

Ray Francisco
Retires
Page 4



New Leader
Program Grad
Page 5



Yankee Voices.....	2
Commander's Corner.....	3
Dick DiBuono Retirement.....	7
District monitors river levels.....	7
Dredging up the past.....	8



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

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Hammer Award:

Charles George Implementation Team honored at EPA ceremony

Success stories abound for the New England District's environmental efforts. In recent months, the District has received many awards to include a Coastal America Award and a Hammer Award for the Boston Harbor Project. It's most recent shining moment came when the Charles George Superfund Team received Vice President Gore's Hammer Award during a ceremony held by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The ceremony was held May 2 at the Hynes Auditorium in Boston. Ms. Mindy Lubber, EPA Region I Administrator, presented the award and indi-

vidual lapel pins to members of the Team.

The Charles George Superfund Team is a partnership consisting of the Corps

of Engineers, EPA, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and contractor Roy F. Weston.

The Project Team received the award for reinventing the process of design and construction of facilities to solve the groundwater contamination problems associated with the Charles George landfill project, located in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts.

The Team implemented a new solution that allowed for direct discharge to the sewer line and final treatment to a publicly operated treatment facility at a cost savings of \$5.6 million.

The Charles George Superfund Site is a seventy-acre municipal and hazardous waste landfill. The New England District managed all major design and construction projects at the site. The principal contractor for the most recent construction projects is Roy F. Weston.



Photo by C.J. Allen

The Charles George Superfund Team receives its award during an EPA Awards Ceremony.

Continued on page 6

Yankee Voices



Robert Batt
Real Estate

TSP Open Season

The Semi-Annual Open Season for the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) will be held from May 15 to July 31.

District employees are eligible to enroll in the TSP during this Open Season if covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Employees must be permanent and have been hired prior to December 31, 1999, in order to participate in this Open Season.

Members under FERS, who meet the above criteria for the first time, will be eligible for the automatic one percent government contribution during this open season.

Interested individuals are asked to stop by the Office of Human Resources to pick up the TSP-1 election form to enroll or to change existing allocations. For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan, visit their website at www.tsp.gov.

Welcome

...to **Joshua Levesque** who has accepted a position as Park Ranger with the Merrimack River Basin. His initial assignment will be in the Basin Office where he will help to complete the development of our GIS program. Josh previously served as a summer Ranger with the Hopkinton-Everett Project Office and then with the MacDowell Project Office. Among his other accomplishments, Josh assembles and markets computer systems. His computer skills and knowledge of GIS will be of great benefit.

Josh served as resident caretaker at Shieling State Forest in Peterborough, New Hampshire while completing his education at New England College, working for the Corps and working a third job at the same time. He is currently a part-time graduate student at Antioch College, and serving an unpaid internship with the Corps as part of his studies. Josh was presented with a "Time Off" award from the Public Affairs Office by the Commander last year for his participation in the Change of Command ceremonies.

...to **Jeannie Warnock** who has been hired as an environmental engineer in the HTW Programs Section of the Engineering/Planning Division. She will be working primarily on DERP-FUDS projects initially. Prior to coming to New England District, she was an environmental engineer at McClellan AFB in Sacramento, California.

Congratulations

...to **Diane Ray**, Regulatory Division, on her nomination by North Atlantic Division for the Don Lawyer Outstanding Regulator Award. The NAD panelists were particularly impressed with her outstanding record as a regulator, a self-starter and a person whose demonstrated upward mobility (she began in 1973 as a summer aid and is now a Senior Project Manager) has benefited both herself and the Corps. If she is selected to receive this award, it will be presented at the National Regulatory Conference in June.

...to **Lt. Col. (ret) Michael Bradbury**, retired Deputy District Engineer, on his appointment as chief operating officer of GEI Consultants, Inc. Michael will oversee day-to-day operations and delivery of services for the company's nine nationwide locations, including one in Concord, New Hampshire.

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



EditorAnn Marie Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Susan I. Douglas
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally Rigione

Commander's Corner:

Celebrating The Heritage Of The United States Army Corps Of Engineers

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer



“That there be one Chief Engineer at the Grand Army, and that his pay be Sixty Dollars per month. That two Assistants be employed under him; that the pay of each them be Twenty Dollars per month.”

With these words, the Continental Congress, on June 16, 1775, established what was to be the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Since

the birth of our country, the Corps has served in peace and war, and contributed significantly to the development of our nation. Of course, pay hasn't gone up much, but that's a different story.

