



District Climate Survey3
Sue Mehigan Retires4
Bob Batt Retires6
Hanscom Vehicle Stickers...7
AMWS Lifetime Award8
USA Recreation Pass8



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Volume 42, No. 4

Yankee Engineer

January 2007

Partnership celebrates start of Point Judith dredging

After three years of much coordination, partnership and hard work, New England District officials, Senator Jack Reed, and other state and local officials gathered for a brief ceremony to mark the start of dredging for the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge Federal Navigation Project in Point Judith, Rhode Island, Nov. 30.

“Shoaling has reduced available project depths and we need to remove about 90,000 cubic yards of material to restore the project to design depths,” explained Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander. “We’ve been working toward this day for some time now. A lot of people have contributed a lot of hard work to make this project possible.”

The project is especially important to residents of the region because Point Judith has the fourth most productive



Senator Jack Reed, Colonel Curtis Thalken and Robert Byrne discuss future endeavors and other partnership opportunities in Rhode Island. Pictured, Point Judith Harbor of Refuge.

fishing fleet in New England, according to Col. Thalken. “The local fisherman here remind me a lot of the farming community where I grew up in Nebraska – hardworking, self-starters who labor through the long day working to produce food that the rest of us need to survive. It’s a vitally important profession.”

The non-federal sponsors for the project are the towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett, the CRMC, and the state of Rhode Island. Sen. Reed has publically supported the

project from the beginning and played an active in Congress to obtaining the federal funding.

The project is also important to the continued smooth operation of the Block Island Ferry, which is critical to the residents of Block Island. The project will also benefit the Matunuck shoreline in

South Kingstown, as the dredged material will be disposed in two nearshore feeder bars. This will then provide sand to the system beaches along that stretch of coast.

Maintenance dredging of 90,000 cubic yards of sand from approximately 25 acres of the authorized project area will restore the entrance channel, east and west branch channels, and shoal areas in Point Judith Pond to authorized dimensions. Dredging is expected to be complete by mid-March at the close of the allowable dredging window.

Yankee Voices

William 'Bud' Taylor
Programs and Projects
Management



Congratulations...

...to the **New England District family** on a successful **CFC Campaign**. This year, the New England District, under the guidance of **Joe Redlinger**, Chief of **Real Estate**, raised over \$28,000 for various CFC charities. The New England District family also increased their donations to the **U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots** program this holiday season.

... to **Bob Leitch**, who was selected as the December Employee of the Month. Leitch is the Project Manager/Engineering Technical Lead for high profile DERP-FUDS projects with very complicated contaminated bedrock aquifers such as Bucks Harbor and Glenburn, Maine. Bob's skill at bringing together a functional PDT team with many virtual members, including not only USACE personnel but multiple contractor and regulatory personnel, and focusing on the main objective(s) while dealing with numerous issues related to each site is exemplary.

Iraq Construction Update

The Gulf Region Division completed 38 construction projects and started 23 new projects in Iraq from Dec. 29, 2006 - Jan. 12, 2007. Over 43 individuals from the New England District have volunteered to support various missions overseas during the Global War on Terror.

Water Projects...Six of the projects completed – totaling \$531,000 -were small water projects in Erbil Province. The projects – ShewaZiarat, Baspishtian, Hawidan, Keshke, Kawartian and AqubaniSaru - consisted of construction of wells, ground tanks, supply of generators and pumps, and expansion of the distribution system. The projects are capable of serving 12,000 residents in the Province.

Electrical Projects...Two of the new projects started during this period are the \$4.9 million electrical rehabilitations of a low voltage network in the Wazeriya-Ghazalya neighborhood of Baghdad Province, and the \$1.7 million Al Ghadirlow voltage electrical network in Karbala Province. Each project will bring power to approximately 45,000 homes. More than 90 percent of electrical sector projects have been started.

Project Totals...At the transfer of sovereignty in June 2004, there were just 200 projects started. As of Jan. 14, 2007, DoD has 3,799 total planned projects representing a construction cost of \$10.2 billion.

- 643 are under construction at a construction cost of \$2.7 billion.
- 3,071 have been completed at a construction cost of \$7 billion.
- 85 more projects are planned.

Sympathy...

... to Barbara Ingalls on the passing of her stepfather, Herbert Tarbell on Dec. 9. Cards may be sent to Barbara Ingalls, 3751 Route 131, Perkinsville, VT 05151.

