

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 48, No. 5 February 2015

*Building Strong*



## Historic Blizzard pummels New England

Story on page 7

# Yankee Voices

Jay Mackay and Greg Bateau



## Vietnam War Commemoration

The New England District has been designated as a Commemorative Partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Our district has decided to participate in the Commemorative Partner Program with the understanding that we will endeavor to plan and carry out events each year during the commemorative period of 2015-2017 that will recognize, thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans.

## Human Resources Website for DoD Civilians

DoD civilian employees have a new, interactive online destination for their Human Resource-related information: MyBiz+.

Log in to MyBiz+ at <https://compo.dcpds.cpmc.osd.mil/> and check out your information, produce a Civilian Career Report and set up the views to your preference.

## Employee Spotlight: Helen Newcomb, Operations Division



Helen Newcomb is the secretary for Operations Division in Building 1 in the District's Concord Park Office. She has been with the New England District for 27 years. As Secretary of Operations Division she supports the Chief and Deputy Chief of Operations, as well as the Technical Support Branch at the Concord Park District Office, and often works with the five Basin Assistants and the Cape

Cod Canal Office Assistant. Her varied duties range from creating Personnel Actions in DCPDS; Travel Orders and Travel Vouchers, Training Forms, In-House PR&C's to reimburse the Safety Office for FOH Medical Costs for Operations employees for Audio Testing, Physical Exams and Drug Testing, as well as MIPRS to transfer funds to other Corps Divisions as needed...all in CEFMS.

She also edits and finalizes congressional correspondence, and reviews Operations final pay estimates from the field for processing. After they receive Contracting Officer Approval, she notifies Millington of same via email. Another duty she performs is doing the paperwork for special awards for some employees as they retire. She maintains an "Operations Division Directory of Field Offices" bi-annually. Many District folks in other Divisions find this directory very helpful especially since GPS coordinates have been added over the past two years.

Some of the favorite parts of her job are the people she works with, both at the District and in the field as well as the District's mission to protect and improve the quality of life for others in New England. She is a former member of the New England District's Work Environment Committee.

Newcomb is a graduate of Milton High School in Milton, Massachusetts and the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston, Massachusetts.

In her down time, she enjoys spending time with her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters, as well as summer reunions with her three sisters. She took on the challenging and rewarding role of caregiver for a developmentally-challenged woman in the Massachusetts State Shared-Living program for six years while working full-time for the District. She is the past Treasurer for her church. She also worked for the Director of Operations at the Old Colony YMCA in Brockton, Massachusetts where she coordinated fundraising breakfasts with companies on the South Shore to earn money to send under-privileged children to YMCA summer camps and programs.





Woonsocket Dam in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Photo by Kevin Burke

## President's FY16 budget would keep Corps of Engineers in New England operating at normal levels

With the release of the President's Budget for fiscal year 2016 for Corps of Engineers Civil Works, the Corps' New England District looks forward to continued normal operations and funding in fiscal year 2016.

In Connecticut, the budget proposes continuing funding the operations and maintenance of the eight Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs and the Stamford Hurricane Barrier, and proposes \$700,000 for a feasibility study for Fairfield and New Haven counties flooding, and \$700,000 for a feasibility study of New Haven Harbor deepening. It also provides funds for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works and environmental projects.

In Massachusetts, the budget proposes continuing operations and maintenance of the 12 Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, the Cape Cod Canal and the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.

Additionally, the budget proposes \$1.8 million for pre-construction engineering and design of the Boston Harbor Deepening project, \$500,000 for preparation of plans and specifications for maintenance of the Weymouth-Fore River project, and funding for project condition surveys and inspection of completed works and environmental projects.

In New Hampshire, the budget proposes continuing operations and maintenance of the six Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, and funding for project condition

surveys and inspection of completed works.

In Vermont, the budget proposes continuing operations and maintenance of the five Corps-managed flood risk management reservoirs, funding for inspection of completed works, and funding for the Narrows in Lake Champlain (New York District).

