

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 47, No. 9 June 2014

*Building Strong*

®



*Chief of Engineers visits  
New England District  
Story on Page 4*

# Yankee Voices



Alfred and Ella Miniceni

## Reserve the Date

...Thursday, July 31 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District **Change of Command Ceremony** from Col. Charles P. Samaris to Col. Christopher J. Barron at 10:30 a.m. in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Massachusetts. E-mail Sally Rigione, PublicAffairs Office at [sally.m.rigione@usace.army.mil](mailto:sally.m.rigione@usace.army.mil) if you wish to attend.

## Congratulations

...to **Brian Valiton**, Regulatory, on the birth of his first grandchild, **Christopher Earl Valiton**, May 4.  
...to **Adam Orłowski**, field surveyor in Survey Section and his wife, **Anjie**, on the birth of their son, **Bennet Adam Orłowski**, June 3. **Rick Orłowski**, topographic crew chief, also of survey section, and his wife **Carol** are the proud grandparents.

## Sympathy

...to **Pat Devine** of the Westover Resident Office and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law, **Mary Jean Devine**, May 9.  
... to **Kris Blanchette**, Operations, on the passing of her father, **Richard Pratt**, May 13.

## Corps Priority: water safety at recreation areas

With warmer weather more people will be recreating near or in the water through the summer months. Now is the time to start thinking about water safety. Each year, an average of 3,880 people drown in the United States. In fact, drowning is the leading cause of injury death for children aged 1 - 4. Yet, it is possible – just by wearing a life jacket or taking other precautions – to reduce drowning deaths.

In boating-related fatalities in 2012, 73-percent involved boat operators who had not received any boating safety instruction, according to U.S. Coast Guard statistics. In 2012, of the 651 recreational boating fatalities, nearly 71-percent were drownings, and 85-percent of those victims were not wearing life jackets. In 2012, the Coast Guard counted 4,515 accidents that involved 651 deaths, 3,000 injuries and approximately \$38 million of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents. These USGS statistics are available at: <http://www.uscgboating.org/> under statistics. Efforts by water safety organizations might be making some progress to reduce accidents and deaths, as Coast Guard statistics indicate that in 1997 there were 8,047 accidents, 4,555 injuries and 821 deaths; and in 1998 there were 8,061 accidents, 4,612 injuries and 815 deaths, both years with many more incidents than reported in 2012.

Water safety officials urge everyone to learn more about safe boating practices and always engage in responsible conduct while on the water. America's rivers, lakes and oceans are excellent places for boaters to gather with family and friends while enjoying the outdoors. As they do so, it is important that individuals avoid risky behavior that can lead to boating accidents. Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, machinery failure and excessive speed rank as the top five primary contributing factors to accidents. Rounding out the top 10 include navigation rules violations, alcohol use, force of wave/wake, weather and hazardous waters.

To help ensure that individuals stay safe on America's waterways, the U. S. Coast Guard urges boaters to take basic safety precautions such as wearing a life jacket, participating in a boat safety course, getting a free vessel check, and never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. By practicing responsible boating habits, people can help contribute to a safer, more enjoyable experience on the water. (USACE Press Release)





# Commander's Corner: Thank You!

By Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - to the Army and the Engineer Regiment for 239 years of honorable and selfless service to our nation! It all started right here in New England during the Revolutionary War as Col. Richard Gridley led the Continental Army in sighting and constructing fortifications at Bunker Hill. This hallmark engineering action marked the beginning of a

long tradition of service to the nation that we, the New England District, and the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue to this day. This context is so important because we stand on the shoulders of giants! From Col. Gridley to our most recent retirees, the foundation of today's New England District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was well built by those that so honorably and selflessly served before us.

**THANK YOU** – to the entire New England District Team. I simply can't believe three years passed so quickly! I guess time really does fly when you're having fun. You, individually and collectively, made it rewarding, enlightening, educational, frustrating, occasionally painful – but most of all, lots of fun.

Great organizations are built by great people of character and passion called to serve selflessly and to purposefully de-

liver results for the greater good. Thank you for being that organization, being those people, and answering the call of the nation so well.

