

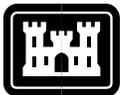
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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District**

Volume 43, No. 6

# Yankee Engineer

April 2009

## Chief of Engineers visits District, holds special town meeting to speak with employees

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp held a special town meeting at New England District April 2 in the Concord Park Cafeteria to give an update on activities going on around the Corps and to discuss the Corps Campaign Plan.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp started his meeting by presenting Dick Carlson

with a Chief's coin for his 39 years of dedicated federal service. "You deserve this coin, you've had a nice, long run," said the general. "Congratulations on your retirement."

After selecting Brian Valiton to "assist" him during the meeting, he mentioned that the Corps will be receiving \$25 million in stimulus money

for Regulatory.

The Chief said that he had a set amount of time to talk with the District employees and that time matters. He told people that if they feel they don't have enough time to get things done, they should lay out their priorities based on a 20/80 principle. Do the high importance assignments first and then worry about the lower priority assignments later. "Time is something you can't make more of," he said.

The country and the Corps are entering historical times, according to the general – the top event being a new administration with the country's first African American Leader. He mentioned that the Corps has 22 projects in Africa..

The Chief continued to discuss the historical events currently happening such as the economic status of the country, the fact that the United States has been at war for seven years, the climate situation and how the Corps and the U.S. Army is getting more and more environmentally friendly.

"We're going to take Fort Irwin in California off the grid," he said. "We want the meters to run backwards. We're putting in wind farms; we're putting in solar panels, and insulating

*Continued on page 10*



Photo by Farrell McMillan

*Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp drives a Corps vessel down the Cape Cod Canal during his visit to New England District.*

# Yankee Voices



WE Committee Red Sox  
Opening Day Hot Dog sale.

## Corps intramural basketball season ends with a win

by **Mike Tuttle**  
**Project Management**

The Corps team completed their inaugural season with a 52 to 45 win.

The 14-team Hanscom League consisted of active servicemen and women, Lincoln Lab, U.S. Coast Guard, MIT and your beloved Corps team.

Though the Corps team finished in 9th place with a 4 and 6 record, there were many exciting games, including a double overtime win.

Corps players included Robbie Russo, Jesse Morrell-Winter, Mark Anderson, Jim Kelly, Steve Dunbar, Rob Russo, Mike Tuttle and friends (Vinnie Russo, Sal Russo, Chris Erving, John Sennott and Mike Grant).

Next year season begins in late February, so the GM will be canvassing the halls for more recruits.

## Congratulations

...to **Marie Connor and Cathy LeBlanc** -- your WE committee Team of the quarter for April-June 2009. Connor and LeBlanc are recognized for their outstanding support in doing the financial transactions and billing for two of our reimbursable programs. LeBlanc and Connor are integral to NAE's success in our support for other Federal Agencies. LeBlanc's work in Programs, assisting with P2 actions, coordinating acceptance of funds, and closing out completed projects is critical to being able to exceed our customer's expectations in starting work and keeping it on schedule and on budget. Connor is the link between NAE and Millington in regards to automatic billing of our charges on a monthly basis. During the month of February, the team was instrumental in resolving funding and billing issues (e.g., labor codes to be backed out, funding accounts revised and corrected, and new labor codes established and charged) on two major projects/programs-- the Big Dig support for the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General and the Veteran's Administration work in New England. All of this work has to be completed and then fully explained to our customers, who see automatically generated bills for new charges, then credits, then additional charges. To complete this efficiently and transparently so that both the Finance Center in Millington and our Customers understand this takes great patience and is very time consuming. LeBlanc and Connor accomplished this with no impact to ongoing work.

## Sympathy

... to **Dick Carlson**, Construction/Operations, and his wife, **Judy**, on the passing of his father-in-law, Frank Noyes, March 17.

... to **Jim Morocco**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of his mother, **Rose Morocco**, March 17.

... to **Phil Becker**, formerly of Design Branch, on the passing of his wife, **Elizabeth L. Bloomquist (Betty) Becker**, March 24.

...to **Jack Perry**, Design Branch on the passing of his father, John Perry, Jr., March 29. Mr. Perry was an Air Force veteran who served during World War II and worked for the Postal Service for over 40 years.

...to **Paul Minkin**, Regulatory, on the passing of his father, **Charles Minkin**, April 2.



# District Engineer says goodbye to NAD Commander, briefs employees on current events



*During Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite's last town meeting with the New England District, held March 27, Col. Tom Feir, our New England District Commander, took a few moments to thank our outgoing North Atlantic*

*Division Commander, and his lovely wife, Connie, for their wonderful support, passionate leadership, and nurturing guidance over the past two and a half years.*

Having been born and raised in Vermont, it was sad to have to say goodbye to one of our native sons, and one who was a super advocate to our region. Following a couple of presentations, Col. Feir then talked about current events in the District.

