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Building Strong®



Mount Coffee Hydropower Project Rehabilitation in Liberia is underway

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Yankee Voices



Jonathan Dumais and Samantha Gray

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American Heart Month

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) — including heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure—is the No. 1 killer of women and men in the United States, as well as a leading cause of disability, preventing Americans from working and enjoying family activities. During February, learn about your risks for heart disease and stroke and stay "heart healthy" for yourself and your loved ones.

Employee Spotlight: Kevin Kotelly, Regulatory Division



Kevin Kotelly is a Regulatory Project Manager in Regulatory Division and has been with the District for the past 15 years.

Being a project manager in Regulatory requires a vast knowledge of all the regulations associated with permits. "I manage and evaluate permit applications to perform work in waters of the United States consistent with the policies, procedures and goals of the Corps' Regulatory Program," he said.

In addition to his work in Regulatory, the Northeastern University graduate serves as one of the New England District's Safety Champs as well as serving on the Base Development Team. Kotelly says that the most enjoyable part of working for the New England District is the people that he works with.

In his spare time, Kotelly enjoys playing tennis.

Barbara Ingersoll named Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Barbara Ingersoll of Resource Management who was selected as the Work Environment Committee's Employee of the Month for December 2015. Barbara was nominated by Kae Perez and chosen by the Employee of the Month Selection Committee.

"Barbara has been invaluable in providing the IR auditor with guidance on the functionality of the old AWS Timekeeping and CEFMS CETAL reporting, and updating on the changes with the new CEFMS T&A system," said Perez. "I was new to USACE with no incumbent to assist in orientation, so the struggle to gain footing was certainly lessened by her. Barbara freely gave of her time and knowledge to acclimate me to Concord Park and the world of CEFMS timekeeping. While this may not seem monumental on its face, consider that in the past year the IR has audited every NAE employee payroll record and reported findings via the monthly CFO Validation Reviews."

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm. ON THE COVER: The New England District team meet with workers about the Mount Coffee Hydropower Rehabilitation Project in Liberia. The Power House for the project.

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Boston Harbor in Massachusetts.

Photo courtesy of the Department of Homeland Security.



Stamford Hurricane Barrier in Connecticut.

President's FY17 budget would keep Corps of Engineers in New England operating at normal levels

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

With the release of the President's Budget for fiscal year 2017 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works on Feb. 9, the Corps' New England District looks forward to continued normal operations and funding in fiscal year 2017 that starts on Oct. 1.



Ball Mountain Dam in Vermont.

In Connecticut, the budget proposes continuing funding for the operations and maintenance of the eight Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and the Stamford Hurricane Barrier, and proposes $500,000 for a feasibility study of New Haven Harbor deepening. It also provides funds for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works.

In Massachusetts, the budget proposes continuing funding for operations and maintenance of the 12 Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, the Cape Cod Canal and the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier. Additionally, the budget proposes $12 million in funding for maintenance of Boston Harbor federal navigation project, $470,000 in funding for maintenance of the Chatham (Stage) Harbor, $350,000 in funding for maintenance of Green Harbor, $150,000 in funding to prepare plans and specifications for proposed maintenance of the Gloucester and Annisquam River, and funding for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works.

In New Hampshire, the budget proposes continuing funding for operations and maintenance of the 6 Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, funding for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works, and $1.1 million in funding for maintenance of the Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River. In Vermont, the budget proposes continuing funding for operations and maintenance of the 5 Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, funding for inspection of completed works, and funding for the Narrows in Lake Champlain (New York District).

In Rhode Island, the budget proposes continuing funding for operations and maintenance of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and Woonsocket Flood Risk Management projects, $350,000 in funding for maintenance of the Block Island Harbor of Refuge, $350,000 in funding for maintenance of the Great Salt Pond in Block Island, and $200,000 in funding to prepare plans and specifications for proposed maintenance of the Providence River and Harbor, as well as funding for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works. In Maine, the budget proposes continuing funding for operations and maintenance of disposal area monitoring, inspection of completed works, project condition surveys and surveillance of northern boundary waters.

