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Building Strong

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New England District, partners, celebrate the completion of Camp Cronin Project in Rhode Island
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Yankee Voices

Byron Rupp and Bill Kavanaugh, Jr.



Inclement Weather and Contingency Alert Program

During periods of inclement weather, beginning at 5:30 a.m., affected personnel can call 978-318-8888 for the latest NAE advisory information. WHDH-Channel 7's website www.whdh.com will also carry any delays or closings. District team members can also listen to the following radio stations to receive up to date information: WOKQ (97.5 FM), WPKQ (103.7 FM), The SHARK (102.1 FM) or WCAP (980 AM).

Additionally, the inclement weather alerts and announcements regarding closings or delays will appear on the New England District's Facebook page, the NAE Facebook Internal News Site (employees only), and as Twitter "tweets." If you are a Facebook member, District employees are invited to become a "fan" of the NAE Facebook Internal News Site, a closed page that employees must request membership to be included. Subscribers to Twitter must "follow" the CorpsNewEngland to receive tweets.

Those links are:

- NAE Facebook Internal News Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1422189451329983/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CorpsNewEngland>

For AtHoc notification alerts, register using the AtHoc "Purple Globe" icon on your computer task bar.



Fifty-six pies graced the Pie Fest table this year. Pies were donated by the New England District Team.



Kane Tumelle tops his pie with some whipped cream at the Pie Fest.



Sarita Martinez salvages a broken pie.

Photos by Brian Murphy

WE Committee holds annual Pie Fest at New England District

The WE Committee hosted its annual Pie Fest to celebrate a successful end to another fiscal year, October 20. According to event coordinator Drew Cattano, over 56 pies of every thinkable variety, cookies and other desserts graced the buffet table in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Many New England District team members took their break in the cafeteria to grab some pie, cider, coffee and to take a to sit, talk and laugh with coworkers. The annual Pie Fest is one of the most anticipated and successful events held by the WE Committee at New England District.



New England District remembers teammate Adrien Lussier

by **Scott Aconeand Gary Lacroix**

Adrien Lussier of the Survey Section passed away unexpectedly, Nov. 25 at the young age of 46 years. He leaves behind his wife Nancy and two daughters from a previous marriage. Adrien was a crew chief on one of the District's hydrographic survey crews doing condition, pre-dredge, and after dredge surveys all around New England but principally in Boston Harbor and Cape Cod Bay. Adrien's crew has been instrumental in conducting oversight of the ongoing navigation improvements to Boston Harbor, New England District's largest project.

Adrien will be remembered not just for his professionalism, but also for his joyful demeanor and playful banter. He had a contagious smile that made you instantly feel good. He was kind, generous, and a pleasure to know and work with. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Adrien began his career with New England District in February 2002 as a wage-grade laborer. He worked hard and earned positions of increased responsibility, eventually becoming one of the district's hydrographic survey crew chiefs, temporarily in 2013 before being permanently selected in May 2015. Adrien was committed to providing quality survey products and always made safety a priority. As testament to his dedication and commitment, Adrien obtained his U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License in 2016. He did so on his own time and initiative so that he could perform his job better. Obtaining his license required taking classes three nights per week for 15 weeks and then passing a final exam held over two sessions.



Adrien Lussier at a District function in 2016.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Anative of Everett, Massachusetts, he was a Freemason member of the Masonic Lodge in Everett/Melrose. A funeral was held at the JF Ward Funeral Home in Everett. Adriengraduated from MassBay College with a degree in Science.



Adrien Lussier (third from right) at the 2017 Founder's Day picnic. He is pictured with his friends and Survey team mates.

New England District, partners, celebrate the completion of Camp Cronin Project in Rhode Island

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, joined Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and partners Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and HUD in celebrating the completion of the Camp Cronin Restoration Project during a ceremony Nov. 6 in Point Judith, Rhode Island.

Hurricane Sandy damaged portions of the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge project. Funds provided in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 were used to make necessary repairs to the East Jetty, the Camp Cronin Fishing area shoreline, and the East Shore Arm Breakwater. "This is a special place, and I am pleased to have secured federal funding to enhance safety, restore public access and better protect the shoreline," said Sen. Jack Reed. "Superstorm Sandy did significant damage. As we celebrate the completion of this recovery project, we must be mindful of the steps we need to take to promote pre-disaster mitigation and resilience to ensure that the next hurricane or flood doesn't lead to as much damage."

"A \$5.4 million contract was awarded in August 2014 to protect the federal portion of the shoreline with the construction of stone revetment at the Camp Cronin Fishing Area and to perform repairs to the East Shore Arm breakwater due to Hurricane Sandy damage," said Col. Conde during his remarks. "In October that same year, an option to repair the state portion of the stone revetment at the Fishing Area was awarded with Rhode Island DEM funds via a HUD grant in the amount of \$3 million."

The construction work spanned over a time period to accommodate specific circumstances. Construction started in late October 2014 and was expected to



Photo provided by Jennifer Flanagan

Camp Cronin restoration project under construction in January 2015.

take about 19 months to complete, over three construction seasons, according to Col. Conde. Work was suspended during the summertime to avoid any impacts to the recreating public.