The **YANKEE ENGINEER** is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Philadelphia, Penna. Circulation 1600. The **YANKEE ENGINEER** is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>

District CommanderCol. Curtis L. Thalken
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations OfficerTimothy J. Dugan
Community Relations OfficerSally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:

Exploring the District Climate Survey

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Engineer



This past month, the various committees exploring the climate survey that was conducted just before I took command provided me with the results of their efforts to analyze the responses to the survey and their proposals to accommodate many of the issues identified during the survey. I would now like to take my time this month to address those findings and recommendations in general terms. A more detailed synopsis of the findings and my decisions can be found posted on the district web site.

Responses to the climate survey fell within seven different categories: Awards and Recognition, Communication, Consistency, Management, Promotions, Training and Development, and All Others. Several of the recommendations have already been implemented, others will be further developed for future implementation and some are either not possible for reasons external to the district or I did not feel were justified for implementation.

First, I believe that the discussion of awards boils down to four main topics:

- The district could do a better job of finding informal ways to acknowledge successes. In addition to formal awards, several templates have been developed (and used to varying degrees already) by supervisors to thank folks.

- The current number of annual district level awards and presentation of them at Founder's Day is about right. No action required.

- The WE Committee Employee of the Month should continue and the Team of the Month should be changed to Team of the Quarter. This has been implemented.

- The current district policy of limiting annual performance awards to 50% of an office should be reconsidered. This policy is currently being reviewed, along with all of the existing district policy letters, in an ongoing attempt to bring all district policy letters into compliance with current USACE HQ and Division policies.

Second, communication issues revolve around employee desires for more transparency. This manifested

itself in several recommendations:

- It was proposed that we create a "refresher LEAD" training course focusing on communications and feedback. Agreed—and a "modified LEAD course" dealing with feedback, communication, (and possibly counseling), is presently under development

- We should create an open site where employees can ask questions and receive answers. The District will develop a site on its SharePoint page.

- It was recommended that the District increase the number of "Brown Bag Lunches" and that I should host one per month to present awards, answer questions, discuss major topics of the day, etc. I believe this is an outstanding idea and we will shortly begin scheduling regular monthly lunches to present topics of interest and to answer questions from the workforce.

Third, consistency recommendations were primarily focused within three areas:

- Time and attendance procedures are not perceived to be applied evenly throughout the district. I believe our recently implemented 'automated time and attendance system' has helped to minimize this.

- Access to the most recent automation software and hardware has not been implemented evenly across the district. The upcoming IM A76 conversion will mandate how and on what frequency our automation equipment is replaced, so we will have to wait and see how this initiative is implemented.

- It was also recommended that I establish a "Consistency Board" to monitor consistent application of district policies throughout the district. Rather than establishing another board, I have chosen to conduct periodic "sensing sessions" where I will ask for employees from around the district (but not supervisors) to meet with me to discuss the issues that they see.

Fourth, most recommendations to improve "management" involved the creation of additional "boards to help management make decisions." I do not agree with this.

I believe we already have enough boards, between Staff Meetings, the Strategic Planning Meeting, Senior Leaders (otherwise known as the "Corporate Board"), I think we have enough boards.

It is my belief that what we lack is adequate transparency in information flow (both up and down) to make sure



Col. Thalken presents Sue with a Superior Civilian Service Award, her retirement certificate and other mementos.

Oh Suzy!

Sue Mehigan retires after 27 years of contributions

After 27 years of faithful service, Susan “Mom” Mehigan, Specialty Budget Analyst for Regulatory Division, made the decision to join the New England District retiree community. A retirement luncheon was held in honor of her selfless service to the District, the Corps and the nation, Dec. 19, 2006 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

Over 80 friends, retirees, and family members gathered for the potluck event. Bob Desista served as Master of Ceremonies. After making informal introductions of family members and retirees, Desista praised Mehigan for her outstanding work ethic and her willingness to help others all over the District. “If she wasn’t at her desk, she was in some other office helping out,” he said. “She’s a friend to some, a mother to others and a grandmother when needed.”

Desista presented Mehigan with a gift from her friends and co-workers

from the Cape Cod Canal – a framed picture of the Bourne Bridge at sunset and a calendar.

Tom Fredette followed Desista to the microphone to thank her for her service as well as to present her with a sweatshirt that read, “Mom Mehigan.”

Paul Sneeringer told Mehigan that it was an honor for him to speak at her luncheon. “You are a super person and you have meant a lot to my family and me,” he said. “There are few people in the Corps that are indispensable, and you are one of them.”

