

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong®



Founder's Day:
Celebrating 237 years of service to the nation
Story on page 4

Yankee Voices



Erik Larson, Lauren Devin and Drew Cattano

Sympathy

...to the family of Survey retiree **Mitchell Warchol**, who passed away March 2. Mr. Warchol was a survey technician from 1954-1988.

In addition to his service with the New England District, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II and received two battle stars.

...to the family of Engineering retiree **William J. Farrell** who passed away June 14.

Mr. Farrell worked in the Utilities Section, Design Branch under Fred Ravens. He retired in the early 1980's.

... to the family of retiree **Edwin Riley**, who recently passed away. Mr. Riley retired in the early 1990's.

...to the family and friends of Information Management Retiree **Patricia Wysocki**, who passed away July 1. She retired in 1992 with 30 years of service.

Skin game: Catch these types of skin cancer early

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer: More than two million Americans are diagnosed with it every year, and one in five of us will develop it in the course of our lifetimes. Fortunately, it's also the easiest to treat and cure, if it's identified early.

Regular visits to a dermatologist are vital to protecting your skin, but in between appointments keep an eye out for these typical forms of skin cancer before they turn deadly:

- **Basal cell carcinoma.** The most frequently diagnosed skin cancer, this appears as a translucent bump that may be pearly, pin, or shiny. It's associated with exposure to UV rays and, if untreated, can become disfiguring, but basal cell cancers rarely metastasize. They can be removed with minimally invasive surgery in a doctor's office.

- **Squamous cell carcinoma.** These tend to look like sores: red, crusty or scaly. They may bleed and are often painful. They're usually found on sun-exposed areas of the skin. Squamous cell cancers are the second-most-common form of skin cancer and will grow if not treated. Again, different types of surgery can remove the cancer if performed early enough.

- **Melanoma.** Melanoma appears as an irregular mole that may be black, brown, skin-colored, or even pink or white. This is the most serious type of skin cancer, capable of spreading to other parts of the body with fatal results if not treated quickly. Because melanoma can resemble a mole, be on the lookout for any lesion on your skin that seems different from the rest.

- *First Draft Magazine*

Words Worth Repeating

"Say 'yes' as often as you can. Saying "yes" begins things. Saying "yes" is how things grow."

- *Michael Hogan*

"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*



Commander's Corner:

A strong TEAM of EXPERTS adding value to the nation!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander



"Try, try, try, and keep on trying is the rule that must be followed to become an expert in anything."

*~ W. Clement Stone,
Businessman and Philanthropist*

"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made, in a narrow field."

*~ Niels Bohr,
Nobel Prize in Physics (1922)*

New England Team:

First and foremost, my greatest wish is that you're all having a GREAT SUMMER! True, it started a bit rough... with some climatological fits and starts...but it certainly has settled into some smokin' summer weather. Hope you love it as much as I do! So, if you have not already done so... take a knee, face out, and drink water. Or, in more mainstream parlance...spend some time with the family at the beach (or wherever your destination of choice happens to be) and re-charge the batteries! Take advantage of all that New England has to offer!

This is a great edition of the YANKEE ENGINEER! It covers some tremendous organizational celebrations and individual recognition. We welcomed home Steve Lehmann and Joe Redlinger – and recognized their families for their outstanding, selfless support!

The WEA Committee and Engineering/Planning Division put together an awesome Founder's Day celebration! And while the focus of Founder's Day is celebrating the history and honors of the district, we also recognized some of our star performers – Moe Beaudoin became the latest hero installed into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery; Jim Doukakis earned the honor of Supervisor of the Year; and Wendy Gendron earned the title of Planner of the Year! Congratulations to all! We're proud of you!

And reflecting upon the caliber of teammates we recognized brings to mind a topical conversation that began with my wife, then included my fellow District Engineers, and resulted in a recent PRB discussion. The topic was the term EXPERT and/or EXPERTISE...a term that, from my personal perspective, should not be used loosely. We in government like the term Subject Matter Expert (SME), and probably apply it more often than we should.

