

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong



**New England District Change of
Command Embodies History,
Tradition and Accomplishments**

Story on page 18

Yankee Voices

Joan Gardner, Tara Feir and Larry Rosenberg



Sympathy

...to **Col. Tom Feir**, former New England District Commander, and his family on the passing of his father, **Maj. Gen. Philip T. Feir**, July 14.

... to the family of Planning Division retiree **Leo Millette**, who passed away July 16. In addition to his service to the Corps, Mr. Millette was also a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, where he was stationed in Guam.

...to Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member and Westover Area Office retiree **Jim Leonard** on the passing of his wife, **Lillian**, July 26.

... to the family of **John I. Winmill**, recent Construction Division retiree, who passed away suddenly Aug. 2. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Concord and Ft. Devens for 35 years, retiring as the N.E. Area Engineer.

He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Vietnam War and was stationed there and in Germany. Mr. Winmill was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Don't take chances with kids' car seats

Strapping one's child into the car seat is a regular task for most parents. Unfortunately, even very small children are able to unbuckle themselves, leading to distracted parents behind the wheel – and car accidents.

Researchers at the Yale School of Medicine surveyed 378 parents; slightly over half reported that at least one of their children had successfully unbuckled their seat belt while in a car seat one or more times. Children as young as 12 months were able to extricate themselves, and 75 percent of kids were three years old or younger. Boys were more likely than girls to unbuckle themselves (59 percent of boys, as opposed to 42 percent of girls).

More than 40 percent of kids who “freed” themselves did so while the vehicle was moving. The distraction to parents, as they pull over, reprimand their children, and then buckle them in again, increases the chance of serious injury 3.5 times. So be sure to double-check that your child's seat is installed properly, and that children are fastened securely. (*First Draft Magazine*)

Coffee: Good for more than waking up early

That cup of coffee that gets you going in the morning, or keeps you energetic in the afternoon, may have some positive health benefits. Though no one is recommending massive doses of caffeine, coffee in moderation may be good for more than just keeping you awake and alert. Here's a look at some of the research:

- **Gallstones.** Some scientists believe that drinking coffee may reduce a person's risk of developing gallstones by stimulating gallbladder contractions and lowering concentrations of cholesterol in bile.

- **Kidney stones.** Studies have suggested that coffee consumption (regular or decaf) cuts a person's chances of developing kidney stones by as much as 10 percent.

- **Diabetes.** Research involving more than 450,000 patients indicates that drinking four cups of coffee or tea a day may reduce one's risk of Type 2 diabetes by 25-35 percent.

Just don't go overboard. Doctors recommend drinking no more than 24 ounces of coffee a day. That's four 6-oz. cups. (*First Draft Magazine*)



Commander's Corner:

A message of gratitude!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander



Teammates...

It's great to be back in New England! This is the first time I've been home for longer than ten days since escaping frosty Methuen for tropical University of Miami in the fall of 1983. I greatly appreciate how warmly you've welcomed your wandering native son.

As I've mentioned before, it is truly an honor to be here. I am both excited by the wonderful opportunity and humbled by the awesome responsibility to serve the New England region (my home). As such, the purpose of my first entry in the Yankee Engineer is to express my sincere gratitude to you, those I serve.

First, I want to thank all of you who performed beyond the call of duty to plan and execute such a professional, and memorable, Change of Command Ceremony. From the Color Guard to the band, and from those "out front" to

those "behind the scenes," your contributions resulted in a first-class event. Well done!

Next, I want to thank everyone willing to commit a bit of their most precious resource – time - to participate in the ceremony. We appreciate the presence of our distinguished military leaders, civilian officials, partner agencies, USACE alumni, and many, many others. You truly enrich the fabric of our organization.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of the New England District who made this transition of commanders very smooth and very, very educational.

Many thanks to: Col. Tom Feir who allowed me full access to the entire District for the two weeks prior to the change of command; the leadership team who provided insightful briefings and educational site visits; and -- most importantly -- each and every member of the District team... especially those willing to openly discuss what they do and how they do it when I unexpectedly stuck my head in their cubicle and asked, "so, what do you do?"

I look forward to exciting times ahead...so, let's have some fun, get the job done, and make an impact.

Essayons! Building Strong!

Hitting every note

The U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty plays patriotic musical selections during the Change of Command Ceremony, July 29. Go to the story on page 18 to read more about the ceremony and to see more photos.



Photo by C.J. Allen



Aerial view of West Hill Dam. Workers begin construction of the dam.

Historical file photos.

West Hill Dam celebrates 50th anniversary during ceremony

Residents young and old and members of the West Hill Dam team past and present gathered at the project to mark the 50th anniversary of the dam's opening and share stories about the flood events that would lead to the construction of the federal flood control project.

Project Manager Merlon Bassett welcomed the audience and introduced the participants for the day's program. Bassett said that the priority of the dam was flood risk management. "But we also provide service to the community in the form of recreation and outdoor opportunities," he said.

Eugene Peloquin was a Scout Master in Woonsocket, R.I., during the

Flood of 1955 and shared some of his memories of that time. He said that he was 22 years old living in the Social District of Woonsocket at the time of the flooding. According to him, that section of Woonsocket was impacted the most. "We were a great community," he said.

He talked about Hurricanes Connie and Diane and the toll they took on Rhode Island. "They left their mark not so much by the wind, but by the water," he recalled.

Peloquin said that the Corps had monitored the water the entire time and kept in contact with state and local officials about the situation. "They called up the Mayor of Woonsocket, Kevin Coleman, on Friday, Aug. 19, 1955 and

told him to prepare for the worst flood in the area's history," he said.

The flood survivor recalled the evacuations and the flooding that occurred. He remembered that all the federal, state and local officials were all called on duty to help prepare for the emergency. "The embankment of Horseshoe Falls Dam gave way, sending a 20 foot wall of water that cascaded and engulfed the Social District under seven feet of water," he said.

