



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District  
BUILDING STRONG

# Yankee Engineer

December 2009



**The New England District's  
Year in Review 2009**



*The tall ship HMS BOUNTY sails under the Railroad Bridge and through the Cape Cod Canal to make its way to the Sail Boston Event, July 6.*



*Mary Christopher paints a child's face during Founder's Day.*



*Col. (P) Peter DeLuca (center) visits Winthrop Beach in Massachusetts.*

**A note from the Commander:**

## **In a word - Amazing!**

The New England District team can look back on our performance during 2009 with great pride. It was a year filled with many interesting and difficult challenges, but it was also jam packed with many successful project completions and positive public interaction.

We have a lot to be proud of and though this Year In Review may not highlight every project or acknowledge every Team's great effort, you can all take pride in the work we all accomplished in 2009. I'm steadfastly proud to be your District Commander and remain excited to lead our Team again in 2010; a year where we will continue to meet every challenge head on and strive for greatness. Hope you enjoy revisiting our Year in Review.

**Building Strong!**

**Philip T. Feir**

**Colonel, Corps of Engineers**

**Commander, New England District**



*Col. (P) Peter DeLuca (right) takes command of the North Atlantic Division during the Change of Command ceremony.*



*Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite (right) receives a minuteman statue from the New England District Team.*



*Tyler Lefebvre (right) fastens a medal on his father, Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre.*

# Transition in Leadership

The New England District joined the rest of the North Atlantic Division Team in saying farewell to Division Commander Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite and welcoming new Commander, Col. (P) Peter “Duke” DeLuca.

The District Team recognized Brig. Gen. Semonite and his wife, Connie, during a special Town Meeting, March 27.

The general, who is a native New Englander from Vermont, received a minuteman statue as a memento from the team.

A change of command ceremony took place in New York at Division headquarters on April 17. Brig. Gen. Semonite took command of the South Atlantic Division on May 1.

Locally, the New England District Team said goodbye to Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre who deployed overseas to Kabul, Afghanistan in June.

Lt. Col. Lefebvre is still looking for company if any District team members would like to join him for a tour.

The District Team welcomed its new Deputy District Commander, Lt. Col. Steven Howell in August.



*The search is on for munitions at Martha's Vineyard beaches.*

# Project Successes

New England District team members are always busy working their projects, and 2009 was no different.

The team had many project successes during the last calendar year to include many dredging projects. Phase I of **NOAA's Berthing Project at Great Harbor in Woods Hole, Mass.**, which entailed dredging the entrance channel, was completed in January. A total of 43,400 cubic yards of material was removed to a design depth of -25 feet mean lower low water. To make this project even more of a success, 21,100 cubic yards of sand was used by the town of Falmouth to restore **Manauhant Beach**. Detailed design for Phase II and III inner harbor improvements will occur in the future when funds become available.

Phase II of the **Norwalk Harbor Federal Navigation**

**Project** in Connecticut was completed in February. A total of 195,042 cubic yards of material was dredged from the **East Norwalk Channel** and turning basin, the South Anchorage and portion of the main channel.

The District Team has also made many strides with their environmental projects this year. Partnering with the Huntsville District, state and local officials, the New England District Team implemented emergency remediation efforts at **South Beach** and portions of **Cape Poge Little Neck Beach and Wildlife Refuge on Martha's Vineyard, Mass.**, last spring. The effort resulted in the search for and removal of munitions used in practice bombing exercises during World War II.

The District team successfully also completed the first year of quarterly groundwater sampling under the **Long**



*Archaeological work being performed at the Elizabeth Mines.*

**Term Monitoring Program** for the **Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field - Site 8** in Rhode Island in August. In the summer of 2008, the District team completed a remedial action in which they removed and disposed of petroleum contaminated soil and light non Aqueous petroleum liquid at the site under its **Defense Environmental Restoration Program**. Sampling results have been provided on a quarterly basis to RIDEM and the town of Charlestown in the form of Quarterly Summary Letter Reports with findings. The Draft Annual Long Term Monitoring Report summarizing the first years four quarters of sampling results is currently under development, and the second year of quarterly groundwater sampling started in October.