- ✓ Achieving the four goals of the USACE Campaign Plan – **by delivering and advancing your programs and projects** - every single day - 1) Support National Security, 2) Transform Civil Works, 3) Reduce Disaster Risk, 4) Prepare For Tomorrow.
- ✓ Making your greatest positive impact where it counts the most - **on the ground and with the citizens** - of New England, the region and the nation.
- ✓ Being singled out by partners and stakeholders as the federal agency known for **straight talk, action, and actual, physical production**.
- ✓ Serving - individually and collectively - as a manifestation of the Engineer Regiment's motto – **ESSAYONS (Let US Try!)**.

Army Doctrine Reference Publication  
14 June 2013

**ADRP 1**  
**THE ARMY PROFESSION**

**Page 1-3 / Figure 1-1 - Army Professionals**  
53rd Chief of Engineers, LTG Bostick inspects a project site led by USACE/DA Civilians  
**"Soldiers and Civilians Serving the Nation"**

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

ESSAYONS

**THANK YOU** – to a New England District that's blessed with a passionate and proficient team that cares about each other and has the organizational character to deliver results. The value and effectiveness of the team is the manifestation of the strength and connectedness of the people. Thanks to each and every one of you for contributing your strength and connectedness to the success of the team, the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside you!

See you on the high ground!

Essayons! Serving New England since 1775!

## Chief of Engineers visits District, holds special Town Meeting

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Groninger, visited the New England District June 11-12 and held a special Town Meeting, June 11. According to the Chief, his primary reason for coming to the District was to say “thank you” to the Team. “Soldiers are not IN the Army, they ARE the Army,” he said. “It’s the same thing with the Corps of Engineers.”

Originally a three-day trip that included a visit to Woods Hole, Lt. Gen. Bostick had to shorten his time in New England to be present when President Barack Obama signed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. “After the signing the President shook my hand and said, ‘good job.’ But that was really for the Corps Team based on the work that you do each and every day,” he said.

The Chief said it was great for him to be in New England, the place where the Corps began, and said he looked at the District’s workload and found it to be steady overall.

Around the Corps, he said, the workload is up and down and that retirements and reorganizations without RIFs should level things off. He discussed the average age of the Corps Team – many either retiring or getting ready to retire – and said that one of his biggest concerns is recruiting and retaining young people to replace those



Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers, thanks the New England District Team during a special Town Meeting.

that leave. “If you don’t have the right people, if you don’t recruit them, train them and develop them as leaders and give them opportunities and expertise, then we won’t have a Corps,” he said.

Lt. Gen. Bostick talked about the furlough last year and why it happened. He apologized to the Team, saying that although DoD leaders did everything they could to mitigate it, in the end there was nothing that could be done. He credited the Corps Team for working through it and for getting the job done during that difficult period.

The Chief concluded his discussion with examples of how the Corps Team is working to accomplish the Corps’ Campaign Goals: Support the Warfighter (which he is considering changing to Support National Security); Transform Civil Works; Reduce Disaster Risks

and Prepare for Tomorrow. Lt. Gen. Bostick answered some questions after his discussion.

During the awards presentation of the Town Meeting, the Chief, with the help of Command Sgt. Maj. Groninger, presented coins to six District team members for outstanding work: Stephen Umbrell (Muddy River), Amy Bourne (Sustainability PDT), Dave Descoteaux (regional expertise in structural engineers; Cape Cod Canal Bridges and hurricane barriers), Pattie Price (IT Technology expertise), Diane Ray (ORM System) and Ann Marie Harvie (Yankee Engineer).

In addition to holding a special Town Meeting, Lt. Gen. Bostick and Command Sgt. Maj. Groninger spent time with the members of the Leadership Development Program. He also attended the Environmental Advisory Board meeting where he presented Dr. William Graf, Mr. Terry Cook and Mr. Bob Joe with Outstanding Civilian Service Awards. It is the Army’s third highest service award and the highest service award the Chief can give a civilian.

Command Sgt. Maj. Groninger stayed the week, visiting various District projects and team members all around New England.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick has lunch with the New England District’s Leadership Development Program members.



# Construction begins on new Air Force Middle School

The New England District Team and the Hanscom Air Force Base will be providing Middle School-aged children, grades 4-8, who live on base and in the town of Lincoln with a new, state-of-the-art facility.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined base operations personnel, congressional delegates, town of Lincoln School officials and J&J Contractors, Inc., in breaking ground on the new Middle School, June 16.

"Today is a celebration of the future we are building for our children," said Congresswoman Katherine Clark. "It is about accessing that 21<sup>st</sup> century education that will keep us competitive, keep us peaceful and really move our country and our local communities forward."