"The work to construct the ocean shoreline stone revetment at the Camp Cronin fishing area was completed in May 2015," said Col. Conde. "In mid-October 2015, the contractor mobilized onsite to begin constructing emergency repairs to the adjacent East Shore Arm breakwater."

The contractor, RC&D, Inc., remobilized to the site in October 2016 and completed the work in June 2017.

In his remarks, Col. Conde said that the shoreline revetment work involved trucking in the needed stone materials, excavation, and placing a stone revetment made up of seven layers of different sized rock designed to protect the shoreline from wave action.

"We also performed some parking lot improvements and reset existing boulders currently at the site," he said. "Repairs to the breakwater required the

hauling in and placing new armor stone (up to 15-tons per stone) to replace stones displaced during Hurricane Sandy. We also filled in existing gaps and low points along the breakwater."

The repairs restored the breakwater to the original profile and cross-section. Repairs required substantial moving and manipulation of both new and existing stones to achieve both the required interlocking between stones and design grades. "Camp Cronin is an iconic and cherished place—one of Rhode Island's gems," said DEM Director Janet Coit. "We're so proud to have worked with our Congressional Delegation, Army Corps of Engineers, and other partners to preserve it for the public's enjoyment."

Col. Conde praised the District's partners in the success of the Camp Cronin Restoration.

"This project would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the partners involved, especially the Rhode Island DEM and our congressional support," he said. "I thank you for your support and dedication."

New District Headquarters Update: Many workforce questions asked and answered

by **Sally Rigione**
Public Affairs

Where will the New England District headquarters call home in the future? What will the facility look like? How will the offices be designed? Anticipated amenities? Timeline for the move? These were a few of the questions that were discussed on Nov. 28 at a brown bag luncheon hosted by Scott Michalak, senior program manager of the new headquarters building renovation project. Since his appointment Michalak has been immersed in plans for the District's new facility and wanted to share information with teammates.

During the briefing Michalak gave a quick update and history of the work already completed:

- The existing lease at Concord Park has been extended until March 2023;
- Early on a feasibility study was conducted in coordination with General Services Administration and culminated with a recommendation to acquire facilities on Hanscom.

Michalak said this process allowed Plant Replacement and Improvement Project funding authorization to be received in January 2017 to move the District onto Hanscom Air Force Base for at least the next 50 years. "From a government financial standpoint, it was cost effective to move into a newly renovated facility on the government air base as opposed to leasing the private facility we now rent just outside of Hanscom's fence," said Michalak.

The New England District will assume control of two buildings in the former Air Force Research Laboratory campus at Hanscom. Buildings 1109 (a three story building) and 1107 (a two story building) will be renovated for the new headquarters. The square footage will be about the same as Concord Park; however, the design of the new facility hasn't gone forward yet. Utilizing the natural light that comes through the windows will be key in that design element. Both buildings were built during the Cold War era, in the 1950's, and on the timeline environmental testing is planned to ensure that any possible asbestos, PCB's or lead are identified and removed for the safety of staff and visitors.

The project will involve major renovations of the facility once they are vacated by their current tenants. Major renovation estimates include: interior demolition of above ground floors to include walls and dividers in both buildings; roof rehabilitation and replacement on both buildings; new flooring; redesign of entryways; new wiring; electrical system upgrades; window replacements; asbestos abatement (if required); and a new sprinkler system in building 1107 were some of the initial feasibility level assumptions anticipated



(US Air Force Photo by Linda LaBonte Britt)

The New England District is planning to move its headquarters onto Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts.

for the building.

Going forward, the next step is the design element, which should begin in 2018, and is anticipated to take about 18 months to execute. Michalak will work, as needed, with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Air Force to address and gain permits for any exterior changes to the historic structures.

The facility will be situated next to the Hanscom Conference Center building where meeting space can be reserved for larger events. Inside buildings 1109 and 1107 there are 12 conference rooms anticipated; standardization of all cubicle sizes is planned based on staff rank (employee; supervisor; office chief); break rooms on each floor will include sinks, refrigerators and sitting areas; and a cafeteria seating area is planned for the facility (but no food service in the building is anticipated, as there are many food options available currently on base.)

The timeline estimates construction will take about 18 months to complete. Construction is not planned to begin until early 2020 and will take about 18 months with furniture acquisition and placement allowing for an early 2022 occupancy.

Michalak will update the staff on the design, construction and renovation progress with bi-annual brown bag luncheons; and quarterly fact sheets and future stories in the Yankee Engineer. Anticipate that in 2022 the moving trucks will come to bring the District family to the next chapter in the New England District's building history.

When the District moved to Concord Park in 1997, the then commander stated, "The New England District is not a building and it's not a location. The New England District is us – wherever we are located." Truer words could not have been said today.



Peter Hugh receives a Superior Civilian Service award from Col. William Conde, District Commander.