As a parting gift, Sneeringer presented Mehigan with an elaborate Counted Cross Stitch picture he made himself. Mehigan said she was going to hang it in the entrance-way of her home for all to see.

Crystal Gardner recalled coming to the Corps as a co-op student from Ohio and how Mehigan would pick her up at the bus stop to make sure she made it to work safely. So committed was Mehigan to her, she even had her husband, Jack pick Gardner up when she was not able to make it herself. “You are one of the brightest parts in

my life,” said Gardner. “It is an honor for me to know you. You have always accepted me no matter how I came to you.”

Desista returned to the front and praised Mehigan for “keeping Bill Lawless in place.” He received a lot of chuckles from the audience when he revealed that she would call to let the staff know when she would be out, as that was the time when Lawless would wander around the building. Recalling the “old days” at the Murphy Federal Center in Waltham, DeSista presented Mehigan with her old sitting chair that many a person used when visiting her.

Luncheon organizers Alexine Raineri and Laura Lally presented Mehigan with cards signed by all of the luncheon attendees as well as a gift certificate for her to buy a new computer so she could keep in touch with her Corps family via e-mail. The team also presented her with a dress watch from the entire Regulatory staff.

Jim Haggarty from North Atlantic Division’s Regulatory Division, who flew up in honor of Mehigan’s retirement, presented her with the Award of



Sue and Jack are joined by friends and co-workers.

Superior Civilian Service for 27 years of outstanding service, not only to Regulatory, but to everyone in the North Atlantic Division as well as its customers. After his official duties were over, he had some personal words for Mehigan. "You've helped me become a success in my job and I want to wish you the very best," he said.

Matt Schweisberg of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who has known Mehigan for 20 years, said that her influence went beyond the Corps family and into the EPA family. He presented her with a card signed by all her friends and well-wishers from EPA.

"She has been our secret weapon for handling matters with the Corps," he said. "Her retirement is a huge loss for EPA."

Even Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, who has probably known Mehigan the least of all of the attendees at her luncheon had a story to tell. "I like people who speak their mind," he said. "My first encounter with Susan was when she scolded me for not checking in with her

before meeting with Chris Godfrey."

Col. Thalken said that it was a honor for him to represent the District Commanders that came before him that served under her.

"She is the ultimate mentor," he said. "Even though you're retired, people will still call you for help, and that's okay because that's what family is all about."

The District Commander ended the official part of the retirement luncheon by presenting Mehigan with her retirement certificate and pin.

After all the speakers had been heard, Mehigan thanked everyone for attending her lunch and bringing food as well as the ladies who had put it together.

"When I first came here 27 years ago, Regulatory was a zoo," she recalled.

"Over the years we've gotten better and there have been so many family events in that time. Thank you to those who allowed me to be a part of your lives. I have enjoyed every minute and wish everyone a very happy and healthy future."

Susan Mehigan began her service with the Corps in New England on July 16, 1980 as a clerk typist. Over the years, she received a series of promotions until she achieved the position of Specialty Budget Analyst from which she retired.

Mehigan has received many awards over her career to include Superior Civilian Service, Performance, and On the Spot Awards.

She and her husband, Jack, are the parents of two adult children, Susan and John, and have three grandchildren, Christopher, Patrick and Sydney.

Mehigan plans to relax and pick up her knitting, sewing and craft projects. She also plans to volunteer at the local public school reading to children.

John Peacock, Sue's brother, accompanied his sister to her retirement luncheon. Retirees who attended the luncheon were Jane Kotelly, Bill Lawless, Jean McFredries, Forrest Knowles, Bob Batt, Bernie Manor, and Joe Bocchino.

Former employees who attended were Gail French and Tony Riccio.

A distinguished career celebrated by friends, peers Bob Batt retires and future is brighter than ever

Friends and relatives of Bob Batt, a Realty Specialist in New England District's Real Estate Division, traveled to the Minuteman Lounge at Hanscom Air Force Base on Dec. 12 to celebrate his 36 year career and his decision to retire.

Approximately 40 people attended the nighttime event. Joe Redlinger, Chief of Real Estate Division, served as Master of Ceremonies and praised Batt's many years of dedicated service.

Other speakers included Marty Curran of the Merrimack River Basin who presented Batt with a certificate of appreciation from his friends and coworkers at the basin office for all the work he has performed for them over the years. Batt also received a cash gift and a card signed by everyone who attended the party.

