, 2004. The conference was hosted by the IRWA as a partnering effort providing planning, registration and logistical support.

The conference highlighted a number of panels and technical break-out sessions throughout the week with numerous networking opportunities. Focusing on leadership, customer feedback and successful partnering, senior leaders from the General Services Administration, US Air Force, U S Navy, Federal Highway Administration, US Army Reserves, IRWA, South Florida Water Management, Marina Operator's Association of America, and the Federal Aviation Administration served as panelists and participated throughout the week. Technical break-out sessions featured Corps experts in planning, relocation assistance, civil/military acquisition, management and disposal, support to the global war on terrorism, automated information systems, among others.

**“General Castro’s speech was inspiring and a fresh view of leadership with a notion of balance.”**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation and Housing Joseph Whitaker delivered the keynote address along with Brig. Gen. Randal Castro, commander for the South Atlantic Division.

A number of individuals as well as teams received recognition for outstanding accomplishments in workforce development initiatives, customer service, big picture (visionaries) and team achievement! A special retirement award was presented to Curtis DeLille, from the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, Cincinnati, Ohio. Curtis is an outstanding individual who exemplified

professionalism and dedication throughout his 33 years of service.

The conference was a great success. It involved Corps personnel nationwide, customers, partners, stakeholders and vendors specializing in right of way products and services, and most importantly, it involved



General Castro giving award to Chris Baysinger, North Atlantic Division, USACE

Photos by Darwin Smith



## FACTS ON THE USACE Real Estate Community of Practice

- The primary functions of the USACE RE CoP are to develop and maintain policy and doctrine, a capable workforce, national and interagency relations and coalitions by accelerating organizational communication and implementing the learning organization doctrine.
- The RE CoP is made up of individuals who practice and share an interest in virtually all aspects of real property acquisition, management and disposal. The RE CoP extends throughout USACE including the Districts, Divisions, Washington Headquarters, Laboratories and Centers.
- The RE CoP is designed to connect islands of knowledge into self-organized, knowledge-sharing networks of real estate professionals; fosters cross-functional and cross-divisional collaboration; and promotes innovation through collaboration and problem-solving situations in and on projects.
- The RE CoP supports the learning organization principles followed by USACE. In addition, the RE CoP will encourage and assist real estate professionals in staying current with the changes in federal law regulations and policies.

having fun! It was the US Army Corps of Engineers largest real estate conference with expectations of an even larger turnout in the years to come. Look for information on our next conference for fall 2005, once again to be professionally and wonderfully hosted by the IRWA.

**“The speakers provided a vision of the future and the need to improve real estate staff qualifications, capabilities and processes ... Overall, the Community of Practice session provided context for the charter which helped me to better understand the issues.”**

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP From left to right: Al Lowas, USAF; Linda Garvin, USACE; Brian Polly, GSA; Brig. Gen. Castro, USACE; Howard Kelsey, US Navy; and Steve Rosen, GSA; Garvin and Dwight Beranek giving award to Eugene Cover, Southwestern Division, USACE; Garvin and Beranek.

Testimonials derived from the IRWA USACE RE CoP Conference Survey