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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

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Photo by Linda Jelanowski

Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre (3rd from right) joins District partners in breaking the ground for the new reserve center at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass.

District, partners break ground on new Reserve Center

New England District representatives joined members of the 94th Regional Readiness Command and Westover Air Reserve Base at a celebration that will start a project that will be beneficial to the nation.

A groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of the Westover Armed Forces Reserve Center took place at the Westover Air Reserve Base, in Chicopee, Mass., March 21.

Through the “One-Door-To-The-Corps” concept, the Louisville District issued the design-build contract for the reserve center project and the New England District Westover Resident Office is performing the construction management. The new facility will be a 1,000 square foot center, housing joint services. When the new reserve center is complete and ready for occupancy, the McArthur Army Reserve Center and the Windsor Locks Area

Maintenance Support Activity Shop in Connecticut will close the current facilities and move in. They will be joined by other Army Reserve, Massachusetts Army National Guard, and Marine Corps Reserve Units.

Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre represented both the New England and Louisville Districts at the event. He praised the partnership the Corps of Engineers is sharing with the local Congressional

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Yankee Voices

Col. Curtis Thalken, Judy Antonellis and
Col. Andrew Nelson



Congratulations

... to **Steve Patchkofsky**, temporary Project Manager at Hop Brook Lake, and his wife, **Nanci**, on the birth of their son, **Tyler**, on March 23. He joins his sister, **Cori**, in the family circle.

...to **Lt. Michelle Stivers** of the CHBCO for winning the WE Committee's Jelly Bean Count Contest. Her guess of 2,921 was the closest to the actual number of 2,976 jelly beans without going over.

..to **Jay Provenzano** for being named the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for April. Provenzano received the award for his outstanding customer service when taking care of computer problems throughout the District.

...to **the Lewis and Clark Discovery School Outreach Team** for being named the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter. Team members are Sally Rigione, Delia Vogel, Rick Kristoff, Viola Bramel and Joan Gardner for April-June 2008. The team presented programs on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to more than 400 students and 20 teachers in four local schools within three weeks.

New England College student does internship at Franklin Falls and Blackwater Dams

By **Amanda Lavallee**, New England College Senior

In the fall of 2007, my advisor and friend, Sarah Frost, called me to tell me I absolutely had to come down to campus to meet someone — a good friend of hers and much talked about name at New England College, Jennifer Rockett, Park Ranger at Franklin Falls Dam.

Jen was visiting the college to represent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at NEC's annual Job and Internship Fair, and Sarah thought it would be an advantageous idea to start up a conversation about an internship for the spring semester — my last semester before graduating.

At first I wasn't that into it. I was looking for something where I could work with kids and be outside; a teaching position where I could laugh and lead trips. However, after talking to Jen on the phone a couple of times about all of the possibilities for internship projects, I realized what a valuable opportunity this could be to practice some of the skills I'd acquired throughout my education and potentially open doors to future career paths.

This semester we've examined daily weather, performed snow surveys to figure out water content for spring runoff, worked with a fourth grade class in Danbury on a multi-disciplinary Iditarod unit, have gone snowshoeing at Blackwater Dam to check sites for wood duck vitality, performed monthly maintenance in the dam's gate house, and have gone on a few property tours. We also have plans to work on re-vamping the Franklin Falls activity center.

Through all of these activities I've strengthened my science background, learned a great deal about the history and forestry duties of the USACE and have had no shortage of the outdoors and laughter.



From Left: Jennifer Rockett and Amanda Lavallee conduct snow surveys for the Merrimack Basin watershed.

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Commander's Corner:

The District construction season is here

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



Now that spring has finally arrived and we are about to enter the main construction season for New England, I'd like to return to my January Yankee Engineer topic, "stop talking—start doing" (taken from a series of IBM commercials) and give an assessment of how we're doing. Stated another way, if we are living up to our

promised milestone and execution schedules then we remain "on time and on budget." For illustrative purpose only, I'll use this year's execution of our Civil Works program as an example, but the inferences apply to both our Military and International and Interagency Support (IIS) programs as well.

