

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 50, No. 10 August 2017

Building Strong®



New England District holds Change of
Command Ceremony in Historic Faneuil Hall
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Yankee Voices

Jonathan Kulberg, Terry Wong,
Maureen Murray, Mike Walsh



Hurricane Preparedness - Make A Plan

- Know your [hurricane risk](#). Talk to your local emergency management agency.
- Make an [emergency plan](#).
- Sign up for alerts and warnings.
- Make a Family Communication plan.
- Plan shelter options.
- Know your evacuation route
- Consider buying [flood insurance](#).
- Build or restock your [basic disaster supplies kit](#), including food and water, a flashlight, batteries, chargers, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to get to higher ground or to evacuate.
- Stay tuned to local [wireless emergency alerts](#), TV, or radio for weather updates, emergency instructions, or evacuation orders.

(NOAA)

Division Economist retires after 34 years of service

Ed O'Leary, North Atlantic Division Regional Economist, bade farewell to his co-workers after 34 years of federal service.

A celebration to reflect on O'Leary's career and to wish him well took place at Waxy O'Connor's in Lexington, Massachusetts, July 26. Family, friends, retirees and co-workers joined notable guests Naomi Fraenkel, NAD Economist, Valerie Cappola, NAD and Komla Jackatey, Baltimore District Economist to reflect on O'Leary's distinguished career.



Larry Oliver, Chief, Evaluation Branch, served as Master of Ceremonies. He presented O'Leary with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. "Mr. O'Leary's expertise in mathematics, economics and the data analysis combined with his effective mentoring and leadership have strengthened the National Economics Community of Practice and inspired the next generation of Corps economists," read the citation.

The award also credits O'Leary as being a vital resource to the Coastal Storm Risk Management and Deep Draft Navigation Planning Centers of Expertise; leading the way in risk-based analysis, providing guidance on complete projects and completing innumerable agency technical reviews. O'Leary also received a Bunker Hill plaque and numerous gifts from the audience.

In addition to his time with the Corps of Engineers, O'Leary served his country faithfully in the U.S. Data Support Command, U.S. Army.

O'Leary's wife Cathy accompanied him to his retirement celebration. Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Paul Pronovost and Steve Rubin attended O'Leary's lunch. Other retirees included Rich Ring, Kathy Bucciarelli, Sue and Bill Holtham and Mark Geib.



Col. William Conde takes command of the New England District

Colonel William M. Conde is the new District Commander for the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He assumed command July 19, at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. Before coming to the District, Col. Conde was Chief of the Domestic Operations Division, Directorate of Operations, Headquarters United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) stationed at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. He began his assignment at NORTHCOM in November 2016 after completing the Senior Service College at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

A native of Cadillac, Michigan, Col. Conde received a commission in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 1995 following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He began his career in the 168th Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, Battalion S-4, and assistant operations officer. After completion of the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Col. Conde earned a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla. He then served with the 2nd Engineer Battalion at Camp Castle, Korea as the assistant operations officer. He commanded the 43rd Combat Engineer Company in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado, and in 2003 he deployed his unit to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following his deployment to Iraq, Col. Conde served at the U.S. Military Academy as a Tactical Officer and Regimental Executive Officer. In 2007 he attended Command and General Staff College. He was later assigned to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, as the executive officer of 2nd Engineer



Col. William Conde

Battalion and following the activation and transformation, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He arrived in Alaska in 2011 and served as the deputy commander of 2nd Engineer Brigade and Commander of the 6th Engineer Battalion (Combat, Airborne) at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Col. Conde earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla; a Master's Degree in Leadership Development from Long Island University, New York; and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Col. Conde's military awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal (2nd award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, ACMCS, GWOT Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (2), Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Sapper Tab, and Bronze de Fluery Medal.



Photo by Dako Ferguson

The New England District welcomes Col. William Conde (center) and his family.