We also like terms such as Center of Expertise/Excellence, Community of Practice, and many others across government with which I'm sure you're familiar. And if you're like me, hearing a term or concept applied so broadly and so frequently, makes me wonder...do we really understand

what it means to be an EXPERT?

So, as always in such situations, I began reading and asking lots of questions. Integrating a number of sources, allow me to offer this description of the term EXPERT: 1) Someone widely recognized as a reliable source of technique or skill whose faculty for judging or deciding rightly, justly, or wisely is accorded authority and status by their peers or the public in a specific well-distinguished domain; 2) A person with extensive knowledge or ability based on research, experience, or occupation and in a particular area of study; 3) A person, by virtue of credential, training, education, profession, publication and/or experience, believed to have special knowledge of a subject beyond that of the average person, sufficient that others may officially (and legally) rely upon the individual's opinion; 4) A person, usually a profound thinker, distinguished for wisdom and sound judgment.

Pretty tall order, right? Simply put, true expertise requires a lot of well-invested time and energy, ongoing education and experience, and the mental agility to adapt ahead of (or at least concurrent with) situational, technological, and/or evolutionary change within a given domain of knowledge. Becoming an expert, and more importantly - remaining an expert by maintaining, advancing, and evolving knowledge and experience in a given domain – is no easy task, requires the constant attention of the individual and the organization, and is not to be taken lightly.

The American people expect us, the US Army Corps of Engineers, to be experts in our given domain...as they should from the world's premier public engineering service. And they deserve that we be the very best experts we can be! So...let's all keep adapting, advancing, and leading!

Essayons!

"And in Hollywood, you know, everyone is an expert. Most of them are expert editors. They can't direct, they can't write, they can't act, but, by God...they all think they can edit."

*~ John Frankenheimer,
(American Film And Television Director (credits include Birdman of Alcatraz (1962), The Manchurian Candidate (1962), Seven Days in May (1964), The Train, (1964), Grand Prix (1966), Black Sunday (1977) and Ronin (1998).*

"An expert is someone who has succeeded in making decisions and judgments simpler through knowing what to pay attention to and what to ignore."

~ Edward de Bono, Physician, Author, Inventor

"I became a larger than life figure for one reason only. When you're quoted in the 'Wall Street Journal,' the 'New York Times,' constantly as the EXPERT in the business, people assume you're a lot bigger than you are. And then I had to run like hell to catch up with my own image."

~ Barbara Corcoran, Real-estate mogul



New England District employees, retirees, family and friends gather in the courtyard for a good old fashioned barbecue lunch to celebrate Founder's Day.

Photos by C.J. Allen

District picnic, activities mark Corps 237th birthday celebration

The 2012 Founder's Day celebration, highlighting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 237th birthday, was chock full of fun activities, great food and amazing company.

The day-long event was held at New England District Headquarters at Concord Park, Concord, Mass., on June 22. Engineering/Planning and the Work Environment Association (WEA) co-hosted this year's event.

WEA got the celebration started off early by hosting a free continental breakfast for attendees. While people munched on muffins, bagels, croissants and danishes and sipped coffee, the smaller participants were able to enjoy animated features that began in the early morning and continued all day in the District theatre. The theatre became a popular place throughout the day for kids of all ages to take a break



A child finds a clue during the note game. Clues and prizes for this game and the Scavenger Hunt were hidden all over Concord Park.



Cori Rose (left) starts off the Scavenger Hunt by explaining the rules.



Mary Christopher draws a picture on a child's arm (inset). Little Juliannah Jordan enjoys a pony ride during the Founder's Day celebration as her dad, Andrew, and brother, Tristian keep close.

from the blazing heat and take in a movie. Following breakfast, hundreds of district employees, retirees, family and friends crammed into the cafeteria to clap and cheer for people being recognized at the official awards ceremony. The fun and festivities really ramped up when the ponies arrived and the outdoor activities began while attendees waited for lunch.