First, let's look at our Civil Works milestone execution so far this fiscal year. At the beginning of the current fiscal year, we identified 33 milestones for completion this fiscal year: 1 – Alternatives Formulation Brief (AFB), 11 – Decision Documents (DDs), 9 – Project Cooperation Agreements

(PCAs), and 12 – Contract Awards (CAs). To date, only the AFB has been completed. We are behind schedule on 5 (4 – DDs, and 1 – PCA), with 3 more (all CAs) due in May. So as of the end of March we are 1/5 or 20 percent complete. Many of these milestones must be completed in order to obligate funds for the remainder of the year. Or stated another way, we can only stay "on budget" if we stay "on time."

Now, let's look at our current Civil Works financial execution for the FY to date. We are half way through the fiscal year and had scheduled to obligate \$24.4 million. We have actually obligated \$23.7 million. This is a 97 percent execution rate, well on the way to meeting the USACE performance metric of 95 percent obligation for the year. However, FUSRAP execution (which is accounted for in the Civil Work's appropriation) is well ahead of schedule with only \$1.5 million scheduled for obligation by the end of March and actual obligations totaling about \$2.6 million. If FUSRAP is excluded, the rest of our Civil Works program has only a 91 percent obligation rate—below the USACE standard of 95 percent and even below the district's final FY07 obligation rate of 93 percent.

Our scheduled Civil Works obligations for the entire total \$74.2 million. Back of the envelope, this tells me, we're half
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New England District safety champions nab Division Award



Photo by Mark McInerney

Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite addresses the audience before presenting the NAD Safety Award.

Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, made a trip to New England District headquarters to present the NAD Quarterly Safety Award to the District Safety Team, March 19.

According to the Division's Safety Award Policy, the quarterly award recognized the District team that best develops and executes the Division's Safety Management System initiatives that promotes organizational involvement and achieves injury rate reduction.

Among all of the accomplishments the District achieved during the award-winning quarter, the fact that the removal of the District from the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs top 40 list was the highlighted success.

Brig. Gen. Semonite presented the main award to Safety Chief Sean Dolan, who accepted on behalf of the District. The Commander also presented certificates of appreciation and NAD Safety coins to the New England District's safety champions.



Photos by Christine Johnson-Battista

Craig Hysler at the Border Patrol Station in Calais, Maine. The Calais Station was one of three stations that Hysler worked on in 2007.

Hysler is Division pick for Hard Hat of the Year

A New England District Construction Representative has been nominated for one of the highest construction awards in the Corps of Engineers.

Craig Hysler, North Central Resident Office, has been selected as North Atlantic Division's nominee for the 2007 USACE Hard Hat of the Year Award. Every year the Chief of Engineers presents this prestigious award to the most outstanding construction field office employee in the Corps of Engineers. By his selection as the NAD nominee, Hysler has stood apart from everyone in the entire Division.

"Mr. Hysler's work is at the highest level and is well respected by his co-workers, peers, supervisors, federal and non-federal agencies," said Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander. "He exemplifies professional-

ism, is a role model for others and is a superb candidate for this award nomination."

Nominees for Hard Hat of the Year must meet a very strict criteria to include a permanent assignment to a field office and in the position for more than one year; must not be the Area or Resident Engineer or cannot exceed GS-12; the nominee's principal duties must relate to management of construction and his or her performance standards or job description must address quality management.

Hysler has been cited for outstanding performance many times since he joined the Corps in New England back

in the late 1970's. But it was his "above exceptional" year in 2007 that netted him the nod for the Hard Hat of the Year nomination. The Hard Hat of the Year recipient is expected to be announced in the late spring/early summer.

Hysler's year began with the Cocheco River Dredging project in Dover, N.H. The 8a (small business) contractor who was awarded the job did not have dredging experience, and the project was considered very difficult because of the river's narrow width, shallow bends, shallow depth and highly forested riverbanks.

"Ledge needed to be blasted. The



Rugged terrain, sub-zero temperatures and record snow falls were only some of the many challenges of building Border Patrol Stations in Maine. Craig Hysler met the challenges with professionalism and a sense of humor.



