



## Celebrating mental health addition at Hanscom

**By Ann Marie R. Harvie**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District**

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined Col. JR Weilacher, Commander 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, and other U.S. Air Force representatives in cutting the ribbon on Hanscom Air Force Base's new mental health clinic addition, Feb. 13. The ceremony took place inside the new facility.

Work on the addition included the design and construction of a single story 4,000-square-foot mental health clinic addition to the existing building 1900. The addition provides an exterior covered patient entry for extra privacy, while also providing an internal connection to the existing building.

"The 66<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron and the Mental Health Flight offer a broad spectrum of critical services – especially important today as America cares for a force that has endured over a decade of persistent conflict," said Col. Samaris. "This new mental health facility adds yet another arrow to their quiver."

Col. Weilacher expressed his appreciation for the facility and its patients. "This day is not about the facility itself, but the people it will serve," he said. "Fourteen people will service thousands of patients from all branches of service from a seven-state area."

Col. Samaris praised contractor Watermark Environmental of Lowell, Mass., for delivering a quality product, as well as the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group and the 66<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron for their participation in the design-build process that, "insured delivery of the right facility with the right capability."

The \$2.8 million design-build contract was awarded to Watermark Environmental on Dec. 23, 2011, with construction beginning on May 1, 2012. The project was completed this past January.

Other speakers at the ribbon cutting were Master of Ceremonies, Capt. Michael Oetjens; Col. Frank Glenn, Commander, 66<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron and Joe Spangenberg, Watermark Environmental.

In addition to the speakers, Lt. Gen. C.D. Moore, Commander, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center; Maj. Gen. Craig Olsen, Program Executive Officer for Command Central, Communications, Intelligence and Networks Directorate and Maj. Aaron Potter, Mental Health Commander, assisted in officially cutting the ribbon.

Other participants in the ceremony included Airman 1st Class Ashley Cook, U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty who sang the National Anthem and Chaplain Michael Orton, who gave the invocation. New England District representatives who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony were Ruth Cormier and James Conway, both from Construction Division.