



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

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Yankee Engineer

July 2002



Change of Command

Story Page 3
Photo Scrapbook Pages 16-19

Yankee Voices

Melissa Mancuso
Public Affairs



Sympathy

...to **Sue Loubier**, Westover Resident Office, on the passing of her mother, Janeda Wyatt, Sunday, June 9.

...to **Carol Charette**, HTRW/ Geotechnical Engineering Branch, Engineering/Planning Division, on the sudden passing of her brother, Richard A. Charette of Harrisville, R.I., June 15.

Welcome

Patricia Devine, Con/Ops
Tany Williams, Regulatory

New baby

Congratulations to **John MacPherson**, Engineering/ Planning, and his wife, **Claire**, on the birth of their first child, **Lauren Grace**, June 25.

Words worth repeating

To stay ahead, you must have your next idea waiting in the wings.

-*Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Educator, business consultant, and writer*

RI Adjutant General commends Peter Quinn for tenacious efforts

I wish to express my gratitude for your staff's recent completion of the Rhode Island Army National Guard's Providence Storefront Lease.

Specifically, I would like to commend Mr. Peter Quinn, of your Real Estate Division, for his efficient and tenacious efforts to complete this lease in a timely manner. As you may know, my Recruiting and Retention office was notified on April 1, 2002, of the requirement to vacate our office at the Lincoln Mall by May 15, 2002, in order to facilitate the arrival of an anchor store.

Upon receipt of this information, representatives from my recruiting office immediately contacted Mr. Quinn. His tenacity, attention to detail and commitment to mission completion ensured that my personnel would experience minimal delay at being permanently relocated. Additionally, Mr. Quinn's experience at negotiating enabled my organization to save several thousand dollars each fiscal year.

Since this nation is at war, the importance of recruiting and retaining qualified service members cannot be underestimated. Mr. Quinn's professionalism and dedication to duty has enabled my organization to continue our recruiting efforts with minimal disruption.

I commend you and your staff for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Major General Reginald A. Centracchio
The Adjutant General
State of Rhode Island

Front cover: Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades (left) passes Col. Thomas Koning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District command flag during the Change of Command ceremony on July 19, 2002. Photo by C.J. Allen.

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District EngineerCol. Thomas L. Koning
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



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Change of Command:

Koning takes command of New England District during ceremony

Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass., has been the site of events that shaped the history of our nation. On July 19, the famous meeting place was the site of another historical event—the New England District Change of Command Ceremony.

The Command Flag passed from Col. Brian E. Osterndorf to Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades to Col. Thomas L. Koning, designating Col. Koning the new Commander of the District.

Approximately 170 distinguished guests joined the 450 New England District family members in greeting their new commander.

George Mason represented the state of Rhode Island and read a proclamation from Lincoln Almond, Governor of Rhode Island, proclaiming June 19, 2002, as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Day in the state.

Gov. Jean Shaheen of New Hampshire issued two citations: one to Col. Osterndorf extending her best wishes and congratulations for his service, dedication, and leadership as the Commander of the New England District, the other was to Col. Koning, congratulating him on his appointment as the new District Commander.

Prior to the official change of command ceremony, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Contracting, presented Mrs. Osterndorf with a bouquet of red roses on behalf of the employees of the New England District. “The red roses are in bloom representing a flourished and successful command,” said Larry Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies

Gail French, Regulatory, presented Mrs. Koning with a bouquet of budding white roses. “The white roses symbolize Mrs. Koning’s arrival as a welcome member of the District family,” said Larry.

Brig. Gen. Rhoades honored Col. Osterndorf with an

impact Meritorious Service Medal for leading the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks. In addition, Brig. Gen. Rhoades presented Col. Osterndorf with the U.S. Army’s Legion of Merit Medal for his accomplishments during his command.



Photo by C.J. Allen

The official party stands ready to participate in the ceremony that will pass command from Col. Osterndorf (second left) to Col. Koning (third left).

The ceremony transitioned from recognition to the actual change of command ceremony. Bill Scully, deputy district Engineer for program and Project Management, presented the command flag to outgoing commander, Col. Osterndorf. Col. Osterndorf then surrendered the command flag to Brig. Gen. Rhoades, who served as the Reviewing Officer. In turn, Brig. Gen. Rhoades presented

the command flag to the District’s new commander, Col. Koning.

The North Atlantic Division Commander commended Col. Osterndorf for his work during the Sept. 11 attacks and said that Americans now live in a different world. “The nation is in for a change,” he said. “The United States Army Corps of Engineers is in the middle of that change.”

The General praised Col. Osterndorf’s accomplishments during his assignment as District Engineer in New England and wished him well in his new assignment.

Col. Osterndorf said that he was in awe at the number of attendees who came to pay honor to the Corps of Engineers. He acknowledged the Park Ranger Color Guard and the other rangers who represent the Corps in such a professional way. He also thanked everyone who arranged to have the ceremony in historic Faneuil Hall.