The Calais, Maine, Border Patrol Station is an award-winning facility, thanks in part to Craig Hysler.

river froze and required ice breaking numerous times to continue work,” said supervisor James Morocco about the challenges on the project. Morocco and Christine Johnson-Battista both nominated Hysler for the award. “Electronic global position satellite equip-

ment for positioning and depth determination was often useless because the signal was blocked out by the trees.”

A consummate team player who wanted the contractor and the project to succeed, Hysler was on-site every day – even giving up leave – until the

project was successfully completed.

The dredging project was just the beginning of his very busy year. In April 2007, Hysler was tapped to work in Van Buren, Maine to provide quality assurance for the third Border Patrol Station being built by the District along the Canadian border and was also involved in the Calais and Jackman, Maine Border Patrol Stations. The Border Patrol Station in Calais received an award from the New England Construction Management Association of America.

“The variety of projects you have worked on in your career is amazing,” wrote Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Engineer in a letter to Hysler. “I appreciate your dedication in ensuring that your projects are completed on time, on budget, and to the satisfaction of our customers. Also, your willingness to endure personal hardship to complete each mission is an inspiration.”

In Van Buren, Hysler is continuing to work with two local first-time Corps contractors and help them through the ins and outs of working for the agency. While assisting the contractors, Hysler is also working with his Border Patrol customers with their list of User Requested Changes and dealing with the day-to-day design and construction issues.

The Van Buren assignment, which is expected to continue until late summer/early fall, has brought other challenges – temperatures in the small town of a few hundred residents dove down to minus 30 degrees during the winter, which had a record snowfall of 200 inches, and a seven hour commute from his home in Southern Maine – but according to Morocco, Hysler meets all of the challenges professionally and without complaint. “It is his willingness to go anywhere that the Corps needs him to go, and his perseverance that the project can be completed, somehow, on time, within budget and with a satisfied customer that truly stands him apart from the others.”



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lynne Bleakney admires her retirement cake during her party. (Inset) Charlayne Deckman reveals "old war stories." (right) Pattie Price congratulates Bleakney on her retirement.

Lynne Bleakney retires with 40 years of service

"Welcome Aboard, Lynnie! You Rock!"

Sentiments like that one shouted out by retiree Bruce Zawacki to Lynne Bleakney during her retirement party at Hanscom Officer's Club on March 18 set the tone for the not quite rowdy, but definitely fun affair. Over 95 people to include family, friends, retirees and Distinguished Civilian Gallery members traveled from as far away as Virginia to celebrate with Bleakney and wish her a happy retirement.

Steve Andon welcomed the audience and introduced Bleakney's family, retirees and special guests.

Tim Winter, Chief Information Management, served as Master of Ceremonies. He talked about the many things that he and Bleakney have in common – their age and their love of Information Technology and golf. He said that although they had yet to play a game of golf together, he hoped he would still get the opportunity.

Winter said that Bleakney had been a loyal employee for 40 years, most of which were served at the Corps in

New England and most were served working in Information Technology. He gave a brief history of her distinguished career and then talked about a field trip to the Vermont Project Office and how they got to talk and get to know each other better during the trip. "Lynne has a vast institutional knowledge, she has a pleasant personality and is easy to work with," he said. "I have many fond memories of working with Lynne over the years."

Winter presented Bleakney with her 40 year certificate and a Bunker Hill certificate in recognition of her many years of dedication and professionalism.

Special guest and Norfolk District retiree Charlayne Deckman said she had "war stories" to share and talked about the adventures the two friends had while Bleakney worked for Norfolk District. One recollection that got attendees laughing was the midnight runs to the local fast food joint where Deckman would translate New England speak to Southern talk so that Lynne could get a meal. "I told her, 'it's

a milk shake, Lynne, not a frappe! We're not in New England, we're in the South!'"

Deckman also talked about the pair's adventures riding many roller coasters at the local amusement parks, as well as the summers Deckman spent in New England with Bleakney and her family. "I have wonderful memories of the times I've spent with Lynne and her family and I look forward to spending many more with them," she said. "You are a wonderful friend and I thank you for the memories."