In Rhode Island, the budget proposes continuing operations and maintenance of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and Woonsocket Flood Risk Management projects, \$350,000 in funding for maintenance of the Block Island Harbor of Refuge, and \$350,000 in funding for maintenance of the Great Salt Pond in Block Island, as well as funding for project condition surveys, and inspection of completed works and environmental projects.

In Maine, the budget proposes continuing operations and maintenance of disposal area monitoring, inspection of completed works and environmental projects, project condition surveys and surveillance of northern boundary waters.

Additionally, the District will receive funding from its higher headquarters for Regulatory permitting activities and the Continuing Authorities Program and other work. Projects can be looked up by state.

The FY16 USACE Civil Works Budget Book is online at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

# USACE team eyes mission's next phase as Ebola treatment units completed

## FEST continues key technical support in Operation United Assistance

By Vince Little  
Europe District

U.S. and international agencies carrying out Operation United Assistance have wrapped up work on the final two of 10 Ebola treatment units in Liberia, a top engineer with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) said.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced played a part by providing technical expertise to the organizations, military units and humanitarian workers locked in the massive Ebola fight in West Africa.

Lt. Col. Lee Hicks, Joint Force Command-United Assistance engineer for the 101st, said the 36th Engineer Brigade and Armed Forces of Liberia engineers had the lead on ETU construction, alongside the primary contractor, Fluor. The USACE team made site visits around the country, delivering technical inspection oversight and solid guidance to the people, units and agencies that made key decisions. It's also been instrumental in the construction of four Army Field Temporary Lab sites.

"The engineering portion of the mission has been very successful, and the Corps has been vitally important to us," Hicks said in a telephone interview. "They helped at the lab sites with environmental assessments, power generation and general engineer-type work. They also helped with some design and material acquisition. Then, the 36th would send their troops out to build the lab."

Maj. Michelle Dittloff, the FEST-A commander, said the first eight ETUs were completed about a week after New Year's Day, around the same time engineers began base closure and consolidation, anticipating a reduced footprint for Operation United Assis-



Jennifer McCarthy, New England District's Chief of Regulatory who's serving on the Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced in Liberia, conducts reconnaissance of the Sanniquelle Army Field Temporary Lab, where she's greeted by local children.

tance's enduring requirement in Liberia.

The FEST-A continues to support 101st engineers, the JFC and U.S. Agency for International Development – which heads up the operation – with project development, life-support and logistics facilities, assessments and assistance, particularly in the areas of quality assurance, inspection and contract supervision. Dittloff said the FEST has acted as the primary engineering arm for all construction and renovation required to sustain a U.S. military presence that topped 3,000 troops at its peak.

Three months into a deployment that could stretch up to 180 days, the USACE group has performed admirably under difficult conditions, she added.

"They've been fantastic," Dittloff said. "The technical capabilities and expertise they bring round out the capabilities of the 101st very well. Sometimes, I think we're like the fire department. We get called upon when a technical solution is needed quickly. ... When things go wrong, they may or

may not understand construction issues in a traditional way. It's not something they routinely do, so they need us for nonstandard construction issues."

The FEST-A left Wiesbaden, Germany, for Liberia in October with a 13-member team of military and civilian technical experts, from civil and environmental engineers to real estate and power-generation specialists. It's augmented by personnel from other districts within USACE and its North Atlantic Division.

The team is down to six civilians and four Soldiers, who remain at Barclay Training Center in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, awaiting word on the mission's next stage, Europe District officials said. The Department of Defense is weighing options and is expected to make a decision soon on the way ahead.

"Our relationship with the Corps of Engineers has been very, very good," Hicks said. "They had a big part in leasing real estate and securing land we needed for our sustainment brigade. That took a few weeks to iron

out, but they were able to get it done.”

Dittloff said the FEST-A did a few construction and design reviews for ETUs and managed some specific civil engineering solutions. An electrical engineer was frequently on-site. The team also examined code variations.

