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District, Hanscom officials cut ribbon on repair facility

New England District Commander, Col. Curtis Thalken, and Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, joined Col. Thomas J. Schluckebier, Wing Commander, and Col. Robert Boyles, 66 Mission Support Group Commander, at a ribbon cutting ceremony that celebrated another successful project completion at Hanscom Air Force Base by the New England District.

New England District officials turned over the completed Base Civil Engineering Heavy Repair Facility for occupancy during the ceremony on Nov. 20.

“Completion of the facility came in two phases, and both contracts were awarded to small business contractors,” said Ken Paton, New England District’s Project Manager. “The first

contract was the Demolition Phase, and was awarded on Aug. 15, 2006, to Classic Site Solutions of Ludlow, Mass., in the amount of \$514,655. The second contract was the Design-Build Phase, and was awarded on Sept. 15, 2006, to P&S Construction of Lowell, Mass. in the amount of \$2,994,536.”

The first phase of the work was to demolish the existing Base Civil Engineering Heavy Repair and Grounds Facility Complex. The work included the demolition of five existing buildings in the complex and all related site features including several small storage sheds, chain-link fencing, underground storage tanks and utilities, concrete foundations, and bituminous concrete pavement. Asbestos-containing materials were widespread throughout three

of the buildings.

The second phase or the Design-Build phase of the project consisted of designing and constructing a new Heavy Repair and Grounds Facility. The work included all civil, structural, architectural, electrical, fire detection and protection, complete mechanical and plumbing systems, and HVAC system utilizing Johnson Controls’ Metasys direct digital controls tied to the base wide energy and monitoring control system. Associated site work included environmental protection, utilities, pavements, and landscaping. All architecture, engineering, planning, design, environmental investigations, and verification of existing conditions were included. The new maintenance building is 18,000 square feet.



(From left) Janet Brayden and Col. Curtis Thalken, District Commander, prepare toys for pickup.

Making wishes come true

The New England District held its annual toy drive to benefit the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots Campaign. With donations from employees and the CBHCO, drive coordinators Janet Brayden and Jerry Nunziato collected 210 toys for needy New England children.

Yankee Voices

Mary Christopher, Janet Brayden,
Gladys Leone, and Bonnie Ortiz



Congratulations

...to **Joshua Levesque**, Edward MacDowell Lake, and his wife, **Tracy**, on the birth of their son, **Jacob Michael Levesque**, Nov. 15.

...to **Norm Krause**, Contracting Division, who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for December 2007. Krause is recognized for his great customer service support, specifically to the Merrimack River Basin, in awarding a large number contracts in a very short time to meet critical milestones.

Words worth repeating

I would rather fail in an attempt at something new and uncharted than safely succeed in a repeat of something I have done.

- **A. E. Hotchner, Writer**

Today the man who is the real risk-taker is anonymous and nonheroic. He is the one trying to make institutions work.

- **John William Ward**

New England District Inclement Weather Program

The New England District Inclement Weather Program is up and running for the 2007-2008 season. For up-to-date information, please call the District hotline at 978-318-8346 beginning at 5:30 a.m.

The following media will also carry New England District inclement weather information:

- WRKO (680 AM) – Boston, Mass.
- WOKQ (97.5 FM) – Dover, NH
- Channel 7's morning news
- Channel 7's storm force online: <http://www3.whdh.com/stormforce/>

Sympathy

...to the family of retiree **Albert Garneau**, who passed away Oct. 25. Mr. Garneau was an employee at Franklin Falls Dam.

...to the family of retiree **Joseph W. Johnson, Jr.**, who passed away Nov. 10. Mr. Johnson was the former Project Manager at Knightville Dam and the first African American project manager in New England Division.

...to Littleville Park Ranger **Tom Wisnauckas** and his wife, **Janine**, on the passing of Janine's mother, **Mrs. Nanette Bartels Modestow**, Nov. 15.

...to **John Sargent**, Regulatory, on the passing of his mother, **Maria Pilar Sargent**, Nov. 24.

Shoveling Snow

It's easy to throw out your back when shoveling snow. To avoid that fate, follow this advice from the American Chiropractic Association:

- Push the snow straight ahead rather than throwing it or walking it to the side of the path.
- Avoid twisting and turning motions.
- Bend your knees to lift when shoveling. Let your legs do the work, not your back.
- Keep you back as erect as possible.
- Take frequent breaks to take the strain off your muscles. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

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Commander's Corner:

2007 a good year for New England District

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



Happy holidays to everyone. As the year winds down I would just like to reflect on the year's accomplishments and say thanks for all of your hard work and thanks for everything you all did to make the district and New England a better place this past year.

