

GBFEB
Awards
Page 6



Women's
History
Celebration
Page 8



Yankee Voices.....	2
Commander's Column.....	3
Martin Retirement	7
Recreation Areas Opening.....	9
Contractor Award.....	10
Fort Fairfield.....	11
Dredging Up the Past.....	12



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Volume 40, No. 7

Yankee Engineer

April 2005

Corps awards contract to complete second CERCLA five-year review for various sites at Devens

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract to Nobis Engineering, Inc. of Concord, New Hampshire, on Feb. 23, 2005 to complete a second CERCLA five-year review report for various sites at the former Fort Devens, Mass.

The initial CERCLA five-year review report was previously completed by the Army in September 2000.

By statute, remedial actions performed under Section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Compensa-

tion and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and with a Record of Decision (ROD) signed on or after Oct. 17, 1986, require site reviews no more than five years after initiation of a remedial action and every five years thereafter if upon completion of the remedial action, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

The purpose of a five-year review is

to evaluate the performance of the site remedy in order to determine if the remedy is or will be protective of human health and the environment. Protectiveness is generally defined in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) by the risk range and the hazard index.

Evaluation of the site remedy and the determination of protectiveness will be based on the site ROD and Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) if applicable, Applicable or Relevant and

Continued on page 10

Winning young hearts and minds

Richalie Griffith, Engineering/Planning, poses with some Iraqi children during her tour in Iraq. Griffith is currently serving as a project engineer in the effort to rebuild Iraq. Griffith has also taken on some unexpected humanitarian work. To read more, please turn to page 4.



Photo provided by Richalie Griffith

Yankee Voices



Eva Marie D'Antuono
Small Business

35th Anniversary of Earth Day

Since 1970, environmental groups around the country and the world have chosen the third Saturday in April to focus on ecological issues, such as pollution, endangered species, and overdevelopment, trying to bring about reform and improve the quality of life.

The Earth Day Network -- 12,000 environmental groups in 174 countries -- established 2005's theme as "Fostering Healthy Environments for Children."

"This year, our aim is to inspire a new generation of leaders to champion environmental causes that will deter practices contributing to the substandard and unhealthy living conditions for children," the group said.

According to EDN, more than 40 percent of the world's children under five carry diseases that can be attributed to environmental factors. These include lack of pure water, inadequate personal hygiene, lack of sanitation, unsafe food, air pollution, and chemical hazards.

(Ideas Unlimited)

Congratulations

...to **Mike Vadnais**, Survey Section, and his wife, **Dawn**, on the birth of their son, **Christopher Michael**, March 25.

... to **Ted Lento**, Regulatory, who was recently praised by the newspaper, "*Winthrop Sun Transcript*," as, "extremely knowledgeable, competent and well respected -- a fine representative of good government."

...to **Peg Lorenzo**, Real Estate, who has been chosen as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for April 2005. Lorenzo received the honor for being instrumental in obtaining real estate access along the Housatonic River for a major Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Project in Pittsfield, Mass.

...to the **Cocheco River Dredging Project Team** for being chosen as Team of the Month for April 2005. This project has had a long history of starts and stops but it is now under construction. Team members include **Mike Walsh, Bob Meader, Paul O'Brien, Tim Casey, John Perry, John Garabedian, Steve Johnson, Steve Kelly, Scott Michalak, Yuri Yatsevitch, Tom Marcotte, Bob Zwahlen, Wendell Mah, Trish Sumner, Rachel Raposa, and Todd Randall.**

Sympathy

...to **Claire Sullivan**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of her brother, **Eugene A. "Geno" DeLorme**, March 19.

... to the family of retired Water Control employee, **Paul Hetu, Jr.**, who passed away March 21. Hetu's wife, **Susan**, is a former Contracting Division employee. Hetu was a decorated veteran, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart during his service. A civil engineer, Hetu was also a member of the Society of American Military Engineers. He retired from the Corps of Engineers with over 34 years of service.