“We did a lot of working with the contractor to find safe solutions for appropriate material acquisition,” she said. “In the U.S., it’s normally very easy to get a hold of materials. It’s much more complex to get on short notice in Liberia.

“I think we eased a lot of concerns for the 101st by providing that expert oversight for contract solutions. We’re closely integrated with them. There’s a validation our team brings to these decisions that’s not available organically in a light infantry division.”

Transition of the ninth ETU in Zorzor took place in mid-January. The last one set for activation is in Barclayville. All others are operational, turned over to U.S. and international aid workers or nongovernmental medical staffs.

According to recent World Health Organization estimates, Ebola has infected more than 21,000 people and killed nearly 8,400 in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea — the West African nations hit hardest by the epidemic. But media reports indicate new cases of the virus are down dramatically in Liberia.

The Ebola epidemic there will be largely contained by June if medical workers can hospitalize 85 percent of those infected, the Tribune News Service reported earlier this month, citing a new analysis published Jan. 13 by researchers at the University of Georgia’s Odom School of Ecology.

“We’re seeing one new case of Ebola a day in the entire country,” Dittloff said. “While there’s still a concern we might see a resurgence, many of the counties have been declared Ebola-free. ... All the agencies involved in U.S. aid efforts have been a tremendous help, but most of the

credit really goes to Liberia itself for making all the preventive measures well publicized. The country has committed very well and taken this very seriously.”

From the outset of Operation Unified Assistance, the FEST-A conducted reconnaissance and site selection while forging land-use agreements for the Army Field Temporary Lab sites.

Jennifer McCarthy, a New England District environmental scientist, was among team members who visited the Sanniquellie and Fish Town lab sites for an assessment of existing conditions and needs. Maintaining environmental-regulation compliance is an ongoing effort.

“It’s important to work with the local communities to find a suitable lab site and then support it with adequate infrastructure,” she said. “From an environmental standpoint, the primary concerns are typically waste management. It is crucial that contaminated medical waste be handled and disposed of safely, and that adequate capacity exists in septic systems for use by lab personnel.

“Much of rural Liberia is densely vegetated with heavy rainfall and high water tables. In our environmental

assessment, we look at how this challenging landscape will affect drainage and constructability of new facilities, and we also consider the effects of land clearing, grading and drainage improvements on the local ecosystem.”

Having multiple labs in close proximity to areas of potential outbreaks allows samples to be tested quickly and likely helped slow Ebola’s spread while speeding up treatment of patients, officials said.

With all force providers now in the operations and maintenance phase, officials have shifted attention to theater-closure planning and realignment.

“We’re reducing our footprint right now and reducing unnecessary capacity in U.S. support systems, anticipating a possible drawdown,” the team’s commander said. “They are centralizing Soldiers into certain areas. We’re closing down the seaport in Buchanan, as 101st equipment gets shipped home. Facilities at the National Police Training Center are also being shut down.

“The breakdown of materials for force providers is underway. The FEST workload has increased, as we expect to be critical to the mission adjustment.”



Maj. Michelle Dittloff, left, officer-in-charge of Europe District’s Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced in Liberia, stands with two U.S. Public Health Service members in the Monrovia Medical Unit’s doffing area.



The New England District and Tantara Associated Corporation installed fall protection barricade railings all over Fort Rodman.

Photos by Susanne Grant

## District railings make Fort Rodman safer to visit

Visiting a piece of New Bedford, Massachusetts history just got a lot safer, due to efforts made by the New England District and its contractor.

The District and its contractor, Tantara Associates Corporation of Worcester, Massachusetts, completed the fabrication and installation of fall protection barricade railing at Fort Rodman in New Bedford. The barricade railing work falls under the Corps' Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites.

According to the Fort Taber/Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc., Fort Rodman, formerly known as Fort Taber after the New Bedford mayor responsible for getting the structure built, was constructed during the Civil War to protect the port from enemy invasion.

The granite walls at the fort were completed in 1863. In 1898, the fort and the surrounding military reservation was renamed after Lt. Col. William Logan Rodman of New Bedford who was killed during the Civil War. The last of six concrete batteries constructed, Battery Miliken, was completed in 1920. The fort was declared surplus in World War II but served as an Army Reserve Training area until the end of the Vietnam War.

