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

**Volume 36, No. 2**

# Yankee Engineer

**November 1999**

## John H. Chafee: Remembering a Senator, Environmentalist, Friend

The American Flag flew at half-mast at Concord Park and other government buildings as the New England District and the country marked the passing of Rhode Island Senator John H. Chafee on October 24.

Senator Chafee worked hand in hand with the District on many projects

in Rhode Island. Among them were the Southeast Lighthouse Relocation; Fort Adams Restoration; Fox Point Hurricane Barrier; Allendale Dam repair project; the Rhode Island South Coast Feasibility Study; the Providence River Dredging Environmental Impact Study; and the Blue Beach Disposal

Site adjacent to Quonset Point/Davisville to name just a very few.

“Rhode Island has lost a great champion and the Nation an important and great man,” said Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer. “We at the Corps of Engineers have lost a friend.”

The Rhode Island Senator was a strong environmentalist and was the Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee. He was actively involved in the Defense Environmental Restoration/Formerly Used Defense Sites Program and was a partner in the Coastal America Program. In 1992, Senator Chafee hosted a Coastal America signing ceremony to commit the federal and state Coastal America partners to restoring constricted coastal embayments along the Rhode Island coast. At this ceremony he said, “This project is going to bring the marsh back and provide numerous environmental benefits.”

“Senator Chafee was extremely enthusiastic about the Corps’ involvement in habitat restoration,” said Bill Hubbard, Engineering/Planning, who had worked with Senator Chafee since



*Senator John H. Chafee speaking at a Coastal America Ceremony for the restoration of the Galilee Saltmarsh in Galilee, Rhode Island.*

*Continued on page 9*

# Yankee Voices

Rosalie Ceurvels  
Health Unit



## Congratulations

...to **Jennifer Lee** and **Scott Flanagan** (both of Eng/Plng) on their marriage October 22.

## Sympathy

...to **Edward Fallon**, Real Estate Division, on the passing of his father, **Joseph D. Fallon**, November 3.

## Correction

In addition to the team members mentioned in the Pownal Tannery Superfund Site article in the October issue of the Yankee Engineer, **Stephen Kelley**, should also be credited for his work on the project.

## A great comedian's credo

*I live by this credo: Have a little laugh at life and look around you for happiness instead of sadness. Laughter has always brought me out of unhappy situations. Even in your darkest moment, you usually can find something to laugh about if you try hard enough.*

- **Red Skelton (1913-1997)**  
Comedian

## Thank you from the Vice President

Dear Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Partner:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on receiving Coastal America's 1999 Partnership Award. While I regret not being able to join you in person, I want to send my best wishes for a successful and productive event.

This Award recognizes outstanding team efforts that demonstrate the successful collaborative nature of the Coastal America Partnership. In 1992, the Rhode Island Departments of Environmental Management and Transportation, together with the Army Corps of Engineers as the federal lead, initiated a project to restore tidal flows into a portion of the Galilee Bird Sanctuary in Narragansett, Rhode Island. At that time, fewer than 20 acres of salt marsh existed within the sanctuary where once more than 100 acres of marsh had supported many species of wildlife dependent on estuarine habitats for their survival. The placement of fill material from navigation projects and the construction of the escape road through the marsh had significantly restricted tidal flow through this area of predominately salt marsh.

To effectively address the problem, other federal and state agencies, local governments, and environmental groups joined the effort to restore this important resting, nesting, and feeding area for Atlantic flyway birds. In 1997, natural channels were re-excavated and twin box culverts were installed beneath the escape road to improve the tidal exchange. Within a year, salt marsh and estuarine habitat was restored on this 130-acre site. By working together towards a common objective, the several agencies were able to assemble a much more comprehensive solution. This collaborative approach embodies our Administration's efforts to reinvent government, promote partnerships that bring together collective resources to meet common goals, and balance our environmental and economic needs.

Through Coastal America partnerships such as this one, we will reach our goal of restoring degraded wetlands across the nation. I extend my deepest gratitude for your personal commitment and leadership.