...to **Michael Curran**, Operations Manager, Upper Connecticut River Basin, and his wife, **Barbara**, on the passing of Barbara's father, **James Lee**. Lee was a former New England District employee, working in the late 50s - early 60s in the Design Branch.

... to the family of New England District retiree **Louis Galligan**, who passed away March 11. Mr. Galligan worked for the Corps for 32 years and retired in 1973.

...to the family of **Ursula Sarno**, Office of Counsel retiree, who passed away March 30. Sarno worked for the Corps of Engineers for almost 20 years before her retirement.

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>

District EngineerCol. Thomas L. Koning
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione
Stay-In-School.....Kimberly Osgerby

Commander's Corner:

Col. Koning updates on personnel status

by Col. Thomas Koning
District Engineer



As I promised in my last e-mail to you (FY06 and Impacts on Personnel Status - 15 March 05), I want to keep you updated on what is going on. The District is attacking both the areas of reducing the workforce and increasing our workload. There are a tremendous number of unknowns and information is not complete.

The short-term future (through the end of FY05) gets clearer everyday, but the longer term future (FY06 and beyond) is very difficult to predict. We eagerly await the continuing steps in the congressional budget cycle that will eventually provide us a clear picture of our future workload. Bottom-line, New England District is making some progress, but we still have a way to go.

Shaping the workforce continues to be a top priority for the senior leaders of the District and dominates discussion in the PBAC and sometimes other meetings. In very gross numbers, we believe we have identified just under half of the 30 FTE's we need to reduce between now and FY06. This includes folks who will retire, have opted to transfer to other organizations outside of NAE, and those who have or will move to more productive positions within NAE - and this number also includes the offset created by new hires and people who have return rights in the next year. What I am counting are:

Organization	Losses	Gains
PPMD	3	1
Eng/Plng	6	4
Con/Ops	12	5
All Others	8	6

I am intentionally being vague with the numbers and listing only the largest Divisions separately because all the adjustments have not happened yet and things will change. Additionally, there are several other initiatives in the District, Region and all of USACE of a temporary nature that might help us too. For example, we have had folks in both Con/Ops and Engineering apply for TDY assignments with other Districts both inside and outside the North Atlantic Region. Four of these people will begin six-month TDY assignments with the Norfolk District shortly and another will start with the Jacksonville District. We have had at least three opportunities where Eng/Plng folks took temporary assignments within the District.

There are additional folks in Con/Ops who have taken temporary assignments both within the District and one outside the District.

The sharing of workload between Districts is also starting to work better. Making the North Atlantic Region seamless is hard, but we have recently seen some examples of success. Con/Ops is starting a virtual project engineer opportunity with the Baltimore District. Eng/Plng has begun some ITR (Independent Technical Review) on the upcoming modularity efforts at Fort Drum via the New York District. Even the Office of Counsel is doing some legal review in the HTRW area for a sister District. Likewise, New England has shared work with others in the Region. Although this is not a great long list, it is the start of shifting workload to the resources vice adjusting the workforce.

The above listed efforts are a great start, but they are not yet enough. We continue to need the employees of New England District to be active participants in making us sound. I ask you to be flexible and willing to accept new ideas. To this end, the District is closely monitoring our hiring actions. Only positions approved by the PBAC will be allowed to be advertised. We must maximize our internal talents first - be open to moving from a position of underemployed/underfunded to other positions that need assistance. Additionally, we have scrutinized the justification for summer hires and reduced the numbers of summer hire students we will use this coming summer. While this only resulted in minor reductions at our operations projects, we reduced the number in Concord Park by about 50%. Although we are still funding training throughout the District, other travel opportunities and conferences have been minimized or declined. Just this week I declined two TDY trips that I would normally have gone on because they were not 100% related to NAE projects. I know PPMD, OC, SADB, Exec, Reg, RM and E/P have all reduced non-mission-related travel in some way.

We are finalizing our ability to direct folks on TDY. I would encourage everyone to step forward and consider voluntary TDY opportunities so that we do not have to take more draconian measures. Lastly, we will be opening another window (April 15 to May 30) for the workforce to consider VSIP and VERA opportunities. Your leadership will be discussing this with eligible people in the near future.

