

2014

A Year in Review

Yankee Engineer Special Edition - Year in Review 2014

Building Strong®





The Connecticut National Guard performs military maneuvers at West Thompson Lake.



Col. Christopher Barron visits the Muddy River Project.



Geologists visit the Locke Middle School in Billerica, Massachusetts.

Looking back at 2014, moving forward to 2015

This past year was one of changes. Many distinguished team members with hundreds of years of combined experience felt the pull towards the retirement community, while many new faces with new ideas and ways of doing things came on board. As it does every three years, the District also said good-bye to one commander and his family and welcomed another.

The team kept busy this year with breaking ground on new projects and cutting ribbons on those successfully

completed.

Many team and individuals were honored with awards and commendations, both national and local, further illustrating the incredible talents and expertise the District offers to the people of New England.

This 2014 Year in Review touches on just a percentage of the work and accomplishments of the New England District Team, as it would take numerous issues to cover them all.

Building Strong!

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Col. Charles Samaris delivers farewell remarks during the Change of Command Ceremony in Faneuil Hall.

Change in Leadership

Col. Christopher Barron assumes New England District Command from Col. Charles Samaris



Col. Christopher Barron takes command of the New England District.

The New England District team welcomed its 36th commander when the Corps of Engineers command flag was passed from Col. Charles Samaris to Col. Christopher Barron during a Change of Command ceremony, July 31 at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

Joining the New England District team in bidding farewell to Col. Samaris and welcoming Col. Barron were hundreds of family members, District commanders and federal, state and local officials as well as members of the New England District Team. Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander, presided over the ceremony.

Prior to the July 31 Change of Command ceremony, the New England District team and guests honored Col. Samaris in Faneuil Hall with awards and letters extending sincere gratitude for his years of service to the District and the nation. Brig. Gen. Savre served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.



Combat pistol/MP qualifications range at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Project Highlights

The New England District has a varied mission – Civil Works, Military Programs, Recreation, Regulatory, Navigation, Public Services, Emergency Operations and the Disposal Area Monitoring System (DAMOS) – and these missions keep the New England District Team busy year round. Below is a small sampling of what the District accomplished during 2014:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released an interim policy for determining eligibility status nationwide for flood risk management projects in the rehabilitation program (Public Law 84-99). The Corps is in the process of revising its policies, including those related to the **Flood Risk Management Program, the Levee Safety Program and the Rehabilitation Program**. As a result of public feedback and interest,

the Corps initiated a comprehensive review of the rehabilitation program and is revising the program to better synchronize flood risk management and levee safety. The intent is to improve agency policy, support the agency's strategic direction and advances in risk-informed decision making, increase transparent communication and enhance long-term sustainability.

Electrical repairs to the **Stamford Hurricane Barrier** in Stamford, Connecticut, will be provided under the terms of a \$240,900 contract. Work is currently ongoing. The project includes replacing two existing conduits and branch circuit and control wiring that run from the west abutment below the navigation channel under water to the east abutment of the barrier. The two existing conduits will be removed and

four new 4-inch diameter PVC-coated rigid steel conduits, and the associated wiring will be installed. Of the four new conduits, two will contain power wiring, one active and one redundant, and two conduits will contain control wiring, one active and one redundant. All final terminations to power panels and control panels will be included. Additional work consists of replacing multiple electronic components associated with the gate control system. Electrical demolition work also includes the removal of limit switches located in the sump discharge well. The contractor also will perform diagnostic work on electronic components.

Environmental

Construction of shore protection and beach restoration at **Misquamicut Beach** in Westerly, Rhode Island, was

completed under the terms of a \$3.1 million contract that was awarded by the New England District on March 20. Construction started in mid-April and was completed by June 1st. The restoration project involved the placement of sand fill at Misquamicut Beach in order to restore the project to full profile dimensions. The deposited sand was placed in piles above mean high water and then graded to the elevations required. The project required approximately 84,000 cubic yards of sand to be placed on the beach. The sand was purchased from local suppliers, trucked to the site and spread on the beach using earth moving equipment. Work was accomplished by MZM Construction Company, of Newark, New Jersey.

Work on an aquatic ecosystem restoration project to restore **Milford Pond** in Milford, Massachusetts, is ongoing. Milford Pond is a 120-acre pond located in the center of the town of Milford. The town of Milford is the non-federal

sponsor of this proposed project. Work involves dredging approximately 200,000 cubic yards of organic rich sediment from the southern portion of the pond to a depth of 12 feet and using the dredged sediment to restore emergent and forested wetlands in the northern portion of the impounded area. Dredging is proposed to extend from the outlet dam northerly to a point slightly north of Clarks Island, encompassing an area of approximately 20 acres. The dredged material will be contained in a 30-acre area of impounded shallow water north of Clarks Island. This containment area will be vegetated with native cattails and other native plants to restore emergent wetland habitat and to function as critical habitat for threatened and endangered species of birds utilizing Milford Pond. The \$3.6 million contract was awarded to Palmer Federal Constructors, Inc., of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Construction began in September. The project is

expected to be complete by April 2016.

