

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong



Cape Cod Canal dredging set to begin
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Yankee Voices

Valerie Cappola and Laura Lally



2016 Federal Pay Adjustment

The President has signed the Executive Order authorizing a pay raise for federal employees in 2016. According to the NAE Human Resources Office: "There is some short term impact on our automated systems."

Effective Jan. 8, 2016, we will not have access to the HR system. Access will be restored after the pay adjustment has been processed, which should be early the following week.

Actions can and will be effective January 10, but they are being held until after the pay adjustment is processed. Also, new pay tables for the Federal Wage System have not yet been released.

Pay adjustments for these employees will be processed later and will be retroactive to January 10, 2016.

OPM has listed the 2016 General Schedule (GS) Locality Pay Tables here: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2016/general-schedule/>

Employee Spotlight: Joshua Mulvey, Real Estate Division



Joshua Mulvey is a Realty Specialist in the New England District's Real Estate Division. He joined the District team in June 2008. "I work in Recruiting, which manages the rental facilities for the Armed Services Recruiting Program," he said. "I complete market surveys, negotiate with lessors and process lease renewals."

Mulvey also searches for available space that would meet the Services' parameters and requirements and is involved with managing the build out of space to meet the Services' specifications. "I create floor plans and work with architects and contractors to optimize space," he said. "In the end I deliver a finished space to them to conduct their recruiting mission. I run reports to monitor the progress of the program and assist the Team Leader."

In addition to his work in Real Estate, Mulvey is also on the District's Safety Committee and was just accepted into the Leadership Development Program that is set to begin in January 2016. He said that the variety of experiences is what he likes best about working for the District. "I like that my job is always different," he said. "It is constantly changing – the people, the places the projects. One day I could be in Warwick, Rhode Island working on a 5,500 square foot new office for the Armed Services and the next day be in Boston, Massachusetts helping the Navy Recruiting Division in New England refresh their office in the Barnes Building. It keeps things fresh and interesting."

Mulvey is a 1999 graduate from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in both Mathematics and Physics. He has also put work in towards his Master's in Mechanical Engineering at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

When he's off the clock, Mulvey is an avid bowler and plays every week at his local bowling alley. "I bowled my first perfect game (300) last year," he said.

Mulvey also enjoys spending quality time with his wife and two children.





Park visitors at Buffumville Lake in Massachusetts enjoy a function under one of the project's shelters.

Photos by Kevin Burke

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin issuing America the Beautiful Federal Recreation Passes in 2016

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that beginning Jan. 1, 2016, approximately 240 of its recreation projects nationwide will begin issuing America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Interagency Passes.

Currently, USACE accepts the Interagency Senior and Access passes at its recreation projects, but is not allowed to sell or issue the passes. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, signed into law on June 10, 2014, granted the Secretary of the Army the authority to participate fully in the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program.

Beginning in January, visitors to the approximately 240 designated USACE recreation projects will be able to purchase or obtain the following interagency recreation passes -- Interagency Senior Pass, Interagency Access Pass, Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Military Pass, Interagency Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade Pass, and Interagency Volunteer Pass. These passes will allow their holders free access to boat launches and swimming beaches managed by USACE.

The Senior and Access America the Beautiful passes also provide holders a 50 percent discount on campsites at USACE-managed campgrounds. Additionally, USACE will

continue to sell its own annual day use pass, which allows visitors free access to boat launches and swimming beaches managed by USACE. The New England District has several projects that boast an abundance of recreational opportunities that are participating in the program.

For information on the America the Beautiful passes, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/annual.html>, or phone 1-888-275-8747, option 3.

(USACE Press Release)



Visitors enjoy a beautiful day at Hopkinton Lake's Elm Brook Park beach in New Hampshire.



New England District team members who were part of the Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery Team.

Photos by Diallo Ferguson

District honors individuals, team during holiday award ceremony

To kick off the holiday festivities, Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, hosted an awards ceremony just before the District holiday party, December 18 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Judy Antonellis, Programs, received a District Coin for her tireless work on the District's after hours holiday party.

