

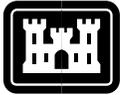
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 40, No. 5

# Yankee Engineer

February 2005

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reissues the Massachusetts programmatic general permit

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District reissued on Jan. 20, 2005 the statewide Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit for minimal impact activities within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The previously existing Programmatic General Permit (PGP) expired on

Jan. 11, 2005.

The reissued Massachusetts PGP continues the expedited review process for activities in Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

A public notice was issued in accordance with 33 CFR 325.10 to ensure

potential applicants for permits are informed of the requirements of 33 CRF 320-330 and of the steps required to obtain permits for activities in waters of the U.S. or ocean waters.

General permits are encouraged to streamline state and Federal regulatory programs.

The New England District has already had success with streamlining

*Continued on page 9*



## Discovering old worlds

*Don Hassett, Real Estate, stands at the foot of The Ziggurat of Ur, also known as the Ur of the Chaldees Ziggurat at Tall al Muqayyar, in Tallil, Iraq.*

*Don is currently serving overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo provided by Don Hassett.)*

# Yankee Voices



## Congratulations

...to **Raymond (Ray) Gomes**, Security Guard in the New England District, who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for February 2005. Two separate entries were received nominating Ray for his ever present upbeat and positive attitude which has been displayed not only to the District employees but also to the visitors of Concord Park.

...to the **Long Term Monitoring Ground Water Sampling team** which was selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for February 2005. The team was nominated for its outstanding efforts in completing the Fall Groundwater Sampling at Devens, two weeks ahead of schedule. Team members include **Erik Matthews, Paul Young, Patrick Blumeris, Jack Keenan, Kathy Miller, Alex Garneau, Bill Mullin and Nancy McNally.**

...to **Dan Bradley** of Survey Section and his wife, **Carol**, on the birth of their first son, **James Daniel**, Feb 7.

## ZOOM thanks District engineers

*(Editor's note: The following letter was sent by Susan Buckey and Ellen Robinson, coordinators of the ZOOM Into Engineering event to thank several New England District employees who participated in the event.)*

Dear Volunteers,

Well, we did it! I think we've concluded this tradition in grand style! The ZOOM Into Engineering event was a whopping success (dare I say the best yet?) thanks to you and your enthusiasm for getting kids engaged in engineering activities. Ellen and I can't say "thank you" enough!

In case you were too ensconced in cup clean-up, linguini strand counting, drying out the flinker stations, or assisting glider pilots as they cut tape to notice, we witnessed many impressive kids who took your advice to try something new and to test it out. Many spent as long as a half hour at each station! Essentially, kids were getting our message. They were using the design process and thinking like engineers! Thank you for making the activity stations a safe place for kids of all ages to think of solutions, build, test, rebuild, and test again. Every child I saw was beaming with pride over their accomplishments and pleased as punch to give their name, age, and height of their tower or building or distance of their glider. The kids and their parents had a wonderful time.

One parent asked me what kind of engineer I was. After blushing (I suddenly wished I could be one of the 'cool' engineers) and telling them I worked for ZOOM, they said, "Well, we've just met the most amazing engineers who work in all sorts of capacities in New England. What an accomplished group of engineers!" I couldn't agree more. You are a fantastic group and I feel very fortunate that our paths crossed for this event.

As I said, this was the last ZOOM Into Engineering event, but I am hopeful that there will be a new show, produced by the makers of ZOOM, that will fill its place... one that will keep you gainfully occupied one weekend in February for many years to come.

So, Ellen and I will say it again – THANK YOU for your smiles, your enthusiasm, and your supreme dedication to your profession. We (and the many kids who you met) really appreciated all your help on Saturday! I hope you put your feet up, called for takeout, poured yourself a beverage of your choice, and generally took it easy the rest of the weekend. You deserved it!

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# A Message from the Division Engineer: Temple updates all Division employees on budget



North Atlantic Division teammates:

The FY06 Civil Works budget request as submitted by the President reflects much lower levels of spending for our region than in the past. While it's still early in the budget process, this will likely translate into lower funding levels for our projects and our workforce.