The former commander said that it was an honor to serve under Brig. Gen. Rhoades for two tours. “I’ve cherished his friendship over the years,” said Col. Osterndorf. “Friendship

Continued on page 13

Founders Day 2002: District celebrates Corps birth with awards, honors

The New England District celebrated 227 years of service to the nation by holding its annual Founder's Day ceremony and picnic June 21. The awards ceremony, held in the cafeteria, began the day's festivities with recognitions of length of service and special distinctions.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as ceremony facilitator. "We're honoring a series of events that led to a group of individuals who take their work very seriously providing good government service to the citizens of New England," he said.

Col. Osterndorf, addressing his final Founder's Day audience, said that this has been a momentous year for the Corps and the Nation. Not only because of the events of September 11, but our involvement of the U.S.'s armed forces in the Afghanistan conflict and all of the homeland security measures that we are taking, many of which still involve the Corps of Engineers as the world's premier engineering organization.

"We can provide many services that not only ensure homeland security but also the security of our water resources and many more things," he said.

The District Engineer reminded everyone that it is important to remember to reflect on the service that the District performs day to day and in those extraordinary times.

Col. Osterndorf then announced that Andy Lamborghini was the District's 2002 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee. (*Story on page 6.*)

Dick Carlson recognized Diana Errico Topolski as the Interpreter of the Year for the New England District. (*Story on page 7.*)

Joe Bocchino, Executive Assistant, read the names of the people being honored for their work during the September 11 efforts in New York.

Joe announced that the next award was a plaque that the District received from the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board for the District's support during September 11. The District had

received the award during an awards event in May.

Excellence in Government finalist awards were presented to Karen Martel (Administrative Assistant of the Year), Lt. Col. John Rovero (Federal Executive of the Year), and Darrell Deleppo, Project Manager, who received the award on behalf of the Massachusetts Military Reservation Water Supply Team (Customer Service Team of the Year).

The Fiscal 2001 Team of the Year award was presented to the Water Supply Team. Each member of the team received a briefcase with their name embroidered on it.

Water Supply Team members are Heather Sullivan, Phil Durgin, Sue Holtham, Marc Paiva, Mike DeGrazia, Frank Keefe, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Ray Cottengaim, Mike Russo, Marie Connor, Darrell Deleppo and Joe McNerny.

A FEMA citation was presented to the World Trade Center Public Affairs team for their work during the Septem-



Five year certificates



10 year certificates



15 year certificates

Photos by C.J. Allen



20 year certificates



25 year certificates



30 year certificates

ber 11 aftermath. Larry Rosenberg was the USACE PA Team leader at the WTC.

Bob Meader was recognized with a certificate of completion for the Army Leadership Development program. Also recognized was Steve Rubin for his leadership during the Combined Federal Campaign in 2001 and breaking the District record.

The District received recognition from the CFC in the form of a certificate of excellence, which was presented to Col. Osterndorf. The certificate will be displayed in the District case.

Dave Dulong, Chief, Engineering/Planning, presented Dick Heidebrecht with the Planner of the Year Award. (Story on page 7.)

Kim Kaminski-Donaher presented the Length of Service Awards. Certificates were awarded to individuals with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service. A complete list of award recipients was printed in the Founder's Day brochure.

Christine Godfrey, Work Environment Committee Chair, presented Kathy Bucciarelli with the WE Committee Employee of the Month award for June. The Base Development Team (Phil

Durgin, Dave Hakinson, Chris Lindsay, Farrell McMillan, Ed Mills, David Mark, and Kenneth Paton) was presented the Team of the Month award.

Col. Osterndorf said that September 11 has profoundly changed the United States and what we are doing now to combat terrorism. "What that involves is commitment by our country to go out and seek those people that would resort to terrorism to strike against innocent people," he said. "It is a big commitment on our nation to do that, and so we owe them the support that we can provide."

The District Engineer said that the Corps of Engineers offers some unique capabilities to provide for some infrastructure facilities to support those activities.

The Base Development Team, according to Col. Osterndorf, has volunteered to provide contingency support. He said that he wanted to recognize the Base Development Team, not only for being Team of the Month, but also for supporting the Nation during a critical mission. Col. Osterndorf concluded the official portion of the ceremony by recognizing the Founder's Day Committee for its work, and by telling everyone to enjoy the rest of the day.



Administrative Assistant of the Year



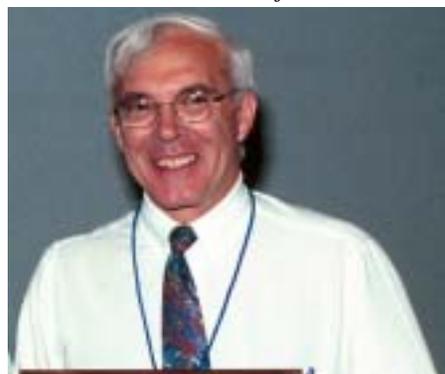
Customer Service Team of the Year



Combined Federal Campaign



Federal Executive of the Year



Army Leadership Development Program



40 year certificate



Team of the Year



WE Team of the Month



WE Employee of the Month

Distinguished Civilian Gallery: Andrew Lamborghini is District pick for 2002

Mr. Andrew Lamborghini has been selected as the New England District's 2002 Distinguished Civilian Gallery Inductee. Mr. Lamborghini was honored during the Founder's Day ceremony held June 21 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

"Those that have gone before us have contributed so much to the region and to the District," said Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer. "Most of Mr. Lamborghini's legacy is sitting in this room. To all of you that have worked with him or were mentored by him, he served also as an example of service to the nation."