Scott Michalak and Mike Bachand, Engineering/Planning, both received diplomas for completing the USACE

Risk Management Program. On their own time, the pair completed a six course, 18-hour credit hour intensive graduate level Risk Management Program at Notre Dame of Maryland University. The Risk Management Program was a pilot program for USACE. Michalak and Bachand also received District Coins from the Commander for their efforts.

Lindsay Flieger, Regulatory Division, received a District Coin for

her well-received presentation during the National Regulatory Conference in Omaha, Nebraska on Nov. 19. Close to 200 Corps Regulatory staff including all of the USACE's Regulatory Chiefs, staff from USACE and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works JoEllen Darcy saw Flieger's presentation, which was on the recently permitted Deepwater Wind Project. She touched on Regulatory coordination with the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council, project details and logistics, as well as concerns raised by other federal agencies and stakeholders and lessons learned.

Ruthann Brien and Laura Lally, both from Regulatory Division, received District Coins for their major roles in coordinating the massive logistical details that made the District's daytime holiday party a success.

Beverly Lawrence, Engineering/Planning, received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her outstanding work in her new position as the Architect-Engineer (A-E) coordinator for the District from Nov.



Scott Michalak (right) receives his diploma from Col. Christopher Barron.

30 to present. Lawrence led the substantial efforts to solicit 14 new A-E IDIQ contracts for a total capacity of over \$66 million as well as several additional project specific A-E contracts via sole-source justification or by borrowing capacity from sister districts, according to the citation.

The final award, the rare Army Superior Unit Award, was presented to New England District Team members who worked with New York District, North Atlantic Division's Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery Team. During Oct. 29, 2012 to May 31, 2013 the unit displayed superior performance by delivering rapid and timely engineering projects and services. "The units successfully performed response operations in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Support Function 3; re-established operations in the Port of New York and New Jersey; rapidly closed barrier island breaches that threatened life and property; and started the process to restore the severely damaged coastal storm risk reduction projects in New York and New Jersey," read the citation.

New England District employees on the team who were present to receive the award were: Mark Anderson, John Astley, Megan Cullen, Stephen Dunbar, Alex Garneau, Wendy Gendron, Donald Hassett, Michael Keegan, Joseph Mackay, Erika Mark, Leanna Martin, Lt. Col. Todd Melzer, Grace Moses, William Pumyea, Kane Turmelle, Stephen Umbrell, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla and Steven Wolf.

Other members of the team who were not present and will receive the honor at a later date were: John Asseng, Christopher Caisse, Andrew Cattano, Theron Chase, Jr., James Doucakis, Dara Gay, David Goodrich, Andrew Jordan, Maj. Stephen Lavalle, Randal Lecuyer, Jeffrey Mangum, Brett Markure, John Murner, Michael



Laura Lally and Ruthann Brien receive Commander's Coins for their work on the holiday party.

Sheehan, Andrew Stamer, Heather Sullivan, Mark Walsh and Marissa Wright.

Col. Barron said that 2015 was extremely busy for the District. He summarized the many accomplishments that the District achieved to include dredging projects, Regulatory actions and various public outreach. "I am personally humbled by the level of expertise that resides in the District," he said.

Col. Barron also said that 2016 will



Beverly Lawrence receives a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for outstanding work as the A-E Coordinator.



Judy Antonellis receives a Commander's Coin for her work on the after hours holiday celebration.

be busy as well. He urged everyone to take some time off in the next couple of weeks to recharge and prepare for the New Year.

The District Commander concluded by saying that not everyone on the District Team will be able to enjoy the holidays with friends and family. Capt. Daniel Brady and Jim Fielding are both currently deployed overseas on assignment. Col. Barron asked everyone to keep them in their thoughts this holiday season.



Lindsay Fieger receives a coin for her presentation at the Regulatory Conference.

District team members celebrate the holidays with festive lunch

The New England District team celebrated the season with a holiday celebration lunch on Dec. 18 at noon in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

Over 160 people attended the party. This year's theme was, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Land of Misfit Toys."