Through our efforts to regionalize and working together as virtual teams (described earlier in my December

2004 e-mail to all of you), we are ready for it. Rather than waiting until the budget is approved, our efforts had already prepared us for potentially reduced levels of funding and its impact on our programs, our projects and our people. Therefore the 06 budget gives us the opportunity to implement our new business processes in real time. I should note that we were dealing with some of the same issues last year, but through our team's hard work, we attained a viable program for 05.

I want to assure you that our leaders throughout the Division will work together to do all we can to minimize the effects of the FY 2006 budget. The NAD Regional Management Board and the Board of Trustees are currently analyzing the effect this will have on our people, our programs and our projects. Furthermore, I have regional teams working improved processes and improved execution through monthly Project Review Boards to collaboratively develop a way ahead

that sustains our core capabilities while meeting our changing requirements across all programs.

Additionally, we all need to be flexible in the workplace and be ready and willing to cross program or functional lines. This may include working virtually with other districts or relocating via temporary duty, or even temporary or permanent changes of station to put you where you're needed most. This will allow us to better match our existing capabilities against future workload in order to meet our customers' needs. Likewise, we will also be looking at moving appropriate pieces of the workload to further maximize our capabilities across the region.

Some might say this message to you is premature because we are in the beginning of the budget process. But since we are already working the solutions through our business centers, programs and project delivery teams, some of you may already be aware of our efforts to address effects. My commitment as your Division Commander is to continue to communicate with you openly and often as we get a clearer picture of this budget as it works its way through the Congressional process. I ask that we all remain true to that process in terms of answering questions and providing advice in a way that can never be perceived as self-serving. Your cooperation and flexibility during this time are vital. Meanwhile, as always, I remain extremely proud of all you do daily to support our Region, our Regiment, and our Nation. ESSAYONS!

BG Bo Temple  
Commander

## 'State of the District,' awards highlight Town Meeting

Recognitions of work well done and informational briefings highlighted the town meeting held Feb. 1 in the cafeteria.

Col. Thomas Koning, New England District Engineer, presented his "State of the District" address to the audience. Col. Koning said that he had recently attended the DE Conference in Washington, D.C. Subjects that came up during the conference included issues around the Districts to include projects, people, and what the future of the Corps looks like.

The District Engineer said that the District is strong. "We have great people who are doing super things," he said. "Our financial health is pretty good and we're doing really exciting work throughout New England."

The Colonel talked about the future as the Chief of Engineers sees things happening in the Corps. At the conference the Chief reiterated his three priorities for the Corps: Supporting the Global War on Terrorism, Supporting the

Economic Viability of the Country, and Supporting Environmental Stewardship. Col. Koning touched on all three subjects during the town meeting. "In some ways this District and its employees are involved in all three of these areas."

Topics that Col. Koning said were also discussed at the conference that he discussed were the new NSPS system, competitive sourcing, regionalization.

Col. Koning said that there would be a drop in guard presence at the District due to lower security levels, and that times in janitorial services will be moved up with some day service in the rest rooms.

The District Engineer concluded his discussion by announcing that he will be retiring from the U.S. Army in July with 25 years of service.

Christine Godfrey, head of the Work Climate Project

*Continued on page 6*

# Chili Cook-off:

## Employees pull out all stops to win annual contest

by John Emmert  
Public Affairs

*The WE Committee gave District employees the chance to sample and judge various homemade chilies during the Corps second annual chili cook-off contest held in the cafeteria at noon Feb 4.*

This year's contest boasted a 65-percent higher turnout in chili entries. Five contestants entered with chili recipes ranging from a no meat chili to a chili with Sam Adams Winter Lager as the secret ingredient.

Employees each paid \$1 to sample and vote for their favorite chili. Designated servers stood by while the judges tasted the entries. To maintain the integrity of the voting, the identities of the chili contestants were kept secret until the voting finished.

To vote, judges were required to vote by secret ballot for their top two chilies. A first place score added two points to the chili's total column while a second place score added one. Gregory Penta tallied the votes.

Tim Beauchemin won first place and claimed a \$25 gift certificate from the WE Committee. The dish was created by his wife Cathy and was called Cathy's Finest Chili. The Chili boasted a dash of cayenne pepper with a few other temperature enhancers. The winning strategy was simple: no beans and lots of spice. "It must be spicy or it ain't chili," said Beauchemin. He and Cathy are prepared to defend their title at next year's cook-off.

