

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong

®



*Opening the gates and releasing
the 'White Water' at District dams
Story on page 9*

Yankee Voices

Cladys Leone, Helen Newcomb and Laura Lally



District Commander briefs Environmental Business Council

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, served as keynote speaker at the Environmental Business Council of New England's (EBC-NE) March 10 meeting in Brookline, Mass., to give an overview of the New England District.

The Colonel's briefing, which was attended by about 85 EBC-NE members, included: who the District is, where the agency is located, what type of work it does and ongoing and possible future projects.

Col. Samaris was invited to speak by Dan Moon, Director of the EBC-NE. Many of the District's contracting partners are EBC-NE members and enjoy hearing about the current and future projects going on at the District. Bill Hubbard, Engineering/Planning, accompanied Col. Samaris to the event.

Chief Sends: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Each April, the Department of Defense observes Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence. This year's theme, "We own it... We'll solve it... Together," emphasizes our commitment to solving the problem of sexual assault in the many ways we work within the Army, the Corps, across the divisions and districts, and in our communities to combat this issue.

It's important for all of us to remember and live our Army Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. We must take responsibility and "step up" to report sexual assault and to support our co-workers in times of need to ensure a culture free of sexual assault. Realize that sexual assault is not only inappropriate behavior, but it is also a crime.

Speak up! It's time to do more than just listen. As Soldiers and Army Civilians, we embrace our professional responsibilities and support the Army's efforts to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault. Each of us must play a role in intervening to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment and support the Army's fight to end sexual assault and sexual harassment in Army Communities. We must help lead Army efforts to promote safety and professionalism in the workplace by speaking up when we see behaviors that conflict with Army policy, as well as seek assistance from our supervisors and other Army leaders.

Know that our leadership will continue to strive for an environment where professional values, team commitment, and respect define how we treat one another at every division, district, workplace, and throughout our USACE community.

If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual assault, visit <http://www.myduty.mil> or <http://www.sapr.mil>.

Thanks for the great work you do!
Essayons...Building Strong...Army Strong!

Tom Bostick
LTG, US ARMY
Chief of Engineers





Dredging operations at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

Photos provided by Maryellen Iorio

Interim remedial action contract awarded for PCB contaminants at New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

**By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs**

An interim remedial action contract was awarded recently by the New England District for work on the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site in New Bedford, Mass.

Work will be accomplished by Jacobs Field Services North America, Inc., of Oak Ridge, Tenn. The contract was awarded on Feb. 14.

The work consists of providing support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean-up PCB-contaminated sediments from New Bedford Harbor. The harbor was contaminated from the 1940s through the 1970s by two electrical capacitor manufacturing plants that discharged PCB waste.

The sole source indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (ID/IQ) contract is valued at \$45 million and is meant to provide one additional dredging season at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

This award will act as a bridge contract while a new site specific Remedial Action Contract (RAC) is put in place for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

The intent of this bridge contract is to continue dredging while a new contract vehicle is put in place and

allow overlap between the incumbent (Jacobs Field Services North America, Inc.) and the new RAC contractor.

The work requirements under this contract will be managed by the Corps under the supervision of Paul L'Heureux, Project Engineer, to assure compliance with contract requirements.



Contractor inspecting a filter press at the New Bedford Superfund Site.

Boston Marathon Hero Awarded Soldier's Medal

By Bernard Tate

USACE Public Affairs

Many Americans have seen the shaky photos and videos taken when the bombs exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. Among the many people who went to the aid of the injured, there are glimpses of runners who stripped off their shirts to tie tourniquets around the shattered limbs of bomb victims.

One of those unknown runners was Everett Spain, an Army colonel in the Engineer branch who is earning a doctorate in management at the Harvard Business School. On April 18, in a ceremony on the school's Baker Lawn, Spain received the Soldier's Medal, the Army's highest award for valor in a non-combat situation.

But Spain has shunned any publicity, avoided interviews with the civilian news media. "First and foremost, I was brought up to believe that a military officer should never seek praise for themselves," Spain said. "Our purpose is to serve others through character and leadership."

Despite Spain's modesty, his actions are a matter of public record in images taken during the Boston Marathon attack. He was only about 100 yards from the finish line when the bombs exploded.

