



## About Us

### The New England District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers traces its beginnings to the opening days of the Revolutionary War when Boston native Colonel Richard Gridley was named chief engineer of the Massachusetts Volunteers, and shortly thereafter chief engineer of the newly-formed Continental Army by Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.

The first Army Engineer action occurred on the night of June 16, 1775, when Gridley designed and supervised the construction of an earthwork on Breed's Hill overlooking Boston Harbor that would prove impregnable against British bombardment during a fierce battle the following day.

Although the patriots lost the position after running out of ammunition, the Battle of Bunker Hill (as it was later called) marked the beginning of the long tradition of service to New England that the Corps continues today. In the years following the Revolutionary War, the Corps in New England built the fortifications that would protect New England (such as Forts Warren, Adams, and Independence) in the mid-1800s. These forts still stand today.

Prior to the formation of the present New England District, the Corps of Engineers served the six-state region from 1867 through 1920 with seven district headquarters in Boston, Mass., Providence, R.I., Portland, Maine, Newport, R.I., New London, Conn., Portsmouth, N.H., and Eastport, Maine. All Corps operations were consolidated in the Boston and Providence Districts in 1920. These two Districts managed the Corps' New England operations until 1942 at which time the New England Division was created. The Boston and Providence Districts were deactivated in 1946. The New England Division was brought under the operational control of the North Atlantic Division headquartered in New York City, and renamed the New England District in April 1997.

The New England District is responsible for managing the Corps' Civil Works responsibilities in a 66,000-square-mile region encompassing the six New England states east of the Lake Champlain drainage basin. The region has 6,100 miles of coastline, 13 deep draft commercial waterways, 13 major river basins, and thousands of rivers and streams. Within this area of operations, the Corps has completed hundreds of Civil Works projects that benefit the New England community.

The missions of the New England District are many and varied. They include environmental remediation; flood damage control; natural resource management; stream-bank and shoreline protection; navigation improvements and maintenance; disaster and emergency assistance; regulatory administration; and engineering and construction management support to other agencies.

The New England District provides total support to the Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 (New England) for those federal-lead projects assigned to the Corps by EPA. This includes responsibility for design, construction execution, and some operation and maintenance of environmental remediation (Superfund) proj-



*Corps' employees Randy Mello, Ryan Jones, and Richard Patterson replanted the American flag on top of the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge May 17, 2007.*

ects. In addition, the District provides technical assistance to EPA Region 1 for other federal-lead projects assigned by EPA to private firms as well as for some Potential Responsible Party remediation.

A primary mission of the Corps of Engineers is to give support to the Army and Air Force. The New England District provides military construction and installation support to Army and Air Force installations in New England. Major customers include the Soldiers System Center at Natick Labs, Mass.; the Army's 94th Regional Support Command; Devens (Mass.) Reserve Training Area; Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass.; and Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass. The District also supports more than 125 recruiting centers throughout the region. In support of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) the District provides for expanded work in environmental restoration under this congressionally directed effort. The District's program emphasizes the identification, investigation and prompt cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste, unexploded ordnance and unsafe buildings, structures and debris at current and former military facilities. Our professionals provide engineering, construction management and real estate services important not only to the operational facilities that ensure continued capability of these units to execute their assigned missions, but also to support facilities that provide a quality of life that our men and women serving in the armed forces deserve. The District also provides remedial design, environmental remediation, cultural resources compliance and real estate activities associated with installations and reserve centers being phased out or realigned under the Base Realignment and Closure program.

The New England District is proud to have pioneered the construction of hurricane barriers. The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Rhode Island was the first in the nation. Today, the New England region has five, with the District operating the barriers with navigational features in New Bedford, Mass., Providence, Rhode Island, and Stamford, Conn. The New England District has also pioneered the use of nonstructural flood control with the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area Project outside of Boston, and the Belmont Park Project in Warwick, R.I.

The New England District project sites total more than 50,000 acres. Some of this land is periodically used to store flood waters, but in their natural state, these lands make ideal habitats for fish and wildlife. The District's

project sites are also managed to provide recreational opportunities. These projects contain six campgrounds; 21 parks and picnic areas; 18 boat ramps; trails for hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing; reservoirs containing trout, bass, and other game fish; and, hunting areas for deer, pheasant, quail, rabbit and ducks. The New England District proudly operates, manages and maintains the world's widest sea level canal -- the Cape Cod Canal. The federal government bought the 17.5 mile canal in 1928.

Waters and wetlands of New England are valuable resources and must be protected -- and the New England District is responsible for regulating all work on navigable waterways and wetlands, whether that work is undertaken by an individual, a governmental body, or a commercial business. The District fulfills this responsibility through its regulatory program which processes approximately 5,000 permit applications each year. In order to streamline and simplify the regulatory process without diminishing the environmental considerations, the District developed State General Permits which are based on the State's individual regulatory program and that avoid unnecessary duplication for minor projects. The District has implemented such permits for all six New England states.

The New England District has had a history of unique projects and programs. Under its "International and Interagency Support" the District provides engineering and construction support to many other Federal Agencies to include the Department of Homeland Security, Veterans Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior. Where the need for engineering or construction management services arises in the Federal family, whether civilian or military, the Corps is ready to carry on its tradition of service and excellence.



*Dredges brave the icy waters of the Cocheco River in April 2007, removing approximately 2,000 cubic yards of rock and 14,000 cubic yards of sediment in the Federal Channel in Dover, N.H.*