Thank you for your support and interest in the future of the District. My intent is to be open and candid with all of you so that you will have the confidence that the District leadership is focusing on this issue with our best intentions. This is hard - and I thank those who have stepped forward and volunteered to be flexible.

Adventures in Iraq:

Engineer helps rebuild a nation while helping its children

by Ann Marie R. Harvie, Public Affairs

When Richalie Griffith volunteered to help the Corps of Engineers rebuild Iraq, she knew her work there could positively change the lives of the Iraqi people. But when she arrived at the Anaconda Base on Feb. 2, she didn't know that she would be directly touching the lives of the children.

Originally identified to work as a construction representative, Griffith, a DA Intern at the New England District, quickly assumed the duties of a project engineer doing various QA, review and inspection work.

That was when Charlie Comer and learned of his personal crusade to put a smile on the face of the Iraqi kids visiting the base's hospital.

Comer had been passing out treats and gifts to the children since November 2002, and didn't want the good work he started to end. Griffith didn't have to be asked twice. "I took it over because I went out to the gate and saw the kids," she said. "Most don't have shoes. A lot of them are injured, some badly. To think that they are in pain or are cold and don't really have much at home is something I could not see. I have seen little

children with gunshot wounds. If I can give them something as small as a toy and see them so happy, it makes the whole scene so much better."

Griffith said that the children that receive the presents are from different parts of Iraq. Some arrive at Anaconda to have injuries treated while others are visiting relatives that are patients, such as Iraqi police and National Guardsmen who have been injured. "Each day there is a different number," she said. "I can't even count how many come through here."

There is one child, however, that Griffith won't ever forget. "I went up to a little girl to give her some small toys and she turned to look at me," she explained. "I saw that part of her face was gone. She had been shot in the face when she was younger. It was horrible. She

looked about 3 or 4 years old. I have never seen a child so happy to receive a gift in my life. She was so happy to get a doll."

Aiding Griffith with her charity work is Capt. Chris Ackerman, a Health Facility Planning Officer who is overseeing the construction and design of the hospitals and warehouses at Anaconda and surrounding areas. "His family and friends send stuff all the time," said Griffith.

Griffith also turned to her New England District co-workers and requested that they send items to her so that she could pass them on to the children. And as they have always done when asked for help, District employees responded to her request.

Beverly Lawrence rallied the aid of her two daughters' Brownie and Girl Scout troops, which sent eight boxes with over 140 pounds of toys, school supplies, and candy to the kids as a service project.

"As soon as I read Richalie's request for toys and school supplies, I knew I wanted to help," she said. "I remembered at the Girl Scout meeting I had in late January with Marissa's Brownie troop (which I am the main Leader), when we were discussing items we needed to do this year to prepare the Brownies to Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts, one of the 3rd graders said 'so when are we going to help people?' Although we have done a couple of projects this year to help people, they all agreed they wanted to do more."

Both of Lawrence's daughters were excited to help out other kids. "It felt good to help the kids, and to give toys to



Photo provided by Richalie Griffith

A little girl, with her infant sibling in tow, runs to get a goodie bag from Richalie Griffith.



Photo provided by Richalie Griffith

Richalie Griffith (left) and Lonnie Hansen receives goods to pass out to Iraqi children while they visit the Anaconda Base.

kids who didn't have much," said Marissa Lawrence of Brownie Troop 3711, Reading, Mass. "I enjoyed trying to fit everything in the box."

"It made me feel good," said Meredith Lawrence of Girl Scout Troop 3297 also in Reading. "In a way I feel like I just packed up boxes and carried them to the post office, but I know I helped the kids."

Troops 3295 and 1306 also of Reading heard what the Lawrence girls were doing and pitched in to help pack the boxes.



Photo by Beverly Lawrence

Meredith and Melissa Lawrence ship boxes of toys and other goods for Iraqi children.



Photo by Beverly Lawrence

Brownie Troop 3711 draw pictures and write notes to Iraqi children before packing up boxes to be sent overseas.

