

Buz  
McDonald  
Retires  
Page 4



Cocheco  
River  
Ceremony  
Page 8



Yankee Voices.....	2
Commander's Column.....	3
Wiswall Dam.....	3
Lobstering at the Canal.....	5
Hurricane Katrina.....	6
Weymouth Fore River.....	11
Dredging Up the Past.....	12



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

Volume 40, No. 12

# Yankee Engineer

September 2005

## New England District commander holds Town Meeting to discuss budget challenges

Typically, a District Engineer's first Town Meeting is an opportunity to explain his or her leadership philosophy. Instead, the New England District's new commander chose to get down to serious business during his first working lunch Town Meeting held Aug. 24.

"We have a more urgent need right now," said Col. Curtis Thalken in his opening remarks that addressed the challenges the District will face in the next fiscal year.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Col. Thalken spoke about the downward trend of the three pillars of the District budget (Civil Works, Military, and Support For Others) and explained that the Civil manpower dollars are also trending downward and are expected to continue to do so into Fiscal Year 06 and 07.

"We need to look to balance the force structure with the project workload we see coming for Fiscal Year 2006," he

said.

According to the District Engineer, with an assumed three percent attrition rate and some careful shifting of resources and positions, the loss of full time jobs should be avoided. "It's going to take some intense managing on our part," he said. "We do have the ability to manage this."

Col. Thalken said that some of the skill sets are currently under-utilized

*Continued on page 10*



NASA/Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team

## Killer Katrina pummels Gulf Coast Region

*Hurricane Katrina made landfall Aug. 29, killing over 1,000 people and causing billions of dollars of damage. The Corps of Engineers, to include 50 members of the New England District (as of Sept. 28), are feverishly working with FEMA and state and local officials on the recovery efforts. To read more, turn to page 6.*

# Yankee Voices

Valerie Cappola  
Engineering/Planning



## Information for federal employees affected by Hurricane Katrina

The Office of Personnel Management has set up a national toll-free number 1-800-307-8298 for current and retired federal employees who have been affected by Katrina. The number can also be used by displaced or other federal workers to check in with their agencies.

There is also a web address for information. <http://www.opm.gov/katrina/call.asp>

FirstGov.gov has also established an information link for federal employees.

[http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane\\_Katrina\\_Recovery.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Katrina_Recovery.shtml)

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Valley Division (<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chr.htm>) and the Southwestern Division (<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/hurricane/index.asp>) have also put up informational websites for the public.

## Congratulations

...to **Sheila Bergeron**, Project Management, and her husband, **Bill**, on the birth of their son, **Paul Joseph Bergeron**, on Aug. 22. He joins twin sisters **Alicia** and **Kayle** in the family circle.

...to **Rachel Fisher**, Emergency Operations, who has been selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for September 2005. Rachel is being recognized for coordinating all the activities related to Field Force Engineering (FFE) Base Development Team (BDT) training that was conducted in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

...to the Team responsible for the preparation of the briefing for the Dam Safety Screening for Portfolio Risk Analysis (SPRA) which has been chosen as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for September 2005. The team, is recognized for preparing the District's presentation to the National SPRA Cadre that visited the District July 18-20. Team members include **Nick Forbes, Terry Wong, Bob Patev, Siamac Vaghar, Alyssa Barbetta, Richalie Griffith, and Tony Firicano**.

## Sympathy

...to the family of retired chief of Logistics, **Lionel "Rocky" Stone**, who passed away Sept. 20. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

## Words worth repeating

Instead of loving your enemies, treat your friends a little better.

- *Edgar Watson Howe (1853-1937), Journalist*

We learn to walk by stumbling.

