

The Green Mountain Civil Report

Newsletter of the Vermont Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Website <http://sections.asce.org/vermont>

October 9, 2001

October Meeting

Norwich University

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Location: Crawford Hall: Milano

Ballroom: Norwich U., Northfield, VT

Schedule:

5:00-6:00 Social Hour

6:00-7:00 Dinner

7:00 Business & Speaker

Speaker: Gordon Bjorkman

Topic: Designing to Resist a Terrorist Bomb Attack

Meal Costs: \$15 Members/\$10 Students

Meal: Buffet

Reservations & Information: Please RSVP to Jackie Roberts by Tues, October 16, 2001 via email or phone: JackieR@engineeringventures.com or **802-863-6225**. Payment by check at the event.

Directions: Crawford Hall is south of Plumley Armory, on Vt Rte 12; south of Northfield Village and north of the Northfield I-89 exit. A campus map is available at: www.norwich.edu/maps/ Please carpool. Parking is limited.

Topic Synopses

Gordon will provide an overview of blast effects analysis and vehicle barrier design as they pertain to resisting a terrorist bomb attack. Topics will include:

- Terrorist Attacks and Bombs
- Charge Weight, Standoff and Blast Pressure
- Blast Loading and Structural Response
- Classification of Vehicle Barriers
- Types of Barrier Systems

About Gordon Bjorkman

Gordon is a private consultant with a broad background in Structural Mechanics. He has over 20 years experience in the analysis and design of structures to resist earthquakes, windstorm, missile impact and blast. He has performed blast effects evaluations against terrorist attack for large facilities in both the US and England. In addition, he has been a principal investigator for the National Science Foundation studying inverse problems in mechanics, and is a former member of ASCE Committees on Optimum Structural Design and Composite Materials. Gordon performed the blast effects analysis and designed the vehicle barrier systems at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

2001-2002 Meeting Schedule

Nov. 14 Upper Valley Mtg

Jan. 16 VSPE Joint Mtg

Feb. 22 Engineers' Week Banquet

Mar. 27 UVM Mtg—Covered Bridges

Apr. 17 Field Trip TBA

May 15 Dog Team Tavern Mtg

Call for Secretary

ASCE Vermont is looking for a dedicated engineer to fill the position of Secretary starting in June 2002. If you are interesting in learning more about this position, please contact Kevin Worden.

Electronic Newsletter

We are now fully converted to the electronic newsletter. Thank you to those members who submitted information. E-mail addresses were used from the ASCE member database when available.

Engineers of the Year

Please start thinking about colleagues to nominate for Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. Nomination forms will be sent to

engineering employers throughout the state, and nomination forms will also be available on the section website. Expect forms and finalized details near the first week of November.

ASCE 150th Anniversary

The year 2002 is the 150th anniversary of ASCE National, the oldest engineering society in the United States. There will be conventions, television programs and other events to celebrate ASCE and the role of the engineer across the nation. Here in Vermont we plan to highlight the contributions of engineers both today and in the past. If you have an interesting story related to engineering and Vermont please forward it to Lynnette Whitney and we will include it in a future newsletter.

Newsletter Postings

Did you or your firm recently complete an interesting project that others would enjoy reading about? Does your firm have an engineering position open? Are you an ASCE member looking for a new position? Do you know of an upcoming engineering seminar or conference? If so, please send in a brief note to the Green Mountain Civil Engineering Report. The postings will be compiled and included in a future newsletter.

ASCE President's Note

The events of September 11 certainly weigh heavily on all of our minds. Many of us are left to wonder what different actions could have been taken beforehand, and what different actions should be taken from now on. As engineers, we can all be proud of the involvement of our colleagues, both before and after the tragedy. The buildings that were struck withstood severe conditions for a period that allowed many thousands to be evacuated. Since the collapse, engineers have volunteered to be onsite, alongside rescue workers, continuously evaluating structural integrity to prevent further loss of life.

In the aftermath, the public has questioned the safety and security of many buildings and operations, such as the 103 nuclear power plants throughout the country. Here in Vermont, safety at the Yankee power plant has been raised in several recent articles in the Burlington Free Press. This month's speaker, Gordon Bjorkman, will address this question, and discuss his experience with blast analysis and vehicle barriers designed against terrorist attacks. Please join us at the October 17 meeting at Norwich University to learn more about the topic and share your thoughts.

For those interested in learning more about how ASCE National has responded to the terrorist attacks, including the establishment of study teams, press releases, ways to donate and lists of impacted ASCE members, please visit www.ASCE.org. As always, we look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at the monthly meetings.

*Kevin Worden, P.E.
Vt ASCE President*

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