Many people and pieces of equipment were on hand to help with the clean up once the water receded. "Hundreds and hundreds of folks, trucks, bulldozers, forklifts, you name it. Everybody was chipping in and



Historical Photo. Current photos by C.J. Allen.

Brig. Gen. Alden Sibley, New England Division Engineer, at the ground breaking ceremony in 1959. Merlon Bassett served as Master of Ceremonies for the 50th Anniversary event. Roy Henry talked about his experiences during the 1995 Flood.

helping," he said.

Peloquin said that, thankfully, no one in the Woonsocket area died in the Flood of 1955. He thanked Park Ranger Viola Bramel and the staff at West Hill Dam for educating the public about its history. "You know, people from the Woonsocket and Pawtucket area didn't know as much about West Hill Dam as we should," he said. "But because of Viola, Merl and the rest of the staff, we got to know a lot more

about the good work that you do."

Peloquin called the Corps of Engineers "Woonsocket's Noah's Ark." "You helped us get ready for the Flood of 1955, then you worked with the city to build wonderful local flood control projects and West Hill Dam, and you have sheltered us in Woonsocket from floods all these years," he said. "Thank you."

Raymond Bacon, former Boy Scout and Assistant Scout Master during the floods and current Assistant Director



The New England District Color Guard posted and retired the Colors during the 50th anniversary celebration.

of the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, also shared memories of the flood and West Hill Dam. Bacon was 18 years old at the time. "I was a soda jerk and made things like ice cream sundaes and frappes," he said.

The day of the flood, Bacon went to work and his boss told him to remove all the contents of the basement to the first floor in conservative anticipation of the rising waters. "By 3 p.m. that afternoon the authorities came in and told us we had to evacuate," he said. "We walked out of the store and on the sidewalk were rowboats, high and dry. It was all very confusing."

Bacon recalled going home, changing, and returning later with friends. "We were standing on the corner of Clinton and Cumberland St., and we could see the water," he said.

A policeman who knew Bacon and his friends recruited them to help with the evacuation process. "He asked us to go up and down the street and knock on doors to get people to get out," he recalled. "By the time we came back, we were waist high in water."



Photo by C.J. Allen

The Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band played patriotic musical selections and music from the 1960s during the celebration.

Continued on next page

West Hill Dam celebrates 50th anniversary during ceremony



Merlon Bassett, current Project Manager, stands with former Assistant Project Manager Jack Dwyer and former Project Manager John Clarkin before a tour of the West Hill Dam during the 50th anniversary.

Continued from previous page

Bacon said that when the water receded, he and his friends returned to what was left of the Social District, received medical shots and began the task of cleaning up. "In August, the overwhelming aspect wasn't just the silt and debris that was left behind, but the overwhelming stench," he recalled. "That's something I'll never forget. It's a sensation that can't be captured on film or in a photograph."

The speaker recalled that every-thing had to be condemned, every-

thing had to go. "I remember seeing workers at the local supermarket with gas masks on throwing away all the rotted meat," he said. "While we were cleaning out the drug store we would smash the bottles of perfume to help with the smell. The destruction of the community is indescribable. You'd have to have lived through it to really know."

Bacon told the audience that there has never been a flood like the one that all but destroyed his community. He credited the Corps' warnings and Mayor Coleman's foresight to call the

emergency the day before the event that saved lives. He also credited the building of the West Hill Dam for no similar disasters. "Thank God for this place," he said referring to West Hill.

Roy Henry was just a youth when the flood occurred. He recalled watching the West River take out the back of the Wakatuck Mill. "All of the machinery, dyes and acids came floating out the back and up against the wooden bridge," he said. "It was just awesome to see."

Henry concluded with a tale of the resourcefulness of the flood victims. "Four days into the flood, it was my birthday," he recalled. "I didn't think I was going to have a birthday. Everyone was busy with the floods and the electricity was out. We had an electric stove, so that wasn't working, so there'd be no birthday cake. But my folks had a little Kerosene heater. I got my birthday cake because my mother cooked it on the heater for me."

Jan Reitsma, Executive Director of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor followed Henry. He thanked the Corps of Engineers for being a long time partner to his agency. "The persistent determination by the Army Corps to help solve problems takes a lot of time, money and effort," he said. "We have been learning about what it takes to clean up the West River and we've made a lot of progress."

Reitsma also thanked Bramel for taking the lead on the celebration and also Barbara Dixon from his staff for her assistance in making the event possible.

After Reitsma's remarks, Bassett recognized John Clarkin, the first Project Manager of West Hill Dam, his wife, Theresa, and his daughter, Sharon, as well as original Assistant Project Manager Jack Dwyer, who were in at-



Photos by C.J. Allen

Event participants watch living history videos of 1955 Flood survivors during the 50th anniversary celebration.

tendance. He thanked them for their dedication to the project and all of their hard work over the years.

Bramel took to the podium and talked about the time capsule that the West Hill Dam was compiling and displayed some of the items donated. She invited participants to view the living histories that she and her team spent compiling over the past five years, to include one from Mayor Coleman.

The event moved from the ceremonial tent to the dam for a reenactment of the dedication ceremony. Attendees to include the Clarkin's, Dwyer and the flood survivors were asked to pour clean water from recycled bottles into the river.

Event participants were then invited to partake in the cake cutting ceremony, conducted by Sharon Clarkin. As she did 50 years ago, Ms. Clarkin also enjoyed the first piece of cake. The New England District Color Guard -- Joe Faloretti, Steven Patchkofsky, Jenn Samela, Reese Piper and Jason Robinson -- posted and retired the Colors during the ceremony.

Pastor John Wescott of the Uxbridge Church of the Nazarene performed the invocation. The church pastor at the time said the original invocation 50 years ago.

The Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band provided patriotic music and music from 50 years ago throughout the event.

