



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District

Yankee Engineer

BUILDING STRONG®

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Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Philip Feir, Jim Morocco and Sean Dolan observe some of the facade work at the Providence Veterans Administration Hospital.

District Commander honors Providence VA team for outstanding achievements

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, traveled to Providence, R.I., May 27 to recognize hard work with awards and to conduct a site visit.

The first stop on Col. Feir's agenda was the Veteran's Administration (VA) Medical Center Headquarters in Eagle Square, Providence to present traditional Bunker Hill Awards to 10 VA employees in recognition of their commitment to excellence

and dedication in supporting our nation's heroes. The employees are part of the VA's housekeeping staff.

Col. Feir gave the VA employees a small history of the Bunker Hill plaque. "We're taking this opportunity to recognize our partners, something that we don't get to do enough of," said Col. Feir. "This Bunker Hill certificate is just a small token of our appreciation."

"When we do construction, things

have to be moved around and things get dirty," explained Jim Morocco, New England District's Resident Engineer. "We clean up as best we can, but these guys come in after us and whether it is an office or an operating room, they make everything 'hospital clean.' They are the unsung heroes of this project."

In addition to sanitizing rooms and putting them together exactly

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Yankee Voices



Fox Point Hurricane Barrier Team

Congratulations

...to **Debbie Acone**, who was selected as the Work Environment Committee's employee of the month for June 2010.

Acone is a Project Engineer in Construction Division, in charge of multiple construction projects.

She is being recognized especially for her work on three projects at the Bedford Veterans Administration (VA) facility.

These projects are being executed with small business contractors who are new to performing Corps work and are unfamiliar with the myriad processes our contracts require.

Her attention to the new contractors' performance is all the more noteworthy as she's doing this while working for the Bedford Veterans Administration who is also a new client of the Corps and also unfamiliar with the New England District.

Acone spends a lot of her time coordinating between the customer and the contractors to keep the projects moving forward and has gained the respect and confidence of the VA which was no small task.

Division Commander promoted to Brigadier General



Peter A. DeLuca, Commander and Division Engineer of the North Atlantic Division (NAD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, May 11, at a ceremony held at the home of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

"A general officer should have vision, leadership and character. DeLuca is an incredible leader in that capacity," said Van Antwerp during his opening remarks.

"I want to continue to build our future and we are taking a giant step in that direction with this ceremony today."

During the ceremony, the promotion order was read, the old rank was removed and the new rank was placed on DeLuca's Army combat uniform by his family members, Tracy and Nicholas.

"This opportunity is being offered to me because of the sacrifice of American Soldiers and their families. That sacrifice is huge," said DeLuca. "I accept this on behalf of all the great people I have served with."

DeLuca became Commander and Division Engineer of NAD on April 17, 2009. As the Commander, DeLuca oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within an 180,000 square mile area along the Atlantic Coast. This includes more than \$7 billion in work to support Base Realignment and Closure 2005. He is also responsible for a variety of Division engineering and construction activities for international, federal, state and local governments and agencies in the United States and overseas, including in Europe and Africa. (*NAD Press Release*)

Sympathy

... to **Richard Drew**, Resource Management, on the passing of his mother, **Mary Drew**, May 30.

... to **Paul Cooper**, Construction, on the passing of his mother, **Phyllis Cooper**, June 8.



North Atlantic Division Commander visits New England District

Col. (P) Peter DeLuca, North Atlantic Division Commander, visited Massachusetts May 3-4, to visit projects, Corps facilities and to meet with some of New England District's partners.

Col. (P) DeLuca's first stop was Hanscom Air Force Base, to celebrate the opening of the newly Corps-built administrating Building 1604 and to meet with Lt. Gen. Ted F. Bowlds, Hanscom Air Force Base Commander. After lunch, Col. (P) DeLuca traveled to Boston to end the day with a meeting with Environmental Protection Agency's Region I director Curt Spalding.

The following day, the North Atlantic Division Commander traveled to the District's Devens Office and visited several Base Realignment and Closure sites before having lunch with the Devens employees.

Col. (P) DeLuca then visited the New England District's Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental



Photos by Brian Murphy

(from left) Col. Philip Feir, Col. (P) Peter DeLuca, and Capt. Erik Schefstad make their way to the Building 1604 groundbreaking ceremony at Hanscom Air Force Base.

Restoration Project. "We toured portions of the project, both the future dredging areas, as well as the Phase 1 area where we will begin construction next year," said Muddy River Project Manager Mike Keegan. "The Commander got a good sense of the project and the challenges that we face during construction due to the fact that the project in a historic park within an urban setting."

