

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong®



New Haven Harbor Breakwater Repairs

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Yankee Voices

Dave Descoteaux, Joe Colucci and Bill Hollman



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MS Office 2013 Update

ACE-IT Enterprise is currently conducting pilot-test deployment of Microsoft Office 2013. Upon successful completion of pilot testing, a timeline for enterprise deployment will be released and communicated to all users. At this time, Microsoft Office 2013 is not authorized for use on the CorpsNet unless you are a member of the pilot-test. Information on the Microsoft Office 2013 Software Suite is available on ACE-IT online at Microsoft Office 2013 . Deployment to NAE is expected to commence in mid to late August 2015.

Employee Spotlight: William Pumyea, Office of Counsel

William Pumyea is a Paralegal Specialist with the New England District's Office of Counsel. "My duties include serving as the Freedom of Information Act representative for the District as well as assisting the legal team with a myriad of actions within the District," he said.

Pumyea, who has been with Counsel 10 of his 11 years at the District, is currently serving as the Program Manager for the Corps of Engineers Automated Legal Services (CEALS) AID. "The CEALS consists of a broad collection of legal research and knowledge management system," he said. "These systems are vital to day-to-day function and management of the Corps' legal community worldwide."

A graduate of Salem State University, Pumyea holds a bachelor's of science degree in Criminal Justice. He also has a paralegal certificate from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Pumyea is also a war veteran. "I was a junior in High School when I enlisted with the Massachusetts Army National Guard," he said. "I was in from December 1997 through January 2004."

Pumyea, who was a Specialist E-4 with the 211th MP BN, HHD, deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from August 2002 to February 2003. "The unit deployed seven MPs to Afghanistan in an effort to establish a Provost Marshall's Office," he said.

A few weeks after returning home from Afghanistan, Pumyea prepared to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed from April 2003 to September 2003. "Along with a small contingent of MPs, I was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Fallujah, Iraq. After completing that mission, I returned to LSA Ballad and assisted the unit with setting up the local police stations," he said.

When asked what he enjoys most about working for the New England District, Pumyea said, "I enjoy working in a team environment and assisting the District with completing its mission. I also enjoy learning something new every day."

Out of the office, Pumyea loves to fish. In addition, he has enjoyed playing soccer for most of his life. He and his wife, Kimberly, who works in the District's Contracting Division, are new parents to twins (one boy and one girl). "I'm really looking forward to teaching them how to play soccer," he said.



Finding my way around the New England District

by Maj. Daniel Herlihy
Deputy District Commander



After our first month in New England I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the warm welcome to the District, and for making the Herlihy Family feel like part of the New England Family.

It has been a busy time of transition, unpacking, and discovering our new environment but we couldn't be more pleased with the assignment and the people we are surrounded by.

For those of you I haven't met, I also wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little about our family. My wife and I have two girls and one boy along with two dogs and two cats. Generally speaking, we don't go anywhere quietly and we always leave a path of chaos and destruction in our wake!

North Carolina is the farthest north we have ever been stationed, and I truly have no idea what winter is. That probably guarantees you at least a couple of laughs at my expense very soon. We love the outdoors and look forward to exploring New England over the next few years – it really is a unique and beautiful place.

My professional background is in civil and environmental engineering and I have experience with troop construction, MILCON, and facilities management. While this is my first assignment with USACE, I am a long-time customer of the

Corps where I quickly came to appreciate and rely on the level of expertise and experience USACE brings to our Army. Most recently, I spent the past six years providing engineer support to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg and various other locations worldwide. While supporting these unique missions I routinely called on reach-back support from across USACE and worked closely with Corps personnel all over the world. What I didn't appreciate before coming to New England was just how far the Corps mission extends beyond the military and places like Iraq and Afghanistan. As important as those missions are, I now clearly see how they represent only a fraction of the heavy lifting that the Corps does for our nation daily.

In my short time here I have been very impressed by the professionalism and knowledge of the folks I've met, and your commitment to our mission. The diversity and uniqueness of the District's portfolio is remarkable, and it is readily apparent that you take great pride in supporting the citizens of New England.