First, we delivered several projects to a multitude of happy customers, a gym and maintenance

facility for Hanscom, a new laboratory at Natick, two new offices for the Border Patrol in Maine (and one more recently occupied, but still with work to finish). We completed dredging at several harbors. We restored salt marshes that haven't felt sea brine for years. We continued to clean up toxic waste sites, both for the EPA and at former DOD facilities. Our bridges allowed citizens safe access on and off of the Cape and the canal facilitated both commercial and recreational traffic.

Second, our dams and hurricane barriers again protected the citizens of New England from a severe flood (the April Nor'easter) and several smaller storms throughout the year. Also, hundreds of citizens enjoyed the use of our recreation facilities associated with our projects.

Third, our regulatory staff revised and reissued state programmatic permits that help to expedite small projects,



Photo by Kevin Burke

Citizens traveled safely across the District's Cape Cod Canal bridges.

while protecting the environment and our actions on individual permits help to allow economic growth while simultaneously protecting and enhancing the environment. Likewise, our own internal NEPA processes ensured we set a good example for environmental stewardship during the construction and maintenance on our federal projects.

In hindsight, these are exactly the types of activities I talked about last month, when I wrote about protecting citizens, their property and the environment. So as you settle down to enjoy the holiday season and reflect on your personal accomplishments this past year, be content we are indeed making a positive contribution and ask, "What can I do next year to contribute a little more?"

Essayons!



The Border Patrol Station in Jackman, Maine, was only one of many projects successfully completed by the District in 2007.

West Hill Dam construction challenge encourages Y.O.U. to learn, grow

by Viola Bramel
West Hill Dam

Children often want to emulate their parents or other role models and will announce, "I am going to be a pilot, firefighter or nurse." Have you ever heard your son or daughter say, "I am going to be a Park Ranger, Forest Ranger or Wildlife Biologist?" Nurturing our youth plants the seeds of future caretakers and stewards for all endeavors of life.

Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc. (Y.O.U., Inc.), a leading child welfare and behavioral health organization located in Central Massachusetts, and New England District Park Ranger Viola Bramel attempted to plant those seeds into a group of at-risk adolescents with an interest in the environment during the West Hill Dam Construction Challenge on September 14 and September 19.

The volunteers from Y.O.U., Inc. were recruited by Bramel at the local Uxbridge Police Chief agency meeting. Justin, a youth worker from Y.O.U., Inc. also attended the meeting. He was impressed with programs and upkeep at West Hill Dam and approached Bramel to see if his clients could volunteer so they could have an outdoor experience and work with a role model in the field of wildlife management, parks and recreation and flood reduction.

"These young adults have left the local school systems for many reasons," said Bramel. "But that doesn't matter because they have returned and attend general equivalency diploma sessions along with coaching and social skill sessions at regional centers located throughout the Worcester area."

Bramel greeted work parties of about a dozen youth and their chaperones with a truck load of tools and a positive, nurturing attitude. "I told them,

'you can do this', and 'I trust you with that saw,'" she said.

After a brief stretching session led by Bramel, the young adults received their mandatory protective gear and a demonstration on its proper use. They also received an advanced expression of appreciation for the work they were about to perform. The work groups found themselves clearing brush and performing maintenance work on the Woodland Trail – West Hill Dam's main multi-use trail that is used for hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding. "During their second work detail, they cleared an access trail used for safety checks on park visitors to a remote wetland used by those fishing and canoeing," said Bramel.

According to Bramel, role-modeling and learning by hands-on experience are proven ways to teach. She and the chaperones applied these techniques by wearing gloves, safety goggles and demonstrating the proper use of a bow saw and other tool techniques. "The youth were placed in charge and allowed to progress along

the trail system," said Bramel. "Our goal was to clear the five-mile trail system of encroaching brush, downed trees or dangerous limbs. As role models, we offered words of encouragement and support, while gently pulling back to let them do the work."

Not long into their work assignment, the young adults began emulating the adults by encouraging each other, asking each other for help and taking charge, which according to Bramel was beneficial to their self-esteem and sense of accomplishment.