- *Bulgarian proverb*

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>

District Engineer .....Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
Chief, Public Affairs .....Larry Rosenberg



Editor .....Ann Marie R. Harvie  
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan  
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

# Commander's Corner:

## District volunteers are doing their part for hurricane relief

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
District Engineer



Recently I called one of my fellow District Commanders who is directly involved in the day-to-day support of the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. My intent was to see what else we could do to help. Instead he wanted me to tell everyone what a terrific job the volunteers from the New England District have been doing. He said wherever he went, the representatives from New England have been doing a superb job. He commented on the technical proficiency of the New England District representatives he encounters and their desire to make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens who have been victimized by this terrible storm.

As I pen this article, we have 50 volunteers deployed to the Gulf States providing disaster relief. We also have personnel deployed in support of the Europe, New York, and Norfolk Districts. All totaled, nearly 15 percent of the District is currently deployed – each and every one a volunteer. This spirit of volunteerism is one of the traits that make the

workforce within the Army Corps of Engineers unique. Throughout the Corps' history, civilian volunteers have gone where they were needed. It has not mattered whether the need was in response to a natural disaster here at home or to support our deployed forces abroad in times of war and peace. Wherever the need, the Corps has found the volunteers to respond.

The recent exploits of our brothers and sisters from here in New England clearly demonstrate that this legacy is as strong as ever. Yet we cannot rest on the accomplishments of those now deployed. Our need for volunteers will continue. Recovering from Hurricane Katrina will take months at a minimum and those who deployed first will need to be replaced. Who knows what other challenges the remainder of this year's hurricane season holds? Likewise, volunteers are still needed to support the Global War on Terror in both Iraq and Afghanistan and our sister districts will need assistance when their requirements exceed their in house capacity.

Those currently deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina have stabilized the situation for the people of the Gulf states and now it falls on the rest of us to help those displaced by the storm to begin rebuilding their lives. I am confident that others will meet the challenge. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this critical effort.

## Corps proposes aquatic ecosystem restoration project to restore fish passage, river habitat of Wiswall Dam

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs Office

At the request of the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing an aquatic ecosystem restoration project to restore anadromous fish passage and river habitat in the vicinity of Wiswall Dam in Durham, New Hampshire.

The Wiswall Dam currently blocks the upstream migration of anadromous fish in the Lamprey River in Durham. The New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game is the non-Federal sponsor of this project.

Wiswall Dam is located on the Lamprey River in Durham in the southeastern corner of the state, near the Atlantic coast. It is the second upstream dam on the Lamprey River, which flows approximately 48 miles from the Saddleback Mountains in Northwood to the southwest corner of Great Bay in

Newmarket. In November 1996, the Lamprey River was designated a Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service. This designation was due primarily to the river's valued wildlife resources and importance as a tributary to the Great Bay National Estuarine Reserve.

"Wiswall Dam is 11 feet high and 200 feet long, with a 160-foot-long concrete spillway," said Project Manager Adam Burnett, of Engineering/Planning Division. "The existing concrete dam structure was constructed in 1912; however, there has been a dam in this location since 1835 or earlier, resulting in blocking fish migration for 170 years."

The remains of a stone block sluiceway and sluice gate are located on the left abutment bank. Through the 1800s and early 1900s, the dam was used for various water-powered mill operations.

Currently, the dam is owned by the town of Durham, and the 26-acre reservoir behind the dam serves as public water

*Continued on page 9*

# Earle McDonald retires:

Resource Management Officer joins retirement community with 34 years of service

*New England District's Resource Management Officer Earle "Buz" McDonald retired from federal service Sept. 30 with 34 years of service. To celebrate a long and distinguished career, over 100 people attended a retirement party in his honor on Aug. 31 at the Hanscom Air Force Base's Minuteman's Club.*

Steve Andon served as Master of Ceremonies for the party. Andon presented McDonald with a lighter and a golf club from the Resource Management Office. In keeping with the golf theme, retired Executive Assistant Joe Bocchino presented McDonald with some golf balls for future use.

Mohan Singh, the North Atlantic Division SES, presented McDonald with a grilling cookbook and chef's hat as he wished McDonald the best on his retirement.

Farrell McMillan, Chief of Engineering/Planning, presented McDonald with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for all the support he has given Engineering/Planning over the years. "He has always provided insight on financial matters and other District issues to the Chief, Engineering/Planning Division and it is appreciated," he said.