The Official Party stands on the stage at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts during the Change of Command ceremony.

Photos by Dado Ferguson

New England District holds Change of Command Ceremony at Boston's Historic Faneuil Hall

In a ceremony that honors the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the leadership of the New England District embraced the ancient tradition of passing the Command Flag from one commander to another, July 19, at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. There, in front of family, friends, honored guests and the New England District Team, Col. Christopher Barron relinquished command to Col. William Conde during the brief, but meaningful ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Kent Savre, Commander, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, presided over the ceremony. Maj. Gen. Savre, who is the former North Atlantic Division Commander, stepped in for Maj. Gen. William Graham, who served overseas at the time of the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy District Commander, served as Master of Ceremonies. "Today's ceremony is a reflection of procedures practiced

since the dawn of our nation," he said.

Lt. Col. Herlihy spoke about the proud histories of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Today as members of the U.S. Army, we gather to celebrate our proud

heritage and join the past with the future as we witness – and participate in – the Change of Command Ceremony," he said.

Prior to the passing of the Command Flag, Maureen Davi, Real



The New England District and invited guests gather inside Faneuil Hall to witness the Change of Command between Col. Christopher Barron and Col. William Conde.



Col. Christopher Barron relinquished command by passing the Command Flag to Maj. Gen. Kent Savre, and then to Col. William Conde during the brief ceremony.

Estate Division and a participant in the Leadership Development Program, presented a bouquet of blooming red roses to Mrs. Kim Barron, as a symbol of appreciation for her support to the District. The blooming roses signify a flourished and successful command.

Eric Aramayo, Engineering Division, is the District's newest employee. He presented a welcoming bouquet of yellow rosebuds to Mrs. Lynne Conde. The yellow flowers symbolize new beginnings and in time her roses will bloom as will her relationship with the New England District team and their families.

After the flower presentation, the official party comprised of Col. Barron, Col. Conde, Maj. Gen. Savre and Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, took their places at the front of the room.

The New England District Color Guard presented the Colors as the West Point Brass Quintet played the National Anthem. Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple, former Division Engineer for the Corps in New England, said the invocation.

While the Change of Command took place, Lt. Col. Herlihy explained the significance of each part. "The Colors are the Commander's symbol of authority, representing his responsibilities to the organization,

wherever the Commander is, there also are the Colors," he said.

Acone served as the Custodian of the Colors. He passed the Command Flag to Col. Barron, who in turn passed it to Maj. Gen. Savre, symbolizing his relinquishment of command of the New England District. Maj. Gen. Savre then presented the Command Flag to Col. Conde, entrusting him to command the District. Finally, Col. Conde passed the Command Flag back to Acone who returned it to the stand.

"The passing of the Colors symbolizes the transfer of authority from the outgoing Commander to the Incoming Commander," said Lt. Col. Herlihy. "The passing of the Colors demonstrated to the Soldiers and Civilians of the organization the old Commander has passed the mantle of leadership to the new Commander, with this also passes the loyalty of the workforce to their new Commander."

Maj. Gen. Savre congratulated both colonels and said that Faneuil Hall was the most appropriate place to hold the ceremony. He praised Col. Barron for his successful command of the New England District over the past three years.

"For the past three years, Col. Barron has provided the exact right leadership...really the purpose,

motivation and direction needed to overcome challenges and uphold the District's proud reputation," he said.

Maj. Gen. Savre acknowledged Mrs. Kim Barron for her commitment and support. "Kim has absolutely provided that strength, devoting her time and energy to her husband, to supporting Soldiers and family readiness groups during multiple combat deployments and of course has been a wonderful mother to their children – Hannah, Jordan and Caroline," he said.

After wishing the Barron's the best, Maj. Gen. Savre focused his remarks to Col. Conde. "There is no finer person than Col. Conde to lead this amazing team forward as the 37th Commander since 1942," he said. "I have personally had the honor of serving with Bill side by side and can say with confidence there is no better leader and really no better person to pass the Colors to today."