"The Distinguished Civilian Gallery is a Gallery of Honor for those employees who worked for the New England District/Division," said Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management.

Bill continued the ceremony by detailing Mr. Lamborghini's career from high school to retirement.

According to the nomination package, Andrew Lamborghini was a model employee consistently reflecting the highest quality work standards. Essentially, his entire career centered on coastal and riverine work with emphasis on the preparation of hydrographic survey draw-

ings and contract plans and specifications for dredging and the repair of numerous breakwaters and jetties. His career spanned a period of dramatic advances in hydrographic survey techniques evolving from manual operations to the current level of sophistication using satellite systems. Throughout this evolution, Mr. Lamborghini was the

'To all of you that have worked with him or were mentored by him, he also served as an example of service to the nation.'

- Col. Brian Osterndorf

technical lead in adapting field hydrographic surveys to engineering drawings assimilating an unparalleled knowledge of the numerous New England harbors.

Mr. Lamborghini retired from the New England District Corps of Engineers in May 1997 with over 33 years of federal service. Mr. Lamborghini worked in the Coastal Engineering Section his entire career and provided the corporate memory for technical data relating to New England's federal channels and harbors. Recognized for his

expertise, he was moved from a Technician position to an Engineer responsible for critical support to the then New England Division navigation program.

Mr. Lamborghini emerged as the Division/District resident expert in the preparation of plans, specifications, and construction cost estimates for numerous dredging projects of varying complexities. His superb, in-depth knowledge was widely recognized and his superior technical skills were effectively complemented by an exceptional work ethic and selfless dedication to achieving timely, quality results meeting the needs of his customers. He possessed a steady, even demeanor always offering reasoned, technically sound decisions and advice during periods of unusual stress or heavy demands. His contributions over his career were unquestionably of exceptional value to the Division/District mission.

In addition to his technical expertise, Mr. Lamborghini was committed to the project team. He diligently executed projects from inception through construction and willingly provided support to all team members. He served as a mentor and resource for many a junior engineer, study manager, and project manager. Generations of New England District staff have benefited from Mr. Lamborghini's experience and willingness to share and teach.

The criteria to be inducted into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery is very strict. People need to have worked at least 30 years of federal service, 20 of those needed to be with the Corps of Engineers. They also need to have exhibited qualities above the average employee and worthy of recognition.

His portrait was unveiled after the official ceremonies. An enlarged picture of Mr. Lamborghini will be displayed for one year before he joins the ranks of other gallery members.



Andrew Lamborghini is the 2002 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee.

Photo by C.J. Allen

Heidebrecht selected as Planner of the Year

Dick Heidebrecht received the honor of the 2002 Planner of the Year Award during the Founder's Day ceremony, June 21. The annual award was presented to Dick by Dave DuLong, Chief, Engineering/Planning.

"Planners kind of lead the way in the Civil Works Program," Dave said. "Planners are very important to the District, they are very important to the country because of what they do. They

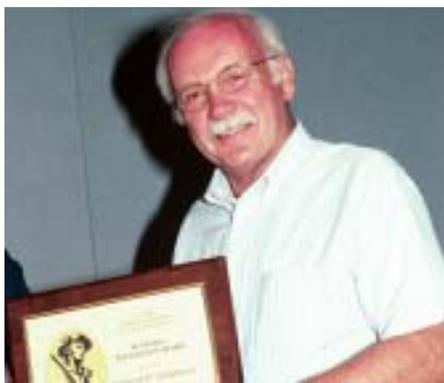


Photo by C.J. Allen

Dick Heidebrecht is Planner of the Year.

are our front people, our salespeople who work with local communities to help them get the support projects that they need."

According to Dave, Dick has been an exceptional planner for quite a number of years and he was happy to present him with this year's honor. "I would like to personally thank Dick from the District for his exceptional effort, not only for this year but over the past years. He is truly an exceptional planner and study manager."

Dick was commended as the District Planner of the Year for his excellent performance as a civil engineer and study manager for the New England District. He is responsible for the completion and submission of the Muddy River Flood Control Environmental Restoration draft decision document and many other projects.

Dick's nomination will be submitted for the Division Planner of the Year.

Hop Brook Lake Park Ranger named District Interpreter of the Year

Diana Errico Topolski has been selected as the New England District's Interpreter of the Year. She was honored for her distinction above all other Park Rangers by Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations during the Founder's Day ceremony, June 21.

