



Ribbon cutting ceremony opens dewatering facility

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New England District gathered with their federal, state, and local partners to cut the ribbon on another environmental success story as they celebrated the dedication of the EPA Superfund Dewatering Facility in New Bedford, Mass.

The New Bedford Mayor Frederick Kalisz, who served as Master of Ceremonies, sponsored the ceremony, which was held Aug. 5 on the project site. The Dewatering Facility will support the clean up of the New Bedford Superfund Site.

“A year ago this month we broke ground to construct this building, the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Continued on page 7



In this early construction photo, workers install the floor of the dewatering facility.

Photo provided by Gary Morin.

Former Gulf Region Division Engineer holds special town meeting on volunteerism

Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson, former Commander of the Gulf Region Division (GRD) in Iraq, was the guest speaker at a virtual town hall meeting of all North Atlantic Division districts, Aug. 5.

The New England District theatre was used to receive the telecast. The theme of the special town hall meeting was “Fighting the Global War on Terrorism.”

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, who recently returned from standing up and commanding the Southern District in Iraq, made a few remarks before the meeting. “The Corps is doing amazing and important work in Iraq,” he said. “It was an exciting and fulfilling time.”

Maj. Gen. Johnson discussed his experiences at GRD. He gave a lot of credit to Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple, North Atlantic Division Engineer, for his work creating GRD. “His work set the conditions for GRD to come in,” he said.

The general said that GRD is doing a great job in Iraq, but the division is understaffed. Currently about 291 Corps volunteers are at the Division – half of the amount needed to run the agency effectively. Maj. Gen. Johnson said that those who are there working are covering the work of the missing volunteers, but they are working long hours. Eventually, these volunteers will burn out and Maj. Gen. Johnson said the mission could fail. “I truly

believe if we don’t get this right, we will fail the nation,” he said. “The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has never failed the nation.”

Maj. Gen. Johnson asked everyone in attendance to consider volunteering to work at GRD. “You will not meet a single person who has done this mission that hasn’t been changed by the experience,” he said.

Maj. Gen. Johnson said that there are tremendous opportunities for practically every profession in the Corps of Engineers. “The GRD website has a large list of vacancies in all areas of expertise,” he said.

The general made it clear that although working in Iraq is a fulfilling

Continued on page 9

Yankee Voices



Will Pumyea
Project Management

Sympathy

... to **John MacPherson**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of his father, **John A. MacPherson**, July 29.

... to the family of retired New England Division secretary, **Mary Duffy**, who passed away July 30.

Congratulations

... to **Colleen Jacquet**, who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for August 2004. Colleen was selected for her dedication and professionalism and her work on the WE and Founder's Day committees.

... to the **Tully Lake and New England District Sign Shop Team** as Team of the Month for August 2004. Team members include Park Manager, **Jeffrey Mangum** and Park Ranger, **James West**. The team was nominated for their outstanding performance and professionalism. Their recent success story includes the delivery of signs to the Gulf Region Division, Southern District in Basrah, Iraq.

Retiree access cards

The New England District Security Office, in conjunction with the Human Resource Office, is now offering retired employees Civilian Identification Cards.

These cards, which look exactly like the old cards used in the old Waltham, Mass., location, will allow retirees to reap the benefits of federal employees such as access to Concord Park, military bases such as Hanscom Air Force Base, and discounts at such facilities as Disney's Shades of Green Resort in Florida. To obtain a card, a retiree must have a copy of his or her SF 50 (Personnel Action Form). New retirees usually have to wait about three weeks in order to receive their SF 50 in the mail. A DD 1172 form must be obtained from the Human Resources Office and filled out. The point of contact for the form is Susan Rodkey at 978-318-8066.

After the DD 1172 is filled out, retirees may contact Jerry Nunziato in the Security Office (978-318-8589) to make an appointment for their card. Retirees must bring the completed DD1172 and their SF 50 with them to obtain a card. Jerry will then take the retiree's photo and fingerprints to place on the new identification card. The process only takes about 20 minutes. This civilian identification card is offered to Corps of Engineers retirees only. Cards will be distributed until March 3, 2006.

