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of Engineers
New England District

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Photos by Kevin Burke

A view of the Bourne Bridge containment area for sand blasting, lead abatement and painting.

Bourne Bridge painting raises environmental concerns

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Bourne Bridge, one of three New England District bridges that connect the island of Cape Cod to the mainland, is getting a little face-lift. But with the new look comes concerns about air quality during the work. Members of the New England District are working with the public and federal and state agencies to ensure everyone's safety during the paint removal.

Corps of Engineers contractors began painting and removing the lead-

based paint in March 2004. Eagle Painting and Maintenance Company is performing the work on the \$7,600,000 project, which is scheduled to be completed later this fall. Routine project maintenance activities require the Corps to repaint the bridge as one of many measures to ensure the bridge's structural integrity and to be responsive to the Corps environmental mission.

"The Bourne Bridge is undergoing a total repainting by removal of origi-

nal lead paint through abrasive blasting to properly prepare the bridge surface for the application of a new coating system," said Frank Fedele, New England District's resident engineer. "All work is conducted in a fully enclosed containment structure, using negative pressure to keep dust and deleading particles from escaping to the maximum extent practical."

The New England District is taking every measure possible to ensure

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Yankee Voices



Trudy Vinger
Real Estate

Sympathy

... to **Ralph Gendron, Jr.**, Project Manager, Barre Falls Dam on the passing of his father, **Ralph Gendron, Sr.**, July 28. Gendron served with U.S. Army Troop A, 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. He received many battle and campaign decorations for serving in France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge. Among these medals were the Combat Infantryman badge, WW II Victory Medal and the Bronze Star with four service stars.

...to the family of Programs retiree **Joanne Ellis** who passed away July 30. An article on Ellis' recent retirement party appears on page 4.

...to **Paul O'Brien**, Survey crew chief, Survey Section on the passing of his mother, **Dorothy G. O'Brien**, who passed away Aug. 6.

... to **Gina Kaso**, Project Management, on the recent passing of her brother, **George F. Kaso**.

Congratulations

...to **the New England District family** for donating over 100 pounds of food during the WE Committee sponsored food drive. The District's generosity will benefit the Worcester Country Food Bank.

...to **Sally Rigione**, Public Affairs Office (PAO) who has been selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for August 2005. Sally received the award for her outstanding work in the preparation and execution of the New England District's Change of Command (CoC) ceremony held July 8.

... to **the Somersworth, N.H., U.S. Army Reserve Center (USARC) team** that was selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for August 2005. The team is being recognized for its exceptional support for the successful completion of this contract. Team members include **Jim Conway, Steve Chase, Tim Coleman, Paul Duffy and Craig Hysler**.

...to **Bob Meader**, Engineering/Planning, on the birth of his twin granddaughters, **Caroline Elisabeth** and **Ashlyn Helene**, July 28. Caroline and Ashlyn join their big sister, **Alexandra Grace** in the family circle. Bob has another granddaughter, **Adara Elisabeth**, making a total of four grandchildren.

...to **Amal Guirguis**, Information Management, on the birth of her second grandchild, **Matthew Robert Crigo**, Aug. 11. Matthew joins his sister, **Madeline Alexandria**, in the family circle.

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Commander's Corner: Col. Thalken's Command Philosophy

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Engineer



Thank you for allowing me to defer my discussion of my command philosophy to this month's Yankee Engineer rather than to do this during our recent Town Hall Meeting. I felt it was more appropriate to spend the face-to-face time during the Town Hall to discuss the District's current financial situation and what we foresee in the future. Therefore, back to the task at hand and my command philosophy, which has been

modified slightly over the years, but remains in essence similar to the philosophy of my earlier commands.

Many of you have already seen my official biography, which was included in the May 2005 issue of the Yankee Engineer, before I assumed command. While the bio describes my previous assignments and credentials it does not describe my temperament and what I believe is important.