The culinary masters from Engineering/Planning, WEA and Founder's Day Committee members didn't disappoint

the hungry crowd when they cooked up a wealth of barbecue fare to include hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. Sides of pasta, potatoe and tossed salads complimented the main dishes, and there was plenty of water, ice tea and lemonade to wash the meal down. Lt. Col. Steven Howell offered up his famous summer brew in collectible, one of a kind bottles for those who wanted to purchase the bottles. The beverage inside came at no cost. Proceeds of the special

Continued on next page



Retirees Mike Curran, Bob Hanacek, Charlie Coe and Chief of Engineering, Farrell McMillan, enjoy each other's company at the Founder's Day picnic.



Several birthday cakes served during Founder's Day made the perfect ending to a great barbecue meal cooked by Founder's Day Committee members.



Paul Young and Scott Michalak cook up hamburgers as part of the barbecue lunch.



Attendees enjoy many delicious food choices during the picnic.

Founder's Day...

Continued from page 5

fundraiser, which was sold out in minutes, benefited future District activities. Of course no birthday party – especially one celebrating number 237 – would be complete without birthday cake for dessert.

Post lunch activities gave participants of all ages an opportunity to expend the sugar consumed with dessert. The annual bouncy house got a lot of use, and children's games such as bean bag toss, sack and three legged races, tug-of-war, a note game, bucket and sponges and a scavenger hunt were played throughout the day. Adults favored horse shoes, basketball, volleyball, and crochet to wile away the afternoon.

No Founder's Day celebration would be complete without a face painting by Mary Christopher. She has been painting the faces of thousands of New England District family members and their children for 21 years.

To beat the scorching heat, a visit to the ice cream truck for a free frozen treat and a romp through the sprinkler kept people cool in the afternoon. The Health Unit's nurse, Linda Lindell, operated a safety station next to the children's activities in case she was needed, but there were no injuries reported.

The Founder's Day co-chairs and their committee kept the cost of the celebration per person extremely low (children 18 and under were free) as a result of their continuous fundraising efforts during the year. Among the most popular fundraisers were the coffee and bagel sales held twice a week for months, the Flea Market and Valentine's Day flower/chocolate sale.

Scott Michalak and Greg Penta co-chaired the 2012 Founder's Day event. They were assisted by Judy Antonellis, Grace Bowles, Drew Cattano, Tameka Chapman, George Claffin, Angela Frisino, Wendy Gendron, Bill Hubbard, Peter Hugh, John Kennelly, Paige Kimbrough-Rowan, Santos Lara, Sr., Stephen Lefebvre, Gladys Leone, Raimo Liias, Sue Mac-

Donald, Anthony Mackos, Helen Madhi, Leanna Martin, Kevin McKelvey, Bob Meader, Jesse Morrill-Winter, Bonnie Ortiz, Sally Rigione, Donna Russell, Paul Young, Kane Trumelle, Mike Penko, Jay Mackay and Ken Heim.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Maurice Beau-doin and Charlie Coe attended the Founder's Day picnic and ceremonies. Other retirees in attendance included Ian Osgerby, Amal Guirguis, Joe Bocchino, Alexine Raineri, Greg Buteau, Maureen Reyes, Tom Rosato, Bob Hanacek and Mike Curran.



Members of the Community Based Health Care Organization also joined in the festivities to celebrate the Corps' 237th birthday.



People line up at the ice cream truck for a cool treat.

Founder's Day ceremony celebrates exceptional work and service

Special awards and recognitions kicked off the New England District's Founder's Day celebration, June 22 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Approximately 350 people signed up for Founder's Day, most of which crowded into the standing-room-only venue to cheer on award recipients. Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, welcomed the audience to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 237th birthday celebration, New England style. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers traces its beginnings to the opening days of the Revolutionary War when Boston native Col. Richard Gridley, who was Chief Engineer of the Massachusetts Volunteers shortly thereafter Chief Engineer of the newly formed Continental Army by Commander in Chief, Gen. George Washington," he began.

Rosenberg then added his own humorous details about first hand accounts of the Battle of Bunker Hill by Senior Staff members, before continuing to recite the history of the Corps and New England's proud beginnings at the battle.