Col. Feir said that he truly enjoys the opportunity to talk with the team about our many exciting and challenging projects. He discussed his recent e-mail updates and said that "many of you have been e-mailing him back and providing valuable feedback which he greatly appreciates – we can all look forward to receiving more e-mails from him in the future."

The first "hot topic" that the colonel wanted to address was the NSPS conference he attended as the USACE representative. As a panel member, Col. Feir was asked to comment on his experiences with the program and to help facilitate discussion relating to the review of the national policy. There was great debate on the subject, and Col. Feir commented that "His was a very enlightening experience," he said of the conference.

Regarding the future of NSPS, Col. Feir said that he was unsure as to what would happen to the program. "Depending on what organization you're in, NSPS is treated differently, which is cause for concern, and one of the reasons for the review," he said. "We'll just have to see where the review process takes us and where the program itself goes from here."

The Boston Harbor project has been held up, but the colonel said that he is hopeful that the feasibility study could be finished and put into the Chief's report in the very near

future. "We're pretty close," he said. "I'm very proud of every team member who is working to make this project happen."

According to Col. Feir, the District continues to wait for the final amount of stimulus money for projects, to include operations and maintenance projects such as navigational dredging, to get finalized and out to the field. He stipulated that, "There is a short time suspense to get projects underway, and because of our contracting requirements, environmental issues, and other internal processes, the more time we have to react to all of the stimulus directives, the better we'll be able to execute the program." He tipped his hat to all who were working valiantly to stay ahead of the power curve on this program.

At the time of the town meeting, Col. Feir said that he would be traveling to Washington, D.C. to brief the status of the St. Croix River Basin to the International Joint Commission. "There's some great work going on between the Canadian and American agencies," he said. "This process has been very enlightening for me to learn all of the things that we have to deal with, not only in our own internal watersheds, but in a watershed that is shared internationally."

Col. Feir then discussed the District's internal organizational change that would split CONOPS into two separate divisions – Construction and Operations. "I think the approved transition is going to benefit the District greatly, and the changes themselves will be mostly invisible to everyone involved," he said. "We looked very stringently at what we wanted to do. We talked to people in other Districts, specifically within NAD, and got some great feedback, before making our final recommendations."

The District Engineer said that the District would be implementing the change shortly. Brig. Gen. Semonite gave his approval, and the District will soon convene two selection panels, chaired by one of NAD's Senior Executive Service members, to help move us forward and assist with the hiring of our new Construction and Operations Chiefs.

Col. Feir said that there is a new shift within NAD to begin supporting Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) vice the GRC (Gulf Region Central) District. Col. Feir urged anyone interested in volunteering for an overseas tour to discuss their options with respective supervisors, and more importantly with the Deputy District Engineer, LTC Steve Lefebvre. "There's going to be a huge swing in the workload in Afghanistan as our government begins sending more brigade combat teams to the region to combat increased Taliban terrorist activity," he said.



Photos by Brian Murphy

*Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre holds up the minuteman statue presented to Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite by Col. Thomas Feir (not shown).*

## Brig. Gen. Semonite bids farewell to New England District during town meeting

*Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, paid one last visit to the New England District and held a special town meeting March 27, to say goodbye and to recognize employees for jobs well done before he took command of the South Atlantic Division on May 1.*

A change of command ceremony was held on April 17. Brig. Gen. Semonite, who is a native New Englander from Vermont, said that he wanted to visit his home District last and that the theme of his meeting would be simply, "Thanks for everything that you've done."

Before the North Atlantic Division

Commander took the floor, Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, gave town meeting attendees an update on the current goings on in the District and praised Brig. Gen. Semonite and his wife, Mrs. Connie Semonite for being a great command team. "They are probably one of the most unique Army teams that I've had the opportunity to work with," he said.

Col. Feir said he has interacted with Mrs. Semonite on several occasions and that her selfless service to the organization is amazing. Mrs. Semonite has worked with the family advocacy program, which tries to help families that are deployed. "People like Connie make these programs happen," he said. "That is only one of the many things that she does."

The District Engineer presented Mrs. Semonite with a plant in appreciation for all that she has done for the

North Atlantic Division and the New England District.

Col. Feir thanked the general for his mentorship and leadership and said that "there isn't a leader at any level that has more passion and more desire to make the organization succeed than our leader for the last three years," he said.

