

2015

A Year in Review

Yankee Engineer Special Edition - Year in Review 2015

Building Strong®





Col. William Graham takes command of the North Atlantic Division during the Change of Command Ceremony.

Photo by David Kimerly

Changes in Leadership.

New North Atlantic Division Commander, Deputy District Commander and Command Sergeant Major in 2015



Maj. Daniel Herlihy



Command Sgt. Maj. Antonio S. Jones



Lt. Col. Charles Gray and his wife, Olivia.

Photos by Brian Murphy

In the Corps of Engineers, as well as all of the U.S. Army, leadership changes are a common occurrence.

Col. William H. Graham is the latest officer to become Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division headquartered in New York. He took over command from Brig. Gen. Kent Savre on March 26, during a ceremony at Fort Hamilton, New York. Brig. Gen. Savre commanded the Division since July 2012. Col. Graham was promoted to Brigadier General on Nov. 2.

Lt. Col. Charles Gray, Deputy Commander, New England District, and his family left New England to go to Missouri in June for his next assignment. Lt. Col. Gray has taken a command position with the 31st Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood. Maj. Daniel Herlihy took the assignment of Deputy Commander for the District, July 6.

Command Sgt. Maj. Antonio S. Jones replaced CSM Karl Groniger during a Change of Responsibility ceremony held May 29 and hosted by Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers. CSM Jones is stationed at USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



Coastal communities had to cope with strong winds, flooding and snow during winter storm Juno while ice crowds the Cape Cod Canal.

Winter Storm Juno, low temperatures bring challenges to New England

The Blizzard of 2015, also known as Winter Storm Juno, was not a surprise. It had been looming on the radars of the National Weather Service for some time, and New England states began preparations well in advance of Juno's arrival. Schools all over New England issued closure notices prior to the storm hitting, much to the excitement of the local children. As the forecasted snow total got higher, Massachusetts and Connecticut governors declared states of emergency and issued travel bans. For safety reasons, and to comply with the travel bans put in place by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, the New England District's Concord Park Office in Massachusetts was closed.

The Emergency Operations Center deployed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Response Coordination Center in Maynard, Massachusetts, to offer assistance.

During the storm, the District's Stamford Hurricane Barrier closed as a precaution and the District's other hurricane barriers remained open. In the end, Juno was the biggest January snow storm on record for Boston, according to the National Weather Service. The Weather Channel reported that Lunenburg, Massachusetts saw 36 inches of snow fall, while Thomaston, Connecticut, received 33.5 inches.

New England endured one of the snowiest and coldest winters on record in 2015. Residents and businesses had trouble finding places to dispose of snow, and waves of icy sea slush lapped onto the sand at local beaches. The Cape Cod Canal had its share of winter troubles. As temperatures stayed below freezing for days and weeks at a time, the Canal's Marine Traffic Controllers (MTC) began to closely monitor the canal waters and areas adjacent,

for dangerous conditions. After notifying the U.S. Coast Guard, the Canal initiated restrictions on Feb. 17. Vessels smaller than 65 feet long, vessels with fiberglass or wood hulls were not allowed to travel through the canal. In addition, anchorages C&D were closed because those are closer to shore and vessels could have been in danger due to ice floes. The restrictions stayed unchanged until Feb. 25 when monitoring showed that the ice had become more significant and colder temperatures were forecasted to continue for some time. More restrictions were added that were necessary to assure safe navigation of vessels transiting into the Canal. The added restrictions included daylight only transits, one-way traffic and a minimum shaft horsepower requirement of 3900 HP. Warmer temperatures and changes in wind direction finally allowed the MTC to lift the restrictions on March 16.



District contractor Mohawk Northeast performs breakwater repairs at New Haven Harbor.

Photos by Fred Pike

Project Highlights.

Hurricane Sandy Response

The New England District has had a substantial program to support Hurricane Sandy recovery in the region. The total projected NAE program is \$61M (over several years); in FY15 Hurricane Sandy: \$30.9M. (FY14 \$23.6M) has funded recovery efforts that include coastal restoration, dredging, and reconstruction of breakwaters and jetties in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

In January, the Corps released a report detailing the results of a two-year study to address coastal storm and flood risk to vulnerable populations, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure in the North

Atlantic region of the United States affected by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Congress authorized this report in January 2013 in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2). The report, known as the **North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS)**, brought together experts from Federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and academia, to assess the flood risks facing coastal communities and ecosystems and collaboratively develop a coastal storm risk management framework to address increasing risks, which are driven in part by increased frequency and intensity of storm events and

rising sea levels due to a changing climate. The NACCS provides tools and information, including a nine-step Coastal Storm Risk Management Framework that can be used by communities, states, tribes, and the federal government to help identify coastal risk and develop strategies for reducing those risks.

Almost three years after Hurricane Sandy ripped through the region, the New England District continues recovery efforts.

As part of the massive cleanup, work is progressing on the repairs of three breakwaters at **New Haven Harbor** in Connecticut. The project, which was combined with the repair of two breakwaters in **Bridgeport**

Harbor, Connecticut, began in mid-September 2014. Mohawk Northeast, Inc., of Plantsville, Connecticut received the \$7,459,500 contract for both projects. The Bridgeport Harbor project was substantially complete in March. The project consisted of repairing the Bridgeport and New Haven breakwaters and restoring them to pre-storm conditions. Work included mobilization and demobilization, furnishing, delivery and placement of new armor stone to replace stones displaced during Hurricane Sandy and to fill gaps and low points caused by the storm along the breakwaters. Repairs were performed to restore the breakwaters to originally authorized profiles and dimensions. A total of about 8,400 tons of stone were placed at the Bridgeport

Harbor project. Approximately 41,200 tons of stone were placed at New Haven Harbor. Placing the stone was an intricate process and required substantial moving and manipulation to get the required grades and interlocking. Work at the New Haven Harbor breakwater was completed in December.