Coming in second place was Rosemary Schmidt who made a Vinateri Vegetarian chili. For her meatless entry, Schmidt was awarded a \$10 gift certificate to the WE Committee store.



Photo by Brian Murphy

*New England District employees line up to judge co-worker's chili recipes during the WE Committee Chili cook-off.*

Another entry came from Karen Adam's daughter, Jackie, who at 13 years old showed ingenuity by adding a Sam Adams Winter Lager to her entry. Her strategy was to make a hearty yet not too spicy chili, said Adams. "She considers chili to be one of her specialties and was very happy to make it when I told her about the contest."

Bob Russo also offered a chili for judging. Russo entered the contest because he heard the call for chili and decided to give it a try. He finds most types of chili to be very good and doesn't have a particular favorite type of chili. Although he hadn't entered the contest before, he is considering a run next year to.

Robert Meader entered this year's contest to support the WE Committees efforts. He prefers a more subdued type of chili. "I'm not in favor of a spicy chili," said Meader. Great tasting chili is something that fills you up without burning you up.

Meader, a first time contestant, added an unintended ingredient to his chili. His wife said his chili was too bland at first and needed more chili powder. After adding a spoonful of what he thought was chili powder, he realized that he in fact added thyme.

Thyme is a spice used to enhance

the flavor with meats and has a strong historical use as a digestive aid. With all the different types of chili and the varying degrees of spiciness at this year's contest, thyme might just come in handy.

In the end, Meader added more chili powder to the mixture. He plans to enter again next year, but he's not so sure about the thyme. "Not being an expert on spices, I didn't know if it helped or hindered," he said.

Several judges commented on the variety of the chilies. "I liked the variety of the chili's that were included in the contest," said Will Pumyea. "They varied in their tastes and the ingredients that were used."

"I thought we had a good variety of the different kinds of chilies," said Phil Nimeskern. "Like other folk dishes, there are dozens of 'authentic recipes' and it is fun to try different versions."

While some came for the food, some also came for a chance to relax and mingle.

"These events are fun," said Patricia Price. "It is a chance to take your mind off work while still at work."

"WE Committee Events are a good way to mix and socialize with folks from other departments with whom you might not otherwise get a chance to talk," said Nimeskern.

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## District celebrates Valentine's Day with chocolate, flower event

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Story by Kim Osgerby and John Emmert  
Public Affairs



*The WE Committee hosted a Valentine's Day celebration February 14th in the cafeteria to give Corps employees a chance to mingle with others they might not usually see.*

The morale-boosting event began at 2 p.m. with a Chocolate Fondue Fest and the annual Valentine's Day Carnation sale.

At the Chocolate Fondue Fest Corps employees could choose between a variety of dipped fruits and cake such as strawberries, bananas, oranges and pound cake. The dipped strawberries were popular among the employees. "Godiva has nothing on these chocolate dipped strawberries," said John Emmert from Public Affairs Office.

The prices for the fondue were \$1.50 per skewer and \$4 for three skewers. The Chocolate Fondue Fest was a success, as everything sold out. In fact several employees suggested that the WE Committee do the Fondue Fest next year.

The WE Committee also sold car-

nations for Valentine's Day. Ann Marie Harvie from Public Affairs Office and Joan Gardner from Construction Operations Division sold pink, white and red carnations. Each carnation included colorful curled ribbons and small blank Valentine's Day cards. The prices for the carnations were \$1 for one carnation, \$5 for six carnations and \$10 for twelve carnations. The carnation sale was very successful selling every carnation the WE Committee supplied.

The WE Committee provided other treats including pre-packaged chocolate dipped strawberries, apricots and chocolate chip cookies. All pre-packaged bundles cost \$1.50.

"Valentine's Day Fondue Fest was a nice tasteful way to spend a 2 p.m. break," said Cheryl Kasso from Information Management.



Photos by Brian Murphy

*(above) Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, gets his chocolate fix during the WE Committee's Valentine's Day Chocolate Fondue Fest. (left) Joan Gardner ties a ribbon to Forrest Knowles' newly purchased carnation during the WE Committee carnation sale.*

## 'State of the District,' awards highlight Town Meeting

*Continued from page 3*

Delivery Team, gave a presentation on what the team is and the different initiatives it is involved in. See story on following page.

