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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

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Wetlands on Route 2 in Concord, Massachusetts.

Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

EPA, Army Corps issue joint guidance to sustain wetlands protection under Supreme Court Decision

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued joint guidance for their field offices to ensure America's wetlands and other water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This action reinforces the Bush Administration's commitment to protect and enhance the quality of our nation's wetlands and

water bodies.

"The Bush Administration is committed to protecting wetlands and streams under the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court decisions," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "This action sends a clear signal we'll use our regulatory tools to meet the President's ambitious wetlands goals."

"We are committed to protecting America's aquatic resources under the Clean Water Act and in accordance with the recent Supreme Court decision," John Paul Woodley Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), said. "This interagency guidance will enable the agencies to make clear, consistent, and predictable jurisdictional

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Yankee Voices

Jim Crawford, Paul Howard
and Joan Gardner



Emergency food stock

Hurricane season is here, and there is always a potential for one to hit New England. Homeland security experts say that every household should stockpile supplies of food and water in case of natural or manmade disasters. According to the Center for Infectious Disease Research, each household should have at least a month's supply of food. It recommends stockpiling these non-perishables:

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and soups
- Protein and fruit bars
- Dry cereal and granola
- Peanut butter and nuts
- Dried fruit
- Crackers
- Canned juices and powdered milk

Pet food

The Seattle Public Utility Commission recommends that you figure on one gallon of water per person (and pet) per day in your household. This will cover both drinking and sanitation needs. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Sympathy



...to the family of **45th Chief of Engineers, LTG (R) Joseph K. Bratton**, who passed away June 2.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he went on to serve in both Korea and Vietnam. He served as South Atlantic Division Engineer and briefly as Deputy Chief of Engineers before being confirmed as Chief, a title he held from October of 1980 to September of 1984.

While he served as the Chief of Engineers, Army family housing more than doubled to its highest level since WWII; two Israeli air bases, required by the Camp David Accord, were completed six months ahead of schedule; the processing time for permits was cut in half due to implementation of simplified review procedures; and Corps disaster response teams were called on to help after the eruption of Mount St. Helens. LTG (R) Bratton's wife passed away last year. He leaves behind three surviving children and a nation grateful for his selfless service and dedication.

Congratulations

...to **Jennifer Flanagan** who was named as the WE Committee's July Employee of the month. Flanagan was recognized for her efforts as the Technical Lead for the several federal projects including the DIA facility rehab, the INS Border Station in Jackman, Me., and the DeCA Meat Department Renovation PDT.

...to the **2007 Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work Day Team** that was selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter for July-August 2007. The group contributed their inventiveness, dedication, and liveliness to ensure that the April program was educational and enjoyable. Team Members include: **Heather Sullivan, Jerry Nunziato, Viola Bramel, Paul Young, Beverly Lawrence, Sheila Harvey, Tim Russell, Jamie Kordack, Alex Garneau, Mark Anderson, Karen Umbrell and John Kedzierski.**

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Commander's Corner:

Continuing to be reliable to our customers

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



This month I would like to continue my discussion from last month on our responsibility as public servants. In particular, I would like to focus on how the public's perception of our reliability influences our relationships.

The first half of the USACE Vision states: "The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers - One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable, proudly serving the Armed Forces and the nation now and in the future."

Subsequently it provides the following amplification: "Those we serve will consider us RELIABLE because we meet our commitments, are accountable for our actions and wisely use the resources entrusted to our care." I believe that public opinion of our reliability is shaped by precisely these factors.

First, commitments come in many forms. People who live downstream of our flood damage reduction projects and behind our hurricane barriers believe we will operate our projects in even the most extreme conditions to protect their lives and property. Stakeholders come to the Corps asking for our help. We must deliver what we promise on the schedule we provide and for the cost we estimate. When in doubt, err on the side of being conservative in our initial estimates. Community leaders stake their reputations on the promises we make and when we don't deliver, it not only reduces our credibility, it places those who have partnered with us in difficult situations. They may need to secure additional funds or explain delays. Likewise, permit applicants and opposition groups alike rely on the Corps to remain impartial while processing applications in a timely manner. Perceived apathy in the execution of these actions or any of our other public interactions can erode the public's belief in our reliability.

Second, transparency in our actions provides confi-
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Federal guidance to sustain wetlands protection

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determinations. The results, once posted on agency websites, will document how the scope of the Clean Water Act jurisdiction is being determined."