The **National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Northeast Fisheries Science Center breakwater** in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was repaired under the terms of a \$344,799 contract issued by the New England District. The work was accomplished by Robert B. Our, Company, Inc., of Harwich, Massachusetts. Construction started on Dec. 11, 2014 and was completed on June 1. The work involved repairing

those sections of the NOAA-owned breakwater that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy in late October 2012. The work on this project consisted of demolishing the outmost 128 feet of the stone jetty and using those stones to rebuild the remaining inner 126 feet of the jetty.

Repair work to the **Bearskin Neck Stone Jetty** in Rockport, Massachusetts is complete. Despite being hit with a harsh winter that included Winter Storm Juno, field work was completed on the Bearskin Neck Jetty repairs two days before Memorial Day weekend. The work on the \$3.3 million project consisted of repairing the 540-foot-long jetty that was damaged during Hurricane Sandy. The Bearskin Neck Jetty is located at the northern end of Bearskin



The New England District and Tantara Associated Corporation installed fall protection barricade railings all over Fort Rodman.



One of the fish ladders that was constructed along the Ten Mile River.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Neck, approximately 35 miles north of Boston and 20 miles south of the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border. The jetty extends into the ocean from the end of Bearskin Neck to the east and provides protection to Rockport Harbor. The work included delivery and installation of 8,900 tons of 14-19 ton armor stone and 3,800 tons of 4-8 ton armor stone to repair the jetty to authorized dimensions. Repairs provided a crest width of 18 feet for the first 400 feet, widening for the next 70 feet to a fixed width of 28 feet for the last 30 feet at the head of the jetty. Crest elevation was +18.8 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). A majority of the 18-19 ton stones were used to reconstruct the last 30 feet at the head of the jetty. Repairs required a substantial rebuild of the neck of the jetty, reinforcement of the toe, and moving and re-handling

of new and existing stones to obtain the required 3-point interlocking.

The **Menemsha Creek east and west jetties** in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, were repaired under the terms of a \$1,264,250 contract. Work was accomplished by RC&D, Inc., of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Construction began Jan. 15, and was completed May 21. The work involved repairing those sections of the east and west jetties that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy in late October 2012 and involved mobilizing heavy construction equipment, armor stone and other project materials to Menemsha by water. Work included reconstructing both the east and west jetties to pre-storm conditions, including side slopes and crest height. Approximately 1,950 tons of armor stone was placed for the project.

The **Newburyport Harbor north jetty** in Salisbury, Massachusetts, and the **south jetty** in Newburyport, were repaired under the terms of a \$8,276,236 contract. Cashman Equipment Corp., of Braintree, Massachusetts, performed the work. The north jetty is 3,000 feet long. For the South Jetty the District completed the last 140 feet of it. A total of 35,000 tons of rock were placed - the largest rocks being 19-tons. The contract was awarded on April 2 and work was completed in November.

Other Civil Works projects around the District

In FY15 the \$108 million New England Civil Works program delivered quality engineering solutions across the six New England states to mitigate flood risk and ensure navigation. The expansive program includes the

operation and maintenance of 36 multi-purpose projects for flood risk management or navigation that protect life and property in the surrounding communities and that contribute to the safe transport of people, freight, vessels and cargo.

The government-owned special purpose dredge **CURRITUCK** removed 7,500 cubic yards of sand from shoaled portions of the 8-foot deep entrance channel of the **Patchogue River** in Connecticut May 15-18 and June 19-22 and placed the sand in a near shore environment off of Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, Connecticut.

The New England District and its contractor Burnham Associates, Inc., of Salem, Massachusetts, completed a \$2,115,900 dredging project at the **Royal River Federal Navigation project** in Maine this past January. The contract was awarded on Sept. 5, 2014. Work consisted of mechanically

dredging an 8-foot entrance channel, and a 6-foot anchorage in the inner harbor. About 100,000 cubic yards of predominantly silty-sand was dredged.

In FY15 the District continued its work to improve the **Boston Harbor** to meet future maritime navigation and economic challenges and requirements. Authorized by WRRDA 2014, the authorized plan calls for the deepening of the Broad Sound North Channel to -51 feet MLLW, the deepening of the Main Ship Channel (MSC), President Roads Anchorage and lower Reserved Channel to -47 feet, the deepening of the MSC that services the Massport Marine Terminal to -45 feet MLLW, the deepening of the Mystic Channel that services the Medford Street terminal to -40 feet, and deepening of the Chelsea River channel to -40 feet MLLW. About 8 million cubic yards of ordinary material and 240 thousand cubic yards of weathered rock will

need to be removed to deepen these channels.

These improvements would cost about \$340 million, of which the Non-Federal Sponsor (Massport) would be required to contribute about \$130 million. Additionally, the Corps is planning on performing O&M dredging in the Inner Harbor. While the Corps fully funds the dredging, the O&M dredge material will need to be placed in a Confined Aquatic Disposal cell (CAD cell). The construction of the CAD cell must be cost-shared with a Non-Federal Sponsor (Massport).

In 2015 the New England District planned, designed and executed programs and projects to remediate hazardous, toxic, military munitions, and radiological waste sites in support of Military, Civil, Interagency, International and Environmental Integration customers executing Superfund (EPA), Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Installation



Contractor Walsh Construction removes and sorts bridge debris with barges and excavators.

Photo by Walsh Construction



Contractor's dredge arrives at the Cape Cod Canal to begin dredging project.