Please accept my best wishes and hopes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

*(Editor's Note: The following letter from Vice President Al Gore was presented to the New England District Team during the Coastal America Award Ceremony held November 8. See page 4 for story and list of recipients.)*

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## Commander discusses current events at the District

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf  
District Engineer



This month, rather than speak to you on one theme, I would like to address a number of things – kind of a buffet of ideas. There are a lot of things happening, and I have used this column to inform you about the strategic directions the Strategic Planning Group is working on, including a set of annual goals that we hope to publish shortly. But many other good

things are happening too.

First, we have established a Council of Deputies, composed of the principal deputies of the organizations within the district, headed by LTC Rovero. We hope to accomplish many things with this group, including helping the senior leaders get to all of the things we want to do. The Council of Deputies will work on a number of initiatives, some of which will be provided by the SPG and some of which they will generate themselves. The deputies will share in many of the things the senior leaders are doing and thus be better informed and in a better position to communicate these items throughout the District. Upward communication is also enhanced because we have more ears listening to you, plus we give the deputies a more corporate perspective.

We are moving towards some closer relationships with Hanscom Air Force Base and establishing a support agreement to provide District employees better access to the many services provided on Hanscom. For example, the Family Support Center on Hanscom offers a wide variety of first rate

programs ranging from teaching parenting skills to job search assistance. Hanscom also has an Education Center and a Child Development Center that may appeal to many of you. I have asked the PAO staff to help advertise these programs and opportunities.

One of the programs that I would like to see strengthened in the District is our Sponsorship Program. We do not have an awful lot of personnel turnover, but those new employees that do come to New England for the first time, or even those that are residents of New England but new to the Corps, need to be made welcome and provided information and assistance to make their transition as easy as possible. Outgoing persons may need some help as well, and we have an obligation to the families of persons that might be deployed outside the District to assist them. A team has formed to help formulate programs to address these issues, and I look forward to working with them to develop and implement solid sponsorship programs.

At the Change of Command, I remarked how impressed I was with the professionalism of the District and the scope of our responsibilities. As I continue to become better acquainted with the New England District and the projects we do, my respect and admiration grows.

Finally, the first snow flakes that I saw yesterday reminds me of the fact that winter is approaching. All of you know far better than I how “challenging” a harsh New England winter can be. I have asked our Safety Engineer, Bill Herland, to organize a Safety Stand Down training program. It makes little sense to me to conduct these after an accident or series of accidents have already occurred, and I wanted to have some serious discussions about safety BEFORE anything bad happened. I encourage you all to fully participate in these sessions and maintain a “critical eye” open to potential hazards at work or at home.

### Agency urges people to prepare for Y2K now

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) of Washington, D.C., recommends getting your financial records in order before January 1 for faster resolution of any problems or glitches caused if some computer systems can't read the digits 2000. Here is the checklist the federation suggests:

- Make copies of current insurance policies and bank or brokerage statements.
- Request your Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement from Social Security to have an up-to-

date record of your earnings history, including estimated contributions and benefits. Visit the Social Security website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to request a copy.

The CFA says automated teller machines are expected to work without problems and suggests that consumers withdraw only enough cash for their day-to-day needs. However, some financial experts are more skeptical and recommend that consumers keep a reserve large enough to tide them over for two weeks to a month. (Ideas Unlimited)

## Coastal America honors District team, Senator Chafee

November 9 was a day of receiving awards and remembering a champion of the environment.

The Coastal America team received an award from the Vice President of the United States during the Coastal America Award Ceremony for Galilee Salt Marsh Restoration Project at the Coastal Institute University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus. The John H. Chafee Environmental Stewardship Award, named after the late Senator Chafee, was also unveiled and presented for the first time.

The restoration work began in 1997 and was completed in 1998 at a cost of \$1.8 million. The Rhode Island Departments of Transportation and Environmental Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided funding. The project marked the first salt marsh restoration effort in the New England region by the New England District.