According to Keegan, the North Atlantic Division Commander concluded his visit to Massachusetts by meeting with representatives of all three sponsors (Commonwealth of Massachusetts city of Boston and town of Brookline) as well as members of the Management and Maintenance Oversight Committee that was appointed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to oversee the sponsors future maintenance efforts on the project.



Col. (P) Peter DeLuca (left) gets a briefing on the Muddy River Project from Mike Keegan and local sponsors.

Founder's Day Message from the Chief of Engineers

by Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp
Chief of Engineers



on June 16, 1775.

Teammates,
Happy Birthday Corps!!
Today marks the 235th Birthday of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The strength and resolve of our team are as strong today as when the engineers of the Continental Army formed into the Corps of Engineers

As we celebrate this day, I'd ask that every USACE team member take a brief moment to remember those on whose shoulders we stand.

Many challenges remain for us. Your best efforts are necessary as the Corps team supports two overseas contingency operations, strengthens the infrastructure of our country and readies to support or prevent the next disaster at home and abroad. Thank you for helping take the Corps from Good to Great!

Happy Birthday Corps!
BUILDING STRONG!
Van

Mike Tuttle talks about deployment to Afghanistan

Mike Tuttle, study manager for the Planning Branch, is helping build a new democracy in the Middle East, while advancing his own career during a 14-month deployment to Afghanistan. He's midway through a tour to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Overseas Contingency Operations. He's assigned to the Afghanistan Engineering District-North in the capitol city of Kabul, and he's stationed at the Qalaa House compound, which previously was the Iranian Embassy.

Tuttle serves as a project manager for Afghanistan National Army projects across the eastern portion of the country. He oversees development of army facilities near the Pakistani border, a region that's critical for Afghanistan's security because insurgent forces still operate in the area.

The Corps of Engineers' efforts to restore Afghanistan's war-ravaged infrastructure is rewarding. "I'm extremely gratified that the New England District and the Corps have allowed me to accept these adventures," he said. "This deployment by far has been the most rewarding in my career. You can see the difference we're making and sense it with the locals. I truly hope they will embrace the freedoms that most of us take for granted."

The scope of work specifically is intended to improve the level of safety and quality of life for Afghanistan's 34 million residents. It's an extensive task.

"During my first two months, I was responsible for managing 28 pre-awards and 21 ongoing construction projects, a total value of about \$750 million," Tuttle said. "Obviously, the goal is to complete all projects on time and under budget, however, we are in a war zone and working with Afghan contractors is very challenging. That said, I have projects that were just initiated and some that are nearing completion. I've been involved with project turnovers on two projects so far. During the next 10 months, I should be



(From left) New Englanders Matt Tessier, Bogden Figiel, Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre with Mike Tuttle in Afghanistan. File photo

able to add another 10 projects to that list."

The work is as interesting as it is rewarding, he said. "I'm the conduit for what the customer needs to meet their goals for Operation Enduring Freedom. I develop the customer's project needs, assist the engineers in the development of the design plans, determine the contracting mechanism for implementation, and then confirm and clarify the intent during the construction process. It allows me to be involved in the cradle-to-grave progression of the projects."

According to Tuttle, it's impossible to overlook the career opportunities and financial rewards associated with the assignment. He accepted a temporary promotion while in Afghanistan and decided to extend his original six-month commitment by an additional two months, then six more.

"Experience as a project manager for the Project Planning Management Department is key to my professional development," said Tuttle. "I hope to use this as a stepping stone to advance my career with the Corps. Possessing a military exposure will hopefully advance me through the PPMD ranks."

According to Tuttle, the substan-

tial pay bonuses for being deployed in Afghanistan are important as well.

"My daughter just said, 'Hey, can I join a lacrosse camp this summer that's \$650?' A year ago, I'd say, 'Honey, I'm sorry we just can't afford it,' and it would hurt me to say no to something like that," he said. "Now, it's like, 'Sure.'"

More significantly, Tuttle's daughter is leaning toward pursuing a medical degree, so eight years of college and medical school tuition are imminent. "The pay boost will help immensely," he said.

Working and living at Qalaa House and visiting sites in Afghanistan is far different than working at Concord Park and commuting to sites in the New England.

"Qalaa House is a fortified compound-prison like facility," Tuttle said. "I remember my first trip outside the wire. I led a team to a construction project called the Gamberi Garrison. We piled into an armored Suburban, passed through the Jurassic Gates at the entrance of our compound, and passed through numerous concrete barriers and several check points just to get out of the Green Zone."