"Today we serve as part of a much larger public service organization," he said. "Along with 35,000 others, we perform as a team to assure this nation continues to receive the highest level of service that has always been the hallmark of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Rosenberg introduced Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Projects and Program Management, who inducted Maurice Beaudoin as the 101st member of the New England District Distinguished Civilian Gallery. See story on page 10.

The next presenter, John Kennelly, promptly offered his congratulations to Beaudoin and his family before announcing Wendy Gendron as the



Five Years of Service

Photos by C.J. Allen



20 Years of Service



35 Years of Service

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Ten Years of Service



15 Years of Service



25 Years of Service



30 Years of Service

Founder's Day award ceremony...

Continued from page 7
2012 Planner of the Year. Jackie DiDomenico, EEO Officer, presented Jim Doucakis, Boston Resident Office, Construction Division, as the Federal Women's Program (FWP) 2012 Supervisor of the Year. DiDomenico presented the award on behalf of FWP Program Manager Denise Kammerer-Cody. See page 12 for complete story.

Ruth Ladd, Regulatory, presented Mike Narcisi with a Technical Outdoor and Onsite Wetland Enfusion Training (TOO WET) certificate for completing 150 hours of training that included a Prospect Course and a course on the North Central/Northeast Regional Supplement for the Corps Remediation



Col. Charles Samaris addresses the audience at the awards ceremony.

Manual. Erica Mark, who was unable to attend, also received the certificate. Ladd concluded her presentation by thanking ACE-IT employee Mary Christopher for her innovative certificate design.

Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Chief, Human Resources, assisted by Santos Lara, Sr., distributed Length of Service pins to eligible employees who have served five, ten, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of dedicated and faithful service. Please refer to the 2012 Founder's Day booklet for a complete list of names.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, congratulated Beaudoin and his family on Beaudoin's induction into the Gallery and to everyone who received awards. "Impressive, very impressive," he said. "We just went through a lot of individual awards and recognitions which is fantastic, but I also want to emphasize that Founder's Day is about the Organization – the Team," he said.

Col. Samaris also had historical information about the presence of the Army Corps of Engineers in New England and its various forms throughout the years and then quizzed the audience.

The Commander then turned his remarks to the present day. "With regards to the economy, it's rough out there," he said. "But we have an extremely balanced portfolio and we've stayed consistent over many, many years."

Col. Samaris credited the District Team with the consistent work flow. "What is the best way to get more work? Do good work!" he said. "You do good work, you get more work, bottom line. The fact is you do great work, so the work is coming in."

He concluded by thanking Founder's Day co-chairs Scott Michalak, Greg Penta and their committee for organiz-



40 Years of Service



Ruth Ladd presents Mike Narcisi with a TOO WET Certificate while Col. Charles Samaris looks on.



Maurice Beaudoin talks with Larry Rosenberg and Bill Scully before the awards ceremony.

ing the day's festivities that followed the awards ceremony.

Michalak ended the awards cer-

emony by thanking his committee, going over the day's events and by saying, "Let have some fun!"



The Beaudoin Family: daughter Nicole, Maurice, wife Maureen, and son Phillip.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Maurice Beaudoin is 2012 Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member

New England District's 101st member of its Distinguished Civilian Gallery took his place of honor during an induction ceremony that took place at the Founder's Day celebration, June 22 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

Maurice "Moe" Beaudoin, Resident Engineer, New Bedford Office, Construction Division was named the 2012 inductee by Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. "Our Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees was established to recognize retired employees who have rendered distinguished and exceptional service over their career," he said. "The acknowledgement of that is displayed with photographs and a short career summary in a place of honor in our main lobby."

Scully recognized Beaudoin's family – wife Maureen, son Phillip and daughter Nicole – before summarizing his 39 years of dedicated service to the New England District and the nation. Some of the many projects Beaudoin worked on during the course of his distinguished career included the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory expansion, early and numerous DERP and HTRW projects, the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, deck repairs on

the Cape Cod Canal bridges and, "every dredging project from Eastport, Maine to Westport, Connecticut," said Scully.