Construction activities continue on Phase 1 of the \$30.9 million **Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration project** in Boston, Massachusetts. In December a traffic shift to change both vehicular and pedestrian traffic was needed after the completion of the installation of the arch culvert underneath Brookline Avenue. This traffic shift maintained Brookline Avenue, between the Riverway Connector and Park Drive, as one-way only inbound traffic but shifted the four inbound lanes to the right. As part of the vehicular traffic shift, a new pedestrian walkway is being constructed on the right side of the Brookline Avenue (inbound) adjacent to the Jug Handle for pedestrian travel through the project area. The pedestrian walkway on the left side, near the former Sears Parking Lot, will be temporarily removed. These changes are being made so that the relocation of the utilities, by



Col. Christopher Barron (second from left) participates in a ribbon cutting that official turned over the remediated Watertown Arsenal to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

others, permanently back into Brookline Avenue can occur. In addition, these changes will allow the construction of the Brookline Avenue roadway and permanent island (separating inbound and outbound traffic), in anticipation of opening Brookline Avenue back to two-way traffic, between Riverway connector and Park Drive, in early spring 2015. The construction phase of the Riverway Arch Culvert began in early October. For the last couple of months, the District has been installing steel sheeting support of excavation; excavating to culvert grade; and driving steel pipe piles.

An Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) Remedial Action Contract was awarded on Nov. 17 by the New England District for cleanup work at the **New Bedford Harbor Superfund site** in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Work will be accomplished by Jacobs Field Services North America, Inc., of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The work consists of providing support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean-up PCB contaminated soil and sediments from the New Bedford Harbor in New Bedford. The harbor was contaminated from the

1940s through the 1970s by two electrical capacitor manufacturing plants that discharged PCB waste. The primary work involves excavation, dredging, de-sanding dewatering, and disposal of sediments contaminated with PCBs. Other requirements include the operation of a water treatment facility, technical support including evaluations, cost analysis, studies, investigations, and other remedial actions as necessary.

The successful remediation of the **General Services Administration (GSA) Watertown Formerly Used Defense Site** marks the completion of the last remaining site associated with the Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts cleanup. The site was restored from a hazardous waste site to a lush, green recreation space allowing the federal government to return the property back to the people of Massachusetts after 94 years. The New England District was the lead agency for the cleanup and worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and GSA to ensure the site was suitable for its future use as park land. A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the occasion took

place at the Commander's Mansion in Watertown, Dec. 3. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, joined congressional, federal, state and local partners in celebrating the land turnover.

The District completed the HVAC and chiller replacement in the main lab building of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) under the terms of a \$1,129,608 contract. Work was accomplished by Smart Assistive Technologies, LLC, of Rochester, New Hampshire. CRREL needed the replacement of the HVAC system for the SCIF, which included removal and demolition of the existing system and necessary mechanical elements for the new system to function. CRREL also required the installation of insulation in the ICE Lab Building and also on piping associated with the Main Lab's chiller. Work also required removal, demolition and replacement of the Main Lab Building's chiller, along with all ancillary work. The SCIF HVAC portion of the contract has been completed. Work on replacing the chiller for the cold rooms is ongoing.

Work for the military

The New England District team has successfully completed another facility to support the nation's military. Members of the New England District Team joined their customer, the 99th Reserve Support Command, on a joint final inspection of the new **Armed Forces Reserve Center (ARFC)** in Pease, New Hampshire. The \$9.1 million facility was a design-build to construct project. Primary facilities include an ARFC training building, open unheated vehicle storage, unheated storage building and organizational parking.

The New England District Team and the **Hanscom Air Force Base** in Bedford, Massachusetts will be providing Middle School-aged children,



Work at the New Bedford Superfund Site.



Armed Forces Reserve Center (ARFC) in Pease, New Hampshire.

grades 4-8, who live on base and in the town of Lincoln with a new, state-of-the-art facility. Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined base operations personnel, congressional delegates, town of Lincoln School officials and J&J Contractors, Inc., in breaking ground on the new Middle School, June 16. During the demolition of the former Middle School, substantial amounts of asbestos containing material were encountered. In addition, soils below the concrete foundations and slabs unsuitable to support the new school were encountered. Although the short-term schedule was affected, the spring 2016 completion timeline has not been delayed. The construction completion timeline of spring 2016 is critical as a new Primary School, located adjacent to the Middle School, has been Congressionally programmed and scheduled to be built starting in the fall of 2016.

Members of the New England District team, in partnership with the Louisville and Huntsville Districts, as well as the Security Construction and Range Control teams at Fort Devens recently completed **two firing ranges**

at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Dave O'Connor, Project Engineer and Chris Caisse, Construction Representative from the Central Resident Office, joined partner representatives in conducting a joint final inspection of a combat pistol/MP qualifications range at the installation, Aug. 26. The joint team thoroughly inspected a total of 96 target emplacements, the control tower, classroom, storage room, maintenance area, covered mess, bleachers and ammunition supply building as well as all of the circuitry. Each of the 96 target emplacements sit on a mound of earth and has complex data and power wiring for the targets. The inspection went over every emplacement and structure.

Dredging

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined Congr. Rosa DeLauro, federal, state and local partners in celebrating the near completion of the long awaited **New Haven Harbor** dredging in Connecticut. The harbor had not been dredged since 2003-2004. A press conference was held to mark the occasion on Feb. 7 in New Haven. Combined with dredging Norwalk Harbor, it is the largest dredg-

ing project to take place in the state in 50 years.