Afghani traffic is unique; some of

the vehicles found on lawless roads in Kabul would never be seen on Route 128. The road to the airport is congested with taxis, horse-drawn carts, military vehicles, busses, bicycles and pedestrians. There are no curbs, lanes, speed limits or traffic signals. Pot holes and piles of trash make some parts of the road impassable.

“Lots of locals move along the streets and the Afghan National Army patrols all along the road to the airport. It’s definitely depressing to see the poverty in this city,” Tuttle said.

Afghanistan is a dangerous place, and the Corps of Engineers goes to extensive lengths to keep employees safe when they have to travel outside Qalaa House. The required traveling attire is a fire-retardant uniform and gloves, combat boots, a flak jacket and a helmet, ballistic eye wear, and an electronic device that sends a homing beacon if activated. Well-armed U.S. soldiers and private security personnel escort civilians at all times.

Tuttle typically flies from Kabul International Airport to construction sites across the country aboard a Russian-made Mi-8 transport helicopter under contract to the Corps of Engineers, but he’s also flown on U.S.-made C-130, C-117 and C-5 military cargo planes, among other types of aircraft.

“The military interaction seems very surreal to me,” Tuttle said. “These men and women need our thanks. They put themselves in harm’s way as they ensure that we civilians are protected and cared for while we accomplish our mission in Afghanistan.”

The days working in Kabul are long. Tuttle works Saturdays through Thursdays from 6:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and then a minimum of four hours on Fridays. “The days may seem long, but the weeks and months are flying by,” he said.

He makes the most of his half day off. “I have a BBQ lunch, and then I walk to the bazaar to see if there are any good trinkets to purchase,” he said. Other activities include volleyball games, an occasional massage at the



Photo by Mike Tuttle

Aerial photo of Tuttle's \$73 million Khair Khot Afghan National Army Project dubbed the Super FOB (Forward Operating Base).

spa and movies with friends. Hitting the gym always is an option, too.

Although he is far away from home, some of the faces around the compound are familiar because other New England District employees are also deployed in Afghanistan. “I work closely with Matt Tessier from the Design Branch. Matt and I along with a couple of others are considered the Fun Bunch – watching videos, playing cards or socializing after work hours,” he said. “Occasionally I bump into Rick Kristoff from Regulatory and Bogden Figiel from the Design Branch. Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre and I work in the same building, so we’re always conversing. I also have bumped into Jack Connelly and Joe Moyer from Construction during travels through Afghanistan.”

Tuttle enjoys interacting with Corps of Engineers people from other districts as well and has made a “ton” of new friends from across the United States. “It’s extremely funny to converse with someone from another district and then find out that they know or used to work with a member of the New England District,” he said. “Friendships are forged here that no doubt will last forever.”

Tuttle also enjoys his interactions with Afghan people. “There is an Af-

ghan civil engineer who works in my branch. He and I share our cultural experiences,” he said. “I also work with the Afghan National Army. There are plenty of Afghans, who are called ‘local nationals’ here, who are employed within the district. They include cooks, cleaners, maintenance workers, security guards and translators. I make an effort to converse with as many as I can.”

Seeing friendly faces in an often unfriendly country is a comfort, but Tuttle admits that he gets homesick from time to time. “The long durations being away from family and friends are tough, but fortunately we communicate through e-mails and telephone calls.”

Tuttle enjoys the company he keeps in Kabul, though naturally, he would welcome more New Englanders. He believes that others would find the work as rewarding as he has. Tuttle recommended that New England District employees who would like to join him on his adventure should speak to their supervisors or Human Resources representatives.

And of course, Tuttle is available to offer more of his personal insights. “Get your butts over here to Afghanistan and experience the thrill,” he urged. “I’m here until February 2011, so just call or send me an e-mail.”

District Commander recognizes Providence VA workers, tours construction work

Continued from page 1

as they were before renovations and repairs, the VA employees also assist District personnel by escorting contractors when needed and coordinating all the renovation moves.

Col. Feir thanked them for all they do. "I think it's great that you are able to assist us on this team," he said. "You are where the rubber meets the road and you help make our jobs easier. We really appreciate that."

The individuals who received the awards were Robert Fitzpatrick, Mark Totolani, Robert Dunston, Adonnis Brown, Karl Mann, John Balko, Ron Parrady, Vester Gross, Tom Finnegan and Wayne Johnson.