He was escorting Steve Sabra, a 58-year old visually impaired runner who frequently selects Harvard Business School students to be his race guides. Spain's wife, Julia, escorted Sabra on the first 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) of the race. Tom Hennessey and Scott McBride, both Harvard Business School students and Navy veterans, also escorted Sabra. Hennessey ran from the 10K to the 20K mile markers, and McBride from the 10K to the 30K, where Spain took over to escort Sabra to the finish line. McBride decided to tag along to the end. The trio was 100



U.S. Army Photos.

Col. Everett Spain receives the Soldier's Medal from Maj. Gen. William Rapp, Chief of Army Legislative Liaison.

yards from the finish line when the first bomb detonated about 50 yards ahead. Moments later, the second bomb detonated about 210 yards behind the first.

Spain is a 22-year Army veteran with combat experience. In Iraq he received the Purple Heart while with the 1st Cavalry Division, and later served as the aide-de-camp of Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, during "The Surge." He is also a graduate of the elite U.S. Army Ranger School.

So the moment the bombs exploded, Spain instinctively grabbed Sabra's elbow and sprinted to the finish line. McBride escorted Sabra to his family waiting in the reunion area while Spain ran back to the site of the first explosion. "It's what Soldiers do," Spain said. "Scott had positive control of Steve and was taking him towards safety, so it was my responsibility to run to the critical point and see if I could help. I've served with thousands of brave and selfless service members and civilians throughout my time in the Army, and they all had high expecta-

tions of me and each other to always try to do the right thing."

He found several severely wounded people on the sidewalk, including a man bleeding profusely from his lower left leg while his daughter, distraught and wounded herself, frantically tried to stop her father's bleeding. Spain immediately removed his shirt and tied it tightly around the man's wound.

"My husband, Ron, had lost a large portion of his leg," said Karen Bras-sard, recounting the moment. "I had a sweater and tried to make a tourniquet, but it just didn't work. My daughter panicked; she thought she was going to lose her dad. Then Everett came and tied another tourniquet and got my daughter to calm down enough to let Ron go so that they could take him to a tent. Everett had been in battle and had seen stuff like this. He was so self-assured, so calm that my daughter trusted him. It was amazing to watch."

Spain then moved to a woman lying in a pool of blood in the doorway of an athletic store while another responder tried unsuccessfully to put pressure on

the wound. Spain secured a jacket from the store, tied its arms into a tourniquet just above the woman's leg wound, and used a sturdy clothes hanger to tighten the tourniquet. He and the other responder then held the woman's legs in the air until emergency medical technicians arrived several minutes later.

Spain heard the athletic store's fire alarms and searched for possible victims trapped inside that store and two neighboring buildings. When he exited the third building, uniformed responders asked him if he was all right, then ordered him to depart the area.

Spain was smeared with blood (not his own), and a concerned bystander escorted him to the race's medical tent. There Spain saw a woman with multiple serious limb injuries and severe burns wheeled in on a gurney and left alone. She was shaking and turning pale, which Spain recognized as symptoms of shock, so he got another blanket and then stayed with her, talking to her and comforting her. Several minutes later, Spain accompanied her in an ambulance to Boston Medical Center, holding her hand and reassuring her the entire way.

Thinking back on that day, Spain says that he doesn't remember being scared because his training kicked in automatically. "I remember a lot of that day vividly, but some things I simply do not remember, for example treating one of the victims who was captured in photographs."

Spain and his family have kept in touch with the people he aided and their families. Six survivor families, including all of those that Spain met that day, attended the ceremony where he received the Soldier's Medal on April 18. The Soldier's Medal is the Army's highest award for valor in a non-combat situation involving personal danger and voluntary risk of life. The award requires the same level of valor as the Distinguished Service Cross had the situation involved combat.

"Without hesitation we were on board with the Soldier's Medal because it isn't easy to run back into danger with no idea how any more bombs there were or what you're going to see," said family member Karen Brassard. "It's not a natural instinct to do that. He is such a genuinely good man, and I think he deserved such recognition, even though that's so anti-Everett."

Spain says it is difficult to explain why he reacted as he did that day. "I can say with perfect honesty that it was not me that ran toward the smoke, but the values deliberately imprinted on me by my faith, my family, my friends, my mentors, the many character-building institutions I've been privileged to be associated with, and our American spirit," Spain said in his speech during the ceremony. "Those values ran toward that smoke."

Spain says that any Soldier has the training and the values to do what he did.