In addition to his duties as Master of Ceremonies, Redlinger also officially retired Batt at the end of the evening by presenting him with his retirement certificate and pin.

Bob Batt joined the Corps in New England as a Contract Specialist in May 1976.

Prior to coming to New England, he served with the New York District from August 1974 to May 1976. A Vietnam Veteran, Batt served in the U.S. Air Force from Aug. 1969 to Aug. 1973.



Doris Smith, Joe Redlinger and footloose and fancy-free Bob share the moment.

During his distinguished career, Batt worked on three major land exchanges; two for the Army Reserves at Reserve Centers in Manchester, New Hampshire and East Windsor, Connecticut and one civil works land exchange at North Hartland Lake in the Queechee Gorge area. Most recently he has been involved with obtaining rights to do environmental testing in the

area of the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR).

Earlier in his career with the District he worked on land acquisition for the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Project (CRNVS) and later on Inventory Project Reports for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). Batt is a 1974 graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He and his wife, Doris Smith are the parents of a daughter, Sheri Smith.

Now that he has some leisure time ahead of him, Batt plans to relax, clean out his house and fix it up. He is also considering some part time employment some time in the future. Batt was accompanied to the party by his wife, Doris. Retirees who attended the event were Mary Dunn, Sylvia Woodbury, Ed Fallon, Fred Colman, Bob Abbott and Roger Parker.



Bob Batt is awarded his retirement certificate by Joe Redlinger.



Bob Batt receives tips on the successful art of retirement from long-time friend and District retiree Mary Dunn.

District participates in joint public hearing on Blue Wave Capital proposal to build wetlands mitigation bank in Taunton River Watershed

A joint public hearing on the Blue Wave Capital, LLC proposal to construct a Wetland Mitigation Bank in the Taunton River Watershed in Massachusetts was held on Dec. 14, 2006 in Hanson, Mass.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinated the hearing. Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Commander, represented the New England District.

The hearing served as both the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs hearing on the Taunton River Watershed Pilot Wetlands Mitigation Bank Prospectus, but also as the Corps hearing on the permit application.

"The Corps is participating in this joint public hearing based on a request for a Department of the Army permit from Blue Wave Capital LLC to discharge fill material incidental to excavation and placement of organic topsoil, and planting of wetland vegetation



Citizens voice their concerns that a proposed wetlands mitigation bank would negatively effect the Taunton River Watershed.

within the excavated areas to enhance wetland functions and values of approximately 16 acres of degraded wetlands in order to construct a Wetland Mitigation Bank in the Taunton River Watershed," he said.

The wetland mitigation bank is proposed to create approximately nine acres of new wetlands and enhance approximately 16 acres of existing degraded wetlands for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of discharges of dredged or fill material permitted for others within the Taunton River Watershed under the

Regulatory Program of the Corps of Engineers.

The Corps jurisdiction for the proposed permit is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, including wetlands.

In addition, the Taunton River Watershed Mitigation Bank is being reviewed pursuant to the 1995 Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use and Operation of Mitigation Banks.

While no decision was rendered that evening, the decision to issue or deny the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts of the proposed activity and comments from the public made that evening are being considered when deciding whether the permit application is issued or denied.

As a result of the comments received during the hearing, Lt. Col. Nelson extended the public comment period to Jan. 16. "We listened to each comment and we responded to the public's request for additional time to comment," he said.

Vehicle ID sticker policy changes announced for Hanscom

Effective immediately, Hanscom will no longer issue year stickers for base vehicle registration.

Once a vehicle has been registered on the base and has a Department of Defense Form 2220, Vehicle Registration Sticker, it will remain valid under the following conditions: the registered owner of the vehicle does not change; the registered owner possesses a DOD identification card (CAC Card); the registered owner

has base driving privileges, and; the sticker is legible.

This change will increase convenience for base customers and reduce the wait times for individuals requiring passes for the base.

The change does not effect the requirements for operating a vehicle on Hanscom. Drivers must be ready to present the following at all times: a valid driver's license; a valid state registration; and, proof of insurance.

For vehicles registered in Massachusetts, the proof of insurance is printed on the registration. Individuals with vehicles registered in other states are required to carry a proof of insurance card or letter.

Drivers should note that this policy differs between military installations.

For more information regarding this change contact Tech. Sgt. Richard Minigan at 781-377-2635.