For about three years, teams from the New England District, the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the town of Lincoln have been working on a plan to replace the existing 56-year old school. "The Hanscom Middle School team faced many challenges before getting to the point of breaking ground to include higher than expected bid prices, sequestration, furloughs, congressional reprogramming and the government shutdown. Despite all those obstacles, the team persevered and continued the project," said Col. Samaris.

The new \$31.6 million project will include general purpose classrooms, a gymnasium, information center, computer lab, science labs, supply areas, specialist rooms, music room, art room, learning impaired room, teacher work rooms, counseling and other required areas. The facility also has parking areas, mechanical rooms, delivery areas and playgrounds. The Lincoln Public School System will support the

students grades 4 through 8 by providing teachers and staff to work in the new Middle School with a capacity of up to 310 students. The old middle school will be demolished and the children will attend school in temporary facilities until construction is complete.

Construction of the new school has begun. It is expected to be completed in 27 months and should be open in spring 2016. "I can't tell you how rewarding it is for me to tell people who are being assigned here at Hanscom the caliber of education their children will receive here," said Col. Lester Weilacher, 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group Commander.

The construction completion timeline of spring 2016 is critical as a new Primary School, located adjacent to the Middle School, has been Congressionally programmed and scheduled to be built starting in the fall of 2016. The sequential replacement of the schools serving the Base K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students further exemplifies the government's commitment to providing a high level of



The Official Party ceremoniously breaks ground at the site of the new Hanscom Middle School.

education for the children of our military service men and women. New England District's construction of the new Middle School is in line with the Chief of Engineers' USACE Campaign Plan to Support the Warfighter by "partnering with the installation Management Community, at all echelons, to deliver and maintain enduring installations and contingency basing."

New England District team members on this project are Robert Leitch, Project Manager; James Conway, Steve Chase, Tim Coleman and Ruth Cormier of Construction; and Jack Perry of Engineering.

Members of the official ground breaking party were: Congr. John Tierney, Congr. Katherine Clark, Col. Weilacher, Col. Samaris, Jonathan Braley, President, J&J Contractors Inc., Lincoln School Committee Chair, Jennifer Glass, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rebecca McFall, and Hanscom Middle School Principal Erich Ledebuhr. Other Distinguished guests included Katie Enos and Haley Roy from Congr. Niki Tsongas' Office; State Senator Michael Barrett; and Peter Braun, Chairman of the Lincoln Board of Selectman. New England representatives that accompanied Col. Samaris to the ground breaking were William Scully, Gary Morin, Robert Leitch and James Conway.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Charles Samaris speaks at the Hanscom Middle School ground breaking ceremony.

## Donna Russell retires from New England District with 42 Years

From her important work in Real Estate Division to her volunteer duties as merchandise organizer for the Work Environment Association Store, Donna Russell has contributed a great deal to the Corps in New England over the past 42 years.

It was no surprise when 78 family, friends, retirees and coworkers packed the Hilton Garden Inn in Burlington, Massachusetts on the afternoon of May 1, to show their appreciation for her distinguished career and to wish her the very best in her retirement.

Joe Redlinger, Chief of Real Estate, served as master of ceremonies. He presented Russell with a framed photo of the old headquarters in Waltham side by side with the current Concord office. Retiree Cathy Collins, a long-time friend, presented her with a bowling pin from the Wal-Lex Bowling Alley. Co-worker Peg Lorenzo presented Russell with a flag that was flown over the Capitol Building and the certificate from Congressman John Tierney's Office. Special guest Janice Williams,



Col. Charles Samaris presents Donna Russell with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Regional Program Manager for the DoD Recruiting Facilities Program for North Atlantic Division and the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, surprised Russell by traveling to New England for her celebration. Williams presented Russell with a congratulatory letter and coin from Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations. Other speakers included co-workers Maureen Davi, Pam Bradstreet and Russell's brother Ed Russell.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Russell with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her 42 years of

dedicated and distinguished service to the Corps in New England and the nation. Col. Samaris also officially retired Russell by presenting her with her retirement certificate and pin.

Russell thanked attendees for coming to her celebration and expressed great appreciation to her family, friends and co-workers past and present.

