

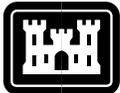
Remembering
Walter Ohar
Page 7



Mansfield
Hollow 50th
Anniversary
Page 8



Commander's Corner.....	3
Lewis & Clark.....	4
Town Meeting.....	7
Mahan Places in Contest.....	10
Choday Retirement.....	11
From the Field.....	12
AWA Facility Opens.....	13
Cape Wind permit Issued.....	15



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

Volume 38, No. 12

Yankee Engineer

August 2002

District Engineer testifies on Ocean Policy in Boston Commission on ocean policy addresses major issues

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District Engineer testified before the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy on July 24 to address major issues on the regional coordination of ocean policy at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Col. Thomas L. Koning, one of five panel members, identified six priority issues that require a national policy review.

The President of the United States established the Commission in 1966 to develop a national oceans report that would make recommendations to the President and Congress on ocean and coastal issues.

The New England District identified six priority issues that require a national policy review. The first issue Col. Koning discussed was the future of our harbors and ports—priorities and the issue of competition.

“We believe a goal of the commission should be to help the nation spend its tax dollars wisely by outlining what our ports and harbors should look like in the future,” he said. “There are not enough resources to meet the needs of every federal, state, and local good idea that comes along.”

Col. Koning’s recommended action on this topic is to establish a national port

and harbor 2050 and 2100 vision to prioritize navigation needs and the use of federal resources. “The healthy competition between major ports in each region needs to be examined to allow a national strategy for future port deepening,” he said.

The District Engineer then discussed disposal of dredged materials. “Currently the Clean Water Act (Section 404) and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act are inconsistent in the approval requirements for disposal of dredged materials,” said Col. Koning.

The proposed action on this issue suggested by Col. Koning is to set a policy to streamline dredging and dredged material disposal activities under one statute, which is flexible to allow the use of advanced technologies.

The third issue Col. Koning addressed was the jurisdiction of federal approval of activities in waters of the United States. “The writers of the statutes that govern how the Corps permits activities in the water of the United States did not envision the technological advancements that now allow us to have free standing structures well out into the ocean,” he said.

The Colonel’s suggested action was



Photo by Mark McInerney

Col. Koning testifies before the U.S. Oceans Policy Commission at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Continued on page 6

Yankee Voices

Gail French
Regulatory



Photo by Melissa Mancuso

Sympathy

...to **Jim Kelly**, Engineering/Planning, on the recent passing of his father.

...to **Bob Patev**, Engineering/Planning, on the recent passing of his father.

...to the family of retired Corps employee **Robert R. "Bud" Latham Sr.**, who passed away Aug. 3. Mr. Latham was a topographical artist for the Army Corps of Engineers for eight years, retiring in 1967.

...to the family of retired Corps employee **Beth Marie Holland**, who passed away Aug. 4. Ms. Holland worked as a civilian secretary for the Army Corps of Engineers, retiring in 1984.

...to **Sharon Valente**, Resource Management, on the passing of her father, **Pompee Paul Valente**, Aug. 19.

...to **Mark Geib**, Engineering/Planning, on the passing of his father, **William J. Geib**, Aug. 20.

Honolulu District nominates Osgerby for recognition

(Editor's note: Rarely does the Yankee Engineer publish the nominations for the WE Committee's Employee or Team of the Month. But then again, rarely do other Districts nominate employees. This nomination came for Ian through four employees at the Honolulu District.)

We'd like to nominate Ian Osgerby for Employee of the Month for his extraordinary efforts in technical quality assurance and assistance in executing our Tanapag PCB Soil Remediation Project in Saipan. The project has visibility Corps-wide. Mr. Osgerby has been a continuing asset since the Project's inception.

As a technical expert he has provided on-the-ground technical assistance in working through the complexities of erection and operation of our Indirect Thermal Desorption Unit. The severity of the environment and its remote location, coupled with the fact that this unit was fabricated especially to meet the needs of this project have made this a challenging endeavor. The Unit has been in operation since December 2001 and continues to operate. This project is a difficult one. With Ian's invaluable expertise on-site, the project is proceeding satisfactorily. Of special note is Ian's credibility and candor in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency's oversight on the project and his efforts to move the project forward through a dogged spirit of cooperation and synergistic discussions.

Mr. Osgerby has weathered numerous long-term TDYs, e-mails and an extraordinary amount of conference calls in order to make all of this happen. He has done so with boundless enthusiasm, spirit and dedication. The Honolulu District is indeed happy to have him on the team and he is very deserving of recognition. Essayons.

Helene Takemoto, FUDS Program Manager, PPMD
Patty Billington, Environmental Attorney, Office of Counsel
Charlie Adams, Tanapag Project Manager, PPMD
Wendell Awada, Chief, Environmental Br, PPMD

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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

Commander's Corner:

My philosophy and my vision for the District

by Col. Thomas L. Koning
District Engineer



It is truly a pleasure and an honor to have taken command of the New England District. I want to say, "thank you" to everyone who attended, participated in and worked behind the scenes for the change-of-command ceremony. You did an excellent job in honoring Col. Osterndorf and welcoming my family and me.

My purpose in my first Yankee Engineer article is to let you know something about what is important to me. First, is that I am married to a wonderful woman, and we have two great daughters.

Second, please look in the May issue of Yankee Engineer for my biography of what I have done and where I have been in my military career. What is important is that my biography does not reflect past USACE experience. That means that I do not come into the job with any preconceived notions. I expect you to provide me the information (for both sides of an issue) so we can make the correct decisions and move the District forward. It also means that it will take me a little while to get fully up to speed. It is your job and challenge to make me smart. I like to think of myself as a fast learner, but at times, you will have difficulty doing that. I am a blank piece of paper that you must fill in. Do not expect me to make major changes -- at least not initially. For now, all the policies and procedures that have guided the District remain in effect. I will make prudent changes as the need arises.

Third, command philosophy. This is not just something we military types have to do -- I truly believe in these things. We are going to be (and/or remain) the best District in North Atlantic Division. We will do so through the acronym TEAM.

