



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Volume 36, No. 10

Yankee Engineer

July 2000



Col. Brian E. Osterndorf salutes Col. Richard Gridley, first Commander of the Corps of Engineers, during a wreath laying ceremony at the Canton Corner Cemetery in Canton, Mass., to mark the Corps' 225th birthday. Photo by C.J. Allen

District commemorates Corps' 225th anniversary

It all began in Massachusetts in 1773. The colonists decided that they had enough of British rule and wanted to make it on their own, so they had a "tea party" in Boston and two years later in 1775, after seeing the British "whites of their eyes," the colonists fired the shot that was heard 'round the world in Concord.

The start of the American Revolution triggered the creation of the United States Army. The order from Gen. George Washington to Col. Richard Gridley to build fortifications at Breed's Hill began 225 years of engineering excellence that is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

On June 17, 2000, the day after anniversary of the birth of the Corps, Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and the New England District

Ranger Color Guard paid homage to the first Chief of Engineers and celebrated the anniversary of the Nation's step towards freedom by laying a wreath at Col. Gridley's grave as well as participating in Bunker Hill activities held in Charlestown, Mass. The weeklong event, held June 9 to June 18, was sponsored by the National Park Service, which is the caretaker of the historic Bunker Hill Monument.

In addition, all six governors from

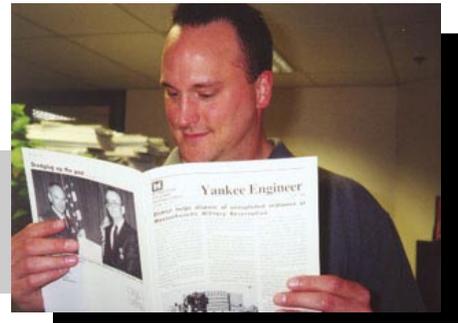
the New England states – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont – honored the New England District and the Corps by signing official proclamations naming June 16, 2000, as Corps of Engineers Day in each of their states.

There were a myriad of events held throughout Bunker Hill Week to include a Drum Corps concert, historic talks, colonial encampments, a Mum-

Continued on page 8

Yankee Voices

Mike Galicki
Information Management



Sympathy...

...to **Susan Lee**, Regulatory Branch, on the passing of her mother, **Mary Lee**, June 13.

...to **Tina Krawczyk** and her family on the passing of her stepfather, **James Lewis Cappiello**, July 3.

Address changes

The South Central Resident Office address has changed. The new address is:

**Army Corps of Engineers
South Central Resident Office
P.O. Box 790
East Wareham, MA 02538**

The new physical address for the **Westover Resident Office** is now:

**275A Starlifter Avenue
Westover ARB**

Chicopee, MA 01022

(it is no longer Seawolf Avenue).

The **mailing address** will continue to be:

570 Patriot Ave.

Box 70

Chicopee, MA 01022-1634.

Beat the Heat

Summer heat can cause heat strokes, exhaustion, and severe sunburn. What's more, according to the National Safety Council, skin cancers take the lives of almost 9,200 people every year. The council recommends these precautions:

- Avoid the midday sun (between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.).
- Wear sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15. Apply 15 to 20 minutes before going out. Reapply every two hours and after swimming and sweating if the product is not labeled waterproof.
- Stay away from shiny surfaces (water, outdoor furniture, metal roofs, etc.) because they can reflect up to 85 percent of the sun's rays on the skin, increasing the risk of burning.
- Wear wide-brimmed hats, visors, sunglasses, and tightly woven clothing to protect against the sun's rays.
- Drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Warning about using St. John's Wort in summer

If you're taking St. John's Wort – the popular herbal remedy for curbing depression and weight gain – stay out of the sun. The herb increases the skin's sensitivity to sunlight, thereby increasing the risk of severe sunburn. Health experts warn that even the strongest sunblocking lotions do not offer complete protection.

The yellow-flowered weed is an ingredient in many herbal weight loss products, including Herbal Phen-Fen, Diet-Phen, and Herbal Phen Fuel. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Words worth repeating

The most ability is responsibility. Nothing happens until someone steps forward and says, "You can count on me."

- *John Maxwell, Speaker and writer*

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-81 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 Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>

District EngineerCol. Brian E. Osterndorf
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



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Commander's Column: Ready for Anything

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer



This summer's big movie, "The Perfect Storm," about the fate of a Gloucester fishing boat, is a timely reminder of how devastating the forces of nature can be. The term "perfect" in this case refers to the precise combination of at least three climatological phenomena that when taken together, produced the "No-Name" storm of October 1991. That storm is one of many events, including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and snowstorms, as well as ice jams and droughts, that we in the New England District must be prepared to respond to.