Coast Guard Announces WWII Veterans Outreach Campaign

The U.S. Coast Guard announced an initiative to identify and collect the oral histories of its World War II veterans. Coast Guard World War II veterans--including SPARs and Merchant Marine -- are encouraged to record their histories online with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

Those veterans needing assistance in recording their stories can receive help from their local Coast Guard Auxiliary public affairs contact. More information on the Coast Guard's role in World War II can be found at the Coast Guard Historian's Website, located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html>.

To get the full story, go to: http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,uscg2_073004.00.html.

To find the latest news and special features concerning the Coast Guard, visit our Coast Guard Community Center: <http://www.military.com/Community/Home/1,14700,COASTG,00.html>

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A message from the new Chief:

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock addresses Corps of Engineers employees

by Lt. Gen. Carl Strock
Chief of Engineers

Corps Team,

I'd like to take a couple of minutes to let you know how honored I am to serve as the 51st Chief of Engineers, and to also share with you a sense of direction for this tremendous organization. I have been privileged to serve with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a district and as a division commander, and have always been impressed by the employees I have worked with or met along the way.

Many people wonder what changes a new leader will make, so I will let you know up front. Simply put, I will not make any immediate changes in the direction that the 50th Chief set for us. It hardly seems possible that four years have passed since Lt. Gen. Flowers joined our ranks and we are just beginning to realize some of the results of his leadership and vision.

During his tenure he increased our partnerships, formalized the Corps' ethic of environmental sustainability, activated a wartime division, and implemented USACE 2012. We will stay on that same path and will now consolidate the gains

from changing our business processes and structure.

These are challenging times. We are an Army and nation at war and we face fiscal constraints. The path we are taking will help us meet those challenges. We must continue to embrace change, but for right now it's important to maintain continuity as we continue the implementation of USACE 2012 and the fielding of P2. This includes maintaining our mission focus and ensuring that we are good stewards of our resources.

In the near term, I will meet with Corps leaders, and I will also begin meeting with customers, partners and stakeholders to learn about their direction -- their vision, priorities and issues. I also want to hear from each of you and will work with the staff to develop a means to do that. In the interim do not hesitate to drop me a note if there is a burning issue that you'd like me to look into. Periodically I will send e-mails to update you on what is happening. In the meantime, I ask that you continue to focus on your mission -- and continue to exercise your initiative in the spirit of the "Just Do It" card.

I look forward to the next four years and to seeing what we will accomplish for the nation and the Armed Forces.

ESSAYONS!

Commander's Corner:

What so proudly we hail

by Col. Thomas Koning
District Engineer



Like many of you, I spent much of the last two weeks staying up late and watching the best athletes in the world compete in the Olympics. Their skill, dedication and drive to succeed mirrors the talents (although different talents) that I see in our Corps workforce every day.

Perhaps this year more than any other, I appreciate hearing our National Anthem being played as each of the U.S. champions received their Gold Medal. I was recently at a baseball game and I watched as the Anthem was played. I saw many people take our Anthem for granted, stand belatedly, talk and make jokes, and before the last notes are played yell "Play Ball." What a shame.

For me there is something incredibly special about

hearing the National Anthem. No matter if I am standing at a baseball game, or the start of a movie at the Base theater, standing with veterans in a Memorial Day ceremony in Leominster or at Patriot's Day in Concord ... or when I changed command in Iraq - I cannot describe the emotions that those notes bring. I have stood on foreign soil; in peace and in war; in the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bosnia, Honduras, Japan, Korea, and Iraq and heard our National Anthem played. Hearing the Anthem reminds me of hope, sacrifice and resolve for the role our nation plays in world affairs.