The West Hill Dam team who worked on putting the event together were: Bassett, Bramel, Park Rangers Christine Renzoni, Brad Walley Eric Buckley, Andrew Labonte; Project Operator Joseph Zanca; SCA interns Marion Wing and Luke Beasley; and work camper volunteers Carly and Stanley Buttrick; Nell and Richard Reed and Joseph and Charlotte Meynard.

The West Hill Dam on the West River in Uxbridge, Mass., was completed in 1961 at a cost of \$2.3 million. It has prevented damages of more than



Historical panels from five decades line the walkway at West Hill Dam.



John Clarkin ready to pour water into the West River during the rededication portion of the ceremony.



Park Ranger Viola Bramel displays a picture that will go into the West Hill Dam time capsule.

\$69.7 million.

More than 90,000 annual visitors enjoy recreational opportunities such as picnicking, swimming, hiking, fishing, and hunting.

For information and current events, upcoming programs or shelter reservations, call the Team at 508-347-3705 or visit the website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/whd/whdhome.htm.



Adam Burnett places a backpack on the shoulders of an Afghani orphan during Operation Backpack Drop.

Burnett makes a difference in the lives of Afghani orphans

When Adam Burnett, Engineering/Planning, volunteered to deploy overseas to assist the Corps in its Overseas Contingency Operations, he had no idea he would be directly touching the lives of the youngest casualties of war.

With the help of elementary students from the Florence Roche Elementary School in Groton, Mass., Burnett organized a school supply drive to support the Corps of Engineers volunteer "Operation Back Pack Drop," to benefit Afghan orphans.

The idea came to Burnett when his son, Alexander, and his second grade classmates asked him what they could do to help. They had been writing to Burnett to keep his spirits up while he was away from home, but they wanted to do more. He thought of the Afghan children and decided he would like to help them. "At the time I didn't know that the Corps had a group -- the Capacity Development Group (CDG) -- that did things like drives for kids," said Burnett. "But I knew if we collected goods to donate, we would be able to find someone who could use them."

It was during the drive that Burnett learned of the CDG and that they were organizing a much larger drive called "Operation Back Pack Drop," that would benefit a nearby orphanage, the Ostad Khalil Ullah Khalili Orphans Education

Center. The Center is an all-boys facility, assisting children ages 5 to 18 years. "I contacted them to let them know what I was doing," said Burnett. "It turns out that others were doing the same, so we decided to combine all of our efforts for Operation Back Pack Drop."

Burnett and the school collected items for the Center that included pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, sketchbooks, and erasers. There was also a large amount of toys donated to include puzzles, games, building toys, soccer balls, trucks, and of course lots and lots of stuffed animals. "The stuffed toys were very popular with the little ones," said Burnett.

While Burnett was on an R&R break in between deployments, he returned home and visited the school to give a presentation to the students on what the Corps was accomplishing in Afghanistan, to thank them for their support, and to collect the donations generated from the drive. "I took everything home, boxed it all up and mailed it to myself in Afghanistan," said Burnett with a slight laugh. "I beat the boxes back."

When all of the boxes arrived and the CDG were ready to receive them, Burnett handed the donations to Maj. Erica Iverson, Chief of Capacity Development/Synchronization and Initiatives Group, and team members Jeffrey Collins



Children of the Ostad Khalil Ullah Khalili Orphans Education Center are all smiles after receiving their backpacks and toys.

Photos by Mustafa Kanishka

and Mustafa Kanishka.

After working long hours during the day and often into the evening hours, Burnett and other volunteers would unpack boxes, sort goods and stuff backpacks until they had 160 – enough for all of the orphans. “It took a while to do because there really isn’t a lot of down time, but we finally got everything ready to take to the kids,” said Burnett.

The CDG arranged for the trip to the orphanage, and Burnett was part of the group that went to pass out the backpacks and toys. According to Burnett, the trip was an emotional one. “It’s so hard to put into words,” he said. “It was definitely a good feeling to be able to help any way we could. But there was a very sad aspect to it. These children all had tragic stories, and many showed marks of having survived something terrible.”

The children were happy to get the backpacks and toys, but some of them became very emotional. “We gave the kids the backpacks and the toys and some of them started crying because those toys reminded them of better times with their families,” said Burnett. “Some had just arrived and they were still traumatized. It takes a long time for them to get over that.”

Burnett said the children’s instructors were thrilled with the donation. “They were always trying to come up with ways to purchase supplies, so they were very grateful,” he said.

When his tour in Afghanistan was over, Burnett returned to the Florence Roche Elementary School to give a Memorial Day presentation and to express the orphanage’s appreciation for their donations. “I talked about all the good work the military was doing overseas and what the Corps was

doing to help rebuild the country,” said Burnett. “I also talked about the good work the children did in lifting the spirits of children less fortunate than themselves. I encouraged them to write to the servicemen and women who are overseas the way they wrote to me. That was an amazing thing. It really helps you stay connected.”

Adam Burnett deployed for eight months to Afghanistan and served as a Project Manager for the Afghan National Policy Program. While there, he oversaw dozens of construction projects, to include border patrol stations and uniformed police headquarters.

Burnett was one of three returned New England District employees honored during a Deployment Welcome Home Ceremony held on July 19 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.



Photo by Karen Burnett

Adam Burnett and son Alexander get ready to ship donations overseas to Afghanistan.



Lt. Col. Steven Howell presents Bud Taylor with a monetary award during the deployment welcome home ceremony.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Patricia Bolton receives a Commander's Award and a Bunker Hill Plaque from Lt. Col. Howell.

District overseas volunteers honored at Welcome Home Ceremony

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, hosted a Deployment Welcome Home Ceremony to honor New England District volunteers who recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, July 19 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Lt. Col. Howell honored three employees who served overseas supporting the Corps of Engineers' Overseas Contingency Operations.

