

Military Base Uses Trenchless Arsenal

by Keith Gribbins

A crowd of contractors and manufacturers gathered in a stretch of field inside Ft. Pickett Army Base, Va., to witness Premier-Pipe's 1 millionth foot of installed cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) liner go into the ground.

The group ambled around AM-Liner East's brand new Rush inversion truck with its tower extended and a four-man crew feeding 21-in. liner 570 ft under a grassy swath of pasture. Just down the road sat Hueys, Humvees and training barracks for the Army's 42,000-acre maneuver training center, under which the sewer infrastructure was being rehabilitated with the help of Premier's CIPP process.

Representatives from Premier-Pipe (U.S. and international), Applied Felts (the tube manufacturer), AM-Liner East (Premier-Pipe licensee), ALLPRO (the pipe cleaning contractor) and Atlantic Coast Contractors (the open-cut contractor) shook hands and posed for pictures.

Premier-Pipe USA and J.W.M. Environmental president Jim Mortell smiled. "I think that it's a great feat," he said. "It says a lot about us working together and how the other licensees helped make this happen. For us to hit one million, it kind of sets us apart from other groups out there."

Premier-Pipe USA was founded in the spring of 1997. The company's CIPP process was imported from England with the help of Premier-Pipe International owner and director Simon Baylis, who could also be found walking around the jobsite. Premier-Pipe USA currently has eight licensees. Combined, the U.S. and International branches have performed jobs from Belgium to Blackstone, Va., installing the benchmark of one million feet of liner. The base-wide sewer system rehab of Ft. Pickett was also a milestone for Premier-Pipe USA's largest licensee, AM-Liner East, whose contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was the largest ever awarded to a small business within the Norfolk District.

The project consists of the rehabilitation of 111,000 lf of 8- to 30-in. diameter sewers using Premier-Pipe CIPP lining. The venture includes the rehabilitation of 4,240 vf of manholes using Terre Hill Composites CIPP liners, removal and replacement of 9,360 lf of sanitary sewer mains, ranging in size from 6 to 15 in., and the installation and replacement of 27 sewer manholes. Construction of one new sewer pump station, new installation of 3,220 lf of 6-in. sewer force main and the replacement of 34,020 lf of 6-in. laterals is also slated.

"The biggest key to this project is that there's no interruptions to this training facility," said Isy Giuliani, president of AM-Liner East. "The other day, the Army was doing training in the houses area and right around the corner, here we are putting in Premier-Pipe."

The rehabilitation of Ft. Pickett's sewer is part of a congressional act dubbed the BRAC Program (Base Realignment and Closure), which requires privatization of land and facilities formerly owned and run by the Department of Defense. In Virginia, the Army and Ft. Pickett

will be handing over 3,500 acres of land to Nottoway County and the nearby municipality of Blackstone. The City of Blackstone will take charge of the sewer system, but only after the Army has rehabilitated it.

"Under Department of Defense guidelines, utility systems are being privatized and right now, we are rehabilitating the system to get it into a condition where it can be privatized," stated Gordon Chancey, P.E. and project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District. "In that agreement, the Army agreed to take care of the I/I problems."

The Corps of Engineers needed to come up with a plan to rehabilitate the aging system in less than a year, and cheaper than the \$12 million dollars

estimators had initially assessed for a dig-and-replace project. The Corps hired URS Corp. to inspect and evaluate the system for alternative forms of rehab.

"They were thinking about replacing the system because they were concerned about the offset joints," said URS Corp.'s Tracy Fee, P.E. "So cured-in-place was a good match. You didn't have to use a thick liner and you could bridge any gaps and offset joints. And, you could have a watertight system."

The cost of the project shrank from \$12 million to \$7.5. AM-Liner East crews have already installed more than 60,000 lf of liner since November. "This was an excellent example of private- and public-sector design teams working together on a fast-track, coming in on time and under budget," said URS's Christopher Garrett.

Army personnel had no complaints either. "This is the way jobs are supposed to work," said Army Corps district engineer Col. Allen Carroll. "I think Gordon put it best — good design, good contractor and a great job." TT



Representatives from Premier-Pipe, AM-Liner East, JWM Environmental, Applied Felts and ALLPRO celebrate Premier-Pipe's 1 millionth foot of installed CIPP.

Keith Gribbins is assistant editor for Trenchless Technology.