The New England District's Work Environment (WE) Committee also stepped in and offered to reimburse postage to anyone who would send a package to Griffith. The committee donated over \$100 in the effort.

"We were very happy to help out with Richalie's humanitarian efforts in Iraq," said Jerry Stalder, WE Committee Chair.

Richalie Griffith is not the only New England District employee in Iraq who finds satisfaction in aiding the country's smallest citizens.

Bob Hanacek, who is currently serving as a resident engineer in Tallil, has

received about 20 boxes (400 to 500 pounds) of school supplies such as calculators, pencils, erasers, chalk and toys and soccer balls for the local children. His son Mark's Boy Scout Troop 273 from Dudley, Mass., sent the goods, which are put in plastic bags and given to students whenever a new school is opened.

Griffith is expected to return to New England District at the end of May. But she has found her work so fulfilling, both as a project engineer and gift giver, she wants to return as soon as she possibly can. "I plan on returning June 26," she said. "That's June 26, 2005."



Photo provided by Richalie Griffith

Iraqi children play with the contents of their packages while at Anaconda Base.

New England District Support personnel celebrated with awards of appreciation

New England District's top support personnel received honors and a day of appreciation in Boston, Mass., from their supervisors.

The Greater Boston Federal Executive Board's 31st Annual Support Personnel Awards Program took place April 13 at the Boston Marriott Hotel/Copley Place. Supervisors at the District named 13 support personnel that were deserving of the honor.

The Corps of Engineers was one of 45 federal agencies to participate in the award program. The 13 employees were chosen for their commitment and dedication to their agency and for continually achieving the highest standards in their field.

Joseph Bocchino, Executive Assistant, organized the New England District's participation in the event.

"This is only a small thanks for all the good things done by these deserving thirteen," he said. "The District cannot express its gratitude enough to these folks. It is our pleasure to honor and recognize their hard work."

"I felt honored," said Kevin Branch, Regulatory, of being selected. "I felt that someone does care about the work that I do at the Corps."

"In these troubled times, our federal employees have risen to extraordinary heights making sure that this country continues to head in the right direction and we thank you for this," wrote Diane LeBlanc, Chair of the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board in a letter congratulating each award recipient. "Let us all never forget those that have sacrificed so much so we can be free."

As part of the Patriotic theme of the event, each employee received a plaque that depicted the five stamps in the U.S. Postal Service's Old Glory Prestige Stamp Booklet. The U.S. Postal Service sponsored this year's awards program, which was dedicated for the men



Photo by Brian Murphy

The New England District award recipients for 2005 proudly display their certificates.

and women who have lost their lives fighting for the freedom of American citizens.

Speakers at the luncheon included LeBlanc and Marsha A. Cannon, Postmaster Boston, U.S. Postal Service and

gether," she said. "The luncheon was very good and the awards were in a beautiful frame. The theme was patriotic and the speaker was very entertaining."

"I think programs like this are im-

'The District cannot express its gratitude enough to these folks. It is our pleasure to honor and recognize their hard work.'

- Joseph Bocchino, Executive Assistant

Chair, GBFEB Support Personnel Awards Committee 2005. Mike Dee, Chief Operating Officer, Boston Red Sox served as the keynote speaker for the day. A musical performance by Tracy Silva, POPSearch 2004 Winner, complemented the luncheon enjoyed by honorees. "The event was very nice," said Branch. "I enjoyed Tracy Silva very much. The lunch was great."

Two-time support award winner Julie Canney of Information Management was impressed with this year's event. "We all had a good time to-

portant," said Branch. "Administrative personnel work so hard for other people, and sometimes they don't get the recognition they deserve. Programs like this give us a boost. It makes me feel good as a person."

The New England District winners of the 2005 Support Personnel Awards are Judy Antonellis, Kevin Branch, Janet Brayden, Julie Canney, Eileen Hughes, Laura Lally, Gladys Leone, Helen Newcomb, Ella Minincleri, Andrea Pittman, Susan Rodkey, Rosalie Tekeyan, and Angie Vanaria.