Dick explained to the audience what an interpreter does. "I believe interpreters working for the Corps of Engineers are those who help us share the lands and natural resources for which we are responsible with the rest of the people of the United States," he said. "People come from all over to visit our projects, such as Hop Brook Lake in Connecticut where Diana works."

According to Dick, Diana was honored as Interpreter of the Year because of her work rejuvenating the Interpretive programs at Hop Brook. With a large number of people, with the urban setting that she works in, with the outreach opportunities that she has to communities, particularly minorities.

"She has reinstated the Junior Ranger Program at the project and has translated a number of interpretive programs in Spanish. There are a large number of people who speak Spanish in this area, and part of her stewardship and part of her sharing has been to find a way to share with those whose first language is not English."

Congratulations

...to **Ian Osgerby**, Engineering/Planning Division, who was selected by the WE Committee as its Employee of the Month for July 2002.

Mr. Osgerby is recognized for his efforts in quality assurance and technical assistance in executing the Tanapag PCB Soil Remediation Project in Saipan.

...to the **New Bedford Harbor Superfund Team** who was selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for July 2002.

The team is comprised of individuals from EPA, MADEP, Foster Wheeler, ENSR International, Haley & Aldrich, and the following current and former District employees: **Moe Beaudoin, Joe Dean, Mark DeSouza, Ed Fallon, Francis Fung, Mark Geib, Randy Godfrey, Bob Hunt, Steve Kelley, Paul L'Heureux, Jim Leary, Jay MacKay, Erik Matthews, Fred McAuley, Bob Meader, Eara Merritt, Phillip Muller, Bonnie Ortiz, Ian Osgerby, Marc Paiva, Kathleen Pendergast, Bill Phelan, Tim Rezendes, Rose Schmidt, Karen Schofield, Bob Simeone, Patricia Sumner, Chris Turek, Matt Walsh, Mike Walsh, Quentin Walsh, and Marie Wojtas.** The team members are recognized for reducing the estimated project cost by \$308 million and restored the project schedule with a six-year reduction.



District employees hold an impromptu jam session during the Founder's Day picnic.



Bill Mahan (left) and Tim Hays (right) test their strategic prowess with a game of chess.

Sports, kids activities round out Founders Day picnic

The New England District team members and their families celebrated 227 years of service to the nation with a picnic following the official Founder's Day ceremony on June 21. The picnic was held at Castle Park at Hanscom Air Force Base.

The festivities that followed the official ceremony began with the basketball and horseshoe finals, which were played at Concord Park. In basketball, Joe Bocchino's team (Jim Kelly, Bob Russo sub Vinny Russo, Dave Goodrich, and Mike Tuttle) defeated Dan Stenstream's Team (Scott Acone, Bob Simeone, Greg Buteau, Dave Margolis). The score was 21-16. In horseshoes, Dan Stenstream and Steve Simmer beat

Dave Schafer and Heather Sullivan for the championship.

Following the two sports finals, celebrants headed to Castle Park at Hanscom Air Force Base where children could get their faces painted by Mary Christopher before lunch. The Aleppo Shrine, Wilmington, Mass., provided two clowns named Pokey and Creepy Mouse to entertain children, both young and old, throughout the day.

District team members and their families had their choice of a catered barbecue lunch of chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad and cole slaw or a pizza lunch.

After everyone had their fill from lunch, children's activities including sack races, three-legged races, and soccer took



Photos by C.J. Allen

The 2002 Founder's Day picnic activities for children included (from left) face painting, the Aleppo Shrine clowns, and wheelbarrow races.



Young Founder's Day attendees compete against each other in a game of soccer.



Founder's Day sack races were popular.



People lined up to get a look inside the Hanscom fire truck.



Bruce Zawacki races to the plate during the Founder's Day softball tournament.

place until the end of the day. The Hanscom Air Force Base Fire Prevention Office visited the picnic-goers and displayed the fire truck and handed out fire prevention pamphlets and fire hats. Fire truck personnel also used their hoses to cool off those seeking relief from the hot, humid day.

In addition, the Military Working Dog Section, Security Forces, Hanscom Air Force Base, held a K-9 demonstration.

The day's activities ended with the softball championship. Dan Bradley and his team (Todd Randall, Carol Charette, Cori Rose, Patti Price, Helen Duffin, Bruce Zawacki, Mike Galicki, Ken Paton, Dave Goodrich, Larry Oliver, Joe Colucci and Matt Connell) defeated Bobby Byrne and his team (Mike Tuttle, Tom Rosato, Farrell McMillan, Jay Joyce, Shari Valente, Lt. Col. John Rovero, Maj. Mike Fitzgerald, Crystal Gardner, Bob Simeone, Mark DeSouza).