Family members who attended the celebration were Russell's sister Cathy and husband Dave; brother Ed and his daughter Emily; nephew Eric Smith and his wife Kim; and brother Jim and his wife Linda. Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Bernard Manor and Ann Dogherty participated in the celebration. Other retirees who were in attendance were Donna Madigan, Patricia Maglio, Farrell McMillan, Bob Meader, Tom Rosato, Col. (Ret.) Carl Sciple and Quentin Walsh. John Manning, formerly from the New England District, traveled all the way from Wilmington District to the Concord office to wish her the best in her retirement.

## Ella Minincleri retires with 29 years of service

Ella Minincleri, Engineering/Planning, made the decision to retire after 29 years of service. To honor her career and wish her the best in her retirement, 104 family, friends, retirees and co-workers gathered in the Concord Park cafeteria on April 29 for her retirement lunch.

Dave Margolis served as master of ceremonies. Other speakers included Scott Acone, retiree Raimo Liias, Peter Hugh, husband Philip and son Alfred, who is a former PAO Intern. Hugh presented Minincleri with a framed picture of her and a karate team during a martial arts demonstration in years past. The picture was signed by everyone in the picture.

Other gifts Minincleri received

included gift cards to her favorite spa, Starbucks and Barnes and Noble; her favorite box of chocolates, gardening books, mug, flowers and a few joke

knickknacks. Mr. Minincleri received a Corps fleece jacket and glass mug as a thank you from the District team for supporting his wife during her career.

Lt. Col. Charles Gray, New England District Deputy Commander, presented Minincleri with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service as well as her retirement certificate and pin and a commander's coin.

In addition to her distinguished service to the New England District, Minincleri served her country faithfully as a Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Retirees who attended included Nick Forbes, Brenda Faragi, Greg Buteau, Susan Rodkey, Joe Bocchino, Anthony Mackos, Raimo Liias and Dick Heidebrecht.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Charles Gray presents Ella Minincleri with her retirement certificate and pin.



## Richard Roach retires after 40 years of federal service

Richard Roach, a familiar face and voice in Regulatory Division for 35 of his 40 years of federal service, has retired.

A lunch of pizza, salad and cake took place in Roach's honor May 29 at the Minuteman Commons at Hanscom Air Force Base. About 70 people attended to wish him the best in his retirement.

Frank Delgiudice served as Master of Ceremonies. He said that Roach was very gracious all the time and that he will be missed. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart," he said. "You are the best Project Manager I have ever met."

Ruthann Brien presented Roach's wife, Doris, with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her support of her husband's career over the years.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Roach with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, his retirement certificate and pin.

Jay Clement presented Roach with a framed copy of his retirement announcement with handwritten thoughts and comments from his Regulatory friends and coworkers. Bob Desista and Karen Adams presented Roach with a mooring buoy and an unofficial "permit" to place it wherever he wants. Other speakers and presenters were Jennifer McCarthy, who gave Roach a picture magnet of her cat, Gary Lacroix, Steve DiLorenzo, Geoff Steadman of the Norwalk Management Commission, Mark Kern from the Environmental Protection Agency and retiree Marty Curran.

Long-time friend and co-worker Brian Valiton gave a summary of Roach's career and said that he considered



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Charles Samaris presents Richard Roach with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

him "a lifelong friend, compatriot, family member, confidant, advisor, mentor and sometimes mentoree. Our lives just intertwined."

Delgiudice closed the official portion of the ceremony by saying that Roach was a tremendous asset, both for Delgiudice personally and for the organization.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Bernard Manor attended the lunch. Other participating retirees were Col. (Ret.) Carl Sciple, Mike Sheehan, Jim and Jan Crawford, Paul Battista, Neil Beliveau, Bill Haynes, Forrest Knowles, Greg Buteau, Steve DiLorenzo, Marty Curran and Bob Meader.

Roach will be spending a great deal of time with his grandchildren, training his new puppy Bailey, sailing and doing a little traveling.