In a small way, each of us has a part in sustaining our nation as we carry out the Corps' responsibilities. Whether serving here in New England or in a far off land, I cannot think of a better organization to serve with or better people to work with. Your job supports the District, the District supports the Corps, the Corps supports the Army and the Army supports America. We are truly lucky to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

District, partners receive Build America Award for Superfund project

The Association of General Contractors honored the New England District, its contractor, Weston Solutions, and the Environmental Protection Agency for their commitment to a cleaner environment when it presented the partners with its “Build America Award” for the Eastland Woolen Mill project in Corinna, Maine. The award was presented during the Environmental Protection Agency’s Redevelopment Conference held at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass., Aug. 4.

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, accepted the award on behalf of the District team. “We’d like to thank the Association of General Contractors for recognizing the work done by Weston Solutions as part of the Eastland Woolen Mill cleanup for its unique partnership of federal, state, local and private entities to both remediate a contaminated site and present some viable redevelopment opportunities to the community,” he said.

The Eastland Woolen Mill Site is in the center of Corinna Village. It is a 25-acre abandoned wool manufacturing facility that operated from 1912 to 1996. The East Branch of the Sebasticook



2000 Aerial photo of the mill completely demolished.

Photos by Ken Dow and Tim Brigg

River flowed directly under a portion of the former 175,000-square-foot mill complex. Soil, river sediments, and groundwater in the area were contaminated with chlorobenzenes, which is a class of compounds historically used in the wool dyeing process. “In September 1998, the Corps was approached by the EPA to provide technical assistance in the characterization of the site,” said Col. Koning. “By developing stakeholder relationships early in the

process of documenting contamination at this site, the project team was able to move into remediation of the contaminated soils by November of 1999.”

Since then the project team has completed investigations of soil, sediment, and groundwater as a part of a remedial investigation/feasibility study that was completed in 2004. In addition, the project team excavated 75,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, relocated and restored a mile reach of the river, relocated a half mile stretch of state Route 7, and removed several residential and commercial structures to facilitate remediation.

“The Corps and Weston Solutions used this forward-looking approach to layout and sequence the project to result in completion of the work about a year ahead of schedule,” said Col. Koning.

According to the District Engineer, as a result EPA is now able to turn over a remediated site to a ready developer. “This development is hopefully the first step towards revitalization of the community,” he said.

Robert Varney, EPA Region I, and Buzz Grogan, Weston Solutions also received the award on behalf of their respective agencies.



A July 2004 aerial view of the site.

Signed agreements move Cocheco River project forward

New England District representatives participated in a signing ceremony in Dover, New Hampshire to execute two Memorandums of Agreement for the purposes of maintenance dredging the Cocheco River Federal Channel. Col. Thomas Koning, New England District Engineer, signed the MOA's on behalf of the District.

“The first MOA establishes a user fee for the Corps’ use of the city-constructed and operated dredge material disposal facility to dispose of material dredged from the Federal Channel,” said Project Manager Michael Walsh. “The established user fee reflects cost sharing as required by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.”

The disposal fee is cost shared 80/20 with the local sponsor. “Basically, we pay the city 80 percent of what the disposal fee would normally be to any other user,” said Mike.

According to Mike, the second MOA establishes a mechanism for the Corps to include assisted non-federal dredging, such as the Dover Landing project within the federal maintenance dredging contract. The non-federal Dover Landing dredging work will be funded with 100-

percent non-federal funds.

The city of Dover has requested the maintenance dredging. The Corps is required to maintain the federal channel at 100 percent federal cost. However, the project could not be done unless a local sponsor was willing to share in the cost of developing a disposal site. The city of Dover agreed to be the local sponsor for the project.

Surveys indicate that about 75,000 cubic yards of material, portions of it heavily contaminated, need to be dredged to return the 7-foot-deep, 30-75-foot-wide channel to authorized dimensions.

The city has designed its dredged material disposal facility to include the additional 20,000 cubic yards of dredged material for non-federal dredging upstream of the federal navigation project.

Dredging work is expected to start in November 2004 and should be completed in March 2006.



Photo provided by Michael Walsh

Col. Koning (right) prepares to sign the Memorandums of Agreement on behalf of the New England District.