Work consisted of fabricating and installing new steel barricade railing composed of galvanized solid steels posts,

solid rails and solid balusters, with an overall height of approximately four feet. Additional work involved including minor grading and new ground cover material as well as clearing brush as needed to access the rail installation locations.

Tantara Associates Corporation, a woman-owned, small business contractor, also installed railing on the roof of the fort to create a panoramic viewing area of the park and Buzzard's Bay. Challenges during the project included clearing heavy and thick vegetation at Battery Miliken and working with deteriorated concrete at the batteries that created unsafe conditions. In several instances some of the post locations for the barricade railing were designed to avoid unsound concrete and the project was successfully completed.

Work on the \$524,732 project began in June 2014 and was completed the following December. After a final inspection conducted with New Bedford's Park and Recreation and Planning Departments in January, the project was handed over to the city.

Dave Larsen was the Project Manager. Other team members involved in this project were: Susanne Grant, Project Engineer, Jim Morocco, Administrative Contracting Officer/Resident Engineer, Matt Tessier, Mark DeSouza, Jeff Gaeta, Kirk Bargerhuff and Marc Paiva of Engineering and Peg Lorenzo of Real Estate.



National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Steven C. Eaton, 65th Public Affairs Operations

Coastal communities had to cope with strong winds, flooding and snow during winter storm Juno. Some parts of Massachusetts saw more than 30 inches of snow.

## Winter Storm Juno dumps three feet of snow on some parts of New England Region

After a relatively quiet start to winter, New Englanders had to brace themselves for a monster blizzard that would dump close to three feet of snow in some areas.

The Blizzard of 2015, also known as Winter Storm Juno, was not a surprise. It had been looming on the radars of the National Weather Service for some time, and New England states began preparations well in advance of Juno's arrival. Schools all over New England issued closure notices prior to the storm hitting, much to the excitement of the local children. As the forecasted snow total got higher, Massachusetts and Connecticut governors declared states of emergency and issued travel bans. About 500 members of the Massachusetts National Guard were prepositioned to respond if needed during the storm. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority also shut down all trains and buses the day of the Blizzard.

For safety reasons, and to comply with the travel bans put in place by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, the New England District's Concord Park Office in Massachusetts was closed. The Emergency Operations Center deployed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Response Coordination Center in Maynard, Massachusetts to offer assistance.

During the storm, the District's Stamford Hurricane Barrier closed as a precaution and the District's other hurricane

barriers remained open. As snow accumulations began to grow, emergency shelters opened in many areas of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Coastal flooding sent waves crashing into seawalls and jetties. Some homes in areas like Marshfield and Plum Island, Massachusetts sustained damages, the extent of which is still being determined. The National Guard was called in to help evacuate residents in those affected areas. According to NSTAR, more than 17,500 customers were without power. Airports throughout the northeast, to include Logan International Airport, were shut down.

In the end, Juno was the biggest January snow storm on record for Boston, according to the National Weather Service. The Weather Channel reported that Lunenburg, Massachusetts saw 36 inches of snow fall, while Thomaston, Connecticut, received 33.5 inches.

At the time of this article, two more storms dumped additional inches of snow on the region. At his Feb. 9 morning press conference, Gov. Baker reported that parts of the Commonwealth received up to 80 inches total from the three storms, with more snow forecasted later in the week.

New Englanders, who are used to unpredictable and sometimes harsh weather, will take it all in stride, pulling out the snow shovels, firing up the snow blowers and plows, and clearing the snow until the next storm comes.

# Scout projects at West Hill Dam bring big benefits to all

When New England District Park Rangers hold special programs or clean up events, there is almost always a boy or girl in a scout uniform present and ready to work. Although there is no formal partnership between the organizations, the relationship between the New England District and the Boy and Girl Scout organizations is a strong one, and almost as old as the recreation areas that the children come to visit.