EPA and Corps staff will also use the guidance when taking enforcement actions under the CWA. The guidance clarifies those circumstances where a person may need to obtain a CWA Section 404 permit before conducting activities in wetlands, tributaries, and other waters. Individual tribal, state and local laws, regulations, or policies may further protect aquatic water resources.

The guidance is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in the consolidated cases *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. United States* regarding the scope of the agencies' jurisdiction under the CWA. Specifically, this guidance discusses the agencies' protection of three classes of waters through the following actions:

- 1) Continuing to regulate "traditionally navigable waters," including all rivers and other waters that are large enough to be used by boats that transport commerce and any wetlands adjacent to such waters;
- 2) Continuing to regulate "non-navigable tributaries that are relatively permanent and wetlands that are physically connected to these tributaries"; and
- 3) Continuing to regulate based on case-by-case determinations for other tributaries and adjacent wetlands

that have certain characteristics that significantly affect traditionally navigable waters.

The guidance supports a strong regulatory program that ensures no net loss of wetlands, which is one of three key elements to the Bush Administration wetlands policy. The other two elements include an active management program that will result in the restoration, enhancement and protection of three million acres of wetlands by 2009 and a commitment to conserve isolated wetlands such as prairie potholes.

During the first six months implementing the guidance, the agencies are inviting public comments on case studies and experiences applying the guidance. Upon publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register, comments can be submitted to docket EPA-HQ-OW-2007-0282 through www.regulations.gov. The agencies will more broadly consider jurisdictional issues, including additional clarification and definition of key terminology, through rulemaking or other appropriate policy.

The New England District's Regulatory Division is working hard with EPA Region I to implement the new guidance as smoothly as possible.

Regulatory will be holding workshops for the public regarding the new guidance in the future. Questions may be directed to Christine Godfrey at 978-318-8673 or Ruth Ladd at 978-318-8818.

Decorated West Point Cadet shadows

Every year the New England District invites one or two West Point cadets with an interest in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to come and experience its mission for about three weeks. This year's cadet, who arrived May 2 and left June 9, stands out from those who came before him – although only a junior, Sgt. Trevor Thomas has already seen combat in Iraq and is a decorated war hero.

Prior to signing up for West Point, Thomas was an ordinary college student who was unhappy with the school he attended. "I knew I wanted to be in the military," he said. "Then September 11th happened. I wasn't happy with the school I was in, so I decided to enlist."

Thomas was assigned to the 37th Calvary Unit, 3rd Infantry Division and was sent to Kuwait in January 2003 for training. "I went there not really knowing what was going to happen, but some of us had an idea," he said.

A couple of months later in March 2003, Thomas found himself invading Iraq. His Division, along with some Marines and Special Forces personnel did reconnaissance and were out on point for the entire Army.

"Some engineers blew a hole in the big sand berm that surrounded Iraq and we rode right through with them," said Thomas. "We went all the way up to



West Point Cadet Trevor Thomas

Baghdad and had several engagements long the way."

After making it to Iraq's capitol city, Thomas thought his mission was over. "We thought we would wait out the rest of our time and they'd send us home, but we had a follow-on mission for us up in Balad, near the Logistic

Support Area or LSA Anaconda as it was known."

The young Soldier and his unit found themselves on patrols and performing raids, seizing weapons caches. In early August, Thomas and his unit received orders to return to Kuwait. "They told us to get on trucks and head back, he said. "So we put our vehicles on trucks and went back. I came home in mid-August 2003."

Thomas received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for his efforts during the war. Despite the high honor, Thomas is low key about his role in liberating the Iraqi people. "I was just a driver on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle," he said. "I knew we were going to take out the Bath Party and Saddam and we had all these taskings. If that's what they told me to do, then I was going to do it. I really didn't think about it too much."

After his deployment to Iraq, Thomas wanted to remain in the military, but also wanted a college education. "West Point was an option to fulfill both," he said. "My Dad said 'what's the worst that could happen if you apply?' so I did."

Thomas was offered an appointment with the stipulation that he attend prep school first. He quickly decided to major in Civil Engineering, and through West Point's advanced individual academic development program, discovered the Corps of Engineers in New England. "West Point has these AIADs that they have over the summer and one of those were with the New England District," he said. "I signed up – it was one of my top choices to come and see the mission – and I got selected."