Engineering/Planning took the lead in the planning of this year's celebration. Paul Marinelli was the Founder's Day Committee chair. Committee members who assisted Paul were Joseph Bocchino, Steven Eaton, Thomas Fredette, Amal Guirguis, Greg Hanlon, Barbara Ingersoll, Colleen Jacquet, William Kavanaugh, Michael Keegan, Gladys Leone, Lauren Levesque, William Mullen, Alexine Raineri, Sally Rigione, David Schafer, Alexander Soter, Michael Tuttle, Siamac Vaghar, and Angie Vanaria.



Picnic-goers stand in line for the catered barbecue.



District employees take advantage of the good weather to get in a volleyball game during the picnic.



Military K-9s take a bite out of their trainer during a demonstration at the picnic. The demonstration, attended by many District employees, was presented by the Military Working Dog Section, Security Forces, Hanscom Air Force Base.



Officials stand at the Lonsdale Drive-in before signing the PCA.

Photos by C.J. Allen

District signs PCA to rehabilitate Lonsdale Drive-in

The New England District and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management held a project cooperation agreement (PCA) ceremony, June 17 to turn an old drive-in movie theatre into a thriving wildlife habitat in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

Col. Brian Osterndorf, District Engineer, joined Senators Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee, Gov. Lincoln Almond and RIDEM officials at the signing for the Lonsdale Drive-In Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project. The total project cost is estimated at about \$2 million, of which about \$715,000 would be the non-federal share.

The Lonsdale Drive-In is located in Lincoln, R.I., along the Black Stone River. The site is in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is located near the Valley Falls Marshes.

“Work would include the construction of about seven acres of wetlands, and the restoration of about 10 acres of upland riparian habitat,” said Dubán Montoya, Project Manager. “The constructed wetlands would include about 3.6 acres of

emergent and open water habitat and about 3.4 acres of scrub/shrub and forested wetlands.”

The recommended plan is one of five plans that were evaluated. All of the plans would restore about 17 acres of habitat and in all plans the constructed wetlands would consist of a single depression wetland connected to the Blackstone River via two channels. All alternatives would provide a mix of wetland habitat types.

“The recommended plan is favored by the project sponsor, is cost effective, and within the available budget of the non-federal sponsor,” said Dubán.

The site was developed as an outdoor drive-in movie theatre in the early 1950s. Approximately 20 acres of the 37-acre site was paved to construct the drive-in.

Once the construction contract is awarded, the initial work is estimated to be completed in about five months. The plantings would be monitored for two growing seasons. At that time, the project will be turned over to the non-Federal sponsor.



Col. Osterndorf signs the PCA after his presentation.



The Corps of Engineers plans to transform the old drive-in into a thriving wildlife habitat.

Corps proposes maintenance dredging disposal site for Narraguagus River Federal Navigation project

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

After consultation with State and Federal resource agencies and local fishing interests, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a new dredged material disposal site in Narraguagus Bay for the maintenance dredging of the Narraguagus River Federal Navigation Project in Milbridge, Maine.

The new proposed disposal site is an area about one-quarter square mile in southwestern Narraguagus Bay located northwest of Pond Island. The previously proposed disposal site was west of Trafton Half-Tide Ledge.

The purpose of the dredging project is to restore the congressionally authorized Federal navigation channels and anchorage areas in Narraguagus River to their authorized depths as requested by the town of Milbridge and the Maine Department of Transportation.

"A large fleet of commercial fishing and lobster boats, aquaculture support vessels, and seasonal recreational craft use the waterway," said Project Manager Mark Habel, of the Corps New England District, Engineering/Planning Division. "Extensive shoaling, particularly in the upper reaches of the project, precludes access by larger vessels at any tide."

The remainder of the fleet experi-

ences tidal delays throughout the project. "Shoaling has also forced much of the fleet to use the remaining deep channel in the lower river as an anchorage, creating a channel congestion hazard," Habel said. To eliminate tidal delays, reduce congestion, and permit waterway users to keep and attract business, the channel and anchorage areas need to be restored to their authorized depths.

The proposed project would maintain the navigation channel and anchorage areas to their authorized depths by dredging the channel to 11 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) from the bay up to Mitchell Point at Wyman, between Mitchell Point and the lower landing at Milbridge to nine feet MLLW, and upstream of the lower landing to the upper landing to six feet MLLW.

A portion of the 11-foot channel at Wyman has been redesignated as anchorage and would be restored to that depth. The three anchorage areas at the upper end of the project would also be dredged to six feet MLLW as well as the turning basin at the upstream end of the navigation channel. Additionally, anchorage areas opposite Mitchell Point, and west of the channel at Jordan Pier, would be dredged to nine feet MLLW.

Approximately 210,000 cubic yards of dredged material, primarily silts and clays, would be removed by mechanical

bucket dredge, placed in scows and disposed of in an area about one-quarter square mile in southwestern Narraguagus Bay northwest of Pond Island.

"Dredging and disposal would occur between November 1 and April 15 to protect fisheries resources, including Atlantic salmon," Habel said. No other federal or state threatened or endangered species are expected to be affected by the proposed project.