We are about to celebrate our 225th birthday. At the recent ENFORCE conference, all the District and Division engineers were introduced to CORSPATH, a CD-based set of training modules that interface with the web, designed to teach new Corps employees (and old ones) about the Corps. One of the modules portrays the history of the Corps, from its inception (Did you know that not only was the first Chief of Engineers, Richard Gridley, a Massachusetts native, but so too was Rufus Putnam, the second Chief?), through our nation's formative years, and on through to the end of the twentieth century.

After viewing this module, or reading about the history of the Corps, one cannot help but be awed by the tremendous contributions made by Corps members.

(Did you know that the third and fourth Chiefs weren't Americans, but French – Louis Duportail and Stephen Rochefontaine, respectively?) The Corps and its members have been leaders and shapers of our destiny, serving in war and peace, and building our nation's infrastructure. (Did you know that Captain Richard Delafield built the first cast-iron bridge in the United States, a part of the National Road? The National Road, built from Maryland to Illinois in 1811-1841,

cost \$6 million. Capt. Delafield supervised the construction repair of the eastern half; if anyone has seen Capt. Delafield lately, I need to pass on an urgent message from Governor Celluci, reference the Big Dig!)

More recently, we have been entrusted with a greater variety of missions and are now contributing significantly to the restoration of the environment, providing protection and relief from natural disasters and supporting all levels of federal, state and local governments across a broader spectrum of capabilities.

We are the Federal Engineer, and are proving ourselves to be the world's premier engineering organization. It is the recognition of our abilities that has propelled us to prominent and growing roles in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the Far East, where water resources, infrastructure and military construction, and environmental challenges demand

'In June, with our Founder's Day, we celebrate the rich heritage of accomplishment of the Corps of Engineers in New England, and honor the contributions of the more senior members of our Engineer Regiment. They have shown the way. Our own history is a testament of service to the Nation, and a clear signal that we will continue to serve, today and tomorrow.'

- Col. Brian E. Osterndorf

creative and expert solutions.

In June, with our Founder's Day, we celebrate the rich heritage of accomplishment of the Corps of Engineers in New England, and honor the contributions of the more senior members of our Engineer Regiment. They have shown the way. Our own history is a testament of service to the Nation, and a clear signal that we will continue to serve, today and tomorrow.

ESSAYONS! (Did you know that officers of the Corps of Engineers have a unique and distinct feature on their dress uniforms? We wear special buttons, the "Essayons Button," first worn during the War of 1812. It features an eagle holding in his beak a scroll with the word Essayons. We are the only branch of any service authorized this distinctive tradition.)



Ray was accompanied to his reception by his family.



Lt. Col. Rovero presents Ray with his retirement certificate.

Ray Francisco retires after 30 years of service

A wine and cheese reception was held for Navigation Branch's Ray Francisco April 20 in the Concord Park cafeteria. Ray retired from the District after 30 years of federal service.

Approximately 70 of Ray's friends crowded into the cafeteria to wish him good luck. Family members were also on hand to help Ray bid farewell to his District co-workers.

Family members who attended were his wife, Monica, daughter, Kristine, son, Ray and wife, Jennifer, and granddaughter Maggie.

Carl Boutilier, Chief of Navigation, served as the master of ceremonies and entertained the guests with jokes and stories about Ray. As well wishers munched on the veggie platter and pastries, Ray was presented with a

book entitled, "The Perfect Storm," and a gift certificate to the Sea Crest Hotel/Resort in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Some of the gag gifts that Ray received were a clock with scrambled numbers, a bucket pail and sand toys that will come in handy when he is on the beach playing with Maggie. To remind him of his first job as a submarine architect, Ray also received a model Ocean Line Ship. To make the ceremony official, Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, retired Ray by giving him his certificate and pin.

Retirees who attended Ray's lun-

cheon were Andy Lamborghini, Bernie Manor and John Clyde.

Donna Terrio, Carl Boutilier, Ethel Goyette, Jack Karalius, Bill Kavanagh, and Ed O'Donnell put together the event.

Ray began his career with the Corps of Engineers in 1972 working in the Rivers and Harbors section of Construction. He transferred to Regulatory in 1974, and after a series of promotions became a section chief.

While in Regulatory, Ray also crossed-trained in Design Branch. Over time, Ray's career eventually took him to Navigation Branch as a project manager, where he stayed until his retirement. Before joining the District, Ray worked in the private sector and also for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a Naval Architect where he was involved in remodeling submarines.

Some of Ray's recent awards and acknowledgments have been a Hammer certificate for the Cape Cod Canal Dredging associated with Boston Harbor, and recognition on his work on the Portland Harbor and Five Mile River dredging projects. Ray does not have any immediate plans for retirement except sleeping in and relaxing on the beach.



Ray socializes with friends and co-workers during the reception.