Over the next couple of months I hope to visit many more of you in the field and increase my understanding of the District so that I can better support you in your work. It has been my experience that most good ideas come from the ground up, so I invite your comments and welcome candid discussion as I make my way through your areas.

In closing, thank you again for the hospitality and warm welcome. I'm excited to be part of such a dedicated and capable team, and I look forward to meeting each of you and learning more about the incredible work going on across the District in the months ahead. Thanks for all you do for the region and our nation. Essayons!

Contract awarded for bridge repair at North Springfield Lake dam in Springfield

by Tim Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Repairs to the spillway and service bridges project at North Springfield Lake dam in Springfield, Vermont, will be completed under the terms of a \$398,940 contract recently awarded by the New England District. Work will be accomplished by Kingsbury Companies, LLC of Waitsfield, Vermont. The contract was awarded on July 30.

Work on the service bridge involves applying sealer on the bridge deck and horizontal and vertical surfaces of curbs; cleaning, sandblasting and painting with primer and top coat the joint plates; and cleaning, sandblasting and painting with primer and top coat the two bearings and bearing plates at the abutment.

Work on the spillway bridge below bridge deck at the west abutment involves repairing concrete around bearing plates;

repairing cracks in concrete cap; and cleaning, sandblasting and painting fixed bearings. Work below bridge deck at east abutment involves cleaning, sandblasting and painting expansion bearings with primer and top coat.

Work above the bridge deck at west approach involves repairing curbs; repairing concrete at five transverse joints; replacing joint material at five transverse joints; completing miscellaneous repairs at base of railing posts and parapets; applying sealer on bridge deck and horizontal and vertical surfaces of curbs; replacing missing compression joint at west abutment bridge joint; and removing and replacing asphalt pavement at interface of concrete/asphalt approach.

Work above the bridge deck at east approach involves removing and replacing deteriorated concrete at top of backwall and paving at interface. Work on the bridge deck involves repairing concrete at transverse deck joints.

Descoteaux joins retirement community with 41 years of service

David Descoteaux, Chief, General Engineering Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, has retired from the New England District after 41 years of distinguished federal service.

To celebrate his long, dedicated career and to wish him well in his retirement, a reception was held in his honor on July 2 in the New Hampshire/Maine Conference Room. Many people stopped by throughout the informal event to wish Descoteaux well. Dozens of family, friends, co-workers and retirees stayed for the official awards and presentations.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presented Descoteaux with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service in recognition for this faithful and dedicated 41 years to the Corps of Engineers. Col. Barron also presented him with his retirement certificate and pin.

Other speakers included John Kedzierski, Jason Paolino and Scott Acone. The speakers also presented parting gifts to Descoteaux that included a cardigan sweater with the USACE embroidered emblem, an original lacing bar from the Cape Cod Canal Railroad



Col. Christopher Barron presents Dave Descoteaux with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Bridge, a framed picture of the Cape Cod Canal bridges and a display case containing a flag flown over the Cape Cod Canal.

Descoteaux's wife Ann, an Information Management retiree, and his

eldest son, Mark, accompanied him to the reception. His two other children, sons Michael and James, were unable to attend. Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Bobby Byrne came to the event. Other retirees who were on hand to welcome Descoteaux into the retirement community were Rick Casano, Bob Martin, Joe Colucci, Bill Holtham, Bob Gauvreau, Joe Bocchino, and Deborah Gabrielson.

David Descoteaux started his career with the Corps of New England in April 1975 as an intern. Through a succession of promotions, he became Chief of the General Engineering Section -- the position from which he retired. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Tufts University in 1973 and his Masters of Science degree from Northeastern in 1975. Although Descoteaux plans to slow down during his retirement, he plans to take a part time position in private industry.



Dave Descoteaux cuts his retirement cake during his reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Karen Adams receives the Superior Civilian Service Award, signed by the Chief of Engineers, from Col. Christopher Barron.