TEAMWORK. We are a team. We are a family. We take care of one another. We do not have superstars, because everything we do requires a team approach. I believe in taking care of people. I believe in recognition, awards, people programs, and an enjoyable workplace.

I am very pleased with the WE Program and its activities that I have read about in the Yankee Engineer. It is about us taking care of our own, doing things for one another, and making the organization better -- a TEAM. I want you to love your job, but I know your job is not number one in your lives. For most of you, it is number three, behind your God and your family. That is the way it should be. I want you to be at your child's performance in the school play, because that is important. I

want supervisors to arrange the work hours so you can do it and get your job here done too. I plan to be there when my family needs me. We are a family and if we take care of one another -- the other items make sense.

EXPERTISE -- As part of the family, I also expect everyone to do their share of the work. We are the experts in what we do. We are the Federal Engineer. Lt. Gen. Flowers says our goal is to be the world's premier engineering organization. We need to be the best in all areas. That does not mean we do not make mistakes, and as new information comes along we cannot change our position, but we need to keep those instances to a minimum. I expect everyone to know his or her job. I expect everyone to increase their level of knowledge in their job and their bosses' job. Depending on where you are in your career, that learning may be through on-the-job training, professional certification/licensing (when you have met the requirements of your profession), evening classes while pursuing a degree, participation in the Corps' leadership training, or something else. We are a learning organization and we value those who are expanding their horizons and by extension the District. In an effort to get me to be an expert, I will ask many questions. That is not because I do not trust the information I am being given, it is because I want to fully understand the issue and I want to understand how we came to our position.

ATTITUDE -- can make all the difference in the world. No one wants to be around a person with a bad attitude. Everyone can have a bad day, but it is just one day. I do not want to see disgruntled people sitting around and complaining. I want positive progress made toward a solution. Bring out your problems and proposed solutions to your boss, grievance committee, or chain-of-command. I cannot guarantee we can solve all the problems, but we will never have a chance if we do not get them out in the open and talk about them. As with teamwork, in a growing and learning organization, we are a family. I support EEO, consideration of others, POSH and other like programs. I expect tolerance of each other. I expect respect for each other. This is the essence of the seven Army Values. You have seen the posters and the acronym LEADERSHIP that stands for Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

MANAGEMENT -- When I visited in March, I was told we PM everything to death. That is OK. We are managers. This is our business. We do not build things with hammers and nails, concrete and glass -- others that do that for us. We oversee the operations. We use our expertise, we use our

Continued on page 14

Alexander Hamilton Willard: 'The return of an adventurous son'

by **Richard Scott, Supervisor
Harold Parker State Forest**

On August 24, 1777, Betty Caswell Willard and Jonathan Willard of Charlestown, New Hampshire celebrated the birth of a son, whom they named in honor of famous American patriot, Alexander Hamilton Willard.

Perhaps they never realized the adventures that laid in store for their progeny.

Alexander would be the only son of Betty Willard, who died before his third birthday. However, he would eventually have five step-siblings by Jonathan's second marriage to Catherine Stevens, daughter of Capt. Phineas Stevens of Fort at Number Four.

Alexander's father had been a soldier in the war for American Independence and he had other relatives that had fought in the French and Indian War. He was raised hearing stories and tales of their exploits and bravery.

By 1799 Alexander, who had learned the skills of farming and blacksmithing felt the need to explore more of the expanding nation. He packed a few possessions into a canoe and paddled downstream on the Connecticut River.

Asherounded the bend south of Charlestown, he probably never imagined that he would not see this area again for 41 years.

His wanderlust prompted him to join the Army, in search of some of the challenging experiences he heard about since his youth. After his enlistment, he eventually landed in Capt. Amos

Stoddard's Company at Kaskaskia in the Indiana Territory. While stationed with this company in Kentucky he had the good fortune to pass the recruitment standards for an exciting expedition about

us that he was part of the "Corps" from January 1, 1804 until October 10, 1806. For this service he was paid \$166.67 and given a land warrant for 320 acres in the new Louisiana Territory.

During the arduous journey he grew to manhood and learned that discipline in the military world could be character building, but harsh. After Lewis and Clark left Wood River, Illinois in May of 1804 they proceeded on, upstream on the Missouri River in keelboats packed with all necessary food and equipment. They figured to be gone over two years.

Within a month of embarkation, Alexander got his first taste of military justice. He was accused of lying down and falling asleep on guard duty, a breach of orders punishable by death.

He pled guilty to lying down, but steadfastly asserted his innocence about falling asleep. His life was spared; but he did receive 100 lashes, 25 a night for four consecutive nights for his indiscretion.

His role with Lewis & Clark was an important one. He was a blacksmith and gunsmith whose skills kept the Corps well fed during the first frigid

winter at Fort Mandan in the Dakota Territory. He would trade the Mandan natives hide scrapers and metal arrowheads for buffalo meat and corn.

Alexander is mentioned in the journals of Lewis & Clark a number of times. He was chased by a grizzly bear, he had a horse stolen by the Shoshone and he was used as a messenger between exploration parties.

While at winter quarters between 1805-6 at Fort Clatsop in Oregon he was



Photograph Courtesy of Willard Family Association, Wethersfield, CT

Alexander Hamilton Willard and his wife, Eleanor McDonald Willard.

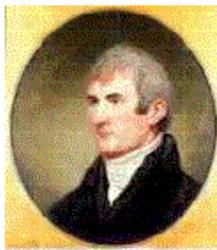
to embark from St. Louis. He was chosen as one of the "nine young men from Kentucky" by Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. William Clark.

He was to become a blacksmith and gunsmith with the legendary "Corps of Discovery" that was commissioned by President Jefferson to explore the, "principle stream of the Missouri River," to its source and find the mythical Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean.

History and military documents tell

Lewis and Clark on the Connecticut River?

By Rick Magee
Lower Connecticut River Basin



*Meriwether
Lewis*

Come help commemorate the Corps of Discovery along the Connecticut River the weekend of September 6-8, 2002. Several events will be held at

Wilgus State Park (Ascutney, Vermont), the Student Conservation Association Headquarters, and The Fort at Number 4 (Charlestown, New Hampshire).