The general concluded his remarks by welcoming the Conde family to the New England District.

Col. Barron thanked Maj. Gen. Savre, the band and everyone for coming. He welcomed the Conde family to New England. "Your reputation in this Engineer Regiment is superb, and as the owner of a truck with Alaska plates and block heater, you'll find our winters

Continued on next page

Change of Command Ceremony...

Continued from previous page
to be quite comforting.”

Out-going Commander Col. Barron reminisced that his three years commanding the District went by fast. “Serving as the New England District Commander has been the most professionally developing and personally rewarding job I’ve had in my 26 years of service in the Army,” he said. “Hands down, no contest.”

Col. Barron said he was grateful for the good working relationship the District enjoys with North Atlantic Division as well as the partnerships with the regional agency’s stakeholders and customers.

“As grateful as I am for the external support these last three years, I will, quite rightfully I think, reserve the best for those that are closest to me – the

engineers, scientists, rangers, project managers, analysts, specialists, attorneys and everyone else that make up the New England District,” he said.

He thanked the team for making his transition into the Corps as smooth as possible. He praised them for the work they do protecting communities from floodwaters, for cleaning up and restoring the environment, for keeping rivers and harbors accessible, for supporting the military and for volunteering to deploy anywhere, anytime they are needed.

“You do all of this willingly, you do it repeatedly, and you do it successfully,” he said. “Day in and day out.”

Col. Barron said that his time with the District made him a better thinker, a better leader and a better person. “I simply can’t imagine closing out my

time in the Army doing anything else, being anywhere else, or with anyone else,” he said.

He concluded by thanking everyone again for attending and hoped he would see them again.

In his first remarks as Commander, Col. Conde thanked Col. Barron, Lt. Col. Herlihy, and the New England District Team for the warm welcome he received when he arrived at the District.

The new District Commander thanked Col. Barron for his many years of service. Col. Conde expressed gratitude for Maj. Gen. Savre traveling to the District to preside over the ceremony. “It’s great to see you again and for you to be able to come back for the ceremony,” he said.

The new commander introduced his family and friends who traveled from all over the country to be present for the ceremony. He said that Faneuil Hall was a very special place. “It’s very humbling to be in such a remarkable and historic location,” he said. “A meeting place over 250 years old where the first American patriots gathered to resist oppression and begin the long struggle to create our great nation,” he said.

He concluded his remarks by saying he looked forward to working closely with the New England District team over the next three years.

The Honorable Philip Scott, Governor of Vermont; the Honorable Christopher Sununu, Governor of New Hampshire and the Honorable Dannel Malloy, Governor of Connecticut all sent proclamations naming July 19, “Corps of Engineers Day” in their states.

The New England District Ranger Color Guard presented and retired the colors for the ceremony. The Ranger Color Guard included Jason Robinson, Steve Patchkofsky, Bradley Clark and Jennifer Samela.



Photos by Dalia Ferguson

The New England District Color Guard salutes the official party while posting the colors during the Change of Command.

New England District Change of Command Photo Album



The official party prepares to pass the command flag.



The official party takes the stage during the ceremony.



Col. Christopher Barron congratulates Col. William Conde on his new command.



Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy with the West Point Band's Academy Brass Quintet.

Photos by Dako Ferguson



Mrs. Kim Barron receives roses from Maureen Davi.



Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple gives the invocation.



Eric Aramayo presents Mrs. Lynne Conde with a bouquet of roses from the New England District team.



Maj. Gen. Kent Savre congratulates Col. Christopher Barron on his service at his retirement ceremony.