We are all a product of our past experiences and I am no different. I was raised in the Midwest and learned the values of working hard and speaking plainly and truthfully. These principles still govern my actions today and I truly hope that my actions so far have demonstrated how important I believe these to be. Likewise, I have been married to my wonderful wife Carolyn for 21 years and I look forward to the rest of our lives together as we watch our two daughters Caitlin and Chelsea grow and explore what life has to offer them.

The roots of my command philosophy are found in these core beliefs and can be simply stated with four pillars:

- Know your job
- Do the right thing
- Take care of people
- Seek balance among the competing priorities of life

First; knowing your job requires an individual to be technically proficient and to take the appropriate steps to remain current in your field. Knowing your job also requires an individual to understand where their job fits within the structure of the organization.

This involves how a job impacts those above, below and adjacent to the position. Likewise, within the Corps knowing our jobs entails a responsibility to understand the variables that impact our customers: funding constraints, time horizons to both begin and complete the work in question, and the public sentiment both in favor of and opposed to work have a bearing on the tenability of a customer's position and the requirements they will levy on us. Our actions influence the environment our customers must live within. We should lessen their problems not contribute to them.

Second; doing the right thing has both a legal and moral component. The number of laws and regulations that govern our activities is tremendous and the language used is sometimes challenging to understand. Yet, it is our responsibility to ensure we remain in compliance at all times. We also face moral dilemmas quite often.

It may be the case that more than one approach is legal when resolving an issue. However, hiding behind a legal technicality rather than doing what may be the harder right is not the path to long term credibility. Our customers desire the best support possible, not the minimum necessary to meet the letter of the law. Transparency on our part instills confidence that we have nothing to hide. This should be the norm for our activities.

Third; taking care of people is really as simple as following the old adage, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." Consideration of others should be more than quarterly EEO training. It is essential to providing an enjoyable productive work place where people want to be - not a place they dread coming to. Taking care of people also includes providing realistic counseling and performance appraisals.

However, while most people invite constructive criticism, the annual performance appraisal is not the place to introduce criticism. Periodic counseling should emphasize both areas of excellence and areas needing increased emphasis. This gives subordinates the opportunity to make corrections. If the needed corrections are not made, then they should be addressed on the performance evaluation.

Fourth; the need for balance in one's life should be obvious, but we all face competition for our time. Individual goals, the needs of our spouses, children, and even our parents as we mature, and the requirements of our job all demand our attention.

It is important to recognize what our priorities are and recognize that we will more often than not have conflict among the elements of our lives. However, it is within our power to strike a balance among these aspects of our lives. The balance changes as each situation changes, but sacrificing one element of our lives for the perceived betterment of the others often results in the decay of the remaining elements. The synergy that results from the whole is what leads to long term fulfillment.

Lastly; I would like to thank you all for the superb job you have done in making the New England District the wonderful organization it is. I look forward to participating in the outstanding support we provide for our customers and ourselves. I look forward to answering any question you have of me during my upcoming visits around the District and welcome any thoughts you have on how to make our organization better. Thank you for the contributions each and every one of you make to our success. Essayons!

Celebrating an outstanding career and a life well lived: Joanne Ellis retires with 35 years of federal service

(Editor's note: Sadly, members of the New England District lost a valuable member of our family when Joanne Ellis, recent retiree of Programs/Project Management, passed away on July 30. Instead of writing an article that reflects Joanne's passing, this article celebrates her life and career.)

Joanne Ellis, dubbed the "Ambassador to new employees for the District," retired from the Corps in New England with 35 years of federal service. Over 100 friends and family members joined Joanne at the Hanscom Air Force Base Officer's Club July 14 to recall her distinguished career and the fun times.

Bobby Byrne, Joanne's longtime supervisor and friend, served as Master of Ceremonies. Bobby immediately spoke of Joanne's undying commitment to family. "The Ellis family doesn't do anything without each other, and they are all here tonight," he said as he introduced all of Joanne's relatives to include aunts, brothers, sister, brother and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Bobby said that Joanne began her career in 1971 and the two met in 1974. "Joanne moved to Programs in 1975," he said. "I went over in 1980. She's been my desk-mate every since."