You are wondering, "Why the Connecticut River?" No, those Virginia gentlemen and Army officers William Clark and Meriwether Lewis never visited New England. But several members of their detachment came from our region. Artificer Alexander Hamilton Willard was born in the Connecticut River Valley town of Charlestown, New Hampshire. *See story on opposite page for more information on Mr. Willard.*

The discoveries made by the men and woman of the Lewis and Clark expedition had great significance to the nation. It was the moon shot of the era,

the entire country was curious about what would be found. Their epic journey tied the Louisiana Territory to the United States, and strengthened our claim to the Oregon Country. And it set the standard for exploration of the American West that led to the founding of the Corps of Topographic Engineers.

Come and canoe the Connecticut, relive the sense of curiosity and discovery demonstrated by the Corps of Discovery on western rivers. Visit reenactors from the period, a native American village, and the Fort at Number 4. Participate in programs related to Lewis and Clark.

Our event is a partnership between the Corps of Engineers, the Fort at Number 4, the Student Conservation Association, Vermont State Parks, and local communities. We all invite you to come for a day or spend a late summer weekend in the scenic "Upper Valley."

For more information, contact Roxanne Barbeau (802-295-2855), Mike Currie (603-746-3601), or Rick Magee (978-318-8254).



William Clark

one of the men chosen to boil sea water down to make the coveted salt for the remainder of the trip. When he left his quiet homestead in New Hampshire to seek adventure, he certainly found it with the Corps of Discovery.

Willard's escapades did not end in 1806. He remained near St. Louis after the journey and married Eleanor McDonald on February 14, 1807. This prolific marriage produced 12 children.

He continued the trade of blacksmithing and kept in contact with William Clark for most of his life. Twice he joined the military again: in 1811 in a war against Tecumseh (eventually part of the War of 1812); and in 1832, at age 54, he volunteered with three of his sons in the Blackhawk War in the Wisconsin Territory. He lost one son to a tragic murder in 1836 and actually outlived six of his children.

In 1852 at age 74 he made another trek to the west with his wife and at least five of his children. He inherited his son Roland's farm in Georgetown, Sacramento County, and lived there until the age of 87. He died in 1865 and is buried next to his wife, Eleanor in Franklin, California.

One family record indicates that he made a trip back to Charlestown, New Hampshire, in 1840. This return of an adventurous son will be recreated as part of the Lewis & Clark on the Connecticut canoe excursion to be held Sept. 6-8, 2002.

Alexander Hamilton Willard, in living history persona, will journey with the hearty and brave souls who are ready to experience the wilds of the Connecticut River in the spirit of the Corps of Discovery.

Come hear stories about that incredible expedition to the Pacific Ocean and learn about the accomplishments of Lewis & Clark and what they mean to our lives today.



Photo by Mark McInerney

Park Ranger Rick Magee is dressed in period garb to explain the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Congratulations

...to **Gary Morin**, Programs/Project Management, and his wife, **Mary**, on the birth of their daughter, **Sarah Grace**, July 20. She joins her brother, Jacob, in the family circle.

...to **Chris Scabia**, Engineering/Planning and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Michaela Christine Scabia, on July 25. Michaela has two brothers and one sister.

...to **Jerry Nunziato** of the Security Office who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for August 2002.

Mr. Nunziato is recognized for consistently demonstrating a willingness to participate as a team player in all undertakings.

...The **WE Committee** has selected the Cape Cod Canal Team as the Team of the Month for August 2002.

The team is composed of Marine Traffic Controllors **Dennis Arsenault, Fred Danhauser, Luke Lomeland, Joseph Mazzola, Brian Mulvey, Robert Orman and David Paquin**, as well as **Robert Blackwell, David Carriolo, Steven Fluegel, Daniel Guiney, Gerald Joyner, Kevin Kaerth, William Kane, Roger Mathurin, Joseph Moyer, John Murner, Jack Olsen and John Schuck** from Marine Operations.

The team members were recognized for proactively implementing operating procedures for the protection of marine mammals.

District Engineer testifies on Ocean Policy

Continued from page 1

to define a national policy for non-extraction ocean energy projects (such as wind/wave energy) and commercial ventures.

Col. Koning continued his presentation by discussing the need to establish coordinated interagency priorities on ecosystem restoration. "Restoration of our aquatic ecosystems is a priority for many federal agencies," he said. "Coastal America is a great success story. This partnership has encouraged federal and state agencies to collaborate on aquatic ecosystem restoration."

The District Engineer encouraged more partnering among federal agencies to maximize the restoration of aquatic habitats. "The Ocean Policy Commission should build upon the Coastal America model in many areas to foster good government," he said.

The fifth issue the District Engineer raised was shore protection for sea level rise. "Our nation needs a policy to address shoreline protection and sea level rise," said Col. Koning.

His proposed action for this issue is to create a federal baseline and then predict a 2050 and 2100 shoreline profile and institute management plans accordingly. "We need to develop long-term regional plans to address this potential problem. We also need to change our policy to recognize and allow environmental benefits in our planning process."

The final issue that Col. Koning testified to was the remediation of contaminated aquatic sediments. "We need a specific policy to address the nationwide problem of contaminated sediments in our urban rivers and estuaries," he said.

Col. Koning's recommended action is to establish a dedicated fund and program authority for the evaluation and remediation of contaminated sediments in our coastal watersheds.

Before turning the discussion over

to the other panel members, Col. Koning addressed the need to keep the issue of National Security in mind when creating policy.

"The proposed Ocean Policy should not preclude the ability of our armed forces to effectively execute their mission in the areas of homeland security and national defense in the waters of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories and possessions," he concluded.

Col. Koning and other panel members concluded their session by answering questions posed to them by the Commission. For questions requiring lengthy, detailed answers, Col. Koning and his staff are submitting written statements.

Other panel members included Robert Ostrom, Administrator, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; Dr. Jaime Geiger, Assistant Regional Director, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; and Thomas Skinner, Director, Office of Coastal Zone Management, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mark Forest, representing Congressman William Delahunt, made opening remarks at the beginning of the session.