The District team broke ground on the **Mill River/Mill Pond Restoration Project** in Connecticut, May 18. Although work is still ongoing on the project, much has been accom-

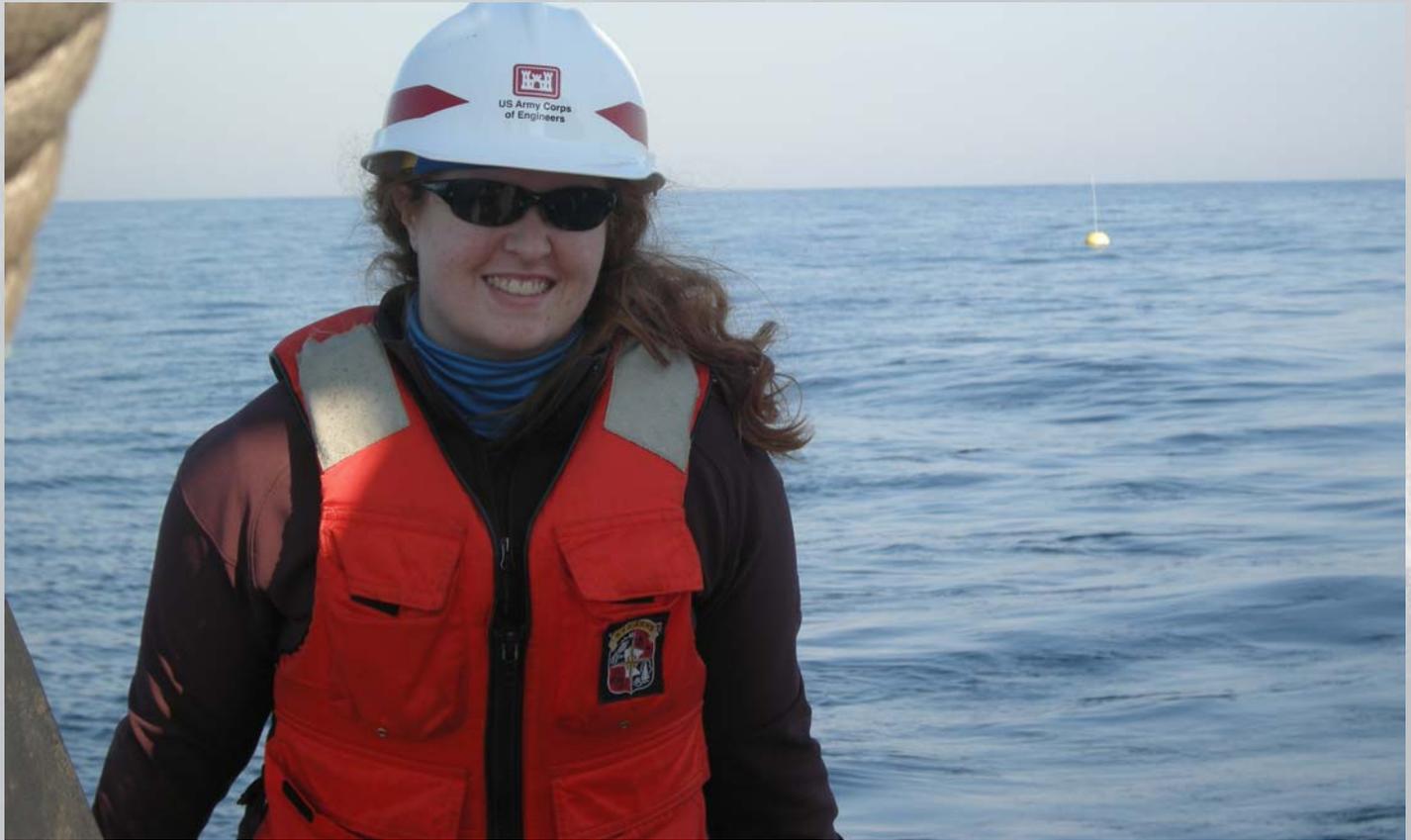
plished this year. Work completed this year includes removal of the **Pulaski Street Dam**, restoration of salt marsh habitat in two intertidal areas of the river and the installation of 1,500 feet of street sheeting cofferdam in preparation for the removal of the **Main Street Dam** and sediments collected in the impoundment behind the dam. The project, which is expected to continue through 2010, will restore the aquatic ecosystem of the lower two miles of the Mill River.