Although Emergency Operations is one mission area that I would rather not see grow, it is vitally important we be able to respond rapidly and capably should an emergency occur. In fact, our execution of this mission needs to be "perfect." Our emergency missions are derived from authorities given us in public law. In many cases, such as flood fighting and post-flood response, the Corps has direct authority (Public Law 84-99, Flood and Coastal Emergencies) to act. In these cases, we would complement the actions of state agencies to protect and preserve life and property. When you think about it, much of what the Corps has done in New England, in building dams, coastal protection projects and the like, was in response to real or anticipated flood events.

We also have a significant role in disaster relief operations, as a member of a Federal Response Team. The concept of a coordinated federal response, headed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is authorized by Public Law 93-288, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act. This act is applicable in a broad range of emergencies, including natural disasters, technological emergencies (e.g. Y2K catastrophe scenario) and terrorist acts. Our role as part of this federal team is to perform specified emergency support functions (designated ESF-3) that include providing water and ice, debris removal, emergency power, humanitarian support and engineering support of the public infrastructure (utilities, public facilities, transportation structures). The Corps has organized nationwide planning and response teams (PRTs) to train together and respond to emergencies. Specifically, we are tasked to provide a water PRT. There is also a Logistics Emergency Response Team (LERT) to coordinate the logistics of an operation. In order to improve our responsiveness and capabilities, many members of the District have undergone

training on how to work with federal and state agencies and coordinate ESF-3 responses. We are conducting several training exercises as well, including a multi-FEMA region, North Atlantic Division exercise in New Jersey this month. We will be as ready as we can be to deliver our "perfect" response.

But, the point is that this is a team effort. Should an emergency or disaster strike New England, the entire District will be decisively engaged. Our project offices will be expected to flawlessly execute their emergency response plans under the control of the Reservoir Control Center, but also independently should the RCC ability to control be interrupted. Our regulators will have to work closely with state agencies to provide them with permit approvals to

'Although Emergency Operations is one mission area that I would rather not see grow, it is vitally important we be able to respond rapidly and capably should an emergency occur.'

- Col. Brian E. Osterndorf

address emergency needs in each of the states. Our contracting personnel will be busy procuring emergency services to supplement existing capabilities. Every engineer could find him or herself sent to evaluate flood control structures or conduct preliminary damage assessments. Real estate specialists, counsel, resource managers and administrative personnel will all be supporting these efforts. And even if you aren't directly engaged, there will be a myriad of things to do that will require everyone to be very aware of what is going on and what help is needed. And, of course, the EOC, ESF-3, PRT and LERT people will be performing the missions they are assigned.

Thankfully, the probability of an emergency of the scope that would require such a decisive response is fairly low. But, New England has experienced several significant events, and we must anticipate more. Hurricane forecasts this year call for an "average" year; we can expect eight to 11 storms nationwide, of which three or four could be quite severe. The last several winters have been relatively mild; maybe we are due for something more severe. Last year we experienced severe drought-like conditions throughout New England. We've seen ice jams in Maine and Connecticut.

Training and preparing for the worst case will ensure that we are able to deal with anything that comes our way. Time and again, we have proven ourselves, and when our neighbors need us again, we will be ready.

Annual ceremony honors employee accomplishments

Awards, honors, and length of service certificates were presented to New England District employees during the official portion of the Founders Day activities, June 23. The awards ceremony, held in Concord Park's cafeteria, kicked off a day-long celebration of the Corps' 225th birthday.

"Ladies and gentleman, 225 years ago Col. Richard Gridley was named the first chief engineer and immediately started putting together fortifications on Breeds Hill," said Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs.

Larry then began the ceremony by presenting Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, with signed proclamations from the six New England Governors naming June 16, 2000 as Corps of Engineers Day. "There's a lot of service to the Nation that started right here in New England," he said. "The governors of New England have recognized that service."

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf followed the introduction with remarks that marked the importance of the day. "It was a great honor for me to be able to stand on the same ground that Col. Gridley reinforced during the recent Bunker Hill Day ceremonies in Charlestown," he said. "We, as part of the professionals of the Corps of Engineers, take our obligations very seriously and will continue for at least the next 225 years to provide the same level of service."

Bill Scully, Programs/Project Management, followed with the induction of Mr. John "Jack" Boyea into the District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery. See story on page 15.

Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, followed the induction by presenting special awards to District employees. The first award was given to Quentin Walsh, who received a Superior Civilian Service Award for Exceptional Service Medal for his work in Germany from 1992 to 1999 as well as a U.S. Army Europe Scroll of Appreciation for Outstanding Service in

Support of Operation Allied Force. "His dedicated and selfless efforts were instrumental in the successful deployment and sustainment of the United States Forces," said Lt. Col. Rovero.

Capt. Jan Malaikal received the Army Commendation Medal. She spent several months at the North Atlantic Division and was recognized for her exceptional and meritorious service as the officer in charge of NAD's tactical operations center.