The last congressionally authorized commission to review and make recommendations for a national ocean policy was convened under the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act of 1966. That commission issued its report on January 9, 1969.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District's jurisdiction covers the 6,100 miles of coastline and 11-deep water ports and 102 recreational and small commercial harbors from Maine to Connecticut. Its civil works missions are navigation, flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration.

District remembers District Counsel Walter Ohar

The Corps of Engineers flag flew at half mast August 16 at the New England District, the day after Chief of Counsel, Walter Ohar, passed away while vacationing in North Carolina. Mr. Ohar joined the New England District family in early 2002.

“Although he was not with the District long, Walter made a tremendous impact on those who knew him and worked with him,” said Col. Thomas L. Koning, in his message to the District announcing Mr. Ohar’s passing. “He will be missed by all.”

Walter touched many during his time with New England District and some shared some words about him:

Michelle Kewer: “In the time that I knew Walter, I came to rely heavily on his legal opinion in all contracting procedures, rules and his knowledge of the regulatory processes... and I found him to be a wealth of experience, someone who could look at the whole picture and render reliable legal advice.”

Kathleen Pendergast: “Walter brought to his work an outlook that was badly needed - bold leadership, a mentoring relationship, and the guts to stand up for what he believed in.”

Dianna Barela: “Nothing but cherished memories of a leader who walked the walk. Walter always stated that he believed in a win-win for all concerned, and always met challenges easily. Walter strolled down to my office a number of times.

He shared many humorous but educating stories to support his point. We will definitely miss his happy, calming and intellectual teachings.”

William Mahan: “Despite his enormous responsibility as Chief Counsel for the District, Walter was very approachable. He was concerned with the people of the District and took a personal hand in seeing that our procedures were sound.

I spoke to him on a number of matters and no matter what the issue, I always knew I had his attention and always got a thoughtful answer - with a smile.”

Maj. Brian Green: “Even though I have only been here a short amount of time, I was impressed with Walter's sense of humor. He and I were joking one day about the infamous Cape Cod Wind Farm project.

Before the briefing for the Assistant Secretary to the Army for Civil Works on the Wind Farm and Data Tower permits, I asked Walter about what could be expected from the legal representation in the room during the meeting.



Photo by Mark McInerney

Walter Ohar, District Counsel

I suggested if no one from our headquarters office of counsel was going, Walter should go and wear a dark suit and his ‘Men In Black II’ sunglasses, and sit in the corner of the room and look ‘intimidating.’

He responded -- in his best “Sopranos” like voice -- ‘someone is going to get whacked.’ I thought it was pretty good (especially for a lawyer) and really broke the tension in the air.”

Larry Rosenberg: “Throughout my career in government service I had always believed that there was one truism - that Public Affairs and the Office of Counsel would never agree on anything as the lawyers are focused on what will happen in a court of law while the PAO is focused on what will happen in the

court of public opinion.

Walter broke the mold and together we sought consensus in our advice and together we sought out solutions.”

Dick Carlson: “Walter seemed to have the ‘spirit of experience.’ I believe he brought, in a very short time, stability to the Office of Counsel.

I know he had already reached out to many of our field personnel and that they appreciated his efforts greatly. Personally, I'll miss his sense of humor and the camaraderie that he was building.”



Walter Ohar began his federal career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the St. Louis District in 1986 where he worked for 12 years before moving on to the Kansas City District and then the U.S. Dept. of Housing in Washington, DC before accepting the position of District Counsel in New England in 2002.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from Dickinson College, Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond and his L.L.M from George Washington University.

He was licensed by the state bar associations in Virginia and Missouri, and was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, 4th and 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Ohar was laid to rest in Coatesville, Pa. He is survived by three children.

Mansfield Hollow Dam, town hold joint birthday celebration

The New England District and the town of Mansfield, Conn., held a joint celebration of Mansfield Hollow Dam's 50th anniversary and the town's 300th Anniversary Aug. 3 at the Corps project. Hundreds of citizens participated in the day's activities.

The all-day event featured a rededication of the dam under a tent next to the dam tender's quarters. Richard Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations, served as Master of Ceremonies. He began by discussing the New England District Ranger Color Guard, who presented and retired the colors during the ceremony. "The Ranger Color Guard is made up of Park Rangers who come from any one of 31 flood control dams that the New England District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates," he said. "They have become a celebrity group presenting the colors before the 5,000 member American Society of Civil Engineers convention and a number of other similar affairs. I am exceedingly proud of the job that they do."

Col. Thomas L. Koning, District Engineer, said it was an honor for him to be present to observe the anniversaries of both Mansfield Hollow Dam and the town of Mansfield. "More than 50 years ago, my predecessor, Division Engineer Col. James Stratton, made some difficult decisions to bring this project to fruition despite some local opposition to



Photos by C.J. Allen

Project Manager Kate Higgins and first Dam tender Rex Altomare unveil the plaque dedicating Mansfield Hollow Dam.

building the project here," he said. "Today, we can thank those leaders who came before us who had the vision to plan and accomplish what we see here today. Engineers especially enjoy it when projects that we design and build serve well the people of this great nation."

The District Engineer said the Mansfield Hollow Dam has served the people of this region and the nation well for the past 50 years. "It was designed and constructed in response to devastating floods of 1936 and 1938," he said. "This project is just a part of the comprehensive flood control plan for the Thames River Basin, which consists of six flood control reservoirs and one local protection project."

According to Col. Koning, the

project has some impressive statistics. A permanent reservoir, which was added to the project in 1962, today draws 575,000 visitors a year. Those visitors spend \$5.7 million and support 150 jobs each year in the region. Mansfield Hollow Dam is one of Connecticut's most visited Corps projects.

More impressive is the statistic that the flood control project has saved an estimated \$44 million in damage prevention from floods in the past 50 years. Mansfield Hollow Dam was constructed from 1949 to 1952 at a cost of about \$6.5. "And those savings are not just to the U.S. Treasury," he said. "Those savings are very real -- in prevention of damages to homes and businesses, to property, and the saving of lives by holding back floodwaters over and over again, especially during the devastating floods of 1955. How can you estimate the cost of saving lives?"