Jack Belleveau, Chief of Facilities Management Services for the VA in Providence, said he has enjoyed the working relationship with the New England District.

"I've never had a better partnership with a federal organization," he



This newly renovated treatment facility with state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment will help Veterans get on track to feeling better.

said. "It's been a win-win relationship. We are obviously not in the construction business and the Army Corps is, so we've been able to take advantage of their experience and technical knowledge in a variety of fields which has helped us avoid a major learning curve and mistakes."

After the awards ceremony, Col. Feir, Sean Dolan, New England District's Chief of Construction Division, and Morocco took a tour of the extensive rehabilitation work being performed at the hospital.

Because of the enormity and complexity of the work, many of the projects will be done in phases.

One of the larger projects currently being worked on includes fixing the crumbling brick facade on the Main Building. Phase I of this project is being performed by Legion Construction, which is a small, service-disabled Veteran-owned company.

"The facade and the parapet around the building are literally falling off," said Morocco. "Legion Construction is doing major masonry repairs for safety purposes."

Legion Construction is also working on the Chill-



Col. Philip Feir watches work being performed at the VA Providence Hospital.



Col. Philip Feir presents Bunker Hill awards to VA employees for their assistance to the New England District.

er Facility construction and has completed the new MRI facility.

Other contractors who are working with the District on this rehab project are Lincoln Construction (Pharmacy), Iron Clad Services, Inc., (PTSD Facility and rewiring entire facility); Brican, Inc. (steam heat / hot water heat conversion); and Nauset Construction (operating rooms).

Col. Feir also toured the new chiller facility, operating rooms, recovery rooms, and pharmacy currently under construction as well as the newly built research building and MRI facility.

As soon as a project is finished, such as the recently constructed Building 32 research building, it is put to immediate use.

Debra D'Allesandro, the administrative officer for one of the research programs at the VA, is very happy with her new home. "It's wonderful!" she said.

"We've moved from a trailer into this research building and it provides us with a great synergy with the other research groups that are in here," she said. "There are several research services within the VA, health services, rehab services. The rehab and the PTSD mental health are here, so now we are able to collaborate with them. It's much nicer to be able to have projects that are hooked together to help the veterans. We are very pleased."



Photos by Brian Murphy

Some of the work at the VA Hospital in Providence is so extensive, it will be performed in phases.

Scott Chapman, MRI Technologist, said he is very happy with the new MRI facility the District has constructed. "The facility sees about 10 patients a day and the number is growing," he said. "It's beautiful. We love it."

"We are now one of the top imaging centers in Rhode Island," said Lynn Macey, Administrative Officer of the VA's Diagnostic Imaging Service. "We're feeling really good about all of the upgrades that are going on at the hospital. We were in a trailer in the parking lot before. But we are now truly able to provide state-of-the-art diagnostic testing for all the Vets."

With the design of the room and the quickness of this MRI machine, Vets who have claustrophobia are having less of a problem and fewer have to go elsewhere to get treated. We are also attracting a higher caliber of staff, which is important as well."

The last stop on the VA Providence site visit was to the New England District trailer to present employees Commander's Coins for their outstanding work on the massive project thus far.

Recipients were Paul Battista, Randy LeCuyer, Jim Morocco, Jon Van Vliet and Mark Godfrey.

Van Vliet feels strongly that rehabilitation work that the Corps of Engineers is doing for the VA is a worthwhile project.

"It's in dire need of an upgrade," he said. "It's an eye opener to see how they've been operating for so many years. The work we're doing for them is kind of amazing. It's like we're rebuilding each section—the operating room, the intensive care unit, the pharmacy, etc. They need the state-of-the-art technology for the Vets."

Regional partnership with Veterans Administration will improve New England medical facilities

The New England District has teamed up with a sister federal agency in an effort to improve the care wounded Soldiers are getting at military hospitals.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Corps of Engineers entered into an interagency agreement in 2001 for the goods and services the Corps may provide to the VA when needed. These include project management, design services, construction management services, environmental services, preliminary technical investigations, surveying, and history presentation compliance at VA facilities.

Soldiers who were injured while supporting the War on Terrorism and now the Overseas Contingency Operations are coming home and needing care along with Veterans from other wars and conflicts. Many VA medical centers need updates and improvements to provide adequate care of these Soldiers.

A number of the hospitals were built in the 1950s, decades before the invention of high powered Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Axial Tomography Scan machines. These devices require enormous amounts of power – power that some hospitals are having difficulty supplying without causing dangerous hospital-wide blackouts.