The dredging contract was awarded Sept. 30 for maintenance dredging of the **Mystic River Federal Navigation Project** (FNP) in Groton and Stonington, Connecticut. The state of Connecticut is the local sponsor for the work and the state is funding this \$5,280,242 dredging project. The 12-foot channel was last maintained in 1941. Dredging of the other project features was last accomplished with the improvement work in 1957. Approximately 250,000 cubic yards of predominantly silt will be dredged from the federal navigation project. The dredging would restore the channels and anchorage area to authorized depths. Contractor Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Company, LLC of Quincy, Massachusetts, mobilized to the site in late November. Dredging activities have begun and are expected to be completed in early 2015 to comply with the environmental window.

Many dredging and jetty repair projects in support of the Corps' Hurricane Sandy Recovery Efforts have been completed or are currently underway.



Enjoying water releases at the West River in Vermont. Riding bikes during National Go Day at East Brimfield Lake. Tiger Cub plants potatoes in Hopkinton-Everett Lake Community Garden.

Activities in the Field

New England District projects hold countless interpretive programs throughout the year to include Junior Ranger Programs and other fun and educational activities for both young and old. Other activities go on at the projects as well. Below are just a few highlights that took place at some of the projects in 2014:

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander, and Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon, President of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and co-chair of the Cape Cod Canal Centennial Committee, at a ceremony to celebrate the Canal's 100th anniversary. The ceremony took place at Buzzards Bay Park in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts on July 29. Col. Samaris, a Massachusetts native, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. In addition of the official ceremony, the committee hosted a weekend of activities that included a fireworks display.

New England District projects in Massachusetts and

New Hampshire were a water sport lover's paradise when controlled water releases were conducted in late March and mid-April. The water releases provided enough river flows for recreational canoeing, kayaking and rafting. Knightville Dam in Huntington, Massachusetts, began a springtime weekend water release of 600-800 cubic feet per second (cfs) on March 29. Canoe races and practice clinics for canoeists and kayakers -- sponsored by the Westfield Wildwater Race organization, with experienced paddlers assisting the less experienced -- took place throughout the weekend.

Water releases weren't just for the early part of the year. For Vermont canoeists, kayakers and rafters, controlled releases at 1,500 cubic feet per second were made on Sept. 27 and Sept. 28 to provide desired water flows along the West River at New England District's Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams. Approximately 1,300 watersport enthusiasts visited both projects not only to take advantage of the water releases, but also to take in the gorgeous fall foliage.

Several District teams and volunteers made the land

around the projects more beautiful and environmentally-friendly with cleanup and improvement projects during Earth Day observances held in April. The Cape Cod Canal in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, held their celebration on April 19. Northfield Brook Lake and Thomaston Dam, both in Connecticut, held Earth Day events on April 27. In addition to Earth Day activities, volunteers throughout New England participated in National Public Lands Day held in the fall. Citizen stewardship and volunteerism are two very important aspects in keeping New England District projects maintained and looking beautiful. Although this takes place many times throughout the year, it is most concentrated during these two events. Every year a call goes out to local residents asking that they come help celebrate their local public lands by performing cleanup work and improvement projects. Every year the call is answered by hundreds of volunteers who aren't afraid to get a little dirty. This year events were held at Black Rock Lake in Thomaston, Connecticut, as well as West Hill, Hodges Village and Buffumville Dams in Massachusetts.

A community garden bloomed this summer at Hopkinton-Everett Lake in New Hampshire. The garden, tended by the local Lions Clubs, yielded an array of seasonal vegetables that provided food for many local disadvantaged people.

New England District Park Rangers, in partnership with the trail committees of Holland, Brimfield and the regional Grand Trunk Trailblazers, hosted several National Trail Day activities, June 7. The main activity was the trail work day held at East Brimfield Lake, Massachusetts.

Park Rangers at the East Brimfield Lake project, joined by their partners, the town of Holland Trail Committee and The Last Green Valley (TLGV) celebrated National Get Outdoors Day on June 14 at East Brimfield Lake in Holland, Massachusetts with a 10-mile bike ride and a five-mile river paddle. This is the second year that the East Brimfield team and TLGV have hosted the event.

In June, the 250th Multi-Roll Bridge Company (MRBC) of the Connecticut Army National Guard (CT ANG) arrived at West Thompson Lake for three days as part of their annual training. This was a chance for the Soldiers of the 250th to get some real experience on their Bridge Erection Boats, and practice their driving skills moving equipment around in a real world environment.

Halloween is a popular holiday in New England. It is celebrated throughout the month of October with haunted houses, haunted hay rides and various festivals and events. It was only natural that the Corps in New England got in on the Halloween fun. Buffumville Lake held its first ever Boooo at Buffumville Park Halloween celebration Oct 8. Nearly 2,500 people turned out for the event.



Picking up trash at Thomaston Dam during Earth Day.



A young participant carries flowers during West Hill Dam's National Public Lands Day.



Col. Charles Samaris, (from left) Brig. Gen. Kent Savre and Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon at the Cape Cod Canal Centennial celebration.