McMillan also expressed appreciation for McDonald's mentorship when McMillan took on the position of Chief, Engineering/Planning. "He is a true friend," he said.

Other speakers included Ray Donnelly, Resource Manager for Philadelphia District; Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management; Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Engineer and Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer. Col. Thalken presented Buz with his retirement certificate as well as an award for meritorious civilian service.

As a parting gift from all the attendees, Andon presented McDonald with a basket filled with gift cards to Home Depot, Dunkin Donuts, assorted snacks, candy, books, woodworking projects, political memorabilia, games of chance, and golfing items.



*Col. Curtis Thalken presents Buz McDonald his Meritorious Civilian Service award.*

Family members who accompanied McDonald to his retirement party were his wife, Joanie, and his children Matt, Amy and Tommy.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members who attended the party were: Vyto Andreliunas, Nick Avtges, Charlie Coe, Ann Dogherty, Joe Ignazio, Ralph Mallardo, Dick Reardon, and Jim Wong.

Other retirees who attended were: Al Balon, Mike Bradbury, Jack Caffrey, Donna Craig, Jean McFedries, Fred Moehle, Pat Delorey, Dave Dulong, Carl Sciple, Ed Fallon and Bruce Zawacki.

McDonald, who spent his entire career with the Corps in New England, began in Operations Division in 1971. Through a succession of promotions, he ended his career as the District Comptroller.

Now that he is retired, McDonald plans to do a lot of golfing at Myrtle Beach and Florida, as well as working on home improvement and landscaping projects.



Photos by Brian Murphy

*(from left) John Kennelly, Buz McDonald, Scott Michalak, and Dave Margolis plan some post retirement golfing during the retirement ceremony.*

## Park Ranger gives lobstering tips during presentations at Cape Cod Canal



Photos by Kevin Burke

*Park Ranger Jonathan Dumais does a little lobstering before his presentation.*



*Jonathan Dumais discusses the anatomy of a lobster with young attendees.*



*Several lucky families took the lobster "volunteers" home with them after the presentation.*

*Jonathan Dumais, a summer Park Ranger at the Cape Cod Canal, hosted two unique presentations on one of New England's most delicious and misunderstood crustaceans.*

"Lobstering Along the Cape Cod Canal," considered to be a comprehensive introduction to the species and the sport, was held July 13 and Aug. 10 at the Cape Cod Canal Visitors Center. The presentations were a part of the 2005 summer interpretive evening presentations hosted by the Canal and were open to the public at no cost.

The concept of the presentation was born from Dumais' current hobby of lobstering. "Park Ranger Samantha Mirabella thought it was a fitting topic for my evening presentation because I was lobstering in the canal at the time," he said. "The first presentation was so popular, I did a second."

Dumais used live lobsters that he caught himself in the canal for the presentation. "They were lovely assistants," he joked. After the presentations, several lucky families were randomly selected to bring the lobsters home.

Over 150 people attended both sessions. The presentation went into specific detail about lobsters to include their history, fun and interesting facts about lobsters, anatomy and coloring. Dumais also discussed the rules of lobstering in the canal as well as tips on how to lobster to include tools and safety tips. The Park Ranger concluded each presentation by encouraging his audiences to respect the resource of lobsters.

The 2005 season marked Dumais' second summer with the New England District. His work with the other Park Rangers on the interpretive programs have been as much of a learning experience for him as it is for those who attended the sessions. "I've loved every minute of it," he said. "I have learned so much from all the other rangers and gained a lot of experience doing everything from leading tours to physical labor, to enforcing rules and regulations around the canal areas."



*Jonathan Dumais lets a young attendee get close to the lobster "volunteers."*



NOAA satellite image of Hurricane Katrina as it overtakes the Gulf Coast.



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers, speaks with a hurricane victim.