Cape Cod Canal photo

Restoration Program (IRP), Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), Legacy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), Environmental Quality (EQ), and Environmental Support for Others (ESFO). The District IIES program totaled \$50 million and included significant HTRW work for EPA under Superfund, significant support to VA, and varying support to DHS, FEMA, Coast Guard, and the National Park Service. Removal of munitions/ordnance from the Central Impact Area continued at Joint Base Cape Cod along with the significant groundwater treatment and monitoring program. \$14 million

was executed on this program in FY15. Two contracts were awarded (\$8 million) for BRAC work at the former **Fort Devens** allowing long-term monitoring and O&M activities to continue for the next three years.

The FY15 remediation effort focused on hydraulic dredging in the **Acushnet River** in the area north of the Coggshall Bridge (Upper Harbor). Approximately 21,000 in situ cubic yards (CY) of highly contaminated sediment were dredged, processed and shipped offsite from Aug. 6 to Sept. 30.

For the first time in over a century, fish living in the Ten Mile River can swim to their spawning grounds unassisted. Col. Christopher Barron,

New England District Commander, joined Congressionals, Senators and other partners in cutting the ribbon on the **Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration Project**, June 19. The ceremony took place in Rumford, Rhode Island. The Ten Mile River watershed runs approximately 56 square miles through Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Denil fish passages were constructed at the first three dams on the river – Omega Pond, Hunts Mill and Turner Reservoir, all in Rhode Island. The Ten Mile River project will support a population of more than 200,000 anadromous fish. Those fish are an important part of the link between upstream river habitats, Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

During the year the District continued its **Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration Project** construction. In response to a 1996 storm that resulted in severe flooding along the Muddy River and several tributary areas, Boston, Brookline and State officials proposed improvements in January 1999 to increase flood control, improve water quality and enhance aquatic/riparian habitat. It involved dredging accumulated sediment, improving restrictive drainage culverts, removing nuisance vegetation, improving fisheries/wildlife habitat and water quality, bank stabilization and enhancing recreational use parklands.

WRDA 2000 authorized the Corps to proceed. ASA-CW approved federal participation in the flood damage reduction component of the project

(the environmental restoration portion of the project was not recommended for federal implementation). Current contract completion for Phase 1 (\$31 million) is January 2016. Design of Phase 2 (\$15 million) for the project has begun with the sampling and testing efforts of the sediment in the river and preparation of 35% set of plans and specifications.

This fiscal year New England District continued its work to finalize a **Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan** in response to the Governors of Connecticut and New York who requested in 2005 the Corps participate in the development of a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for the Long Island Sound (LIS) Region. The Project Delivery Team for this project is comprised of representatives of NAE, NAN, EPA Regions I and II and

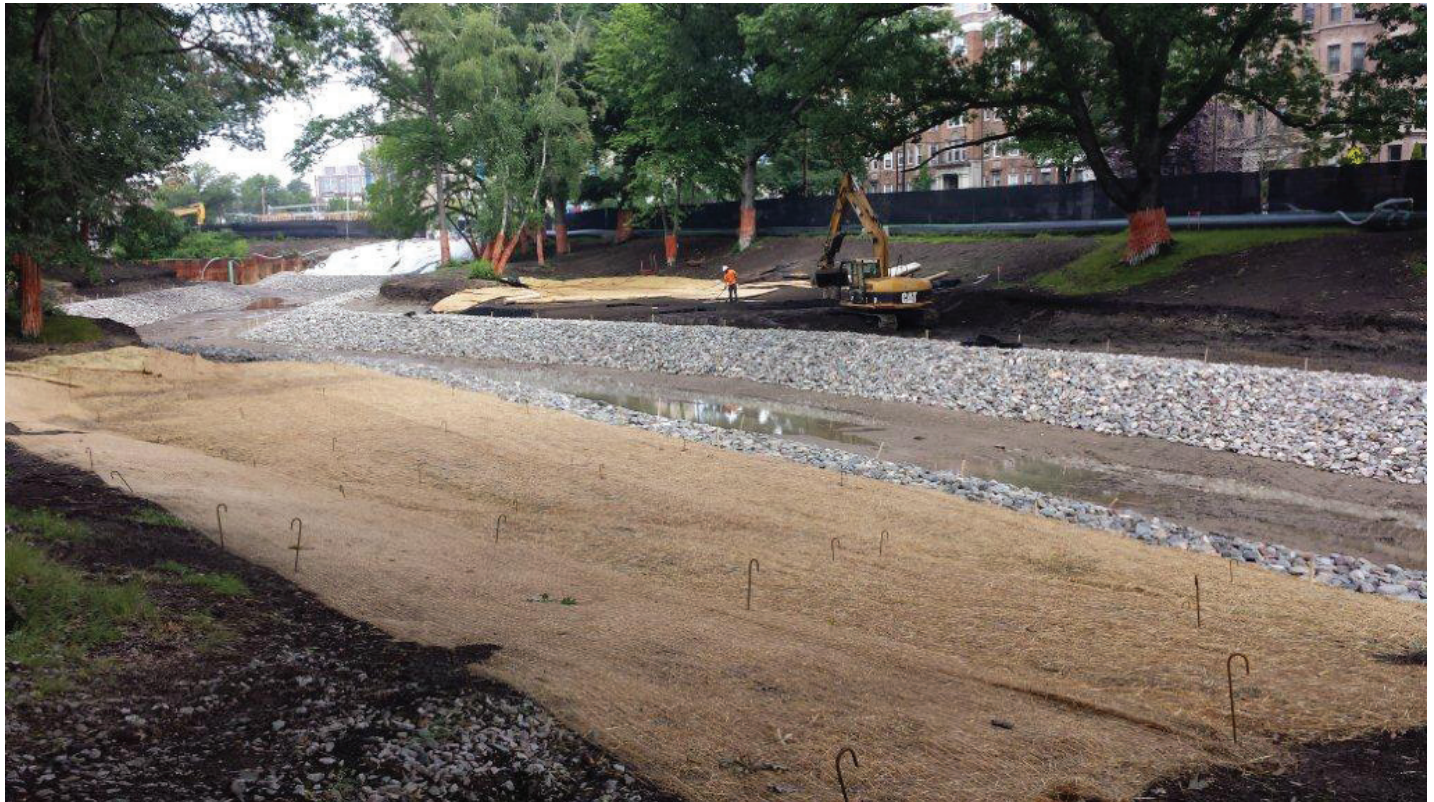
representatives from CT DEEP and DOT, NY agencies, and the RI Coastal Resource Management Council. In FY15 a draft DMMP and draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) were released for public review, the culmination of a significant study effort initiated by the letter from the governors.