Adam Burnett and Patricia Bolton, both from Engineering/Planning, and William "Bud" Taylor, Programs/Project Management, all received Commander's Awards for Civilian Service.

Burnett (Afghanistan) and Bolton (Iraq) served from October 2010 to May 2011. Taylor (Afghanistan) served from August 2010 to June 2011.

The three volunteers received the awards for performing their duties in an outstanding manner in support of the overseas mission. "Their courage and competence during their volunteered support captures the essence of the District's motto, 'Building Strong,'" read Lt. Col. Howell during the ceremony.

Each volunteer also received a New England District Bunker Hill plaque, a monetary award, and a New England District baseball cap.

After the ceremony, the volunteers affixed their nameplates to the New England District's Deployment Board located in the Building 2 hallway. Burnett's wife, Karen, and son, Alexander, were present at the event.

Overseas deployment opportunities abound for anyone who is interested in an overseas adventure. Please contact Rachel Fisher, Emergency Operations, for more information on how to get involved.



Adam Burnett with his wife, Karen, and son Alexander at the Deployment Welcome Home Ceremony.



Paul Gaudreau estimates loads of debris to be dumped from the F-5 tornado that tore through Joplin, Mo., May 22.

New England District employee volunteers to assist in the Joplin tornado recovery mission

**Story and Photo by Andrew Stamer
Public Affairs Office**

More than 200 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees are engaged in recovery missions following the strike of a tornado in Joplin, Mo.

Paul Gaudreau, a civil engineer technician at the New England District's Cape Cod Canal, is among employees providing aid to people impacted by the tornado in Joplin. Gaudreau is a quality assurance representative at one of five debris dump sites. He works at a vegetative debris dump site, where trees, shrubs and other yard waste removed from the impacted area is brought to be ground up for beneficial secondary use.

"When I first got here, we were working in an alley and a woman came up to me and hugged me for cleaning up all the debris," Gaudreau said of his mission on first arrival to the city, where he worked directly in the tornado zone.

"I looked her in the eye and said, 'I'm not looking at debris, I'm looking at people's lives.'"

His position now is oversight in the dumping areas - checking that debris removal trucks are full as they come into the dump area and those leaving are empty. "I try to be consistent with my calls because I want to be fair to the Corps, FEMA and the drivers," he said. The trucks are paid by the cubic yard of debris dumped.

From the tower, he sees everything. He's the eyes of the last leg of the debris removal process that will make it possible for the city to rebuild in those areas being cleared. He makes sure the process gets done how it is supposed to - for safety and the bottom dollar.

"If I see a safety issue, I point them out to the driver. It could be a tire losing tread or a load not properly balanced. I also want the government to get its money's worth, that's why I'm here," Gaudreau said.

This is not the first time Gaudreau has shown his selfless service. He spent three years in the Navy during the Vietnam War in the early 1970s. He served eight years in the Army Reserve as a combat engineer during the Gulf War before entering his current job at the canal. "That got me set up to work for the Corps," he said. "And here I am."

Gaudreau said he's been to seven or eight disasters doing this type of work, and he will spend another week in Joplin before returning home from his 30-day tour.

"When it comes to working disasters, I really enjoy helping the people," Gaudreau said. "I'm hoping to come back or go to another disaster ... I guarantee that when I retire I'll come back and do it."

"Paul couldn't be a better guy to work with," said Chuck Berry, a quality assurance representative who works with Gaudreau. "He really cares about what he's doing."

Mike Tuttle, Project Delivery Team, set top honors for overseas project

The Corps of Engineers 2011 Project Delivery Team that took top honors for outstanding work has New England ties.

Mike Tuttle, former New England District Study Manager, who was the Design Project Manager for the Afghanistan National Army Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP), was selected as the USACE 2011 Project Delivery Team of the Year.

The team received the honor at this year's Summer Leaders Conference Awards Dinner in New Orleans, La., Aug. 1.

The Afghan National Detention Facility is a \$43 million state-of-the-art facility located within Bagram Airfield in Kabul, Afghanistan. The additional detention units will hold 950 detainees in accordance with Geneva Convention requirements and in accordance with Afghan customers and will institute a program that emphasizes rehabilitation

and release.

"This PDT went above and beyond to deliver this politically sensitive project on time and under budget despite the extreme time constraints, cultural differences and heightened security conditions," said Col. Thomas Magness, former Commander, Afghanistan Engineer District – North. "The first major facility at DFIP was delivered in an astounding 180 days from Notice to Proceed through a phased delivery schedule."

The PDT faced numerous challenges getting the project completed. "Late arrival of funds, real estate concerns, and a war time environment had threatened to slow the execution process," said Tuttle, who is currently on a three-year assignment with the Europe District. "Regardless of the concerns, we proceeded forward; gathering required information to ensure the design-build solicitation had sufficient information for

a successful project."

In the end, Tuttle credited seamless communication as the key to successfully meeting extremely aggressive milestones in accordance with customer requirements and delivery dates.

"We spent numerous hours together for discussions, resolving and mitigating issues, confirming scoping process, confining project schedules, identifying preliminary project costs, confirming conceptual design site building, layouts, identifying design improvements and confirming contract vehicles to assure the aggressive schedule was met," Tuttle said.

Tuttle traveled from Germany to New Orleans to receive the award on behalf of the team.

"I was very lucky to have an extraordinary team to pull this off," he said. "I feel extremely blessed to have my Project Delivery Team selected for this honor."

Corps of Engineers awards \$1.2 million contract, starts dredging Kennebec River in Bath, Phippsburg

**By Timothy Dugan,
Public Affairs**

Dredging of two portions of the Kennebec River Federal navigation project in Bath and Phippsburg, Maine, has started under the terms of a \$1,206,800 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The work is being performed by Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Company, LLC, of Quincy, Mass., and will take several weeks to complete. Work started on Aug. 1 and is scheduled to be completed prior to Sept. 1, 2011.