An Environmental Assessment is being prepared. Dredging and disposal impacts are expected to be minor and temporary.

No work will be performed until certification has been received from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Maine State Planning Office, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Department of Transportation, Maine Historical Commission, and the town of Milbridge.

The District solicited comments on the project until July 17.



Photo by Mark McInerney

In appreciation

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, receives a WTC Public Affairs Team award from Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs and USACE PA Team Leader, for his leadership during the USACE response to the World Trade Center attacks. The Chief received this honor during the World Wide Public Affairs Communicator's Workshop, June 24-27 in Providence, R.I.

Wetlands summit brings together environmental agencies

by Joanne Barry
Regulatory Division

As a component of the District's focus on improving wetland mitigation, Col. Brian Osterndorf, District Engineer, tasked the New England District Regulatory Division to hold a Mitigation Summit on June 25. This summit brought together all the New England Environmental Agency Executives, both state and federal, to discuss ways to improve performance and assessment of wetland mitigation in New England. The group met at the Sheraton Lexington in Lexington, Mass.

Opening the Summit, Col. Osterndorf, welcomed the agency executives to a forum for discussing wetland mitigation goals and objectives. "We are committed to No-Net-Loss of wetland functions and values and we hope to continue a dialogue which will facilitate better protection of New England waters and wetlands," he said.

Remarks from the agency heads reminded the group of both how far we have come with wetland mitigation and how far we have to go. Mike Bartlett of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reminded the Corps of how, when he began with the service in the early 1980s, the federal agencies were accepting boulders in streams as mitigation for wetland impacts. "We've come all the way from

sprinkling rocks in a channel as mitigation to discussing secondary impacts," he said.

Linda Murphy, from U.S. EPA charged the group with accepting the NRC report as a wake-up call to action for agencies to do better. "This meeting is a first step, but certainly not the last step," she said.

All the executives involved complemented the Colonel on his initiative in calling this meeting. After reviewing New England's annual mitigation report and reading the recent report on wetlands put out by the National Resource Council (NRC) in 2001, the Colonel asked the Regulatory Division to initiate a task force and develop a series of objectives which all the agencies could agree would help improve mitigation in New England. Ruth Ladd, Regulatory Division, organized the task force and worked with them to coordinate the objectives and the meeting.

As part of the program, Ruth presented her Annual Mitigation Report for 2001, citing the many successes in New England in contrast to the many failures cited in the NRC report. Paul Minkin, PhD, followed her with an outline of the wetland mitigation study that the New England District (Regulatory Division) is currently undertaking. That study will review 60 wetland mitigation projects permitted by the Corps in New England

and assess their overall success or failure. The study will address some of the NRC report shortcomings and address New England's progress relative to the rest of the nation. Dr. Minkin discussed details of the study and invited everyone present to become involved in the field work. The report is scheduled for completion in January 2003 and field work is currently underway.

Ken Kettenring, Natural Resources Advisor, New Hampshire DES and Matt Schweisberg, Senior Wetland Ecologist, U.S. EPA, then presented the work of the task force. Both were members of the task force. Ken's discussion focused on continuing the task force's work on criteria, better wetland science and training for staff as well as developing a regional approach to wetland delineation and mitigation.

Matt Schweisberg reviewed the objectives set forward by the task force. He noted that these objectives were a way of setting realistic goals. He mentioned that the NRC study did not look at any wetlands in New England "because mitigation here was not complicated enough and there was little controversy."

He focused on the wetland mitigation successes in New England being a result of strong interagency relationships and a philosophy of "erring toward simple and self-sustaining" mitigation designs. After he reviewed the objectives from the task force, he invited those agencies present to participate in a discussion on issues and questions and asked them to consider signing on to the Wetland Mitigation Objectives. Matt Schweisberg and Christine Godfrey, Chief of Regulatory Division and the facilitator for the Summit fielded questions. The questions ranged from issues on cumulative impact assessment to a regional approach for mitigation and the appropriateness of forcing wetland mitigation to be "on-site and in-kind."

As Ruth passed the objectives to the executives present, each agency agreed that the objectives were worthwhile. However, Massachusetts and Rhode Is-



Photos by C.J. Allen

Col. Osterndorf signs recommendations on compensatory wetland mitigation during the summit.



Christine Godfrey served as facilitator for the summit.

land executives wanted more focus on avoiding and minimizing impacts before settling on mitigation. Col. Osterndorf asked those representatives to make comments in the margin for additions to the list on ways to improve the objectives.

Before the session concluded, Joanne Barry presented the next steps for the group. Noting that this was a start for dialogue and asking the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) to facilitate future discussions, she offered several future initiatives as a way of moving the dialogue forward. In concurrence with the first future initiative, NEIWPC agreed to serve as the forum for holding annual meetings, training and other mitigation based incentives. The New England District offered to hold the first meeting in January 2003 to review the results of the mitigation study currently underway and committed to continuing the study into future years. New England District also offered to open wetland training to the states to facilitate better understanding of wetland function and value.