Photos provided by Trevor Thomas

Pfc. Trevor Thomas (far right kneeling) with his unit in Iraq.

New England engineers



Pfc. Trevor Thomas standing in front of a picture of ousted Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein. Thomas received the Army Commendation medal with Valor during his tour in Iraq.

During his three weeks with the District, Thomas shadowed project managers from Fort Devens and from the Concord Park headquarters. "I got hands-on experience doing some quality assurance and quality control type of work," he said. "I saw the kind of work that the Corps does on some ongoing projects such as dredging, environmental remediation and construction projects."

Thomas also learned about some of the challenges that come with a Civil Works project. "I looked at blue prints and saw how the project was supposed to be constructed," said Thomas. "I understood where some of the hang ups were in getting contractors, and understanding the wishes of the customer. Then there is the challenge of getting all those in line within budget and on time."

Some of the projects Thomas was

able to visit included the Green Harbor dredging project in Marshfield, Mass, the Border Patrol Station in Van Buren, Maine, and the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Mass. "I learned about the broad scope that the Corps of Engineers has, specifically what kind of jobs that are done at New England District," he said. "I was able to see what the civil works side of engineering is as opposed to the combat engineering that we usually do in the Army."

Thomas said he was impressed by the professionalism of the District's Project Managers. "They had a good grip of what was going on and they took time to thoroughly explain everything about the projects," he said. "I got a general idea of what their job is and about how they work."

After graduation and branch designation, Thomas will go to advanced and specialized training. Then it's off to his first duty station as a Second Lieutenant.

Has Thomas' experience at the New England District swayed his decision to join the Corps of Engineers? "Before coming to New England District, branching into the Army Corps of Engineers had always been appealing to me," said Thomas. "Now it's more so because I like the variety and the jobs they have. You get to see different sites – you never get bored doing the same thing over and over again."

Commander's Column

Continued from page 3

dence that we accept accountability for our actions. I believe open dialog promotes confidence that we are not hiding things. There is an old saying that "bad news never gets better with time." Things do not always go as planned and our customers understand this, but they appreciate early warning so they can work proactively with us to develop solutions. Late notification leads to short timelines to develop solutions. We owe our partners time to develop coping strategies and we should provide alternatives to help mitigate changes.

Third, everyone operates within constrained budgets.

When we can provide innovative solutions that preserve our partner's funds, we demonstrate the Corps' value. When customers come to the Corps—not for the federal cost share—but for our technically superior products, we have truly earned their trust. However, not every project is worthy of the investment of local or federal funds. When this occurs we must provide an honest assessment of the projects merit. However, dollars are not the nations only scarce resources, pressure continues to increase on our countries national resources and we are charged with protecting them, during both our construction and regulatory activities.

In conclusion, Reliability is a critical attribute of public service. We will be perceived as reliable if we deliver on our commitments, openly accept responsibility for our actions, and prove to be good stewards of monetary and natural resources. Working as a team, I am confident we can exceed expectations. Thanks for your hard work each and every day.

Essayons!

Mike Remy retires from New England District



Engineering/Planning's Mike Remy has retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. About 40 friends and co-workers, to include retiree Bill Holtham and former employee Robert Zwahlen, gathered in the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Room for a retirement pizza lunch to wish him well.

Remy, an Engineering Technician in the Cost Sharing Section of the Design Branch, retired with over 30 years of federal service.

Christopher Lindsay served as Master of Ceremonies. He thanked the attendees for coming to send Remy off with many well wishes and also thanked Kathy Bucciarelli and Jo-Ann Dawber for putting the luncheon together.

Ken Paton recalled working with Remy at Fort Devens in 1984 and complemented Remy on his strong work ethic.

"He would do any project that came his way," said Paton. "He has a great sense of humor, rarely complained, and was admired by his peers."

Paton told a story of how Remy once designed an addition to a Reserve Center in Maine in the mid 1990's. "Because Devens was so short-handed at the time, Mike did the design for every discipline by himself – architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and drafting," said Paton. "New En-

gland Division put the project out to bid after some minor redesigning, but it demonstrated how Mike would make the best out of any situation."

Beverly Lawrence also talked about her experiences working with Remy at the former Fort Devens for four years.

"We surveyed the landfill together while Fort Devens was still dumping garbage on it," she said. "I held the rod and Mike did all the work. We worked in a temporary barracks building from World War II so coming to Concord Park was a big plus."