Photos provided by Joanne Ellis.

Bob Martin (right) cuts his retirement cake as his wife, Meg, looks on.



Joanne Ellis (left) and Judy Antonellis (right) get a hug from Bob Martin during his retirement celebration.

Martin retires with over 30 years of federal service

Friends and family members gathered at Hanscom Air Force Base's Minuteman Lounge to celebrate the career of an employee who has recently joined the New England District's retirement community.

Over 60 people attended the late afternoon celebration for Bob Martin, Programs/Project Management, who retired with over 30 years of federal service. Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Speakers that included Mike Tuttle, Dave Larsen, and Joe Bocchino lined up to praise Martin and to tease him a little bit before they sent him on his way. Scully performed the official part of the retirement ceremony by presenting Martin with his retirement certificate and pin.

Beginning his career in a training program with the Corps of Engineers, New England Division in June 1975, Martin moved to the Planning Division one year later. During his time

in planning, Martin worked on many studies while in the Urban Studies Branch and then worked on small projects under the Continuing Authorities Program while in the Plan Formulation Branch.

He remained in Planning until he moved to Programs/Project Management in 1996. While in that division, he managed military projects for Westover Air Reserve Base, the 94th Army Reserve Support Command and several other smaller projects. In addition to his service with the Corps of Engineers, Martin is a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy.

During the retirement party, Martin received a Dremel wood-cutting tool and a Woodcraft Supply Corp. gift certificate. He plans on spending his retirement traveling in his recreational vehicle and practicing his wood-working craft.

Martin's wife, Meg and daughter, Stephanie, accompanied him to the party. Retirees who attended were Bill Swaine, Dick Semonian, Ray Francisco, and Bob Gauvreau.



(from left) Dave Goodrich and Donna Russell enjoy good food and good company at the Martin retirement celebration.



Bob Martin (left) receives his retirement certificate from Bill Scully (right). Meg Martin, Bob's wife, participated in the presentation.

Women's History Month: EPA Official discusses how women change the environment

A New England region official from the Environmental Protection Agency visited the New England District on March 18 to discuss how women have influenced changes in environmental awareness.

Linda Murphy, Director of the EPA's New England Office of Ecosystem Protection, served as keynote speaker for the New England District's annual Women's History Month Celebration, held in the Concord Park theater. The theme of this year's event, which was hosted jointly by the Federal Women's Program and the EEO Office, was "Women Change America."

Murphy began her presentation with a brief summation of her own career as a civil engineer. The eldest of six children, she had a passion for mathematics and science and a desire to go to college. According to Murphy, she saw her uncle, the only other person in her family to attend college, as a role model. She attended engineering school at a time when very few women were enrolled.

The keynote speaker attended Tufts University as one of three women in the Engineering program and was one of only two who graduated. She took a position with the USDA, when she was a graduate student. Although the position called for an engineer, she was given engineering technician work to do throughout her time with the agency.

Eventually she was able to get a job with an agency just forming – EPA. "The culture at EPA was so different than USDA back then," she said. "There were more female engineers, some of which were older and served as role models."

Murphy said that she felt very fortunate to work at EPA and that it has shaped her life. "I've been able to do a lot of things that I could only dream about in high school," she said. "I encountered no discrimination at EPA and no resentment when I was promoted into the first woman supervisory position under what was then a very firmly-established affirmative action policy."

After giving her background, Murphy spoke about the history of EPA and the creation of Earth Day in 1970. At that

time, according to Murphy, there was a groundswell of public support for environmental issues. Central to the public education about the environment was a book by Rachel Carson entitled, "A Silent Spring," published in 1962.

"Carson's book chronicled the effects of indiscriminate application of pesticides and chemicals that were widely used at the time," said Murphy. "President (John F.) Kennedy, after reading her book, was moved into action and called for chemical testing."

Carson is widely considered the founder of the modern environmental movement in America, according to Murphy.