The Chief of Programs & Civil Project Management Branch could not resist telling a few stories of Joanne's party days with her lifelong best friend Christine Lydon, who also worked for the Corps for a time. His recollections of their misadventures brought many laughs and cheers from the crowd, and a blush or two from Joanne.

Bobby also said that Joanne was usually the first to greet a new employee, welcome them to the District, and ask them if they were interested in joining the Bowling League. Before continuing with the ceremony, Bobby presented Joanne with a bouquet of red and white roses, "For being there with



Photo provided by the friends of Joanne Ellis

Joanne Ellis (shown here in the mid 1980's) retired with 35 years of service.

me for 24 years every day; all the time," he said.

Although many people attended Joanne's retirement celebration, there were still some who could not. Bobby presented Joanne with a Corps of Engineers pin from Lt. Col. Brian Baker with Baker's regrets that he was unable to give it to her himself. Lt. Col. Baker was a major when the U.S. Army took him to the New England District and the Programs/Project Management Branch. Serving as a project manager, he became one of Joanne's many Corps extended family members.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member and Planning retiree Paul Pronovost said that he and Joanne go way back. As was the running theme of the evening, Paul recalled her dedication to her family. He also shared some memorable moments the two shared, to include the day he literally ran out of

the office for the birth of his daughter, Jennifer. Joanne recalled it well. "You knocked the coat rack down," she reminded him to the laughter of everyone in the room.

Paul remembered the work that the two achieved and the fun they had over the years. "We always worked hard and we always played hard, and I love her," he said. "She's fun-loving and hard working. You won't find a harder worker anywhere."

Paul concluded by saying in addition to being a family-oriented person, Joanne was extremely loyal to her friends. "No one could ask for a better friend than Joanne Ellis," he said.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member and one of Joanne's longtime friends Nick Avtges also related some amusing stories and talked of a lasting friendship that had been formed by the many years of working together. "I

haven't worked with her in 22 years, but our friendship, and the District family bonds, are still there," he said.

Tom Rosato, Joanne's brother-in-law and fellow co-worker, credited her with helping all of the Tufts University stay-in-schoolers at the time (Tom, Joe Bocchino, Tony Riccio, and others) get through the program. "There was a whole bunch of us from Tufts who started as sophomores and freshmen working in the stay-in-schooler program," he said. "Joanne helped us and we really appreciate that."

The most important thing that Joanne did for Tom was to introduce him to her sister, Marianne, to whom he is married.

Tom helped Joanne in her transition to retirement by cleaning out her cubicle. There he found a treasure trove of Corps memorabilia. Referring to her as a "pack-rat," Tom brought along some items he found rummaging through her cube to prove his point. "Joanne is very similar to me – she's a collector," he said. "She has every issue of the Yankee Engineer since 1977 and has copies of the Founder's Day brochure going back to 1984."

To end his presentation, Tom gave Joanne pretzels, a candy jar, a 1983 picture of Joanne and some old black and whites he found in her cubicle,

various Corps memorabilia, a bone for each of Tom's dogs (Joanne had recently become very attached to them) a flashlight, which she always was "going to buy," and a Corps hat.

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer said that when a commander goes to an organization, he or she hopes that the situation that they step into is a family. He said that as he prepared to attend the party, he received a number of unsolicited comments regarding Joanne and how much she's done for them.

"It was extraordinary," he said. "If the District is a family, I guess you would be the family matriarch. Everyone has spoken about the work that you have done for them. The outpouring is just incredible."

Col. Thalken took note of the size of the crowd who chose to attend, particularly the number of retirees, saying that it was a "great tribute" to Joanne.

The District Engineer then presented Joanne with her 35-year certificate, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and her retirement certificate, signed by then New England District Engineer Col. Thomas Konig.

Joanne received the Commander's Award "for 35 years of exceptionally meritorious service in support of the

New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Ellis has distinguished herself through commitment and efforts. She serves as a model for selfless service."