The Colonel concluded by thanking everyone who made the ceremony possible and hoped for continued partnership with the town of Mansfield. "I take great pride in what the Corps has contributed to this community, this region, this state and this nation," he said. "I hope our successors will stand right here to commemorate future anniversaries and comment on how well we did with tough decisions and how strong our partnership remains."



Col. Koning and his family get a demonstration of how a dam works.



Seamoor the Dragon both educates and entertains his small audience.

Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth Patterson said a few words about Mansfield Hollow Dam's first damtender, Mr. Rex Altomare, who attended the ceremony. "He worked on the construction of the dam, and then lived and brought up a family at the dam for 20 years," she said. "I can't think of a more wonderful place to bring up a family."

Mayor Patterson also thanked numerous people and organizations for their work on the day's many activities and for the work they do every day for the town. She also thanked the Corps of Engineers for inviting the town to join them in the celebration. "The Mansfield Hollow Dam and its resources are a tremendous advantage to living in our town," she said. "Many of our residents take advantage of this area in many different ways. It's just a wonderful,

wonderful place."

The mayor then reflected on the rich history of Mansfield, which began in 1702 when the town was separated from Windham. That history includes the University of Connecticut when it was founded in the 1800's. "As the university grows and continues to transform into a world-class university, Mansfield benefits from the cultural and educational enjoyment as well as the recreational opportunities that UCONN has to offer," she said. "We continue to form partnerships and small projects that benefit both the town and the university."

She concluded her remarks by encouraging people to enjoy the remaining festivities. Later in the ceremony, Mayor Paterson read a proclamation from the Governor of Connecticut. Kelli Baker, President of the Mansfield Massachu-

setts Sister Cities Association also read a citation.

Mr. Rex Altomare, the first damtender at Mansfield Hollow Dam, was a special guest speaker at the ceremony. "Working at the dam was not a nine to five job by any means," he said. "It was 24 hours a day. Middle of the night phone calls were a common occurrence at our home. One evening the phone rang at midnight. My heart went into my stomach as I had to drive to Windham Airport to check the runway for flooding. Thank God the dike held. My family and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of its history, and it will always remain a special place in our hearts."

With the help of Project Manager Kate Higgins and Mr. Altomare, Col. Koning concluded the official ceremony by dedicating the dam with a brass commemorative plaque. The plaque read, "Mansfield Hollow Dam, Natchaug River, constructed A.D. 1949-1951, by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Thames River Basin Flood Control Project."

Other speakers of the day included Representative Robert Simmons, State Representative Denise Merrill, and State Comptroller Nancy Wyman.

University of Connecticut students Matt Janiszewski and David Veflocki performed musical selections during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the New England District held demonstrations that included Seamoor the Dragon and the water safety exhibit, the working dam model, Lewis and Clark and the Your Corps in New England exhibit. Park Rangers also conducted dam tours after the official dedication ceremony.

Activities put on by the town included runs, trails and bike races, bird watching tours, crafts for kids, walking tours, dam tours, kayak lessons, and music by the Bluff Point Quahog Diggers Band. Ongoing events include a fish catch and release tournament, face painting and balloons, and a local organization fair.



The Bluff Point Quahog Diggers Band performs for the crowd.

Mahan places third in national 'Beetle Bailey' contest

In the world of comic strip character "Beetle Bailey," there is a new recruit at Camp Swampy. Spec. Chip Gizmo, Gen. Halftrack's new information technology soldier, made his first comic strip appearance on July 4. If Bill Mahan, Chief of Logistics, had his way though, the new character's name would be Spec. Todd "Crash" Glitch.

"Beetle Bailey" creator Mort Walker invited the comic strip's readers to name the new character back in May during a contest. The New England District advertised the contest through its Weekly Bulletin, which caught Bill's eye. It didn't take him long to decide to enter. "I had a feel for what he was after right away, probably because of all the good help I've had from our own IM folks," said Bill. "The name came to me after thinking about it for about five minutes."

"Glitch" came in third place out of 84,000 names submitted to the contest. Bill was the only representative of the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army out of the 12 finalists.

According to Bill, when Mr. Walker's representative contacted him to inform him he had taken third place, he said that the character's rank was very important. "I knew that you wouldn't rank an IT character as "general" or "major," he said. "It only made sense to rank him as a specialist."

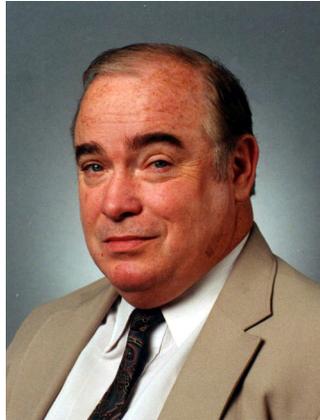


Photo by Mark McInerney

Chief of Logistics and character namer Bill Mahan.

When asked how he came up with the "Todd 'Crash' Glitch," Bill indicated that he thought about the things IM folks have to deal with and came up with the name that way.

For his efforts, Bill will receive an airline ticket from Northwest Airlines to any destination in the continental U.S. that he chooses as well as an original work of art personally signed by cartoonist Mort Walker.

Bill, an artist himself, dabbled in comic strip drawing when he was in high school. Asked if he would ever consider dusting off the colored pencils, Bill replied, "If Mr. Walker ever needed a partner, sure I'd consider it."

In addition to contestants winning prizes, the event also raised \$105,000 for the Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House is a non-profit organization that provides families of military personnel with temporary lodging in a home environment when visiting sick or injured active military members or veterans.

The Foundation also received a new desktop computer for each of the Foundation's 30 locations around the world from Dell, one of the contests sponsors.

"Beetle Bailey" reported for duty on Sept. 4, 1950 and was seen in only 12 newspapers. Today, the comic strip can be seen in more than 1,800 newspapers around the world and has become the third most widely distributed comic strip of all time.

Koning holds first town meeting as District Engineer

Col. Thomas L. Koning held his first town meeting as District Engineer August 6 in the Concord Park cafeteria. The Colonel used the meeting to recognize District employees for exceptional work, and also to introduce himself.