Brig. Gen. Semonite recognized Joe Moyer and Adam Burnett who recently returned from deployments in Afghanistan with NAD Commander's coins. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you," he said. "We've got Soldiers who are away from their country, away from their families in a far off land trying to keep us safe, and the fact that the Corps of Engineers is there trying to make their living conditions better and safer is significant. I appreciate the fact that you pulled away from your quality of life to go there and serve

something bigger than yourself.”

The NAD Commander then presented Dick Carlson with a Meritorious Service Award for his faithful and dedicated service to the nation from May 1971 to May 2009 signed by Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers. Brig. Gen. Semonite praised Carlson for his unbelievable technical competence and his immense leadership skills. “Dick’s seen a lot in 39 years and the District is better because of that,” he said. “The mark of a great leader is being able to leave and have the District continue to thrive without them there because he has set the organization up for success by making sure there is a succession plan.”

Brig. Gen. Semonite recognized Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre with a Commander’s Coin, saying that he wanted to look Lefebvre in the eye and tell him “job well done.”

The general said that the job of deputy is a tough one. “The people that are in Steve’s position end up doing an awful lot of shaping and mentoring behind the scenes,” he said. “Your wisdom and your experience has imparted an awful lot on this team. Thanks for all you’ve done. You’ve set this District up for great success.”

Brig. Gen. Semonite recognized Larry Rosenberg, Public Affairs Chief, for advisory work as the NAD strategic communications team leader. He presented him with a Commander’s Coin and challenged him to continue to fine tune strategic communications.

As a native New Englander, he joked that people in the region complain about each other, yet they gravitate to each other when they are overseas. “Vermonters complain that Massachusetts people are pretty wild, but if you’re in Kosovo or Afghanistan and you see a guy from New England, you go up and give them a big hug,” he laughed. Brig. Gen. Semonite said he was excited about the challenges that he plans to face at the South Atlantic Division and that he will take much of what he learned at North Atlantic Division with him. He talked about what his percep-

tions were of where the Corps of Engineers is going in terms of the Chief’s “Good to Great,” plan. He discussed the Chief’s I-Plan and that the North Atlantic Division has taken four major goals in support of the I-Plan: Support the warfighter/Support natural disasters; Make the Civil Work Program better; Work the Military Program better; and to work those enablers.

The general touched on many topics during his presentation to include the future of the BRAC program; work on the new museum at Fort Belvoir; the civil works program; acquiring the Fox Point and Woonsocket projects; Boston Harbor; the District’s support to other agencies, where he praised the District’s work on the Border Patrol Stations in Maine, work for the Veteran’s Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The NAD commander talked about the stimulus budget and how the actual amount that the District is going to see is still fluctuating. Brig. Gen. Semonite said that it is not the Corps job to stimulate the economy, but we need to make sure we’re delivering on the stimulus as quickly as possible.

Brig. Semonite said that the mar-

riage of military and civil engineers in the Corps of Engineers is a good one. “We as military leaders don’t have anywhere near the depth, experience and the technical competency that you have,” he said. “But we have been in a lot of situations where you never get good courses of action and we’re pretty good at trying to come to a solution and if there is a problem, how can we help champion that.”

The general talked about going from Good to Great and stressed the need to hire the best employees possible. He stressed individual performance plans and professional registrations. “We owe it to our country and we owe it to this District to get quality people on the team,” he said. “You need to get yourself to great and the organization by default will continue to, ‘get to great.’ You’ve got to be the best developer of your own career.”

“It has been an honor to work for you,” said Brig. Gen. Semonite. “I applaud your service to our nation.”

After the general entertained questions, Col. Feir presented him with a minute man statue in appreciation of his service to North Atlantic Division and the nation.



*Mrs. Connie Semonite accepts a plant from Col. Thomas Feir in appreciation for her support to the New England District.*

# Division command changes hands from Semonite to DeLuca during New York ceremony

On April 17, Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, relinquished command of the Division to Colonel Peter DeLuca during a Change of Command Ceremony held at Division headquarters at Fort Hamilton, New York. Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, presided over the ceremony. The New England District Park Ranger Color Guard posted and retired the colors during the ceremony. Brig. Gen. Semonite's next assignment will be to Command the South Atlantic Division headquartered in Atlanta, Ga.

Col. DeLuca became Commander and Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division after commanding the 20th Engineer Brigade at Fort Bragg, NC.

NAD is one of eight permanent Corps of Engineers regions providing engineering and construction services to the nation. It is the Corps' regional business center in the Northeast and more than 100 other countries, with district offices in Concord [Mass.], New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and Wiesbaden [Germany].

As Division Commander, Col. DeLuca oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within a 180,000 square mile area along the Atlantic Coast. This includes more than \$7 billion in work to support Base Realignment and Closure 2005. He is also responsible for a variety of Division engineering and construction activities for international, federal, state and local governments and agencies in the U.S., and overseas, including Europe and Africa.