The halls and cafeteria were festively decorated and holiday music played all around the cafeteria making for a fun and inviting atmosphere. The distribution of the buffet lunch was handled with laser precision and impressive organization. Classic Chinese dishes to include fried rice, noodles, Crab Rangoon and egg rolls were on this year's menu. Vegetarians had their own separate menu. Cake and pot luck desserts donated by New England District employees put a sweet end to a delicious meal. Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy District Commander, assisted in distributing lunch to participants.

Activities abound during the holiday celebration. A trivia contest page and other holiday activities were placed on the tables for participants to work on while they waited to be called for lunch.

A traditional New England Yankee Swap yielded more than a dozen participants as well as much fun and laughter. Holiday movies for the little and not so little ones played in the District theatre.

A live Christmas tree to include all the displayed decorations and two Christmas wreaths were given away following the Yankee Swap. Judy Antonellis received the tree; Greg Penta and Philip Nimeskern both received the wreaths. The highly anticipated and always popular holiday basket silent auction took place in the afternoon hours.



Over 160 employees enjoyed great food, atmosphere and company during the annual holiday celebration. Photos by Dialo Ferguson

New England District employees bid on 11 baskets donated by various offices to raise \$783 for the Work Environment Association (WEA) Committee, which will help fund more activities throughout the next year. If District team members were unable to win a basket, WEA had plenty of Corpswear and other goodies for sale in the lobby to go underneath the tree.

Regulatory Division and WEA hosted this year's party. Through year-round fund-raising the team was able to provide a first-class event with just

a small cost to participants.

The New England District also held an after hours celebration on Dec. 11 at the Tavern at Hanscom Air Force Base. About 50 people attended the party, that included a sit down Italian dinner, dessert, free door prizes and dancing to music. Retirees that attended the night party were Joe Bocchino, Joan Gardner and Greg Buteau. Retirees that attended the day time party included Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Bobby Byrne, Jerry Nunziato Greg Buteau and Joe Redlinger.



District employees examine the 11 baskets offered for the District Basket Silent Auction.



The Cape Cod Canal dredging will begin in January 2016.

Corps of Engineers awards \$5.8 million contract for maintenance dredging of Cape Cod Canal in Bourne

by **Timothy Dugan**
Public Affairs

Maintenance dredging and advance maintenance dredging of the Cape Cod Canal Federal Navigation Project in Bourne and Sandwich, Massachusetts, will be completed under the terms of a \$5,899,400 contract recently awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC, of Oak Brook, Illinois. Dredging is scheduled to start in early January 2016 and take about 2 – 3 months to complete. The contract was awarded on Nov. 19, 2015.

“Work consists of removing approximately 182,000 cubic yards of clean sand and gravel from six areas in the authorized, 32-foot-deep by 500-foot-wide, main ship channel and the 25-foot-deep East Mooring Basin portions of the project,” said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh, of the Corps’ New England District, Programs and Project Management Division. “Shoaling in the main ship channel consists of large

wave formations. These formations cause draft restrictions, tidal delays and hazardous conditions for deep-draft commercial vessels transiting the Canal.”

The Cape Cod Canal is a toll-free, open-to-all waterway that connects Buzzards Bay and Cape Cod Bay. The project is used by both commercial and recreational vessels and eliminates the need to transit around Cape Cod, a distance of approximately 135 miles and a more hazardous route.

The Corps plans to beneficially re-use the clean sand dredged material from the Canal project as beach-fill on a 2,500-foot-long eroded section of Town Neck Beach in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

The town of Sandwich is providing \$2,957,900 in funding to place the sandy material directly onto the beach and for dune grass plantings. The work will be performed by a hydraulic dredge with pump out capability and all ancillary equipment necessary for direct beach placement of the dredged material. The environmental dredging window for this work is Nov. 1 through March 31.

Dredging up the past



Mary Christopher selects a gift during the Yankee Swap in the 2003 Holiday Party.

USACE New England District photo

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