Massachusetts Wetland Scientists Association awards lifetime achievement to Ruth Ladd for outstanding contributions

Ruth Ladd, Regulatory Division, received a rare honor during the Nov. 17, 2006 meeting of the Association of Massachusetts Wetlands Scientists' (AMWS) Annual Meeting and Conference in Ashland, Mass. The Association bestowed its first annual Lifetime Achievement Award to Ladd for her outstanding work and contributions as a wetlands scientist.

"This was the first presentation of this award, so I feel very honored to be so recognized by my peers," said Ladd. According to Mike Seekamp, the president of AMWS, the board felt that the organization had matured to the point that it should be giving a Lifetime Achievement award.

Ruth started with the Corps in New England in 1991. Prior to that she worked for the BSC Group, a consulting firm of engineers, surveyors, planners and wetlands specialists. During her career with New England District, Ladd has worked on many projects such as the Mashnantucket Pequot enforcement case, which resulted in restoration of about eight acres of filled wetlands; the Greenbush Line, Route 3,



Ruth Ladd during Katrina Recovery.

the new Patriots Stadium and the Route I-93 widening. Ladd has also chaired the Mitigation Taskforce comprised of state and federal agencies through New England to build partnerships and improve mitigation and proactive restoration efforts throughout the region.

Ladd holds a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from Connecticut College and a Masters of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts – Lowell.

The Lifetime Achievement award is not Ladd's first honor. In the past she has received the New England District's Peer Award presented to her by her co-workers.

In addition she has been a finalist with the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board for the Outstanding Community Service Award in 2001 for her work with the Guiding Eyes for the Blind and Outstanding Technical and Scientific Employee in 2000. She also received a

special coin for speaking at a Louisiana school during her Hurricane Katrina Recovery deployment this past year.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Will Honor America the Beautiful - the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Passes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will honor two of the four America The Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands passes to give a 50 percent reduction in day use and camping fees to pass holders at its recreation areas beginning in January 2007.

The Corps will accept the Senior Pass for citizens and permanent residents age 62 and over, and the Access Pass for citizens or permanent residents with an established permanent medical disability. Other passes issued under this program cover entrance fees at national parks and forests. The Corps does not charge entrance fees.

The new passes are available as a result of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004.

The legislation established the new discount pass program to replace the Golden Passport Program for all agencies.

The Corps will continue to accept Golden Access and Golden Age Passports according to the provisions of the pass. In addition, paper Golden Age and Golden Access Passports may be exchanged free of charge for new plastic passes. The new passes may be obtained in person at USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service facilities. The Corps will not issue the passes. Additional information about the recreation pass program is available at <http://www.recreation.gov/repass.jsp> or by calling 1-888-275-

8747 (1-888-ASK-USGS).

The Corps encourages all Americans to enjoy the nation's public lands and waters. The Corps is the largest federal provider of outdoor recreation opportunities, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests. The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans visit a Corps project at least once a year. For more information about Corps-operated recreational facilities in New England check the website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil> and select "recreation."

Commander's Corner

From Page 3.

issues are brought to management's attention and management decisions (at all levels) are clearly transmitted throughout the entire organization. There was also a recommendation to fully fund an "Out Reach Coordinator" position. With current budgetary constraints, I cannot support creating another position that will charge completely to our overhead account, but I still believe that every member of the district has a role in serving as an advocate for the Corps of Engineers whenever they meet the public.

Fifth, in the area of promotions, the recommendations centered around two themes.

- The district should create additional higher grade positions (more technical GS13s and higher graded Park Ranger/Natural Resource Manager positions for example). The advisory panel researched this and dis-

covered that NAE has more non-supervisory GS13s than other similarly sized districts within NAD so creating more would not be justified. Similarly, increasing the rank of our Park Staff will require an assessment of their current duties to see if the positions qualify, but we can explore this.

- It was recommended that the district hire more "in-house" candidates to fill vacancies. Job vacancies must be advertised in accordance with DOD policy. We do not have the latitude to rewrite them, but what we can do is offer temporary promotions in-house whenever possible to fill vacancies in the short term and we will explore increasing the frequency with which we do this.

Sixth, while there were several small recommendations to improve training and development the largest two focused on employee feedback:

- It was recommended that the district reinforce the requirement for timely submission of our annual TAPES. I whole heartedly agree and while we have made great strides in this area, we still have a handful of reports that were submitted late this year.

- It was recommended that the district needs to improve its development of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and make a more concerted effort to comply with the "approved" plans. I agree. Supervisors will be held accountable for the development of realistic Individual

Development Plans's for their staff.