During the awards portion of the ceremony, representatives of Nobis Engineering presented the New England District with the Small Business Administration's "Prime Contractor of the Year" for 2004. Nobis Engineering has been a New England District contractor for 10 years.

The Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge project, received first place in the bridge category for excellence in construction for 2004 by the Associated Builders and Constructors. Project Manager Greg Buteau received the award on behalf of the District. Work to restore and rehabilitated the 68-year old bridge included mechanical, electrical and push control systems, and replacement of the operating systems.

Jack Keenan received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptional performance and service as the forward engineer support team advance electrical engineer for the Combined Joint Task Force 180, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The New England District Water

Team supporting the clean up efforts for Hurricane Ivan received individual Army Achievement Medals for Civilian Service from the Wilmington District. Recipients were Rachael Raposa, Duban Montoya, Mike Keegan, and Dave Goodrich. Team members Don Wood and Phil Morrison are currently deployed in Iraq and could not attend the ceremony. According to the citation, "the water team provided essential services to the disaster victims in Alabama. Their reputation of professionalism and dedication is well-deserved."

The New England District Hurricane Ivan Disaster Response Team members Bob Govero and Gladys Leone received certificates of appreciation from the Wilmington District for their contributions.

Jim Kelly, Ian Osgerby, and Rosemarie Schmidt, members of the New York District's Former Raritan Arsenal Team, received the Commander's Outstanding Contribution Award in the Commander's Special Emphasis category for New York District. The team received the recognition for developing an innovative vapor intrusion indoor air evaluation process for the project.

Rick Magee received six certificates of appreciation for his support of the

Lewis and Clark Expedition Anniversary celebration. Rick portrayed one of the expedition team members at signature events for a period of seven weeks, traveling to destinations to include North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas City, and Nebraska to participate.

Dianna Errico-Topolski received the Chief of Engineers Coin for her leadership in developing a Junior Ranger and Junior Manager programs at the District's Hop Brook Lake flood control project. According to Joe, she helped introduce youngsters from NED's most urban projects to the Park Ranger career field and the Corps of Engineers.

Maurice Beaudoin was recognized for his support to the Prospect Training Program. Chris Way also received a certificate for his work with the program.

The Work Environment Committee presented Team of the Month and Employee of the Month Awards for January and February.

The Big E! Team (Samantha Mirabella, Dianna Errico-Topolski, Mark McInerney, Brian Murphy, Rick Magee and Delia Vogel, Jason Robinson, Timothy Russell and Roxanne Barbeau) received Team of the Month for January. Pattie Price was named Employee of the Month for January.

The Team of the Month for February went to the Long Term Monitoring Ground Water Sampling team (Erik Matthews, Paul Young, Patrick Blumeris, Jack Keenan, Kathy Miller, Alex Garneau, Bill Mullen, and Nancy McNally). Employee of the month for February went to Raymond Gomes.

Col. Koning concluded the awards portion of the meeting by presenting the Founder's Day Basketball Championship trophy to "Joe's Bombers." The 2004 Championship team comprised of Joe Bocchino, Bob Russo, Mike Tuttle, Jim Kelly, Larry Oliver and Mark Anderson. This is the team's fourth consecutive championship win.

After a brief question and answer session, Col. Koning ended the meeting.



Photo by Mark McInerney

**Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, gives his "State of the District" briefing during the Town Meeting.**

# Project Delivery Team to survey work place climate

Christine Godfrey, head of the Work Climate Assessment Project Delivery Team (PDT), briefed New England District employees on the status of the team's initiatives during the Feb. 1 Town Meeting.

## What is the Work Climate Assessment PDT?

The Work Climate Assessment PDT is a DE-sponsored subset work group set up under the authority of the Strategic Planning Group. The PDT received its assignment from the SPG, and will report its findings and recommendations to the SPG for approval and implementation. The SPG has been in existence for a number of years and its members are comprised of the District Engineer, Deputy District Engineer, the Division and Separate Office Chiefs. The mission of the SPG is to identify long-term District issues and develop medium to long-term strategies to resolve issues.