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, New England District's Deputy Commander, concluded the official portion of the retirement lunch by presenting Remy with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his dedicated service throughout the years, a Bunker Hill plaque and his retirement certificate.

Remy took a few moments to recognize his many co-workers and thanked everyone for attending his send-off.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Mike Remy receives his Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson (above left). Beverly Lawrence (left) and Ken Paton (far right) speak at Mike Remy's retirement (above).



Little girls hope for the winning catch.



Park Ranger Adam Morrone measures fish at the derby.

Hop Brook Lake hosts popular fishing derby and geocaching/scavenger hunt

Story by **Diana Errico-Topolski**
Hop Brook Lake

Despite rainy conditions, Hop Brook Lake's Annual All-American Fishing Derby went off without a hitch. Parents lined up on Saturday, May 19, to enter their "little anglers" in the derby. The starting horn sounded at precisely 8 a.m., and all the anxious children cast their lines. Throughout the morning proud parents and excited children brought their prize winning hopefuls to the weigh-in table. The horn sounded once again at noon to signal the end of the event and at 12:30 p.m., the excitement came to a head when the winners were announced.

Prizes for the first fish caught, the first five fish caught, the heaviest fish and the longest fish were awarded to anglers from three different age groups. By the end of the day, two bicycles that were donated by Rick Beasley from Cycle Fitness were given away, as well as some tackle boxes, several fishing poles and various gift certificates donated by local businesses. Water safety trinkets were also passed out to all participants.

Two weeks later, Hop Brook Lake enjoyed a very successful first ever Geocaching/Scavenger Hunt event on June 2. "Hop Around" as the event was called, was part of the Connecticut Trails Day weekend. The Connecticut Forest and Park Association sponsored the state's involvement in National Trails Day in an effort to inspire the general public to experience nature and celebrate the many outdoor

activities Connecticut has to offer.

According to Geocaching.com, Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches.

Geocachers and scavenger hunters from all over Connecticut and a few from New York visited Hop Brook in hopes of finding six new caches that had been hidden throughout the park by members of the geocaching team, ExploreCorps. Scavenger hunters and geocachers spent part of their Saturday morning searching for caches and/or natural items found along any of Hop Brook's trails. Hungry cachers and scavenger hunters took a break in mid-afternoon to enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and refreshments. They exchanged stories with each other and the rangers and once they were full, they headed back out to hunt for more caches.

By day's end, many cachers and scavenger hunters found everything they were looking for and left with a variety

of prizes ranging from Corps sponsored handouts to gift certificates donated from local area businesses. All in all, the feedback received on the geocaching.com website was absolutely positive. Many of the geocacher's stated that they enjoyed the event, the caches and talking to the rangers. We also learned that we had several rookie cachers who attested to our caches and event as being their first ever and definitely not their last.



This lucky young lady found a cache during the scavenger hunt.

Photos provided by Hop Brook Lake.



Master Yu DeAn and Ling Chiu perform the Mulan Sword Dance.

District celebrates Asian Heritage Month

A demonstration on several forms of Tai Chi highlighted the New England District's Asian American/Pacific Islander Month Observance held June 13 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Tai Chi instructor and Master Yu DeAn and practitioners Ms. Ling Chiu and New England District's own Annie Chin performed the 24-Step Tai Chi Chuan, the Mulan Sword Dance, and the Tai Chi Chuan Kung-Fu Fan Dance for the standing-room only audience.

Tai Chi Chuan is a form of Chinese recreation that has existed for about 2,000 years and was originally developed in China as a form of self-defense.

Col. Curtis Thalken welcomed the audience prior to the demonstration. He spoke about the history of Asian American/Pacific Islander Month. He said he was pleased at the turn out and thanked all of the New England District Special Emphasis Program Managers



Photos by Brian Murphy

Annie Chin demonstrates the technique needed to perform the Kung-Fu Fan Dance.

for their hard work. Col. Thalken said that he really looked forward to the demonstration. "In the last 10 years this movement has gained a lot of acceptance and has snowballed," he said. "You see it practiced all around the U.S., especially on the coast."

Peter Hugh, Asian American/Pacific Islander Program Manager thanked the demonstrators for coming. He said it was challenging to come up with interesting topics for the program each year. "I'm really excited about this program," he said. "I went around looking for advice and Annie (Chin) stepped up. Thank you Annie for the inspiration for this year's program and for the help," he said as he introduced the District's special guests.