"I'm no hero; I'm simply a work in progress," he said in his speech during the ceremony. God has His own timing, and I hope I was able to be a

small help to others during their time of need. The truth is that all past, present and future U.S. service members and their families would have done the same things I did, and more."

On April 21, just a few days after the Soldier's Medal ceremony, Spain and his wife ran the Boston Marathon again and finished together. Julia is also at Harvard getting a masters degree in extension studies, with a concentration in international relations.

"Julia and I ran the whole thing together," Spain said. One of the families that he assisted gave them invitation entries. The family received the entries from the Boston Athletic Association to give to whoever they wished. "It was Julia's first marathon and it was a great experience as a couple."

Spain will graduate from the Harvard Business School in May with a doctorate in management. His previous assignment was commander of U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt in Germany. His next assignment is to the faculty of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point teaching in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership.



Col. Everett Spain shakes hands with Maj. Gen. William Rapp, Chief of Army Legislative Liaison, after receiving the Soldier's Medal. The Soldier's Medal is the U.S. Army's highest decoration for valor in a non-combat situation.

Sheehan retires after more than 40 years of service

Family, friends, coworkers and retirees arrived in the Concord Park Cafeteria March 31 for a breakfast reception to celebrate Mike Sheehan of Regulatory's 40-plus year career. The reception was a casual, laid back affair with music and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Sheehan's career playing in the background. About 40 people attended the reception.

As guests munched on the potluck breakfast buffet, Ruth Ladd, who served as MC, welcomed the audience. She thanked Sheehan for his dedication during his career, driving all the way from Connecticut to Concord, Mass., every day – even in inclement weather – to get to work. She presented him with a singing card, "Celebration" by the pop group Kool and the Gang, and a Carolina dirt bag.

Jennifer McCarthy, Chief of Regulatory, was first to speak. She shook Sheehan's hand, saying that he challenged her to think outside the box. She also thanked him for giving 150-percent in the office. McCarthy presented Sheehan with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his many years of dedicated service, as well as his retirement certificate and pin.

Bob McCusker, Vice President of the NFFE Local 1164, spoke about Sheehan's involvement in the union, saying he was a great help and worked hard for the New England District team. He mentioned Sheehan is a twice deployed Soldier during the Vietnam War and thanked him for his service. McCusker said he appreciated Sheehan's technical assistance and looked forward to working with him more on union business.

Bob DeSista said he would miss Sheehan and his sarcasm. He praised Sheehan for his technical expertise and high level of performance. "You are an excellent instructor who is totally loyal to your coworkers," said DeSista. "You responded to requests for help during natural disaster mis-



Jennifer McCarthy and Ruth Ladd present Mike Sheehan with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

sions and were always there to lend support."

Brian Valiton mentioned that he and Sheehan were both Vietnam Veterans, with Sheehan serving two tours and then also serving in the Reserves. Valiton said Sheehan helped him find information that allowed him to locate the family of a friend who was killed in the Vietnam War. Valiton said that the family is still a big part of his life.

Zina Cassulo-Henderson said she met Sheehan when she started in Regulatory as a file clerk. She credited Sheehan for helping her get promoted and presented him with a handmade wooden figure and an ornament for his Christmas Tree that read, "The Best is Yet to Be."

Ruthann Brien presented Sheehan with a T-shirt from co-worker Phil Nimeskern, a gift certificate for coffee, a list pad, a frog pen, a Home Depot gift card, hand soap, a "Get Out of Jail Free" card, a fishing cap, an album filled with comments and memories from his friends and coworkers, a camera and a laminated copy of his retirement flyer.

Sheehan introduced his mother, Mildred, his wife, Marion, daughter Amy and her husband Mark Freeman, youngest grandson Liam, daughter Emily and daughter Bethany, who also worked in Regulatory for a time, and son Kyle. Sheehan has another daughter, Diane, who was unable to attend.

The newly-minted retiree said he was thrilled at the amount of people who attended his reception and told everyone to take care of one another.

Retirees who attended the reception were Bill Mullen, Alexine Raineri, Susan Mehigan and Steve DiLorenzo.

Jay Clement traveled all the way down from the Maine Regulatory Office to attend. The reception was also teleconferenced to field team members who could not travel the distance to attend personally, but still wanted to participate and wish Sheehan well.