The New England District released for public review and comment the Long Island Sound DMMP and PEIS on Aug. 17. The public comment period ran through Oct. 16. The District conducted public hearings Aug. 24-27 and Sept. 16-17. The primary purpose of the hearings was to solicit the public's comments and input.

The New England District has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the continued operations and maintenance activities



Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, Rhode Island.



Muddy River Restoration Project in Boston, Massachusetts.

at the **Fox Point Hurricane Barrier** in Providence, Rhode Island. The EA identifies, documents and evaluates the environmental effects of the continued operation and maintenance of the Hurricane Barrier in accordance with its authorized project purposes.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the turnover of the **General Services Administration Formerly Used Defense Site** (FUDS) property in Watertown, Massachusetts, to the public took place at the Commander's Mansion in Watertown, Dec. 3, 2014. The New England District became involved with the project in May 1991 when the site was determined to be eligible for remedial investigation under the FUDS program. The New England District was responsible for completing remedial activities at the site. With the exception of one building that was demolished with GSA funding, the \$3.68 million project was completely funded under FUDS. The property was part of Watertown Arsenal during World War II. The U.S. Army constructed five

structures on the GSA property to store various materials and equipment. As part of the Manhattan Project, the site was used to stabilize depleted uranium to allow for it to be shipped for disposal off-site.

In FY15, our **Levee Safety Program** team members have been working hard to complete annual inspections for the 68 federally-constructed levee segments along 72 miles throughout the region. These 68 levee segments protect property and infrastructure with an estimated value of ~\$13B in today's dollars.

Military Projects

In FY15 the New England District's military mission was centered on supporting **Hanscom, Westover, Natick Soldier Systems Center, Devens, and Joint Base Cape Cod**. Work included; clinics, barracks, schools, fuel systems and housing. A key project is the **Hanscom AFB Middle School** to construct a new middle school that

serves 310 students, grades 4-8 for DoD Education Activity on Hanscom AFB. Cost is \$36.1 million, and completion is scheduled for April 2016.

The **Westover Reserve Air Base** \$25.9 million Hydrant Fueling project is nearing completion with final commissioning (leak tests, gauge checks) currently in process.

The District and its contractor, Tantara Associates Corporation of Worcester, Massachusetts, completed the fabrication and installation of fall protection barricade railing at **Fort Rodman** in New Bedford. The barricade railing work falls under the Corps' Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Work on the \$524,732 project began in June 2014 and was completed the following December. After a final inspection conducted with New Bedford's Park and Recreation and Planning Departments in January, the project was handed over to the city.

New England District representatives cut the ribbon on the **Veteran's Administration's New Bedford Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)** in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The \$3.5 million newly renovated facility will provide support in a better way to the Veterans of this region. It includes a 2,000-square-foot addition and renovation of another 5,400 square feet. Improvements that were made to the project include adding a physical therapy clinic, women's health exam rooms, a newly renovated area to support home-based primary care and an enhanced reception area where customer service representatives are now able to assist up to four Veterans at once. Information technology services also received a significant upgrade, enhancing telemedicine capabilities, which helps reduce the need for local Veterans to travel to Providence or another specialty clinic for appointments.

The New England District's Real



New Bedford Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Estate Team administered leases for approximately 250 military single and multi-service recruiting stations throughout the District and in turn

enhanced the public's awareness of DOD's Recruitment opportunities throughout the six-state New England region.



Hanscom Middle School construction on Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.



Park Rangers Roy Howe and Marissa Wright prepare to welcome guests to the Northfield Brook Lake 50th anniversary celebration.

Activities In the Field.

The Corps has built many flood risk management structures in New England and include: 36 dams with 35 reservoirs and 112 local protection projects at an original construction cost of \$538 million that has prevented \$6.8 billion in cumulative damages to date (in FY15: \$700,000). These structures include: 36 dams in five river basins; 68 levee segments; one tidal barrier (Charles River); five hurricane protection barriers that protect the shoreline, rivers, and harbors—the New England District currently operates and maintains the barriers at New Bedford, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island and Stamford, Connecticut.

Sustainable contributions and renewable energy endeavors are prime drivers of the District programs and projects at **Ball Mountain Dam** and **Townshend Lake** projects in Vermont where new FERC hydropower projects are being constructed by a developer in coordination with USACE, using USACE infrastructure. Additionally,

the District's first solar array was installed at **North Springfield Lake** in December 2014 as a prelude to plans that may realize future solar power at 14 NAE sites that could eliminate up to 75-percent of grid-tied district electricity use.

The **Cape Cod Canal** is a 17.5 mile-long waterway and one of the widest sea level canals in the world.