The New England District, and the **Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council** partnered to perform an extensive study of the shoreline in southern Rhode Island. This study, known as the **Rhode Island Regional Sediment Management Plan**, is a multi-year program focused on developing a plan for managing sand as a resource rather than as a waste product. The foundation of this study is numerical modeling which is highly dependent on site spe-

cific wave data. As part of this study, a significant level of data collection, surveying and numerical modeling will be performed. Currently deployed wave buoys do not provide the wave data that is necessary to conduct this study. Therefore, it was decided to acquire and deploy a new directional wave buoy. The buoy deployed October 21 about 30 miles southeast of Block Island, Rhode Island. The buoy measures both wave height and direction. The New England District and the Corps' **Engineer Research and Development Center** partnered with **Scripps Oceanographic Institute Coastal Data Information Program** to facilitate the buoy purchase, deployment and data processing.

At the **Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site** in Strafford, Vermont, areas of lead contamination have been capped, over 65,000 cubic yards of waste rock have been relocated, and intensive archaeology has been com-

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*Irene Watts in the foreground of the data collection buoy that was launched in Rhode Island waters.*

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pleted on the processes within the area this year. The District team was approached by the **Environmental Protection Agency** in 1999 to assist in characterization of the acid mine drainage issues at the site, which operated from 1806 to 1958. In 2009, efforts were focused on waste rock relocation and preparation for capping in 2010-2011.

The New England District team was also successful with completing construction projects in 2009. Working once again with their Louisville District counterparts, the two agencies completed a \$34 million **Armed Forces Reserve Center at Westover Air Reserve Base** in Chicopee, Mass. The project is a campus-type complex that consists of five buildings that house military units from the **U.S. Army Reserve, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and the U.S. Marine Corps**

### **Reserve.**

In addition, the New England District Team received \$35.4 million of **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money for Civil Works** projects. Included in the money is funding for **Fox Point Hurricane Barrier** and the **Woonsocket Local Protection Project**, both located in Rhode Island, the **Cape Cod Canal Bridge Repair Work** and the **Former Shpack Landfill Site** both in Massachusetts and **Bass Harbor, Maine**.

Regulatory Division once again did an exceptional job working on a variety of issues from permits to in-lieu fee programs and mitigation banking throughout our six-state region. Regulatory issued its first ever administrative penalty for permit noncompliance, and continues to resolve violations of the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act.

Regulatory continues to work high

profile, controversial issues such as **South Coast Rail** and the recent permit denial of **Winthrop Shores** in the most professional manner possible, and works closely with other stakeholders on offshore, renewable energy projects in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine. Regulatory processed the following actions during 2009:

- Letters of permission issued - 4
- Standard Permits issued - 52
- No Permit Required actions decided - 331
- Unauthorized actions finalized - 67
- Permit modifications were issued - 211
- General Permits issued - 1957

These are only a few of the District's Project successes. But the work doesn't end with the project mentioned above. Ongoing projects include:



Col. Philip Feir (second from right) joins Sen. Joseph Lieberman (second from left) and other partners in breaking ground at the Mill Pond/Mill River Restoration Project.

The New England District team took control of the **Woonsocket, Rhode Island Local Protection Project** in January. The District assumed operation and maintenance activities in July upon receipt of funding. Project features include 8,000 feet of earth dike, 11,000 feet of channel protection bank improvement, 3,000 feet of concrete floodwall, 2,330 feet of pressure conduit, three pumping stations and a 266 foot concrete overflow dam with four tainter gates. The team plans to overhaul the project, which began in January 2010 by issuing a solicitation for bids for a construction contract to perform vegetation maintenance along the entire project. A follow-on solicitation will be issued for a construction contract to repair the **Woonsocket Falls Dam**.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place May 29 for the **Ayer Armed Forces Reserve Center Project**. The \$74.4 million project began in January and will take 2-1/2 years to complete. The project includes the construction of three buildings – the

consolidated support maintenance shop, training center and area maintenance support activity/organizational maintenance shop.