# Hurricane Katrina rips through Gulf Coast

## Corps of Engineers rush to aid victims

One of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes to ever make landfall in the United States ripped its way through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, leaving the historic New Orleans and other cities under water.

Katrina, a catastrophic Category 4

hurricane, slammed into the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, killing hundreds of people and destroying entire communities. Even before the storm hit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to include the New England District, began preparing for the recovery of that region.

In support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Corps of Engineers has been working with local, state and federal partners, to bring relief to the Gulf following Hurricane Katrina. Nearly 2,400 Corps employees, 50 of whom are New England District employees, are actively engaged in recovery efforts. More volunteers are being sought, as the recovery effort could take many months to complete.

With more than \$2.9 billion in missions, the Corps is working closely with its government agencies and private contractors to meet the most urgent needs, including providing ice and water, temporary roofing, temporary housing, power assessment, and debris removal across the area impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

FEMA missions are being performed in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The following is a synopsis of the activities underway:

### Status of Levees and Protection:

Work continues to repair the levees as engineers and local authorities are continuing to assess the damages to the levee system, make interim repairs, and remove floodwater from the city.

The levee system in its present



Photo by Henry Heusinkveld, SAW

Don Wood, part of New England District's water team in Wilmington, North Carolina, in support of the Hurricane Katrina Disaster recovery effort, responds to a telephone inquiry.

condition does not ensure that the city of New Orleans will be protected from flooding resulting from storms or hurricanes. The Corps first priority is to first bring the system back to its pre-hurricane level of protection and then determine what longer term action is needed. The Corps has developed a phased plan for restoring the area's storm safeguards, working in partnership with local levee boards and contractors.

#### **Un-watering:**

The Corps estimates the New Orleans area is more than 80 percent un-watered. As of Sept. 21, it is estimated that the overall un-watering effort will be completed in early to mid-October, provided there is no significant rainfall between now and then.

The Corps will continue to assist local officials in repairing pumps, designed to remove city water, even after the city is dry. The un-watering effort will remove most, but not all of the water. There will be some isolated pock-

ets of water that will remain.

However, these pockets of water should not hamper recovery efforts such as debris removal, structural assessments and restoration of critical services.

#### **Water and ice:**

In Mississippi, the water and ice missions are entering the closeout phase. A total of 5,500 trucks of ice, water and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), supported the Mississippi response. Deliveries totaled 100 million pounds of ice, 38 million liters of water, and 8.1 million MREs.

#### **Debris removal:**

To date, more than 2.6 million cubic yards of debris have been removed in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. It is estimated more than 24 million cubic yards will be removed during cleanup efforts.

#### **Operation Blue Roof:**

In Mississippi and Louisiana "Operation Blue Roof" is underway in sev-

eral counties. The Operation Blue Roof program provides temporary plastic sheeting for roofs that were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Over 25,000 requests for assistance have been received thus far. It is estimated over 50,000 homes will need plastic sheeting.

#### **Power Assessments:**

In Mississippi, the power mission is nearing closeout phase as power is restored. Out of 415 assessments, 414 have been completed. In Louisiana, 401 power assessments out of 470 have been completed.

#### **Temporary Housing:**

Temporary housing is being handled using a national/regional approach through the FEMA Housing Area Command.

#### **Other missions:**

Recently, Congress approved a \$400 million hurricane relief package separate from funded FEMA missions. The emergency supplemental appropriation covers navigation and flood control. Of that amount, \$200 million is for navigation work in the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast region and \$200 million is for flood control and coastal emergencies. Those funds are being used for damage assessments and immediate repairs to the levees in New Orleans as well as assessments and preparations for long-term flood damage reduction.

The priority of the Corps is to support efforts to save lives and find people, sustain lives, and setting conditions for recovery.

The Corps of Engineers, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides disaster response assistance to the nation, working in concert with 30 federal departments, as well as, state and local governments.

For more information on the Corps of Engineers response to Hurricane Katrina, please visit the web site at [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil).