"The project involves maintenance dredging of the federal navigation

project in the vicinity of Doubling Point, just south of Bath, and Popham Beach, at the river mouth," said Project Manager William Kavanaugh, Programs and Project Management Division.

The work involves maintenance dredging of two portions of the authorized 27-foot deep, 500-foot wide federal navigation project in the lower Kennebec River to remove hazardous shoals from the channel in advance of the transit of the U.S. Navy Destroyer, the USS SPRUANCE, scheduled to depart the Bath Iron Works on or about Sept. 1, 2011.

The dredging involves the removal of about 70,000 cubic yards of clean

sandy material from the two areas of the Federal navigation project and disposal of the dredged material at two previously used disposal areas.

The project is managed by the Corps' New England District. All work is being accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

For more information about Corps' New England District contract solicitations for work, bid results or contract awards visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Business/Contracting/>.

Fort Belvoir chosen as site for Army National Museum New England District to design and construct campus

The Army recently announced that the North Post of Fort Belvoir, Va., will be the site of the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA), scheduled to open in June 2015. The vision and mission of the NMUSA is to educate, excite, inspire and entertain visitors of all ages on the history and culture of the United States Army.

The NMUSA will be a unique facility of national and historic significance. It will encompass a state-of-the-art building housing world class exhibits that tell the story of the U.S. Army as an institution and be a tribute to the American Soldier. The NMUSA will preserve, study, and interpret Army material culture, educating visitors in the history, traditions and accomplishments of the Army. It will be a forum for the education, edification, and inspiration for all those seeking knowledge of the history of the Army. The American people will gain a greater awareness of the part that the Army played in shaping their heritage.

The NMUSA building and campus will be constructed in stages and will initially consist of approximately 185,000 sf facility that houses approximately 60,000 sf for nine exhibit galleries and a theatre in the exhibit wing. It will also include: experiential learning center, café, retail, Veterans' Hall, lobby, administrative space and other areas in the custom portion of the building. Exterior features will include a parade ground,



Artist's rendering of the outside of the National Museum of the U.S. Army.

amphitheater, Army trail and memorial garden as well as landscaping and parking. NMUSA will be expected to attract a steady state attendance of approximately 600,000 visitors annually.

New England District (NAE) is responsible for the design and construction of the museum campus and associated infrastructure and exhibit development and fabrication. Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, LLP is the designer of record for design of the museum campus and infrastructure, which is approximately 35 percent complete. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2012, with museum opening in 2015.

The Army anticipates funding construction of the infrastructure through an FY12 MILCON project. The museum campus will be funded by the Army Historical Foundation (AHF), the non-profit entity responsible for raising funds through donations. For more information on the AHF campaign, please visit their website: www.armyhistory.org.

Christopher Chadbourne and Associates, Inc., was responsible for exhibit development for NMUSA, which was completed in June 2011. NAE has plans to award a contract for Exhibit Fabrication soon.

Once the museum is opened, it will be operated by the National Museum Project Office; their website is: http://www.nationalmuseumoftheu-sarmy.com/coming_soon/nmusa_project.html.

(U.S. Army Press Release)

SOLDIERS' STORIES RENDERING



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY ★ SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Tony Firicano retires after 32 years of service

By Farrell McMillan
Chief, Engineering/Planning

Friends and co-workers of Tony Firicano, Chief, Geotechnical and Water Resources Branch in Engineering/Planning, made their way to the Concord Park theatre on June 23 to wish him well on his retirement and to honor his distinguished 32 year career with awards and fond memories.

Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, presented Firicano with the Superior Civilian Service Award, a Bunker Hill Plaque and his official retirement certificate.

Prior to the awards ceremony, a small group of about 35 of Firicano's friends and co-workers treated him to a luncheon at the Great Wall of China Restaurant in Bedford, Mass. During the luncheon, Firicano received a gift certificate from attendees as a retirement present.

Firicano has enjoyed an outstanding career with the Corps of Engineers, New England District. He came to the New England Division in 1978 as a NAE Co-op student. Upon graduation from Merrimack College he accepted a position as a Project Manager for Planning Division. He worked for three years as a Project Manager in Planning Division responsible for coordinating the efforts of a multidisciplinary team in the planning and preliminary design of Civil Works Projects within New England. He then took a four year assignment as a Project Manager for the European Division, Corps of Engineers, returning to NAE in June 1982 as a Civil Engineer in the Geotechnical Engineering Section.

Firicano rapidly assumed key lead geotechnical engineer positions and other key positions of leadership in Engineer-



Photos by Brian Murphy

Tony Firicano receives his retirement certificate from Lt. Col. Steven Howell.

ing Division which led to his selection in April 1998 as Chief, Geotechnical Engineering Section. His exemplary performance as Section Chief and his vast expertise in the field of Geotechnical engineering led to his promotion in January 2007 to Chief, Geotechnical and Water Resources Branch, with the added responsibility of administering and managing the District's Dam and Levee Safety Programs.

Tony Firicano has provided the office with strong, steady, leadership during periods of significant organization realignments and dynamic fluctuating workloads. He served admirably in this position until his retirement July 2.

The benefits of Firicano's contributions to the New England District will continue to be realized for many years to come, both in his contribution to individual projects and the technical expertise extended to those personnel who had the good fortune to work with him.



Siamac Vaghar (left) says a few words to Tony Firicano during his retirement ceremony.

Bill Mullen joins retirement community with over 30 years of service

**By Farrell McMillan,
Chief, Engineering/Planning**

Friends, family and coworkers gathered in the Concord Park Theatre on July 26 to celebrate the distinguished 30 year career of William Mullen, Engineering/Planning, and his decision to retire.

More than 50 people attended the retirement ceremony. Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, served as Master of Ceremonies. Other speakers who shared stories and presented Mullen with gifts were Paula Kullberg, Regulatory; Bud Taylor, Programs/Project Management; Raimo Liias and George Clafin, both from Engineering/Planning.