Additionally, the District will receive funding from its higher headquarters for Regulatory permitting activities and the Continuing Authorities Program and other work. Projects can be looked up by state. The FY17 USACE Civil Works Budget Book is online at: http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx.



Work at the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant in Liberia is ongoing. The project will supply much needed power and clean water to local residents. Photo by Patrick Blumeris

District Team assists with the rehabilitation of a hydropower plant in Liberia

A team from New England District is consulting on the repair work currently underway on the Mount Coffee Hydropower Rehabilitation Project near Monrovia, Liberia.

The team traveled to Liberia in November 2015 and again from Jan. 24 to Feb. 2 to conduct a site visit of the project and the surrounding areas.

The invitation from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) came due to the outstanding efforts New England District put out to make one of their projects, the Nacala Dam Restoration in Nacala, Mozambique, such a success. MCC has entered into a 5-year economic development compact with the government of Liberia. The District is providing independent engineering advice and due diligence support to MCC.

When work is complete, the Liberian capital city, Monrovia, will receive their power from the project. In addition, Monrovia and nearby villages will have a reliable source of clean water.

Businesses in Monrovia are currently purchasing connections to generators from vendors. "Many people do not have much choice but to be in the dark after sunset," said Patrick Blumeris, Hydraulic Engineer on the project. "Since Monrovia is so close to the equator, this amounts to 10-12 hours per night."

According to Blumeris, there are approximately 950,000 people who stand to benefit from the cleaner water. "There are people who will receive water from the piped system we are planning to re-install, from the reservoir to the treatment plant and then pumped into Monrovia," he said. "For people around the lake, a separate set of water hand pumps is being installed. These should be able to find groundwater more easily than any other pumps, and should be cleaner than the widespread use of surface water which often gets muddy or goes dry in the dry season. There is also a possibility that there is sea salt in the water."

Blumeris said that the current water pipeline project would ensure that water comes from a less turbid source than the river itself, and it is hoped that 100 liters per capita per day will be provided to nearly one million people.

"Our project ends at the White Plains Water Treatment Plant, which is undergoing a renovation of its own under the Liberia Water and Sewer Commission," said Blumeris

The 20-meter high dam was built in 1966. During the civil war in 1990, the dam was not allowed to operate, resulting in a dam breach.

Because of the breach, 180 meters of material was eroded down to bedrock. Also, much of the electrical and mechanical equipment had either been stolen or destroyed.

Work to rehabilitate the dam and the power house will include but not limited to repairing the breached portion of the forebay dam and repairing the generator floors and columns of the power house to support the crane and turbine/generator equipment during erection and future maintenance.

As a result of their visits, the team came up with numerous recommendations in all areas of the $350+ million project, many of which were immediately implemented. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in August 2017.

Team members who are working this effort are Team Leader Siamac Vaghar, Geotechnical Engineer; Brian Head, Electrical Engineer; Patrick Blumeris, Hydraulic Engineer; Mike Penko, Biologist; and Matthew Tessier, Civil Engineer and Jeff Teller, Chief, Appraisal Branch, Real Estate Division.



Participants at the NFFE Local 1164 Swearing In Ceremony pause for a picture after taking the Oath of Office. Photo by Brian Murphy

New Union officials sworn in during ceremony

The National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Local 1164 held a swearing-in ceremony for its new officers, Jan. 27 in the Concord Park cafeteria. The new officers were voted in by dues-paying members of NFFE Local 1164 and will serve three year terms. The newly installed officers will represent over 300 New England District employees who are covered by the bargaining unit.

Special guest Randy Erwin, NFFE National Secretary-Treasurer, was on hand to administer the Oath of Office to the new officers. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and Dan Purple, Management-Union Liaison, Human Resources, attended the ceremony to congratulate the newly elected officials.