Winter thanked Bleakney for her input, ideas, energy, hard work and dedication. He also thanked her for staying through the A-76 process. "Many of you might not know this, but Lynne could have retired a few years ago, but she stayed to help out during a very stressful process that we are still going through," he said. "She got us through the worst of it and I appreciate that."

Winter asked everyone to raise their glasses as he made a toast to Bleakney for a "happy, healthy, long

and safe retirement.”

Before Col. Andrew Nelson, New England District Deputy Commander, officially retired Bleakney, he had a story of his own to tell. He recalled being a Lieutenant Colonel who just arrived at the District and found himself temporarily in charge. In the flurry of activity of getting his computer set up and getting all his passwords, he received a visit from Bleakney. “I look up and here comes Lynne Bleakney marching in with my CEFMS card, my password and this big, long form,” he recalled with a chuckle. “She said, ‘Colonel, you need to sign here on the dotted line,’ and that included giving away my first son, the mortgage to my home and the future of my life should I happen to disclose my CEFMS password. I’ve been walking around for four years scared of Lynne that I was going to mess up.”

Nelson presented Bleakney with the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service for her exemplary performance in Information Management for most of her 40-year federal career. Bleakney also received the Army Certificate of Appreciation and her retirement certificate.

Pattie Price directed Bleakney’s attention to a table piled with gifts for her to open at her leisure during the party. “I’m going to really, really miss you,” she said.

Gifts included a gift certificate to a golfer’s warehouse and cash from party attendees, a framed photo of the Cape Cod Canal from Canal employees, and a photo of the smoking hut where she would take her breaks. The photo was autographed by her fellow smokers.

Bleakney thanked her friends and co-workers for organizing her party and thanked everyone for attending the event. “I’m going to miss everybody,” she said.

Bleakney plans to attend various annual District events and retirement parties and will continue to be a member of the NED Golf League.

Family members and special guests



Lynne Bleakney received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Andrew Nelson.

that attended the party were Bleakney’s mother, Gladys; brother Bob and sister-in-law Ann; brother Ron and sister-in-law Peg; nephew Ron, his wife, Sabrina, and their daughter Grace; niece Amy and husband, William; and Norfolk District Team member Melinda Worrell.

Former Corps employees who attended were Tony Riccio and Frank

Waldron.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members who attended were: Ann Dogherty, Andy Lamborghini, and Ralph Mallardo. Other retirees who attended included Bruce Zawacki, Fred Hardy, Henry Gatto, Jack Caffrey, Jane Kotelly, Donna Craig, Bob Gauvreau, Joe Colucci, Bob Martin, Joe Bocchino, Joe McElroy, and Cathy Collins.



Tim Winter, Pattie Price and Steve Andon go over the agenda for Lynne Bleakney's retirement party.



Steve DiLorenzo and grandson Marcus cut the retirement cake at the luncheon.

Steve DiLorenzo celebrates more than 40 years of service with retirement luncheon

Family, friends and co-workers crowded into the Concord Park Cafeteria to say good-bye to one of the District's most seasoned and skilled regulators.

Steve DiLorenzo's luncheon was held March 28. He retired with over 42 years of federal service.

Bob DeSista served as Master of Ceremonies. He thanked everyone for coming and introduced DiLorenzo's family. DeSista told the audience that DiLorenzo likes the finer things in life, especially nice clothing. "Now that he'll be on a fixed income, he won't be able to afford brand-name clothes," he said.

DeSista presented DiLorenzo with a solution to the problem – "Brand Name" stickers that he can affix to further clothing purchases.

After the laughter died down, DeSista talked about DiLorenzo's love of doing site visits and told some amusing stories of DiLorenzo's adventures on the road. "Steve had a real knack for his travel itinerary and scheduling meetings," he said.

DeSista presented DiLorenzo with a portable GPS system from luncheon attendees so that he can chart his travels in his retirement with state-of-the-art accuracy.

Brian Valiton was the next speaker. He proudly told the audience that he was a mere nine years old when DiLorenzo

started with the Corps in New England. Valiton talked about some of DiLorenzo's history in Regulatory and some of his travel "sacrifices" that he made in the early years of his career to include the inspections of Maine beaches in the summertime. Valiton also talked about DiLorenzo's time working in Europe and all of the places he visited while he was there.