Throughout their experience at West Hill, while they labored on the trail, the work parties observed wildlife in their various habitats and received impromptu nature lessons from Bramel. Hawks, blue herons, and a story about a field mouse's survival during Hurricane Bob enhanced their knowledge of nature. "The Corps lends so well to working with tools, people and animals while challenging oneself to accomplish the mission or task at hand," said Bramel. "Probably the greatest lesson learned during these work sessions is



The trail that the workers from Y.O.U., Inc., improved is used year round for recreational activities (Inset) The Y.O.U., Inc., workers that participated in the West Hill Dam construction challenge.

that there are going to be tasks we don't want to do, unpleasant conditions and at times unpleasant people that you have to deal with," said Bramel. "But working as a team and acceptance prevail for a job well done."

Another lesson presented itself when Bramel pointed out a beach sign destroyed with recent graffiti. "I explained the consequences of vandalism to include the cost of replacement, sign standards as well as the cost of equipment to manufacture signs, installation cost and labor," she said. "Hopefully they will realize that vandalism isn't a victimless crime and they will share their new found knowledge with others."

At the end of the day, the work groups played a game of "hot potato Frisbee" with some of the plastic discs discovered after clearing West Hill Dam's scout camping area. "Squeals of laughter from the youth was a great ending to the work detail," said Bramel.

Before leaving West Hill, the work groups were treated to a warm pizza lunch and many thanks for their efforts. Bramel was pleased with the results of the day. "These youth are the future caretakers and stewards of our public lands. One of our goals having them come to West Hill was to experience role models in their chosen professions as a possible influence on the youth's stage in life, pursuing a GED and hopefully continuing their education," said Bramel. "Another goal was to introduce them to a recreation, wildlife management area and federal park in their backyard, while letting them have a contributing (volunteer) experience followed by a recreational experience playing or hiking in the area they improved."

A few weeks after their experience of clearing the trail and getting lessons in nature and life from Bramel, several of the young adults returned to West Hill Dam to participate in National Public Lands Day. Perhaps some of the seeds that Bramel planted did take root – only time will tell.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Cheryl Kassoy, Joan Gardner and Janet Brayden set up pies and decorations prior to the Pie Fest.

District celebrates Year-End with pie

The Work Environment Committee (WE) filled tummies and broke records during their Pie Fest Celebration, Oct. 11.

Over 55 pies varying from pumpkin to lemon meringue were donated by New England District employees and the U.S. Army Medic Unit CBHCO for the annual celebration of a successful Fiscal Year End. In addition to the pies, other employees donated drinks, fruits, dinnerware, paper supplies, and decorations which aided in the success of this year's celebration. "More than

90 employees were involved in carrying out the Fest," said Bob Meader, WE Committee member and organizer of the Pie Fest.

Hundreds of employees and CBHCO members made their way to the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Room to enjoy pie and the company of their co-workers for their afternoon break.

The Pie Fest has become the most popular and the best attended event the WE Committee runs. Meader credits the employees themselves for the success of the celebration, which is now in its fourth year.



Bob Meader, Jerry Stalder and Mary Christopher decide which pies they want to try during the Pie Fest.

Native American culture celebrated at New England District

The Native American/Alaskan Native Heritage Employment Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office held an observance honoring Native Americans on Nov. 29 in the theatre. This year's theme was "Preserving Cultural Heritage and Tribal Resources."

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, told attendees the Native American and the Veteran's Day observances during the month of November compels us to recognize the important contributions these groups have had, and continue to have, on our society and culture. "From the Navajo and Comanche Code talkers of World War II to the ultimate sacrifice the 23-year old Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, a Hopi Indian, paid on March 23, 2003 when her unit was ambushed by enemy forces near Nasiriyah, Iraq, Native Americans have proudly served in all branches of America's Armed Forces," he said.

This year's keynote speaker was Tobias Vanderhoop, a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). He began his presentation by singing an honor song that told a story about the fact that a long time ago, Wompanoag numbers were far greater than they are today, but the Creator has kept them strong. "I always try to acknowledge our ancestors because who we are today is completely shaped by who they were," he said. "Out of respect for them, when I talk about them, I sing honor songs for them."

Instead of making a formal presentation, Vanderhoop said that he wanted to start off by telling a children's story and then having a conversation with the audience.

"People get kind of shocked because here I am speaking with a group of very smart adults and I'm telling them a child's story," he said. "But



Photo by Brian Murphy

Tobias Vanderhoop performs an Honor Song for his ancestors at the beginning of his presentation.

these stories aren't just for children – they are made to help us to retain those histories about things that happened so long ago."