West Hill Dam has an especially strong and lengthy relationship with the scouts. Park Ranger Viola Bramel is the point of contact for the scouts when it comes time for them to earn their highest ranks and awards.

The West Hill Eagle Time Line boasts of 37 Eagles with the majority in the last 15 years. Bramel has personally supported 36 of the 37 Eagle Scout Awards, and all of the Silver (2) and Gold (2) Awards that have been completed at West Hill Dam. Honorees on the Girl Scout Award Time Line are within the past six years. The improvements that the children make to West Hill not only help them with their leadership skills, but also benefit the recreational area for many years.

Boys who are preparing for their Eagle Scout Award and girls who are ready



Boy Scout Jacob Piotrowski stands near his completed military memorial bench project at West Hill Dam. Photo by Kim Piotrowski

to earn their Silver and Gold Awards have walked down an incredible path of achievement during their scouting careers to get to this point. According to the Boys Scouts of America, Eagle Scout is the highest rank given in the Boy Scouting program. To achieve this rank, boys must progress through five previous ranks, earn 21 Merit Badges, serve six months in a troop leadership position, take part in a Scout Master Conference, plan, develop and give leadership to a service project for a religious organization, school or community and successfully complete an Eagle Scout Board of Review.

The official Girl Scouts website, [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org), states that the Girl Scout Gold Award represents the

highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Open only to girls in high school this prestigious award challenges the girl to change the world, or at least her corner of it. The Bronze, the highest award that can be earned by 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and the Silver Award, the highest award that can be earned by 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> graders, are required to proceed to the Gold Award. The Gold Award is an extensive seven step process that must solve a community problem for years to come.

Many of the scouts who come to West Hill Dam to work on their awards are no strangers to the project. "A lot of the children come to the project when they are younger to attend interpretive programs or to work on their badges," said Bramel. "As they get older and are ready to earn the Eagle Scout or the Gold Award, they want to do it here."

According to Bramel, the scouts must raise their own funds, procure their own supplies and assemble their own teams to achieve the leadership requirement of the awards. Between materials and labor, the projects that the scouts have worked on and donated to the District are valued at about \$160,000 total.

The Eagle and Gold Awards can take as long as two years to achieve and there is a lot of mentoring going on during that time. Bramel, who has



Photo by Bonnie DiPasquale

Boy Scout Brian DiPasquale and Park Ranger Viola Bramel stand at his Timeline Tree and bench project at the entrance of West Hill Dam.

binders for each type of award filled with project ideas, has an initial two hour meeting with each scout to talk about what sort of project they want to do, and to look through the binders for ideas. Another two hour meeting takes place sometime after the scout has made their project proposal and has gotten feedback from their scout advisor or official. One more two hour meeting is held where the scout outlines the final project. "There are smaller, less formal meetings in between and lots of emails back and forth," said Bramel. "The average is about seven face-to-face meetings and about 12 hours worth of conversations via email."

When it comes time for the actual construction to begin, Bramel steps back after a brief safety check, and allows the scouts to take control and finish on their own.

Boy Scouts have been seeking to earn their Eagle Scout Award since 1974. Boy Scout Walter Guertin constructed the West River Nature Trail (self guided interpretive trail and brochure) that was so impressive, he received his Eagle Letter of Recognition from President Richard Nixon.

The next Eagle Award wasn't completed until 1993, when Boy Scout Rusty Stewart constructed a multi-use woodland trail suitable for horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking. The idea of coming to West Hill to work on Eagle projects began to gain popularity at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a project in 2002, two in 2004, one each in 2005, 2006, and 2008 and then multiple projects every year from then on. "It is so rewarding to see these young men, who came here as Cub Scouts, mature, grow into themselves as they explore college and careers and achieve this prestigious award," said Bramel. "Several said to me, 'I never forgot what Ranger Bramel said and I am here to earn my Eagle Award.' They love giving back to a place they grew up at and love."

The projects that the boys completed varies from trail building and constructing habitat structures for all types of winged creatures to constructing a variety of benches around West Hill Dam.