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, worked with Joanne for about 30 years and said that it was great to see the entire Ellis family. He talked about the hard work she put in during budget testimony years in Washington, D.C. "There was no overtime, there were no credit hours, he said. "We spent the holidays together, we worked Saturdays and Sundays, and we worked long into the night. She just gave and gave and gave. I've never known anybody with a better work-ethic."

He concluded by wishing her the best in her retirement and presented her with a picture collage of the old facility in Waltham and the new facility in Concord from Programs/Project Management Division.

Kathy Bucciarelli, Judy Antonellis, Cathy LeBlanc and Bobby presented her with a grandfather clock as a gift from all the attendees.

A PowerPoint production that highlighted Joanne's life and career followed the gift presentation.

As a final memento, Bobby presented Joanne with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for her many years of faithful service to the New England District.

Joanne ended the official festivities by thanking everyone for coming to her party. "I miss all of you," she said.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members who attended Joanne's retirement celebration were Nick Avtges, Frank Ciccone, Charlie Coe, Paul Pronovost, Jim Wong, Joe Ignazio, and Ralph Mallardo.

Other retirees who attended were Jack Caffrey, Bill Coleman, Bob Hunt, Dick Corriveau, John Craig, Bob Gauvreau, Fred Hardy, Bill Kavanugh, Sr., Jane Kotelly, Bob Martin, Ed Wise, and Leo Millette.



Photo by Brian Murphy

(from left) Judy Antonellis looks on as Joanne Ellis receives a grandfather clock from Cathy LeBlanc and Kathy Bucciarelli during the party.

Contract awarded for Town Pond Restoration Project

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Construction of the Town Pond Restoration Project will begin in Portsmouth, Rhode Island under the terms of a contract recently awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. The work will be accomplished by Northern Construction Service, LLC, of Weymouth, Mass., at a cost of \$2,946,300.

“The Town Pond Restoration Project will provide meaningful and productive ecological improvements and enhancements to this area of Rhode Island,” said District Engineer Col. Curtis Thalken, commander of the Corps of Engineers New England District. “The Corps is partnering with state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations to help restore 20 acres of salt pond and salt marsh habitat in the wildlife sanctuary at Town Pond.”

The restored salt pond will provide habitat for coastal fish and wildlife, such as shellfish, flounder and other finfish, herons, egrets, and waterfowl, restoring the productivity and ecological value of the area.

The Corps, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, the Aquidneck Land Trust, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, and the Town of Portsmouth are partners in the project to restore a combination of about half salt marsh and half open water/intertidal habitats with on-site disposal of excavated material.

Located next to Mount Hope Bay, Town Pond was a tidally influenced salt pond and salt marsh prior to a Corps navigation improvement project placing dredged material in the area in the early 1950s. At the time, the low-lying pond was considered a good place to dispose of dredged material. Filling the pond with dredged material increased its elevation above that of regular tidal flooding converting it to a lower value, non-tidal habitat. The project partners recognized the potential value of the site and joined in an effort to

restore the marsh using the Corps program to modify projects to improve the environment (Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986).

An estimated 126,000 cubic yards of existing dredged material will be excavated to promote restored tidal exchange to Town Pond. Over time, the interior marsh will be transformed from a lower value brackish habitat to a high value salt pond and salt marsh habitat.

Approximately 18 acres of phragmites reed, which is above the elevation of tidal influence, will be removed to restore salt marsh and salt pond estuarine habitats. Once the new elevations are established and are flooded by frequent tides, estuarine habitats and vegetation communities will establish. Two concrete structures will be built as part of the project. A 45-foot long, 42-inch diameter culvert with concrete headwalls will replace a smaller old culvert that will be removed and a concrete weir approximately 38 feet long will be built to regulate a permanent pool where the entrance channel meets the interior marsh.

“This was selected as the best overall plan for habitat restoration, aesthetic acceptability and affordability,” said Project Manager David Larsen, of the New England District’s Engineering/Planning Division.