New England District employees who wish to volunteer to help with the recovery efforts should contact Rachel Fisher in the Emergency Operations Center at 978-318-8271.



Photo by Henry Heusinkveld, SAW

*Mike Russo, part of New England District's water team in Wilmington, North Carolina works with Amanda Jones as part of the Hurricane Katrina Disaster recovery effort.*

# Ceremony marks beginning of Cocheco River Federal Navigation project

After some unexpected challenges, the first phase of work on the Cocheco River Federal Navigation project has been completed, paving the way for the beginning of Phase II.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, New England District Deputy District Engineer, joined New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg and Dover City Manager Michael Joyal at an event marking the end of the first phase of the project, Aug. 17 in Dover, New Hampshire.

Lt. Col. Nelson credited the completion of Phase I with cooperation between the federal and local agencies. "A lot of people have contributed a lot of hard work in this effort to complete the Cocheco River dredging project," he said. "Now, with the support of Senator Gregg, we hope to see this project move forward and be complete by springtime next year."

The project is a 3-mile-long channel extending from the confluence with the Piscataqua River upstream to the head of navigation at the city of Dover, N.H.

Years of shoaling have reduced the project depth to 2.9 feet at mean lower low water (MLLW) from its authorized 7 feet MLLW.

Congress directed the Corps to maintain the Cocheco River FNP, to restore the channel to authorized dimensions, under the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

"Phase I started in November 2004 and was concluded in March 2005 due to environmental restrictions," said Lt. Col. Nelson. "We removed about 20,000 cubic yards of material for the city of Dover and another 18,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the Federal channel."

That was when the contractor, S&R Corporation of Lowell, Mass., encountered an unexpected ledge that prevented them from completing the work on the \$2 million portion of the project.

"That contract did not provide for ledge removal and



Photo by Mike Walsh

*Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson addresses attendees during the ceremony that began the Cocheco River Federal Navigation project.*

therefore a changed condition necessitated the issuance of a separate contract for Phase II work," said Lt. Col. Nelson.

Officials from the New England District have since performed additional work to determine the extent of ledge that needs to be removed from the project.

The bid opening took place Sept. 2 and officials at the New England District expect to award a contract by Sept. 30.

If sufficient funds are available in the Corps Fiscal Year 2006 budget, dredging work should start by Nov. 15.

It is expected that the work will be completed before the close of the March 15, 2006 environmental window.

"Once complete, this project will go a long way toward supporting the needs of the city of Dover in their efforts to revitalize the Cocheco River and downtown Dover," said Lt. Col. Nelson.



## Corps proposes aquatic ecosystem restoration project to restore fish passage, river habitat of Wiswall Dam

*Continued from page 3*

storage and supply for Durham and the University of New Hampshire campus in Durham.

Historically, the Lamprey River is believed to have supported large populations of anadromous fish. However, in past decades, dams built for industrial and residential development have obstructed fish migrations on the river. The Wiswall Dam is the second dam encountered by fish migrating from the ocean to spawning areas upstream on the Lamprey River. The first dam, the Macallen Dam, is located at tidewater in Newmarket. Each year, about 20,000 to 60,000 fish species swim through a Denil fish ladder at Macallen Dam. These fish are prevented from accessing an additional 43 miles of river habitat upstream from the Wiswall Dam due to the blockage posed by the dam.

“The proposed federal action involves the construction of a nature-like bypass channel to restore anadromous fish passage around the dam, allowing anadromous fish access to an additional 43 miles of river habitat upstream of Wiswall Dam,” Burnett said. “The bypass channel also is intended to reconnect riverine habitat upstream and downstream of the dam by providing continuous riverine habitat within the constructed channel.”

The bypass channel will be approximately 1,100 feet long and 15 to 30 feet wide. Approximately 800 feet of channel will be excavated 5 to 10 feet into a terrace on the east side of the river and 300 feet will be constructed using a dike along the east bank of the river immediately downstream of the dam.