Photos by Dado Ferguson

Col. Christopher Barron retires after 26 years of service

A celebration to recognize a distinguished 26-year career took place for Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, July 19. Family, friends, New England District team members past and present, local and regional partners arrived at the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company Museum, located upstairs in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, for the retirement ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Kent Savre, Commander, Maneuver Support of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood and former North

Atlantic Division Commander, presided over the event. Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy District Engineer, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Before receiving any official awards, Col. Barron's children had awards of their own to give him. Col. Barron's son Jordan bought a special retirement coin and presented it to his father. "Congratulations to Col. Barron for serving in the Army 26 years," he said.

Daughter Caroline wrote a special note to her father and



Caroline Barron addresses her father during his retirement ceremony.



Jordan Barron presents his father with a retirement coin during the retirement ceremony.

gave it to him at the ceremony. “Dad, I have something for you,” she said as she slipped him her special note.

Maj. Gen. Savre gave a synopsis of Col. Barron’s life: sports and family as a child, college and his military career as an adult. The general touched on parts of Col. Barron’s personal life such as how he met his wife, Kim, and the adoption of his children, mentioning that it was Jordan’s birthday. He remarked on Col. Barron’s dry humor and his passion for his mission and his commitment to his people.

The former North Atlantic Division Commander spoke about Mrs. Barron’s support and dedication to her husband, her children and the New England District. Joking that visits to the District, which almost always included many homemade baked goods, had to be curtailed because too many District team members were gaining weight.

After his remarks, Maj. Gen. Savre moved on to the awards portion of the ceremony. He presented Col. Barron with his first award, the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal for his 26 years of faithful service to the nation. This military award has been in existence since Oct. 1, 1779. “Col. Barron has brought excellence to every organization to which he has been assigned,” read Lt. Col. Herlihy as Maj. Gen. Savre placed the medal around Col. Barron’s neck. “His superior leadership and professionalism have inspired subordinates, peers and leaders alike and greatly enhanced the United States Army Engineer Regiment.”

Next, Col. Barron received the Legion of Merit for, “exceptional meritorious service in positions of increasing responsibility, culminating as the Commander of the New England District, USACE.”

Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers, signed both the Silver de Fleury and the Legion of Merit awards. Maj. Gen. Savre also presented Col. Barron with the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as the New England District Commander from July 2014 to July 2017. According to the citation, Col. Barron provided superior leadership to over 500 military and civilian personnel in the successful execution of a very diverse program, greatly serving New England and the nation. Brig. Gen. William Graham, North Atlantic Division Commander, signed the award.

Col. Barron’s final award of the day was his retirement certificate signed by Gen. Mark Milley, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

After Col. Barron’s presentations, Maj. Gen. Savre turned to Mrs. Barron and talked about her dedication both to her husband and the Army that began in 2002. “There is no official responsibility for an Army spouse,” he said. “There are no rules that tell you what you are obligated to do,” he said.

Maj. Gen. Savre presented Mrs. Barron with the Army Engineer Association’s Essayons Award for “exceptionally significant contributions to the morale, welfare and spirit of



Maj. Gen. Kent Savre with Col. Christopher Barron and his family.

the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment throughout over 14 years of volunteer service to numerous engineer units, engineer families and communities.”

Lt. Gen. Semonite signed the award. Mrs. Barron also received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Gen. Milley.

Col. Barron addressed the audience and said that his last day of command has been an emotional one. He told the audience he moved 13 times in 26 years to accommodate his 18 various assignments. He said that there was always a separation process – there would be a void, but it was gradually filled by preparing for, and then finally going to, the next assignment. “When you retire, the void feels permanent and irreversible,” he said.

The District Commander said he knows that, eventually, a civilian job will fill the void, but now it’s time to put the uniform away. “The Army has been very good to me and for me,” he said. “I feel blessed. Serving in the Army was a great experience.”

Col. Barron concluded his remarks and the retirement ceremony by saying his time at the Corps was amazing and he wished he had come sooner.



Maj. Gen. Kent Savre presents Col. Christopher Barron with the Legion of Merit Award.