Three NAE operated and maintained bridges, two vehicle and one Railroad Bridge, span the canal; actual annual vehicle traffic (trips) is estimated at 32 million and movements across the railroad bridge are ~1,000. The administrative office in Buzzards Bay has a staff of about 50 and is manned around the clock by traffic controllers and rangers. It has more than 19,000



Photo by Bonnie DiPasquale

Boy Scout Brian DiPasquale and Park Ranger Viola Bramel stand at his Timeline Tree and bench project at the entrance of West Hill Dam.

vessel trips each year, including more than 7,800 commercial ships carrying 7.1 million tons of cargo.

The New England District projects and recreation areas hosted 5.3 million visitors this year (2.9 million at the Canal; 2.4 million at dams and recreation facilities).

Most New England District projects have recreational facilities and host a wide variety of activities on the property year-round. Here is a sample of the many activities/events that took place in 2015:

West Hill Dam, partnering with the Friends of Beginning Bridges of Northbridge and Uxbridge, hosted such an event at the recreational site's beach area Aug. 12. Nearly 90 people from very small children to bigger kids 12 and over participated in the event. There were no age limitations to make a sand castle. The rules were very simple – bring your own tools and creativity. No live decorations and no spray paint for



National Public Lands Day 2015

color. Everyone had about 90 minutes to make their creations.

Fifty years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, completed the **West Thompson Lake Dam** to keep the citizens of Connecticut safe from devastating floods. On Oct. 3, residents traveled to the project to commemorate its construction and to celebrate the faithful service

it has provided. Project Manager Ed Greenough served as Master of Ceremonies for the West Thompson Dam celebration. Nearly 200 people braved the cold temperatures and cloudy skies to be a part of the event.

It was fitting that it rained at **Northfield Brook** in Thomaston, Connecticut, during the flood damage reduction project's 50th anniversary



Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake Dam provide water releases to paddlers along Millers River.

celebration on Oct. 3. Fitting because rain is the reason why this project came to be built. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1955.

Several New England District recreation sites held celebrations of volunteerism with **National Public Lands Day** events in September. The dams at **West Hill**, **Buffumville Lake**, **Hodges Village** and **Black Rock** all held celebrations. National Public Lands Day is an event that is held annually in September. Its purpose is to showcase the nation's public lands and emphasize the importance of protecting natural resources through responsible use and volunteerism.

The park rangers at **West Hill Dam** held their celebration on Sept. 19. The rangers welcomed 115 volunteers to work on projects to improve the areas around the dam. Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam held their celebration on Sept. 24. One hundred thirty seven people, to include Scouts and families, came out to volunteer their services.

Girl Scout volunteers from Thomaston Troop 64058, as well as Environmental Protection Specialist Marissa Wright, joined forces to enhance and winterize the native butterfly garden and walking path at the **Black Rock Dam** in Thomaston, Connecticut. The Scouts worked diligently as they pulled weeds, deadheaded plants and mulched the garden for winter. The girls had a blast and are now in their fifth year in a row of maintaining the native butterfly garden.

West Hill Dam, in conjunction with the Building Bridges Community Outreach for Early Education Program and the Uxbridge Police Department Interagency Office, held a Monarch Story Walk Sept. 13 at the dam. About 10 families totaling 45 people attended the hour and a half event.

West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel and Emily Murray of Building Bridges took residents through the walk. Panels of the book, "A Place for



Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, addresses the crowd during West Thompson Lake's 50th Anniversary celebration. Photos by Brian Murphy



Goats munch on vegetation along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal. Photo by Michele Breen

Butterflies," by Melissa Steward were posted for the families to read during the walk. The panels were beautifully illustrated and were original prints from the book. Worcester Senior Center volunteers sealed the panels with a high gloss, moisture resistant varnish and mounted on storyboards that attached to the post they provided.

On **Cape Cod** a small herd of goats was seen at the Canal in September snacking on the vegetation on the south side of the **Railroad Bridge** at the tidal flats recreation area. The goats had not escaped from a local farm – they were invited guests hired by the Canal personnel to eat all the invasive plants that they could for about a week.

The goats' handler set up a fence

based on the Canal personnel's grazing requirements and delivered the goats. The site was specifically chosen for several reasons. Park Ranger Michele Breen came up with the eco-friendly idea of having the goats over for a meal. The control of overgrowth by the Railroad Bridge increases physical security.

This year's annual park ranger training took place at the **Westover Air Reserve Base** in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Sixty-plus rangers, project managers, and support staff from the Operations Division attended the training which covered a wide range of topics from natural resource based invasive species control to visitor assistance related drug and gang awareness.

Regulatory Activities.

In 2015 the District's Regulatory program processed approximately 3,100 permit applications. 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.

Regulatory Division issued on Feb. 4, the statewide Massachusetts General Permits (GPs) for minimal-impact activities subject to Corps jurisdiction in waters of the U.S. within the boundaries of, and off the coast of, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, excluding work within the boundaries of Indian Tribal lands.

These GPs became effective on Feb. 4. The GPs will protect the aquatic environment and the public interest while effectively authorizing activities that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the

aquatic environment. The previous Massachusetts GP expired on Jan. 20. The 23 GPs for Massachusetts continue the expedited review process for activities in Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act

Regulatory Permitting Actions

Letters of Permission – 9
Regional General Permit – 2,445
Standard Permit – 58
No Permit Required – 196
Preapplication Action – 757
Permit Modification – 352
Non-Compliance Action – 38

of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. A public notice, available on the Corps website, was issued in accordance with 33 CFR 325.10 to ensure potential applicants for permits

are informed of the requirements of 33 CFR 320-330 and of the steps required to obtain permits for activities in waters of the U.S. or ocean waters.