Karen Adams opens her gifts from the audience during her retirement lunch. Photos by Paul Sneeinger

Regulatory's Karen Adams retires with 37 years of service

by **Larry Rosenberg**
Chief, Public Affairs Office

Karen Adams, who served with the Army Corps of Engineers in New England for 37 years, was honored for her service at a uniquely close and personal retirement ceremony with colleagues, friends, and family at the Chang An restaurant in Concord, Mass., August 31.

In what began as an informal retirement ceremony with Jennifer McCarthy, Regulatory Division chief, and Bob Desista, Connecticut and Rhode Island Permits & Enforcement branch chief, as hosts, turned serious when Col. Christopher Barron, New England District commander, began the formal presentation of the third highest civilian award of the Department of the Army, the Superior Civilian Service Award signed by Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Karen's official retirement certificate.

"I am honored to be able to present these honors to Karen for her exceptional performance, professionalism

and commitment while part of this great District," said Col Barron. "Through her vast experience and commitment to detail, Karen has become an expert in her field while her grasp of Regulatory and Environmental principles has made her an invaluable resource within the District and a subject matter expert recognized throughout the Corps Regulatory Program."

Karen, now retired chief, Massachusetts Permits and Enforcement Branch where she managed the Corps of Engineers' evaluation of all wetland and waterway permits within Massa-



Karen Adams enjoys one of the many presentations at her retirement lunch.

chusetts, joined the Corps of Engineers in New England in 1978 through the Cooperative Education Program at Northeastern University. Her career began in the Planning Division working on flood control studies and dredge material disposal studies. In 1983, she transferred to the Regulatory Division as a Project Manager, later becoming the Senior Project Manager for the initial permits for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

Major projects have included the in-water components of the Big Dig, Cape Wind, South Coast Rail, the MBTA crossing of Fort Point Channel, MBTA's Greenbush line, and the Dredged Material Management Plans being developed by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office.

Joining in the celebration of her civil service career was her daughter Jackie, James Haggerty, NAD Regulatory chief, retirees Sue Mehigan, Rich Roach, Mike Sheehan and Maureen Murray and nearly 50 close friends and colleagues.

New Bedford Resident Engineer retires with over 36 years of service

Chris Turek, Construction Division, traded in his work boots and hard hat for more time on his boat when he decided to retire after more than 36 years of federal service.

A retirement lunch for the New Bedford Resident Office's Resident Engineer was held at Whites of Westport on July 17. Approximately 60 people attended the celebration. Sean Dolan and Christine Johnson-Battista shared duties of hosting the event, telling stories and introducing presenters, family members and retirees.

Speakers included Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, Bob Cianciarulo of the Environmental Protection Agency, Bonnie Ortiz, Lt. Col. (ret.) Brian Baker, Greg Buteau, Paul L'Heureaux and Steve Dunbar.

Col. Barron presented Turek with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, his retirement certificate and his retirement pin. Cianciarulo presented Turek with a certificate of appreciation from the EPA for his support to the agency throughout the years. Gifts from the audience included a Concord Minuteman Statue, boating attire and gift cards. Joke gifts presented to Turek included To Do lists, photos and a life-sized Smokey the Bear cutout.

Turek began his career with the Corps in New England in June 1979 working at the Materials Lab in Hubbardston, Massachusetts. In 1986 he became the laboratory inspection team leader responsible for certifying commercial laboratories to perform quality control testing for construction projects awarded by New England Division and the Districts of North Atlantic Division.

In 1988, Turek joined Construction Division to work for Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Connie Morin. Turek transferred to the New Bedford Resident Office in June 1991. Through a succession of promotions, he eventually became the New Bedford Resident



Lt. Col. (ret.) Brian Baker, Chris Turek, Bill Phelan, Sr., and Bob Cianciarulo are all smiles at Turek's retirement lunch.

Engineer in 2011, the position from which he retired.

During his career, Turek has received various commendations and awards to include the 1992 New England Division Hard Hat of the Year Award for his dedication and support to the fledgling Superfund program at Nyanza.