"This is the first time the President, Vice President, Chief Steward and Trustees are all Corps employees," said Mark Walsh, NFFE 1164 President.

The newly elected officers are:

Mark Walsh - President

Robert Casoli – Vice President (formerly Chief Steward)

Don Hassett – Chief Steward/Sentinel

Jeff Teller – Secretary-Treasurer

Ruthann Brien – Recording Secretary

Dave Havron – Trustee

Barbara Newman – Trustee

Steve Umbrell – Trustee

Union representatives actively work with management regarding matters affecting personnel policies and practices, and working conditions.

They also work in areas such as labor negotiations, the collective bargaining agreement and safety, as well as for the fair and equal treatment of all employees.

As such, union representatives have recently taken part in meetings and committees such as Safety, Command and Staff, Advisory Panels, Digital Signage PDT and Awards Boards.

Founded September 17, 1917, the NFFE is one of the oldest unions representing federal employees. According to their website, www.nffe.org, NFFE is a national union representing approximately 110,000 blue and white collar government workers across the United States. For more information on the Local 1164, please go to: http://www.nffe.org/local1164/

You may be included in a bargaining unit which is represented by a labor union. Block 37 of your most recent SF-50 indicates your Bargaining Unit Status, explained in detail at: http://cpol.army.mil/library/permiss/411.html

To find out more about union membership, please contact the appropriate official.

Code 2947…NFFE 1164 (National Federation of Federal Employees).

Mark Walsh – President. Work (978-318-8319) cell (978-831-3982) mark.j.walsh@usace.army.mil.

Bob Casoli – Vice President. Work (978-318-8069) cell (978-505-9220) robert.t.casoli@usace.army.mil .

http://www.nffe.org/local1164/ht/d/Home/pid/22627.

Code 2946… AFGE 2682 (American Federation of Federal Employees) https://www.afge.org/.

Vincent R. Castellano, Sr. – Regional Representative (not a federal employee). Phone (732-828-9449) castev@afge.org.

Code 1382… IOMMP (International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots) http://bridgedeck.org/.

Randi Ciszewski – Government Fleet Representative (not a federal employee). Phone (202-679-7594) rciszewski@bridgedeck.org.

Code 7777… Eligible but not in a bargaining unit.

Code 8888 … Ineligible for inclusion in a bargaining unit.

If you have any questions regarding your Bargaining Unit Status, please contact a Human Resource Specialist in the NAE CPAC.

Canal Manager retires with over 40 years of service

Cape Cod Canal Manager Larry Davis made the decision to retire after 40 years of faithful federal service. To pay tribute to his outstanding career and to wish him well on his retirement, 67 friends, co-workers and retirees met at Tow Bridge Tavern in Bourne, Massachusetts on Jan. 15.

Deputy Canal Manager John MacPherson served as Master of Ceremonies. Other speakers were Samantha Gray and Frank Fedele, Chief of Operations Division. Davis received a number of special gifts that held significant meaning to him. These gifts included: a refurbished brass light from the Cape Cod Railroad Bridge; a framed photograph of Nauset Light being relocated by the District (Davis served as Project Manager); a framed photo of his co-workers; a homemade, 50 pound wrench that was crafted and used during the major rehabilitation of the Railroad Bridge.

Fedele presented Davis with a Superior Civilian Service award for, "exemplary service as the Cape Cod Canal Manager from April 2010 to December 2015 and for 24 years of exceptional meritorious service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."



Larry Davis receives his retirement certificate from Frank Fedele, Chief, Operations.

The Chief of Operations also presented Davis with his retirement certificate and pin. After the presentations, Davis had gifts for the Canal team, telling a story with each presentation.