Children gleefully play in the West Hill Dam mud pit. Some children chose to use the mud slide while others chose to smear each other in mud. One parent became a willing mud canvass for her son.



Gleefully West Hill Dam gets down and dirty celebrating 'International Mud Day'

**Story and photos by Jess Levenson
Public Affairs Office**

There are two types of people: those who get their hands dirty and those who roll in it.

In a cleared-out area of West Hill Dam's woods, imposing pits of thick brown mud pocked the ground. The park rangers didn't mind. In fact, they tended to the mire until families arrived to greet the slovenly earth with open arms. Some youngsters molded mud to bake mud cakes and play catch. Others let it drip like paint and ooze down mud slides. Parents played their part as laughing mud canvasses and rangers surveyed it all with approval. It seemed everyone had taken leave of their sanity as well as sanitation.

Parent groups Roots in Nature, Woodland Adventures, and Beginning Bridges organized "International Mud Day" at West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts on June 29.

Angie Stormont, an administrator of Roots in Nature, explained the bizarre scene. "'International Mud Day' is all about spending more time outdoors: getting in nature, playing in the mud, and getting dirty," she said.

"As dirty as I am right now, I couldn't be happier," said West Hill Park Ranger Ron Woodall as he played in the mud with his wife and two children.

Woodall had spent the morning clearing away brush, setting up road signs, and assembling a truck-mounted water

hose. Other rangers had surveyed the area, excavated and mixed soil, and prepared accommodations. "Even with all our efforts, we couldn't have done this on our own," Woodall noted. "The energy, drive, passion, organization, and knowledge of the parent groups was essential."

The West Hill team previously guided the parent groups through the permitting process and then handed them the reigns of the program. Stormont and her fellow parents recruited and planned for nearly 100 attendees by speaking with local communities, networking online, and engaging in back and forth discussions with West Hill Dam. "We were able to recruit so many people by partnering with West Hill," she said. "It's a huge success."

"It's not often you can go play in a mud hole with your son," said one happy father.

"I love it here and I want to come here every day!" howled little Alex Blanchette.

"This event is drawing people out to get familiar with our park," added Woodall.

The partnership may transform the empty mud pit area again in the future. "We hope to build the mud pit area into a nature-based play area instead of a typical playground," Woodall said.

Roots in Nature meets at West Hill Dam every Tuesday for outdoor play groups.



The Ranger Dunk Tank was a popular activity.

Photos provided by the Cape Cod Canal.



Samantha Gray and friends pose for pictures during the Water Safety Event.

Cape Cod Canal Co-Sponsors Local Water Safety Day

The Cape Cod Canal and the U.S. Coast Guard teamed up for the 12th annual Cape Cod Canal Boating and Water Safety Day, June 24, outside the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center. "Water recreation activities are certainly fun, but unfortunately, drowning is the nation's second leading cause of accidental deaths," said Park Ranger Samantha Gray. "At the Cape Cod Canal we have about three million visitors annually. Many of our visitors engage in water-based recreational pursuits at the canal and surrounding areas such as swimming, boating and fishing."

Despite sporadic downpours and the occasional roll of thunder, about 100 people participated in the event. Many of the activities were moved indoors because of the rain.

However, once the weather cooperated, the highlight of the day, the Dunk-A-Ranger Tank, attracted many participants who had to learn about personal flotation devices (PFDs) before dunking the ranger. "Participants had to find a life jacket that was a proper fit for their size and a specified activity/scenario," said Gray. "They were able

to select from a table full of PFDs that were different types and sizes, plus some that were not life jackets – like a swimming noodle or ring. Once they found the proper fit, they were given a chance to dunk the Ranger. Participants were also given the option to answer water safety-related trivia for another chance to dunk the Ranger."

New England waters can get cold and the Canal team wanted to educate the public on that subject as well.

"We had a table focused on the threats of hypothermia in our local waters," said Gray. "It included an activity that tested and compared participants' fine motor skills in warm and cold water scenarios."