According to Jennifer Flanagan, Project Manager, Congress has provided money to the VA to improve the facilities. “We’ve got all these Soldiers coming back and we’ve got to take care of them,” she said. “Some of these facilities are woefully inadequate to handle that.”

Two years ago, the VA started exercising its agreement with the Corps. Requests from the agency came in slowly at first, but now New England’s support to the VA counts as nearly one third of the District’s Interagency International Support (IIS) program. Currently, the program includes about 80

projects, totaling approximately \$100 million. “The VA was overwhelmed trying to get the work done,” said Flanagan. “The Corps agreed to provide whatever support they needed. It differs with each facility in terms of what they need based on existing staff and work, but we are willing and able to provide whatever support is necessary to get these facilities updated.”

The New England District supports the VISN1 VA which handles all of New England. There are 11 VA medical centers in the region – one in each New England state, five in Massachusetts, and two in Connecticut. Corps officials met with each facility director to ascertain how much help, if any, each director wanted or needed. “It varied depending on the facility,” said Flanagan. “Larger facilities like Providence and Boston are huge in terms of the staff, but also in terms of their program that needs to be executed.”

Over the past two years, the Dis-



The New England District recently completed this research building at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Providence, R.I.

Photo by Brian Murphy

trict has awarded over 47 Architect-Engineer (AE) design task orders and awarded 13 construction contracts for VISN1. VABoston Healthcare System, which includes the Brockton, Jamaica Plain, and West Roxbury Campuses, and the Providence Campus has requested the most assistance from the Corps. "In Providence, we are managing AE task orders but we are also issuing and awarding construction contracts and performing the Supervision and Administration (S&A) throughout the construction." said Flanagan

There are currently five full-time District employees in Providence performing Construction Management.

"The Corps awarded a \$3.5 million specialty clinic and pharmacy expansion in December 2009 and construction began in spring 2010," said Flanagan. "However, our Construction folks work tirelessly on projects awarded by the VA as well. Some of the construction that we're doing in Providence includes façade repairs of the hospital, replacing deteriorated electrical wiring throughout the hospital, replacing the cooling tower and chiller, and converting the existing steam heating to hot water heating, and that's just to name just a few."

The Providence VA Medical Center (VAMC) is currently a big focus for



Photo provided by Jennifer Flanagan

VA Northampton Central Chiller Plant project.

New England District. "Space is at a premium in Providence. We have multiple projects going on at the same time with hospital staff having to be relocated," said Flanagan. "Even the Hospital Director is working in a construction trailer right now."

Not all of the assistance the District is providing is for the big hospitals. "Last year we awarded five construction contracts in Northampton VAMC in Leeds, Mass., to replace the central chiller plant for the entire hospital, repair bathrooms in several buildings, replace elevators in several buildings, and replace windows in Building 1,"

said Flanagan. "Two of the projects are complete while three of them are on-going."

Last year, the District awarded about \$30 million of work for the VISN1 VA and it is predicted that the agency will need more assistance in years to come. Currently, the District is working on six large construction projects with more planned to be awarded within the next year. "We have a huge program with the VA," said Flanagan. "They are a valued customer to us and we have established a positive rapport with a mutual goal of providing a better medical facility for our Soldiers. Collectively, the District has stepped up and executed this program with tremendous success. However, all the credit goes to the Construction folks in the field (Providence, Bedford, Northampton, and Manchester) for what they have done over the last two years. They have worked long hours, dealt with short staffing and new requirements intrinsic to a hospital, and developed a relationship with a new customer and their staff."

In the last few years, the quality care that our wounded Soldiers in inadequate facilities nationwide has received negative attention. With the help of the Corps of Engineers, the VA hospitals will update their facilities and give our men and women in uniform the quality health care they deserve.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Interior renovation work at Providence VA Hospital.

Martial arts group performs at District

New England District employees and members of the Community Based Health Care Organization were treated to a Tae Kwon Do demonstration in celebration of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, May 6.

The event, which was held in the Concord Park Cafeteria, was sponsored by Jackie DiDomenico of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office and Peter Hugh of the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Program.

Tae Kwon Do is a modern martial art that uses fast, high and spinning kicks. It was created in Korea and has evolved over the course of over 2,000 years.

Master Jung Hun Youn of Youn's Taekwondo Studio headed the demonstration. He was assisted by Founder Master Jin Oh, Grand Master Chang Kang, Master Jae Uk Lee, Master Kim and Master Soon Woo Hong. The team demonstrated various high kicks and power punches to the delight of their audience.