Assistant Secretary of the Army Dr. Joseph Westphal, Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America Partnership, were only a few of the important individuals on hand to celebrate with the team.

The celebration started at the project site, the Galilee Saltmarsh with a media

event. Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, Larry Oliver and Dave Larsen, Engineering/Planning and Brian Teft, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, gave a project overview and hosted a question and answer session. Dr. Westphal, Mr. Anthony R. Kane, Federal Highway Administration Executive Director, and Ms. Tippie also took questions from the media.

The attendees moved from the saltmarsh to the Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island. There, Ken Hinga, Assistant Dean, URI Coastal Institute, began the ceremony. "We've so often watched one more bite of the marine environment disappear," he said. "Individually they seem insignificant, but cumulatively they have made a great change in our coastal environment. It's a great pleasure to see that one of the bites being put back."

Jan Reitsma, Director, RI Department of Environmental Management, followed Dr. Hinga and summarized the history of the project and the successes that it has already realized to date. "This was the first major saltmarsh restoration project completed in Rhode Island, and I support that we have this example to show that restora-

tion can actually work," he said. "It's important that we recognize that it could not be done but for the partnership that we have in place."

Mr. Reitsma concluded his remarks by remembering Senator Chafee. "He was the leader without whom we would not have been able to have programs like we're celebrating today," he said. "He was so important in terms of making sure that the agencies had the authority to fund programs like this."

Ms. Tippie emphasized the success of the partnerships between state and local agencies with the Galilee project. She introduced Dr. Westphal, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the remainder of the event, and Mr. Kane.

Dr. Westphal talked about the John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award and the man for whom it was named.

"The Galilee project, along with so many other environmental initiatives, was championed by Senator Chafee," he said. "He was a great friend to myself, to the people of Rhode Island, and to the citizens of the United States. In honor of Senator Chafee's unparalleled achievements in the field of coastal stewardship, Coastal America has created this award."

The Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award will be presented annually to a person who displays outstanding initiative in restoring and protecting our nations coastal resources."

The first recipient of the award was the late Senator Chafee. His son, the newly appointed Senator of Rhode Island, Lincoln Chafee, accepted the award for his father. "My father (John Chafee) drew inspiration from and had reverence for the natural world," he said. "He devoted himself to cleaning up and protecting the environment. The Galilee Saltmarsh Restoration Project is a perfect example of the fruits of his efforts."

Dr. Westphal then turned the ceremony to the Coastal America Awards and invited Mr. Kane to say a few



Photos by C.J. Allen

*The Galilee Saltmarsh in Rhode Island is the latest success story for the Coastal America Team.*



*Dave Larsen accepts the Coastal America award from Dr. Westphal as Larry Oliver (right) looks on.*

words. "We in the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have long recognized the value of working with partners and stakeholders," he said. "The Galilee Saltmarsh project is a wonderful example of how agencies with diverse transportation and environmental protection missions can work together to achieve common goals that provide lasting benefit of our communities and natural resources."

After Mr. Kane's remarks, Dr. Westphal presented the awards to all

the partners. Each organization received a Coastal America plaque. Each individual who worked on the team received a letter of congratulations from the Vice President of the United States.

The partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Highway Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Department of



*Sen. Lincoln Chafee accepts the John F. Chafee Environmental Stewardship Award.*

Transportation, the Rhode Island Division of Planning, the University of Rhode Island, Save the Bay, the Town of Narragansett, Applied Biosystems, and Ducks Unlimited.

The New England District employees who served on the Coastal America Team were: Bill Hubbard, Larry Oliver and Dave Larsen, Section 1135 Project Manager (who accepted the plaque for the organization and received a letter), Scott Acone, Maurice Beaudoin, Sheila Bergeron, Lauren Borocharner, Joseph Colucci, Mark Desouza, Ron Dubreuil, Anthony Firicano, Jonathan Kullberg, Susan Lee, Thomas Marcotte, Richard Orłowski, Marcos Paiva, Ken Paton, Frank Smigelski, Dave Sward, Pat Tornifoglio, Chris Turek, Don Wood, and Richard Wood and Ed O'Leary.