While commanding the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg and in Iraq from June 2006 through December 2008, Col. DeLuca led the brigade through an extremely



Photo by Brian Murphy

*Col. Peter DeLuca takes the Command Flag from Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp giving him command of the North Atlantic Division.*

busy and challenging period in its history. It supported the deployment of two airborne combat engineer battalions to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan as well as the deployments of the 19th Engineer Battalion to OEF and 326th Engineer Battalion to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

Col. DeLuca was commissioned from the ROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania in 1983 after earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Mechanical Engineering. Before serving with the 20th Engineer Brigade, he held a senior service college fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He served as Assistant Chief of Staff, Engineer (CJ-7) at Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq from June 2004 to June

2005, where he led a \$3 billion construction program to support the creation and effectiveness of the emerging Iraqi Security Forces. He also commanded the 326th Engineer Battalion (AA) during its participation in Kosovo peacekeeping operations, Noble Eagle security operations in the U.S., the Afghanistan (OEF I) campaign, and the Iraq (OIF I) campaign. Col. DeLuca has two previous tours at Fort Bragg.

He is also a Eurasian foreign area officer and a graduate of the Defense Language Institute's Russian course, Columbia University's Master of International Affairs program, and was a Senior Fellow at the George C. Marshall Center for European Security in Germany. His decorations include the Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Combat Action Badge.



Photos by Kevin Burke

*AmeriCorps Cape Cod volunteers and Sandwich Montessori School students plant beach grass under the watchful eye of Park Ranger John Pribilla.*

## Canal Park Ranger and AmeriCorps team to plant beach grass, educate children

Story by Megan Horbin  
AmeriCorps Cape Cod  
Environmental Education Coordinator

AmeriCorps Cape Cod teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District and Sandwich Montessori School to plant beach grass on Mashnee Dike March 18. AmeriCorps Cape Cod revamped their education focus area into a service learning category so students could learn about their environment and then be able to apply their knowledge to a project.

Cheryl Allen, a teacher at the Montessori School, contacted AmeriCorps about doing a service learning project with AmeriCorps Cape Cod after receiving a brochure about the new service learning initiative. When she told me the different topics her class was learning I contacted Cape Cod Canal Park Ranger John Pribilla at the Army Corps of Engineers and came up with the

idea of beach grass planting.

On March 11, AmeriCorps members presented an interactive lesson on the beach ecosystem to the first through fifth grade Montessori class that covered how dunes are formed, erosion, the plants and animals in the beach ecosystem and the role of beach grass. We prepped the students on what they would be doing the following week.



*Park Ranger John Pribilla uses a device to plant grass on Mashnee Dike.*

On March 18 the entire Montessori School (40 students plus approximately 10 chaperones and teachers) came to the Mashnee Dike and put their newly learned skills to the test by planting their own beach grass on the 750' x 20' plot of beach. Students were also able to see animal tracks in the sand, other vegetation in the dunes and learn about the history of the dike and canal.

Park Ranger Pribilla rewarded the volunteers with mountains of cheese pizza and soda at lunch time. The Montessori School truly worked up an appetite that day.

# Reenactment of Sojourner Truth stuns, delights audience



Photo by Brian Murphy

*Kathryn Woods plays Sojourner Truth during the Concord Park performance.*

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office joined forces with the Black Employment (BEP) and Federal Women's (FWP) Programs to host a special presentation March 19, in the Concord Park cafeteria.

"A Woman, Ain't I?" a one-woman performance by actress Kathryn Woods tells the story of Sojourner Truth, an American Slave, abolitionist, and Women's Rights activists with New England ties.

Col. Thomas Feir, New England District Commander, welcomed the audience and awarded Woods with a Bunker Hill plaque at the end of the presentation. BEP Manager Steve Dunbar introduced Woods and FWP Manager Heather Sullivan gave the closing remarks.

Woods has been performing in Boston for two decades. She has performed locally with Theatreworks, People's Theatre, the Wheelock Fam-

ily Theatre and the Underground Railway Theatre. Her international credits include performances in Moscow and the Edinburgh Arts Festival. Woods has taken her role of Sojourner Truth nationally and has appeared as the historical figure on C-SPAN.

Sojourner Truth, who was born into slavery as Isabella Baumfree in 1797, was sold several times until she escaped in 1826 with her infant daughter after her owner changed his mind about granting her freedom – one year before the New York Emancipation order freeing slaves was signed on July 4, 1827. After leaving her owner, Truth worked for Isaac and Marie Van Wagener, who took her in and paid her former owner \$20 for her services for one year, until the emancipation order took effect. Truth was forced to leave her other children behind with her former owner because under the new emancipation order they had to work as bound

servants until they reached their 20's. Truth became the first black woman to go to court and win against a white man when she discovered that her five year old son had been illegally sold to an owner in Alabama. After months of legal proceedings, Truth was reunited with her child.