Col. Tom Feir, New England District Commander, also attended the ceremony. The colonel officially retired Mullen by presenting him with his retirement certificate and pin. Col. Feir also presented Mullen with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and a Bunker Hill plaque for his exceptional service and dedication to the Corps and the nation. Mullen's wife, Alice, accompanied her husband to the retirement ceremony.

Mullen has had a diverse career over his 30 years of service with the Corps of Engineers. Starting as a Co-op with the Automated Data Processing Division at NAE in 1975 while attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mullen began his career with the Corps.

After a one-year rotational assignment with Baltimore District, Mullen joined the Hydraulic Engineering Section, Water Control Branch at NAE in 1978. During his tenure in the Hydraulic Engineering Section Mullen worked on Periodic Dam Inspections as part of the NAE Dam Safety Program, analyzed and provided recommendations for

various streambank erosion issues, and studied as well as provided guidance on flood mitigation recommendations using various hydraulic river modeling software. After leaving federal service for a few years, Mullen re-joined the Corps in New England and continued his career in the Hydrologic Engineering Section, Geotechnical Engineering Water Resources Branch. During his



Photo by Brian Murphy

Bill Mullen receives a Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Tom Feir.

time within this section, Mullen took the lead on a variety of high profile studies associated with FEMA Flood Insurance Studies, using state-of-the-art flood inundation computer modeling.

Mullen also performed a variety of statistical analyses associated with computing frequency of flooding as well as frequency of pool stages on Corps dams and rivers downstream as part of the overall flood mitigation program at NAE.

Mullen ultimately transferred to the Planning Branch for a few years to lend much needed support to an understaffed branch. Bringing with him his hydraulic and hydrologic expertise, Mullen managed to complete many projects associated with the Flood Plain Man-

agement mission. He left Planning and transferred to the Regulatory Division where he provided expert knowledge to assignments associated with wetland mitigation and other regulatory issues. Bringing his engineering background and highly regarded water resources expertise, Mullen established himself as a regulatory expert and quickly became highly regarded within the Regulatory Division.

Mullen finally ended his career in the Reservoir Regulation Section (RRS), Geotechnical Engineering Water Resources Branch. This "last stop" was a perfect fit for someone with the experience, expertise and talent he had acquired over his diverse career. Managing seven dams within the Lower Connecticut River Basin and sharing the responsibilities of regulating the Stamford Hurricane Barrier, Mullen provided needed support allowing the section to continue its mission seamlessly. During his tenure in RRS, Mullen demonstrated his

expert water resources background and regulated the dams and hurricane barrier independently providing exceptional flood mitigation during flood conditions. Showing his commitment and dedication Mullen also procured a new web camera at the Stamford barrier and developed a reservoir simulation model that will be used in RRS for years to come.

Bill Mullen has had a full and diverse career and because of it has acquired a highly regarded water resources expertise and has helped expand Corps capabilities in Hydraulics/Hydrology, Planning, Regulatory, and lastly Reservoir Regulation missions, thereby maintaining the District's reputation as an outstanding water resources organization.

New England District Commander proud to have been a part of the New England District Team

Members of the New England District team joined Col. Tom Feir, New England District Commander, and his wife, Tara, at Waxy O'Connors Irish Pub and Restaurant for his retirement luncheon, July 20.

After the buffet lunch of sandwiches, wraps and salads, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander, presented Mrs. Feir with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the District. Almost 60 team members attended the event.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, served as Master of Ceremonies. He said that there were things he will miss about Col. Feir – such as the way he could easily pick him out at an RMB group dinner by his Red Sox baseball cap – and the things that he wouldn't, like the big Brett Favre New York Jets football team jersey he had hanging in his office. "I'm also not going to miss the Monday morning sounds of the shredder," Scully laughed. "I tried to find a toy shredder to give you, but I was unsuccessful."

Scully said that for the past three years the District has appreciated Col. Feir's experience that has helped the District move on to greater things. "You got very involved in our projects and we've had great discussions regarding them," he said.

Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, wished the Feir's the very best in retirement. He presented Col. Feir with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for his 27 years of selfless service to the nation.

Frank Fedele, Chief, Operations Division, was next to say a few words. "It seems like a short time ago since we had the last Change of Command Ceremony, but so much has happened in the time you've been here," he said.

Fedele cited the separation of



Mrs. Tara Feir and Col. Tom Feir cut the retirement cake during a lunch at Waxy O'Connors.

Construction and Operations; the Sagamore Bridge Deck Repair Project; and the fact that Col. Feir is the first New England Commander to reacquire projects – Rhode Island's Woonsocket Local Protection Project and Fox Point – and rehabilitate them, as only a few of the milestones that occurred during his command.

The Operations Chief presented Col. Feir with a toy lawn mower and told the story of the landscaper problem at Hanscom Air Force Base that caused Col. Feir to personally cut the grass so the District could erect the ceremonial tent for Founder's Day 2010. "The grass was very high and very wet and only a member of the military could cut it," he



Col. Tom Feir receives his Minuteman Statue from Bill Scully during the presentation portion of the retirement lunch.

said. "You did and were a good sport about it."

Fedele also presented Col. Feir with a grey Corps of Engineers shirt with his name on it. "On behalf of the Operations Division, thank you for supporting our programs, missions and people," he said. "We always appreciated the kind words and pats on the back."

A large number of field team members attended the luncheon, some coming from long distances, to wish Col. Feir well on his retirement.

Peter Hugh, Engineering/Planning, made a brief congratulations to Col. Feir and thanked him for his support of the EEO program and the events that took place at the District over the past three years.

Stephen Lefebvre, former New England District Deputy Commander and current Engineering/Planning employee, rounded out the speakers by expressing his sincere appreciation to Col. Feir for his support both in his military and civilian career. "I appreciate you allowing me to extend and allowing me to go to Afghanistan," he said. "You have always been very approachable and easy to talk with."