Mike Sheehan receives a Carolina Dirt Bag as a retirement gift.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Annie Chin retires after a 27-year federal career

Annie Chin, Civil Engineering Technician from Engineering/Planning retired from federal service March 31. About 110 family, friends, retirees and coworkers representing just about every office in the District made their way to the Concord Park Cafeteria for a pizza party to celebrate Chin's 27-year career.

Gary Lacroix served as Master of Ceremonies and praised Chin for being a hard worker and an integral part of any team. He presented her with a Concord Minuteman statue.

"Annie is friendly, congenial, a great team member and a professional who would do whatever it took to get the job done," he said.

Chin began her career with the Corps in New England in 1987. Although she spent her career in the E/P Design Branch, Chin worked in several of the branches to include Survey, Civil Engineering, Coastal Engineering and finally the CADD unit.

"Annie was a bit of a jack-of-all – trades in that she produced drawings depicting civil, architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural features for a variety of projects," said Scott Flanagan. "She worked on many Civil Works projects including the Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Protection Project. She produced numerous drawings depicting repairs to be done at practically all of the dams, the hurricane barriers and the Cape Cod Canal."

Chin also completed many drawings for work to be done at Natick Soldier Systems Center and at Fort Devens, according to Flanagan.

Zina Cassulo-Henderson recalled that her friendship with Chin began on Perimeter Road at the Waltham Federal Center where District employees would walk on breaks to get exercise. Cassulo-Henderson presented Chin



Annie Chin receives her retirement certificate from Col. Charles Samaris.

Photo by Brian Murphy

with a Christmas ornament as a parting gift.

Andrew Jordan remarked on Chin's constant smile and her dedication to her work as part of a team, calling her, "the ingredient that makes a team work."

Scott Acone, Chief of Engineering and Planning said, "If the world were falling down around someone, Annie could still make him or her smile."

Jennifer Flanagan said that she was glad to have Chin's company at the District's Fitness Center when she went as there were not many female coworkers there during the times that she liked to work out.

Both Scott and Jennifer Flanagan presented Chin with gifts from attendees that included a gift card to the Hanscom Fitness Center, a Red Sox Shirt, a gift basket filled with gardening tools, a gift basket filled with workout items to include sneakers, a Zumba DVD and water bottles, and as a joke, a copy of MicroStation, a Computer Aided Design software program.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, said that the number of people that attended the lunch is a great illustration of Chin's

selfless service to her teammates and a great tribute to her as a person. The District Commander thanked Chin's family for letting the District "borrow" her and for supporting her during her career. He presented Chin with a Bunker Hill plaque, her retirement certificate and pin.

Chin said she was going to miss everyone and planned on staying in touch by attending District events.

The day after the lunch, Chin started a new chapter in her life by hopping on a plane to China where she will explore the country for some time. She also plans to travel to San Francisco and North Carolina before returning home to pursue her passions of Tai Chi and ping pong.

Chin's husband, Peter, and twins, Amy and Benjamin, accompanied her to the lunch.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Dick Reardon attended the lunch to wish Chin well. Other retirees who came were Greg Buteau, Lynne Bleakney, Terry Wong, Bob Meader, Chris Lindsay, Joe Colucci, Jenny Tan, Deborah Gabrielson, Chiway Hsiung, Nick Forbes and Brenda Faragi.

Annual report for 2013 published on Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee program for coastal aquatic habitat, essential fish habitat

By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The New England District recently made available for review the “2013 Annual Report of the Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program,” dated February 2014. The program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to coastal aquatic resources, that are also Essential Fish Habitat as defined by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and that are authorized by the Corps of Engineers’ New England District under the Massachusetts General Permit.

Compensatory mitigation occurs in circumstances where a permittee is required to compensate for the functions and values of aquatic resources lost as a result of the authorization after all efforts are made to avoid and minimize impacts. In-Lieu Fee (ILF) is an option available to the permit applicant instead of completing permittee-responsible mitigation.

Use of the In-Lieu Fee program is contingent upon Corps of Engineers approval. All In-Lieu Fee agreements in New England are available for review on the Corps’ website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation.aspx>.

In 2008, the Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) authorizing DMF as the program administrator for the Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program. This compensatory mitigation program addresses authorized impacts to aquatic resources and aquatic habitats of managed diadromous fish and marine finfish and shellfish species in Massachusetts’ waters, resulting from projects permitted under the Massachusetts General Permit (GP).

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries operates this program under the direction of a steering committee consisting of representatives from

the Corps, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The program was developed in consultation with the steering committee to provide an alternative to permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation under the Massachusetts General Permit in order to achieve the goal of “no net loss” to aquatic habitat area, functions and values.