The team then invited members of the audience, to include Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, to participate in

some board breaking techniques using moves previously demonstrated.



Members of Youn's Taekwondo Studio demonstrate intricate martial arts moves during the EEO presentation.

After their presentation, Master Youn received a Bunker Hill Plaque from Col. Feir in appreciation of the entertaining and educational presentation.

Master Jung Hun Youn is a national Taekwondo champion, a certified Kukkiwon instructor and an international referee. He currently runs a taekwondo studio in Marblehead, Mass., and is an instructor at the Winchester High School Mixed Martial Arts Program. Master Youn recently opened his own school, Youn's Taekwondo, in Bedford, Mass.

Other presentations included Hugh's introduction of the speaker and closing remarks. Hugh, who stepped down from his Program Manager position, also received a Bunker Hill Plaque from Col. Feir for his many years of faithful service to the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Program.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, demonstrates his martial arts capabilities when he breaks a board during the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Observance.

District cuts ribbon on new Hanscom Facility

Col. (P) Peter DeLuca, NAD commander, traveled from Fort Hamilton, N.Y., to join New England District team members and their customers in celebrating the opening of Building 1604 at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

The ribbon cutting ceremony took place May 3 in the main lobby of the new facility. Col. Philip Feir, New England District commander, joined Col. (P) DeLuca at the opening of Hanscom's newest facility.

"The design-build contract for the project was awarded on Sept. 12, 2008," said Project Manager Ken Paton. "Design work was performed through the winter and construction of the facility started on April 17, 2009."

According to Paton, the two-story building was turned over to the customer on April 30, which was the original completion date.

J&J Construction of Lowell, Mass., and BBIX, an Architect-Engineer Firm from Boston, Mass., were awarded the \$11,087,000 contract. An additional \$1,130,000 was also awarded for furniture.

In addition to constructing Building 1604, the New England District constructed a heavy equipment facility on the base in 2007.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. (P) Peter DeLuca and U.S. Air Force officials cut the ribbon on Building 1604.

The New England District has also prepared a design-build request for proposal for a 4,000-square-foot mental health clinic addition. That project could be funded some time in Fiscal Year 2011.

In addition to Col. (P) DeLuca, Col. Feir and Paton, William Scully, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Jim Doucakis Conrad Menard, and Kathleen Pendergast attended the event.

Partnership seeks to restore the Atlantic Salmon

**By Natalie McCormack
Park Ranger**

Each year, in an effort to restore Atlantic Salmon populations in the Pemigewasset and Merrimack Rivers, local and federal agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game, stock hundreds of thousands of salmon fry along the shores of these rivers and their tributaries.

To aid in the efforts, many of volunteers donate their time to come out on the cold mornings of late spring and work long into the afternoons wading into the still frigid waters searching for the perfect spots to release the young fish.

The goal of these efforts is to hopefully one day establish a healthy native population of Atlantic Salmon that will return to these rivers to spawn. The fry that have been stocked this spring will stay in the rivers for three years before



New England District employees prepare to release salmon fry into New Hampshire waters.

heading south and eventually out to sea. There they will feed and continue to grow. When the salmon have matured into adult fish, they will return from the sea to head north to the rivers and streams that they once called home as young fry to spawn.

The success rate of this program depends on many factors. Predation, pollution, and man-made structures that affect the fish's ability to migrate up or downstream have all become significant factors in preventing the survival of native salmon populations. It is the hope of these contributing agencies that with

continued stocking efforts and improvements in environmental awareness these fish will once again rule the rivers.

Along with stocking Atlantic salmon fry, brood stock are also added to the rivers; although for an entirely different reason.

This year nearly 400 brood stock salmon will be released into the Franklin Falls reservoir for the sole purpose of sport fishing. These fish along with the many other sport cold water fish that are either stocked or live naturally in these New England waterways will attract thousands of fishermen and wildlife watchers to the region.

New Hampshire, which is known for its excellent fishing opportunities, depends on the stocking of these fish to support the state's economy.

This year New Hampshire Fish and Game chose to stock 75 of its brood stock on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property in Bristol, NH. The park in which they stocked, named Coolidge Woods has perfect terrain for fly fishing, but is not limited to just that style of angling.



The front exterior of the Esek Hopkins Armed Forces Reserve Center in Cranston, R.I.

Photos by Brian Murphy

District restoring Reserve Center in Cranston

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, went to Cranston, R.I., to conduct a site visit of one of the District's Armed Forces Reserve Center projects.