The plan requires some phragmites wetland filling to construct a water control berm along the west side of the site to prevent flooding of Founder’s Brook by salt water. The berm will be covered by 6 inches of loam and seeded with coastal grass; shrubs will be planted along the top.

The material excavated to restore salt marsh and salt pond will be placed in the northeast corner of the site, south of the railroad tracks. This disposal area will be covered with 6 inches of loam and seeded with coastal grasses (e.g. switchgrass) to create a coastal grass community. Provisions will be made to allow continued maintenance access to the existing electric transmission lines that run through the project area.

Work is expected to begin within about three weeks and take up to 22 months to complete.



North Atlantic Division Change of Command streams into Districts

Brig. Gen. William Grisoli assumed command of the North Atlantic Division from Brig. Gen. Meredith “Bo” Temple during a Change of Command ceremony held at Fort Hamilton, Aug. 1. Brig. Gen. Grisoli’s last assignment was Commander of the Northwestern Division. Brig. Gen. Temple has been assigned as the Director of Military Programs, United States Army Corps of Engineers, in Washington, DC. Because the North Atlantic Division’s district offices are located all over the world, a streaming video signal was sent to designated viewing areas at each district to allow employees to virtually attend the event.

(Photo provided by North Atlantic Division)

West Point Cadets experience District Construction, Operations firsthand

The New England District recently invited two West Point Senior Cadets to tour some of its projects and see how the Corps of Engineers operates tactically from a District perspective.

Cadet Gregory Sablan and Cadet Andrew Bigelow worked along side members of the North Central Resident Office for two weeks.

"The cadets get a very structured education and plenty of military and leadership training, but seldom see engineering practiced outside the classroom," said Jim Morocco, resident engineer. "I encourage them to keep involved in 'real world' engineering."

Morocco and his staff encouraged the Cadets by allowing them to be real members of the Corps team.

"We had them do everything a project engineer normally does," he said. "They sat in on contract negotiations, prepared estimates, reviewed submittals, etc. but mostly, we got them out in the big world to see how theory actually gets put into practice. They visited sewer and water line jobs including blasting, excavations, etc. They went to the border crossing stations and oversaw concrete placement, masonry, and earthwork. They toured groundwater treatment plants. I sent them to Superfund sites such as New Bedford. We kept them busy."

Sablan visited the District from July 5-22. During his tour, Sablan said that he got a much better understanding about the Corps of Engineers.



"Before coming here, I was under the impression that the Corps operates strictly under the military and its personnel," he said. "While this is true to a small extent, I've learned that the Corps of Engineers operates with 99 percent civilians."

Sablan, a native of Guam, enjoyed his time with the North Central team and got a lot out of his time with them.

"The people here at Devens are really great to work with because when it comes to engineering, they know what they are talking about," he said. "Also, each of them has a great personality and has a lot of experience under their belts. From my experiences here, I've come to understand that it takes a lot of work to get the job done and to supervise each job is a major responsibility."

Bigelow, who hails from Hudson Falls, New York, also enjoyed his experience with the New England District team.



He visited the District from July 18 to Aug. 4.

"I enjoyed working for the District because I liked the people I worked with," he said. "I do not get to work with civilians that often. I think that this was a very good experience because I worked with civilians who are experts in their specific area of engineering."

Out of the many Corps projects Sablan visited, the Soldiers Center in Natick, Mass., peaked his interest the most.

"I was looking forward to seeing the research facilities there and was quite impressed," he said.

Bigelow was impressed with many of the projects that he visited. "It is sometimes difficult to understand how the topics and concepts covered in the classroom environment apply to the real world," he said. "By experiencing

all of the various projects in the District, I can make the correlation between my classroom studies with real world projects."

Morocco said that both cadets did a good job "working" for the District. "They are extremely self motivated and willing to learn," he said. "They're bright and seem to know the right questions to ask."

The two cadets will be graduating, and both see engineering in their future. After he graduates, Sablan hopes to enter the Engineering Branch of the U.S. Army.