Some boys got very creative with their projects. Timothy Fowler, a Boy Scout who came all the way from Rhode Island to work on his Eagle project, constructed a portable amphitheater and wooden benches. Nicholas King built a life jacket loan station and provided 10 life jackets to go with it. Zachary Modica designed and constructed a fish identification portable board and water safety message system for park visitors. Five Boy Scouts – Matthew Fonseca, Dillon Arnold, Brian DiPasquale, Jake Pitrowski and Joshua Renfros – completed their Eagle projects in 2014. Mitchell McGonagle was the first Boy Scout to complete his Eagle project this year, with more boys coordinating their projects in 2015.

Girl Scout Awards have been a fairly recent initiative at West Hill compared to their male counterparts, but their work is no less involved and just as impressive. Whitney Roche and Janet Hass, both only 12 years old at the time, constructed a cement "step up" for horse trailers to keep people safe and earned their Silver Award. Kelsey Walker, who also volunteered during West Hill Dam's Junior Ranger

Program, received her Gold Award when she replaced or repaired all 19 double-boxed bird houses for Eastern Blue Birds along the West Hill Blue Bird Trail in 2012. Girl Scout Rachel Cronin, who earned her Gold Award in 2014, constructed a teeter-totter with a safe surface landscaped area for small visitors of West Hill Dam.

When the scouts complete their projects, Bramel inspects them and then, if they pass, signs the forms so that the next step of the Eagle Scout, Silver or Gold Award processes can take place. The bond between West Hill and the scouts doesn't end at the completion of the project. Bramel has attended Eagle Scout ceremonies on her own time to show her support as well as occasional e-mails to check on how they are doing. "Four West Hill Eagle Scouts have gone on to serve our nation in our military forces," said Bramel.

Most of the New England District recreational sites will help scouts earn badges and awards, either through interpretive programs already put in place or park rangers will work with scouts to come up with a plan. The relationship is a win-win for everyone involved – District recreational sites benefit from the scouting projects for years in the future and the scouts receive leadership and environmental stewardship skills that will last them a lifetime.



Photo provided by Rachel Cronin  
Girl Scout Rachel Cronin (far right) and her team prepare the ground at West Hill Dam for her Teeter-Totter Project that would earn her the Gold Award.



Col. Christopher Barron with the 2015 LDP graduates.

Photo by Brian Murphy

## District's Leadership Development Program graduates team members, welcomes new students

The New England District Leadership Development Program (LDP) held its annual graduation and kick off meeting January 21, in the Concord Park Theater. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, made the opening remarks and congratulated the graduates.

Alan Anacheka-Naseman (Sean Dolan – Mentor), Mike Bachand (Scott Acone), Kristine Blanchette (Steve Dunbar), Wendy Gendron (Scott Acone) and Josh Levesque (Scott Michalak) all graduated the two year program.

Last year's first year students, Dean Brammer (Scott Acone – Mentor), Megan Cullen (Mark Anderson), Joseph Ferrari (Frank Fedele), Ted Frazzetta (Sheila Winston), Kimberly Pumyea (Mark Anderson), Meghan Quinn (Theresa Negron), Michael Riccio (Dave Margolis), and Byron Rupp (Scott Michalak) all moved up to the second tier of the program.

During the kick off portion of the event, Patricia Bolton, Program Deputy Director, explained the program's goals and objectives. In addition to the program director, deputy and mentors, LDP students also have a Corporate Advisory Board that works with them. This year's board members are: Scott Acone, Frank Fedele, Sheila Winston, Steve Dunbar and LDP Program Manager John Astley.

First year students focus on "Know Yourself, Know Your Organization, and Lead Now." They are required to attend one session each month that will consist of round table discussions for book reviews, a self assessment and leadership trainings in various formats. According to the LDP Fact Sheet, each session will average three hours per day. Training courses objectives are based on the Army Leadership Doctrine (BE-KNOW-DO) and the Learning

Organization Doctrine (LEARN) concept. Examples of training topics are Goal Setting, Motivating Others, Time Management, Conflict Management, Problem Solving, and Behavior Based Interviewing.