The site visit, which took place on May 27 was part of a larger, day-long trip to Rhode Island that included a visit to the Providence Veterans Administration hospital.

"This project is a full facility restoration of the Esek Hopkins Armed Forces

Reserve Center," said project engineer John MacPherson. "The project includes work to repair and bring the existing 63,773 square foot training building up to current standards."

The U.S. Navy originally constructed the facility in the early 1970s and was turned over to the U.S. Army in 2006. The contractor, The Nutmeg Companies, Inc., of Norwich, Conn., is performing the work on this \$7.5 million project. Repairs to the facility include

replacing aging floors, ceilings, doors, and electrical systems with new, modern materials and systems that meet current codes that will include ADA-compliance considerations.

A new elevator will also be provided, the main entrance lobby will be enhanced, and new systems furniture will be provided.

Work on the project began in December 2009 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.



The inside of the Armed Forces Facility is being completely renovated. Above: Col. Feir gets a briefing from John MacPherson.

Water safety emphasized during the summer

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

As summer vacation is here for many and the temperatures climb higher, more and more people will be recreating near or in the water. Now is the time to think about water safety and boating safety.

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children. Yet, it is possible – just by wearing a life jacket or taking other precautions – to reduce drowning deaths. An estimated 70 percent of reported boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received safety instruction; and of those victims who drowned in boating incidents, nearly 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages nearly 12 million acres of public lands and waters nationwide, offers the following safety tips to help recreation seekers stay safe in water over the Fourth of July holiday weekend and through the hot summer months.

Alcohol and water activities don't mix

Approximately one-third of all boating accidents and fatalities involve alcohol. Just one beer can impair balance, vision, judgment, and reaction time. Boating fatigue combined with alcohol consumption intensifies the effects of both and increases accident risks.

Boaters should know the rules

Boaters should take appropriate safety classes, be familiar with governing state laws and have proper safety equipment onboard before boating.

Wear a life jacket – don't just carry one on board. Make sure life jackets are U.S. Coast Guard-approved and appropriately sized. Most states

require children under the age of 13 to wear life jackets. Don't overload the boat (consider boat size, the number passengers, and extra equipment before loading).

Check your boat for all required safety equipment. Carry a set of navigational charts. Check the weather forecast and get updates. File a float plan with family or friends who are not

swim alone.

Water safety must be a top priority for everyone using the nation's waterways and lakes throughout the summer. An estimated 360 million people visit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas nationwide annually. Please make your visit to any recreation area a safe and enjoyable one.



Anglers fish on the banks of the Cape Cod Canal. (Photo by Kevin Burke)

on the boat so someone will know if you are late to return or missing.

Watch your children

It only takes a child an average of 20 seconds to drown, according to water safety officials. Watch your children at all times when around the water. Don't let them wander very far from the adults and never let them go into the water unless you know it.

Learn to swim

Surprisingly, two-thirds of those who drown never had the intention of being in the water. It makes sense to learn to swim if you will be around water. Never dive into lakes and rivers – the results can be tragic. Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat. Don't take chances by over-estimating your swimming skills. Reach or throw a flotation device to help someone in trouble. Don't go in the water! Swim only in designated swimming areas and never

camping.

Most Corps-managed recreation areas are open through the middle of September. There are beaches and boat ramps available at reservoirs and lakes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information go to the Corps' New England District recreation webpage at <http://www.nae.usace.mil/recreati/recreati.htm>.

For those who want to camp, the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) makes it possible for campers to make reservations for campsites at New England District's three campgrounds, as well as nearly 40,000 Corps of Engineers and Forest Service campsites nationwide. Campers can reserve campsites as much as 240 days in advance for as long as 14 nights in one location. The toll free number is (877) 444-6777 and the website is www.recreation.gov.

Federal Recreation Areas in New England

There are numerous opportunities to enjoy recreation at the 31 federal flood risk management protection reservoirs and the Cape Cod Canal in New England this Fourth of July holiday weekend and throughout the summer. Most areas feature small lakes with facilities designed for day use such as picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting. There are also a few facilities for overnight

New England District team receives Coastal America award for Bride Brook Restoration project

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, joined Engineering/Planning's Bill Hubbard and Barbara Blumeris in Lyme, Conn., on May 2 to attend a Coastal America event to receive an award for another successful project.

The New England District and its Coastal America partners received high honors for the completion of the Bride Brook Restoration Project. The project is located at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme and features the second largest alewife run in Long Island Sound, with the Connecticut River being the largest. Bride Brook is critical for migrating fish populations.