The keynote speaker chronicled Carson's life and environmental career. "I am just in absolute awe as to what Rachel Carson accomplished as a woman in federal service in the 1930's and 40's," she said. "I can't even imagine what it must have been like to be the only woman to have passed a civil service test."

Murphy said that she believed that Rachel Carson changed America. "Not only did her work change the physical environment, she

also changed the way that the public perceives the environment and how the government conducted its business."

The keynote speaker then spoke about Dr. Wangari M. Maathai, Kenya's Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and the recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Maathai founded the greenbelt movement on Earth Day 1977 in order to stem the widespread deforestation and erosion of soils that was depleting Kenya's natural resources. "She treated deforestation and erosion as women's issues because women were responsible for the gathering firewood and water," she explained. "No trees meant a longer walk for firewood and soil erosion meant a longer walk to get water. Longer walks meant less time the women could tend to their homes and children."

Since 1977 the greenbelt movement has planted almost 30 million trees in Kenya and is active in over 30 countries all over



Photos by Brian Murphy
Linda Murphy, Director of the EPA's New England Office of Ecosystem Protection discusses the role of women in the environment during the Women's History Month celebration.

the world. The movement provides income for about 80,000 people and has empowered African women to take charge of their own future, according to Murphy. "Not only has Wangari Maathai changed Kenya, she has changed the world," she said. "For the first time in Nobel history, Dr. Maathai has linked the struggle for world peace with the struggle for environmental protection."

Murphy said that she encounters ordinary women who are making environmental contributions every day. Although they are as dramatic as the changes the two women she spoke of made, they are still changing America. Murphy named advocates who have successfully lobbied EPA to designate contaminated areas as Superfund sites, such as Erin Brochovich and Ann Anderson.

"They are good examples of women taking control of their own destinies, particularly in the area of things that affect their homes and their children," she said. "They have taken on government regulators to assure that their concerns were addressed."

Women are also organizing volunteer monitoring groups for streams in their watersheds and rallying in their neighborhoods for conduction controls for polluters that affect the environment in their neighborhoods.

Murphy said that at the last World Monitoring Day she met a teacher who used the environmental event as a hands-on science project for her students. She taught these students about pollution and asked them to monitor a nearby stream for pollution, according to Murphy.

"She got these kids to become expert volunteer water monitors and they actually passed the federal quality control procedures, which is no small feat," she said. "The teacher has instilled in these students an environmental ethic that I hope

will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Murphy discussed how women at EPA have changed the fabric of the workforce. When EPA employees unionized, women were instrumental in adopting flexitime, part time opportunities, job sharing and alternative workplaces to help employees balance work with home life.

The keynote speaker concluded her presentation by offering pamphlets on how to better care for the environment and took questions from the audience.

In his remarks, William Hubbard, Acting Deputy District Engineer, reminded the audience that this year marks the 85th anniversary women in the United States winning the right to vote.

Hubbard said that Special Emphasis Programs such as the Women's History event is an important part of the way the Corps of Engineers celebrates its diversity. He thanked Murphy for her presentation with a Bunker Hill plaque.

Regulatory Chief Christine Godfrey introduced the keynote speaker and said that she had worked with Murphy in the past in the Regulatory arena. "Linda's example and what she has been able to achieve provides a role model for me and for other women aspiring for leadership," she said.

"Linda Murphy's address was eloquent and comprehensive," said Barbara Blumeris, Federal Women's Program Manager, of Murphy's address. "She reinforced my desire to do the best I can everyday."

EEO Officer Dianna Barela agreed with Hubbard's view on Special Emphasis Programs. "We should challenge ourselves to learn more from one another, i.e., cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, professional experiences, training, etc.," she said. "We would be amazed how many commonalities we share!"

New England District Recreation areas set to open

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Recreation areas at the 31 federal flood control reservoirs in New England operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will open to the public in mid-May 2005.

"Most areas offer a wide range of recreational opportunities, including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting, while a few also provide facilities for overnight camping," said Richard C. Carlson, Chief of Construction/Operations for the Corps of Engineers in New England.