After a series of recent investigations at the **Westville Lake Dam**, the New England District team has determined that the project is in need

of critical repairs for continued safe operation. Steps have already been taken to reduce the possible risks to the area, and the District Team is currently working on plans for interim and long-term critical repairs to the dam.

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*Aerial view of the Nashawannuck Pond project.*



*The completed Armed Forces Reserve Center at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass.*

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The District Team awarded a \$1.5 million contract for the **Nashawannuck Pond Habitat Restoration** in Massachusetts.

The project requires the removal of about 55,000 cubic yards of fine grained sediment from the pond. Portions of the pond will be dredged to a depth of 12 feet and other portions will be dredged to a depth of 6 feet. Work began in July and will take about nine months to complete. The purpose of the project is to restore aquatic habitat that has been degraded by sedimentation.

District officials joined their federal, state, and local partners in celebrating the beginning of the construction phase of the **Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration** project, Sept. 24. The project involves constructing three fish ladders on the Ten Mile River. The project will allow anadromous alewives access to about 340 acres of spawning habitat and provide about three miles of riverine spawning habitat for the blueback herring and American shad.

The **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management** projects that these habitat areas will support

a fish run of over 200,000 herring and could pass as many as 25,000 American shad.

The New England District also continues to work with the **Veterans Administration** to improve the facilities throughout New England that provide medical care for our servicemembers past and present.



*Artists work on mural at the Cape Cod Canal.*



*Park Rangers pose for a picture during the Natural Resource Management Conference.*

# Interpretive Success

New England District Park Rangers continue to be our best ambassadors with the public and are quite often the first and only contact people have with the District.

Through **Interpretive Services Programs**, Park Rangers got out the word about the Corps, Water Safety and environmental stewardship.

District Park Rangers made their presence known to many school children in 2009. Park Rangers from the **West Hill Dam** made several appearances at area schools to discuss the journeys of the **Lewis and Clark expedition**. Every visit was a success and more school trips are planned in 2010.

The **Cape Cod Canal** teamed up with **AmeriCorps, Cape Cod**, to plant beach grass with the **Sandwich**

**Montessori School** on **Mashpee Dike**, March 18. The partners steered their educational focus to a service learning category so students could learn about their environment and then be able to apply their knowledge to a project.

**The Cape Cod Canal Outreach Program** coordinators also accommodated 20 Cape area schools with half day field trips to the project. Approximately 1,500 students participated in Summer 2009.

The District Park Rangers teamed up with many of their local partners to host events that were not only beneficial to the public but also to District fa-

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*The Cape Cod Canal vessel "Agawam" assists boaters with engine trouble in the Cape Cod Canal.*



*Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon makes a new friend at the Old Home Day Festival.*

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cilities. The Park Rangers worked hard with their partners to spread the safety message.

The Canal Team and their federal and local partners hosted their **4th annual safety day** on May 30. Approximately 200 people attended to enjoy water themed activities and exhibits for all ages to enjoy. Special Guest **Bobber the Water Safety Dog** greeted the public and posed for pictures.

The team at the Cape Cod Canal not only teaches water safety, they practice it for real every day. In 2009 **the team assisted in 364 rescues**, keeping boaters safe so that everyone can enjoy the canal.

**Franklin Falls Dam** team members and Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon talked Water Safety at Tilton, New Hampshire's **Old Home Day Festival**, June 28. Over 300 people attended the event.

**Franklin Falls Dam** participated in the second annual Belknap County, N.H., **Public Safety Day** in October. Nearly 500 visitors participated in the event, which featured the New England District's Water Safety Trailer and a special appearance by **Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon**.

**Elm Brook Park** Rangers hosted their **15th Annual Sand Castle Competition**. Sixteen sand castles entered the contest, with Bobber the Water Safety Dog explaining water safety as the artists crafted their sandy creations.

**North Hartland Lake** in Vermont hosted **Confined Space Training** for local emergency responders. Five Confined Space Trainers and 26 local firefighters re-



*Steve Patchkofsky talks water safety during the Summer Ranger Training.*

sponded to a mock "accident" at the project's gatehouse in October.

In 2009, New England District Park Rangers shared their love of the great outdoors with the public and gave comprehensive lessons in environmental stewardship in the process.

Several New England District project offices partnered with local organizations to hold a series of events, called the **2009 Source To Sea Expedition**, throughout April and May to celebrate the region's natural resources and to promote environmental education.