From the Field:

BioBlitzing at New England District's North Hartland Lake

by **Heather Morse**
North Hartland Lake/Union Village Dam

Brian Pfeiffer, a consulting naturalist, working with the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS) approached me in November of 2003 about using Corps land for a BioBlitz. After he explained to me what VINS wanted to do, I thought it would be an excellent idea. So, exactly what is a BioBlitz?

It is a 24-hour period during which volunteers inventory all living things within a certain area. Beginning June 26 at 3 p.m., more than a 150 volunteers began counting everything from cute furry critters to dragonflies and butterflies to beetles, spiders, birds, fish and bats.

In addition to counting everything in the animal kingdom, plants were also inventoried.

The areas inventoried included North Hartland Lake, Quechee Gorge, and the VINS property. Specific stations, or walking routes for counters, were set up within these areas. Rather than have all volunteers attempt to count every single living thing they saw, BioBlitz organizers had volunteers specify particular living things that were in their area of expertise, then sent them out under the supervision of a group, or "taxon" leader.

The BioBlitz headquarters were located at the VINS center, where identification equipment and guides were provided. There was also plenty of food and drink for everyone to snack on as the

day and night progressed. The type of species a group was looking for determined what time of day or night you would be out counting. For the people looking for bats this meant late evening to early morning. The bats were caught using mist-nets, which are very fine mesh nets, making it difficult for the

unique be discovered? When all the inventoried species were tallied by VINS, it was discovered that more than 1,700 species of plants and animals had been found in the previous 24 hours.

A big cheer went up from those in the crowd when this was announced.

The group, or "taxon" leaders then discussed the individual groups' findings, and confirmed that several species found were rare or unusual for this part of Vermont.

One of great things that came from the BioBlitz project is the species data it gave us. This data is going to be made available to Corps personnel for their use when all of the data is consolidated.

VINS must be thanked for organizing this event, along with the Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, who participated by donating time and/or resources. Also a thanks goes to all of the people who came out and volunteered for such a great event.

It is amazing what can be accomplished when a group of people, interested in all different types of living things, wander around the woods and streams and report back what they find to a central location. My thanks to all of the Corps personnel who came and participated in BioBlitz. You helped to make this event a great success.



Photo by Gary Pelton

Participants processing a bat during the BioBlitzing event.

bats to detect and avoid.

Bats generally leave their roost sites around dusk, so we set the nets up after dinner, to prepare for their arrival. In all, 20 bats were caught, representing three different species (little brown, big brown, and northern long-eared bats). General data was recorded each time a bat was caught and then it was then released. We stopped mist-netting and took the nets down around 1 a.m.

We were all waiting anxiously for Saturday afternoon, which would bring the results of BioBlitz. How many different species would be found? Would anything endangered or rare or

Ribbon cutting ceremony opens dewatering facility

Continued from page 1

Dewatering Facility, with a goal of starting full scale remediation in the fall of 2004," said Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer. "Today we mark the highly anticipated completion of the Dewatering Facility and a major step forward in starting full-scale remediation next month."

The EPA requested assistance from the Corps of Engineers in removing PCB contaminated sediments from New Bedford Harbor, located in the city of New Bedford and towns of Acushnet and Fairhaven in southeastern Massachusetts. The harbor was contaminated from the 1940s through the 1970s by two electrical capacitor manufacturing plants that discharged PCB waste.

"The New Bedford Superfund Site is one of the largest and most challenging hazardous waste sites in the country," said Gary Morin, project manager for the Corps of Engineers. "Water sediment and biota have been contaminated endangering public health and the environment with PCB levels exceeding 100,000 parts per million."

The Environmental Protection Agency signed its Record of Decision in April 1999 that determined sediments dredged from New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site would be dewatered and then hauled to a commercially approved landfill. Dewatering will make the sediments easier to handle, reduce the weight, and reduce the cost for off-site disposal. Construction on the dewatering facility began in July 2003 and completed in June 2004.

"These collaborative efforts are culminating in the revitalization of the harbor, a shared resource that is pivotal to the surrounding communities both economically and environmentally," said Bob Varney, EPA Region I Administrator.