Master Yu DeAn and his assistants followed Hugh's remarks, performing three forms of Tai Chi, each taking about five minutes to complete. The first was the 24-step Tai Chi Chuan exercise, which forms the foundation for Tai Chi Kung-Fu. According to the Mayo Clinic, The 24-step Tai Chi Chuan exercise reduces stress and improves balance and agility.

The presenters then performed the Mulan Sword Dance, which incorpo-

rates the slow, graceful movements of Tai Chi and is performed with swords to music. The dance incorporates dance skills, movement from Qi Gung (another form of Chinese exercise) and calisthenics.

The final demonstration was the Tai Chi Chuan Kung-Fu Fan Dance, which combines physical strength and endurance with the tell-tale Tai Chi elegant body movements.

After the demonstration, Hugh selected 10 members of the audience to participate in a Tai Chi "lesson." Volunteers were Barbara Newman, Mary Christopher, Jonathan Kullberg, Greg Buteau, Ray Goff, as well as Maj. Mary Rovaris and 1st Sgt. Penny Lashua from the U.S. Army Medic Unit CBHCO. Master Yu DeAn and his assistants helped the volunteers learn the first form of the 24 step Tai Chi Chuan with varying degrees of success. "Fortunately, there were three demonstrators, so I could always see one of them no matter what direction I was pointed in, to maintain proper form," said Kullberg. "There was a lot of twisting and balancing involved."

The instruction concluded with the volunteers following along for the en-

tire 24-step Tai Chi Chuan exercise. All of the participants enjoyed the experience and some were surprised with the degree of difficulty. "It was very strenuous to be out there," said Maj. Rovaris. "It looked very easy, but it's a really good work out and gives you peace of mind from within. It was very impressive."

The observance concluded with Col. Thalken presenting all three demonstrators with Bunker Hill plaques to thank them for their participation in the event and inviting all participants to try a sampling of authentic Asian Cuisine. "I love Tai Chi," said Sgt. Lashua. "The demonstration was wonderful. I really enjoyed it."

Master Yu DeAn, 74, is originally from Shanghai, China and has been teaching Tai Chi Chuan for 10 years. According to DeAn, he began learning Tai Chi Chuan 35 years ago to counter the affects of many physical illnesses which could not be corrected with traditional medications. He currently resides in Lexington, Mass., where he is active performing community services such as conducting Tai Chi programs at community centers and various Asian cultural events.



Master Yu DeAn teaches members of the audience Tai Chi.



Photos by Tom Chamberland

The Quinebaug River Canoe Trail is now a nationally recognized National Trail. Gina Vitello kayaks on the Quinebaug River Canoe Trail.

Canoe Trail receives national designation

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne has awarded New England District's Quinebaug River Canoe Trail a National Recreation Trail designation. The Quinebaug Trail's designation is one of 40 made this year under the National Trail System Program.

The trail is located at East Brimfield Lake in Massachusetts. Quinebaug Trail's designation is the second for the District-- Westville Lake's Grand Trunk Trail, also located in Massachusetts, received the honor in 2001.

Park Ranger Tom Chamberland took the lead in nominating the Quinebaug trail.

"In reviewing the National Park Service website requirements for this designation, I noticed they were looking for river trails to be considered, so after discussing this with Keith Beecher the park manager and reviewing the positive results we received from the Grand Trunk Trail designation back in 2001, we decided to apply and are quite pleased that we were selected as one of the 40 nationwide that were ap-

proved," said Chamberland.

The National Trail System act of 1968 authorized the creation of a National Trail System. That system is made up of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trail. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with other federal and nonprofit partners, notably American Trails. Each of the trails inducted into the system will receive a certificate of designation and trail markers.

The designation has many advantages, including the support of the National Recreation Trail program, promotion, technical assistance, networking and access to funding. The Quinebaug Trail joins a network that contains more than 11,000 miles of designated trails.

The Quinebaug River Canoe Trail is 5.5 miles in length and is a flat water, no portages course that takes about three hours to travel through. The

Quinebaug River flows out of the north end of Holland Pond and stretches north into East Brimfield Lake.

The trail provides excellent examples of a riverine environment and geological developments in the valley. The river flows through the valley carved by glaciers and is filled the varied wetland and upland vegetation. The many wildlife inhabitants including turtles, otters, blue heron, geese, ducks, red fox, deer, turkeys, hawks, and many song birds. Bald Eagles have been sited, usually in late winter and early spring.