As Col. Osterndorf closed the summit he thanked all for being there and committed the Corps to continue working with all the agencies involved in wetland mitigation to improve wetland protection and mitigation. He presented the members of the task force with coins and reminded the group that they had, "some of the smartest minds in New England" and, with the right focus, they should be able to make some meaningful steps forward to assess and improve our wetland mitigation. All those attending agreed and extolled the summit as an appropriate and meaningful forum for general and cooperative communication. The forum, however, not only allowed agency executives to communicate with each other, it enabled the task force members to update executives on the status of mitigation in the field, as they see it.

Other agency attendees at the Wetland Mitigation Summit were: Ira Leighton, Dep. Reg. Admin., U.S. EPA; Linda Murphy, Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection, EPA; Jeffrey Madore, Director, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection; Michael Bartlett, Field Supervisor, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Cynthia Giles, Asst. DEP Comm., Mass. Exec. Off. Environ. Affairs; Richard DeVergilio, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Harry Stewart, Water Div Dir., New Hampshire DES; Russ Chateaneuf, Chief, Wetlands Permitting, Rhode Island DEM; David Reis, Environ Scientist, Rhode Island CRMC; Peter Colosi, Asst. Reg. Admin., National Marine Fisheries Service; and Robert Smith, Chief, DEP, Connecticut DEP.

Koning takes command of District during ceremony

Continued from page 3

is important because soldiers move around a lot."

Col. Osterndorf recognized other friends he served with over the years that attended the ceremony and the other military guests who the Corps has served over the years.

"Turning over the command is bittersweet," he said. "The New England District has never failed me."

At the conclusion of his remarks, the District honored Col. Osterndorf one last time with a standing ovation.

New District Engineer Col. Koning said he was looking forward to an exciting and rewarding tour of service with the District.

"This ceremony today celebrates this organization," he said. "The services this District provides to our military customers, our federal partners, and most of all, to our local communities throughout New England prepares us in peacetime to support our nation when we are at war."

Col. Koning concluded his remarks thanking Col. Osterndorf for his leadership of the District over the past three years and for the service he has provided to all of New England.

"This District is a tremendous organization and it is running very well," he said. "It is a credit to him and all of those Corps team members here today. General Rhoades, I am ready to join the fray and am proud to be part of the division."

The ceremony concluded with the retiring of the colors.

Col. (Chaplain) Lowell Moore, USACE Headquarters, gave the invocation. Maj. (P) Brian Green, Deputy District Engineer, served as Commander of Troops.

The New England District Color Guard (Joseph Faloretti, Rick Magee, Merl Bassett, Mike Curran, Jamie Kordack, and Gary Rogowski) presented and retired the colors.

The Perry Rossi Orchestra performed traditional and patriotic musical selections during the ceremony.

The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announce partnership to improve management of U.S. rivers

The Nature Conservancy and the Army Corps of Engineers announced a collaborative effort to improve the management of dams on various rivers across the country.

Under the new partnership, entitled the Sustainable Rivers Project, the two organizations will work together to improve dam operations, helping to restore and protect the health of rivers and surrounding natural areas while continuing to meet human needs for services such as flood control and power generation.

The partnership is one that both organizations expect will improve the quality of America's waterways.

"At the heart of this agreement is a shared vision of restoring and protecting hundreds of river miles and thousands of acres of some of our nation's most important natural habitats," said Steven McCormick, president of The Nature Conservancy. "This agreement is a result of conservationists and dam managers sitting down at the table together, stating our objectives openly, and agreeing to work together to find solutions that are acceptable to all involved."

"We intend to build sustainability into the planning, construction and operation of our projects, and it is critical that we adapt our management of America's rivers to meet the needs of the human and natural communities," said Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers. "The Nature Conservancy has a great deal of expertise to help us make that possible."

The Army Corps of Engineers operates 630 dams for flood control, navigation and other purposes on numerous rivers across the United States.

The Sustainable Rivers Project will consist of a coordinated review and alteration of dam operations. There are, at this time, 13 candidate dams on nine rivers in nine states. Other dams may also become part of this project.

The Conservancy and the Corps are basing their expectation for success at these sites upon their ongoing collaborative efforts to improve the quality of habitat and other conditions

along the Green River in Kentucky. The Green ranks as the nation's fourth most diverse river in terms of variety of fish and mussel species, and provides water and recreational opportunities to thousands of people from around the state and throughout the region.

The Conservancy and the Corps collaborated to identify more ecologically compatible releases from the Green River Dam. These include delaying fall reservoir releases until after the spawning period for certain fish and mussel species, and using the releases to mimic natural variations. These changes will provide significant benefits to plants and animals, without sacrificing the dam's primary purpose, the ability to prevent downstream flood damage. And the changes actually extend recreational access to the reservoir by more than a month. The initial changes the Conservancy and the Corps proposed for the management of the Green River Dam recently passed a period of public review, and will be implemented this fall.

