

District deckhand sets his 'Dreams in Motion'

By JoAnne Castagna

When Corps deckhand Billy Fort isn't setting out on a vessel into the New York Harbor, he is setting his singing career in motion. "Dreams in Motion!" is the name of his first music CD which was a demo that includes a mix of pop, ballad, and dance songs. Fort has written and produced 35 songs.

Fort is referred to as Frankie on the waterfront by his colleagues because of his resemblance to the young Frank Sinatra and 1950s James Dean look.

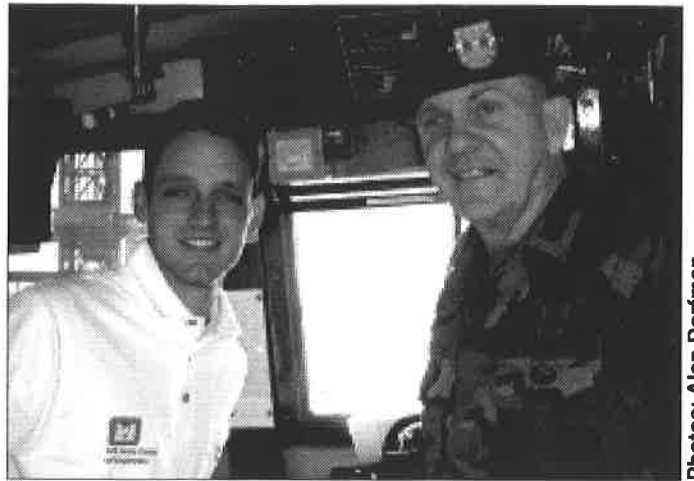
The hard working crewmember works at Caven Point Marine Terminal, New York District's waterfront facility in Jersey City, N.J. where the District's fleet of survey, drift collecting and utility boats is docked. Fort is a deckhand on the *Dobrin*. Fort assists Captain Mike Marcello, in hydrographic surveys and is involved with transporting dignitaries during harbor project inspections.

The talented musician said his work with the Corps inspired his music. "I won't quit my day job," he said. He enjoys being on the water, while continuing to pursue his interest in music. "If you have a dream, make a plan and follow that plan," he said.

Fort was one of several district personnel who boarded Corps vessels, that headed to lower Manhattan following the Sept. 11, terrorist attack on New York City.

Inspired by his experience during 9-11, Fort is writing a song. "It is about how human beings treat one another and the future of humanity," he said. "Time goes by fast. You can't have this time back so enjoy yourself and do what pleases you."

One of his song titles says it all - "Carpe Diem!" - Seize the Day! Fort has created a web site where his music can be download at: www.billyfort.com.

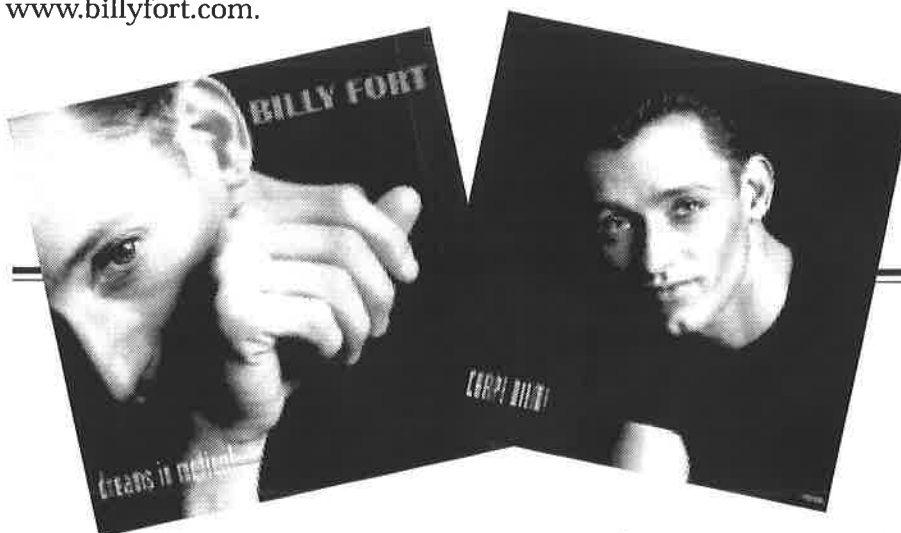


Photos: Alan Dorfman

Billy Fort with Gen. John M. Keane, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army in the pilot house of the Corps vessel *Hatton*.



Billy Fort working hard aboard the Corps vessel *Dobrin* at Caven Point Marine Terminal, New York District's waterfront facility in Jersey City, N.J.



Fort wrote and produced the music CD 'Dreams in Motion' that contains a mix of pop, ballad, and dance songs.