On a more serious note, Valiton ended by saying that DiLorenzo brought a professionalism to the Enforcement Section of Regulatory Division. "We've done a lot together, we've had a whole life together and I'm going to miss him," he said.

Richard Roach also had a long working relationship with DiLorenzo, starting in 1979. He recalled a trip with DiLorenzo to Kennebunkport, Maine and was amazed at his knowledge of the area. "He had a good handle of the territory," said Roach. "The Clean Water Act was new, so we got to do a lot of traveling together."

Roach wished DiLorenzo well with his retirement. "It's been a privilege to work with Steve," he said. "I hope you enjoyed your time here because we've enjoyed having you."

Unlike his other co-workers, Farrell McMillan did not start his familiarity with DiLorenzo in New England, but in Germany where they both worked for some years. Both



Photos by Brian Murphy

DiLorenzo's grandson, Braydon, plays with a balloon during the luncheon.

Col. Curtis Thalken presents Steve DiLorenzo with a Bunker Hill plaque.

became Little League coaches there because their children were the same age. McMillan told a story about how their children's team won a championship, thanks to the help of an Army major. "Thanks for the great memories in Germany," he said.

Two private citizens traveled all the way from Rhode Island to thank DiLorenzo personally for all his efforts to support dredging in their state. Michael Keyworth, General Manager and Vice President of Brewer Cove Haven Marina, who is also a member of the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association was the first to praise DiLorenzo for his work. "Steve and Regulatory have been accessible and professional during the permitting process," he said. "Thank you Steve, for all you do and for your help with a lot of our dredging issues."

Howard McVeigh, Head of the of the Rhode Island Pilots Association voiced similar kudos. "Thanks to Steve, dredging is occurring in Rhode Island," he said.

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander,

said that DiLorenzo had 34 years with the Corps and the rest in the military where he saw combat while serving his country. He thanked DiLorenzo for his service and his family for their service. "It's not easy being a military wife," he said. "It's tougher to pack up your family and move to another country. Steve, although Public Service is not monetarily profitable, you made a lot of friends here."

Col. Thalken presented DiLorenzo with a Bunker Hill plaque before officially retiring him by giving him his retirement certificate and pin and a District coin.

DiLorenzo said he was at a loss of words. "I'm moving on to a new phase in my life," he said. "I'm not sorry it's ending, but I've had a great time."

Family members that attended the luncheon included DiLorenzo's wife, Jeanie; son, Bryan; daughter-in-law Kristen; daughter, Cara, and his two grandsons, Marcus and Braydon. Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Bernie Manor and retiree Tom Bruha attended to welcome DiLorenzo into the District's retirement community.

Commander's Corner...

Continued from page 3

way through the fiscal year with only 1/3 of our available funds obligated, and we're already 9 percent behind schedule.

While not as easily defined, both our Military and IIS programs have similar challenges this year, we have a congressionally added project to award for Hanscom Air Force Base and reserve centers around New England to procure property for and then oversee construction of.

The Border Patrol has asked us to find sites and award construction contracts for several more Border Patrol Stations and several Veterans' Administration Hospitals

have asked for our assistance in the management of a long overdue revitalization program involving several of their facilities.

On our side, we're now entering our busiest months and we have time left. It's time to "start doing." As I stated in January, our total program in FY08 is larger than it has been in several years, but in order to sustain this increased funding we must deliver. Now is the time, so please take the time to ask: what can I do to help get us back on schedule? Thank you in advance for your efforts to push and pull us across the finish line.

Essayons!

State Environmental Department, District sign New Hampshire In-Lieu Fee Agreement

Program balances growth with natural resource conservation

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps) announced that they have signed a joint agreement regarding the New Hampshire In-Lieu Fee Program. This program has established the New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (the ARM Fund) to provide an alternative to site-specific wetland mitigation for people seeking permits that have impacts on wetlands or waters of the United States.

The Agreement between NHDES and the Corps will both streamline the permit processing and provide for significant environmental benefits.