"I've thought about branching Engineers since the end of my sophomore year," he said. "When October rolls around and I have to make my decision, I am 100 percent sure that I will get Engineers. As of where I will be, I'm not too sure yet. If things go right, I would like to post to Fort Campbell, Korea, or Fort Bragg."

Bigelow has similar ideas. "The senior class at West Point will have to choose their branch and post selection in the near future," he explained. "Engineers remains as my top choice right now because it is very broad and you have many opportunities to get tactical experience with a combat engineers unit. You can also get into more technical areas as your career progresses."

Might one of these young men be a future District Engineer? Neither one would say, but Bigelow indicated that he appreciated the opportunity to work with civilians.

"I wanted to get some good experience working with civilians because as an Army officer, I will be working with civilians on many occasions."

Bourne Bridge painting raises environmental concerns

Continued from page 1

the safety of the public. District personnel have met with members of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, and the Mass. Department of Public Health to review the air quality monitoring that began with the painting project.

“To date, air quality sampling results at and near the painting and abatement activities show lead levels in air to be consistently below EPA ambient air quality standards,” said Kirk Bargerhuff, team member of the Evaluation Branch, Environmental Resources Section. “Surface wipe samples of dust on private property taken by the Corps and EPA show extremely low or non-detectable levels of lead.”

The District will continue to coordinate with the agencies and the Bourne Board of Health to monitor and assess the work activities to insure public health and confidence, according to Bargerhuff.

Paint chips may fall from the bridge in areas where the containment system is being erected. This is due to the deteriorated condition of the existing paint system on the bridge. “Chips of paint have fallen off the bridge in the past and continue to fall off the bridge in areas that have yet to be

blasted,” explained Fran Donovan, engineer in charge of the Cape Cod Canal. “Paint chips that are falling off the bridge are not due to the abrasive blasting operation and are not being released from within the containment system.”

The paint chips are typically silver/gray on one side and orange or red on the other. New England District officials have urged residents who observe paint chips on their property to call the Cape Cod Canal Field office at 508-759-8260 or 978-318-8198 with contact information. Once notified, a Corps representative will make arrangements to pick up the chips.

“We do not recommend handling paint chips because of the potential for contact with the lead paint and resultant residue,” said Donovan. “Discourage children from placing their fingers in their mouths if they have found or played with paint chips. If you do handle a chip, wash your hands with soap and water.”

More information regarding lead based paint chips and lead exposure can be found at EPA’s web site – <http://www.epa.gov/lead/index.html> or at the Massachusetts Department of Health -- <http://www.mass.gov/dph/clppp/clppp.htm>.



Col. Curtis Thalken aboard Corps vessel CATUMET.



(from left) Col. Curtis Thalken, Larry Davis, Bill Norman and Fran Donovan walk along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal.

District Engineer tours Cape Cod Canal Field Office

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer, made his first visit to the Cape Cod Canal field office to talk with team members and get a tour of the world’s widest sea-level canal.

During his all day visit, the new District Engineer got a tour of all of the canal facilities to include the new Visitor’s Center. He also got a firsthand look at the painting work on the Bourne Bridge and took a ride on the canal in a Corps vessel.

While taking his tour, Col. Thalken met some participants of the Canal’s Junior Ranger Program.

“I talked with some parents and grandparents at the Junior Ranger Program who spoke about how much the

children enjoyed the program and how much they had learned,” he said. “From what I saw during the remainder of my visit this involvement with the community seems to be the norm not the exception. This kind of community involvement is essential to the public’s understanding of what the Corps does.”

The Cape Cod Canal extends 17.4 miles across the narrow neck that joins Cape Cod to the mainland.

The canal and its facilities surrounding it make for excellent recreational opportunities.

To learn more about the Cape Cod Canal, please visit its web site at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/cc/cchome.htm>. (Photos by Kevin Burke)



Park Ranger Abigail Clark with eager Junior Rangers.



Park Ranger Ricky Myshrall and four new Junior Rangers.