**East Brimfield and Westville Lake** team members partnered with the **American Hiking Society** in celebrating the **17th Annual Trails Day** by sponsoring a guided paddle down the **Quinebaug River Water Trail at East Brimfield Lake**.

**The Upper Connecticut River Basin Office** helped **Cub Scouts from Pack 258** in Springfield, Vt., plant over 100 trees at **North Springfield Lake** in June. The Cub Scouts received their Environmental Conservation badges for their efforts and the project's property gained some beautiful young trees.

During several District-sponsored events, the public not only came out to enjoy the agency's facilities, they gave back by volunteering to perform valuable work.

**Earth Day** events were held at many of the District projects in April and May. More than 300 volunteers saved the federal government more than \$40,000 in labor and donated materials while improving the District's project grounds and facilities.



*Park Rangers Viola Bramel and Delia Vogel with animal mounts used during a Lewis and Clark presentation.*



*Beachgrass planting.*



*Basin Manager Joe Faloretti assists volunteers plant shrubs during Barre Falls' National Public Lands Day celebration.*

More than 500 volunteers made their way to District facilities to work on improvement projects during **National Public Lands Day**, Sept. 26. The volunteers saved the government over \$25,000 in labor and materials. The event was also a great opportunity for local Scouts to earn environmental badges.

To ensure that new Park Rangers are knowledgeable in all aspects of their job, the New England District Interpretive Services and Outreach Program Committee, River Basin Managers, Park Managers, Senior Park Rangers and others conducted the annual **Summer Park Ranger Training**, June 20-21. Forty seven Park rangers attended the extensive training that ranged from learning the water safety trailer to self defense.

Two very important milestones took place in 2009. In June, Cape Cod Canal celebrated its **100 year anniversary** of the 1909 start of the project construction. To commemorate the occasion, local artist Joshua Harrington painted a mural on the abutment of the original **Bourne Bridge**. **Hodges Village Dam** in Oxford, Mass., marked its **50th Anniversary**.



*A "drop of water" at the Source To Sea Expedition event.*



*Kathryn Woods portrays Sojourner Truth during the District's Black Employment Program event.*

# Cultural Diversity

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) and the Special Emphasis Program Managers were hard at work providing quality programs that educated and celebrated diversity in 2009.

In March, a one woman performance by Kathryn Woods during the Black Employment Program observance kicked off EEO's 2009 events. Woods portrayed Sojourner Truth, an American Slave, Abolitionist and Women's Rights Activist with New England ties.

New England District team members brought in 30 of their children and grandchildren to Concord Park Headquarters for a day of fun and learning

during Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, April 24.

Activities included orienteering, making landfills, can cars, and birdfeeders, and chromatography.

Patricia Howard served as keynote speaker during the Asian American/Pacific Islander observance, May 19.

Howard is a teacher of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and used the event to explain and demonstrate various useful stress reduction techniques for the audience.

It was party time of sorts on Oct. 5 when the EEO teamed with the Hispanic Employment Program Manager to host a Fiesta. Hispanic music, trivia and food provided by volunteer chefs highlighted the event.

In addition to the program events, EEO also hosted a number of Power Point presentations and educational films in the Concord Park Theatre throughout the year.

The EEO office also publishes monthly newsletters that educate and celebrate cultural diversity.

Jacqueline DiDomencio is the New England District's EEO Officer and Program for Individuals with Disabilities Manager. The Special Emphasis Program Managers are: Ruthann Brien (Hispanic Employment Program), Steve Dunbar (Black Employment Program), Peter Hugh (Asian American/Pacific Islander Program), Robert Leitch (Native American/Alaskan Native Employment Program Manager), and Heather Sullivan (Federal Women's Program).