Regulatory activities in 2014

In addition to the many permits received and reviewed, Regulatory team members were active in public hearings and other environmental activities in 2014:

Several annual reports on the In-Lieu Fee Program came out this year. The New England District made available for review the “2013 Annual Report of the Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program,” the “State of New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Fiscal Year 2013 Report,” the “Ducks Unlimited – Vermont In-Lieu Fee Program 2013 Annual Report,” the “Audubon Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program, Program Account Annual Report” and the “Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program, January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013.”

The In-Lieu Fee program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources that are authorized by the New England District.

Compensatory mitigation occurs in circumstances where a permittee is required to compensate for the functions and values of aquatic resources lost as a result of the authorization after all efforts are made to avoid and minimize impacts. In-Lieu Fee is an option available to the permit applicant instead of completing permittee-responsible mitigation. Use of the In-Lieu Fee program is contingent upon Corps of Engineers and approval.

The New England District and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) signed an In-Lieu Fee agreement on May 23.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a notice of availability and public comment on April 21. The notice was published to announce the availability of an interpretive rule regarding the applicability of the exemption from permitting provided under Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for discharges of dredged and/or fill material associated with certain agricultural conservation practices based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards. The standards are designed and implemented to protect and enhance water quality. The interpretive rule was effective on April 3. Under the CWA, Section 404

regulates the discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S. and Section 404(f)(1) includes a list of activities that are exempt from regulation under Section 404. Section 404(f)(1)(A) provides an exemption for discharges of dredged and/or fill material from “normal farming, silviculture,

and ranching activities, such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices.” The interpretive rule clarifies that certain NRCS conservation practices that are designed and implemented to protect

and enhance water quality are included under these “normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published on April 21, for public comment a proposed rule defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in light of the U.S. Supreme Court cases in *U.S. v. Riverside Bayview*, *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (SWANCC)*, and *Rapanos v. United States (Rapanos)*.

The proposed rule was developed to enhance protection for the nation’s public health and aquatic resources, and increase CWA program predictability and consistency by increasing clarity as to the scope of “waters of the United States” protected under the Act.

Developing a final rule to provide the intended level of certainty and predictability, and minimizing the number of case-specific determinations, will require significant public involvement and engagement. Such involvement and engagement will allow the agencies to make categorical determinations of jurisdiction, in a manner that is consistent with the scientific body of information before the agencies – particularly on the category of waters known as “other waters.” Subsequent to the Public Notice of July 30, the New England District has decided to discontinue the regional approach of the NE GP proposal and instead pursue general permits on a state-by-state basis. The Corps is now working to expedite the issuance of new general permits in

Regulatory Permitting Actions

Letters of Permission – 5
Regional General Permit – 2,493
Standard permit – 61
No permit required – 158
Pre-application Action – 722
Permit Modification - 387
Non-Compliance Action – 44
Unauthorized Activity/Alleged Violation - 130

Massachusetts prior to the expiration of the existing Massachusetts General Permit on Jan. 20, 2015.

A Joint Public Hearing was held, June 30 at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), Pease Field Office, at 222 International Drive in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and the Maine Department of Transportation (MEDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, are seeking a permit from the District to conduct work in waters of the U.S. in conjunction with construction of a new replacement bridge between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine.

The NHDOT and the MEDOT propose to dredge and/or fill approximately 1.71 acres of estuarine waters and river bottom in conjunction with the construction of a new replacement bridge across the Piscataqua River to replace the Sara Mildred Long Bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery. The project involves building a new 2,800-foot-long bridge approximately 300 feet north of the existing bridge so that the new bridge can be built while the old bridge continues in service. After the new bridge is built, the old bridge will be removed in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard requirements.

On Sept. 4, the District approved the Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC, and Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission System, LLC, permit request to construct five wind turbine generators and do other work off the southeast coast of Block Island, Rhode Island. Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC plans to construct and maintain the Block Island Wind Farm (BIWF), a 30-megawatt offshore wind farm located in Rhode Island waters. The BIWF will consist of five 6-megawatt wind turbine generators (WTG), a sub-



Col. Charles Samaris and Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin sign the In-Lieu fee agreement for Massachusetts.

marine cable interconnecting the five WTGs, and a 34.5-kilovolt submarine transmission cable. Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission System, LLC plans to construct the Block Island Trans-

mission System (BITS), a 34.5-kilovolt alternating current bidirectional submarine transmission cable from Block Island to the Rhode Island mainland (approximately 25.1 miles).

Regulatory representatives participated in FERC public meetings held to accept comments on the Draft EIS and the proposed Algonquin Gas pipeline system, Sept. 8 in Dedham, Massachusetts; on Sept. 9, in Norwich, Connecticut, on Sept. 10 in Danbury, Conn.; and on Sept. 16 in Mapleville, Rhode Island. During the meetings Regulatory representatives received and considered public comments on activities regulated by the Corps. Algonquin Gas Transmission (AGT), LLC is seeking a permit from the New England District to conduct work in waters of the U.S. in conjunction with expanding existing interstate natural gas pipeline systems in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The project purpose is expansion of Algonquin's existing pipeline system from Mahwah, New Jersey and Ramapo, New York, in order to deliver up to 342,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas transportation service to the Connecticut and Massachusetts markets. Public comments were accepted until Sept. 19.