Dave Stiddem, Construction/Operations, received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his leadership in expanding the use of volunteers in natural resource conservation and education in New England District.

The Public Affairs Office received a team award for the Yankee Engineer placing in three categories in the 2000 Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Award. Mark McInerney, Information Management, also received recognition as part of the team.

Janet Brayden received a Scroll of Appreciation from the Federal Women's Program for writing the winning essay during Women's History Month.

Viola Bramel received a Scroll of Appreciation from the Black Employment Program for writing the winning essay during Black History Month.

The Hurricane Floyd Water Team received certificates of appreciation from the Norfolk District for their work during the storm. Team members were Bruce Zawacki, Ken Paton, Ed Mills, Dave Goodrich, and Eva D'Antuono.

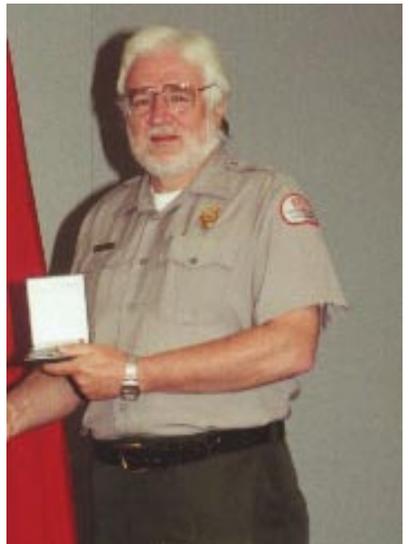
Certificates of appreciation were presented to the Civilian Welfare Council for their service. Members were Mike Russo (Advisor), Helen LaForge, Karen Schofield (past Advisor), Angie Vanaria, Mike Tibbs, Kathy Bucciarelli, Helen Newcomb, Sally Rigione, Sheila Coulter, Dave Goodrich, Ruth Kitowicz, Steve Umbrell, Gary Morin, and Ken Levitt.

The last award Lt. Col. Rovero



Quentin Walsh

Photos by C.J. Allen



David Stiddem



Capt. Jan Malaikal



Jane Kotelly

presented was to Jane Kotelly. Jane received a coin of the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment for winning the New England District Trivia Contest.

Col. Osterndorf recognized all the new employees at the District and challenged them to perform as well as the employees that had just received awards.

Ken Hitch, Chief, Engineering/Planning, presented the Planner of the Year Award to Dave Larsen. "This award is given in recognition of Mr. Larsen's excellent performance as a Civil Engineer and Project Manager for the New England District," said Ken. "He was responsible for executing a project cooperation agreement for a local project in the community of Fort Fairfield, Maine. When completed this approximately \$7 million project will protect the downtown area of Fort Fairfield which is vulnerable to ice jam-induced flooding every year."

Joe Bocchino, Executive Assistant, introduced the length of service awards. Awards were presented to employees with 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, and five years of service. The Founders Day booklet has a complete list of recipients.

Jim Crawford, Chair of the Founders Day Committee, ended the official ceremony by thanking the committee and other participants who helped put the activities together, and by giving the audience an overview of the unofficial events that followed the ceremony.



David Larsen



30-year Length of Service Pin recipients



Civilian Welfare Council



Hurricane Floyd Water Team

Founders Day 2000:

Sporting events, activities highlight 225th Anniversary

After the official awards ceremony, employees of the New England District, retirees, and extended District family members gathered at Castle Park, located at Hanscom Air Force Base, to celebrate the Corps of Engineers' 225th birthday. Called Founders Day, the annual celebration of the Corps' anniversary included a catered picnic and activities for all ages.

The events began with the basketball finals. Greg Buteau, Bob Russo, Dave Margolis and Phil Muller, representing Concord Park, defeated the field office's basketball team that consisted of Jeff Phillips, Zack Koziol, Jim West and Jeff Mangum from Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake.

In the horseshoe finals, Steve Eaton and Ed Fowler of the Western Resident Office took on Heather Sullivan and Carol Charette of Concord Park. After a tough match, the Western Resident Office reigned supreme.

In the volleyball finals, the "PPMD" team – Bill Kavanaugh, Gary Morin, Duban Montoya, Dave Lubianez and Scott Acone – took the championship by vanquishing the Engineering/Planning team. Team members included Chris Scabia, Larry Oliver, Phil Muller, Dave Schafer, and Steve Simmer.

A softball game was added to the sports line up this year. "The Young'uns" went up against "The Others" with Information Management's Pattie Price serving as commentator. "The Young'uns" triumphed over "The Others" nine to four.

The sporting events were not just for the adults – children participated in various kid races and a tug of war held in the afternoon so that the adults could see how it is supposed to be done.