Other activities included a Marine Stewardship game, "Ocean Clean Up" where participants had to remove trash from the ocean, played by a kiddie pool. "The other activity was a matching game, where participants had to match an item to the correct biodegradation time," said Gray. The U.S. Coast Guard had a damage Control Cart setup which simulates different emergency boating situations, according to Gray.

"Activities were also set up to educate the public about safe paddling," she said. "The Coast Guard had vessels docked in the Sandwich Marina and were open for tours."

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducted tours of the Coast Guard Station and performed complimentary vessel safety checks at the Sandwich Marina boat ramp and docks.

Other agencies participated in the Water Safety Day as well. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries held a fish clinic where children 16 and under learned how to bait a hook and cast a line into the Canal.

"The other focus of the fishing activity was to foster responsible recreation by following rules and regulations such as size and catch limits, and disposing of fish line and other trash properly," said Gray.

The American Red Cross offered a Learn to Swim exhibit and a "Reach, Row, Throw, Don't Go" activity.

Team members who made this event possible were Gray, Park Rangers Elisa Carey, Kyle Henderson, Daniel Grippo, Emily Moynihan as well as patrol boat operator Susan McDonald and Nate Barrett-Millar.



The 40th annual Connecticut Outboard Association boat race took place on West Thompson Lake. The original racers posed to commemorate the event's 40th anniversary.

The Connecticut Outboard Association Celebrates 40 Years at West Thompson Dam

**By Catherine St. Andre
Park Ranger, West Thompson Dam**

The Connecticut Outboard Association returned to West Thompson Lake in Connecticut for its 40th season during the weekend of July 7-9.

As always, racing was nonstop all weekend – 97 boats raced on Saturday and 85 boats raced on Sunday. Spectators numbered into the hundreds. This event takes place every year on the weekend following the Fourth of July, and it's always free to attend.

Eleven of the original Connecticut Outboard Association members, who raced at West Thompson Lake for the first time 1977, were able to return this year for the 40th Anniversary.

It was an adrenaline-packed

weekend. Imagine travelling 60 miles per hour not in the safety and security of your one-ton pick-up, but crouching just a few inches from the water surface, braced in a 120-pound wooden boat with the wind whipping past your helmet.

The sport of boat racing has a wide variety of boat types and engine power. Four classes raced at West Thompson Lake—Stock, Modified, PRO, and Junior. The classes are based on engine size and boat type, and each class has a minimum weight.

The two types of boats used are the Runabout and the Hydro. Drivers wear Kevlar^(R) driving suits and life jackets while racing. The standard driving position has racers crouched on their knees with one hand on the steering

wheel and the other on the spring loaded throttle. The boats skim over the surface of the water and the slightest movement affects the ride over the ever-changing water surface, while the spray from other boats – which are inches away – drenches the competing racers.

The Connecticut Outboard Association is the second oldest club in the United States, and outboard racing is a family affair where the fourth generation of racers are entering the sport in the Junior division. It is common to see grandfathers, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and cousins racing side-by-side.

Everyone is encouraged to come to West Thompson Lake to see this event next year!

Cape Cod Canal gets a little greener with purchase of electronic vehicles

The Cape Cod Canal team recently became more environmentally friendly when they purchased six Polaris GEM eM1400LSV electric utility vehicles to replace the aging fleet of gas-powered John Deere Utility Gators. “These vehicles are exclusively powered by electricity and only need to be plugged in at night to be ready for the day’s work the following day,” said Park Ranger Ann Le Blanc. “These vehicles are safe, quiet, good for the environment and very cute!”

Their appealing appearance was not the reason for their purchase, however. According to Park Ranger Joe Mazzola, switching to electric vehicles would save Park Rangers time by not having to continually fill up the Gator tanks. It also eliminates the potential hazard of carrying fuel containers that could spill. “Moving to these smoother riding and quietly running vehicles will increase operator situational awareness and reduce fatigue,” he said.