Robert Desista signs the Deepwater Wind permit.

mission System (BITS), a 34.5-kilovolt alternating current bidirectional submarine transmission cable from Block



Stephen Dunbar, representing the PDT members is presented the Green Dream Team Award in the 2014 USACE Sustainability Award Program from Lt. Col. Charles Gray.

District Accomplishments in 2014

The District has had many proud successes and accomplishments, both individually and as a team, in 2014. The New England District's Leadership Development Program (LDP) held its annual graduation/kick off meeting in the Concord Park Theatre, Jan. 29. **Steve Dunbar**, LDP Director, congratulated the eight graduates of the two year program. They were **Michael Adams (Chris Hatfield, Mentor)**, **John Almeida (Dave Margolis, Mentor)**, **Patricia Bolton (Frank Fedele, Mentor)**, **Christine Johnson-Battista (John Astley, Mentor)**; **Jason Paolino (Cori Rose, Mentor)**, **Jennifer Samela (Joe Faloretti, Mentor)**, **Stephen Umbrell (Dave Margolis, Mentor)** and **Jeff Teller (Sean Dolan, Mentor)**. **Selectees for the 2014 LDP class are Joe Ferrari (Mentor Frank Fedele)**, **Megan Cullen (Mentor Mark Anderson)**, **Dean Brammer (Mentor Scott Acone)**, **Byron Rupp (Mentor Scott Michalak)**, **Meghan Quinn (Mentor Theresa Negron)**, **Michael Riccio (Mentor Dave Margolis)**, **Kim Pumyea (Mentor Mark Anderson)** and **Ted Frazzetta (Mentor Sheila Winston-Vincuilla)**.

Three New England District team members received high honors for their work on one of the District's long-time, high profile projects. **Paul L'Heureaux**, Project Engineer, **Kathleen Pendergast**, Legal Counsel, and **Peter Hugh**, Engineering Technical Lead, all received Achievement Medals for Civilian Service for their significant contributions to the ongoing accomplishment of the District's mission at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site in Massachusetts.

Karen Wolfe received three awards that she earned during her overseas deployment in support of Operation

Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. She received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Medal and Certificate, and the NATO Award and Medal.

Megan Cullen also served in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She received a Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Medal and Certificate, and the NATO Award and Medal.

Erika Mark received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her work on the Hurricane Sandy Fire Island Project.

WEA awarded Employee of the Month honors to District Team Members who were nominated by their peers. Recipients this year were **Jeffrey Gaeta**, **Catherine Leblanc**, **Marilyn Mroz**, **Laura Lally** and **Mary Daley**.

Geoff Steadman, a consultant to the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) and Tony D'Andrea, NHMC member and former Chairman took the three-hour drive up from Norwalk, Connecticut, to say thank you to the Norwalk Harbor Dredge Team during a Special Awards Ceremony, March 27. Team members who received certificates were: **Ed O'Donnell**, **Jack Karalius**, **Tim Rezendes**, **Todd Randall**, **Bob MacGovern**, **Adam Orlowski** and **Mike Vadnais**. The team also received Commander's Coins from Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, during the ceremony.

The Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site Project Delivery Team (PDT) received the prestigious Green Dream Team Award in

the 2014 USACE Sustainability Award Program. The project was selected from a large number of projects throughout the Corps of Engineers. The Green Dream Team Award recognizes exceptional leadership by an interagency green team to effectively place a federal sustainability idea into action. The NAE PDT implemented a comprehensive Green Remediation Strategy that resulted in significant reductions in onsite emissions, fuel consumption, off-site materials, and also resulted in recycling large quantities of consumable waste. Through the PDT's focused effort, the 2013 construction season included capping over 3 million cubic yards (43 acres) of mine tailings, treating over 10 million gallons of impacted water, and creating over 10 acres of wetland. The New England District Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site PDT members cited in the nomination are: **Scott Acone (former Project Manager); Steve Dunbar (Project Manager since 2011); David O'Connor (Construction PM); Chris Caisse (on site Construction Representative through 2012, including cap construction); Randy Lecuyer (on site rep in 2013 during wetland restoration); Mark Anderson, Jr. (Technical Lead); Jon Kullberg (Geotech); Silas Sander-son (Geotech); Kathy Malinowski (Geo-Environmental); Kate Atwood (Cultural) and Mike Penko (Environmental).**

During the awards presentation of the June 11, Town Meeting, the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, with the help of Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Groninger, presented coins to six District team members for outstanding work: **Stephen Umbrell** (Muddy River), **Amy Bourne** (Sustainability PDT), **Dave Descoteaux** (regional expertise in structural engineers; Cape Cod Canal Bridges and hurricane barriers), **Pattie Price** (IT Technology expertise), Diane Ray (ORM System) and **Ann Marie Harvie** (Yankee Engineer).

Robert "Bobby" Byrne is the 2014 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee. William Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, made the announcement during the annual Founder's Day celebration, June 20.

During the Founder's Day Awards ceremony, **Dave Margolis** presented the District's Honorary Awards. The Lewisville Dam Data Cadre all received certificates of achievement for their work from the Fort Worth District. Under an extremely tight schedule, they provided a quality product that is now a Corps of Engineers Model. The Cadre consisted of Team Leader **Tracy Dorgan, William Gray, Kristen Paul, Dara Gay and PJ Mion**. Dorgan also received a Commander's Achievement Medal for his work on the project.