Mary Christopher, Information Management, painted the faces of the young and young at heart in the late morning.

In the afternoon, celebrants enjoyed a picnic by the caterers of Hanscom Air Force Base.

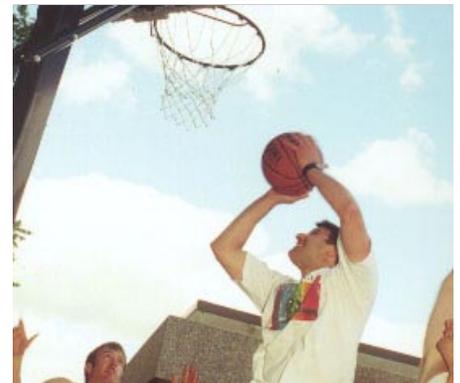


Corps employees and family members line up to get their lunches.

Photos by C.J. Allen



Col. Osterdorf gets ready to take a swing during the softball game.



The volleyball and basketball finals are traditional highlights of the Founders Day activities.

For a fee, attendees enjoyed food which included hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, potato chips, salads, soft drinks, water, and desserts which were donated by New England District employees.

The Founders Day Committee introduced two new attractions this year. The first was the Dunk Tank. Col. Osterndorf, Lt. Col. Rovero, Ken Hitch, Joe Redlinger, Farrell McMillan, Michelle Kewer and Jim Crawford were all scheduled for duty in the tank.

Bingo was the second attraction new to the Founders Day scene. Dominic Russo won a dinner for two at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Sandy Green won a dinner certificate to the Outback Restaurant in Burlington, Mass.

Michael Descoteaux won the children's prize which consisted of a wiffle ball and bat, Pokemon cards, and Beanie Babies.

Door prizes were also awarded during the Founders Day celebration. Tom Fredette won a fruit basket donated by Wilson Farms of Lexington. Melissa Antonellis won a soccer ball.

Construction/Operations took the lead for this year's Founders Day events. Employees from various offices volunteered to make up the Founders Day Committee and donated their time and energy towards the success of the day.

The committee members for Founders Day 2000 were: Jim Crawford (Chair), Dan Bradley, Brenda Dzierzeski, Amal Guirguis, Wendy Hilbrunner, Eileen Hughes, Cathy LeBlanc, Susan Mehigan, Pat Mulvey, Andrea Pittman, Rachael Raposa, Sally Rigione, Ted Soter, Rosalie Tekeyan, Ann Turcotte, and Angie Vanaria.

The Founders Day Committee has set up a webpage dedicated to the Founders Day events. New England District employees may go to <http://naeiis/exec/founder.htm> to enjoy photos, sports scores, and other highlights of the day.



Soccer was only one of the many children's activities held during Founders Day.



The horseshoe finals tested the skills of those competing.



Lt. Col. Rovero watches the ball hit its mark as he sits in the dunk tank



Adults and children enjoyed the bingo games.



Col. Osterndorf addresses the crowd at the base of the Bunker Hill Monument.



Thousands of patriots lined the streets during the Bunker Hill activities.
Photos by C.J. Allen

District celebrates Corps' 225th anniversary

Continued from page 1

mers String Band Concert, road races, crafts, and singing. Lt. Col. Rovero and the District Color Guard assisted the launch of Bunker Hill Week on June 10 by marching in the parade. Marching along side the District team were both modern military counterparts as well as representations of the centuries old Middlesex County Volunteers.

Col. Osterndorf joined the District Color Guard on Bunker Hill Day, June 17, at the Ecumenical Service at St. Francis De Sales church in Charlestown. After the service, the Corps contingent joined in a procession from St. Francis to the Bunker Hill Monument grounds where commemorative and patriotic exercises on the 225th anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill took place. After remarks from Col. Osterndorf, state and local organizations, the Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire sons of the American Revolutions representatives performed a Musket Salute and wreath laying ceremony at the Bunker Hill monument gates.

From there, Col. Osterndorf and the District Ranger

Color Guard made their way to the Canton Corner Cemetery in Canton, Mass., to lay a wreath made up of flowers representing the red and white of the Corps of Engineers on the grave of Col. Richard S. Gridley. "It is with great pride that we celebrate 225 years as the Nation's premier engineering organization right here where it began," said Col. Osterndorf. "Ours is a past rich with successful military and civil works projects that have benefited the region. That past provides us with a firm foundation to stand upon as we look to our future and 225 more years of service to the people of New England."

The New England District family held their own celebration, called Founders Day, June 23, with official ceremonies at Concord Park and an unofficial picnic at Hanscom Air Force Base's Memorial Park. See story on page 6.

The rangers who made up the New England District Ranger Color Guard for the Bunker Hill activities were: Joe Faloretti, Jamie Kordack, Rick Magee, Delia Vogel, Donna Vondle, Vincent Gualtieri, and Merl Bassett.