Turek worked on numerous superfund site projects such as multiple phases at Nyanza, Norwood, New Bedford Harbor, Atlas Tack, Hathaway Paterson and Aerovox. He has also worked on high profile projects that have won Coastal America awards such as the Galilee Saltmarsh Restoration and the Town Pond Salt Marsh Restoration projects. Other large projects that Turek was involved with include the

Cape Cod Canal bridges, Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, New Bedford Hurricane barrier, breakwater reconstruction and countless dredging projects.

Family members that attended the retirement lunch with Turek included his daughter, Bethany, his fiancée Rose Ferreira, her children Ryan and Vanessa as well as her newborn grandson, Jacob Conrad Barrette.

Retirees who came to welcome Turek into the retirement community were Bill Haynes, Bill Phelan, Sr., Gary Cooper, Greg Buteau, Jim Doucakis, Jim Morocco, Joe Bocchino, Maureen Murray, Rick Casano and Wayne Johnson.

Among other things, Turek plans on spending extra time on his boat during retirement.



Col. Christopher Barron presents Chris Turek with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Photos by Brian Murphy



District contractor Mohawk Northeast performs breakwater repairs at New Haven Harbor.

Photos by Fred Pike

Breakwater repairs continue at New Haven Harbor

Almost three years after Hurricane Sandy ripped through the region, the New England District continues recovery efforts. As part of the massive cleanup, work is progressing on the repairs of three breakwaters at New Haven Harbor in Connecticut.

The project, which was combined with the repair of two breakwaters in Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut, began in mid-September 2014. Mohawk Northeast, Inc., of Plantsville, Connecticut received the \$7,459,500 contract for both projects. The Bridgeport Harbor project was substantially complete in March.

“The project consists of repairing the Bridgeport and New Haven breakwaters and restoring them to pre-storm conditions,” said Dan Stenstream, New England District Project Manager. “Work includes mobilization and demobilization, furnishing, delivery and placement of new armor stone to replace stones displaced during Hurricane Sandy and to fill gaps and low points caused by the storm along the breakwaters. Repairs are being performed to restore the breakwaters to originally authorized profiles and dimensions.”

A total of about 8,400 tons of stone were placed at the Bridgeport Harbor project. Approximately 41,200 tons of stone are expected to be placed at New Haven Harbor. Placing the stone is an intricate process – it requires substantial moving and manipulation to get the required grades and interlocking.

Repairing the breakwaters can be hard, treacherous work. “The challenge is that both the New Haven and

Bridgeport projects are water-based jobs so the contractor is constantly working with varying degrees of tide changes, rough surface conditions such as strong winds and waves, severe weather to include winter conditions, and other logistical problems,” said Stenstream. “The three New Haven breakwaters combine for over 12,000 linear feet so the magnitude of the job is large.”

Barring unusually bad weather or significant changes to estimated quantities, the District and its contractor expect to be finished with the New Haven Harbor breakwater repairs by mid to late December.

New Haven Harbor is a major commercial harbor in Connecticut and extends five miles from Long Island Sound to New Haven. The three breakwaters, all constructed in 1915 shelter the harbor entrance. The east breakwater on the east side of the channel is 3,450 feet long; the middle breakwater on the west side of the channel is 4,450 feet long and the west breakwater is 4,200 feet long. All three stretch across the outer harbor in a rough, diagonal shape.

Hurricane Sandy, also known as Superstorm Sandy, formed in late October 2012. By the time the storm dissipated in early November 2012, at least 233 people were killed and damage totaled about \$68 billion, with \$65 billion of the damages caused in the United States.

New England district team members who worked on the project include Stenstream, Fred Pike, Kurt Mintell, Mark Godfrey, Matt Tessier as well as many members of the Design, Environmental and Contract team.

Dredging up the past



Photo by Mark McHenry

Karen Adams makes a presentation during a public hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed Cape Wind wind energy project in Nantucket Sound, Mass., in this December 2005 photo.

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