Previously, site-specific mitigation that was required for small scale development projects resulted in limited environmental benefits due to the size, location, and type of the mitigation activities.

Under this new program, the NHDES and the Corps are now able to collect and pool funds contributed by these small projects to fund watershed improvement projects that will result in significant improvements through watershed improvement and protection.

“The in-lieu fee program has been in place at NHDES since August of 2006 and provides many benefits. These include opportunities for municipalities to accomplish high priority wetland conservation goals and an option for devel-

opers who aren't able to provide on-site mitigation. This program provides them with the option of mitigating impacts through a payment to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund, and an opportunity for the state to accomplish restoration and conservation projects with greater aquatic resource value,”

noted NHDES Commissioner Tom Burack.

“After all efforts have been made to avoid or minimize those impacts, this program will provide permit applicants an efficient and workable alternative while providing a better outcome for our wetland habitats,” said Colonel Curtis Thalken, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

“The fees will be used to

restore, create, and/or preserve aquatic resources and their associated uplands. We are pleased that the Corps is working with NHDES to make the ARM Fund available for federal permit applicants.”

More information on the New Hampshire In-Lieu Fee Agreement and ARM Fund is available on the DES website at <http://des.nh.gov/Wetlands/helpdocs.htm> or on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then Mitigation and select “New Hampshire In-Lieu Fee Agreement.” (Press Release. Photo by Tim Dugan)



Col. Curtis Thalken and Commissioner Tom Burack sign the N.H. In-Lieu Fee Agreement.

District, partners break ground on new Reserve Center

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delegation, the 439th Airlift Wing and the contractor to construct the new facility. “We welcome continued partnerships of this kind to help support the vitally important military readiness of the 439th Airlift Wing Westover Air Reserve Base, the 94th Regional Readiness Command, the Marine Corps Reserve Machine Gun Platoon, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nation,” he said.

The \$31,491,408 contract was awarded to Consigli Construction in Milford, Mass. Work is scheduled to begin in April and it is estimated to be completed in the fall of 2009.



Artistic rendering of the new facility.

Photo by Linda Jetanowski

Corps of Engineers and EPA's new rule will improve wetland stream mitigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new rule to clarify how to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the nation's wetlands and streams, March 31. The rule will enable the agencies to promote greater consistency, predictability and ecological success of mitigation projects under the Clean Water Act.

"This rule greatly improves implementation, monitoring, and performance, and will help us ensure that unavoidable losses of aquatic resources and functions are replaced for the benefit of this nation. This is a key step in our efforts to make the Army's Regulatory Program a winner, and the best it can be for the regulated community we serve and those interested in both economic development and environmental protection," said John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

"This rule advances the President's goals of halting overall loss of wetlands and improving watershed health through sound science, market-based approaches, and cooperative conservation," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, Benjamin H. Grumbles. "The new standards will accelerate our wetlands conservation efforts under the Clean Water Act by establishing more effective, more consistent, and more innovative mitigation practices."

Benefits of the compensatory mitigation rule include:

- ◆ Fostering greater predictability, increased transparency and improved performance of compensatory mitigation projects
- ◆ Establishing equivalent standards for all forms of mitigation
- ◆ Responding to recommendations of the National Research Council to improve the success of wetland restoration and replacement projects
- ◆ Setting clear science-based and results-oriented standards nationwide while allowing for regional variations
- ◆ Increasing and expanding public participation
- ◆ Encouraging watershed-based decisions
- ◆ Emphasizing the "mitigation sequence" requiring that proposed projects avoid and mini-

mize potential impacts to wetlands and streams before proceeding to compensatory mitigation.

Each year thousands of property owners undertake projects that affect the nation's aquatic resources. Proposed projects that are determined to impact jurisdictional waters are first subject to review under the Clean Water Act. The Corps of Engineers reviews these projects to ensure environmental impacts to aquatic resources are avoided or minimized as much as possible. Consistent with the administration's goal of "no net loss of wetlands" a Corps permit may require a property owner to restore, establish, enhance or preserve other aquatic resources in order to replace those impacted by the proposed project. This compensatory mitigation process seeks to replace the loss of existing aquatic resource functions and area.