The SPG meets once a month, with one off-site meeting held every year. The off-site meetings develop goals and objectives for the coming year as well as look back to the last year to see how goals and objectives were met. The SPG is currently focusing on several areas: Outreach, Contracting, PMPB, Business Processes and People. The Work Climate Assessment PDT falls under the People Process Action Team, or PAT, led by Dick Carlson.

The PDT has been assigned to get input from District employees on their view of the current work place. This project is called the Workplace Climate Assessment Survey. "The PDT is going to help us take a look at ourselves, particularly areas where we can improve the work environment, and make a better place to work," said Chris. The PDT is comprised of members from across the District, and includes several participants of the District's Leadership Development Program, or LDP. PDT members, in addition to Chris, are

Lorraine Cronin, Gail French, Joan Gardner, Bill Herland, Mike Keegan, Martha Labbe, Raimo Liias and Andrea Pittman. In addition to Mike Keegan, the LDP members participating in this project are Cathy LeBlanc, Barbara Newman, Scott Michalak, John Wutzer, and Carol Charette.

## The Work Done So Far...



The work that the PDT has done to date includes reviewing Col. Thomas Koning's "3 Ups and 3 Downs" surveys that the District Engineer conducted during his first Town Meeting; reviewing the 2003 Army Civilian Attitude Survey, and the Baltimore District's 2004 District survey. According to Chris, the PDT has reviewed the three surveys to get an idea of what issues are important to New England District employees and to see if there was a tool that the PDT could build on to produce their own survey.

In reviewing the three surveys, the PDT has identified the following as the areas of concern for New England:

- **Communication**
- **Promotion**
- **Awards/Recognition**
- **Fairness across Division/Branches**
- **Work at Home (this is being addressed by HR and is not included in the workplace survey efforts)**
- **Training and Development**
- **Workload is uneven and seasonal**

In an attempt not to "reinvent the

wheel," the PDT will modify the Baltimore District survey and tailor it to the needs and issues of New England.

## What's next?

Now that the issues have been identified and the survey format has been established, the PDT will create the survey and solicit input from New England District employees. The PDT hopes to have the survey to employees by the end of February or early March.

The survey will comprise of three parts. The first will be the written survey. "We will try to keep this part of the survey down to under 20 minutes," said Chris. "That will be done electronically and sent through e-mail."

Once the data has been collected, part 2, small group discussions, will be initiated. "This will provide the opportunity for discussion between small groups of employees and with PDT members," said Chris. "We will be able to go into more detail on some of the issues and recommendations that result from survey answers."

The third part will be one-on-one discussion opportunities with any member of the PDT/LDP. "Individuals will get some time with us to give us suggestions and comments that we will record for further study. We hope people who are more comfortable talking one-on-one will contact any of the PDT/LDP to set up a meeting and give us input," said Chris.

The PDT will then start making recommendations based on the information they have received and bring them to the SPG. The SPG will prioritize the issues and decide on follow-up actions and establish PDTs to carry out those actions.

Chris strongly urged everyone to participate in this survey. "We need your help," she said. "This is your chance to say what you think. If you don't like something, tell us how you would make it better."

# From the Field:

## Franklin Falls park rangers sponsors Dog Sled Race

by Jennifer Rockett  
Franklin Falls Dam

The rangers at the Franklin Falls Dam are pleased to announce that the first annual Dog Sled Race held at Profile Falls was an absolute success. The event was exciting and a great outdoor recreational activity for all.

Eighty mushers from as far away as Canada and at least 200 dogs competed in the event that took place on the Feb. 5-6. The endless dashing of the mushers, rows of dog trucks, and the barking and howling of the dogs was an exhilarating experience.

At the race lineup, spectators gathered to watch the howling canines launch into a frenzy full of extreme energy and volume. Dogs not yet released to race strained at their harnesses and hopped furiously toward the trail, despite being encumbered by the trucks they were tied to. When the teams returned from their run, they showed much signs of fatigue - slobber-covered faces, tongues hanging toward the ground, and enough thirst to run our dams dry in a matter of seconds.