Mazzola also said moving to electric will also work towards the District’s sustainability goals to lower CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) emissions.

These vehicles will not only be healthier for the environment, but will save money, according to Park Ranger Michele Breen. “In 2016, we spent roughly \$3,500 in gasoline for the six Gators,” she said. “We tend to keep our utility vehicles until the end of their life span, which in the case of the Gators is approximately 10 years. If gas prices remained the same for the next 10 years, our gasoline savings would amount to \$35,000.”

Breen said gas estimates based on energy outlook predictions by the U.S. Energy Information and Administration indicated that the saving would be more like \$54,000. She said the older



The new Polaris GEM will save the government thousands of dollars and significantly reduce the Canal’s carbon footprint.

vehicles have found homes elsewhere in Operations Division.

The new vehicles are the latest in a series of initiatives the Canal has undertaken in the last decade to make their project more environmentally friendly. Other efforts have included new, energy efficient heating system, new LED lights and other work in the Canals’ Maintenance Building; a new heating system in the maintenance shed and the Ranger Annex garage; and replacing and upgrading lighting at the Administrative Area, recreation areas, 14 miles of the Canal as well as

new Energy Star windows at the Herring Run comfort station.

The Canal Team is constantly looking at ways to save money and improve the project’s carbon footprint. According to Scott Barr, Environmental Resource Specialist, upcoming projects include installing new fiber optic lines, replacing the Bourne Bridge lighting with LED lights, installing a new HVAC System in the administration building and a possible midway solar array.

The Canal’s efforts are in keeping with the Corps of Engineers’ Sustainability Plan.



Canal Manager Sean McDonald takes one of the new vehicles out for a spin.

Summer Seasonal Park Rangers Are True Assets to Our Missions

**Photo and story by Jason Tremblay
Project Manager, Edward MacDowell Lake**

As Park Ranger and Natural Resources Specialists in the New England District, we have many disciplines to manage. They include our primary mission of operating and maintaining our flood control dams to our other missions such as recreation management of the parks. Environmental stewardship encompasses our environmental regulations -- in particular our natural resource management of wildlife, forestry, fisheries and cultural resources. Other disciplines are interpretive services, visitor assistance (rules and regulations enforced under Title 36), and the administrative work of time keeping, credit card procurement, contract administration, data calls, reports, etc. Needless to say we are multifaceted professionals within our duties and responsibilities.

Before the larger influx of the public arrive at our parks, New England District's Human Resource Specialists assist us with hiring our temporary full-time Park Rangers. Those temporary Park Rangers help us manage the additional work load during some busy times where we typically see construction and engineering projects in full swing. They come to our parks to help us and are tremendous assets to our programs and reflect positively for our agency as a whole. They are the familiar face to the public that come and visit our civil works projects, the flood control dams and our parks. The Park Rangers' time at the parks -- typically three months -- and contributions to our staff allow us to continue working on the various other high priority duties that we manage, and this allows us to meet our mission objectives. I think it is very important to recognize the contributions that our summer staff members make and also remember that they can also be our future leaders of tomorrow.

Our summer seasonal Park Ranger, Emily Acone, is a Biology major at Syracuse University. She has been a tremendous help to us here at Edward MacDowell Lake with our recreation management and natural resources management programs. In addition to her other duties, she monitors and observes the turtle nesting area and records field notes. She manages the Blue Bird Nesting Box Program and collects data from the boxes. She also assists with monitoring aquatic and terrestrial invasive plants in the park. The natural resource work that Emily is helping us with goes a long way with meeting our environmental stewardship goals and it reflects positively with the public. As budgets tighten, it is important not to overlook the natural resource management objectives.

In addition, Emily is picking up valuable experience on the job that will help her with her career aspirations in the field of Biology. Without our summer Park Ranger, we would



Summer Park Ranger Emily Acone repairs a bird box as part of her duties at Edward MacDowell Lake.

have fallen short on meeting and accomplishing the work we set out to do for our mission objectives.

