

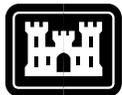
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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

Yankee Engineer

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June 2006

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces results of national A-76 competition for Information Management/Information Technology functions

Following an 18-month competition of its Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) functions, the initial performance decision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to retain the work in-house for performance by the Most Efficient Organization.

The government's Most Efficient Organization was selected based on lowest cost technically acceptable. As part of the competition process and before implementing the results of the

competition, the unsuccessful offerors are afforded an opportunity to protest the decision in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The competition began in June 2004, and involved work performed by more than 1,300 employees and more than 500 contractors at Corps locations throughout the United States. The IM/IT competition was conducted in response to the President's Management Agenda, which requires all federal agencies to streamline and become

more effective.

The IM/IT services included in the competition are: (1) automation services and systems support, (2) communications services and systems support, (3) information assurance service and support, (4) record management services and support, (5) printing and publication services, (6) visual information services, and (7) IM/IT Administration and Management.

Public-private competitions are

Continued on page 2



Just passing through

The USS Underwood passes under the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge on June 13 on its way to Boston for Navy Week. The ship is only one of many vessels that pass through the canal each year. Photo by Kevin Burke.

Yankee Voices

A-76 Decision

Continued from page 1

conducted under the provisions of the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76.

The process included a public comment period on the Performance Work Statement that describes the Government's requirements. The process also included three industry forums where potential service providers were provided additional information and given an opportunity to offer comments on the competition.

Under the OMB circular, the federal employees performing the work compete against the private sector and other public reimbursable service providers for the requirements described in the Performance Work Statement.

In addition to the IM/IT competition, the Corps is currently conducting two other competitions for its Finance Center data entry activity in Millington, Tenn., and the Directorate of Public Works functions at two research facilities.

Congratulations

...to the New England District employees who participated in the May 26 Red Cross Blood Drive. The Red Cross collected a total of 35 productive units (pints) of blood from the District-sponsored event.

... to **Rita Brown-Patras**, Construction-Operations Division, on the birth of her grandson, **William Shay Seman**, on June 6.

... to **Rose Schmidt** of Engineering/Planning Division, who was chosen as the WE Committee's Employee of the Quarter. Schmidt received the award for her ability to continually perform high quality work.

Sympathy

... to **Gregory Pierce**, Construction/Operations Division, on the passing of his grandmother, **Anna Garneau**, on June 3.

Choosing sunscreen

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends using a broad-spectrum sunscreen year-round with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or higher. It also recommends looking for a product that contains the chemical avobenzene, also known as Parsol 1789.

This protects against ultraviolet A and B rays. The UVB rays, which can be blocked by window glass, are the main cause of sunburn and skin cancer. UVA rays, which can pass through window glass, penetrate deeper into the skin and also contribute to skin damage. For the most effective protection check the label before you buy. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

Words worth repeating

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."
- *Aristotle*

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From the Chief of Engineers: Lt. Gen. Strock's Engineer Day message

The proud heritage of the Engineer Regiment began when Col. Richard Gridley became the first Chief of Engineers on June 16, 1775. Since then, generations of Army engineers, both Soldiers and Civilians, have answered the call to duty around the world during peace and war.

Today is no different. Throughout the past year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made many significant contributions on behalf of our nation and the armed forces. Our workload increased dramatically as we met the demands to support hurricane recovery, while continuing our ongoing work in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, great work continued along waterways, at recreation areas, in research facilities and at armed forces installations around the world.

We have been stressed and stretched in the past year, but you have responded to those increased demands with great commitment and competence.

One of the most demanding missions this year has been our hurricane recovery efforts, and it is immensely gratifying to see how the team responded.

In the first hours after Hurricane Katrina hit last August, Col. Richard Wagenaar and his team from New Orleans District assessed the situation on the ground. And in a very short period of time, 3,000 people deployed to the Gulf Coast states. Only one week before, they had been working on other missions, but they quickly redirected their efforts. That response clearly shows the great agility of an outstanding workforce.

Eventually, more than 8,000 volunteers answered the call to help in the Gulf Coast states. They continue to do a tremendous job.