The rangers from Franklin Falls Dam and Hopkinton-Everett Dam, local snowmobile clubs, and The New England Dog Sled Club worked collaboratively to make the weekend a success. The rangers brush hogged and mowed the trails used



Photo by Jennifer Samela, Hopkinton Lake

*A musher and his dog team run the eight mile race at Franklin Falls.*

for the event earlier in the season while The Franklin Snowmobile Club groomed the trails ahead of time and assisted in rerouting the traffic to other major snowmobile corridors.

The weekend could not have gone more smoothly. In fact, the rangers at Franklin Falls Dam and The New England Dog Sled Club plan to host more events at the project next year.



*Ed Clifford sails across the snow with his two dog skijoring team during the race.*

Photo by Tim Jones

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reissues the Massachusetts programmatic general permit

*Continued from page 1*

these programs through the use of general permits throughout New England. This PGP is designed to authorize activities formerly covered under the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program and the prior PGP that expired on Jan. 11, 2005. This reissued PGP became effective on Jan. 20, 2005.

Continued use of the general permit process in place of the NWP's will provide important benefits to the public, including simplifying the process, expediting decisions, and providing necessary environmental protection.

Projects with minimal individual and cumulative effects on the aquatic environment will be approved administratively under this PGP.

Projects that do not meet the terms and conditions of this PGP, of which General Condition 3 requires projects authorized by the PGP to have minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental impacts, will be subjected to Individual Permit review. The Individual Permit review procedures are not altered by the PGP.

Federal exemptions, which are not necessarily the same as the Commonwealth's exemptions, are also not altered by the PGP.

In addition, for projects authorized pursuant to this PGP, project proponents must obtain the appropriate local or State approvals when required in order for this PGP authorization to be valid.

All PGP authorizations will be subject to the applicability requirements, procedures, and conditions contained in the PGP document. Project eligibility under this PGP will fall into two categories: nonreporting projects (Category 1) and reporting projects requiring screening (Category 2).

The Corps and the Federal resource agencies (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Marine Fisheries Service) will review Category 2 activities as described in the PGP. Through interagency screening, the Corps will determine if the individual and cumulative adverse environmental impacts are minimal and whether the

project may proceed under the PGP.

The new PGP supersedes the previous PGP but does not affect activities authorized under the previous PGP that have commenced prior to the expiration date of the previous PGP.

An authorized activity which has commenced (i.e., is under construction or is under contract to commence) prior to the expiration date of the previous PGP (Jan. 11, 2005), in reliance upon the terms and conditions of the category under which it was authorized, shall remain authorized provided the activity is completed within 12 months of the previous PGP's expiration date for Category 1 projects, or in accordance with specific expiration requirements contained in the Corps PGP authorization letter for Category 2 projects.

The Massachusetts PGP can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "Regulatory/Permitting" and "Topics and Issues" and then "MA PGP."

The public notice announcing this PGP reissuance is also available on the regulatory website.

SALARY TABLE 2005-BOS  
INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 18.49%  
FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF BOSTON-WORCESTER-MANCHESTER, MA-NH-ME-RI  
(See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/05tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay area  
(TOTAL INCREASE: 3.81%)