Vanderhoop told a story about Moshup the leader of the Wampanoag people and a giant. The story told of how Moshup cared for his people by providing them whale meat and how he brought to his people to the land of Aquinnah when other villages became jealous. Vanderhoop talked about how Moshup became very tired on the journey to Aquinnah and dragged his feet, leaving large grooves in the earth that would later fill with water, creating the island known today as Martha's Vineyard.

After telling the story, the keynote speaker talked about true elements in it, including the Wampanoag's ties with the whaling industry.

"The capitols of whaling here in North America were located on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and New

Bedford," said Vanderhoop. "Ships that left those areas very rarely left without Wampanoag men aboard."

The classic novel, "Moby Dick," which was written during that time, references a Native American on board, named Queequeg. The story tells the story of Captain Ahab's obsession with killing a white whale named Moby Dick. Vanderhoop mentioned that he is related to Amos Smalley, the only Native American known to kill a true white whale.

Vanderhoop continued his presentation with a question and answer period. He answered questions regarding the Wampanoag culture and customs as well as general questions regarding Native American heritage. He concluded with another Honor Song to his Wampanoag ancestors.

In appreciation for his time and efforts, Col. Thalken presented Vanderhoop with a certificate of appreciation.

Corps of Engineers awards contract for dredging of Boston Harbor's inner harbor

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Boston Inner Harbor in Boston, Mass., will be dredged under the terms of a contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The contract outlines a base dredging plan worth \$15.5 million but has options for additional work that could increase the value of the contract to \$37.3 million.

The dredging, which will be accomplished by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, of Oak Brook, Ill., will begin in late November 2007 and the base plan would take about 12 months to complete. The base project involves maintenance dredging of the 35-foot and 40-foot navigation channels inbound of Spectacle Island of the Main Ship Channel to the North Jetty, the upper section of the Reserved Channel, the approach to the Navy Dry Dock, and the construction of a confined aquatic

disposal (CAD) cell in the Mystic River.

Optional work includes continuing dredging of the Main Ship Channel from the North Jetty inbound to the Inner Confluence, a small portion of the 35-foot Mystic Channel near the Medford Street Terminal, a portion of the Chelsea River in the vicinity of the Chelsea Street Bridge, the construction of an additional CAD cell in the Main Ship Channel, the removal of a gas siphon in the Chelsea River and berth dredging, both of which would be performed at the request of Massport, the project sponsor.

The contract calls for dredging of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of material suitable for ocean placement at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site (MBDS), 20 miles offshore. The material removed for the construction of the Mystic CAD cell will also be placed at the MBDS.

Approximately 430,000 cubic yards of dredge material unsuitable for ocean disposal will be placed in the Mystic

CAD cell and capped with sand.

The federal project serves the commercial navigation industry and recreational boaters in the vicinity of Boston.

"Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths at low tides which can limit the size of vessels or cause tidal delays that would impact the commercial navigation of the Boston port," said Project Manager Michael Keegan. "We need to return the federal channels to their authorized depths."

Although there is no window that was established when dredging could not be performed, the Corps will restrict dredging from the Ted Williams Tunnel outbound from Dec. 1 to March 31 for the protection of lobster resources, according to Keegan. Dredging will continue in other portions of the harbor during this period.

All work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps of Engineers Quality Management Engineer/Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

Public Meetings held in CT, NY on Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Six public meetings were held during the week of Nov. 26 to allow public input on the "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" related to the development of a Dredged Material Management Plan for the navigation facilities of Long Island Sound harbors. Three meetings each were held in communities in New York and Connecticut.

The purpose of developing the Programmatic EIS is to evaluate the overall impacts of alternatives identified in the development of a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP)

for dredged material that would be generated in the maintenance or the improvement of navigation facilities in Long Island Sound with respect to the environment of the Sound and its tributaries.

The DMMP will be developed by the Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with representatives from U.S. EPA (Regions 1 and 2), N.Y. Dept. of State, N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Conn. Dept. of Transportation, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The involved agencies are collabo-

rating to identify, evaluate and document alternatives for the safe and timely management of the region's dredged material. The DMMP should lead to a continued reduction of the use of ocean placement sites over time using a broad based public process that protects the environment based on best scientific data and analysis, while meeting society's need for safe and economically viable navigation for water based commerce, transportation, national security, and other public purposes.

The DMMP will be funded and managed by the Corps of Engineers and is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2013.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

Cape Cod Canal Park Ranger Tom St. Denis shows off an artifact at the Big E! Expo in Springfield, Mass., in this Sept. 12, 2003 photo.

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