Using a powerpoint presentation, the District Engineer, talked about himself, his qualifications to command an engineer district, his philosophy, his vision and his Commander's Critical Information Requirements. (*Col. Koning goes into more detail in his column on page 3.*)

During the awards portion of the ceremony, Col. Koning, presented WTC FEMA/NYC/NAD Recognition Certificates and WTC coins to John Kedzierski, Richard Drew, Ralph Mallardo, Jennifer Flanagan, Dave Hakanson, John Shok, and Bob DeSista.

Dick Carlson, Construction/Operations presented seasonal Park Rangers Michelle Dwyer and Derik Roach with Emergency Response certificates and District coins. The two Park Rangers assisted with an emergency involving a lost child.

The two rangers immediately contacted state police. The child was found safe by a passerby and, according to Dick, the child knew the Corps of Engineers Park Ranger uniform so well that he would not go with anyone but a Park Ranger.

Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Human Resources, presented

Susan Rodkey with an on-the-spot award for her work in obtaining 130 summer hires for the District this year, breaking last year's record of 103 summer employees. According to Kim, Susan has also been recognized at the Headquarters level and has received letters of appreciation from the Division Commander two years in a row for her work on this program. Kim also presented a time-off award to Amal Guiguais for her administrative assistance to Susan during the hiring of the summer employees.

Chris Godfrey, WE Committee Chair, awarded the July team of the Month certificates and T-shirts to Francis Fung, Stephen Kelley and Bob Meader of the New Bedford Superfund Team. Other members of the 32-person team received their awards during an earlier ceremony. Chris also honored Jerry Nunziato as the WE Committee's August Employee of the Month award.

Chris awarded the Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Tournament trophy to team captain Cliff Opdyke. Team members were: Carol Charette, Michelle and Drew Clemens, Rose Schmidt, Scott Michalak, Laura Fraser, and Jason Ilic.

Col. Koning concluded the awards portion of the Town Meeting by thanking those directly involved with the planning of the Change of Command ceremony that was held July 19.



Choudary tips his hat to his co-workers during his luncheon. Photos by Brian Murphy



Col. Koning presents Choudary with a Bunker Hill plaque.

Coworkers wish Choudary Choday well on retirement

Choudary Choday, Engineering/Planning, decided to join the New England District's retirement community after eight years of federal service. To honor his decision to move closer to one of his daughters and live a life of rest and relaxation in Texas, his HTRW/Geotechnical co-workers held a retirement luncheon for him on July 26.

The luncheon, which took the form of a pizza party, was held in the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Rooms. Approximately 45 people attended the gathering to wish Choudary well.

Yuri Yatsevitich served as Master of Ceremonies. Rose Schmidt spoke at Choudary's luncheon and also composed some songs and played guitar accompanied by Mark Koenig for a group sing-along. Other speakers included Paul Young and Bill Saner. He received a framed aerial photo of Boston and two books about New England. For fun, attendees also

presented Choudary with a pair of blue jeans and a cowboy hat so that he would fit in with his fellow Texans.

Col. Thomas L. Koning, District Engineer, concluded the luncheon by presenting Choudary with a Bunker Hill plaque and his retirement certificate. "It was a great honor to work with the people of the New England District," said Choudary. "I enjoyed my time here very much, even though it was short. The people at the District are very nice and friendly."

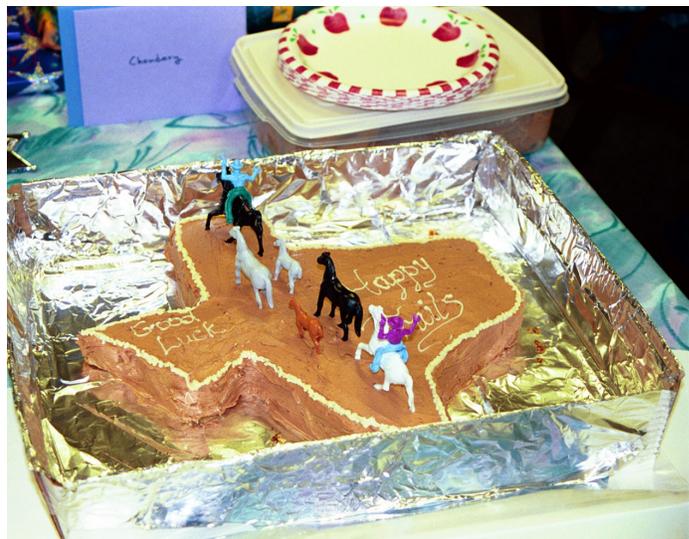
Choudary joined the New England District in 1993, during which he received several performance awards. Prior to joining the District, he worked for various private firms.

He holds a bachelor of science in physics, a bachelor of science in mathematics; and a masters of science in chemistry. He has been a member of the ACS since 1976.

Choudary and his wife, Lakshmi, are the parents of two grown daughters.



Luncheon attendees participate in a sing-a-long for Choudary.



Dessert included cakes, one of which was in the shape of the Lone Star state where Choudary and his family are settling.

From the field:

Park Rangers take Visitor Assistance Safety Refresher Training

**Photo and story by Will Rogers
Construction/Operations**

Park Rangers from all over the New England District participated in an annual refresher Visitor Assistance Safety Training course on June 25 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, in Sturbridge, Mass. Approximately 40 Park Rangers received certificates at the end of the eight-hour course.

Safety is a key component of the duties and responsibilities of a Park Ranger both in the duties accomplished in the field and when accomplishing our Visitor Assistance responsibilities. The Park Rangers who have been granted Citation Authority along with Corps Badges have an annual eight-hour requirement for Visitor Assistance Refresher training.

The instructor for the course was Mr. Bill Jackson who is a Park Manager with the Nashville District. Bill is one of several instructors nationwide who help provide this training to our Natural Resource Management personnel throughout the Corps. The training session has four main parts including Title 36 Update, Headquarters Perspective Update, Personal Self Defense and Verbal Judo.