Dean Brammer received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding management of numerous Superfund and FUDS sites for the North Atlantic Division and the New England District.

Jackie DiDomenico announced that **John Astley** re-



Robert "Bobby" Byrne is the 2014 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee.

ceived the Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year Award for 2014.

This summer, the New England District hosted the very first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-led Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Green Belt training at its Concord Park headquarters. LSS is an important initiative in which resources such as LSS Black and Green Belts are armed with a powerful set of problem-solving tools – Lean and Six Sigma – and sent into the organization to form, lead and mentor teams to solve complex, high impact organizational issues.

Rosemary Schmidt, Chief, Geology and Chemistry Section for Engineering/Planning, received a plaque from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Levee Safety Program during the Nov. 6 Command and Staff Meeting held in the Concord Park theatre.

iDAMS, a web portal for dam safety developed at New England District, received a USACE annual innovation of the year award. New England District personnel who were on the Development Team were **Siamac Vaghar, PE; Francis Fung, PE, CLSSBB; Michael Gu, PE; Chris Scabia, Michael Andryuk and Kristen Paul**.

The Yankee Engineer/Public Affairs Office won two honorable mentions (Best Employee Annual Report and Best Executive Letter) in the Ragan's 2013 Employee Communications awards; two honorable mentions in PR Daily's 2014 Nonprofit PR Awards (Best Newsletter; Best Facebook page); three wins in the 2014 APEX Awards for Publication Excellence (Electronic Publications – September 2013; One to Two Person-Produced Annual reports – Year in Review 2012; and Facebook Sites) and a win in the 2014 Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards (Magazine).

Equal Employment Opportunity Special Emphasis Programs



Sally Matson displays some of Margaret Bourke-White's Photographs during Women's Equality Day observance.

New England District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) and its Federal Program Managers continued to provide entertaining and informational events throughout 2014.

Tom Ingrassia, motivational speaker, writer and Motown historian, served as keynote speaker during the Black Employment Program's Black History Month Observance, Feb. 19. The event, which was co-sponsored by the EEO took place in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

Every year on the last Friday of April vacation in Massachusetts, New England District's halls are filled with the footsteps and laughter of children as they make their way from one conference room to another to take part in a unique learning adventure.

The children attended one of the District's most popular events, "Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work Day," held this year on April 25. The day-long event was sponsored by the Federal Women's Program (FWP) and the EEO. It is not only a way for the children to get a glimpse at what the New England District team members do, it is also designed as a STEM event to encourage them to consider a career in the fields of engineering and science. A

record-breaking 44 children between the ages of 8-12 attended this year.

EEO also hosted its annual Asian American/Pacific Islander Month observance, June 5, in the Concord Park Theater. James Fong, Chairman of the Board for the Boston Chapter of the National Association of Asian American professionals served as keynote speaker.

The FWP and the EEO collaborated for a Women's Equality Day celebration, Aug. 26. Local performer Sally Matson served as the presenter for the event,

performing "Margaret Bourke-White... Courageous Photographer."

Sheila Radziewicz, published author and award winning advocate, speaker and educator served as keynote speaker during the New England District's Disabilities Awareness Month event, Oct. 6 in the Concord Park Theater.

In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, Ruth Ann Brien, Hispanic Heritage Program Manager and Jacqueline DiDomenico, EEO Officer, invited Haxel Estavillo to serve as keynote speaker for this year's District event. Estavillo is a technical expert in Reliability, Availability and Maintainability Analysis and Life Cycle Sustainment for Raytheon Company's Integrated Defense Systems. He joined Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and dozens of District team members in the theater on Oct. 21 for his presentation entitled, "Closing the Gap."

Shelly Lowe, Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program, visited the New England District to serve as keynote speaker at the EEO's Native American Heritage Month event, Nov. 4. Lowe's presentation, held in the Concord Park theater, was titled, "Native Americans in Higher Education."



Tom Ingrassia spoke at the District's Black History Observance and displayed his personal collection of Motown artifacts.



Members of the New England District Team wear red to raise heart disease awareness.



Wendy Gendron gets some refreshment at the Pie Fest.



Col. Christopher Barron marches in the Veterans Day parade.

Activities throughout the District

The Work Environment Association (WEA) Committee hosted the 2014 Chili Fest on Jan. 31. A total of 12 team members submitted chilies to be judged. After the votes were tallied, the new 2014 Corps Chili Champions were crowned. This year's winners were Rich Fortuna, Rhonda Anderson and Grace Bowles,

The Federal Occupational Health Office (FOHO) teamed up with the District's Safety Office and the Federal Women's Program to sponsor a "Wear Red Day," Feb. 7. All New England District Team members were encouraged to wear red to show their support for Heart Health Awareness and to fight heart disease.

New England District team members lined up for the ultimate comfort food during WEA annual Pie Fest celebration appropriately held on National Pie Day, March 14 in the Concord Park Cafeteria to coincide with the national observance. Another Pie Fest to celebrate the successful entrance of the fall season.