The team supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing ice and water, temporary power and housing, installing temporary roofing and moving mountains of debris.

The team also accomplished the Herculean tasks of pumping the flood water out of New Orleans, and repairing the hurricane protection system in time for the 2006 hurricane season. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this achievement is that so many employees in the region suffered substantial personal losses and hardships, yet they sum-



moned the courage to focus on the needs of others.

A strong public service ethic and willingness to ride to the sound of the guns has allowed the Corps to meet the demands of hurricane recovery while also accomplishing our other important missions.

The pace of work to support the growth of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq has not lessened. We have made great strides on completing thousands of projects in Iraq, and continue to help improve conditions in Afghanistan with construction of facilities and improvements to roads and bridges.

And while those efforts have garnered headlines, every day there is a great deal more being accomplished

around the world. For example, we are supporting our armed forces with quality military construction and real estate services -- a vitally important mission during this time of transformation.

This past year we have destroyed old landmines and ordnance in Iraq while cleaning up old ordnance here at home, continued efforts to restore the Everglades, and improved homeland security. Also, our outstanding research and development efforts were honored when the Engineering Research and Development Center was selected as the Army's Laboratory of the Year.

I have mentioned only a very few of the many contributions made by the Corps team. I have enormous pride and confidence in you. Thank you for accomplishing so many difficult missions under demanding circumstances. Thanks to your work the past year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers added a page to the long, proud history of service to our nation.

ESSAYONS!

CARL A. STROCK
Lieutenant General
Commanding



Peter Hugh demonstrates the proper technique of holding chop sticks.



Lindsey Gay (left) and Sally Rigione (right) wait for Peter Hugh to begin the chop stick contest.

Program teaches chopstick use, Asian cuisine

Learning the fine art of holding chopsticks as well as the ins and outs of quality Chinese cuisine were the topics of the annual Asian American/Pacific Islander Observance held May 17 in the Concord Park Theatre.

Peter Hugh, the Asian American/Pacific Islander Program Manager, took on the roles of keynote speaker and instructor for the event. His presentation, titled, "Basics of Chinese Cooking and how to Survive a Meal in Chinatown," began with a lesson on the types of Chinese Cooking. Hugh discussed the difference between Cantonese, Szechuan, Northern China (Peking), and Dim Sum.

Next Hugh talked about foods to avoid with topics that included restaurant aquariums, steamed whole fish, food hanging on hooks, and grocery market seafood departments. Other topics of the presentation included how to pick a restaurant and how to get to Chinatown in Boston, Mass.

The second portion of the Asian American/Pacific Islander Observance focused on the proper use of chopsticks. Each member of the audience was supplied with a set of chopsticks and a small bag of candy pickups for the lesson. Table etiquette was also discussed. Hugh personally demonstrated the technique as well as provided PowerPoint visuals

before he "tested" the audience. The audience attempted to pick up marshmallows from the goody bag, then moved on to increasingly difficult items until they picked up a jelly bean.

After the "test" Hugh held a contest, choosing members of the audience to see who could pick up the most frozen peas and transfer them into a cup. All the volunteers were considered winners and received bottles of authentic Asian condiments to aid in their cooking. The winners were Sally Rigione, Barbara Newman, Alexine Raineri, and Lindsey Gay. A cooking tutorial concluded the educational portion of the event. A power problem prevented an actual cooking demonstration; however, Hugh discussed in detail how to prepare beef fried rice with pork dumplings. Volunteer chefs scheduled to cook were Farrell McMillan, Sheila Holt, Crystal Gardner and Ann Marie Harvie. The chefs received t-shirts made by Hugh in appreciation for their time. Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy Commander, and Dianna Barela, the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, presented Bunker Hill certificates to Hugh, McMillan, Holt, Gardner and Harvie for their efforts. A small reception featuring the beef fried rice and pork dumplings prepared by Frank Delgiudice and Heather Sullivan concluded the celebration.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Volunteer chefs listen as Peter Hugh explains how to cook dumplings.



Chef Crystal Gardner shows off her limited edition t-shirt made by Peter Hugh.