Fishing is permitted at all federal flood control reservoirs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The only requirement to fish the lakes is a state license and adherence to state regulations. Trout, bass pickerel, hornpout and perch inhabit most reservoirs, while

a few areas have their own specialties. Many of the areas are stocked by state fish and game agencies to provide some of the finest fishing in the region.

Developed facilities, including beaches, picnic areas, athletic fields and campgrounds are available at a number of locations. Many are open to individuals or small groups free on a first come, first served basis. A nominal fee is charged to reserve covered picnic shelters. Large groups may be required to obtain user permits for small fee.

For a brochure about recreational opportunities, including direction to each site, write to the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, MA 01742-2751. For more information about Corps recreation and activities, check the website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/recreati.htm>

Corps awards contract for various sites at Devens

Continued from page 1

Appropriate Requirements (ARARs), long term monitoring, operation and maintenance data and inspections of the sites. Each site will be visited to assess whether the remedy remains operational and functional, in compliance, and whether existing institutional controls are appropriate and/or whether additional institutional controls are recommended.

The baseline risk assessment will be reviewed for appropriateness based on available annual monitoring data, ARARs review, results of the site visit, and other pertinent data, with a conclusion made concerning the protectiveness of the remedy. The review will also identify any deficiencies, if any are found, and make recommendations to address them.

A second five-year statutory review will be conducted on 16 previously remediated sites.

As recommended by EPA, three sites where the remedy has been in place for less than five years will also be evaluated in this five-year review to evaluate their current state of

protectiveness.

In addition, a policy review will be performed simultaneously on five Devens Reserve Force Training Area (DRFTA) sites as recommended by EPA in accordance with EPA Guidance.

As a matter of EPA policy, five-year reviews should be conducted on a pre- or post-SARA remedial action that, upon completion, will not leave hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants on site above level that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, but requires five years or more to complete; a pre-SARA remedial action that leaves hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure; or a removals-only site on the NPL where a removal action leaves hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure and where no remedial action has or will take place. (PAO News Release)

District Engineer thanks MMR contractor for exceptional work

A New England District contractor recently received a special thanks from the District Engineer for a job well done.

The ECC MMR (Massachusetts Military Reservation) Demo Area 1 Project Delivery Team attended a special awards ceremony on March 25 to receive New England District Bunker Hill certificates signed by Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer in appreciation for their work at the site.

The team performed outstanding work on the remediation of explosive and perchlorate contaminated soils using a low temperature thermal treatment unit at the MMR Demo Area 1 Soil Operable Unit. The remediation of source area contaminated soils marked an important milestone for the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program and the clean-up program at MMR.

"ECC was very proud to be honored by the New England District for the work that our MMR Demo Area 1 Source Area Remediation Team has accomplished under our Small Business TERC," said Robert Paine, ECC's Regional Business Development Manager. "We celebrate with the USACE MMR Project Delivery Team in completing this major cleanup milestone under the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program."

According to the citation, ECC encountered numerous challenges while implementing the Rapid Response Action phase of the project and was able to overcome each one to get to completion. "ECC developed and implemented a Soil

Rapid Removal Action (RRA) that included Thermal Treatment," said Project Manager Gina Kaso. "Although both technologies are established and have been used successfully elsewhere, the contaminants of concern are what make the project and execution unique. Both the GW and Soil RRAs were required to treat contamination resulting from previous military training, which includes perchlorate (a propellant) and explosives. The contaminants do not have regulated clean up standards and therefore the design and implementation of both RRAs included extensive research, refinement and resolution prior startup. That combined with the UXO element associated with all work at MMR made for a challenging project in which both contractors succeeded."

"ECC's team demonstrated a high level of technical competence and flexibility," read Col. Koning from the certificate. "Your efforts are commended for meeting the Army's goals and mission for the project. Congratulations for a job well done."

In addition to the Bunker Hill certificates, Col. Koning presented each member of the team with a New England District Commander's coin. Team members who received the awards were Mike Tambroni, Shouvik Gangopadhyay, Greg Meyers, Jim Kibbee, and L.P. Wilson. Other ECC representatives that attended the ceremony were Paul Sabharwal, August Ochabauer, Raghu Arora, Eric Banks and Robert Paine.