Lt. Col. Rovero accompanied the Ranger Color Guard down the historic streets of Charlestown.



A choir of school children from the Boston school system were part of the event's entertainment.

CURRITUCK dredges Clinton Harbor for District

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, Congressional dignitaries, and the media went on a site visit aboard the dredge CURRITUCK on June 15 to watch it working on the Clinton Harbor Dredging Project in Clinton, Connecticut.



CURRITUCK sucks up dredged material and deposits it on board.



Once filled, the dredge moves to the designated disposal site and releases its burden.



The empty dredge is ready to return to the dredge site and start over.

The dredging, which began on June 9 and ended June 17, involved the removal of an estimated 20,000 cubic yards of sand from the harbor. According to Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro, the dredging will improve the harbor tremendously.

“After two years of hard work and dedication, I am extremely pleased that Clinton Harbor will finally receive the emergency dredging it desperately needed,” said she. “The reduced depth and altered course of the federal channel had rendered it virtually un-navigable and posed a serious safety hazard to both recreational and commercial boaters.”

Ms. Jennifer Emra, District Director for Congresswomen DeLauro, and project manager Ed O’Donnell accompanied Col. Osterndorf aboard the CURRITUCK.

“The New England District was able to respond to the urgent need for dredging in Clinton Harbor and work with state and federal agencies, as well

as local interests to come up with a plan,” said Col. Osterndorf. “Great credit goes to the navigation staff for working the details and the crew of the CURRITUCK who worked 16-hour days to complete the work in a short amount of time.”

The CURRITUCK, on loan from the Wilmington District of the Corps of Engineers, came to New England from a previous dredging job in Wilmington, North Carolina. Built in 1974, it was the first split hull dredge in the United States.

The special purpose dredge, similar to a hopper dredge, removes material from the channel floor by suction, lifting it through dragarms connected to the side of the vessel. The material is dewatered and then stored within a hold aboard the ship. Once the hold is filled, the ship is relocated to the disposal site and the material emptied from the hold at the disposal located just off Hammock Point in 10-15 feet of water.



Col. Osterndorf discussed the dredging project with the media.

Photos by C.J. Allen

May a busy month at Barre Falls Dam

by Delia Vogel
Barre Falls Dam

Barre Falls Dam was the site of three exciting events in May. The month kicked off with the Barre Falls Dam again hosting the town of Hubbardston's Earth Day Celebration. On May 6, the Hubbardston Earth Day Committee set up a concession stand, erected an environmental maze, provided horsedrawn wagon rides compliments of Kenneth Lane, distributed free spruce seedlings, and provided live music.

Local businesses, together with state and federal agencies, support environmental awareness each year. Also, returning to everyone's delight was Trevor the Games Man, Smokey the Bear (compliments of Massachusetts Forest and Parks Service), face painting by the Hubbardston Girl Scouts, and bluebird boxes made and sold by the Hubbardston Boy Scouts. The Deveroux School of Rutland presented a pinecone bird feeder display.

The Corps of Engineers participated in the celebration by parking cars, instruction in planting of shrubs to children, providing gatehouse tours, doing an interpretive program, exhibiting the working dam model, and hosting the wetlands puzzle. This year approximately 460 visitors attended the event. Barre Falls Dam received twelve spruce seedlings valued at \$12 from the Girl Scouts, four bluebird houses valued at \$20 from the Boy Scouts, and six man-hours of voluntary cleanup from the Earth Day Committee valued at \$54.

The second event was the New England Fly Tyers' annual picnic held on May 13. The group has been coming to Barre Falls Dam for the past eight years. The group has about 160 members that meet once a week on Mondays at the VFW in West Boylston from September through May to tie flies, to learn from each other, and to socialize. The group also hosts fly trying workshops and has written a manual and produced a video on fly tying.

This year, in addition to the picnic, the group donated



Photo by MaryAnn Gendron

Kids take a break from their work during Earth Day.

and installed two eight-foot cedar park benches in memory of their founder, Paul Kukonen. Members of the group volunteered their time to install the park benches. With the help of the staff at Barre Falls Dam, one was placed on the inlet field where the group conducts its casting workshops and the other bench was placed on the lawn area across from the picnic shelter, an area that parents with children frequent. The group donated \$1,215.67 in materials and \$743 in labor to install the two cedar benches at Barre Falls Dam.

The third event held in May at Barre Falls Dam was a wedding ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hamel of Royalston, Mass., were joined in holy matrimony by a justice of the peace May 21 in the inlet field. The bride and groom chose Barre Falls Dam as the site to exchange their vows because they used to meet there on weekends to train their German Shepherd dogs as team members for search and rescue squads.