## Will Rogers joins retirement community after 36 years

Will Rogers of North Atlantic Division and formerly of New England District, joined 35 family, friends, co-workers and retirees in celebrating his decision to retire after more than 36 years of federal service. The night-time celebration took place June 7 at Waxy O'Connor's in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The gathering was casual with no formal MC or speakers. Rogers thanked everyone who attended his party for coming and for supporting his career over the years. As a gift, he received some Lionel railroad cars from 1954 to add to his Lionel train collection from the 1950's. A more formal retirement presentation took place at Division Headquarters in New York. In addition to his time with NAD and NAE, Rogers served his country faithfully in the U.S. Air Force. He also worked for the Los Angeles District, the Waterways Experiment Station, the U.S. Forest Service and California State University. Rogers' wife, Cathy of Engineering/Planning, and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Paul and Dina

Demos accompanied him to the party. Retirees included Marty Curran and his wife, Ruth; Bob Hanacek and his wife, Jennette; Bill Norman and his friend Vera, and Dick Heidebrecht. Rogers plans to rest, relax and have fun with family and friends during his retirement.



Will Rogers says a few words at his retirement party.

Photo by Cathy Rogers

## Hopkinton-Everett Lake, Community Organizations, establish public garden to support local food pantries

Something beautiful is happening at Hopkinton-Everett Lake. Amidst the lush greenery and beautiful postcard perfect scenes, a community garden is growing; a garden blooming with delicious, seasonal vegetables lovingly tended by the Henniker and Hopkinton Lions Clubs of New Hampshire. The true beauty of this community garden isn't the array of colors of the vegetables that are springing forth from the soil, but the fact that the garden provides food for many local disadvantaged people.

Three years ago, Dr. Bruce Trivellini, Henniker Lions Club member, came up with the idea of a community garden. He and other members heard that land was available for lease at Hopkinton-Everett and after going through the process of obtaining a license, the community garden was born.

"Planting this year began about early May," said Jerry Eisen, Henniker Lions Club member currently in charge of the garden. "The planning is still in progress and will continue all through the end of July. We practice succession planting so that new crops are ready for harvest throughout the season."

Recognizing the garden to be a sustainable and worthwhile initiative, the New England District Team granted the Lions a four-year license to use the land without cost. In addition, the District waived license processing fees. Having a garden that serves the community at a Flood Risk Management Project that also serves the community is a good fit. "It's utilizing Corps land when we don't use it for Flood Risk Management," said Hopkinton-Everett Lake Project Manager Steve Dermody. "The garden is a beneficial use and is definitely a worthwhile project."

The community garden boasts a myriad of nutritious and delicious vegetables to include tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, cabbage, carrots, beets, zucchini, summer squash, onions, green and yellow string beans and

sweet potatoes. "The first tomatoes will be ready by the end of July, while carrots and beets will not be large enough to pick until the end of August," said Eisen. "String beans will be our earliest crops while potatoes and sweet potatoes will take until September to be ready."

Tending a garden such as this one requires a great deal of work. According to Eisen this includes soil preparation and



Henniker Tiger Cubs plant potatoes in the community garden.

Photos by Jerry Eisen

maintenance—for example soil test, fertilization and annual lime distribution—removing rocks in the spring and fall, planting, cultivating, harvesting and watering. Although the Lions Clubs are the primary care takers, other community volunteers roll up their sleeves and pitch in. "We've had New England College students and the Henniker Tiger Cubs participate,"

said Eisen. "Anyone is welcome to help."

Once volunteers begin picking the vegetables in July, they will begin delivering them to the Henniker and Hopkinton food pantries. "The garden also benefits 15 Henniker seniors with disabilities that prevent them from leaving their homes," said Eisen.

Those who volunteer not only harvest food that feeds the hungry, they plant the seeds of community service and giving back that can be cultivated for years to come.

The Lions Club is a service member organization that does community volunteer work, serving the unique needs of the communities they are based in, with a large variety of programs.

The Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Flood Risk Management System in Contoocook, New Hampshire is a two dam system completed in 1962 for the protection of the citizens of Merrimack Valley. To date the two dams are credited with preventing more than \$217 million in flood damages.



# Corps of Engineers, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game sign In-Lieu Fee agreement to compensate wetland impacts

By Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The New England District and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) signed an In-Lieu Fee agreement on May 23, that will provide an alternative form of compensatory mitigation to those seeking permits who are required to compensate for their project's impacts to aquatic resources, wetlands and waters of the United States in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"The program purposefully advances the protection of aquatic resources in Massachusetts, it provides individuals and firms seeking a Corps permit an alternative form of compensatory mitigation," said Col. Charles Samaris, New England District commander. "Protecting the environment is one of our core missions and part of the Chief of Engineers' campaign plan. This In-Lieu Fee agreement contributes to accomplishing that mission."