Larry Davis joined the Corps in New England in March 1987. Prior to that he enjoyed a distinguished military career in the U.S. Air Force, joining in 1976 and graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1981. While he was with the Corps of Engineers, serving in both Construction and in Operations Divisions, Davis worked on a large variety of projects to include Dover Air Force Base in New Hampshire; the Baird & Mcguire Superfund Site in Holbrook, Massachusetts; the moving of Nauset Light and the light keeper's quarters and Highland Light, both on Cape Cod; repaving the Bourne Bridge; salt marsh and breakwater work at the Cape Cod Canal; Railroad Bridge painting; and projects in support of Operation Desert Storm. He became the assistant Canal Manger in 2001 and then Canal Manager, the position from which he retired, in 2010. Davis received his professional engineer's license in 1991 and his rope access certification in 2008.

There were nearly 30 retirees who came out to welcome Davis into the retirement community. Among them were Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Fran Donovan and Maurice Beaudoin.

Other retirees were Joe Bocchino, Maureen Murray, Greg Buteau, Carl Boutilier, Rick Casano, Joe Faloretti, Bob Hanacek, Joan Gardner, Bill Norman and Roger Hagen, to name only a few.

In his retirement, Davis plans to relax on Sanibel Island in Florida before looking for a career as a climber.



Three former Canal Managers: Franke Fedele, (from left) Larry Davis and Fran Donovan. Photos by Brian Murphy



Patty Bolton presents Bill McIntyre with a Concord Minuteman Statue.



Bill McIntyre greets guests at his retirement reception.



Scott Acone presents Bill McIntyre with his retirement certificate. Photos by Brian Murphy

William McIntyre retires from New England District

William McIntyre, Cost Engineering Technician, Engineering/Planning, retired from federal service after 25 years. A n informal reception was held in his honor on Dec. 29, 2015 in the Main/New Hampshire Conference Rooms at noon. About 40 co-workers, friends and retirees gathered to tell stories and wish McIntyre well on his retirement. Scott Acone, Chief, Engineering/Planning, served as Master of Ceremonies for the official portion of the celebration. Patty Bolton and retiree Bob Meader also got up and said a few words about their friend and coworker. "Bill will be missed dearly, we already do," said Bolton. "He is an honorable and dependable employee and team member with stories to tell about life and construction."

Bolton said that she and McIntyre's coworkers look forward to seeing him again soon at District events. Official presentations included the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal as well as his retirement certificate and pin. McIntyre also received a Concord Minuteman statue from attendees. After the reception, participants met McIntyre at Waxy O'Connors in Lexington, Massachusetts to continue the celebration.

McIntyre served 21 years as a Construction Representative and as a Cost Engineering Technician. He worked on countless projects, most notably: Raymark Superfund, Boston Harbor and the Cape Cod Canal dredging project. "Working as a Cost Engineer, Bill often provided key input to the design on projects based on both experience in the field and industry research which proved invaluable on a number of project designs," said Bolton.

According to Bolton, McIntyre performed on par with many engineers in the District, though his background is not in engineering. In the justification for the Commendation Medal, it states that McIntyre has proven himself to be an invaluable team member not only by the projects he has produced but also by mentoring new Cost Engineers which has strengthened the development of the District's Cost Engineer Program.

"As a Cost Engineering technician, Mr. McIntyre ensured the success of the Section, providing key insight to Construction methodology, technology and practices," read Acone. "Commensurate with his desire for quality, he worked selflessly to share his knowledge with new engineers."

Retirees that attended McIntyre's retirement celebration were Bob Meader, Chris Lindsay, Chris Turek and Greg Buteau. McIntyre plans to travel far and wide and spend time with his family during his retirement.

Dredging up the past



Photo by Ruth Ladd

Deb Garrett, (from left) Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Col. Curtis Thalken, Commander, New England District Commander, and Michael Tetreault, Vice President/State Director, Nature Conservancy, sign the Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement at the Nature Conservancy Office in Brunswick, Maine in this Jan. 31, 2008 photo.

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