Corps of Engineers proposes environmental restoration project at Bird Island in Marion

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

At the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing an environmental restoration project at Bird Island in Marion, Mass.

Bird Island provides critical nesting habitat for about 22 percent of the northeast population of Roseate Terns, which are listed as endangered at both the federal and state levels of jurisdiction.

“Roseate Terns are listed as endangered principally because of range contraction and secondarily because of declining numbers,” said biologist Judith Johnson, Engineering/Planning Division. “Few suitable Roseate Tern nesting sites exist in Massachusetts or within the Northeast region as a whole. As a result, Terns are highly concentrated into just a few sites.”

This concentration increases their vulnerability to threats such as habitat loss, oil spills, severe predation, storm events and disease. “It is imperative that suitable nesting sites be restored and maintained so that as many alternate sites as possible are available in order to buffer the Terns in case major threats materialize,” Johnson said. “Loss of even one primary Roseate Tern nesting island could have severe consequences for this endangered population. The restoration of Bird Island presents an opportunity to substantially increase the northeast population of Roseate Terns.”

Two Corps authorities are potentially applicable to the project: the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Au-

thority and the Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material Authority.

Bird Island measures approximately 3 acres in size, of which 1.5 acres of the island is above the elevation of the Mean Spring High Water



Bird Island in Marion, Mass.

tide. The island is surrounded by a deteriorating revetment, which has allowed waves to erode its surface, lowering the ground elevation and changing it from sand and gravel with low herbaceous vegetation to salt marsh and salt pannes.

“This habitat alteration has reduced the area available for Tern nesting,” said project manager Larry Oliver, Engineering/Planning Division. “The limited nesting area on Bird Island forces Roseate Terns to compete with Common Terns, its nesting associate, which is also listed as a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

“The objectives of this project are to reverse the deterioration at Bird Island and to increase the island’s stability in order to increase numbers and productivity of both species of Terns there,” Oliver said. “This habitat restoration project is considered essential to meet the short- and long-term goals of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Buzzards Bay Tern Restoration Program and would be an important step in meeting the goals of the Federal Recovery Plan for the north-

eastern population of the Roseate Tern.”

Restoring the revetment has the added benefit of protecting the historic Bird Island Lighthouse, a supplemental goal of the proposed project.

Revetment and Nesting Habitat

Restoration is the recommended plan. Restoring the stone revetment would stabilize the shorefront and attenuate wave energy, protecting the island from all but extreme storm waves and reduce the rate of erosion of upland material. Sand from dredging the Cape Cod Canal Hog Island Channel, or other source, would be placed in the eroded and scoured areas inside the revetment. This material would restore appropriate sub-

strates for nesting Terns outside the range of tidal influence.

The restored nesting areas would improve and expand Common Tern nesting areas within the revetment, reducing Common Tern encroachment into the higher elevation, Roseate Tern nesting areas. The project would allow the Roseate Tern population to increase without adversely affecting the Common Tern populations.

Based on average Tern densities on Bird Island from 2001 to 2005 (provided by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), Bird Island currently supports 750 Roseate Tern nesting pairs and 1,900 Common Tern nesting pairs.

The proposed restoration alternative would provide a suitable substrate to increase the number of Roseate Tern nesting pairs to an estimated 1,157 and increase Common Tern nesting pairs to an estimated 2,893.

Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat in the project area were avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable through the planning and design process.

School kids take a field trip to Barre Falls

by Delia Vogel
Barre Falls Dam



Sixty-six fifth-grade students from the Hubbardston Center School attended a field day at Barre Falls Dam on June 6. Small groups of students rotated to five stations located throughout the park to learn about soil sampling, water testing, nature drawings, leaf identification, and the purpose and history of Barre Falls Dam.

Each session lasted one-half hour, and each student was given a diary to record their observations and findings.

The interpretive program conducted by Park Ranger Delia Vogel included a 10-minute hike from the picnic area to the herb garden and the Gristmill site on the Ware River. The day's event concluded with a lunch at the picnic area.

As is true with any planned event, there are people working behind the scenes to ensure the event is successful. Though not involved with presenting the interpretive program to students, the entire Barre Falls Dam staff was involved in the planning phase.