Lefebvre concluded with a story that

had the audience laughing about Col. Feir seeking his aid to try to help him get his car unstuck from a snow bank at Concord Park. Their efforts were not very successful. "The plow guys couldn't even get him out," laughed Lefebvre.

Col. Feir continued the fun by recalling more misadventures between his car and New England winters at Concord Park.

Scully then presented Col. Feir with a Minuteman statue on behalf of the District. The Colonel said he loved it. "It really means a lot to me and I will find a good home for it," he said. "It will remind



Col. Tom Feir shows off his new toy lawn mower presented to him by Frank Fedele upon the occasion of his retirement. The gift was a reminder of Founder's Day 2010.

me of my time at the District – my last assignment and the best assignment."

Emotions were high and mixed for Col. Feir during the lunch. He lost his father, Maj. Gen. Philip T. Feir, only six days before the luncheon. He explained that there was some thought to cancelling, but in the end he wanted to go on and spend time with his New England District family. Col. Feir said that since coming to New England his family – wife Tara and son, Ryan – have become true New Englanders to include hating the Yankees and becoming big Boston Bruins fans. The family plans to continue living in New England after Col. Feir's retirement.

The Colonel credited his success in his career to the people he has led. "I've learned that a commander is only as good as the people he or she commands," he said. "You always gave me good briefings before sending me out to represent the District."

He told the audience that their new commander, Col. Charles Samaris, was a good man. "I'm glad that a native New Englander will be carrying the torch," he said.

Col. Feir ended his remarks by talking about the many projects and people of the New England District and how proud he was of the organization and the U.S. Army and how fortunate he felt to be a part of both. "I didn't do it for the money," he said. "I was proud to serve. I'm sad to be leaving you, but I'm excited for the challenges the District will be facing in the future. I am very proud to have been a part of this organization."

Mrs. Feir concluded the retirement lunch by saying how nice the New England District Team was and how she wished she had gotten to know everyone in the District. "It was my job to help Tom serve the District and he literally went to work every day singing," she said. "Tom is such a good guy and I'm very proud of him. He really loves you and so do I."



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca addresses the crowd during the Change of Command ceremony.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Col. Feir passes New England District command to Col. Samaris during traditional ceremony

The New England District team traveled to Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass., to witness the time honored tradition of one District leader relinquishing command to another.

Col. Tom Feir passed the Corps of Engineers Command Flag to Col. Charles Samaris during the Change of Command Ceremony on July 29. The New England District Team joined hundreds of family members, federal, state and local officials and other well wishers at the event. North Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, presided.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as Master of Ceremonies and announced the entrance of the official party: Brig. Gen. DeLuca, Col. Feir, Col. Samaris, and Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District

Commander and the Commander of Troops, led the New England District Ranger Color Guard in the posting of the Colors. Reverend Thomas Devery of the Church of the Holy



The official party takes the stage during the Change of Command ceremony.



The New England District Ranger Color Guard posted and retired the Colors during the ceremony.

Child in Staten Island, New York, provided the invocation. Following Reverend Devery, Rosenberg introduced the many dignitaries in attendance that included Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, General and Flag officers, federal elected officials, former New England Division and District Engineers, a member of the Distinguished Civilian Gallery, U.S. Army members, representatives of federal and state agencies, as well as Col. Feir's and Col. Samaris' families.

Rosenberg recited the New England District's proud history that dates back to the American Revolution when Gen. George Washington named Col. Richard Gridley Chief of Engineers on June 16, 1775. "The Corps of Engineers has served the six states of New England in various configurations since that time," he said.

Rosenberg named the many and varied missions the New England District currently supports from Civil Works and Military programs to engineering, construction and environmental projects.

The Master of Ceremonies recognized the wives of both the incoming and outgoing commanders. "A successful Soldier



Cora Bertrand presents Kathleen Samaris with flowers from the District.



The Feir family is front and center for the ceremony.

is always supported by a loving family," he said.

Park Ranger and New England District Interpreter of the Year Karen Hoey presented Mrs. Tara Feir with red roses in bloom to represent a flourished and successful command. The District's newest employee, Cora Bertrand, gave Mrs. Kathleen Samaris a bouquet of budding white roses which represents her arrival as a welcomed member of the District family. "In time, Mrs. Samaris' relationship with the New England District Team and their families will flourish," said Rosenberg.

Following the presentation of flowers, the official party took their positions at the front of the stage for the formal Change of Command. Scully passed the unit colors (the Corps Flag) to Col. Feir signifying the District's appreciation for his leadership and guidance. Col. Feir then passed the flag to Brig. Gen. DeLuca to signify the relinquishment of his command and his gratitude for the opportunity to lead the District. Brig Gen. DeLuca then passed the flag to Col. Samaris, entrusting him with the responsibility and care of

Continued on next page



Col. Tom Feir relinquishes command to Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca.



Col. Charles Samaris is the New England District Commander.



Col. Samaris gives the Command Flag to Bill Scully.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Col. Feir passes New England District command to Col. Samaris during traditional ceremony

Continued from previous page

the District. Finally, Col. Samaris passed the flag back to Scully as a symbol of his trust and confidence in the leaders of the organization.

After the official party returned to the stage and the official Change of Command completed, Lt. Col. Howell asked Mrs. Feir and son, Ryan, to the stage so they could participate in the awards and retirement portion of the ceremony. Brig. Gen. DeLuca presented Col. Feir with many awards in recognition of his more than 27 years of service to the nation. The awards included the Legion of Merit Award and the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal in recognition of his 27+ years of superior service to the nation.

The North Atlantic Division Commander also presented Col. Feir with his retirement certificate on behalf of the Army Chief of Staff Martin E. Dempsey and a grateful nation. After the presentation of the retirement certificate, Lt. Col. Howell read from a letter of appreciation to Col. Feir from President Barack Obama. "Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to those who will follow in your footsteps and for all Americans who will join me today in saluting you for a job extremely well done," read Lt. Col. Howell.