The number one goal of our park rangers in Visitor Assistance situations is to Gain Voluntary Compliance by our park visitors. Other key goals of the course are to provide a Safe and Secure Work Environment with a priority being their personal safety; Enhanced Professionalism; Decreased Citizen Complaints; Decreased Vicarious Liability; Lessened Personal Stress on the Job; Provide a Professional Federal Court Presence; and to Increase Morale.

The various components of the course are taught through personal stories, actual field reports, PowerPoint programs, newspaper articles, photographs, video cassette tapes and other media necessary to share and illustrate common hazard situations, how to rec-

ognize the danger signs and the steps to take to keep yourself safe.

Over the past several years, Mr. Jackson has developed an excellent program and has done a truly outstanding job imparting the knowledge to the Park Rangers.

Many of these course components rely on the Park Ranger's ability to communicate. One of the most useful skills developed by our Park Rangers paramount to their safety is their ability to talk to park visitors of all ages in a variety of both friendly and hostile situations.

This learned skill is commonly referred to as Verbal Judo and takes years to hone to a fine edge. The ability to stay calm and focused while diffusing a potentially dangerous situation can sometimes mean the difference from a verbal assault escalating to a physical one. Many times, situations are not as they initially seem and the skill to ascertain the real root of a problem or difficulty is key to getting to a fair and equitable solution for all parties involved. This skill is difficult to learn, requires much practice to incorporate into daily routines and is often the single most effective "tool" our park rangers

carry with them all the times.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Jackson has played a key role in the development of a new method for sharing this information. A new communication tool developed over the past few years and implemented nationwide is the Safe Self Training Course.

Safe Self is an interactive, self-directed, computer based compact disk training course which provides the basic tactical communications skills and guidance on how to avoid and diffuse potentially dangerous situations.

Copies have been provided to all the field locations and district offices. It is based on the Verbal Judo principles that are the foundation of tactical communications created by Dr. George Thompson of the Verbal Judo Institute.

These communication course principles may also be valuable to any Corps employee who has routine contact with the public.

Volunteers, contract gate attendants, regulatory, real estate, project management, public affairs, navigation, and other employees who have extensive contact with the public may find it useful.



Bill Jackson teaches the refresher training to the District Park Rangers.

District cuts ribbon on AWA facility at Devens

In an effort to aid employees who live a long distance from the Concord facility and to help them cut down on their commute, the New England District has opened an alternative work arrangement (AWA) facility next to the Western Area Office in Devens, Mass.

Col. Thomas L. Koning, District Engineer, cut the ribbon on the newly renovated facility Aug. 9. Employees who signed up for the pilot program reported for work at the facility on Aug. 12. "I believe that this program is going to pay big dividends in the future not only by increasing productivity but, more importantly, by caring for our employees," said Col. Koning. "I think that this is a great idea and it should make everyone involved feel good."

An AWA Process Action Team (PAT) Team was formed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and tasked to remodel and set up the facility; coordinate the process of identifying positions that would be part of the Pilot Program; getting the program approved; as well as setting up standard operating procedures and agreements. The new AWA facility also puts the District in compliance with Public Law 106-346, Section 359. "The public law was enacted in 2000 and states that eligible employees be able to participate in telecommuting to the maximum extent possible without diminished em-



Photo by Mark McInerney

Col. Koning, Steve Andon, Kim Kaminski-Donaher, the AWA facility builders and PAT Team members opened the facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

ployee performance," said Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Chief of Human Resources.

The Devens site, which is located 25 miles from the District's Concord headquarters, was chosen for several reasons. The District already had a permit for the space and Jim Morocco had people available onsite who were agreeable to performing the needed renovations. According to Kim, however, the most important reason for the choosing Devens was location, location, location. "We did a geographical study and found a large number of our permanent staff lived in the Devens area," she said.

Driving to the AWA facility instead of the Concord office not only means saving time on the road, but also money on gas and wear and tear on the vehicle. The office of Human Resources estimates that the 30 employees who are currently participating in the AWA pilot program will save 1,885 miles per week. The longest commute saved is 214 miles a week for Tom McNaughton who telecommutes two days per week.

The AWA facility is a former warehouse that was renovated by District employees over a period of six months. The total cost for renovations, supplies, equipment and incidentals was approximately \$30,000. The cubicles were assembled using materials left over from the Concord facility. Keeping the costs down without skimping on quality was important to the Process Action Team (PAT).

Currently, the AWA facility consists of 12 workstations with docking station capability that allow employees to use their laptops, and five workstations with stationary computers. In addition, employees can use their laptops as "soft phones" and receive phone calls as if they were sitting in their own cubicles. All the workstations will connect employees to the District network that will allow them



Photo provided by John MacDowell

Les Jacobs uses the copier at the AWA facility.

Continued on page 14

My philosophy and my vision for the District

Continued from page 3

teams, and we persuade with our attitudes and willingness to get the job done to make things happen (in the fastest time and the least cost). This is Project Management. This is what we do. This is why we need everyone to be a contributing member of the team. We need to use all our resources to the fullest. I want us to be the best.

Fourth, is my Vision for the organization. I want the reputation as the best District in the North Atlantic Division. We will not be the largest, have the most projects, have the biggest budget, or have the most employees. I want to be known as the best.

The work this District did last year at Ground Zero in New York City was outstanding. You collectively were on top of the emergency management game. I personally talked with Ted Monette, the federal coordinating officer, he could not say enough good things about the District people who were there, and the support staff back here. I want that reputation for all of our areas. I want the reputation as the "GO-TO District" that has both the expertise and the ability to get things done.

I have now written that I wanted to be the best, several times now. What does "best" mean? How do we do this? I do not know what "best" means or how to measure it, but we are going to figure that out, together, in the next few months.

Things I want to look at are where we are doing well, where we are doing not so well, how do we sustain and improve from a systemic way, and how do we measure our progress.

I know it does NOT mean we are the number one in every measurable statistic. It means we are the "GO-TO District" because of our reputation in quality, expertise, and manage-

ment -- the ability to get things done.

Fifth, is CCIR – Commander's Critical Information Requirements. These are the things for which I expect to get a phone call in the middle of the night:

- If an employee, family member, contractor or visitor gets seriously injured (things like life, limb, or hospitalization) on or off the job.