Park Manager Ralph Gendron met with the school teachers to coordinate the field trip and discuss the proposed ranger tour. He contacted our grounds maintenance contractor to have the grass freshly mowed for the event. He then worked with Barre Falls Dam team members to complete trail main-

tenance and mowed the outlet field with the rotary mower to lessen the possibility of the students encountering ticks.

Summer Ranger Doug Johnson assisted with maintenance of the herb garden and trail upkeep. Doug also posted hiking trail and warning signs where poison ivy and poison oak is growing to ensure that the students stay away from the area. Park volunteer Jerry Jenkins cleaned the picnic shelter and restrooms and served as photographer during the field trip.

Due to the staff's careful planning, nobody tripped, got lost, was bitten, or caught poison ivy. One student even commented on how glad she was she didn't see any ticks because she was really scared of them. In place of remembering bites and scratches, they all took home wonderful memories of seeing a water snake, a blue heron, a baby turtle, a salamander, moose tracks, and frog eggs.



Photos by Jerry Jenkins

(Above left) Students gather around Park Ranger Delia Vogel for instructions. (Above) Students learn about Barre Falls Dam during their school field trip.



Forestdale Elementary School was only one of 19 schools that visited the Cape Cod Canal in 2006.



Summer Park Ranger Eric Daley takes a question from a student on board the Canal tug MANAMET.

Cape Cod Canal Outreach Program is a huge success

Park Rangers at the Cape Cod Canal have had a very busy school field trip season in 2006. About 1,400 students from 19 schools from Fairhaven to Brewster visited the widest sea-level canal in the world to get an education on the day-to-day operations of the facility.

The school field trips are part of the Cape Cod Canal Outreach Program that the Canal has operated for nearly 30 years. The Cape Cod Canal, the widest sea-level canal in the world, extends 17.4 miles across the narrow neck that joins Cape Cod to the mainland.

Before the students visited the canal to see its current operation, Canal Park Rangers visited each school with a one-hour presentation on the Canal's past. "We show the kids a PowerPoint presentation that consist of approximately 125 slides that talk about August Belmont and the history of the canal," said Roger Hagen, Park Ranger at the Canal.

Hagen, who has been running the program since 1983, is usually the Park Ranger who gives the presentation and is sometimes accompanied by another Park Ranger. Three Park Rangers conduct the on-site field trip at the Canal.

When the students arrive at the Cape Cod Canal, they are not only treated to a tour of the Marine Traffic Control Center, but they get to see what it is like to be a Marine Traffic Controller. With the help of a PowerPoint Presentation and radio simulation each "Controller" receives information from the vessel, SAPPHIRE ACE, and fills out a mock log just as a real Controller would.

The next stop on the 3-1/2 hour field trip is an hour long dock side tour of the Cape Cod Canal tug, MANAMET, as well as a turn steering the wheel.

Following lunch, students take all of the knowledge they received in the morning and during the in-school visit and put it to the test during the game, "Tugs to the Rescue." The event, which is set up like a game show, breaks the students

up into four teams. One child on each team wears a tugboat around his or her neck and serves as the pawn. When a question is answered correctly by a team, the child or "pawn" moves up the Canal. The first team to "rescue" the Tug represented by a flag at the end of the canal wins.

At the end of the day, all of the students get a certificate and an education of the Cape Cod Canal and the Corps of Engineers before climbing back on their school bus and heading home.

Although school field trips are over for the season, the Cape Cod Canal has a myriad of other activities throughout the summer that are open to the public. The Canal has a website detailing these activities and can be found at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/ccc/ccchome.htm>.



Photos by Kevin Burke

Students tour the engine room of the Canal tug, MANAMET. The 3-1/2 hour field trip also included a tour of the Marine Traffic Control Center and a game, "Tugs to the Rescue."

Dredging up the past . . .



(From left) Bill Scully, Lt. Gen. Arthur Williams, Chief of Engineers, and Warren Nordman discuss some vintage pictures on the walls of the Waltham Federal Center during the General's visit in this 1994 photo.

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