Property owners required to complete mitigation are encouraged to use a watershed approach and watershed planning information. The new rule establishes performance standards, sets timeframes for decision making, and to the extent possible, establishes equivalent requirements and standards for the three sources of compensatory mitigation: permittee-responsible mitigation, mitigation banks and in-lieu-fee programs.

The new rule changes where and how mitigation is to be completed, but maintains existing requirements on when mitigation is required. The rule also preserves the requirement for applicants to avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic resources before proposing compensatory mitigation projects to offset permitted impacts. Wetlands and streams provide important environmental functions including protecting and improving water quality and providing habitat to fish and wildlife. Successful compensatory mitigation projects will replace environmental functions that are lost as a result of permitted activities.

For more information on the compensatory mitigation rule visit: <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cwcwo/reg/citizen.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation>. Information about the importance of wetlands is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/>. (USACE Press Release)



Wetlands off of Route 495 near Harvard, Mass.

Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Dredging up the past . . .

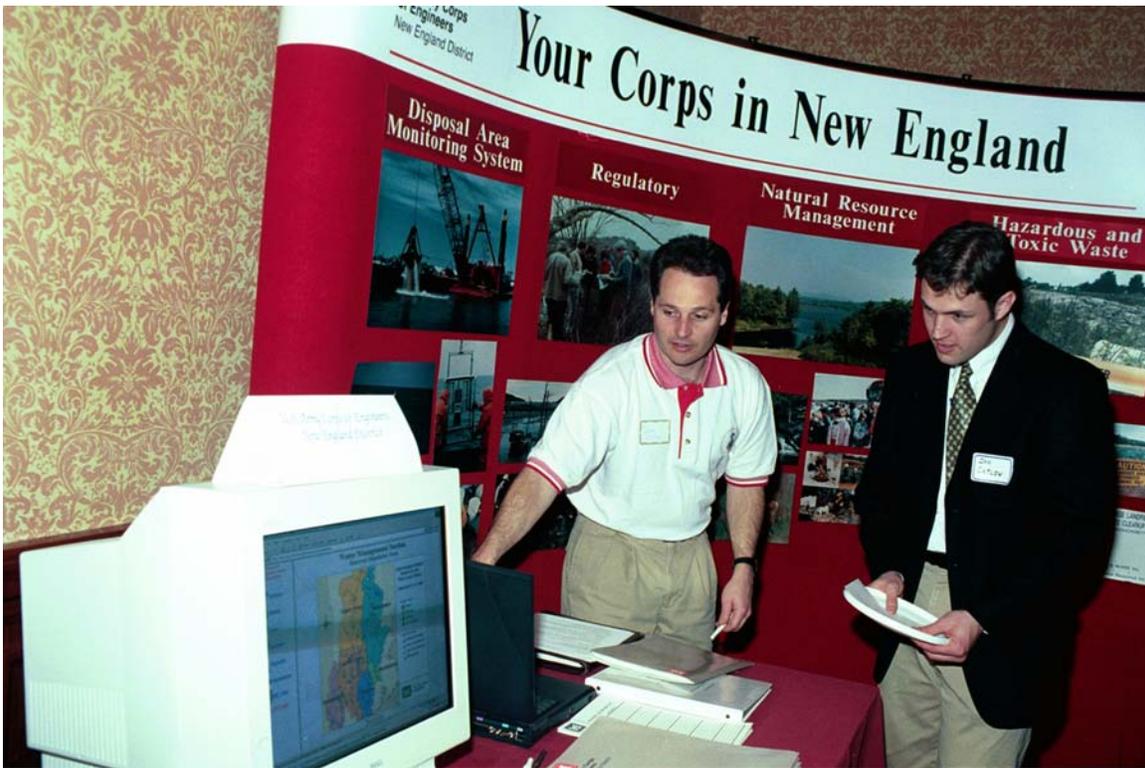


Photo by C.J. Allen

Dave Schafer answers a student's questions by using a Corps computer during Career Night in Boston in celebration of Engineers Week in this March 2000 photo.

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