Dressed in the traditional wedding attire of a black tuxedo and a white wedding gown and flanked by their two German Shepherd dogs, the couple was pronounced husband and wife under an archway of flowers. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the couple and their best friends were whisked off to the reception in a black stretch limousine.



Photo by New England Fly Tyers

Volunteers install one of the Paul Kukonen Memorial Benches.



Photo by Ralph Gendron

Wedding bells ring at Barre Falls Dam.

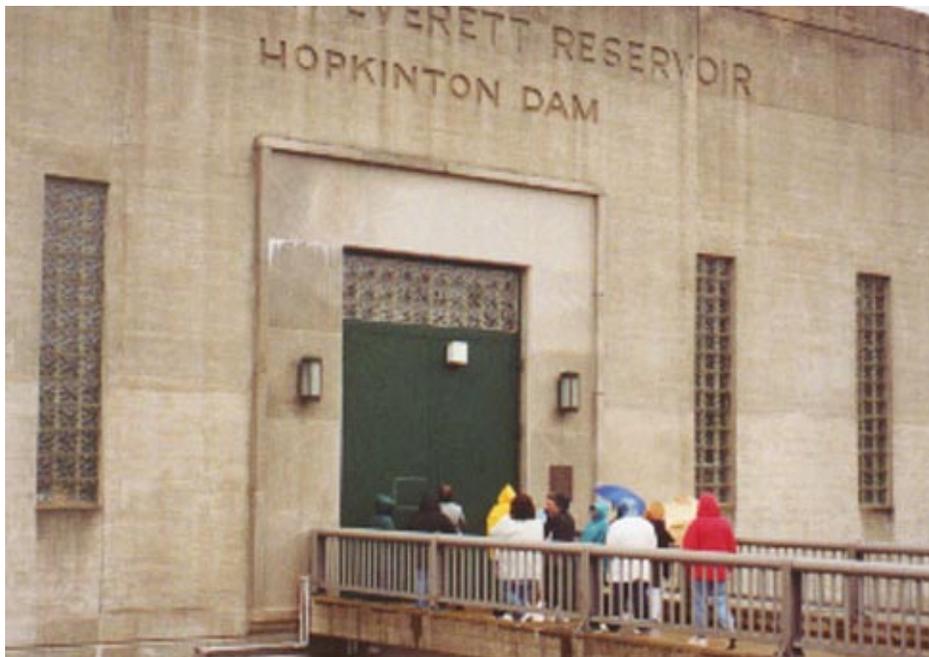
WE Bus Trip: A day away from the cubicle

Commentary and photos by
Sally Rigione, Public Affairs

How does an ordinary Concord Park employee learn more about the daily field activities occurring in our region when they do not travel as part of their job? In the past, one way was to read the quarterly state update reports published by the district. However, that is changing. Recently, a group of 17 joined in a Work Environment (WE) Committee coordinated bus tour that visited four sites in the Merrimack River Basin.

The morning of June 6th began on a rainy note, which lasted throughout the trip. But the rain did not dampen spirits. We started out the journey driving to Hopkinton Dam, where Mike Currie and Terry Chase greeted the group. Mike gave us a historical overview of why the Hopkinton and Everett dams were built, as well as a case example scenario of what happens in the region when the dams fill up.

A better appreciation of the Reservoir Control Center entered into our minds as Mike explained how each basin works closely with RCC to determine where, when and why water should be released. RCC assesses each basin



Bus trip attendees enter the Hopkinton Dam for a tour.

as a whole entity rather than each dam separately. Our tour continued over at the dam's gatehouse where we saw the mechanics of how dam gates can be opened and closed.

Due to the continual rain, lunch was held inside the newly constructed log cabin at Elm Brook Park where we learned more about the daily duties of a park ranger.

Ranger Steve Dermody from Franklin Falls Dam joined our group for

the bus trip to Franklin. A quick stop at Blackwater Dam was made on our way. Steve explained the differences of Blackwater versus Hopkinton to us. The final stop on our tour was at Franklin Falls Dam where we again were treated to a tour inside the gatehouse. Differences and similarities were noted by all.

On our quiet trip home in the rain, I had a chance to think about our journey. Sitting in my cubicle, I don't have the opportunity to experience and appreciate all the Corps does for the environment and communities.

Talking with several people on the bus, Gladys Leone remarked, "I didn't realize how involved a park ranger is with his community. This trip was a nice idea. It gave us an opportunity to see what the Corps has outside our office."

Colleen Martin was just as pleased, "It's a great day, even with the weather."

A thanks goes to the WE committee, as well as the Civilian Welfare Counsel which covered the transportation expense. A special thank you also goes to Joe Ferrari who arranged the day's activities and to Sheila Coulter for being our official tour guide to the region.



Ranger Steve Dermody talks to the attendees..