The New England District Safety Office, partnered with the FOHO in hosting their annual health fair, June 18 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

This year the well-attended event boasted a dozen vendors that featured health-related booths and displays at the fair.

Some of the free services provided at the fair this year included ear checks, blood pressure readings, vision screening, back analysis, spine screenings, chair massages, face and hand hydration and golf swing tips from a professional golfer.

This year commemorated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 239th birthday. The New England District team pays annual tribute to our distinguished and vital organization by honoring the people who make it that way: the District employees. To accomplish that goal, the District Team held its annual Founder's Day Awards Ceremony and picnic on June 20 at the Concord Park Headquarters. Engineering/Planning and WEA hosted this year's event.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, joined Concord, Massachusetts town officials, state representatives and residents in the annual Veterans Day Flag Retirement Ceremony held, Nov. 11.

The official procession began at the Prichard Gate of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Col. Barron and parade marshal, Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2) Robert Norton of the Massachusetts National Guard, lead Veterans and military representatives, bagpipers, the 4-H Fife and Drum Corps, the Concord Minutemen and Concord Independent Battery, clergy, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups as well as selectmen and government officials through the cemetery to the cemetery flagpole for the official presentation.

A successful Fiscal Year End is always a cause for celebration for the New England District Team. This year WEA hosted a barbecue meal on Oct. 29 at the Concord Park cafeteria to celebrate the end of FY14 and usher in FY15. About 123 team members attended.

New England District Outreach Initiatives

The New England District Team spent a very busy year reaching out to the public to get the word out about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The District's Field Team held countless Junior Ranger and interpretive programs throughout the year, some of which are listed in the "Field Activities" section of this Year In Review. Concord Park team members also went out to tell the Corps story to various citizen groups.

Engineering/Planning and the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) held a Water Quality Certification pre-application public information meeting as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Feb. 24, in Bangor. The meeting focused on the proposal for maintenance and improvement dredging of the Searsport Harbor Federal Navigation Project in Searsport, Maine. The Maine DOT is the non-Federal sponsor for the USACE feasibility study.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, and his staff joined members of the Mohegan Tribal Nation of Connecticut for a Government –To-Government outreach meeting at the Tribal Government building in Uncasville, Connecticut, March 6. District team members reached out to see if the Mohegan Tribe had any questions about the Corps Mission in New England, specifically in Connecticut.

The Broad Meadows Marsh in Quincy, Massachusetts is a recent success in the New England District's aquatic habitat restoration program. Wendy Gendron, Planning Study Manager, has been coordinating with the adjacent Broad Meadows Middle School to foster educational opportunities. Marc Paiva, New England District's Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison also has been involved with the school, visiting with teacher Ron Adams and several of his 7th Grade students known as "The History Girls" at



Lt. Col. Charles Gray lends a hand building cardboard birdhouses during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

the school on June 13. In conjunction with the New England District project, "The History Girls" are proposing to recognize a significant Native American site known as Passanageset Knoll, which is located behind the Broad Meadows Middle School within the salt marsh, which they discovered through research about the area. Paiva provided feedback on avenues they would need to take to possibly reach their goal.

Each Patriot's Day the New England District team is invited to participate in the town of Concord, Massachusetts' annual parade. This year the New England District Ranger Color Guard and New England District Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Charles Gray marched the three miles starting at Concord Center, passing over the Historic North Bridge before returning to the Town Center.

Patriot's Day is a special Massachusetts state holiday that commemorates the opening battle of the American Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. The famous "Shot Heard Round the World" took place in nearby Lexington.

The District team was joined by British and Colonial re-enactors dressed

in period costumes that represented militia from towns all over the country as well as the British Regulars. Once at North Bridge, the parade stopped for "Old Glory's Journey of Remembrance" that honored the service and sacrifice of America's fallen men and women with a flag raising ceremony.

EEO and the FWP sponsored their annual Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day event on April 25. Many STEM related activities and crafts were highlighted during this event.

Col. Samaris served as keynote speaker at the Environmental Business Council of New England's (EBC-NE) March 10 meeting in Brookline, Massachusetts to give an overview of the New England District. The Colonel's briefing was attended by about 85 EBC-NE members.

On April 23, Gendron and Paiva were invited to a special ceremony and celebration commemorating the signing of a Watershed Assessment Cost Sharing Agreement (WASCA) for a Watershed Assessment Management Plan (WAMP) with the Houlton Band of Maliseets, Maine, and the Maliseets First

Nations of Canada. This study is being conducted under Section 203 Tribal Partnership Program (TPP) authority (WRDA 2000 and 2007). New England District is only the second District nationwide to execute a TPP study, and the only one in the eastern United States.

The state of New Hampshire held its 22nd annual Envirothon competition May 20 at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester. For the past 12 years, New England District team members from the Merrimack River Basin have volunteered as forestry instructors to prepare students for the event. The objective of the Envirothon is to foster in students a basic understanding of natural resources. But more importantly the goal is to encourage good citizenship and a continued involvement with environmental issues throughout their lives. Joshua Levesque and Karen Hoey are regular participants in the program.