Isabella Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843. A year later she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry located in Northampton, Mass. While there she met abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and David Ruggles. In 1850 Garrison published Truth's memoirs in a book entitled, "The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave."

That same year Truth spoke at the first National Women's Right Convention in Worcester, Mass. Although Truth participated in many speaking engagements, she delivered her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention.

As she worked to improve conditions for African Americans in 1864 while working for the National Freedom's Relief Association, in Washington, DC, Truth met President Abraham Lincoln. In 1870 she had a meeting with President Ulysses S. Grant in the White House as she tried unsuccessfully to secure land grants from the federal government to former slaves.

Her speeches and lectures made her many friends and supporters among influential people of the time to include Amy Post, Parker Pillsbury, Frances Gage, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Laura Smith Haviland, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony.

Truth died in November 1883 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

(Information for this article came from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sojourner\\_Truth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sojourner_Truth))

# New England District takes control of Woonsocket Local Protection Project

As a result of new legislation signed in January 2008, the New England District has recently added the Woonsocket Local Protection Project in Woonsocket, Rhode Island back into their arsenal of flood protection projects.

The Corps in New England completed construction of the project in 1967 for \$5.4 million and turned it over to the city of Woonsocket to operate and maintain. The project, which is now in serious need of repair, became federal property when the District received a quick claim deed this past January from city officials.

The project features include 11,521 feet of earth dike and concrete floodwall, 2,330 feet of pressure conduit, three pumping stations, and a 266 foot concrete overflow dam with four tainter gates.

The extent of the deficiencies became known after District engineers

examined the project as part of the New England-wide levee inspections for the Corps Levee Safety Program in September 2005. "We found some deficiencies, particularly trees growing in the embankment," said Robert Byrne, Programs/Project Management of the inspection.

The engineers reported the deficiencies to city officials and have attempted to get them to make repairs for two years, but because legislation to turn the project over to the Corps was about to be signed, nothing was done to resolve the issue. As a result, the project was placed in an inactive status on April 27, 2007. The status may require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to remap the 100-year floodplain and update the flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Although the District has money in the Fiscal Year 09 budget to operate and maintain the project, it is currently await-

ing funding to make needed repairs, which are estimated to cost about \$3.4 million.

Repair work would include extensive vegetation removal along dikes and adjacent to floodwall, replacing gate cables and painting the dam.

The Woonsocket Local Protection Project is located along the Blackstone River in North Central Rhode Island. Woonsocket suffered flood damage estimated at \$22 million from heavy rains in August 1955. The project received construction authority by the Flood Control Act of 1944 and 1960 and was completed in 1967. The project design flow is the Standard Project Flood equating to about 40,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) along the Blackstone River and 8,500 cfs along the Mill River.

In the interim, Cape Cod Canal team members will operate the project for New England District.



*Aerial of Woonsocket Local Protection Project, circa 1973.*

# Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp holds special town meeting

*Continued from page 1*

structures, such as putting foam on tents.”

The general talked about Corps dams and how many of them were constructed in the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s – some of which are in need of immediate repair. “We’re working on that and the stimulus package is going to help us out a little bit on the infrastructure,” he said.

On the stimulus package, the Chief of Engineers said that the Corps of Engineers is going to get about \$4.6 billion of projects that he believes can be awarded within the next year.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp said that the U.S. Army is growing – officials have set a goal to have 1.1 million Soldiers – active, guard and reserve – and said that the Army hit its recruiting mark this year. The general said that the Corps of Engineers is trying to grow by 3,300 people and has already brought in 1,700 new people from outside the Corps in the last six months. “We’re at every university in the country going after engineers,” he said. “If we’re going to build the bench for the future, we’ve got to do it now.”

Frequent, stressful deployments and a high battle rhythm are causing a great deal of stress for U.S. Servicemen and women, according to the general. Although it has not been a big issue for the Corps of Engineers, all DoD personnel are mandated to go through suicide prevention training.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp talked about Base Realignment and Closure and other deadlines that are coming up in the Corps. He talked about the agency’s growing missions and its historic workload. “Our workload is historic, it’s off the charts,” he said. “How are we going to get it done? We will get it done. We’re doing a lot of good work for America.”