Prior to the restoration, the original steel culvert structures restricted tidal flow, particularly at low tide. The restrictions waterlogged the soils and were the primary cause of upstream marshes drowning. In addition to the tidal flow restrictions, the culverts posed a danger because they were severely corroded to the point of imminent collapse, which would shut down the alewife run.

"In 2001, the New England District team members performed planning studies and then later in the project provided planning assistance to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) to assess culvert options to restore the degraded wetland and improve fish passage," said Blumeris.

Work on the project included dewatering the site; installing a stream diversion pipe; removing the existing culverts and headwalls; excavating a dune; installing new headwalls and a box culvert; re-establishing dune elevations and installing downstream riprap to control erosion of the channel.

The Bride Brook Restoration Project has already reaped environmental benefits with an increase in American Shad, Striped Bass and American Eel passing through the project.

The Coastal America Partnership is an action-



Laura Furgione, Assistant Administrator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, presented the Coastal America Award to Barbara Blumeris, Bill Hubbard and Col. Philip Feir.

oriented, results-driven collaboration process dedicated to restoring and preserving coastal ecosystems and addressing critical environmental issues. The Partnership brings together people and resources from federal agencies, state and local

governments, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to collaboratively address the nation's coastal environmental challenges.

The New England District's partners for this project included the Office of Long Island Sound Programs, CTDEP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, SNE-NY Coastal Ecosystem Program, NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Connecticut College, USDA-NRCS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Save the Sound, TNC, Ducks Unlimited and the Connecticut Chapter of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

Employees of the District who are on the Bride Brook Environmental Restoration team are Barbara Blumeris, Larry Oliver, Cori Rose, and Bill Hubbard.



Photos provided by Engineering/Planning

The new culvert at Bride Brook.

District employee receives New England state's top federal honor

Katrina Sedney of Regulatory's Vermont Project Office has been named Vermont's Federal Employee of the Year for 2010 by the Vermont Federal Executive Association.

Sedney was honored at the Association's awards luncheon, held May 6 in South Burlington, Vermont.

Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, and representatives from Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernard Sanders Office as well as a representative from Representative Peter Welch's Office were on hand at the luncheon to praise Sedney and the rest of the federal employees who were receiving various awards for jobs well done.

Sedney, who is a Legal Instruments Examiner for the Vermont Project Office, was honored for her outstanding efforts and dedication to the Regulatory Program in Vermont.

"She reviews permit packages for completeness, processes non-controversial applications for work under the Vermont General Permit, inspects work under permits for compliance and provides assistance to prospective applicants over the phone or in person," said Marty Abair, Senior Project Manager. Abair is also Sedney's supervisor and nominator.

Last year, Sedney was responsible for 317 final actions on permits – 72 percent of the final actions at the Vermont Project Office. And when the decisions were not popular with people, she handled them in a professional manner.

"Tina works in a very controversial program where she is often conveying information that the public finds distressing," said Abair. "In every instance each and every citizen that she has come in contact with has come away from the experience with renewed trust in their government."

In addition, Sedney provides invaluable administrative support to the two senior project managers in Vermont and is considered the local expert on the national Ombil Regulatory Module (ORM) database and does the majority of the data entry into the system for the project office.

"If she doesn't know the answer to an ORM question, I can always depend on her to quickly find the answer," said



Photo provided by the Vermont Project Office

Katrina Sedney of New England District's Regulatory Vermont Project Office is Vermont's Federal Employee of the Year for 2010.

Abair. "She provides valuable support for the entire Permits Branch by also completing database entries for many of the projects in New Hampshire."

To add to an already hectic workload, Sedney has taken

the initiative to make the office "greener" by converting the project office's voluminous paper files into a digital format. "This is a monumental task, as our paper files date back to the mid-70s," said Abair.

Sedney's professionalism and work ethic make her truly deserving of the title, Vermont Federal Employee of the Year.

"Tina comports herself professionally and is completely responsive to the public," said Abair. "Regardless of the question or concern, even if it is outside the mission of her office, she will get an answer or find someone that can. Tina truly provides support to the project office and the entire New England District Regulatory Program."

'Tina truly provides support to the project office and the entire New England District Regulatory Program.'

*- Marty Abair, Senior Project Manager
Vermont Project Office*

Dredging up the past . . .



Joe Ledgere, Basin Manager, and Les Burgess, Barre Falls Dam Operator, inspect the gages at Barre Falls Dam in this 1973 photo.

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