*Drew Clemens*



*John Murner*



*Frank Fedele*



*Mike Tuttle*



*John Manning*



*Sheila Holt*

## Overseas Contingency and Emergency Operations

New England District volunteers have consistently answered the call to support the nation's Overseas Contingency Operations. The following people deployed overseas in 2009:

### **In Iraq:**

**John Manning  
Frank Fedele  
Sheila Holt  
John Murner**

### **In Afghanistan:**

**Drew Clemens  
Lt. Col. Lefebvre  
Jeff Teller  
Mike Tuttle**

# New Employees

The New England District welcomed the following employees to the team in 2009:

Charlene Berry, Construction/Operations  
Samantha Blixt, Construction/Operations  
Michael Boiardi, Engineering/Planning  
Patricia Bolton, Engineering/Planning  
Michelle Breen, Construction/Operations  
Elisha Carey, Construction/Operations  
Andrew Cattano, Engineering/Planning  
Jeannie Cline, Engineering/Planning  
Ann Cook, Construction/Operations  
Joyce Dignard, Construction/Operations  
Robert Doering, Construction/Operations  
Steven Doherty, Construction/Operations  
Pablo Feliciano, Human Resources  
Bogdan Fiegel, Engineering/Planning  
James Galvin, Construction/Operations  
Wendy Gendron, Engineering/Planning  
Casey Haskett, Engineering/Planning  
Nick Iainnaro, Construction/Operations  
Paige Kimbrough-Rowan, Real Estate  
Dan Lapolla, Construction/Operations

Mark Lawrence, Engineering/Planning  
William Lawrence, Engineering/Planning  
Nathan Mangelson, Construction/Operations  
Leanna Martin, Engineering/Planning  
Sarita Martinez, Engineering/Planning  
Jennifer McCarthy, Regulatory  
Kurt Mintell, Construction/Operations  
Jesse Morrill Winter, Engineering/Planning  
Alfred O'Connell, Construction/Operations  
Dorothy O'Garra, Resource Management  
Adam Orłowski, Engineering/Planning  
Anastasia Papadopoulos, Engineering/Planning  
David Recave, Construction/Operations  
Angela Repella, Regulatory  
Benjamin Rice, Engineering/Planning  
Raymond Roberts, Construction/Operations  
Daniel Scott, Construction/Operations  
Andrew Stamer, Public Affairs  
Jonathan Van Vilet, Construction/Operations  
John Westlund, Construction/Operations  
Rachel Whitmore, Engineering/Planning

# Retirements

Nine New England District employees joined our retirement community in 2009. Their combined years of experience totaled more than 200 years of faithful service to the nation. Three employees from Engineering/Planning retired in January. Frank Turner retired with 32 years of service, Terry Wong retired with 31 years of service and Nick Forbes retired with 34 years of service.

Bill Mahan, Chief of Logistics, retired in March with 32 years of service.

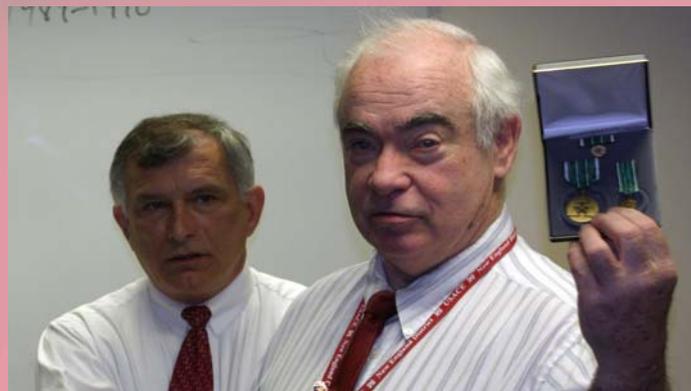
Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations, and Dot Tinkham, Engineering/Planning, both retired in April. Carlson retired with 39 years of service and Tinkham retired with 22 years.

Joan Shok, Real Estate, retired in July with over 27 years. K.C. Mitkevicious, Programs/Project Management, also retired in July. He had 39 years of service.

Sandra Marcinkewicz, Construction/Operations retired in November with 20 years of faithful service.



*Dick Carlson*



*Bill Mahan*

# Events Around the District



*Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp pilots a vessel during his trip to the Cape Cod Canal.*



*Summer Ranger Training.*



*Field Trip to the Cape Cod Canal.*



*Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work Day.*



*Logging at Hodges Village Dam.*



*Broad Meadows Field Trip.*



*Leadership Development Training.*



*The 2009 New England District Softball Team.*

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*Front Cover: Paddlers cruise along the Quinebaug River during the April 25 Source to Sea Expedition event.*