The dewatering facility includes four 15-foot-high plate and frame filter presses. Each press has a series of one-inch-thick plastic plates that slide back and forth on metal rods. The square plates have dimples embedded on the surface and indentations that create a pocket. At the center of the each plate is a hole that allows dredge slurry to be pumped between the plates. The plates are wrapped in filters that allow the water to filter through, leaving only sediment. The plates also have holes in them to allow water to drain and be collected.

Slurry the consistency of thick chocolate milk is treated with polymers to make the mixture thicker and then pumped into the presses. The plates then close in on the slurry with a force of 200 pounds per square inch, squeezing the liquid

through the filters and out the collection holes. The plates are then pulled apart and the remaining sediment falls into a trough, where it is carried away through a series of conveyor belts to a central collection facility. The water is then pumped into a water treatment plant to be cleaned of additional contaminants. The sediment will then be taken to an offsite disposal facility.

Lt. Col. Nelson credited the partnership between the Corps, the EPA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the communities of New Bedford, Acushnet, and Fairhaven, the Corps' contractors Tetra Tech FW and Jacobs Engineering with the enormous success of the project.

"Our team of partners is helping EPA achieve continued progress of remediation at this site," said Lt. Col. Nelson. "The significance of completing the Dewatering Facility is that it shows the commitment by the partnering agencies and the people who represent them to continue to move forward to remediate this site."

Mr. Varney also credited the partnership with the successful completion of the project. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been an integral partner, shoulder-to-shoulder with EPA every step of the way in our efforts to rid the Harbor of PCB contamination," he said. "Without the support of the Corps and their contractors, we wouldn't be able to point to so many successes."

In addition to dedicating the dewatering facility, EPA, the District and its partners also noted that New Bedford

Harbor has been selected as one of three Portsfield Pilot sites nationwide. "Portsfield is a new program with a goal to forge partnerships among state and federal agencies to use their existing authorities to revitalize, improve, cleanup and develop ports and harbors," explained Lt. Col. Nelson. "The Corps is looking at assistance it can render under its navigation and environmental restoration program authorities."

Other speakers included Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, Elsie Souza representing Congressman Barney Frank, Robert Neely representing David Kennedy of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, and Dr. Brian Bowcock, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts State Senator Mark Montigny, and Massachusetts State Representative William Strauss.

New Bedford Harbor is the home of one of the largest fishing fleets and oldest recreational and commercial navigation harbors along the east coast. In 1966 the Corps built and still operates and maintains the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier, which is located at the mouth of the harbor. In addition, the Corps built and still maintains a federal navigation channel running up through the harbor.



Photo provided by Gary Morin

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson with New England District team at the ceremony.

Corps establishes a new restricted area in the Narragansett Bay adjacent to Naval Station Newport

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

After careful review of existing state and federal laws by various state and federal agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has established a new Restricted Area in Narragansett Bay (East Passage), Coasters Harbor Island, adjacent to Naval Station Newport, R.I.

"The purpose of the new regulation is to create an area of separation between general navigation on the East Passage of Narragansett Bay and Naval Station Newport," said Permit Project Manager Mike Elliott, of the New England District's Regulatory Division.

The permit review included a public notice and public comment period in April-May 2003. Also, the notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments was published in the Federal Register on Nov. 18, 2003.

"The new regulation supports an increased security posture by augment-

ing existing protections for Government personnel and property located onboard Naval Station Newport. The area will be marked off with a series of danger area marker buoys," Elliott said.

The new rule has also been published in the Federal Register, dated June 25, 2004. The Corps of Engineers has granted a request by the U.S. Navy, Northeast Region, to establish a Restricted Area under Section 7 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1917 and chapter XIX of the Army Appropriation Act of 1919.

"Vessels, with the exception of law enforcement and military vessels, are prohibited from entering the area except with the written permission of the local Commanding Officer of Naval Station Newport or his or her designee," Elliott said. The Restricted Area is the "C" shaped area, shown in the public notice, enclosing Coasters Harbor Island and the mainland shoreline of Naval Station

Newport from Coddington Point south to the old Naval Hospital.