Restoration of Galilee Salt Marsh involved work at two locations. Twin 6x10-foot box culverts, 200 feet long, were installed on the west side of the Galilee Bird Sanctuary. These culverts, which feature self-regulating tide gates, and a network of reconstructed channels, allow renewed tidal flushing to an estimated 50 acres of the marsh.

The second project, at the east side of the sanctuary, also involved twin 6x10-foot box culverts and a reconstructed channel network to improve 33 acres of salt marsh habitat.



*These self-regulating tide gates prevent flooding for the residents that live in back of the salt marsh.*

## District Engineer retires flags at Veterans Day ceremony

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, participated in the town of Concord's Veterans Day Ceremonies November 11.

This is the second year that the Corps of Engineers has been invited to participate in honoring those who served their country.

The Veterans Day celebration began with a processional march from Bedford Street to Sleepy Hollow cemetery. Once there, citizens and participants in the ceremony recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the playing of "America."

The ceremony of retiring old United States flags began at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at 8 a.m. Local citizens bring their U.S. flags to the ceremony to be burned and disposed of properly. Col. Osterndorf received each flag, saluted and provided it to a disposer. The District Engineer saluted each flag once more before it was burned.

"The New England District is honored to participate in Concord's Veterans Day ceremonies," said Col. Osterndorf. "As the part of the Department of Defense, it is only fitting that we celebrate those who have served our country."

Traditionally, each Veterans Day the citizens of Concord retire their old American flags in a respectful and appropriate manner.

The ceremony that now exists in the town was instituted in 1965. Many cemetery flags before that date were left in place through the fall and winter months. By the time spring arrived, the flags were reduced to a ragged condition.

Concord residents James Carroll, Francis McDonald, Bernard Rushe, Thomas Tombeno and Acton resident Clark McElevin proposed that worn flags should be collected before winter and retired in an appropriate manner.



*Col. Osterndorf prepares to retire an old U.S. Flag.*



*Col. Osterndorf and veterans salute as the flag is raised during the Concord ceremonies.*



Photos by C.J. Allen

*A woman in period colonial garb passes Col. Osterndorf her old U.S. flag.*



*Musicians in period costume performed for the audience.*

# Public may buy U.S. Savings Bonds online

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

People who dislike automatic payroll deductions or who find it hard to commit money for U.S. Savings Bonds every month now have a way to buy that's just a mouse click way: online.

The site, [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov), is an easily navigable wealth of information. In addition to purchasing bonds, visitors can check current interest rates and learn about the types of bonds. Two types of bonds are sold online: Series EE and I.

The traditional Series EE Bonds sell for half their face value in six denominations from \$50 to \$1,000. Interest earnings rates are set every six months based on a formula involving five-year U.S. Treasury securities.

The new Series I Bonds sell at face value in five denominations from \$50 to \$500. Interest rates are also set semi-annually, but for inflation based on a special consumer price index.

The Web site's first question is, "What type of savings bonds do you want to buy?" Images and detailed descriptions of both types follow. After choosing the type, you are asked to

choose a denomination. A note informs customers that the maximum transaction is \$500 -- \$1,000 face value in the case of a Series EE bond.

The next step is to choose one of three ownership options: single, co-owner and beneficiary.

In the single option, only the owner named on the bond may cash it. If the owner dies, the bond becomes part of the owner's estate.

In the co-owner option, either owner listed on the bond may cash it without the knowledge or approval of the other. If one dies, the other becomes the sole owner. In the beneficiary option, only the owner named on the bond may cash it. When the owner dies, the beneficiary becomes the owner and can cash the bond.

The next step is called, "Personalize It!" A handy button pops up asking, "Need help?" Personal information requested here includes owner's name and Social Security number, name of co-owner or beneficiary, and the mailing address the bonds will go to.