Fung graduates as sole engineer in New Leader Program

Engineering/Planning Division's Francis Fung recently completed three separate intensive one-week classroom courses as part of the six month New Leader Program sponsored by Graduate School, USDA. Francis was the only Corps of Engineers employee and the only engineer in the third class of 1999.

The Program introduces employees to the core competencies of a first-line supervisor and provides practice in the team skills that are central to modern management. In total, the Program takes six months to complete. Employees must be nominated by their first-line supervisors in order to enter the program.

Francis found out about the program through Ken Hitch, Chief of Engineering/Planning Division. "Ken e-mailed the information to everyone in Engineering/Planning Division and said that if anyone was interested they should contact their supervisor," he said.

Dave Descoteaux, Francis' first line supervisor, and Tony Mackos, the Branch Chief, nominated him and Farrell McMillan, Deputy Chief, Engineering/Planning Division, approved the nomination.

The course was held three different weeks at three different locations around the Washington, D.C., area. The orientation session, during week

one, took place in Williamsburg, Virginia, and focused on individual developmental needs, self-direction, team building, leadership skills, team formation and interpersonal skills. It is during this week that course participants are assigned to their Leadership Development Teams. These teams work together for the six months that the program lasts. This is also the week when the team is given an assignment that they must present at the end of the three week class.

"The whole concept is how to form a team and work together as a team," explained Francis. "That is why we have a team project called 'Team Presentation.'"

According to Francis, the team must contact each other via conference call every week to discuss the developing presentation. Personalities sometimes clash between team members. "We all have to agree to one topic," he said. "Conflicts start just with the topic, but that's how we learn to work as a team. From that point, we research, compile information relevant to our team topic, and then prepare a slide presentation based on the selected topic."

Week two took attendees to Washington D.C. This session focused on the teams at work. Discussions included team performance, conflict

management, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal skills, customer service, diversity and cultural awareness in the workplace, flexibility and presentation skills.

Baltimore, Maryland, was the destination of the final week of class and graduation ceremonies. This last session consisted of the closeout and graduation. The final lessons learned from course attendees were oral communications, self-direction, leadership and feedback. This is also the week when attendees do their team presentation. Farrell journeyed down to Maryland to attend Francis' graduation and to lend support. "All teams displayed an area of confidence when talking and presenting to the class," he said. "I was impressed."

In addition to the three weeks of classes, Francis also had to complete a 120-day developmental assignment in Programs/Project Management Division, complete management readings, prepare reports about them, and complete an individual development plan. In addition to all those assignments, of which he must report to the Program Director, Francis also had to conduct a management interview and a weeklong shadowing assignment. Farrell agreed to be shadowed and interviewed.

Francis said that although there was a great deal of work involved, the program was well worth the effort. "The program is very good," he said. "It gave me a better understanding of how to pull things together to complete a project, work together as a team, and have the confidence to be an active team participant. And as an added benefit, it also exposed me to a lot of different professions."

The New Leader Program is open to full-time permanent federal employees at the GS-7 to GS-11 levels who have just entered leadership positions or have a high potential for leadership. For more information on the program, you can visit USDA's website at www.grad.usda.gov.



New Leader Program graduate Francis Fung Engineering/Planning Division.

Photo by C.J. Allen



Ms. Lubber says a few words during the presentation.

Photos by C.J. Allen



Musical groups performed as part of the celebration.

Charles George Implementation Team honored at EPA ceremony

Continued from page 1

The landfill was closed in 1983 when contaminated groundwater from the landfill was found in nearby drinking water wells. Following site closure, a water line was constructed, the landfill site was capped, the landfill gas collected and incinerated contaminated groundwater extracted. The groundwater and landfill leachate was collected and stored in a 3.5 million-gallon lagoon. Prior to construction of the sewer line, the lagoon contents were treated as frequently as every four months through an interim groundwater treatment plant and discharged to surface water. The interim treatment rounds proved to be difficult and expensive.

Investigations were undertaken by the team to pursue a less costly alternative to the previously selected remedy that consisted of building, operating and maintaining a permanent



Massachusetts State Trooper Clark sings the National Anthem to kick off the ceremony.

groundwater treatment facility for the next 30 years. During the investigation, the team discovered that a sanitary sewer was to be constructed less than two miles from the project site.

Given this new information, the team investigated and determined that the discharge of wastewater to a sanitary sewer would save the government approximately \$5.6 million in construction and operational costs and equally important, would be more environmentally protective.

In addition, recognizing that there were serious septic problems in the area, the sewer line could accommodate future sanitary sewer connections to the property owners located along the sewer line extension.

To maximize cost savings by eliminating the interim treatment of collected groundwater, the design and construction of the sewer line was placed on a fast track schedule.