District, members of Congress break ground on new air control tower at Westover ARB

Massachusetts Congressmen John W. Olver and Richard E. Neal joined Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and Col. Martin M. Mazick, Wing Commander at Westover Air Reserve Base, at a groundbreaking ceremony held at the base June 19 that kicked off the building of a new air control tower.

“Having two of our Congressman here today is indicative of the importance of Westover,” said Col. Mazick. “Without them we wouldn’t be putting the shovel in the dirt today to signify the groundbreaking of the new control tower.”

Mr. Leroy Clink, Base Civil Engineer, and Mr. John Ciardi, President of Westcott Construction Corporation, the District’s contractor, also participated in the ceremony.

Work on the new 123-foot high air control tower began immediately after the ceremony. The project, which will cost approximately \$4 million, is scheduled to be completed in January 2002.

“We are standing at the premier air mobility and reserve training base in the northeast,” said Congressman Olver. “With the addition of the new control tower, Westover is clearly moving to be the most valued reserve base in the country. It will improve Westover’s strategic position in the world, the quality of life for the base personnel, and the local and regional economy.”

“Those of use who live in western Massachusetts know what a good base means economically,” said Congressman Neal.

The existing tower was built in 1962. The 105-foot tall structure is deteriorated and in need of replacement. The existing tower has limited equipment space, lacks training space as well as administrative and management functions, has substandard mechanical systems, and is inadequate to



Photo by C.J. Allen

The old tower at Westover ARB (above) will be replaced with a new, taller tower illustrated in an artist's rendition (inset).



Col. Osterndorf (fourth from left) and dignitaries break ground at the site of the new control tower.

meet the needs of the current mission. At its current height, view of the Taxiway "N" over the large C-5A aircraft is not possible. Since the base is also currently used by much smaller general aviation aircraft, movement of aircraft on Taxiway "N" is an even greater concern.

Work for the project consists of constructing a control tower for aircraft flight control facilities. An aircraft control tower located at the proper site, of the right height and configuration is required to provide air controllers a clear view of the runways, traffic patterns, alert areas and parking areas to ensure adequate and safe airborne and ground traffic control on and around the airfield. The tower will have adequate

space for electronic equipment, maintenance, radio and telephone support equipment, environmental control equipment and controller administrative functions.

There are three construction phases to the project. Phase one will be to construct the new control tower ready for use within 425 calendar days. Phase two will allocate time for Westover personnel to install their new equipment and relocate select existing equipment from the old tower to the new. This phase is scheduled to take 90 days.

The final phase will be the demolition and removal of the existing tower, which should take approximately 115 days. "Westcott will push the schedule to get the main structure up and en-

closed by December 25, 2000," said Jeff Perchak, Project Engineer. "That will allow them the winter months to complete the interior work."

Westover Air Reserve Base, originally called Westover Field, was the first Army Air Corps base located in New England. It was named for Major General Oscar Westover, a former chief of the Army Air Corps.

During World War II, Westover was an important training site. It was here that the Norden bombsight was placed aboard B-17 "Flying Fortresses" before their departure for Europe. The base also served as a departure point for the Berlin Airlift.

In the early 1950s, Westover was operated by the Military Air Transport Service, which provided service to Europe. From 1956 until 1974, the Strategic Air Command launched thousands of B-52 bombers, and KC-135 and KC-97 tankers used the runways.

The Air Force Reserve (439th Tactical Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve) has operated Westover since 1974 as a base for C-123 and C-130 Hercules transports. Recently assigned to Westover are 16 of the Air Force's gigantic C-5A Galaxies. With four jet engines and a wingspan of more than 222 feet, the 247-foot-long C-5A is the largest military aircraft in the free world. The plane can cruise 3,250 miles, fully loaded, at 520 miles per hour or empty for 6,940 miles at 555 miles per hour.

Introduction of the C-5A late in the Vietnam War afforded the capability of airlifting heavy equipment, such as tanks, which previously were not air transportable.

With the assignment of the C-5As to Westover, a large number of renovations and new construction are required to accommodate the 2,000-person unit. Bob Martin is New England District's Project Manager and Jeff Perchak is the Project Engineer. Other District personnel that worked on the project were Peter Hugh, Al Lemire, Tom Marcotte and Rachael Raposa, Ray Goff, and Randy Sujat.



Congressman John Olver (left) and Jeff Perchak (right) talk with the media about the project.

Korean War service medal available to veterans



U.S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued.

In a May 13, 2000, letter to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Republic of Korea Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho formally announced that his government would provide the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict, or to their surviving next of kin. The medal will be provided at no cost to veterans. The U.S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals.