The site then displays an image of your bond. You are given the option of accepting the bond as it appears or correcting any information. Once you

are satisfied with your bond, it is time to proceed with checkout. But first you are asked to provide a daytime telephone number and e-mail address in case there is a need to contact you.

Customers can pay online using a Visa or Mastercard credit card. The site advises that all bonds, are sent via first class mail and should arrive within two weeks. They can be sent to APO and FPO boxes, but not regular overseas addresses.

Another helpful feature is an online calculator that helps individuals determine the current worth of their bonds. For instance, a \$50 Series EE bond purchased for \$25 in January 1992 is worth \$38.96 now and would fetch \$40.12 if redeemed in February 2000. These figures are presented in an easy-to-read, printable table.

A section of the site specifically for children, [www.savingsbonds.gov/sav/savkids.htm](http://www.savingsbonds.gov/sav/savkids.htm), features games, information, a glossary and information about the U.S. Savings Bonds 2000 National Student Poster Contest. The site also lists previous contest winners and shows their posters.

Questions about the site can be e-mailed to [BuyBonds@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:BuyBonds@bpd.treas.gov).

## Holidays Also Mark Open Season for Retirement Investors

By Douglas J. Gillert  
American Forces Press Service

Federal employees can begin their holiday gift giving early with a gift to themselves in the form of Thrift Savings Plan investments. Open season for the government's retirement savings and investment plan begins Nov. 15 and continues through Jan. 31, 2000. During this period, civilian employees with at least six months' continuous federal service may enroll in the TSP. Current participants can change their future contributions or the way they are invested.

The plan offers three investment funds. The G Fund invests in short-term U.S. Treasury securities specifically issued to the Thrift Savings Plan. The F Fund invests in public-sector and commercial notes, bonds and other obligations and offers potentially higher returns than G Fund securities. The C Fund diversifies investments in the stock market and is the riskiest fund, but potentially the highest yielding one.

All contributions to the plan are made through payroll deductions. The amount employees can invest depends on their employment status. Civil Service Retirement System employees may contribute up to the lesser of five

percent of their basic pay or \$10,500 in 2000. Federal Employee Retirement System employees may contribute up to 10 percent of their basic pay or \$10,500 in 2000, and their agencies match the first five percent they invest.

The Thrift Savings Plan also allows participants to apply for low-interest loans, based on the current G Fund rate of return, including loans to purchase homes.

Program details are contained in Thrift Savings Plan brochures and forms available at the TSP website <http://www.tsp.gov/>. The next open season runs May 15-July 31, 2000.

## New England District opens Hadley Recruiting Office

New England District's Real Estate Division recently completed the opening of the South Hadley Recruiting Office in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The final inspection for the facility was held October 22.

The recruiting office relocated from an office that closed in Holyoke, Mass. The facility is in a major shopping center in the Connecticut River Valley. The area has good access to major routes, including the Massachusetts Turnpike, Route 91, Route 9, and is in close proximity to Westover Air

Force Base. The relocation action was performed under the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program for Fiscal Year 1999. "The new location is a modern facility that will benefit the Armed Forces Recruiting Mission," said Peter Quinn, Realty Specialist in charge of the project.

A site selection was held in the Spring of 1999 in which representatives of the four military services toured five available sites within a delineated recruiting market area that included Holyoke, South Hadley, Northampton, Hadley, and Amherst. The sites were rated by the services and the scores were factored into offers received from the prospective lessors in order to determine the best candidate for the new

recruiting office. Approximately 14 recruiters will work in the facility.

According to Peter, the Corps is leasing the 3,000 square foot space that is located at the South Hadley Shopping Center. "The center recently underwent a several million dollar major renovation," he said. "The owner of the center contracted out the interior build-out to meet the tenant requirements which include a reception/display area, recruiting offices for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Army, a



Recruiting office in South Hadley, Mass.

Photo by Peter Quinn

joint testing and storage room, and two lavatories."

The buildout, according to Peter, took the owner an estimated 45 days to complete. Buildout is the fit-up/interior construction of the space to serve the needs of our clients.