It includes essentially all of the navigable waters immediately adjacent to and surrounding Coasters Harbor Island from Coddington Point west-southwest to the rocks known as The Sisters, then south-southwest to Bishop Rock, then due south past an area labeled as Tower, then south-southeast to a wash, then southeast to a rock, then due east to the shore at the Navy Hospital.

The new regulation states that, "All persons, swimmers, vessels and other craft, except those vessels under the supervision or contract to local military or Naval authority, vessels of the United States Coast Guard, and local or state law enforcement vessels, are prohibited from entering the restricted areas without permission from the Commanding Officer Naval Station Newport, USN, Newport, Rhode Island or his/her authorized representative."

Corps performs maintenance dredging of Kennebunk River Entrance Channel

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, conducted maintenance dredging of shoaled areas of the 8-foot entrance channel in the Kennebunk River, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, Maine.

About 10,000 cubic yards of sand was dredged by the government-owned special-purpose "hopper" dredge Currituck. The material was placed nearshore off Gooch Beach in Kennebunk, about one mile from the dredge site.

The dredged material will function as a feeder berm, providing a sand source for nourishment of the beach.

The work began on July 3 and was completed on July 8.

Local officials and boat owners from the towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport requested that the channel be maintained. Many commercial and recreational vessels use the river and harbor. Recent shoaling has created a safety hazard. There have been several groundings by vessels in the entrance channel. The channel has not been maintained since 1985.

The Currituck is a self-propelled, self-contained hydraulic dredge that uses a pump to suction bottom sediments through an arm into a hopper within the dredge.

When the hopper is full, the Currituck moves to the disposal site, and the material is released by splitting

the dredge.

The original project was adopted in 1829 and supplemented by enactments to 1962.

Water Quality Certification, for disposal of dredged material, was received from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, along with state concurrence with Corps determination of federal consistency with the state's approved coastal zone management program.

The work was coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources, towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, and the Kennebunk River Committee.

Second moonlight swim held at Buffumville/Hodges

Story by Park Rangers Sean Metras and Ryan Harrington

On Aug. 14, from 7-11 p.m., the seasonal rangers and volunteer hosts of Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam held their second Moonlight Swim of the summer at Buffumville Park.

The first, held on July 31, was so popular that local attendees requested a repeat.

The formula is simple: the park's stairs, restrooms, children's pirate ship and swimming area are lit up for safety. Depressions are dug in the beach sand and half-barrels are laid in to hold firewood.

The rangers and hosts light and tend the fires for the visitors and start up the music on a sound system.

People swim with their children, friends or their dates and then warm up by cooking hot dogs and marshmallows under the mild summer sky. The happiness of the crowd is reflected in the



Photo provided by Jean Hixson

Park rangers Amanda Fafard and Sean Metras prepare a fire pit for the evening's event.

sounds of squealing kids and the smiling grown-ups.

How many places anywhere can

families still make such a memory together? They can at Buffumville Park and the price is always right. It's free.

Special town meeting held on volunteerism

Continued from page 1

and tremendous experience, it is also a dangerous assignment. Maj. Gen. Johnson assured the audience that every security measure available is always taken to ensure the safety of Corps employees. "Iraq is dangerous, but not as dangerous as you see on television," he said. "People are dying every day, and Corps of Engineers employees are at risk, but that is the nature of a combat zone. I was never afraid that my life was at risk, but I was always cautious."

Living conditions, according to Maj. Gen. Johnson, have improved significantly since GRD was in its infancy and that little money is needed for essentials during a tour of duty. The general said that there were many reasons why Corps employees volunteer for the Iraq tour – some do it for the money, but most volunteer because it is a life changing experience; it is an adventure of a lifetime; and it is fulfilling work. Three New England District employees who have

already had tours in Iraq – Dave Kratz, Phil Morrison, and Steve Waite – attended the town meeting and attested to the fact that volunteering for GRD is worth doing. "It was the best experience of my life," said Dave, who provided transportation services while serving. "I support the mission completely. I never felt unsafe there – the news media sensationalize the problems that go on."