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2005

Annual Rates by Grade and Step

| GRADE | STEP 1    | STEP 2    | STEP 3    | STEP 4    | STEP 5    | STEP 6    | STEP 7    | STEP 8    | STEP 9    | STEP 10   |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| GS-1  | \$ 18,977 | \$ 19,610 | \$ 20,242 | \$ 20,870 | \$ 21,501 | \$ 21,872 | \$ 22,494 | \$ 23,123 | \$ 23,149 | \$ 23,741 |
| 2     | 21,336    | 21,844    | 22,550    | 23,149    | 23,408    | 24,096    | 24,785    | 25,473    | 26,161    | 26,850    |
| 3     | 23,280    | 24,056    | 24,832    | 25,608    | 26,384    | 27,160    | 27,936    | 28,712    | 29,489    | 30,265    |
| 4     | 26,134    | 27,005    | 27,876    | 28,747    | 29,618    | 30,489    | 31,360    | 32,230    | 33,101    | 33,972    |
| 5     | 29,240    | 30,215    | 31,190    | 32,165    | 33,140    | 34,116    | 35,091    | 36,066    | 37,041    | 38,016    |
| 6     | 32,593    | 33,680    | 34,766    | 35,853    | 36,939    | 38,026    | 39,112    | 40,199    | 41,285    | 42,372    |
| 7     | 36,219    | 37,426    | 38,634    | 39,841    | 41,048    | 42,256    | 43,463    | 44,671    | 45,878    | 47,086    |
| 8     | 40,111    | 41,448    | 42,784    | 44,121    | 45,458    | 46,794    | 48,131    | 49,467    | 50,804    | 52,140    |
| 9     | 44,303    | 45,780    | 47,256    | 48,733    | 50,209    | 51,685    | 53,162    | 54,638    | 56,114    | 57,591    |
| 10    | 48,788    | 50,415    | 52,042    | 53,669    | 55,296    | 56,923    | 58,549    | 60,176    | 61,803    | 63,430    |
| 11    | 53,604    | 55,391    | 57,177    | 58,964    | 60,751    | 62,538    | 64,325    | 66,111    | 67,898    | 69,685    |
| 12    | 64,246    | 66,388    | 68,529    | 70,670    | 72,811    | 74,952    | 77,093    | 79,234    | 81,375    | 83,516    |
| 13    | 76,400    | 78,946    | 81,493    | 84,039    | 86,585    | 89,132    | 91,678    | 94,224    | 96,771    | 99,317    |
| 14    | 90,281    | 93,291    | 96,300    | 99,310    | 102,320   | 105,329   | 108,339   | 111,349   | 114,358   | 117,368   |
| 15    | 106,197   | 109,737   | 113,278   | 116,818   | 120,359   | 123,899   | 127,440   | 130,980   | 134,521   | 138,061   |

# Adventures in Iraq: Paton sends update letter from the desert

Feb. 18, 2005 - Today is my 48th day in Iraq. That means I've worked 48 twelve hour days without a day off. We live to work. Our day officially starts at 7:30 a.m., but the office is usually fully staffed by 7 a.m. So it's really more than twelve hour days.

Exercise is a very important part of my day. I headed out to the track one afternoon this week and came across Bob Hanacek out for a bike ride. It appeared from a distance that he was repairing his bike alongside the running track, but as I got closer it became apparent Bob was photographing some wildflowers growing on a worthless-looking bush. People leave the compound and you just never know what they're up to unless you catch them.

I give Bob a lot of credit for his accomplishments here. He was afraid they would assign him a host of menial tasks, and now he's the Resident Engineer for hundreds of millions of US dollars in construction. At a meeting before we deployed Bob said in a disgusted voice, "I just don't want to be sent to Iraq just to drive the bus."

He works hard all day and then manages to sneak out at just the right time and photograph some of the best sunset's at the most hidden places on Base.

I was walking down the corridor the other day, and overheard Val Schaffner, Construction Manager, GRS, saying "I was born somewhere, but I don't have a home".

She's been doing emergency operations in War Zones for so long I really don't think she has a real home. On another day I heard her say "I like being where ever there's a War going on". I can't say much more than that about Val other than she is very involved with the Education Sector and renovating schools in Iraq. I mean hundreds of schools. Some of the schools are referred to as "Mud Schools." I'm betting that these kids in rural Iraq are as happy and as loved as kids anywhere. I've seen some of the brightest smiles ever from the kids here.

Val is even involved in getting furniture for the schools. She talks quickly and seems to have endless energy. One day she loaned me a memory stick and I told her I'd be right back with it. She said "take your time, I'll be here until midnight".

If there is a list of civilian hero's in Iraq, Val has to be on it.

Last week while eating in the Dining Facility, three young female soldiers sat at the table next to the New England District Team. I did a double take and sure enough they had to be. They looked the same, seemed to be the same age, each had her hair in the same bun, and were all wearing fitness gear with

rifles slung over their shoulders. Not a sight you would ever think you would see in Iraq.

We were in a private room isolated from the rest of the open area dining and it was quite as most of the tables were empty. Two of the girls left to get some drinks or maybe salads. I walked over to the remaining girl and asked if they were triplets. She responded "yes."

I said "Well, I have nineteen year old twins at home (showing her a photo) and I'd love to be able to take a photo of the three of you."

Chris Lindsay had his camera with him. She responded, "I'd love to say yes, but my Company Commander doesn't allow us to do photos."