Getting the Corps from good to great and the Campaign Plan was the next topic of discussion for Lt. Gen. Van



Photo by Brian Murphy

**Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp talks with Brian Valiton during his special town meeting at the New England District.**

Antwerp. He came up with six priorities for the Corps and that the Corps needs to communicate transparently. “We have to talk to our sponsors and know what the heartbeat of America is,” he said. “That’s our connection.”

The framework for going from good to great is very simple, according to the general. He has come up with four goals for the Corps:

1. Deliver superior performance every time.
2. Set the standard for our profession.
3. Need to make definite, positive contributions to our nation.
4. Build the Corps to last. Building the bench from young people to more experienced people.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp discussed the Campaign Plan saying there are four goals and 16 objectives involved in the process. He talked about a jar he has that contains 12 walnuts and 2-1/2 cups of rice and every time he and his family move they bring it and put it on the window sill. “The walnuts are ‘first things first,’” he said. “You can’t put the rice in first because everything won’t fit.”

The Chief said that he held a meeting with each division to see how each one would accomplish the objectives. North Atlantic Division came up with 19 action items. Regarding employees, Lt. Gen. Antwerp said that he looks for certain attributes when hiring people, or as the general says, “putting people on the right seat on the bus”:

1. Attitude
2. Passion
3. Character

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp concluded his town meeting with a question and answer session.



Photo by Farrell McMillan

**Park Rangers Samantha Gray and Bill Norman give Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp a tour of the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center.**

# District Engineer bids farewell to NAD Commander

*Continued from page 3*

Col. Feir said that President Barack Obama has committed 17,000 additional troops to the region and the Corps will be working to support this increase with the construction of base camps, forward operating bases, roadways and other projects that will help our U.S. Servicemen and women complete their mission. "The theater shift is coming," he said. "I appreciate everyone's input and encourage you to think seriously about volunteering to deploy. We've got a great bunch of Corps employees already serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and even in Africa, and all are doing great work at each location."

The colonel talked about some environmental issues that District employees are currently working. Specifically, he mentioned the controversial Winthrop Shores permit application and praised Kevin Kotelly, Karen

Adams and her group for their great work. He also discussed the wind farms on Block Island and the controversial South Coast Rail permit application.

Col. Feir congratulated Larry Rosenberg for winning the Golden Quill from the 2008 Headquarters Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Award for his commentary and talked about PAO's involvement in assisting NAD with the creation of a uniform web presence in conjunction with Headquarters, noting that Larry is the regional communications lead within the Division.

Col. Feir also discussed the District's on-going work at Hanscom Air Force Base. Construction on the base's new Administrative Building will begin shortly, and site prep work is already underway. Ken Paton and his team are doing a super job on the project.

Col. Feir also mentioned the great work by Sheila Bergeron and her team on the new Army Museum project at Fort Belvoir; the Emergency Operations Center team and their work with Task Force Hope, and with New Hampshire and Vermont state agencies involved in the December 2008 ice storm debris removal and electrical connectivity restoration efforts; Scott Michalak and his team's work with FEMA to coordinate levee certification processes, and assist with dike and barrier upgrades/rehabilitation; Sean Dolan and the Safety Office and their work educating our employees to work more safely. He was appreciative of all within the District and asked that we really put our best effort forward over the coming months as we deal with our construction season, increased visitation to our dams/rec facilities, stimulus initiatives, and every other important mission.

## District proposes leasing additional property to town of Sandwich for park, recreation purposes

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to lease additional property to the town of Sandwich, Mass., for park and recreation purposes.

The Corps of Engineers has leased a portion of the Cape Cod Canal to the town of Sandwich for public marina purposes since 1962.

The proposed new long-term lease (approximately 15 years) will expand the leased premises by 3.78 acres for a total of 19.85 acres.

The consideration for this lease is the operation and maintenance of

the premises by the town of Sandwich for the benefit of the United States and the general public.

The East Boat Basin was constructed in the late 1930s to provide an anchorage area for the construction vessels which were widening the Cape Cod Canal. After completion of the project, the harbor became part of the Cape Cod Canal Federal project and was expanded to its present size in 1963.

There is a commercial fleet based in the basin and the town of Sandwich operates a recreational marina inside the basin, the Sandwich Marina.

The town of Sandwich is responsible for the maintenance of all facilities authorized under the lease (i.e. maintaining the basin depth, mooring facilities, rip rap slopes, etc.).

Public comments on the proposed property lease were accepted through April 13. The lease proposal is being coordinated with the following federal, state and local agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, the Massachusetts Historic Preservation Office, and the town of Sandwich. The public notice, with more detailed information, can be reviewed online at the Corps' New England District website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices.

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Scott Acone (left) holds up a Big Dig collage, assisted by Robert Byrne, during Dick Carlson's retirement luncheon.