Following the reading, Brig. Gen. DeLuca presented Ryan Feir with a Commander's Coin of Excellence for the support he has shown his father over Col. Feir's career. Brig. Gen.

DeLuca then presented Mrs. Feir with the Commander's Award for Public Service in recognition of her caring dedication to improving the quality of life for Soldiers, civilians and their families in each of the communities the Feir's lived in. The NAD Commander also presented Mrs. Feir with a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for her unfailing support of Col. Feir throughout his career.

Mrs. Feir stepped to the podium and said that being in Faneuil Hall – "the Cradle of Liberty" – was a great honor. "Today is a great day to be an American," she said.

Mrs. Feir touched on a variety of topics, but first was the Army Family. "It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a team to raise a Soldier," she said. "Without the team – the Army Family – there is no chance for victory."

Directing her remarks to her son, Mrs. Feir thanked him for "moving 7 times in 16 years and never skipped a beat."

Mrs. Feir concluded by talking about how she and Col. Feir met as cadets at West Point. "After 27 years our love grows stronger every day," she said. "I am so incredibly proud of all you've accomplished."

After Mrs. Feir's remarks, Lt. Col. Howell read proclamations from the states of Maine and New Hampshire, naming July 29, 2011 as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Day. Col. Feir also received letters and citations from the governors of all six New England states. Col. Samaris received letters and

citations from New Hampshire, Rhode Island and a proclamation from Rhode Island.

Brig. Gen. DeLuca thanked everyone for coming to mark this chapter in New England District history. He said that Col. Feir's time at the District had many challenges such as supporting the Corps' missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, AAR work, flooding events, tornadoes and Superfund sites, just to name a few. He said that he struggled to sum up Col. Feir's career, but compared his qualities to the kind he would like to see in a Chief of Engineers – calm and not volatile; a great listener and engineer; dedicated to the mission and caring of people.

"So I guess the next Chief of Engineers should be like Tom Feir," he said.

In addressing Mrs. Feir, the North Atlantic Division Commander, called her "a sunburst of a lady who lights up a room."

The General said that the District will be facing new challenges in the coming years such as budget cuts and shrinking resources. "We have the cleverness to devise solutions to problems," he said. "Col. Samaris is a good man for the job. I'm excited for him to be a part of the team."

Col. Feir addressed the audience, calling the Change of Command a surreal experience. He thanked his wife and son for their love and support through his career. He said that the decision to retire was a difficult one, but the right choice for his family. "We have the best medical care here and Ryan has established roots," he said.

The outgoing Commander said that the event was especially hard for him as he had very recently lost his father, Maj. Gen. Philip T. Feir, just two weeks prior. He talked about the elder Feir's career, calling him, "a citizen Soldier and a very big, sweet man."

Col. Feir said he was honored to have his mother, Mary, his sisters, Becky and Bobbie, and other family members and friends with him for the occasion. He described his career in the Army as an amazing walk of life and thanked Brig. Gen. DeLuca for allowing him to lead the District. He also thanked the District's federal, state and local partners for working with the District to help find solutions to complex problems in order to get work done. "As I reflect back on my years with the District, I'm amazed at all of the incredible work that the District team has performed during that time,"



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca (right) presents Col. Tom Feir with his retirement certificate during the ceremony.

he said. "I look back on that and my military career and I think to myself, 'Wow, what a journey!'"

The Colonel thanked his District Executive Team and Angie Vanaria, who he called his trusted advisor, for all they do for the District. He concluded his remarks by congratulating Col. Samaris on his new command. "Start enjoying your time now," he said. "It goes by all too quickly."

Col. Samaris said it was truly an immense privilege to serve the District as its new commander. He thanked the many important people in his life for their love and support which helped him get to this point in his career. He also thanked Brig. Gen. DeLuca for his trust, confidence and willingness to give him the District to lead. "I am both thankful and excited, and look forward to what appears to be a three-year 'movement to contact.'"

The new District Commander praised his predecessor for being a great professional. "You are a 100-percent class act and have excelled at leading this great District," he said. "Congratulations on your retirement and a tremendous career serving our nation, our Army and the Engineer Regiment."

Col. Samaris concluded by addressing the New England District Team. "You will get my absolute best effort – we will have a great ride and a whole lot of fun," he said.

Sister Maureen Colleary gave the benediction using the Irish Blessing and the New England District Color Guard ended the Change of Command Ceremony by retiring the colors. Color Guard members who participated in the event were Bradley Clark, Steven Patchkofsky, Jason Robinson and Jenn Samela.

The U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty from Hanscom Air Force Base provided musical selections throughout the ceremony.

Change of Command July 29, 2011



Photos by CJ Allen

Lt. Col. Steven Howell and Col. Charles Samaris before the Change of Command.



Larry Rosenberg and Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca discuss event details before the Change of Command Ceremony.



Col. Charles Samaris, Col. Tom Feir, and Bill Scully on stage at the ceremony.



Ryan, Tara and Col. Tom Feir preparing to receive recognition from Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca.



Lt. Col. Steven Howell and the New England District Color Guard begin the ceremony by posting the Colors.



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca shakes hands with the Honorable Theodore Low, the Rhode Island Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

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Tara Feir greets Kathleen Samaris before the ceremony.



The U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty get ready to play.



Col. Tom Feir gets a hug from wife, Tara, during the ceremony.



Col. Tom Feir talks with friends before the ceremony.



Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca speaks with military attendees after the ceremony.



Members of the clergy attended the Change of Command Ceremony to offer prayers for the Feir and Samaris families.

Dredging up the past



Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades (left) passes command of the New England District to Col. Thomas Koning during the Change of Command Ceremony on July 19, 2002. Col. Brian Osterndorf was the outgoing commander.

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