Junior Ranger Program: Successful educational program keeps kids entertained during summer

The New England Region has at least 35 new Junior Rangers thanks to a special summer program sponsored by the Park Rangers at the Cape Cod Canal. The Park Rangers held their annual six-week-long Junior Ranger program every Tuesday, between July 5 to Aug. 9. The free program was held at the Midway Recreation Area on the Cape side of the canal and was open to all children age 5-12.

“Our Program provides awareness to young children the role that park rangers play at federal facilities,” said Park Ranger Abigail Clark. “They get to learn about the natural, commercial and historic environment around them.”

A different topic was presented each week to the Junior Rangers in training. Subjects include, “What Park Rangers Do,” “Compass Navigation,” “Land Stewardship,” “Marine Animals (a.k.a. Canal Critters),” “Water Safety” and



Photos by Kevin Burke

New England District Seasonal Park Ranger Barbara Greene provides First Aid to a Junior Ranger.

“Graduation.”

The Cape Cod Canal has been running its Junior Ranger Program for the past 25 years. According to Clark, the 2005 summer Junior Ranger Program was very successful. Out of the 46 children who signed up for the program, 35 graduated. Out of the 35 graduates, 21 of the Junior Rangers had perfect attendance. Kids that graduate receive a certificate and an embroidered Junior Ranger badge.

“Children may attend as many sessions as they wish and some who were vacationing on Cape Cod attended one or two,” said Clark. “Missed sessions can be made up by completing work in our recently updated Cape Cod Canal Activity Book; however, six sessions are required to receive the Junior Ranger Badge and participate in graduation.”

The program is so popular with some children, they return annually to participate. “Of this year’s participants six Junior Rangers returned for a second year, three for a third year and two completed four years,” said Clark.

Next year’s program is shaping up to be as popular as the 2005 program. “I’ve already fielded calls to register children for Junior Ranger 2006!” exclaimed Clark enthusiastically. “I am creating an e-mail list so interested families will get information regarding the program next year.”

Anyone interested in having a child participate in the Cape Cod Canal Junior Ranger Program should contact Clark either by calling her at (978) 318-8636 or sending an e-mail at abigail.m.clark@usace.army.mil.

(Editor’s note: New England District’s Buffumville Lake (508-248-5697), West Hill Dam (978 318-8410), Tully Lake (978-249-9150), Hop Brook Lake (203-729-8840) and all the projects in the Upper Connecticut River Basin (802-886-8111) and Merrimack River Basin (603-746-3950) also have summer Junior Ranger Programs.)

Vietnam Memorial **Moving Wall makes its way to Massachusetts**

Ceremonies throughout the week of Aug. 10-15 marked the arrival of a memorial that has inspired thousands of veterans who had made personal sacrifices the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall. Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer, served as one of two guest speakers during the Aug. 13 evening ceremony that took place at Gore Place in Waltham, Mass. The evening's events were dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans.



Photos by C.J. Allen

New England District Engineer, Col. Curtis Thalken, addresses the audience during the Aug. 13 Moving Wall ceremony.



Walter Hoyt, Jr. and Alan J. Hassig led Vietnam Veterans in the wreath laying ceremony. The Aug. 13 event was dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans.

"I'm honored to stand before you today and on behalf of a grateful country to thank you for your dedicated service or the service of a friend or loved one to our nation and to pledge to you that a grateful nation will never forget you or your loved one's sacrifices and contributions," said Col. Thalken.

The Boston Federal Executive Board represented the federal community on the committee that brought the Moving Wall to Waltham. "We organized the federal support as well as planned the program for this event," said Diane Leblanc, Chair of the Boston Federal Executive Board and director of the Federal Archives.

Hundreds of people turned out for the ceremony and to view the moving wall. Some also came to find the name of a friend or loved one. Volunteers were available to help attendees find

names on the Wall and provide the materials needed to make a "rubbing." In addition, attendees received small flags to place at the Wall.