The buildout included a new HVAC system, new ceilings, lighting, sprinkler/fire system, carpeting, signs, etc. The owner did contribute to the build-out, but the government paid for the majority of the improvements because the improvements/buildout represented requirements peculiar to the government's occupancy.

The U.S. government with an option to renew every year for five years has leased the space.

## Be cautious when using office E-mail

E-mail has become an essential communication tool for nearly every manager in federal service over the past few years. It's used as an internal message system to keep members of units up to date on news, issues and policy.

Further, with the advent of Internet access and inter-base networks, it has also become a quick way to communicate with outside organizations and individuals. However, few people have taken the time to consider its nature and its liabilities before it has become a problem for them. E-mail, especially over the Internet, is not a secure form of communication. Therefore, you should assume anything said in a message has a chance of being read by individuals other than the intended recipient(s).

For example, top officials at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia recently were taken to task by the media for the death of a large number of Canadian geese on the base

golf course. The base gave as the official reason for eliminating the geese that they were a hazard to nearby flight operations. However, a number of E-mails were released to the media by an unnamed source revealing that top officials' main concern was to get the birds off the course where they were a nuisance to golfers. The result was a public embarrassment.

In other instances, individuals have been punished for exchanging off-color, sexual jokes, misusing their government computer for personal reasons or being disrespectful in a message. The lesson to be learned from these examples is that you should never publish an E-mail message on a matter that's not for public consumption.

*(General legal discussions for the military community-by the Law Firm of Shaw, Bransford, Veilleux & Roth, provided by the November 4, 1999 Military Report)*

## Remembering a Senator, Environmentalist, Friend

*Continued from page 1*

1992 on a variety of environmental projects. "He (Senator Chafee) felt we could take the Section 1135 WRDA authority and restore Galilee salt marsh, a former Corps dredged material disposal site. He was genuinely interested in the response of Phragmites (a common reed that has taken over many marshes) in the scenario where the restoration project reintroduces saline tidal flows. Senator Chafee was glad to hear that just restoring the tide would restore the marsh habitat."

The Senator was instrumental in the passage of the 1988 law against ocean dumping, the 1989 Oil Spill law and the 1990 Clean Air Act.

"I had the great honor (and pleasure) of knowing Senator Chafee on both a professional and personal level," said Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs. "He was a man committed to personal responsibility and to making the world a better place for everyone. Politically, he was able to cross the aisle and build coalitions that identified concerns and that found solutions. I will miss this man, his commitment to this country, his advice, and his common sense."

Senator John Chafee was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on October 22, 1922. He graduated from Yale University in 1947 and from Harvard Law School in 1950.

During World War II, he left Yale to enlist in the Marine Corps, and served in the original invasion forces at Guadalcanal. He was recalled to active duty in 1951 to serve in Korea.

In 1956, he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he served for six years, including two terms as Minority Leader. Elected Governor in 1962, Senator Chafee was re-elected in 1964 and 1966—both times by the largest margin in the state's history. That made him the state's first Republican Governor to be re-elected since 1930, and the

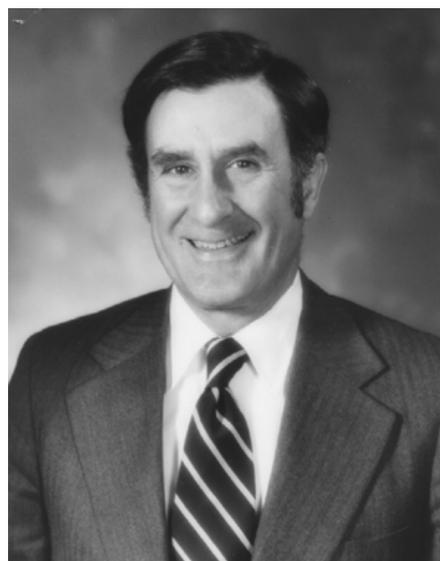


*Sen. Chafee (third from left) is all smiles as he poses with former Division Engineer Col. Brink Miller and Morgan Reese (fifth from left) and others at the very beginning of the Galilee Saltmarsh Restoration Project.*

first three-term Republic Governor in almost 50 years.