Phil, who also played a key role in Logistics in Iraq, said that it was such a great experience and adventure, that he had planned on signing up for a second tour. Steve performed property management while he served in Iraq and Kuwait and found the work to be a new experience. "I never did that type of work before, but I figured it out and got the job done," he said.

Maj. Gen. Johnson said that in order to get the division running with about 700 people, 2-percent of every major command would have to volunteer. However, not everyone would be

accepted. "We need to have the right people with the right skills," he said. "They also would have to be in good health."

The general pointed out that GRD is looking for the best of the best. "If sending the person doesn't hurt, then you're probably sending the wrong person," he said.

There was a question and answer period after Maj. Gen. Johnson's remarks. Questions included Human Resource issues, financial benefits, the degree of interaction with the Iraqi people, cultural experiences, and transportation issues.

Col. Koning encouraged interested employees to talk with people who have already served a tour in Iraq and to visit the GRD website at www.grd.usace.army.mil. Those who are interested in volunteering for deployment should go to www.cpol.army.mil to identify current vacancies.

Regional News:

North Atlantic Division Engineer discusses Command Philosophy

Story and photo by David Lipsky
North Atlantic Division

Almost two years ago, when Brig. Gen. Merdith 'Bo' Temple assumed command of the North Atlantic Division, he shared his Command Philosophy. Since then, major changes have taken place in the Corps, including adoption of the Project Management Business Process and the USACE 2012 restructuring of the Corps.

Brig. Gen. Temple was asked if his philosophy had changed since then. With no hesitation, the Commander said, "That philosophy remains the same today and is based on the same basic principles."

He was asked to talk about how USACE 2012 is changing the Division. Brig. Gen. Temple discussed his commitment to teamwork, calling it the key to our success and our future. "I know why we are being a very large team of teams throughout the Corps," he said. "Working together, we can meet our customer's needs for safety, quality planning, engineering, construction and project services and operation."

Brig. Gen. Temple said he is firmly committed to the Corps' three Strategic goals: People, Process and Communication within the context of the USACE 2012 concept. While these are relatively new terms, he mused, these have been central to his own management approaches for over 20 years:

People. Our Division "Team of Teams" is made up of over 3,600 civilians and members of the military. We must continue to respect each other as experts in our own right and take care of each other as members of our Division family. No one is superior to others. Everyone needs to mentor new members as they join our Division team.

Process. We are here to deliver

high quality products and services safely to the American people and our nation's military. We are expected to use our knowledge, skills and insights every single day.

Communication. This is the glue that holds us all together. Every project has three elements: the customer, contractor/executor and the contract management agency (Corps of Engineers). Without good communications, we cannot work together as a team to successfully deliver quality work.

Brig. Gen. Temple was asked about how he deals with difficult problems and offered an insight into the way he works. "Please don't surprise me with bad news. It does not get better with age and I never 'shoot the messenger.' So if you have something 'hot' please call or come see me. Putting it on e-mail alone may not be good enough."

Brig. Gen. Temple discussed the Division's very large, complex and diverse program, saying, "It all boils down to three things. Everything we do supports three areas: our national security, economic security or our environmental quality. Support to these three elements, especially the Global War on Terrorism, is vital to our way of life."

Brig. Gen. Temple discussed his frequent travels throughout the North Atlantic Division's Districts, projects and field offices, saying he makes a habit of sharing knowledge. "I always share what I learn," he said. "Many years ago, I found that sharing knowledge with others is central to an organization's success. The Corps is a Learning Organization and we must share our collective experiences with each

other. Whenever you learn something new, ask yourself three questions:

- 1) What have I just learned (think)?
- 2) Who else needs to know (share)?
- 3) What action is now required of me (act)?

If you do this, you will be a positive contributor to our



Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple discusses his command philosophy.

learning organization.”