The closed Long Island Bridge located in Boston Harbor in Quincy and Boston, Massachusetts is no more.

After intense coordination and cooperation from other state and federal agencies, the New England District's Regulatory Division expedited a permit that allowed the city of Boston to temporarily drop bridge spans into Boston Harbor as part of a controlled demolition project.

The New England District is proposing compensatory mitigation guidance revisions for impacts to aquatic resources associated with Department of Army permits in New England. Both the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have a national goal of no overall net loss of wetland functions.

Public comments were accepted through May 4.



Long Island Bridge located in Boston Harbor in Quincy and Boston, Massachusetts.



John Astley with the 2015 LDP graduates and their mentors.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Awards and Recognitions.

The District team achieved a great deal over the past year and many were recognized both publicly and privately for jobs well done. Both teams and individuals were honored in 2015. The members listed below were among those who received recognition at a District-wide event or activity:

The New England District Leadership Development Program (LDP) held its annual graduation and kick off meeting Jan. 21, in the Concord Park Theater. **Col. Christopher Barron**, New England District Commander, made the opening remarks and congratulated the graduates. **Alan Anacheka-Nasemann (Sean Dolan – Mentor), Mike Bachand (Scott Acone), Kristine Blanchette (Steve Dunbar), Wendy Gendron (Scott Acone) and Josh Levesque (Scott Michalak)** all graduated the two year program.

Col. Barron held a town meeting to present some awards and give the audience updates on some current issues Feb. 25 in the Concord Park cafeteria. During the meeting Col. Barron distributed a number of awards. Retired Real Estate Chief **Joe Redlinger**, who returned to the District to receive a

Certificate of Meritorious Civilian Service for his outstanding work as Chief of Real Estate that included efforts during the Hurricane Sandy recovery and in support of the Overseas Contingency Operations.

The iDams Team received the 2014 Innovation of the Year Award and Commander's Coins. The team created a program that simplifies the dam inspection reporting process. Team members are **Siamac Vaghar, Francis Fung, Michael Gu, Kristen Paul, Christopher Scabia and Michael Andryuk**. Gillian Gregory, contractor, GEI and Matt Von Whalde, GEI subcontractor, Geonites, were also part of the team.

The Commander also recognized Office of Counsel team members **John Almeida, Will Pumyea and Sarah Bennett**. Almeida was commended for the work he did for the Department of Justice and for a wind energy project in Maine. Bennett and Pumyea were praised for the day-to-day work they perform for the Office of Counsel. Col. Barron presented **Greg Penta**, Regulatory, **Scott Flanagan**, Engineering/Planning

and **Bob Garrahan**, Contracting, District coins for doing exceptional work they have accomplished for the District.

A photograph of the New England District's **Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge** took first place in the International Bridge Conference Photo Competition. The competition is sponsored by the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, International Bridge Conference. This year's competition was themed, "Railroad Bridges of the Late 19th & 20th Centuries." The Cape Cod Canal Project Office submitted the photo, which was featured in P.E. Magazine, Special IBC Conference edition.

Capt. Daniel Brady, Construction, was one of eight U.S. Army captains to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award for Outstanding Company Grade Officer 2014. Capt. Brady received the honor on May 29 during a special ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Many awards were given on Founder's Day. Certificates of appreciation were given by Greg Lantz, Chief, ACE-IT, to team members **John Broderick, Stefan Carpenter, Paulo Dasilva, and Carl Orlando** for

their hard work and dedication to their New England District customers over the years. **Jennifer McCarthy**, Chief, Regulatory Division, presented Greg Penta with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for, "exhibiting the highest level of perseverance and initiative in overhauling and improving the general permit program throughout New England." Denise Kammerer-Cody, Chief of the Economic and Cultural Section in Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning presented **Jesse Morrill-Winter** with a certificate of appreciation from the Modeling, Mapping and Consequences (MMC) Production Center in recognition of his outstanding and selfless team efforts while working with the MMC team. Kammerer-Cody, who is also the Federal Women's Program Manager, presented the FWP Supervisor of the Year Award to **Michael Keegan**. Charlie Ross and Sarah Rudner of Human Resources presented the Length of Service pins. The Length of Service pins are especially remarkable because they reveal the generations of people who work together, combining their unique perspectives and experiences to accomplish goals. The awards ranged from five to 40 years of service.

The General Services Administration Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) property in Watertown, Massachusetts, won the 2014 EBC James D. P. Farrell Brownfield's Project of the Year Award, which is awarded by the Environmental Business Council of New England.

After one year of proposals and hard work, a group of 8th grade students from Broad Meadows Middle School have been able to add the Passanageset Knoll directly into the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), which is the official geographic names database for the federal government. The "**History Girls**" as they are known had been trying to rename the Board Meadows Marsh in Quincy, Massachusetts to the Passanageset Knoll after discovering

that the area was a Native American Site. The New England District recently completed the restoration of the site.

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced two of New England District's small business contractors, Mabbett & Associates and H&S Environmental, have received recognition for work with the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies. Mabbett & Associates, Inc., of Bedford, Massachusetts was selected as the 2015 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region 1. **Arthur Mabbett** is the owner and president of the company. **Debra Heims**, owner of H&S Environmental of Westborough, Massachusetts was selected as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2015 Women Small Business Owner of the Year for Massachusetts. Both companies were nominated for the honors by Eva Marie D'Antuono, Deputy for Small Business at the New England District.

Several New England District team members received awards for exceptional service to the District and the nation. **Jennifer McCarthy**, Chief Regulatory, and **Steven Lahti**, Engineering/Planning, both received Commander's Awards for Civilian

Service for their meritorious service on the FEST-A team while supporting Operation United Assistance in Liberia. McCarthy, who served as an environmental scientist and Lahti, a mechanical engineer, supported the 101st Airborne Division during the Oct. 5, 2014 to April 15, 2015 time period.