In January 1969, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, and served in that post until May 1972. He then returned to private law practice in Providence.

Running in what is considered one of the most Democratic states in the nation, Chafee received almost 58 per-



*Senator John H. Chafee, environmental champion and friend to the Corps of Engineers.*

cent of the vote in his successful 1976 campaign for the U.S. Senate. His victory marked the first time in 46 years that a Republican had been elected to the United States Senate from Rhode Island.

"Senator John Chafee was a valued friend, a talented Navy Secretary, Governor and Senator, a valiant Marine, a New England gentleman, and one of the finest people I've ever known," said Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. "His death is a great loss to the Senate and to this nation. He leaves an enduring legacy of moderation, decency, concern for the environment, and love for Rhode Island and America. Many years into the future, his life and career will be a standard against which those who aspire to public service will be measured."

Senator Chafee was the father of five children. He and his wife, Virginia, made their home in Warwick, Rhode Island. His son, Lincoln Chafee, Mayor of Warwick, was recently appointed by Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond to temporarily succeed his father in the U.S. Senate.

## District, EPA hold public workshops for Long Island EIS

The Environmental Protection Agency - Region I and the New England District held public workshops on the Long Island Sound Dredged Material Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in Port Jefferson, New York, October 12, and Stratford, Connecticut, October 13. The workshops allowed the public to get one-on-one attention from the experts on the project and to express their ideas on how the project should progress.

The EPA and the Corps have identified a continuing long-term need for dredging the harbors of Long Island Sound and sites for disposal of the dredged materials, and are considering designation of one or more of the existing sites under Section 102 (c) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act. Other alternatives will also be evaluated under the EIS. The study will be conducted in consultation with other federal and state agencies of New York and Connecticut, as well as with continuous consultation of the public and other stakeholders.

"As a direct result of having this type of open process, we have been able to overcome many of the difficulties others face when performing activities that directly or indirectly affect the environment... and the quality of life issues which surround such activities," said Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs.

Booklets packed with informational materials, including charts and summaries of past scoping meetings, were distributed to workshop attendees. Armed with the material they needed to participate, the attendees were placed at tables in groups of ten. At each table were independent facilitators who were ready with easel-charts and pens to get ideas and answer questions. Representatives from the Corps of Engineers and EPA were also available to answer questions. Representatives and contractors from the Corps who participated in the workshops were Mark Habel, Tom Fredette, Sue Holtham, Gary Pasternak, and Larry Rosenberg.

"The Corps and EPA want the public in the decision-making process," said Sue, who is the EPA-Corps joint NEPA EIS Manager. "NEPA is a public process and we have to

involve the people. It's the right thing to do. There should be no surprises. They may not agree with everything that's been said, but they will be involved with each significant step in the process."

After introductions and opening remarks, facilitators presented briefings on the four area topics: Ground Rules and Instructions; Findings from Scoping Meetings; Site Screening Process; Database/Recommendations; Dredging Needs and Disposal Alternatives; and Evaluation Factors for Site Screening.

"This is the first step in bringing the process to the people," said Sue of the workshops. "We're saying to the public, 'Here's the processes and the data we want to collect. What do you think?'"

Once the topics were given, each group discussed each subject for 35 minutes. During that time, ideas and concerns were cataloged on the easel-charts and the facilitators in each group presented a five-minute summary of what just transpired to ensure that all points were clear. At the end of the evening, facilitators summarized the concerns and ideas of each topic gathered from all attendees.

"The issues and concerns raised by the public at these sessions will be incorporated into the EIS and the process of evaluating disposal alternatives," said Mark Habel.

"The workshop seemed to work very well, though certainly we learned some things that could make future workshops even better," said Tom Fredette. "In general I thought we had good attendance at both workshops, and we heard a lot of good discussion and ideas."