Years ago, Brig.Gen. Temple learned that an organization’s success is based on individual contributions. “Everyone should come to work prepared to do your best - every day - by being ready mentally, physically and spiritually. It sets the tone for you and your team. Others will notice your extra effort toward preparedness and this type of attitude is contagious. Everyone needs to set an example and be a positive role model for all team members and for the public we serve.”

Brig. Gen. Temple paused, then firmly said, “Integrity is the bedrock of how we operate. Without integrity, we lose trust... and without trust there is no teamwork, leading ultimately to total mission failure. I am firmly committed to taking care of the Corps’ greatest asset-our people. All of us must treat everyone with dignity and respect. Team leaders and managers must encourage all to share and learn from each other.”

The Commander was asked to talk about relationships as the USACE 2012 organization is taking shape. He said, “Stovepipes are gone, but the principles of human relation remain the same. Treat each other with dignity and respect. Tolerate nothing less from yourself or others. Learn, share and grow together as positive members of our Division team. Be a good role model as we raise the next generation of leaders. Our hope is that they are better than we are. Through teamwork we can ensure that the total organization learns and improves.”

Brig. Gen. Temple added, “This is what I do every single day and my expectations of team are exactly the same expectations I have set for myself.”

“Finally, never forget to have fun,” Brig. Gen. Temple mused. “Enjoy family, colleagues, and yourself. I take the mission and organization seriously, but I do not take myself too seriously. Learning and improving are fun and challenging. I look forward to seeing you in my travels throughout the Division. Essay-ions!”

District Park Rangers participate in motorboat operator training in New Bedford Harbor

by Robert Hanacek
Thames River Basin

Park Rangers from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut joined forces for the 11th year to conduct two motorboat operator training classes in New Bedford Harbor the week of Aug. 9. Corps regulations require operators of motorboats under 26 feet to pass a three-day certification course involving two days on the water driving boats.

The license is good for five years, and recertification requires a one-day refresher. Project Manager Tim Russell, Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam, led this year’s training efforts with the assistance of Steve “Patch” Patchkofsky, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, NRB. Instructors Gary Wheeler of North Hartland/Union Village and Bob Hanacek, TRB, also taught. Moe Beaudoin provided outstanding support from the New Bedford Superfund construction field office. Trainers were certified at a two-week training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga.

About 175 motorboat operator licenses have been issued or renewed in New England District since 1993.

This year’s graduates included Ken Levitt, Ed Greenough, Joe

Faloretti, Lowell “Chuck” Whitehead, Dave Platt, Chris Cogley, Brett Markure Christine Zahniser, Jeff Preston, Jason Killary, Joe Maloney, Jennifer Rockett, Willis Loper and Jared Fournier.

Students received classroom instruction on rules of the road, navigation, safety equipment, fire extinguishers, knots and emergency procedures.

On the water, they were required to pass a swim test, don the life jackets in the water, climb aboard from the water, conduct mock rescues and proficiently put the boats through slalom courses, conduct obstacle avoidance maneuvers, and dock. Students were also taught basic boat maintenance and how to trailer and launch the boats.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, New Bedford Flotilla 1N-65, partnered with us to successfully complete the training mission for the 3rd year by providing training rooms, textbooks, charts and slip space for the boats at their beautiful marina facility in Fairhaven.

The Auxiliary is an all-volunteer service organization dedicated to the promotion of water safety and support to the U.S. Coast Guard’s mission. The USACE HQ signed a memorandum of understanding with the Auxiliary last month to promote water safety nationwide on Corps lakes.



Photo by Kevin Burke

Instructor Tim Russell at the wheel of the “Flounder” with Jennifer Rockett, MRB and Jeff Preston, Coastal Survey on their way out for docking practice.

Dredging up the past . . .



Col. Earle Richardson, Division Engineer, signs the Division's Federal Women's Program by law in this January 29, 1996 photo. Observing are FWP committee members (from left) Athena Thomas, Sharon Vienneau, Gail Clingerman, Joan Gardner, and EEO Officer Al Smith.

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