"We are pleased that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved DFG to sponsor this state-wide program that will result in protection and restoration of critical habitats, as well as the flexibility for developers in obtaining permits from the Corps," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The concept of an In-lieu Fee Program (ILFP) is to allow Corps permittees, in compensation for their project's unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, to make a monetary payment in-lieu of or in addition to doing the required mitigation themselves. The eligible projects are activities authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. These in-lieu fee payments are made to the ILFP and administered by DFG. As the

ILFP sponsor, DFG, in turn, assumes legal responsibility for implementing the required mitigation, which it will accomplish by aggregating and expending the in-lieu funds received from Corps permittees for mitigation projects.

By aggregating the fees from multiple permitted impacts, the ILFP program can use the fees to develop larger compensatory projects that offer greater ecological benefits than smaller permittee-conducted mitigation. This ability to aggregate ILFP funds will facilitate mitigation projects that better contribute to watershed level conservation goals. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and New York already have Corps-approved ILFPs.

"This program will improve our efforts to protect and restore natural habitats throughout the Commonwealth, including coastal waters," said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin. "We have well-established programs in land acquisition and aquatic habitat restoration that will use funds collected through the In-Lieu Fee Program to protect and enhance ecologically important aquatic resources and wildlife habitat."

Prior to this agreement, from June

2008 to June 2013, DFG's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) served as the program sponsor for an ILFP established to provide mitigation for impacts to marine resources and Essential Fish Habitat in Massachusetts. Mitigation was limited to projects that altered less than one acre of aquatic resource and met the criteria for coverage under the Corps' General Permit (GP) in Massachusetts.

The Department of Fish and Game's three divisions — the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Division of Ecological Restoration — will implement mitigation projects that permanently protect or restore aquatic resources and upland buffers. Examples of projects include acquisition of threatened fisheries and wildlife habitats; dam removals that improve passage for fish such as river herring, shad, and eels; phragmites control in wetland habitats; and eel grass restoration in coastal waters.

For more information on In Lieu Fee program in New England visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/InLieuFeePrograms.aspx>.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Charles Samaris and Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin shake hands after signing the In-Lieu fee agreement for Massachusetts.

## District geologists excite STEM students at Billerica Middle School

New England District Geologists Tracy Dorgan and Paul Young traveled to the Cyril D. Locke Middle School in Billerica, Massachusetts on June 3-4 to talk to 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes about geology and its fit with the Corps of Engineers.

The visit to the school was in support of the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative to expose young children to the possibilities of careers in these fields. The geology team reached out to about 300 students during their two-day visit.

"Maureen Parker, the science teacher who coordinated with the District for the geology presentations allowed us to set up in her class, and then all of the classes rotated into that class room for the presentations over the two days," explained Dorgan. "We intentionally set this up so that no group would get larger than normal class size so that each student could handle samples and not get lost in the crowd of a large auditorium setting."

Among the many samples the Geology Team brought were: a fossil dinosaur footprint collected from Chicopee, Massachusetts known as a Gallator 3-toed footprint; samples of gold, silver, copper, amethyst, smokey quartz, a volcanic bomb, pumice, as well as fossil vertebrae and coprolites (fossil-dung).

"We passed some of the mineral and fossil specimens around during the presentation as well as the drill-bits," said Dorgan. "We also saved 5-10 minutes following the presentation for the students to come forward and see and handle all the specimens."

In some classes, the Geology Team spent more time showing them samples, as well as with Q & A specific to their interests. The team also highlighted USACE projects such as the Stamford Hurricane Barrier and watched a five minute segment on YouTube of the Dirty Jobs episode with Mike Rowe assisting the Corps clean and inspect the barrier.

According to Dorgan, he and Young talked about STEM and why it matters to students. "I highlighted that all of the food we eat, clothes we wear, items we have, transportation we use, utilities that we need such as water and electricity are derived from resources that come from the ground," he said. "While we can discuss that as a nation we may need to be more efficient or better stewards of how we use/recycle the resources. They still are necessary and it takes



Paul Young shows mineral samples to eighth graders at Locke Middle School.

Photo by Maureen Parker

STEM-related knowledge/experience to make this happen."

The Geology Team also tried to highlight that as the students head into high-school they should be thinking about what kind of career path to take. Dorgan shared a personal story to make his point. "I told them that it was my 9<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science Teacher, Mr. St. John, that made all the difference for me when I was their age and fueled my interest/desire to go to college and study geology," he said.