Just as important as the projects, was the way he conducted himself when he worked on them. "He was a great leader," said Scully. "He set the standard by example – a prototype Resident Engineer. He went anywhere needed to get the job done. Moe shunned the limelight and his co-workers call him a true reluctant hero. He created an atmosphere of excellence."

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Beaudoin a plaque while Scully concluded his presentation. "You are being recognized today by the organization and your fellow workers for much more than your 39 years of service," said Scully. "It is for your ever evident commitment to excellence and for being a role model for many of the younger employees. Your valuable contributions have, and will continue to have, a positive impact on



Bill Scully summarizes Maurice Beaudoin's career before Col. Samaris presents the certificate.



Col. Samaris presents Maurice Beaudoin with the Distinguished Civilian Gallery plaque.



Maurice Beaudoin unveils the display that will hang in Concord Park.

the New England District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

Beaudoin thanked everyone who helped him in his career and were a positive influence in his life, most of which have preceded him into the Gallery. “Their pictures are on the wall – Fred Moehle, James Leonard, Connie Morin and Dick Carlson,” he said.

The newest Gallery member said he enjoyed his career with the District. “I did what was needed anywhere and everywhere,” he said. “What I really enjoyed more than anything was meeting new customers, new contractors and representatives of other federal agencies. The challenge was to get an understanding of how we

were going to get the job done. It was very important to what we did. I could not have done all this alone. Thank you and best wishes to you all.”

The criteria and standards for inclusion in the Gallery are stringent and all nominations must be reviewed by a special ad hoc committee made up of senior staff headed by the Deputy Commander. It takes a majority vote of the committee for the Chairman to make the recommendations to the Commander for final approval.

An individual must have served at least 30 years in federal government service, of which at least 20 were served with the Corps of Engineers. The nominee must be retired for at least six months before being considered for

nomination.

Nominees need to be clearly exceptional in the performance of certain activities amongst their peers who over the years have performed similar activities within the organization; or/and may have developed prescribed standards or measures that have set the standard and are being used by either the New England District or across the Corps of Engineers. A nominee must have contributed substantially to the reputation of our District and the Corps of Engineers as well as have performed loyally and faithfully throughout their many years of service. Retirees can be nominated by anyone from anywhere in the organization, as long as they meet the guidelines.

Wendy Gendron is New England District's Planner of the Year

John Kennelly named Wendy Gendron the 2012 Planner of the Year during the Founder's Day Ceremony, June 22 at the District Headquarters at Concord Park, Concord, Mass.

"In these financial times, it makes the job of Planner very difficult," according to Kennelly. "Despite that, we are still building projects, signing agreements and getting requests for work."

Kennelly said that the Planner of the Year Award is the opportunity to recognize someone in the Planning Community that made a significant contribution to the organization. This year, it was Gendron.

"The attributes of a great Planner are having technical knowledge, having the ability to communicate, but most importantly having the ability to build partnerships," said Kennelly. "Wendy has done a great job in those areas as is evidenced by a great restoration project that is almost wrapped up in Quincy, Mass., called Broad Meadows Marsh. It is one of the biggest restoration projects we have done. Her success also includes a number of successful projects in Rhode Island as well."



Photos by C.J. Allen

John Kennelly and Col. Charles Samaris present Wendy Gendron with her certificate.

The Planner of the Year Award, which is kept completely secret until the public announcement at Founder's Day, has been missing from the annual awards agenda since Todd Randall last received the award in 2007.

"It is my pleasure to bring back the tradition of the Planner of the Year Award at Founder's Day," said Kennelly.

Jim Doucakis named 2012 Supervisor of the Year

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) and the Federal Women's Program (FWP) named James "Jim" Doucakis as the 2012 Supervisor of the Year.

The award was presented to Doucakis by EEO Officer Jackie DiDomenico during the Founder's Day Awards Ceremony, June 22.

"This award is given annually on Founder's Day to recognize a supervisor who has significantly promoted the employment and advancement of women and/or minorities," she said.