I would like to highlight three recommendations from the "other" category.

- It was recommended that the District continue last year's initiative to hold Founder's Day at one of our own Recreation Areas. By all accounts, this was a great success this past year and we will continue the practice this coming year, but we will move it to a different park to be equitable in the distance we all must drive.

- It was recommended that we improve the District's implementation of PMBP. This recommendation was

'(The) climate survey that was conducted just before I took command provided me with the results of their efforts to analyze the (New England team) responses to the survey and their proposals to accommodate many of the issues identified...'

approved and we are in fact, currently bringing on board a couple of software tools that will enhance both project manager and resource provider access to the information contained in both P2 and CEFMS in a way that will reduce the administrative burden for each. I would also like to report that currently NAE is ranked second among all districts in the Corps for the reliability of our P2 data.

- It was recommended that the District eliminate "core hours" and simply go to an 80-hour pay period. I cannot support this. Our business practices do not allow for members of the workforce to be unavailable to meet as a team or to engage the public or its customers during what are considered normal business hours. Our current "core hours" makes this possible.

In conclusion, I think the panels that analyzed the Command Climate Survey did a tremendous job in analyzing the contents of the survey and in developing implementation strategies to address the relevant points identified. We all have a role to play in making the district not only successful, but also an enjoyable place to work. Hopefully, the initiatives already underway and those we are about to embark upon will accomplish this.

Once again thank you for everything you do every day for the District, the Corps, the Army and a grateful nation. Essayons!



Gary Lacroix (above) demonstrates German Christmas Market drinking techniques while Mary Christopher (top right) opens a Yankee Swap and others dine on pasta and other delights (bottom right).

Celebrating the

New England District team members took some time out of their busy schedules to enjoy the holiday season and each other's company during the District's annual Holiday Party in the Concord Park cafeteria, Dec. 20. Construction/Operations served as hosts for this year's festivities.

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, made some brief opening remarks and presented Commander's Awards for Civilian Service to Kevin Branch and Jerry Stalder for their outstanding work during the Hurricane Katrina Recovery mission.

After Col. Thalken's remarks and presentation, guests enjoyed a buffet Italian lunch by Café Luigi's, served

with beverages and dessert.

Christmas Bingo followed the buffet in the cafeteria. "Christmas" instead of "Bingo" was shouted repeatedly as multiple winners took home small prizes provided by Bruce Williams and Rachel Fisher who ran the activity for the committee.

The New England District's annual Yankee Swap rounded out the activities for the day. Approximately 15 people took part in the popular event. Participants were assigned numbers, and when their number was called, they picked one gift from the table and unwrapped it.

After examining their gift, participants had the option of keeping their gift or trading it for a more desirable gift



Clockwise from top: Donna Russell, Jerry Stalder, Paula Kullberg, Zina Cassulo-Henderson, Ann Marie Harvie, Martha Labbe, Jerry, Rachel Fisher, Alexine Raineri, Bruce Williams, Miss Tahira Amaya Muhammad, Raushanah Muhammad, John Almeida, Theresa Negron, Phillip Nimeskern, Tony Mackos, and the New England Team.

Holidays

already opened by other participants. The first person to be called, in this case Laura Lally of Regulatory, had the option to pick from all of the gifts that were opened. Many transactions took place during the swap, to the enjoyment of participants and onlookers alike.

In addition to the scheduled activities, holiday videos played continuously in the theatre and items from the WE Committee's Corps Store were also on sale.

The WE Committee also held a silent auction of holiday baskets donated by several offices as a fund-raiser.

Although many took part in celebrating the holiday season, New England District team members did not forget those less fortunate than themselves. Over 50 pounds of food

were collected during the WE Committee's Food Drive in November.

The food drive, organized by Janet Brayden on behalf of the committee, benefited the Maynard Food Pantry in Maynard, Mass.

In addition, the WE Committee's Janet Brayden and Jerry Nunziato also collected nearly 200 toys from New England District team members to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, which donates toys for needy children.

The District team also contributed over \$28,000 to the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign, run this year by Real Estate Division.

Dredging up the past...



Dredging of Aunt Lydia's Cove by the Corps Dredge "CURRITUCK" drew interest from far and wide to include a NBC film crew during a stop-over in Chatham while en route to Martha's Vineyard to visit then President Clinton in this 2000 photograph with District Engineer Col. Brian Osterndorf.

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494