Joe Giodano, Jr., City Councilor, served as master of ceremonies. Michael Lawson, Director, VA Medical Center joined Col. Thalken at the podium as the second guest speaker at the event. Lawson was a platoon leading in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

The parade of colors, which began the event, was led by bagpiper Adam Holdaway and a U.S. Army Honor Color Guard from the Army Soldier System Command Center in Natick. Rev. Robert Hoaglander gave the invocation and benediction. Cheri Rando sang the National Anthem and local Waltham children recited the pledge of allegiance.

A wreath laying ceremony con-



Attendees take a "rub" of a loved one's name from the Moving Wall before the Aug. 13 evening ceremony. Small flags were provided to attendees to place at the Moving Wall.



Crowds of people visited the Moving Wall during its visit to Waltham, Mass.

ducted by Committee Vice Chair Walter Hoyt, Jr., Director Veterans Services and Alan J. Hassig, President, VVA, Chapter 837 followed the guest speakers.

The event concluded with Holdaway walking the length of the Moving Wall while Rando performed the musical selection, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Exhibit tents containing documents, photographs, memorabilia and original artwork from the Vietnam War were on display throughout the week.

Information on accessing military personnel records is also available under the tents.

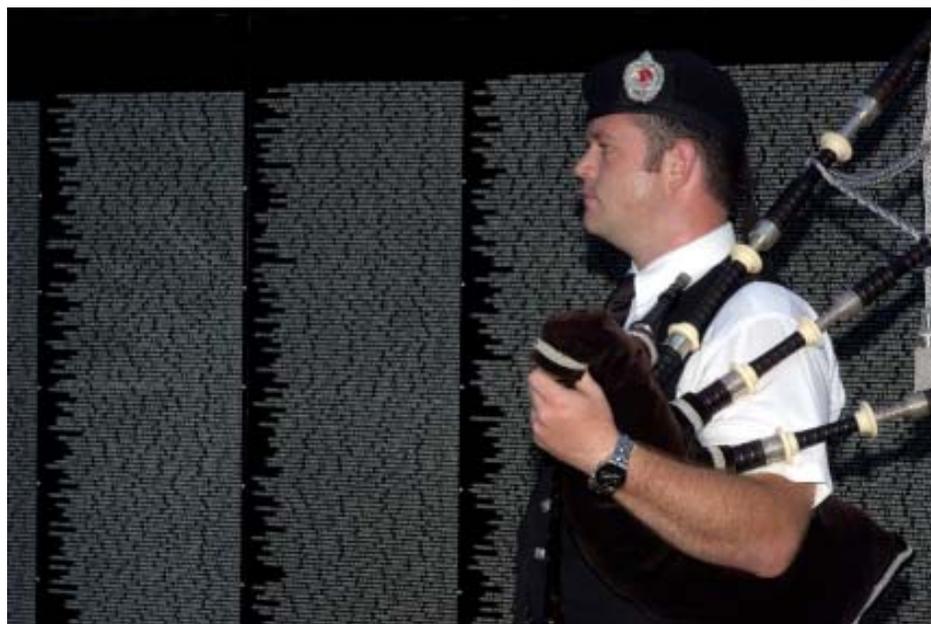
There are 58,234 names of American dead, unaccounted for prisoners of war or missing in action from the Vietnam War. Of those names, eight are women (military nurses) and 16 are military chaplains.

According to its web site, The Moving Wall is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the coun-

try for almost 20 years.

When the exhibit's creator John Devitt, a Vietnam Veteran, attended the 1982 dedication of the permanent memorial in Washington, he was inspired to create the mobile exhibit so that others could share the experience.

"This Moving Wall has allowed many Americans – veterans and their families – a chance to experience the emotions of the Vietnam Memorial without having to travel to Washington, D.C.," said Col. Thalken. "This Moving Wall is serving a great purpose."



Bagpiper Adam Holdaway prepared to walk the wall during the Aug. 13 ceremony.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by Bob Batt

(from left) Marie Pinede and Ann Turcotte, Audit Office, join Rosalie Tekeyan and the late Mary McDonald, Real Estate, during an office holiday party held in Waltham, Mass., in this 1980's photo.

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