## Construction/Operations Chief retires with 39 years of federal service

After 39 years of distinguished federal service, Dick Carlson, Senior Leader Icon and Chief, Construction/Operations, decided to turn in his hard hat and steel toe boots for a life of rest and relaxation.

Over 170 friends, family, retirees and co-workers traveled to the Officer's Club at Hanscom Air Force Base on March 26 for what was dubbed, "a retirement luncheon like in the old days."

Robert Byrne, Chief, Programs, served as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed the audience and introduced Carlson's family. He presented Carlson's wife, Judy, with a bouquet of flowers. He introduced a long list of retirees that represented a Who's Who of the Corps in New England's past that had built the foundation on which the current District employees stand.

Byrne also introduced Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, who started the retirement luncheon off by presenting Carlson with his retirement pin and certificate. The Colonel briefly turned the attention

away from Carlson and focused it on his devoted and loving wife, Judy. He presented her with a Bunker Hill plaque for her faithful support of her husband throughout his 39 year career.

Byrne joked about Carlson's other "offices" over the years to include Holbrook, the Cape Cod Canal and Big

Dig headquarters. In between speakers, Byrne would inject candid commentary about Carlson. Regarding Carlson's golf skills, Byrne said, "Dick and I have been golf partners for over two decades and now after all these years he's going to take a golf lesson."

Scott Acone, who served as



Photos by C.J. Allen

Dick Carlson (center) receives his retirement certificate from Col. Philip Feir.



*Larry Davis (left) presents Dick Carlson with a Cape Cod Canal cap and photo.*

Carlson's Deputy Project Manager for the Big Dig Project, talked about the District's role in the "Stem to Stern Safety Review" and how the District's Senior Leaders stepped up and wanted to help. "In the beginning things were pretty intense. Dick took over as the project manager and attended a lot of meetings," said Acone.

Acone said that he built a friendship with Carlson during their time working together on the project. He read letters of appreciation from Bob Rooney, Director of the Stem -to-Stern project; Dr. Bill Davis, National Institute of Standards and Technology

retiree; and Bob D'Angelo of Headquarters. Acone gave Carlson a photo collage from the Big Dig Team featuring some of the team members who participated in the project to include Carlson. Carlson, who is famous for his casual dress, is wearing a tie in the collage. Acone concluded by presenting Carlson with a personal gift from Rodolfo Perez, Engineer Advisor to the Inspector General, U.S. Dept. of Transportation who served as the District's point of contact for the agency during the Big Dig project. "Everyone on the project wished you the best in your retirement," said Acone.



*Dick Carlson's family chat while waiting for the retirement ceremony to begin.*

Carlson praised Acone's work on the project, touting him as "the brains of the operation."

Byrne read a letter from the Engineering/Construction Group in Headquarters thanking Carlson not just for his years of service, but in the exemplary way he served, making a difference in hundreds of young professionals that will benefit the Corps of Engineers for many years in the future. The letter was signed by George Lee, and the sentiments were also expressed by Mohan Singh, Dave Pezza and Jim Dalton.

Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Chief of Contracting, who served as Carlson's deputy for a time, talked about her experience with Carlson and the story behind his most famous phrase, "What would the readers of GLAMOUR Magazine say about that?" and how the magazine dealt with issues and relationships personal in nature. Winston-Vincuilla recycled her copies of the magazine through Carlson, but now that he was retiring, she presented him with his own subscription. "They talk about relationships in GLAMOUR Magazine, and that's what it's all about for me," confirmed Carlson, who is also a PEOPLE magazine reader.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, said that he has been at the New England District for the entire length of Carlson's career. Scully, who is known never to be without a tie, honored Carlson by not wearing one to the retirement luncheon. "Out of respect for you, I'm doing it our way."

Scully conveyed greetings and best wishes from RMB members and reflected on the many trips they had to take for the meetings. Scully said Carlson made significant contributions to the RMB and on the Big Dig project. "The work that Dick did gave tremendous credibility to the Corps and has opened doors for us," said Scully.

Farrell McMillan, who will sit in Carlson's chair after April 3, said his year in Con/Ops as Carlson's deputy

*Continued on page 14*

# Dick Carlson retires with 39 years of service

*Continued from previous page*  
was the best mentorship he ever had. He mentioned that a lot of the advice that Carlson gave him came in the lyrics of old songs, which brought much laughter from the audience. McMillan presented Carlson with a \$5 poker chip, a deck of cards, and a box of brownies from Laurie Levesque. McMillan presented Carlson with a Bunker Hill plaque

from Engineering/Planning in appreciation for his service to the Corps.