The next phase in the Long Island Sound Draft Environ-

mental Impact Statement will be to examine the first level tier of alternatives. This will be achieved with the data collection phase of the study that began a few weeks after the workshops. Once this is completed, the Corps and the EPA will bring their findings to the public for comments.

As part of the EIS process, three public meetings were held in Stony Brook, New York, in Groton, Connecticut, and in Stamford, Connecticut, in June.



Photo by Mark McInerney

*Contractor Drew Carey writes down ideas of workshop participants on an easel chart. At the end of the session, he summarized what was discussed.*

# Service members appreciate Cards and letters during the holiday season

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

As the holidays approach, many people and groups like to send their appreciation to GIs overseas. The Defense Logistics Agency is trying to make that easier for them to do.

Individuals can send letters, cards and cassette tapes addressed simply to "Any Service Member," but new postal rules set a 13-ounce weight limit and prohibit packages of any sort without a specific name to military addresses, DLA program manager Gail Boyce said. In the past, military postal authorities would see to the delivery of all "any service member" mail to troops in overseas locations.

Those wishing to donate items to troops may still do so, but a few more steps are involved and there's a Dec. 3 deadline, Boyce said. The first step is for the individual or group to contact the DLA Bosnia Donations Team at 1-800-841-0937. Callers will be asked to leave their names, addresses, phone numbers, and a description of the contents of the donation, she said.

She explained DLA won't publicize

the address of its shipping point because it must maintain some control of the donations and where they're coming from. For instance, she said, DLA recently had to decline a commercial bakery because the cookies it offered had a short shelf life.

After she and her three-person team take a call, they contact U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, to see if the donation can be used. If the command agrees, Boyce contacts the donor, provides shipping instructions, assigns a tracking number and alerts the depot to expect the shipment. Donations must arrive at the depot by Dec. 3.

The vast majority of "care packages" come from private donors such as the Girl Scouts and Veterans of Foreign Wars, she said.

DLA, she noted, recently accepted a shipment of disposable cameras from a VFW Ladies Auxiliary group. Other good gifts are personal care items such as sunscreen and skin lotion, nonperishable snack foods, travel games and playing cards, she said. Currently, all donations are being sent to deployed service members in the Balkans.

On the prohibited shipping list are firearms, ammunition, alcoholic beverages,

pornographic materials, perishables, glass containers, and home-baked products. DLA isn't currently accepting religious materials, books, magazines or newspapers either.

Once the depot receives donations, they are sent space-available to morale, welfare and recreation officials in forward areas for distribution to troops, she said. Questions about the program can be e-mailed to:

bosnia\_donations@hq.dla.mil.

Individuals wishing to send cards to deployed service members or their families can use the following addresses.

To send cards or letters to service members deployed to the Balkans:

Any Service Member  
Operation Joint Forge  
APO AE 09397-0001

To send cards or letters to sailors or Marines aboard ship in the area:

Any Service Member  
Operation Joint Forge  
FPO AE 09398-0001

To send cards or letters to family members of service members deployed to the Balkans:

Any Family Member  
Operation Joint Forge  
APO AE 09399-0001



## Peter Hugh in Kosovo

*Engineering/Planning's Peter Hugh has traded in his dress shirt and tie for battle gear. Well, at least for a little while. Peter was deployed for a volunteer tour of duty to Kosovo on November 7 and is expected to stay from three to six months. His estimated return date is January 15, 2000. The Yankee Engineer hopes to hear about Peter's adventures in Kosovo and will publish anything we receive in future issues of the Yankee Engineer. We wish Peter good luck and a safe return home. Cards and letters can be sent to Peter at:*

*Commander, USACE-Europe District  
ATTN: CENAU-OR (Peter Hugh)  
CMR 410 Box 711  
APO AE 09096*

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Nicholas Avtges receives notice of appointment as Chief, Program Development Office from Colonel John Mason at the old Waltham, Mass., headquarters in this circa 1975 photo. Mr. Avtges went on to become the Deputy Chief of Planning Division and was inducted into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery.*

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