Will Pumyea, Office of Counsel, recently received the Office of the Chief Counsel Keystone Award that is awarded by the Corps of Engineers Headquarters for demonstrating versatility, sophisticated skills in multiple practice areas, professionalism and a strong work ethic. Pumyea also received a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Certificate of Commendation. He received this award for his efforts in connection with mediation in the Combustion Engineering matter.

To kick off the holiday festivities, Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, hosted an awards ceremony just before the District holiday party, Dec. 18 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Judy Antonellis, Programs, received a District Coin for her tireless work on the District's after hours holiday party.

Scott Michalak and **Mike Bachand**,



Members of the iDams team accept the 2014 Innovation of the Year Award.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Engineering/Planning, both received diplomas for completing the USACE Risk Management Program. **Lindsay Flieger**, Regulatory Division, received a District Coin for her well-received presentation during the National Regulatory Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, on Nov. 19.

Ruthann Brien and **Laura Lally**, both from Regulatory Division, received District Coins for their major roles in coordinating the massive logistical details that made the District's daytime holiday party a success.

Beverly Lawrence, Engineering/Planning, received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her outstanding work in her new position as the Architect-Engineer (A-E) coordinator for the District from Nov. 30 to present.

The final award, the rare Army Superior Unit Award, was presented to New England District Team members who worked with New York District, **North Atlantic Division's Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery Team**. During Oct. 29, 2012 to May 31, 2013 the unit displayed superior performance by delivering rapid and timely engineering projects and services. The team



Debra Heims, H&S Environmental (center) accepts the 2015 Women Small Business Owner of the Year award.

members were: **Mark Anderson, John Astley, Megan Cullen, Stephen Dunbar, Alex Garneau, Wendy Gendron, Donald Hassett, Michael Keegan, Joseph Mackay, Erika Mark, Leanna Martin, Lt. Col. Todd Melzer, Grace Moses, William Pumyea, Kane Turmelle, Stephen Umbrell, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Steven Wolf, John**

Asseng, Christopher Caisse, Andrew Cattano, Theron Chase, Jr., James Doucakis, Dara Gay, David Goodrich, Andrew Jordan, Maj. Stephen Lavalle, Randal Lecuyer, Jeffrey Mangum, Brett Markure, John Murner, Michael Sheehan, Andrew Stamer, Heather Sullivan, Mark Walsh and Marissa Wright.



Capt. Daniel Brady received the MacArthur Leadership Award for Outstanding Company Grade Officer.



Will Pumyea receives the Keystone Award from Col. Christopher Barron.



Christine Renzoni assists a young participant decorate his bird feeder.



Mike Riccio uses hands-on activities to teach children about propulsion during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Equal Employment Opportunity.

Future engineers, scientists and park rangers filled the conference rooms at the New England District's Concord Park Office, April 24 during the Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Sponsored by the Federal Women's Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO), the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event is one of the most popular activities of the year. Over

43 children ages 8-12, the largest attendance so far, participated.

This year, the District was able to partner with CRREL and ERDC and members of their staff to assist in this year's program.

EEO hosted its annual Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month event, May 28 in the Concord Park Theater. The Army theme for the 2015 observance was, "Many Cultures, One

Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion."

This year's keynote speaker was Mayor Lisa Wong of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. She was first elected in November 2007 and is currently serving her fourth term.

In addition to the above observances, EEO presented observance material such as PowerPoint presentations and links to other resources for other key celebrations being held throughout the year.



Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong makes a presentation about becoming an adult and community involvement during New England District's Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage observance.





Larry Oliver describes the restoration project at Broad Meadows.

STEM and Outreach.

A New England District engineer coached and inspired a team of seven little girls to build an impressive structure during a new robotics program at their school. **Matt Tessier, Engineering/Planning**, participated in advising a team of 2nd graders to include his own daughter, at the **Eliot Elementary School's** Robotics Program in Eliot, Maine. A total of four teams of 2nd and 3rd graders participated. The Engineering and Robotics Program's goal was to introduce students to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts and provide opportunities for collaborative problem solving.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, entered into an education partnership agreement with MassBay Community College, May 26. Col. Barron and John O'Donnell, President of **MassBay Community College**, signed the agreement at the Wellesley, Massachusetts Campus. The agreement established the basis for mutual understanding and

cooperation between the Corps and MassBay Community College in the implementation of a 'Partnership in Education' program.

At the request of the Quincy, Massachusetts Park and Recreation Department, **Larry Oliver, Chief,**

Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning, hosted a site tour and presentation about the District's **Broad Meadows Salt Marsh Restoration Project** on Aug. 24.

The presentation was part of the city's monthly Environmental Treasures



Matt Tessier's all-girl robotics team show their girl power poses during one of the sessions.

Photo by Matt Tessier



Brig. Gen. Graham (center) gets a tour of the Muddy River Project in Boston, Massachusetts.

Photos by Bob Casoli

Program. Over 60 people attended the hour and a half presentation, held at the project site in Quincy. Oliver talked as he and his audience walked the project site, stopping to point out plants and animals and to answer questions. Topics that Oliver discussed on the tour included the importance of salt marshes, salt marsh ecology and restoration techniques, the dredging history of the Town River project, and the restoration project itself.

North Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. William Graham, took time away from his tight schedule to visit the Muddy River Project while he was in Massachusetts. The visit, which coincided with an event at MIT, took place, Nov. 10.

Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, and Mike Keegan, Chief, Civil/IIS Branch, were on hand to give a detailed briefing on the project and to answer any questions posed by Brig. Gen. Graham. Other team members were **Sean Dolan, Cesar Lopez; Jeremiah Masey; Bob Casoli; and Michelle O'Donoghue**.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and **Capt. Daniel Brady**, Construction Division, both attended local Veterans Day observances.

Col. Barron served as keynote speaker during the Keene, New

Hampshire Veterans Day ceremony, Nov. 11. The event took place at Fuller Park, Keene Recreation Center. Capt. Brady spoke at the Veterans Memorial Middle School in Melrose, Massachusetts on Nov. 10, about what being a Veteran means to him.



John O'Donnell, President, MassBay Community College, and Col. Christopher Barron, District Commander, sign an education partnership agreement.



Tim Hays, District Librarian speaks with a fellow Lincoln Minuteman during a break.



Col. Christopher Barron with Merlon Bassett before the parade.

Activities and Celebrations.

The New England District had a busy year participating in activities, both official and unofficial, around the District in 2015.

Sixteen New England District team members wore red to raise awareness of heart disease Feb. 6 during the District's observance of "Go Red For Women." The District event was sponsored by the Federal Occupational Health Office (FOHO) and the Safety Office. This is the second year the District has held the event in the hopes to bring the topic of heart disease to the forefront.

The first battles of the American Revolution were fought in Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was formed only a few days later on April 26.

When the town of Concord commemorates those early battles on Patriot's Day, held every third Monday of April, they extend an invitation to the New England District to participate. This year, Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, the New England District Ranger Color Guard and Tim Hays, District Librarian and reenactor, dressed as a Lincoln Minuteman,

marched in the town's Patriot's Day parade, April 20. The parade route spanned about three miles, beginning on Everett Street, going on for several more streets, through Monument Square and then stopping at the historical North Bridge for a wreath laying ceremony.

On June 26, the New England

with a smile; it was time to put work on the backburner and talk about family, hobbies and vacations.

Things got pretty spooky when District team members dressed up for Halloween and shared a favorite dish during the annual Halloween Potluck Lunch on Oct. 30. There were many dishes provided for the lunch. They included chicken fried rice, mac and cheese, Mexican stuffed shells, Vegetable Korma, Buffalo chicken meatballs, chili, salads, pizza, pasta dish and more. The desserts were as numerous and varied as the main meal and ranged from healthy fruit salad to slightly less healthy brownies and cookies.

The New England District celebrated the end of another successful fiscal year with the Work Environment Association's annual Year End Barbecue Lunch, Oct. 8 in the café. Over 85 people signed up for the event.

The New England District team celebrated the season with a holiday celebration lunch on Dec. 18 in the Concord Park Cafeteria. Over 160 people attended the party. This year's theme was, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Land of Misfit Toys."



New England District Team Members dress in red to bring awareness to heart disease.

District celebrated 240 years of service to the nation with an awards ceremony and cookout held in Concord, Massachusetts. Founder's Day began in the morning at 8 a.m. with a free continental breakfast, provided by the District's Work Environment Association (WEA). Early-risers got first dibs on tasty pastries, juice and coffee. Familiar faces and their guests mingled about

New Employees

Zachary Baum	Engineering/Planning
Debra Barresi	Real Estate
Megan Bishop	Regulatory
Edward Buczek	Public Affairs
Lawrence Carabajal	Engineering/Planning
Julie Carignan	Engineering/Planning
Amy Charlton	Operations
Robert Christie	Construction
Michael Clinard	Construction
Brooke Dube	Operations
Sara Emery	Resource Management
Marie Esten	Engineering/Planning
Joseph Fentress	Safety
Elizabeth Glasgow	Contracting
Keith Goulet	Operations
Karl Hakala	Operations
Otis Hawes	Security
Brian Head	Engineering/Planning
Joshua Helms	Regulatory
William Herland	Engineering/Planning
Aaron Hopkins	Engineering/Planning
Craig Jones	Operations
Stephen Jones	Contracting
Michael Kaminski	Construction
Anne Kosel	Real Estate
David Lubianez	Engineering/Planning
Christopher Marron	Regulatory
Dennis McEleney	Construction
Tia Mercer	Operations
Julie Mercier	Construction
Robert Morrissey	Regulatory
Michelle O'Donoghue	Construction
Paul Paris	Construction
Eric Pedersen	Operations
William Phelan	Construction
Prasanna Rachakatla	Engineering/Planning
Christine Renzoni	Regulatory
Jessica Rudd	Construction
Donna Russell	Real Estate
John Shannon	Construction
Andrew Sinclair	Construction
Joseph Smeraldi	Counsel
Michael Tuttle	Programs/Project Mgmt.
James White	Resource Mgmt.
Michael Wierbonics	Regulatory
Lisa Winter	Engineering/Planning

Employee and retiree list provide by Human Resources.

Deployment list provided by Emergency Operations.

Deployments in 2015

Iraq

Jim Fielding

Afghanistan

Vincent Pecchia

Africa

Jennifer McCarthy

Stephen Lahti

Retirements

Martha Abair

Karen Adams

Merlon Bassett

Thomas Chamberland

David Descoteaux

Joseph Faloretti

Thomas Greenway

William Hubbard

William Kane

Santos Lara

Elaine Law

James Lewis

Edwin Lippman

James Morocco

Maureen Murray

Jerome Nunziato

Paul O'Brien

Victor Ranfos

Joseph Redlinger

Randall Sujat

William Taylor

Christopher Turek

Lowell Whitehead

Retiree Passings

Jack Boyea*

Susan Douglas

John Hart*

Craig Hysler

Robert Troy

Charles Marney

Ronald McGovern

Theresa Murphy

George Sarandis

Rosalie Tekeyan

*Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member