Fort Fairfield Local Protection Project prevents flooding, saves about \$1.3 million in damages

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The Fort Fairfield Local Protection Project, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Fairfield, Maine, is credited with preventing extensive flooding during the early April ice jam flood event there and saving more than \$1.3 million in potential damages.

“The Fort Fairfield Local Protection Project, completed in 2001, provides protection to the central business district of Fort Fairfield from flood waters and ice jams up to an elevation of 372.6 feet NGVD,” said Project Manager David Larsen, of the Corps’ Engineering/Planning Division, Planning Branch.

During the recent flood event on the Aroostook River, the peak river elevation recorded was slightly below 364 feet NGVD, which coincides with the top of the stone protection on the face of the dike.

Ice was about one-foot thick and was a solid pack from Tinker Dam to about five miles upstream of the Route 1A bridge. Main Street in Fort Fairfield would otherwise start flooding at elevation 359 feet.

“The Corps dike prevented a serious flood event in the town center for the first time since this project was built four years ago,” Larsen said.

The local protection project features 2,550 linear feet of earthen dike and 290 feet of concrete retaining wall. A pumping station and a pressure conduit structure handle the removal of interior drainage during a flood event.

A cutoff wall in the dike and a repositioned toe drain were installed to address problems associated with a subsurface seepage path identified in the project area. The project, funded by a 35 percent cost-share from the town of Fort

Fairfield, was constructed by Ed Pelletier & Sons, Inc., of Madawaska, Maine.

“This is just one of many local protection projects and flood control reservoirs constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers throughout New England to help provide flood damage reduction and control,” Larsen said.

The Corps has designed a system of



Fort Fairfield Local Protection Project in Fort Fairfield, Me.

flood damage prevention projects which includes 35 flood control dams, 100 local protection projects, and five hurricane barriers in New England.

A total of 31 of 35 reservoir projects, and two of the five hurricane barriers are operated and maintained by the Corps, while the remaining projects are operated and maintained by local interests.

Hydraulic engineers from the Corps monitor water levels in the New England region’s major rivers and the depth of snow cover throughout the region to regulate Corps-managed dams and reservoirs and to minimize downstream impacts from the New England District headquarters in Concord, Mass.

“The engineers in our Reservoir Control Center receive reports from our field personnel on the water content and depths of snow on the ground across New England,” said Paul Marinelli, chief of the Corps’ Reservoir Control Center. “We receive frequent data from our ‘eye in the sky’ on the levels and flow of water

in major rivers – the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite.”

New England District has been using the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), known as GOES East or GOES-12, launched in April 2003 with advanced weather imagery, as its data collection satellite.

The District data collection platforms monitor pool, tailwater and river levels, rainfall, and air temperature, recording data every 15 minutes.

By collecting information about river states and flows and their increases and decreases from 90 data collection platforms overtime, the hydrologists can effectively regulate the Corps dams to minimize impacts downstream.

“This system assists us in deciding when to close or throttle back water flow through our network of 35 dams to provide maximum flood damage prevention benefits to downstream areas,” Marinelli said.

Through the use of logs and computer charts and close coordination with the National Weather Service’s River Forecast Center, significant water movement can be identified, examined and predicted.

Each winter, the engineers compile bi-weekly summaries of snow depths and their water equivalents from 93 key locations within the Connecticut, Merrimack, Thames, Housatonic, and Blackstone river basins. With the information, engineers make calculations to determine snow density and comparisons are then made to averages based on more than three decades of such readings.

Damages prevented from the dams and reservoirs and hurricane barriers in fiscal year 2004 alone were \$66.8 million. Cumulative flood control damages prevented by all projects since their construction through September 2004 are more than \$2.89 billion.

Dredging up the past . . .



(from left) Fred Ravens, Dick Reardon, and Larry Bergen go over some drawings in this circa 1990 photo.

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494