Each changing season offers canoeists and wildlife observers excellent opportunities to enjoy everything from wildflowers to spectacular fall color arrays.

Chamberland believes that the honor will draw more people to the trail. "This designation will help in informing the public of this great recreational opportunity and assist our partners, the local communities of Holland, Brimfield and Sturbridge, in providing a more meaningful recreation experience."

Founder's Day ceremony recognizes current employees, honors retirees

New England District employees, retirees, and family members gathered at Elm Brook Park at Hopkinton-Everett Lake in New Hampshire to celebrate the birth of the Corps of Engineers, June 29. As is customary, the official awards ceremony kicked off a day of employee recognition and fun.

"We're taking a moment to reflect on past accomplishments, enjoy present activities and take a look at future challenges," said Larry Rosenberg, chief of Public Affairs and Master of Ceremonies for the awards portion of the day. "Were here to commemorate the 232nd birthday of the founding of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and in my opinion that we don't look a day over 138."

Founder's Day awards ceremony is never complete without one of Rosenberg's famous bad jokes. This year's joke involved the gates of heaven, Paris Hilton, two high ranking District officials and Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander. The joke got the audience laughing and in a celebratory mood.

Col. Thalken welcomed everyone for coming to Hopkinton-Everett Lake. "We started this last year, coming out to our own recreation facilities and I think that it's the right idea," he said. "These parks are beautiful, there's a lot more for families to do and I'm encouraged to see the number of families who brought their young children here."

The District Commander talked about how the rich history of New England District traces its beginning to the opening days of the Revolutionary War. Col. Thalken said that the District just finished some work at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Mass.

Col. Thalken thanked, Construction/Operations Division and the Hopkinton-Everett Lake Team for hosting Founder's Day and Engineering/Planning Division and the Founder's Day



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Curtis Thalken gives his opening remarks during the Founder's Day Awards ceremony.

Committee for their efforts in making the day a success.

Col. Thalken talked about the many successes that the New England District has accomplished this past year and about current and future projects. He talked about having employees deployed overseas to help with the War on Terror. "Please keep them and the safety of the entire team overseas in your prayers, he said. "They are the most current volunteers in a strong showing of our District capability in the last couple of years to support the Corps missions overseas and the disaster relief and recovery work in the United States, especially in the South these last couple of years."

The District Commander said that there is an active hurricane season predicted this year, and Corps of Engineers services may be needed. He also talked about the major challenges with levees of concern and thanked the levee team for their hard work in making New England District shine among all the others in the country. "In fact the way that we rolled that out here in New England revised and established national policy."

Col. Thalken also recognized individuals who received local and national honors to include Ian Osgerby, Tim Dugan, Greg Hanlon, Dan Stenstream, Keith Beecher, Jennifer Rockett, and

Ruth Ladd.

According to the Colonel, New England District's future challenges include NSPS, IT/IM element, New Logistics Management Support structure. "We will have new challenges to face, but we will surmount these challenges," he said. "The Corps' can do attitude has always impressed me and I know we will continue to accomplish all of our missions."

Col. Thalken said that New England District has undergone some transitions with some retirements, births and some deaths. "We've had many personal and District, and Regional successes, but there is still a lot of work to do this year," he said. "You all do a great job each and every day working to accomplishing our mission and serving the nation and I thank you for your dedication and hard work."

Col. Thalken concluded by urging safety during the summer months.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, inducted Michelle Kewer and Earle "Buz" McDonald into the New England District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Commander, presented Tim Dugan with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Louisiana Recovery Field

Continued on page 13

Kewer, McDonald inducted into District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, inducted two legends into the New England District Distinguished Civilian Gallery.

Earle "Buz" McDonald and the late Michelle Kewer were named this year's inductees during the Founder's Day Award Ceremony held at Elm Brook Park at the Hopkinton-Everett Lake Flood Control Project, June 29. "It was an incredible journey to work for the Corps of Engineers for almost 35 years," said McDonald. "It was the best decision that I ever made to stay with the Corps of Engineers. It is probably the best agency in the United States Government."