Doucakis insisted that his staff stand by his side and accept it with him. "What can I say other than without my staff, I wouldn't be the supervisor that I am," he said. "I feel my role is to help them do their jobs, teach them and support them. I am humbled by this beyond words."

According to the citation, from June 2011 until the nomination period, the Boston Resident Office continued to grow in diversity as a result of Doucakis' exceptional resourcefulness, judgement and commitment to the EEO Program. "Jim regularly trains and communicates the Construction Mission and procedures to all his current staff members," read DiDomenico. "His unique ability to train and guide his staff has been essential to the operation of the Boston Resident Office, and therefore the USACE Construction Mission."

Another reason Doucakis won the honor of Supervisor of the Year was his ability to be an inspiring role model. "He taps into the talents and resources that make his staff feel valued and respected," read the citation.

According to the nomination papers submitted by his staff, Doucakis leads, but also steps in and lends a hand if needed. "Jim demonstrates the highest level of honesty and integrity, and has always promoted the Army values. He is a true leader and exemplifies what USACE is all about."



Jim Doucakis (center) with his staff as he accepts the Supervisor of the Year Award from Col. Charles Samaris.

District, partners receive top honors from local organization

New England District representatives traveled to the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, Mass., to receive a prestigious regional environmental award from a local organization, June 6.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District Deputy Commander, and Regulatory's Brian Valiton brought back the Environmental Business Council (EBC) of New England's Nicholas Humber Environmental Award for Outstanding Collaboration to Concord Park Headquarters.

The District and 11 of their partners received the award in recognition of the outstanding public-private partnership that resulted in the expedited and innovative remediation of the New Bedford Boat Slip MGP Site.

The project work, proposed by NSTAR Gas in Westwood, Mass., was to construct new bulkheads that will contain an inner slip area containing coal tar bottom sediments, to backfill behind those bulkheads, to dredge an area of the harbor

bottom outside of the inner slip area with the contaminated dredged material to be deposited in the bulkheaded inner slip area and to place clean material to cap the outer harbor area. The harbor area to be capped with clean material totaled almost 18,000 square feet.

The New England District Regulatory Division authorized the work by issuing a permit on May 19, 2011.

Dan Moon, President and Executive Director of the EBC- New England, presented the Award to team members during the Council's 19th EBEE Awards Celebration.

Partners in attendance to accept the award were Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, EPA Region I, city of New Bedford, NSTAR, GEI

Consultants, Charter Environmental, Lightship Engineering, Beals and Thomas, Inc., Sprague Energy, New Bedford Harbor Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

The Nicholas Humber Environmental Award for Outstanding Collaboration was established in 2002. It recognizes environmentally related shared projects between an EBC member and other parties or entities that reflects the global environmental values and human spirit exemplified by Nicholas Humber.

The award was named after Nicholas Humber, an active EBC member and steadfast environmentalist, who was aboard American Airlines Flight 11 when it crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.



New England District team members stand with their partners as they receive their certificates at the EBEE Awards ceremony.



Pamela Hall, Col. (ret.) Curtis Thalken, and Lt. Col. Steven Howell at the EBEE Awards Ceremony. Photos by Tim Correio

Special Town Meeting ceremony welcomes home team members, honors excellence

Welcome home sentiments and recognitions for jobs well done highlighted the latest New England District awards ceremony held in the Concord Park Cafeteria on June 13 at noon.

Special guest Col. Christopher Larsen, Acting Commander of the North Atlantic Division, made a brief appearance to speak to the District team before returning to New York. Col. Larsen said the majority of his time at the district focused on high profile projects

and the financial outlook for New England. "You have a very diversified and varied portfolio," he said. "You want that. Going forward you look in pretty good shape."

Col. Larsen said that Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, USACE Commanding General, is at headquarters settling into his new position and will be out and about visiting divisions and districts in the future. Col. Larsen concluded his talk by praising the New England District team. "This is a great District and you are doing great work here," he said. "Thank you for having me for a visit."