Both Young and Dorgan agree that exposing younger students to STEM is the most advantageous approach to inspiring future engineers and scientists. "Paul and I agree that if we only target college-age students for STEM outreach, we are missing a big opportunity to give kids options and ideas on careers to pursue," said Dorgan.

The students remained engaged throughout the presentations and according to Dorgan asked many questions after the presentation. The Geology Team said that many teachers and the school principal gave them positive feedback about their presentation and that the students will also be providing them feedback to help tweak future presentations.

The New England District is in talks with the Billerica School System officials about the possibility of a formal Education Partnership Agreement, not only with Locke Middle School, but also Billerica Junior High school and possibly more schools within the town.

Agreement or not, Dorgan and Young are already planning another visit to the school. "Paul and I have already agreed to return next year if possible to do a more focused rock, mineral and fossil identification lesson," said Dorgan. "We are happy and willing to do more of this type of outreach."



## District signs STEM agreement with Concord Public Schools

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined representatives from the Concord Public School System in the Gridley Conference Room, June 9 to sign an Education Partnership Agreement and to shake hands on the deal.

The partnership is a win-win situation for all involved: the town's public schools will have access to the District's engineers and scientists – some of the finest in the world – to show students real-world applications of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). By exposing and inspiring students to seek paths in math and science careers, the District could potentially gain members of a future workforce. The Concord Public School System serves more than 2,000 students in grades pre-Kindergarten through 8.

"An important goal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' strategic plan is 'Prepare for Tomorrow,' " Samaris said. "Build-

ing partnerships with strong organizations, like Concord Middle School, is one step toward achieving that goal. And, it's a great example of government and academia working together to motivate and nurture a highly competent and diverse STEM workforce for our community, the region and the nation."

Mark Anderson, New England District's STEM point of contact, had been working with Doug Shattuck, Applied Technology Teacher and Concord Public School STEM Coordinator, as an

engineering mentor for the town's Future City Team from 2008 to 2013. "I would spend two hours a week every week from September to February with the students to help them with the annual competition," said Anderson.

The town's Future City Team disbanded in 2013, and Anderson approached Shattuck with the idea of an Education Partnership Agreement as a way for the District to stay involved with the students. Shattuck contacted Diana Rigby, Concord-Carlisle Superintendent and agreement cosigner, who loved the idea of the partnership.

pursuant to the Education Partnership Act, Title 10 United States Code Section 2194b. The New England District is in ongoing talks with over a dozen schools all over New England from Middle School to four year universities for Education Partnership Agreements.

Anderson will work with Shattuck over the summer to coordinate program activities for students for the 2014-2015 school year.

In addition to Col. Samaris, Anderson represented the District during the signing. Shattuck and Lynne Beattie, Principal, Concord Middle School, accompanied Rigby to the event.

The New England District is responsible for managing Corps' civil works responsibilities in New England, including environmental remediation; flood risk management; natural resource management; streambank and shoreline protection; navigation improvements and maintenance; disaster and emergency assistance; regulatory administration; and engineering and construction management support to other agencies.

The mission of the Concord school district is to educate all students to become life-long learners, creative thinkers, caring citizens and responsible contributors in an increasingly diverse global society. The core values of academic excellence, respectful and empathic community, professional collaboration, education equity, and continuous improvement are reflected in the annual district goals and the programs, services and activities that support student learning.



Lynne Beattie, Diana Rigby and Col. Charles Samaris celebrate the Partnership Agreement.

Photo by Brian Murphy

"We are pleased and excited to bring this amazing resource to the students and teachers of Concord and we look forward to participation by our students and faculty in many innovative research and educational programs," she said.

The Education Partnership Agreement with Concord Public Schools supports the overall USACE Objective 4d1: Shape the workforce for the future and 4d2: Increase STEM and Wounded Warrior initiatives. In addition the establishment of the partnership is provided

# Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ Allen

Col. Brian Osterdorf (right), District Commander, presents Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Commander, with a Meritorious Service Medal as Capt. Michael Fitzgerald looks on during Rovero's goodbye celebration June 6, 2002 at the Hanscom Officer's Club, Hanscom Air Force Base. Lt. Col. Rovero served in Israel after a three-year tour with the District. Now retired, Rovero is still part of the District family and returns occasionally to visit.

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