"On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War," Cho wrote, "the ROK government decided to issue the ROKWSM to pay tribute to the Korean War veterans for their historic endeavors to preserve freedom of the ROK and the free world." The two governments will conduct fiftieth anniversary ceremonies throughout 2000-2003 and medals may be applied for at any time during this period. The war began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces invaded ROK territory. The armistice on July 27, 1953, ended the fighting, although a formal peace treaty has never been completed. The medal was originally offered by the ROK in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal.

To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have: served between the outbreak of

hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953; been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations. The ROK specifies the eligibility period and criteria. Only the ROK-provided medal is approved by the U.S. government to meet the U.S. criteria for wear on the military uniform.

To apply, veterans must provide a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214," or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215." National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22."

Additional information on how to apply for or request the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (800) 558-1404, or the Awards and Decorations Section (210) 565-2432/2520/2516, fax (210) 565-3118, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714 or by visiting its web site at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards>.

General information on Korean War commemorations can also be found by contacting the DoD 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, 1213 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Gateway 4, Arlington, VA 22202, by calling (703) 604-0831 or by visiting its web site <http://korea50.army.mil>.

Because the order of precedence for non-U.S. service medals and ribbons is determined by date of approval, the ROKWSM should be worn after the Kuwait Liberation Medal, which was the last foreign medal approved for wear by U.S. military personnel. For the majority of Korean War veterans the medal will be worn after the United Nations Medal, or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal if they served during that conflict.

(American Forces Information Service)

Advice on keeping family medical records

Not only do family medical records avoid hasty scrounging for needed facts and save time when filling out your medical history for a new doctor, they can also provide valuable information for diagnosing or preventing possible health problems.

Some diseases, such as diabetes, asthma, allergies, cancer, high blood pressure, depression, and alcoholism, run in families. The more your doctor knows about your family history, the better he or she can treat you. Some things to include in your family medical records:

-Your own medical history, and one for each member

of your immediate family, including dates and other information about immunizations, hospitalizations, surgeries, medications, and treatments such as radiation therapy.

- As much health information as you can find about your parents and siblings. If you can list anything about grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and nieces and nephews, such much the better.

Include diseases or conditions they have had and their ages at the time.

(Ideas Unlimited)



Photos by C.J. Allen

(Above) Jack Boyea, with his wife Irene beside him, accepted a plaque inducting him into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery. Dick Carlson (left) Bill Scully and Col. Osterndorf unveil Jack's portrait and citation in the gallery.

Jack Boyea is 2000 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee

Mr. John "Jack" Boyea was the first inductee of the Distinguished Civilian Gallery for the 21st Century. Mr. Boyea was honored during the awards ceremony on June 23. Bill Scully, Programs/Project Management presided over the induction portion of the ceremony.

"One of the real privileges that I have had each year for the past ten years as Deputy District Engineer is to induct new people into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery," said Bill.

Bill went over the procedures and strict criteria for induction into the Gallery. "Candidates must achieve 30 or more years of federal service, at least 20 which is served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," he explained. "Individuals are recognized for performance that was exceptional and preeminent on all who performed in like or similar duties; improvement of methods or procedures which produced extraordinary benefits to the Corps of Engineers and adds to the reputation and honor to the Corps of Engineers."

A senior ad hoc committee each year reviews all nominations that are submitted, and makes recommendations to the District Engineer who makes the final selection. This year, Mr. Boyea's was selected as the only person to enter the gallery. "His accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the Corps of Engineers and his career performance merits and deserves this special recognition," said Bill.

"This is quite an honor," said Mr. Boyea. "I'm totally shocked."

Mr. Boyea thanked his former coworkers for nominating him. "Thank you very much," he said. "You know who you are and I think the world of you."

Mr. Boyea joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England in 1965 as a Flood Control Dam Operator at Otter Brook Lake in Keene, New Hampshire. The U.S. Army veteran served at that facility and its sister Surry Mountain Lake for his entire civilian career. His ability to perform

efficiently under often severe pressure and establish and maintain excellent rapport with local, city and state officials were prime examples of his dedication to duty earning Jack great respect from his peers and colleagues. His interest in developing and enhancing recreational opportunities for the public significantly contributed to the improvement of facilities at Otter Brook and Surry Mountain lakes over the years. An exceptional leader, Jack Boyea provided strong mentoring of subordinates and subscribed to the tenet of teaching by example. He was recognized numerous times for his work performance and creativity. Mr. Boyea retired in April 1999.

Mr. Boyea was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife, Irene, his daughter, Darcy, and granddaughters Amanda and Ashley. In addition, members of the Otter Brook and Surry Mountain field offices traveled to Concord to watch him receive the honor.



Mr. Boyea's family accompanied him to the District to receive his honor.

Dredging up the past . . .



Mr. Joe Bickley receives his 40 year pin during the Founders Day Official ceremony in this June 17, 1959 photo.

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