- If we make (or are going to make) a Senator, Congressman, or Governor mad, I want to know about it.

- If the District is going to be on the front page of the paper, I want to know about it.

Lastly, there are things that are non-negotiable to me.

First is integrity. I expect honesty and truthfulness in all you do with me, with each other, and with our clients. Individually and organizationally we cannot recover from a breach of integrity. Sometimes information changes; when that happens, we will get the word out immediately and make the correction.

Second is illegal drugs. They have no place in the workplace. I will deal with offenders in the most severe way possible.

Lastly, is discrimination. We take care of one another -- we do not abuse each other.

Well, that's it -- that is what is important to me. For those of you who attended the Town Hall Meeting, I gave you the opportunity to tell me what you thought of the District. I asked you to tell me what was good and bad. I appreciate your openness and candor. I received some GREAT responses, both good and bad. In the next issue of the Yankee Engineer, I will report back to you. Thank you for your service to our nation. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you.

AWA facility ribbon cutting ceremony at Devens

Continued from page 13

access to e-mail and the Internet. There is also a large working area to spread out large maps or other oversized material.

The center is also equipped with a refrigerator and microwave for the convenience of the telecommuters. While no final decision has yet to be made there are tentative plans to renovate a conference room that is located adjacent to the telecommuting center.

Eligible employees, working with their supervisor, develop a telework agreement that specifies a work schedule of one or two days at the AWA facility.

The agreement is a contract between employee and supervisor that can be modified if needed. Employees who only need to work at the AWA facility on infrequent occasions may do so with supervisory approval. "Because

of security issues and paperwork that needs to be filled out, employees that desire to work at the AWA facility on an ad hoc basis, and with supervisory approval, need to plan a few days out," said Kim.

The AWA facility PAT team consisted of Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Steven Andon, Tim Winter, Chris Godfrey, Tony Mackos and the late Mary Byers.

District employees who renovated the old warehouse into the AWA facility were: Chris Caisse, Gary Cooper, Mike Galicki, Chiway Hsuing, Les Jacobs, John McDowell, Conrad Menard, Jim Morocco, Andrea Pittman, Mike Russo, Ruth Tanner, and Bruce Zawacki.

Employees interested in receiving more information on the Alternate Work Arrangement can contact Kim Kaminski-Donaher, or visit the AWA website at <http://naeiis/RMO/LaborPayroll/AlternateWorkArrangement.htm>.

Corps issues permit to Cape Wind for scientific data tower in Nantucket Sound

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made a determination to issue a Section 10 permit to Cape Wind Associates to place a Scientific Measurement Devices Station (SMDS) and associated monitoring device on Horseshoe Shoals in Nantucket Sound off Cape Cod, Mass., Aug. 19.

The permit application went under a thorough public and agency review process, said Karen Adams, Project Manager of the Cape Wind EIS in Regulatory. "We extended the public notice comment period in response to public requests. We also held public hearings on the data tower in Hyannis and on Martha's Vineyard in April 2002 to fully understand local concerns and issues."

As a result of the public involvement and agency review, the determination includes 16 special conditions as part of the five-year permit which the applicant must adhere to, including one requiring a bond posting.

Cape Wind Associates plans to install and maintain a pile-supported scientific measuring tower extending approximately 197 feet in the air above the mean lower low water elevation in the ocean waters of Horseshoe Shoals in Nantucket Sound as well as an associated measurement device imbedded in the sea floor.

The permit application is only for the installation of these scientific measuring devices to gather technical data and has no effect on the environmental review and permitting process for the entire

Wind Farm project. The device to be imbedded in the ocean bottom, with a line connecting it to the tower, is located about 300 feet from the proposed data tower.



Photograph courtesy of Cape Wind

Wind towers such as this one are proposed for Cape Cod.

"After careful review by the Army Corps of Engineers and other state and federal agencies, we have determined that this activity is permissible under our jurisdiction of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act," said Christine Godfrey, Chief, Regulatory. "Through review by Corps engineers and biologists in consulta-

tion with other Federal, State and local agency representatives, we have concluded that the proposed project will not impact navigation and have minimal impact on the marine environment. Our decision is as a result of our full National Environmental Policy Act compliance review. Additionally, the permit does not convey any property rights."

These structures will be placed in Nantucket Sound but outside of Massachusetts' waters. The ocean waters at this location are about 13 feet deep and the steel support pilings for this structure will be driven about 100 feet into the seabed.

According to the applicant, these devices are intended to gather scientific data, including meteorological and oceanographic data, to evaluate the design and engineering criteria for a proposed wind energy project in this area of Horseshoe Shoals. More information on Cape Wind's proposed project and the Wind Farm EIS is available online at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/>.

Massport, Corps to conduct study of deepening of Boston Harbor

The New England District, in partnership with the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), will begin studies this summer to investigate the feasibility of deepening the main shipping channels in the port of Boston to a depth greater than the current authorized 40-foot depth.

Massport views channel deepening as necessary to safely and efficiently accommodate the larger container ships and other vessels now calling at the Conley and Marine Terminals in South Boston.

The study, which will include preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, will examine the engineering feasibility, economic justification, social and cultural resource impacts, and environmental acceptability of the proposed channel deepening. The main harbor entrance channel from Broad Sound, through President Roads, and up to the Marine Terminal just seaward of the Ted Williams Tunnel will be examined for deepening to about 45 feet, as will the Reserved Channel.

Deepening of a small area of the Mystic River Channel upstream of the Moran Terminal, from the current 35-foot depth to 40 feet will also be examined. The study will take about three years to complete, and the study cost, estimated at approximately \$4 million, will be shared by Massport and the Corps. Massport will host a public meeting on the study at the Black Falcon Cruise Ship Terminal in South Boston on Sept. 5, from 1-4 p.m. (PAO press release)

Dredging up the past . . .



Senator Edward Kennedy, Congressman Martin Mehan, and Col. Brink Miller, the Division Engineer, discuss Ft. Devens reuse options just prior to the signing of an Memorandum of Intent by state and local officials in this 1994 photo.

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