The Charles George Team was able to cut through red tape in obtaining all the required building and discharge permits, and was able to complete construction of 7,600 feet of sewer lines and two pump stations in approximately three months.

Discharge of contaminated groundwater to the sewer line started on February 17, 1998, and to date over 18 million gallons have been discharged to the sewer line for final treatment at the publicly operated treatment facility.

Team members from the New England District who were able to attend the ceremony were David O'Connor, Conrad Menard, Rick Casano, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Randy Godfrey, Phil Durgin, Ian Osgerby, KC Mitkevicius. Other team members who contributed to the success of the project are Marie Wojtas, Chiway Hsiung, Jenny Tan, Steve Johnson, Karen Schofield, Mike Penko, Chris Scabia, Debbie Gabrielson, Mike Walsh, Tom Ayau, and Annie Chin.

Dick DiBuono is awarded Bunker Hill Plaque as he retires from the Corps

by Chuck Wener
Engineering/Planning

Dick DiBuono, former Corps of New England employee, was awarded Bunker Hill Plaque as he retired from the Corps on May 3. About one hundred Corps family members and friends from around the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., to extend well wishes to Dick DiBuono on his retirement from the Corps.

Dick started with the then New England Division in 1967, working on the design for the Dickey-Lincoln Lakes Project in northern Maine. When he departed in 1983 he was Chief, Hydraulics and Water Quality Section, with accomplishments including design work for the Charles River Dam in Boston and the Park River Tunnel in Hartford. Dick said that he had several other options when he decided to join the Corps and "has never regretted his decision."

After a brief foray in private industry Dick served with the South Pacific Division for three years and then culminated his career working in the Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch at Headquarters until his retirement. Engineering/Planning Chief, Ken Hitch, who sent Chuck Wener to D.C.,

to present Dick with the Bunker Hill Plaque recognizing his "contribution to the Corps in New England and throughout the Nation," reflected on his time working with Dick while on a developmental assignment in headquarters a few years ago. Ken wished Dick, "the very best in retirement."

Dick will stay on in Fairfax, Virginia and says, "I'm in the book!" He welcomed all to contact him if you get to DC.



Photo provided by headquarters.
Engineering/Planning's Chuck Wener (left) presents Mr. DiBuono with the District's Bunker Hill plaque during the retirement celebration.

New England District monitors river levels

A satellite high above the earth is providing real time data to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on river levels, rainfall and flood stages throughout New England. The Geostationary Orbiting Environmental Satellite, or GOES as it is known, receives and relays reports from a network of nearly 90 data collection platforms across the region to Concord Park.

"During times of heavy rainfall, such as we have experienced over the past few weeks, we are able to constantly receive updated information from these platforms, including rainfall amounts, river flows, and flood stages," said Paul Marinelli, chief of water control activities for the District. "This system assists us in deciding when to close or throttle back water flow through our network of 35 dams to provide the maximum flood damage prevention benefits to downstream areas."

Through the use of logs and computer charts and close coordination with the National Weather Service's River Forecast Center, significant water movement can be identified, examined and predicted. GOES serves the western hemisphere with two operational satellites. Travelling at a speed of 11,000 kilometers per hour and 35,800 kilometers above the equator, each orbits the earth once every 24 hours. But, because the orbit lies in the plane of the equator, the satellite and the earth rotate at the same

speed. Thus, the satellites are stationary; they are always above the same points on the equator.

Launched in 1974 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, GOES transmits pictures every half hour, or more frequently when necessary. Unlike polar-orbiting satellite scanners which only pass over a location once in every 24 hours, the two GOES satellites are "on the spot" all of the time. Since any satellite is basically a radio repeater in the sky, it is advantageous for a number of reasons. It can operate without many of the problems associated with a line-of-sight radio network. It is reliable; radio frequencies used to connect with the satellite are relatively unaffected by atmospheric conditions; obstructions, such as mountains, do not hamper operations; and the satellites themselves suffer very few outages.

Starting in 1983 with 49 DCPs, the network has grown to 90 stations situated on major rivers and tributaries in all six New England states. Each DCP includes a processor/transmitter unit, sensors, sensor interfaces, a power source such as solar panels, battery, or commercial electricity, and a transmission antenna. Streamflow and other data is available online by visiting the Corps of Engineers website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/waterres/htdocs/fldstrm.html>. (PAO Press Release)

Dredging up the past . . .



(From left) Brig. Gen. Alden K. Sibley, Lt. Gen. Emerson C. Itschner, and Rep. Thomas J. Lane, (7th District, Lawrence, Mass.) break ground at the Hopkinton-Everett Lake flood control project during the October 3, 1959, ceremony.

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