The channel gradient will be approximately one percent, dropping a total of approximately 11 feet, the height of Wiswall Dam. Flows down the constructed channel are expected to average approximately 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), with extremes ranging from 2 cfs during drought conditions to 1,000 cfs during major flood events. The channel substrate will be sand and gravel with a variety of boulders and outcrops to mimic the geomorphology of the natural river.

Approximately 3,900 cubic yards of soil and rock will be excavated to construct the channel, and this material will



*Wiswall Dam in the Lamprey River in Durham, N.H.*

wildlife resources,” Burnett said. “It is anticipated that the project will be completed in one season.”

Monitoring of the project will occur over the next five years, and small-scale modifications may be needed to optimize the channel function at passing anadromous fish.

No significant long term or short-term adverse impacts to the environment are anticipated.

Four alternatives were analyzed in detail, including the no-action alternative, removal of Wiswall Dam, construction of a Denil-type fish ladder, and construction of a nature-like bypass channel around the dam. The recommended alternative is construction of the nature-like bypass channel.

The proposed restoration project is located in the vicinity of the Wiswall Falls Mill Site, which was approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The proposed nature-like bypass channel would avoid most of the sites with the historic landscape. However, due to the subsurface modifications required to construct it, the action may constitute an adverse effect upon the historic Wiswall Falls Mill Site. Further coordination with the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer will be conducted with the preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement with specific mitigation measures and documentation of existing site conditions.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for this restoration project. The documents are available online at the Corps’ New England District website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. The EA and FONSI will be finalized after consideration of public and agency comments.

be used to construct the dike and channel substrate. Channel banks and side slopes will be revegetated with a variety of native vegetation, including wetland and riparian species. An area of approximately one acre will be cleared. Approximately 0.1 acre of shrub wetland will be deepened and replaced with perennial riverine habitat and additional shrub wetland along the channel banks and side slopes.

“Work is expected to occur in or after 2006, at a time that would have the least effect on existing fisheries and

# New England District commander holds Town Meeting to discuss budget challenges

*Continued from page 1*

based on the projected work, while some skills are over-utilized in order to accomplish our many and varied missions. "Not only is there a difference where our current workforce exceeds our projected workload, but we also have under-utilized and over-utilized skills throughout the District," he said.

The District Engineer said that the solution is not reducing people and hiring new people, but to balance the workforce to accomplish our goals and fully execute our programs while we reduce overhead rates.

"One of our challenges will be to deal with some of the mismatches in some of the career fields -- people can work outside their specific skill set and still contribute greatly," he said.

Col. Thalken then discussed "revenue enhancement" initiatives. These include temporary duty (TDY) assignments with sister districts, regional workload sharing initiatives, and bringing contracted work back in house. "If we can provide six full-time equivalents worth of support on a rotating basis to Europe, as well as to our sister districts, all of a sudden our numbers begin to look a lot better."

The manpower figures cited by the Colonel did not include the District's support to Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. "This District has done an excellent job of sending volunteers to go out and support those missions," he said.

The District Engineer said that TDYs to Iraq and other overseas missions to support the War on Terror will remain voluntary. TDYs to sister Districts are currently voluntary, but might change if the need arises.

The District is currently doing work for Hanscom Air Force Base and Col. Thalken urged making a good impression. "For a long time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers didn't do any work for Hanscom Air Force Base," he said. "If the current work doesn't go well, there's the potential that we may return to that situation. We must be very cognizant of that and make sure that the work is done on time, on schedule and on budget, so we can convince these folks that if there is any future work that it should come our way."

According to Col. Thalken, when our engineering skill sets are available, we will reduce our reliance on outside contractors. "When the budget is tight we need to bring as much of that work in house as we can and share that work with our own people who have the ability to work on those projects," he said. "We are going to seek those opportunities where we can to bring work in rather than contract it out."

In addition to using consistent business processes, the District must also continue to identify efficiencies. One way is to reduce overhead expenditures.

Col. Thalken said that the District can save money with facility space utilization and sub-letting, encouraging investments where it can reduce costs, critically review current overhead expenses, VSIP/VERA offers, elimination of positions upon departures, and leveraging personnel with other agencies.