The Distinguished Civilian Gallery was established to recognize retired employees who have rendered distinguished and exceptional service. The criteria and standards are stringent and all nominations must be reviewed by a special ad hoc committee made up of senior staff headed by the Deputy Commander. It takes a majority vote of the committee for the Chairman to make the recommendations to the Commander for final approval. Those selected for induction into the Gallery are honored on the District's annual Founder's Day celebration. "The stories of these two inductees are classic USACE family success stories," said Scully.

Michelle A. Kewer, Chief of Contracting Division, began her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England Division in 1971 as a Procurement Technician/Clerk Typist. Through a succession of promotions, she became the first female Chief of Contracting Division in 2002.

Throughout her career, Kewer's name was synonymous with the New England District and the Contracting profession. Her mentorship to others leaves a legacy that will positively impact the New England District for many years to come.

According to her nomination, Kewer's commitment to excellence was unwavering. During the Blizzard of '78 when roads were impassible, she was picked up by emergency personnel so that she could work long hours seven days a week until the New England Division's mission was achieved. More recently, Kewer was one of the first responders for the New England District when the call for help went out on Sept. 11, 2001 under "Operation Noble Eagle." During her deployment, Kewer provided contracting assistance as well as a host of other duties necessary to support the mission and her country. Her expertise as the Contracting Officer brought numerous projects to fruition. Some high profile projects that Kewer worked on during her distinguished career included moving the Southeast Lighthouse on Block Island, Rhode Island; rehabilitating the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge; constructing the commissary at Fort Devens; dredging Bos-



Michelle A. Kewer

Photo by Robert Batt

ton Harbor and Providence River; and the District's response to Sept. 11, 2001.

During her career, Kewer was at the forefront of technology at the District. She became closely involved in the conversion of multiple contracting software programs and was an active member of the team that rolled out the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System. In addition, Kewer developed an Intranet Status Database for her customers to query for contract actions and to get up-to-date information. She passed away Dec. 8, 2005.

Earle "Buz" McDonald, District Comptroller, began his career with the New England Division in 1971 in Operations. He transferred to the Comptroller's Office as the Budget Officer in 1975. Through a succession of promotions, he became the Comptroller for the Corps in New England in 1984.

As Comptroller, McDonald was responsible for the finance & accounting, management analysis and budget operations for the District. In 1981 the reporting, examination and disbursing functions of the Philadelphia District were transferred to New England. In 1984 these same functions for the North Atlantic Division and New York District became New England's responsibility. The New York transfer involved approximately 40 apparent statutory violations and payment records missing for roughly 1,600 contracts, representing millions of dollars and an unaccounted \$26 million cash

shortfall with the U.S. Treasury. Mr. McDonald was instrumental in resolving all of the issues.

According to the nomination, McDonald was noted for his programming and automation capabilities. His development of the Vendor Tracking System (VTS) resulted in over \$10 million in administrative and process cost savings. The VTS system also allowed the Comptroller staff to be significantly reduced while reducing the costs of accounting services. McDonald was also a key player in the development of the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System, with his VTS system used as the model for the "Expend and Disburse" module.

The Corps' first and only Examination night shift was implemented while McDonald served as Comptroller. After the transfer of the reporting, examination and disbursing functions to the USACE Finance Center, McDonald was instrumental in finding alternate work positions for his displaced employees. He oversaw literally dozens of business initiatives that resulted in streamlined processes and a reduction in annual costs estimated at over \$1.5 million.

McDonald was an active member of the North Atlantic Division's Regional Management Board (RMB) since 1998. He worked closely with senior managers throughout the region on regional cost and rate analysis and the development of a first of its kind "Cost Management Program" within the Division.

Throughout his career with the Corps in New England, McDonald's valuable contributions in the fields of accounting, budget, and business process improvements leave a legacy that will positively impact the entire Corps of Engineers for



PAO File Photo

Earle "Buz" McDonald

years to come. McDonald retired on Sept. 30, 2005 with 34 years of service.

McDonald attended the ceremony with his wife, Joan, and his son, Tom.

Award ceremony kicks off Founder's Day

Continued from page 11

Office for his contribution to the Field Office mission in support of the FEMA ESF #3 response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The Deputy Commander also presented Keith Beecher with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his performance as Park Manager for East Brimfield Lake/Westville Lake/Conant Brook Dam. He was recognized for his consistent contributions over the past 22 years and is the recipient of the 2007 American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award. Beecher also received a letter of congratulations from NAD Commander, Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite.