Peter Hugh receives a tire cover for his jeep, "Elsa" during his retirement party.

Peter Hugh takes final bow during retirement extravaganza

Not many retirees 'theme' their retirement celebrations, and even fewer of them theme as a theatrical release. Peter Hugh, Project Management, did just that with a World Premiere Slide Show reflecting on his life and career, Nov. 2 in the Concord Park Theater. About 71 of Hugh's biggest fans walked the red carpet to see the show.

The concession stand opened 15 minutes prior to show time and featured hot dogs, chips and a beverage. Once everyone got their food, they settled into their theatre chairs and the slideshow began. A career spanning 37-1/2 years cannot be captured in a dozen or so slides. No, the epic adventure that has been Peter Hugh's life ran 329 slides long and was produced by Parachute Boy Productions, LLC. The documentary covered his career highlights, his outside work adventures and events he planned with Corps friends to include the annual blockbuster paintball games.

At the conclusion of the show, the reviews were in – the critics in the audience raved and showed their appreciation with thunderous applause.

The event's director and star of the show – Peter Hugh – thanked everyone for coming and recognized VIP retirees Tony Mackos, Townshend Barker and David Lubianez for attending the premiere. Hugh launched into a press

junket of sorts – going over his career for the benefit of the audience before turning the front of the house over to the other speakers. Lisa Winter, co-worker and event staff member, presented Hugh with a tire cover, designating



Peter Hugh presents challenge coins to Lisa Winter, Jessica Loc and Marie Wotjas during his retirement event.

Photos by Brian Murphy.

Hugh's jeep, Elsa, as part of the Zombie Outbreak Response Team.

Gary Lacroix also had a part to play in the Hugh saga. Lacroix said he and Hugh went all the way back from their early years when they were bit players in Germany before rising to fame in New England. Lacroix said that Hugh, "Showed him the ropes," when he arrived at the Corps in New England, and shared many tales of their career exploits. Lacroix presented the "Best Sensei Ever" and "Jedi Grand Master Yoda" awards for Best mentor. Other gifts Hugh received included a bouquet of flowers and outdoor gear to include socks, Tupperware containers, targets and a sling for a long rifle.

Every production worth its salt has a musical guest. Rose Schmidt performed for Hugh's retirement premier. Before the music, Schmidt remarked on Hugh's unflinching patience as a CEFMS instructor and told the tale of an unforgettable day walking down a long hallway at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Like all great performers who want to engage the audience, Schmidt handed out the lyrics to her latest hit, "Battle Hymn of the Retiree."

Set to a familiar tune, the audience joined the District's music legend in singing.

Beverly Lawrence also got up and shared some stories about Hugh which included the tale of how he met his leading lady.

After the special guests all made their appearances and presentations, Hugh had his own awards to give out. He awarded challenge coins to his event staff: Jessica Loc, Lisa Winter, Marie Wotjas, Helen Madhi and Sarita Martinez as well as to PAO staff members Jess Levenson and Ann Marie Harvie.

Hugh's life and times were not always happy and a real drama



Rose Schmidt leads the audience in song during Peter Hugh's retirement event.

unfolded in 2010 when he was stricken with a serious medical condition that required him to have brain surgery. He told his audience it was a challenging time for him, that he had a hard time using his cognitive skills, that he worried about how he would provide for his family if he didn't recover fully.

Fortunately for all, he did recover and continued to serve faithfully the people of New England. His brush with an uncertain future gave him a new outlook on life and he produced an awe-inspiring, adventure-laden bucket list with items such as white water rafting and jumping out of airplanes.

Hugh took questions from the audience. Things Hugh said he will not miss at the District are CEFMS, fruit flies and mandatory training. Things he will miss: The people and the daily interaction.

An encore awards performance took place after the premiere with Hugh receiving a Superior Civilian Service Award and a retirement certificate from New England District Commander Col. William Conde and Dave Margolis.

Hugh's story with the Corps of Engineers began with his role as an intern in June 1980 after graduating

from Northeastern University. Some of the high profile projects Hugh starred in included Fort Devens, Natick and CRREL, Roughan's Point Flood Reduction Project, GE/Housatonic Superfund, New Bedford Harbor and several projects at Westover Air Reserve Base.

Hugh was also the District's CEFMS coordinator from 1997-98 and he was a first responder with the Urban Search and Rescue—Structures Specialist cadre.

Hugh is a registered Professional Engineer and Project Management Professional. His numerous awards include a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service, two Achievement Medals for Civilian Service, the NATO Service Medal, a Certificate of Achievement, Task Force Falcon, KFOR Operations and the Armed Forces Service Medal.

Although this is Hugh's final bow as a New England District team member, he plans on chronicling his continuous adventures, traveling and checking things off his bucket list. He also plans to make cameo appearances to District events and functions in the future.

Dredging up the past



Joe Faloretti presents Park Ranger Deila Vogel a Commander's Award for Civilian Service as Joan Gardner looks on during Vogel's retirement lunch, November 18, 2011.

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