Second year participants will be required to participate in leadership training that builds on the first year program. They also are required to facilitate first-year program sessions, and to take part in individual projects which are related to the leadership skills and concepts obtained from the first year. Types of projects may consist of shadowing Senior Leaders, developing SOPs, acting as Chairperson of a committee, or participating as a LDP Board Member.

Other topics discussed were the 2015 curriculum, expectations of students, and the February assignments for the new first year and second year students.

Enrolling in the LDP has many advantages. Students of the LDP are exposed to senior level leaders and the District's strategic operating environment during their time in the program. They are given opportunities to participate in corporate initiatives to improve the organization.

Any New England District team member who wishes to apply to the program may do so with supervisory approval and a letter of recommendation. A call for applications goes out each December and spaces are limited.

Those who were accepted as first year students for 2015 were Michael Bioardi (John Astley – Mentor), Maureen Davi (Christine Johnson), Jeffrey Gaeta (Mark Anderson), Robert Garrahan (Patricia Bolton), Andrew LaBonte (Steve Dunbar), Jessica Loc (Frank Fedele), Craig Martin (Scott Acone), Kimberly Russell (Dave Margolis) and Nick Skianes (Gary Morin).

## Former DAMOS Program Manager retires with 30 years of service

Sometimes when someone announces that he or she is retiring, people think they are so special, that they want to hold a send off party – even if that person no longer works at the agency.

Such was the case with Tom Fredette, who was in charge of the New England District's Disposal Area Monitoring System Program before becoming a research biologist for the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Despite the transfer, Fredette was still stationed in Concord Park, so his New England District friends held a retirement pizza reception January 22 in the Maine and New Hampshire Conference Rooms in his honor.

Dozens of New England District team members, ERDC employees and retirees enjoyed a slice of pizza and some salad as they dropped by to wish Fredette the best of luck after 30 years of service. Formal presentations took place at a lunch for Fredette in Vicksburg, Mississippi, so there were no official speeches or Master of Ceremony. Bob DeSista and Ruthann Brien said a few words and wished him well. Ruth Ladd



Tom Fredette opens boxes from Ruth Ladd during his retirement reception.

Photo by Brian Murphy

presented Fredette with several empty boxes that he can use to ship items from his business to his customers. Fredette did not want any gifts for himself, so his friends and co-workers brought canned goods in for him to donate to his local food pantry.

Before making his move to ERDC in 2009, Fredette worked on high profile projects in Regulatory's DAMOS pro-

gram to include the Long Island Sound Disposal sites.

Retirees that attended Fredette's reception were Susan Mehigan, Rich Roach, David Tomey, Farrell McMillan, Sue Holtham, Christine Godfrey, Greg Buteau and Bill Mullen.

Fredette plans to continue with his business as well as spend more time with his grandchildren.

## District 'Goes Red' For Heart Health Awareness

Sixteen New England District team members wore red to raise awareness of heart disease Feb. 6 during the District's observance of "Go Red For Women." The District event was sponsored by the Federal Occupational Health Office (FOHO) and the Safety Office.

This is the second year the District has held the event in the hopes to bring the topic of heart disease to the forefront.

To dispel the myths and raise awareness of heart disease as the number one killer of women, the American Heart Association created Go Red For Women, a passionate, emotional, social initiative designed to empower women to take charge of their heart health in 2004. According to [goredforwomen.org](http://goredforwomen.org), cardiovascular disease claims the lives of nearly 500,000 American women each year.

The FOHO will perform risk assessment screenings to any current New England District employee at no cost.



Photo by Brian Murphy

New England District Team Members dress in red to bring awareness to heart disease.

District employees are encouraged to share the results with their doctor. If interested, contact nurse Linda Lindell at FOHO to make an appointment.

# Dredging up the past



Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers addresses the New England District Team during a Special Town Meeting he held at the District on February 22, 2002.

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