During the awards portion of the ceremony, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander, and Santos Lara, Sr., presented Employee of the Month (EOM) Awards. The honors were presented on behalf of the Work Environment



Col. Charles Samaris presents the Lehmann family with an award during the ceremony.

Association (WEA).

Greg Penta was awarded the EOM for December 2011, for his tireless work as head of the WEA. His efforts have resulted in many successful employee events to include the District holiday party and Founder's Day.

Donna Russell received the EOM for January for her outstanding efforts in managing the WEA Store and her fundraising efforts for the committee.

Rhonda Anderson received the EOM for February for her exceptional work and leadership skills within Engineering/Planning.

Robert Cannon was named the EOM for April for his meticulous maintenance work at the Cape Cod Canal.

Gladys Leone was named EOM for May for her excellent support of the Construction Division and resident offices. She also supports the District's security office, filling in for Jerry

Nunziato when needed, and runs the WEA Committee's wildly popular flea market fundraiser.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, with assistance from Lara, welcomed home Steve Lehmann and Joe Redlinger after deployments overseas that supported the Corps' Overseas Contingency Operation.

Col. Samaris called Lehmann and his family first and talked about his deployment and the work that he did while he was there. Col. Samaris recognized Lehmann's family – wife Kristen and children Joshua, Noah



Col. Samaris presents Joe Redlinger with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during the ceremony.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Greg Penta



Donna Russell



Rhonda Anderson



Gladys Leone



Steve Lehmann fastens his name plate to the Deployment Board in the main hallway.

and Rebecca – calling overseas deployment a "Team Sport."

"The most important team member is the spouse," he said, awarding Mrs. Lehmann a Bunker Hill plaque. "It's critical that the home front is stable while you're taking care of business overseas," he said.

Lehmann said that deployment overseas is an excellent and very challenging opportunity. "It is truly an adventure that anyone would benefit from," he said.

Lehmann presented Col. Samaris with a Commander's Coin from the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to thank him for supporting him while he was away. He also thanked his co-workers for all their help with his workload during his deployment. Col. Samaris said that the coin would be displayed in a place where everyone can share in it.

Joe Redlinger, who also recently returned from a deployment overseas was next to be honored. His wife Anamaree and son Phillip accompanied him to the awards ceremony. Col. Samaris explained that working in Real Estate Division in Afghanistan – compensating landowners for properties used during the war – was a difficult job.

"It's an extremely important mission and he did a great job," said Col. Samaris. "We really appreciate all that you did over there."

Mrs. Redlinger also received a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for all the sacrifices she and her family made while her husband was away. Redlinger said that being Chief of Real Estate in Afghanistan was "very, very challenging."

He praised the military teams that were assigned to him when he went out in the field. "They did an excellent job keeping us safe," he said.

Both Lehmann and Redlinger received Commander's Awards for Civilian Service, a monetary award and a nameplate that would be fastened onto the Deployment Board in the main hall at the conclusion of the ceremony. Both wives received bouquets of flowers and their children received gifts courtesy of the WEA Committee.

After the awards, Col. Samaris said that Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, USACE Commanding General, stopped by the Commander's Course the colonel recently attended and spoke briefly to the leaders. The colonel said that Lt. Gen. Bostick has already gotten a lot of positive feedback about the Army Corps of Engineers from many people in the Pentagon. Col. Samaris also said that the general's focus will be to ensure that everyone recognizes that we are the U.S. ARMY Corps of Engineers. "We are a field of experts available to our U.S. military that offers very specific, highly sought after technical competence in areas that don't exist," he said.

The commander concluded the ceremony by saying the general also spoke about Ethical Conduct. Col. Samaris cautioned that nothing but the highest ethical standards would be tolerated at New England District. "Across the District, we've got great character," he said. "We've got people who are doing the right thing, the right way for the right reasons. Just keep it up and keep your head in the game."

Dredging up the past



Photo by C.J. Allen

Farrell McMillan, now Chief, Engineering/Planning, climbs out of the dunk tank after a baseball hit its mark during the Founder's Day celebration on June 23, 2000 at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base. McMillan was one of many supervisors willing to participate in the popular event.

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