Bill Hubbard, Chief, Evaluation Branch, announced that Todd Randall is New England District's 2007 Planner of the Year. Randall received the honor for his work on the formulation and evaluation of Section 206, Section 1135 restoration projects, improvement dredges, O&M Dredging and technical assistance on EPA Superfund projects. His expertise in Marine Biology has been sought by project

managers from within the New England District, as well as state and federal scientists and regulators. His dedication and skills allowed numerous projects to move forward and to solve many technically difficult permit issues.

Heather Sullivan presented Christine Godfrey, Chief, Regulatory, with the New England District's 2007 Supervisor of the Year Award. Godfrey was awarded the honor for consistently promoting the employment and advancement of women and minorities. This is her second Supervisor of the Year award. "She leads by example in being respectful of her employees and being sensitive to special needs of women and minority staff members," said Sullivan.

Martha Labbe, Human Resources, presented length of service awards for employees that have worked 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years.

Raimo Liias, the Founder's Day Committee Chair, concluded the official awards ceremony and kicked off the picnic portion of Founder's Day by going over the day's events.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Mike Keegan fires up the grill for the self-catered lunch.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Mary Christopher shows Christina Walker her choices for face painting.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Founder's Day attendees play horseshoes at Elm Brook Park.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Col. Curtis Thalken, John Astley, and Larry Rosenberg chat before the awards ceremony.

District celebrates 232nd birthday at Elm Brook Park

Fun in the Sun was the order of the day at the 232nd Founder's Day celebration, held June 29 at Elm Brook Park.

Hundreds of District employees, family members and retirees arrived early for the all day celebration. Prior to the official awards ceremony, Founder's Day Committee members and Hopkinton-Everett Lake employees coordinated a fun walk around the recreation area. Project staff met attendees at the Log Cabin Visitor's Center for the interpretive stroll.

Project staff also hosted an interpretive program entitled, "Get to Know Hopkinton Project," at the Log Cabin in the morning and in the afternoon. All the walking and learning about the Flood Control Project caused Founder's Day attendees to work up an appetite. The Founder's Day committee and their full staff of volunteer cooks didn't disappoint when they served up a self-catered barbecue lunch. The cooks responsible for the delicious meal were Mike Keegan, Kathy Bucciarelli, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla and Dave Goodrich.

Once everyone's stomachs were full, it was off to participate in the many activities the Founder's Day Committee planned. Organized events included a sand castle building

competition. Gwendolyn Claflin, daughter of George Claflin, took the top prize. Second place went to the Flanagan Family and third place went to the Walkers. Carol Charette organized the event and Col. Curtis Thalken, District Commander,



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Staff meeting between two future engineers? Drake Chaisson (left) meets new friend Matthew Dermody during the Founder's Day picnic. Moms are Tina Chaisson and Beth Dermody.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Retiree Jim Crawford and Paul Howard have some lunch during the Founder's Day picnic.

Jo-Ann Dawber, and Dave Goodrich served as judges.

Carol Charette also organized a kayak race. Nathan Rigione took first, followed by Dan Dugan (son of Tim Dugan) in second and Ben Rigione (Nathan and Ben are sons of Sally Rigione) in third. Kayaks were available throughout the day for everyone's enjoyment, thanks to Charette, the Hopkinton-Everett Lake team and other New England District field offices. Other activities included a 3-mile nature walk, horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, softball, swimming, and fishing.

Mary Christopher held her annual face painting event for the young and young at heart. The WE Committee had Corps items for sale, but also had kiddie giveaways to include kites, beach balls, bubbles, and planes.

Engineering/Planning hosted this year's event. This year's Founder's Day Committee members were Raimo Liias (Chair), Jo-Ann Dawber, Gary Lacroix, Barbara Newman and Robert Russo. Special assistance was rendered to the committee by Charette, George Claflin and Jim Kelly.



Photo by Timothy Dugan

Dan Dugan clears the way to prepare for the kayak race.



Photo by Carol Charette

Gwendolyn Claflin takes first prize for her sand castle.



Photo by Katie Hugh

Tahira Muhammad enjoys some time at the beach at Elm Brook Park.



Photo by Larry Rosenberg

Planner of the Year Todd Randall blows up a beach ball during the Founder's Day picnic.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by Janet Brayden

Mary Christopher prepares to paint the face of a young Founder's Day attendee in 1992. Christopher still holds face painting events at the Founder's Day celebrations.

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