Program participants provide fee payments in-lieu of on-site mitigation to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Marine Mammals and Fisheries Research and Conservation Trust. This is an expendable trust account established by the Commonwealth and administered by DMF.

Effective June 9, 2013, the MOU between the Corps and DMF establishing the MA ILF program expired. This annual report represents the final record of in-lieu fees collected under the MOU. DMF continues to administer the ILF funds deposited into the Trust and will provide programmatic updates to the Corps through annual reports documenting progress of projects funded through the program. The Department of Fish and Game is currently in the process of seeking the Corps approval to become the program sponsor of an expanded statewide ILF program.

The public notice with the 2013 annual report can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicNotices.aspx>



Massachusetts wetlands.

Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

For additional information on this program (File # NAE-2007-2926) contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (ATTN: Ruth Ladd), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by email to: ruth.m.ladd@usace.army.mil or by phone to 978-318-8818.



Canoeists line up for a race at Tully Lake.

Photo by Jeff Magnus

District projects open the gates for kayakers, canoes

Several of the New England District projects in Massachusetts and New Hampshire were a water sport lover's paradise when controlled water releases were conducted in late March and mid-April. The water releases provided enough river flows for recreational canoeing, kayaking and rafting.

Knightville Dam in Huntington, Mass., began releasing 600-800 cubic feet per second (cfs) on March 29. Canoe races and practice clinics for canoeists and kayakers -- sponsored by the Westfield Wildwater Race organization, with experienced paddlers assisting the less experienced -- took place throughout the weekend.

"Many canoeists and kayakers took advantage of the water release," said Colin Monkiewicz, Park Ranger at Knightville. "There were about 30 cars parked in the Knightville Dam picnic area with boats."

Otter Brook Dam in Keene, N.H., and Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake Dam, both located in Royalston, Mass., all held water release events April 12. Otter Brook released 300 cfs. Due to

an abundance of water, Tully released 400 cfs and 1,400 cfs came from Birch Hill Dam. More than a dozen paddlers took advantage of the Otter Brook water release over the weekend. Millers River was the spot for the River Rat Race, sponsored by the Athol and Orange Lions Clubs, which drew an estimated 280 canoes and 560 paddlers. Thousands lined the Millers River banks to watch the race and cheer for their favorite paddler. Other activities over the weekend included a Pro Am race in

Orange, Mass., and commercial rafting in Erving, Mass.

More controlled releases will take place in the coming weeks at various District sites. Kayaking, canoeing and rafting are only a few of the vast recreational activities that take place at most of the New England District projects throughout New England. Activities at the sites vary, so for more information and to find a project near you, go to <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation.aspx>



A kayaker navigates the rapids at Otter Brook Lake.

Photo provided by James Lewis.

Individual and team achievements highlighted at awards ceremony

Team and individual recognition was the order of the day when Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, held an awards ceremony, March 27 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

The awards ceremony, attended by many in the District, took place after Col. Samaris' Whiteboard Session. In addition to the recognitions listed, award recipients also received a Commander's Coin from Col. Samaris.

Karen Wolfe received three awards that she earned during her overseas deployment in support of Operation



Karen Wolfe

Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. She received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Medal and Certificate, and the NATO Award and Medal. "Watching what's going on over there on television just doesn't do it," she said of her decision to

volunteer and make a difference. Wolfe also said that she enjoyed networking with coalition forces during her tour. Although being without family was a challenge, Wolfe said the work was so rewarding that she would volunteer again in a heartbeat.

Megan Cullen also served in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She received a Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Medal and Certificate, and the NATO Award and Medal. Cullen said her experience overseas helped her gain knowledge of how construction works. By the end of the tour, she said she became very confident and sure of herself and that the experience has caused her to grow professionally.



Megan Cullen



Ella Minincleri
Photos by Brian Murphy

Col. Samaris indicated that there is much work that still needs to be done and opportunities abound for anyone who would like to volunteer. The Afghan Engineer District is still looking for many volunteers to help with the closeout work. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity should notify their supervisor of their interest and contact the Emergency Operations Center.

Special guests Geoff Steadman, consultant to the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC), and Tony D'Andrea, past Chairman and current member of the NHMC, visited the District during the awards ceremony to honor the Norwalk Harbor Dredging Team. (See story on next page.)