So many may ask, what do the full time temporary Park Rangers do? In most respects, they have many of the same duties that full-time permanent Park Rangers. They operate and maintain recreation facilities to provide for the safe and healthful enjoyment of public land by present and future generations. Summer Rangers prepare and present interpretive programs for either on-site or off-site locations. They update bulletin boards, interpretive displays, and websites. The Summer Park Rangers ensure guests comply with all rules and regulations. If necessary, they are also able to provide first aid and CPR.

At their assigned recreational facility, Summer Park Rangers manage the lands, waters, plants and animals to conserve, preserve and protect those resources now and for the future. Other duties can include monitoring both plant and animal pests, protecting known cultural resource sites; and complies with all the safety rules and regulations to keep themselves and their co-workers safe.

New England District's Summer Park Rangers support the mission of the Corps at all levels. Whenever possible they tell the Corps story using articles, web sites, and public speaking. They also form partnerships internally and externally to promote the Corps and Project Missions

Emily is just one, excellent example of a New England District Summer Park Ranger. If you look around at the other projects, there is more young talent that is out there making a difference for us here in New England District. The Pathways program and Temporary hire registry do make a difference to our success. In some cases, these programs have given opportunity to hard working and talented individuals to be hired on by our agency on a full time permanent basis to make additional contributions for the long term.



Scott Acone presents Mark Desouza with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service.



Mark Desouza passes out cake during his retirement reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Mark Desouza receives a Europe District beer stein as a retirement gift.



Mark Desouza greets guests as they come to celebrate his 38+ federal career.

Mark Desouza retires after more than 38 years of service

by Megan Cullen, Engineering Division

Mark Desouza, Civil Engineer, retired from the New England District, June 29, after more than 38 years of federal service. An official retirement ceremony and reception took place the same day in the Maine and New Hampshire Conference Rooms.

Mark started his career in Planning, where he learned USACE policies and formed lasting friendships with other Planning Project Managers. When Mark moved to Civil Engineering in 1980, he was able to seamlessly dive into civil design work with a deep understanding of district policies and priorities. During his time in Civil Engineering, Mark specialized in streambank restoration, ecological restoration and paving projects. Mark has been recognized for his work on a number of complex and high profile projects, such as Muddy River Phase 1 from 2005 to 2011. He was part of the team that received a Group Special Act award in September 2016 for his efforts on the design and construction of Muddy River Phase 1. Mark also worked on the \$3 million base-wide Natick Paving Project which consisted of 30 optional items over the course of five years.

Mark was one of the first civil engineers to use CADD, which brought quality and efficiency to the project delivery process. He has shown a willingness to step into different roles when District priorities shift. For example, Mark spent a year

in the Geotechnical Section to support periodic inspections and instrumentation reports. He is a dynamic team member and always enjoys exploring many possible solutions to a problem. During times of success and frustration, Mark is known to always maintain a strong sense of humor and wit. His humor brings a levity and breath of fresh air to the workplace which is irreplaceable.

While his presence will be truly missed in the office, the great work he accomplished here ensures that he will not be forgotten. His achievements within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in service to the country and fellow citizens has always made a positive impact.

Mark is owed a debt of gratitude for being a tireless professional, a helpful coworker, and a very good friend. It has been a joy to work with someone so passionate and witty. It's clear that his dedication to his projects and teams has made a positive impact on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

During the retirement ceremony, Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, presented Mark with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service as well as his retirement certificate. Gifts by attendees included a Europe District beer stein and a box of German chocolates. Marks' wife, Nancy, accompanied him to the event. Retirees who attended Mark's retirement included Terry Wong, Bob Meader and Maureen Murray.

Dredging up the past



Col. Thomas Feir receives the command flag from Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, in this July 2008 photo.

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