"If we take these initiatives that are already out there, embrace them and move on, I believe we will accomplish our missions and honor our commitments to deliver our products and services as part of this world-class team, the New England District," said Col. Thalken.



## Summer events at the Cape Cod Canal

*Dick Carlson (far right, standing) and his wife, Judy, toast marshmallows with others after attending the evening presentation, "Alluring Images of the Cape Cod Canal," Aug. 17 at the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center.*

*The presentation was only one of many hosted by the Canal during the 2005 summer season. (Photo by Kevin Burke)*

# Corps proposes maintenance dredging of federal navigation project in Weymouth Fore River

by Timothy Dugan  
New England District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation project in the Weymouth Fore River in Weymouth, Mass.

The authorized Federal Navigation Project in the lower Weymouth Fore River includes a navigation channel 35 feet deep below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and 500 feet wide extending from deep water in Nantasket Roads through the Nantasket (Hull) Gut.

The channel width is then reduced to 400 feet wide through Hingham Bay to the mouth of the Fore River where the channel is further reduced in width to 300 feet up to the Fore River Bridge (also known as the Washington Street Bridge).

The channel then widens to 400 feet above the bridge. The project also provides for a 35-foot-deep turning basin in Kings Cove, located near the confluence of the Weymouth Fore River and the Town River.

“The last time this project was dredged was during 1973-1976 when about 5,900,000 cubic yards of material were removed,” said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh, Programs/Project Management Division. “Since then, natural shoaling within the project area has occurred that significantly restricts deep draft vessels.”

These vessels include oil tankers that use the channel to access the terminals located above the Route 3A Bridge. Draft restrictions have already been placed on these vessels.

The proposed work involves maintenance dredging of about 300,000 cubic yards of primarily silt and clay material from the 35-foot deep channel and turning basin in Kings Cove to restore the project to its authorized dimensions.

“The majority of the shoaling is



Weymouth Fore River in Weymouth, Mass.

file photo

located upstream of the turning basin at Kings Cove and the Route 3A Bridge,” Kavanaugh said. “However, minor shoals in the channel at various locations seaward of Kings Cove and out past the Hull Gut will also be removed as part of this project.”

Maintenance dredging will be accomplished with either a mechanical dredge and scows or a hydraulic hopper dredge. The dredged material will be disposed of at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site.

Maintenance dredging operations is contingent on the availability of the necessary approvals and funds.

An Environmental Assessment for this work is being prepared and will be available for review upon request. Alternate disposal options that have been considered include open ocean disposal, beach disposal, and upland disposal.

In this instance, the Corps favors open-ocean disposal at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site because the material to be dredged is predominantly clay and silt that are not suitable for nearshore or beach disposal. In addition, a viable and suitable upland disposal site could not be identified.

It is the Corps’ preliminary determination that no threatened or endangered species occur in the project area. The Corps has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened.

The proposed work consists of maintenance dredging and involves previously dredged areas and previously used disposal sites. No cultural or archeological features or resources will be affected by this proposal.

Dredging may have a temporary adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat. The Corps has assessed the effects that dredging is likely to have on Essential Fish Habitat and has determined that they will be short-term and localized and that there will be no significant impacts on the designated fisheries resources.

The Corps will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any impacts will be minimized.

The Corps sought public comments on the proposed project through Oct. 6.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*James Bastion, Brightside Children's Home representative shakes hands with Farrell McMillan during a small ceremony held at the Big E! exhibition that resulted in the donation of the sand table, built by New England District Park Rangers in this Sept. 29, 2004 photo. Other attendees were (left from Mr. Bastion) Park Ranger Delia Vogel, Marci Alvis-Slinski, Big E! representative; New England District's Rick Magee, Farrell McMillan, and Joan Gardner.*

Public Affairs Office  
New England District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751  
Meter Code 40

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Concord, MA  
Permit No. 494