Santos Lara, formerly of Con/Ops and now with Human Resources, stepped up to the microphone and told the audience that Carlson was a great person. "He was a mentor and a good leader," he said as he presented Carlson with a modified golf club, a Santos Coffee Cup, and a minuteman statue. "I will

personally miss him."

Larry Davis, Cape Cod Canal, told some stories, such as how people were always calling looking for Carlson on Fridays. He presented him with a Cape Cod Canal cap and a picture of the Cape Cod Canal.

Joan Gardner presented Carlson with several gifts and thanked everyone for attending the luncheon. She recalled watching Carlson's children grow over the years and how he watched her son grow up. Gardner talked about how much he supported her in her career. "He opened a lot of doors, for me and a lot of other women," she said.

Gardner concluded her presentation by listing a top ten of the joys of retirement.

Event organizers showed a video clip of Carlson yodeling during an after hours gathering during an RMB meeting in Germany, which brought laughs from the audience.

The final guest speaker was Jennifer Carlson who said that her father was always passionate about going to work and would always point out the famous Corps Castle everywhere they went on family outings. "Thank you for paying tribute to my Dad's 39 years of service," she said. "We are extremely proud of him."

Ms. Carlson said that her family loved to hear stories of her father's early career, how he walked up on top of bridges and sky bridges. She said that she loved attending Founder's Day as a child, and hearing about the lives of his coworkers.

Other speakers included Linda Monte, Chief of Operations for the North Atlantic Division; John Tavalaro, New York District; Vern Lang, Fish and Wildlife, Concord, New Hampshire Office; Terry Battista from the Europe District; Mike Bartlett, retired supervisor, Fish and Wildlife, New England Field Office, retiree Jim Crawford, Brian Baker, Food and Drug Administration and retired Lieutenant Colonel at the District; and



*The New England District Color Guard posts the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.*



*Robert Byrne and Frank Fedele make last minute preparations.*



*Farrell McMillan presents Carlson with a poker chip.*



*Ryan Carlson (left) volunteers to help his grandfather, Dick Carlson, open his retirement gifts.*

former employee Cathy Collins. Carlson thanked everyone who helped put his luncheon together, and to Byrne for serving as Master of Ceremonies, calling him “a good friend and a long-time, loyal colleague.”

Of retirement, Carlson said that he reflected on his life to compare to the feeling that he had about leaving the Corps. He told the audience that he was a Soldier and he worked in Korea in the Far East District for the Corps of Engineers, where he learned the culture and the language and learned to appreciate the people. “I loved it, but I was glad to come home,” he said.

By and large, he said he loved working for the Corps of Engineers, but he will be just as happy in retirement because he will be moving on to the next phase of his life. He went down memory lane, mentioning famous New England District names like Andy Andreliunas, Fred Moehle and others.

Carlson lavished praise, not only for his New England District associates, but also Corps employees around the world and other federal agencies and thanked them for all the good memories. He thanked the people he worked with and for teaching him along the way. He said he was proud to serve his country, not only in the U.S. Army, but also in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He talked about his family and the support that his wife, Judy had given him over the years. “If I ever had a good idea that I brought to the Corps, it most likely came from Judy,” he said. He concluded by thanking everyone for attending.

Grandson Ryan Carlson assisted his grandfather in opening up retirement gifts. Besides Mrs. Carlson, Jennifer Carlson and Ryan Carlson, other family member that attended were son Eric and daughter-in-law Christine and granddaughter Bella Rose.

Retirees included Vyto “Andy” Andreliunas\*, Bob Batt, Rick Casano, Frank Ciccone\*, LeRoy Clink, Jim Crawford, Joe DiGiovanni, Fran Donovan\*, Mark Geib, Bob Harrington\*, Chiway Hsiung, Peter Huie, Joe Ignazio\*,

Andre Janet, Andy Lamborghini\*, Al Laraway, Jim Leonard\*, Bill Mahan, Buz MacDonald\*, Fred Moehle\*, Dick Reardon\*, Col. (ret) Carl Sciple, Frank Vilkas, Ed Williams, and Jim Wong\*.

\*Distinguished Civilian Gallery Members.

The New England District Park Ranger Color Guard posted and retired the colors for the retirement luncheon.



*(from left) Joe Ignazio, Dick Carlson, Frank Ciccone and Judy Carlson talk before the retirement ceremony.*



*Jennifer Carlson speaks at her father's lunch.*



*Bill Scully goes casual in honor of Dick Carlson.*



*Joan Gardner (left) presents Judy Carlson with flowers during the lunch.*

## Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

*USACE Historian Tim Hays dressed as a Lincoln, Mass., minuteman for the town of Concord, Mass.'s Patriot's Day parade in the April 2000 photo.*

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