Erika Mark received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her work on the Hurricane Sandy Fire Island



Erika Mark

Project. According to Mark, she enjoyed, "getting outside the biology box," and working where people were happy to see the Corps of Engineers.

Cathy Leblanc received the Work Environment Association's (WEA) Employee of the Month Award for September 2013. Leblanc received the award for her efforts during the District's year-end activities as well as for her incredible knowledge of P2. Janet Harrington nominated her for the award. Leblanc also filled the empty Chief of Programs position for a time while a permanent replacement was found.

Ella Minincleri received the WEA Employee of the Month for December 2013. "Ella's work is always infused with helpfulness, professionalism and humor," read the nomination submitted by Patrick Blumeris.

Col. Samaris concluded the awards ceremony by saying that during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., he received outstanding feedback from the New England Congressionals and their staff members on the District's work from Maine all the way down to Connecticut. He congratulated the District team on the well-deserved praise and told them to keep up the good work.



Cathy Leblanc



The Norwalk Dredge Team receive awards from Geoff Steadman, NHMC during the awards ceremony.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Norwalk Officials make special trip to say thank you to Dredging Team

Geoff Steadman, a consultant to the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) and Tony D'Andrea, NHMC member and former Chairman took the three-hour drive up from Norwalk, Conn., to say thank you to the Norwalk Harbor Dredge Team during a Special Awards Ceremony, March 27.

Steadman and D'Andrea first thanked Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, and Lt. Col. Charles Gray, Deputy District Commander, for their role in completing the dredging project that was 17 years in the making. Steadman went into a summary of the project milestones for audience members unfamiliar with the project.

The two special guests of the District presented the Norwalk Harbor Dredge Team with the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission's Award of Special Appreciation. Each certificate was personalized with a brief summary of the efforts the recipient made in getting the project accomplished. Norwalk Harbor is located at the mouth of the Norwalk River, about eight miles east of Stamford. It forms a boundary between the East and South Norwalk sections of the city.

"The Norwalk Harbor Commission and the Mayor of the city of Norwalk, Conn., want to thank you," said Steadman. "The project consisted of dredging half a million cubic yards of material at

a cost of \$13.5 million. Thank you for what you've done in seeing this project through."

Team members who received certificates were: Ed O'Donnell, Jack Karalius, Tim Rezendes, Todd Randall, Bob Macgovern, Adam Orłowski and Mike Vadnais. The team also received Commander's Coins from Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, during the ceremony. O'Donnell indicated that cooperation and partnership with the Norwalk customers helped make the project a success.

"This is one of the better harbor management commissions in Connecticut we work with," said O'Donnell. "There was a significant effort by the Commission to help us obtain funding from both state and federal sources so we could finish the work. Without their continued determination it's unlikely we'd have been able to successfully complete the work."

Steadman also mentioned Richard Roach and Brian Valiton, both from Regulatory, and their role in helping to establish the Connecticut Harbor Management Commission. "In the early 1980s, Rich Roach, along with State Senator George "Doc" Gunther from Connecticut, were the driving forces behind the Connecticut Harbor Management Act, the state legislation that authorized municipalities with

navigable waters to establish harbor management commissions and prepare harbor management plans," said Steadman. "If Rich didn't have this idea over 30 years ago, perhaps there never would have been a Norwalk Harbor Management Commission."

Valiton's role came soon after the establishment of the Commission, according to Steadman. "Brian Valiton's role at the outset of the harbor management process in Norwalk, after the Commission was established, was to tell us in no uncertain terms that we had to get our house in order and do something about a number of unauthorized docks and moorings in the harbor," he said. "Through the Harbor Management Plan we were able to correct the problems that Brian identified."

The federal navigation project consists of 12-, 10-, and 6-foot channels and 10- and 6-foot anchorages. The last full maintenance dredging was in 1980-81. Shoaling throughout the project had been making navigation difficult. Industrial, commercial fishing and recreational vessels all use the harbor. In 2001, waterborne commerce in Norwalk Harbor totaled 512,000 tons. This includes fuel oil; sand, gravel, and stone; and shellfish. The city of Norwalk requested the maintenance dredging. Due to funding constraints, the work was divided into three phases, all of which are now completed.

Dredging up the past



Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member, the late Joanne Ellis, and Judy Antonellis give farewell hugs to Bob Martin during his retirement party in this April 2005 photo. Martin retired with over 30 years of service.

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