This year, a great deal of emphasis was placed on the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative. Col. Samaris accompanied members of the Society of Military Engineers (SAME) to the Randolph Middle School in Randolph, Massachusetts, Feb. 12 to talk to 75 eighth graders about what it's like to work in the fields of Engineering/Science. The visit's goal was to inspire the students to consider a career in one of the STEM career fields.

Members of the New England District Team and the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES) injected a little science with the fun at the Cape Cod Canal's 100th Anniversary, July 29 by hosting educational activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the BSCES-sponsored engineering tent at Buzzards Bay Park. New England District team members Kristen Paul and Bill Walker assisted the BSCES volunteers in conducting several STEM activities designed for the enjoyment of



The Houlton Band of Maliseets perform tribal ceremony during watershed cost sharing agreement.

the children participating in the day's 100th celebration activities.

New England District Geologists Tracy Dorgan and Paul Young traveled to the Cyril D. Locke Middle School in Billerica, Massachusetts on June 3-4 to talk to 8th grade science classes about geology and its fit with the Corps of Engineers. The visit to the school was in support of the District's STEM initiative to expose the children to the possibilities of careers in these fields. The geology team reached out to about 300 students during their two-day visit.

Col. Samaris joined representatives from the Concord Public School System in the Gridley Conference Room, June 9 to sign an Education Partnership Agreement and to shake hands on the deal. The partnership is a win-win situation for all involved: the town's public schools will have access to the District's engineers and scientists – some of the finest in the world – to show students real-world applications of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). By exposing and inspiring students to seek paths in math and science careers, the District could potentially gain members of a future workforce.

The New England District team expanded its opportunities to introduce students to the fields of STEM when Col. Samaris signed an education partnership agreement with the Schools to Careers Partnership, (SCP) July 28 in the Executive Office at Concord Park, Concord, Massachusetts.

The District also has entered into a STEM Partnership in Education Agreement with Worcester State University in Massachusetts. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and New England District's STEM coordinator, Mark Anderson, traveled to the university to meet with President Barry Maloney on Oct. 27, to sign the agreement.

Although most of the STEM initiatives were focused on children, members of Engineering/Planning Management wanted to get ideas on how to keep the current female District team members enthusiastic in their STEM careers. The team members attended the Women in STEM conference held Oct. 21 at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts to listen to presentations and participate in panel discussions on issues regarding STEM.

New Employees

Kevin Anderson	Construction
Sarah Bennett	Office of Counsel
Joseph Bossard	Engineering/Planning
Erin Bradley	Contracting
Paul Chansky	Human Resources
Nicholas Chiodo	Operations
Matthew Cote	Operations
Daniel DeFiore	Operations
Dylan Dickson	Operations
Kevin DiRocco	Engineering/Planning
Eric DuPre	Construction
Benjamin Emery	Engineering/Planning
Brenda Faragi	Regulatory
Michael Green	Operations
Lauren Jacobs	Regulatory
Elaine Jacobson	Operations
Daniel Jalbert	Real Estate
Stephen Lahti	Engineering/Planning
Lindsey Lefebvre	Regulatory
Jessica Loc	Contracting DA Intern
Katherine Lunn	Engineering/Planning
Alysha MacDonald	Contracting
Lennie Mattis	Contracting
William Mehr	Operations
Barbara Merriam	Construction
Marilyn Mroz	Engineering/Planning
Jonathan O'Rourke	Engineering/Planning
Vincent Pecchia	Engineering/Planning
Alice Perez	Internal Review
Daniel Purple	Human Resources
Penelope Reddy	Engineering/Planning
David Sinclair	Operations
Brendan Sprague	Construction
Christina Stanley	Engineering/Planning
Adam Taylor Stewart	Engineering/Planning
Christina Stanley	Engineering/Planning
Russell Sloboda	Engineering/Planning
Daniel Teague	Construction
Lee Thibodeau	Engineering/Planning
Arthur Tsoutsanis	Programs/Project Mgmt
Jonathan Van Vliet	Construction
Christopher Veinotte	Construction

Deployments in 2014

Emergency Operations Deployments

Mark Anderson Tropical Storm Bertha
Erika Mark 2014 Tornadoes

Overseas Contingency Operations Deployments

in Afghanistan
Susan Dunnagan
Jim Fielding
Jeff Gaeta

Retirements

Annie Chin
Timothy Coleman
Martin Curran
Allegra Jaye DiMuzio
James Doucakis
Joan Gardner
Roger Hagen
Richard Heidebrecht
William Herland
Wayne Johnson
Ada Kelley
Gladys Leone
Roger Mathurin
Kevin McKelvey
Ella Minincleri
Jeffrey Perchak
Richard Roach
Donna Russell
Alister Shanks
Michael Sheehan
Thomas Wisnauckas
Robert Zwahlen

Employee Passing

Cathy Rogers Engineering/Planning

Retiree Passings

Col. Max Scheider
Pat Tornifoglio
John Hart

Retirement Celebrations in 2014



Annie Chin



Joan Gardner



Wayne Johnson



Dick Heidebrecht (right)



Ella Mininieri



Donna Russell



Martin Curran



Jim Doucakis and Gladys Leone



Joe Faloretti



Jeff Perchak



Kevin McKelvey (Second from right)



Richard Roach



Roger Hagen



Joseph Redlinger



Michael Sheehan



Bill Herland