I told her that was understandable and we continued to chat for a minute. Just as I said good-bye and started to walk away, I turned and asked, "where are you from?" She responded, "Tallahassee."

With that I was suddenly standing in my kitchen last summer and my wife, Darlene, was handing me a newspaper saying, "Kenny, read this story about triplets from Tallahassee, Florida, who are deploying to Iraq together."

I asked the young soldier, "have you been in the media?" She said, "yes, we've been on Good Morning America, CNN and newspapers all over the country."

After she apologized one more time about the photo, I said, "it's been a pleasure to meet you," and walked away.

That's it for another week in Iraq. To see a bunch of additional photos click on the hyperlink below. Until next week, be safe.

God Bless America!

Ken



Photo provided by Ken Paton

*The Tallil Area Office inputs data into RMS (a construction tracking tool).*

## Engineers to resume investigation, removal actions at Former Camp Wellfleet site Feb. 28

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

*The National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are continuing efforts to determine the extent of military ordnance identified in the past at the Former Camp Wellfleet military site located at the Cape Cod National Seashore in Wellfleet, Mass.*

The Corps contractor, Zapata Engineering, under the direction of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., will resume performing an Ordnance and Explosive (OE) investigation and removal action in portions of the Former Camp Wellfleet on Monday, Feb. 28, 2005 (weather permitting) and continue through the end of March.

Zapata Engineering will perform investigation and removal at four areas on the site.

These areas include a 4.5 acre portion of the site south of the Marconi Beach Bathhouse. This area warrants further investigation because ordnance related scrap was found and removed in this general area during the last investigation. Further investigation will confirm if additional scrap is buried, if so it will be removed.

This area is a potential piping plover nesting area, therefore the investigation will be performed before the plovers return to area for nesting.

The other three areas are inland of the dunes. They consist of an area where military canisters were located. The

canisters were previously tested, and were found not to be hazardous. They will be removed and disposed of at an approved disposal facility offsite.

Another area that will be investigated has potential ordnance burial pits. The last area of concern is an area where 150 M28A1 flash tubes for 105mm cartridge cases were removed last year.

This investigation will be conducted to locate any additional flash tubes if they exist, and to dispose of them at an approved disposal facility offsite.

The Former Camp Wellfleet site consists of developed and undeveloped land, the majority of which is owned and maintained by the National Park Service. The investigation for the Wellfleet site will be conducted during the winter to minimize impacts to natural resources such as the piping plover and to minimize the impact of closures to area residents and visitors.

Zapata Engineering will meet daily with the National Park Service staff to coordinate safety measures and any necessary area closures.

All reasonable efforts will be made to minimize inconvenience to the public and to allow public access to the primary visitor sites. Access to Marconi Site and Marconi Beach may be restricted at times during the project.

It is the goal of the National Park Service, to have the beaches and site open on weekends and only close either the beach or the site on a day-by-day basis, when necessary.

The recommended removal actions for the various areas inside the Former Camp Wellfleet are derived from the Final Former Camp Wellfleet Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) completed in May 2000 and the subsequent Action Memorandum, which was signed in April 2001.

## Sympathy

...to **Jerry Nunizato**, Logistics, on the passing of his mother, **Helen Nunziato**, Jan. 26.

...to Engineering retiree **Carnie Terzian**, who passed away, Jan. 24.

...to **Steve Brackett**, GSA, on the passing of his mother, **Joan M. Brackett**, Feb. 21.

...to **Joanne Polci**, formerly of Regulatory, on the passing of her son, **Christopher**, Feb. 23.

## Welcome

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Larry Cain     | Eng/Plng    |
| David Dilks    | Contracting |
| Lee Ann Neal   | Regulatory  |
| Theresa Negron | Counsel     |
| Richard Riley  | Con/Ops     |
| Robert Teller  | Real Estate |
| Glenna Vitello | Con/Ops     |

## Words worth repeating

*What separates those who achieve from those who do not is in direct proportion to one's ability to ask others for help.*

**- Donald Keough, Former president of Coca-Cola**

*The secret of joy in work is contained in one word - excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.*

**- Pearl Buck**

*If you give a man a fish, he will have a single meal. If you teach him how to fish, he will eat all his life.*

**- Kwan-Tzu**

# Dredging up the past . . .



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