The Conservancy and the Corps have begun or will soon begin discussions at the other project sites. While the variables at each site will be different, the approach will remain one based on collaboration.

At the Ashuelot River, the Surry Mountain Dam will be the focus of efforts by Conservancy and Corps Staff in New Hampshire. Following a preliminary meeting in Concord, Massachusetts in May, ecologists and dam managers will follow up with more specific planning and start prioritizing other sites for similar activity in New England.

"We hope our work at the Surry Mountain Dam on the Ashuelot can serve as a positive role model for other New England rivers," said Daryl Burtnett, New Hampshire's Conservancy Chapter Director.

"Every day we learn a little bit more about how we can better serve the public, and that includes how we can better protect and restore our nation's natural treasures," concluded Lt. Gen. Flowers. (*Nature Conservancy News Release*)

District contractor receives safety award

The New England District's contractor, PSG, Inc., a US Filter affiliate, recently received the 2002 Group Safety Award from the Massachusetts Safety Council. The contractor received the honor for its work for the District at the Baird & McGuire Superfund Site and Groundwater Treatment Facility in Holbrook, Mass.

The annual award is part of the Mass Safety Council's Occupational



Photo by Victoria Mario

PSG Inc. employees receive Mass. Safety Council's Safety Award.

Safety Award Program.

The contractor received the award for the Baird & McGuire Superfund Site in 2002 for working 46,215 hours in 2001 with a lost workday incident rate of zero, compared to the national rate of 1.7.

PSG has received this award for a lost workday incident rate of zero in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and now 2002.



Officials "turn on" the water to the pipeline connecting Bourne to its new water supply.

Bourne pipeline dedication ceremony held

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The team that ensured on time completion of the three-mile pipeline connecting the Bourne Water District to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply System on the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) held a "turn the water on" ceremony on June 27 in Bourne, Mass.

The team includes the Bourne Water District, the MMR, the Massachusetts National Guard Environmental & Readiness Center, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, and the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers New England District.

Construction of the pipeline began on May 13 near the Otis Rotary on Route 28 and continued down Connery Ave. on to the MMR. In May 2002, the Department of Defense committed to installing the pipeline by July 1 to provide the Bourne Water District with enough water to meet the peak summer demand.

The pipeline connection to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply System will provide the capacity for about two million gallons per day of additional water to supplement the Cape Cod district's water supply.

Charles River Park opened for public use

Remediation of the 11 acre Charles River Park and riverbank portion of the former Army Material Technology Laboratory in Watertown, Mass., was successfully completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors in October 2001 with all contaminated soils excavated to concentrations below EPA cleanup criteria and replaced with new clean soils.

The Park was fertilized and re-seeded in early April 2002 and the fence surrounding the Park was removed during the last week in May after the grass had become established. The Army Corps anticipates completion of the replacement of plants along the riverbank and at the new wetland area by the end of June.

"The MDC is pleased this site is remediated and restored and once again will provide unlimited recreational opportunity along the river banks," said MDC Commissioner David B. Balfour, Jr.

The Army has agreed to mow the grass and maintain the Park until July 9, at which time the Metropolitan District Commissions (MDC) will resume that responsibility and continue to maintain the property as part of its overall Park system along the Charles River.

"The current plan calls for the execution of the property transfer documents in August. A ceremony will be held to commemorate the completion of the Army's work at the Park and its official transfer to the MDC," said Robert Chase, the Army's Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator. (PAO Press Release)



Photo by C.J. Allen

Attendees discuss maps and charts of the new three-mile water supply pipeline.

Change of Command Ceremony Scrapbook July 19, 2002



Bill Scully and Col. Brian Osterndorf Photos by C.J. Allen



View of American flag through Faneuil Hall window.



View of audience and Faneuil Hall Photo by Mark McInerney



Col. Brian Osterndorf, Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades, and Col. Thomas Koning.



Col. Osterndorf and Chaplain Moore

Change of Command Ceremony Scrapbook July 19, 2002



View of front of Faneuil Hall during the Change of Command ceremony.



Mrs. Osterdorf

Mrs. Koning



The Koning family.



The New England District Ranger Color Guard depart after posting the colors.

Change of Command Ceremony Scrapbook July 19, 2002



The Perry Rossi Orchestra.



Maj. Green leads the Color Guard into Faneuil Hall.



Brig. Gen. Rhoades honors Col. Osterndorf.



The Osterndorf family.



Col. Osterndorf relinquishes command of the New England District.



Col. Thomas Koning

Change of Command Ceremony Scrapbook July 19, 2002



Brig. Gen. Rhoades addresses the audience.



District employees at Col. Koning's reception.



The Koning family with reception staff.



Col. Koning meets New England District family.



Col. Koning's reception

Dredging up the past . . .



This upstream view of the construction of Mansfield Hollow was taken on June 14, 1944. A ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dam will take place August 3, 2002 at Mansfield Hollow Dam.

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