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US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 37, No. 7 March 2001

Congressional staff representatives gain understanding of Corps' many missions

With enhanced public service and communications in mind, the New England District held a special briefing that provided a detailed look at the organization and what it does for the region.

To that end, 19 congressional staff representatives, from 16 New England districts, traveled to Concord, Mass., Feb. 22 to get a better idea of who the Corps in New England is and what they do.

"We are always looking for ways to improve communications," said Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, New England District Engineer.

According to Col. Osterndorf, careful consideration went into planning the briefing. "Part of the idea originated in our strategic planning group discussions about the need for outreach, not only to new customers but to existing ones as well," he said. "The theme of the session was, 'We Work For You,' – your knowledge of what we do and how to access our capabilities will help us better address regional needs."

Col. Osterndorf kicked off the daylong session. "We are the Federal Engineer," he said. "We are also an environmental agency which is a transformation that has evolved over the last ten years. Because of this transformation, many of the things that we are involved with, both from the Regulatory standpoint, and even from the project standpoint, have a distinctly environmental bent to them."

Key New England District staff joined the Colonel and presented detailed discussions on Corps issues and missions and answered questions from the congressional representatives as they arose. Topics that were discussed were:

- Authorization and Appropriations;

Continued on page 15

Photo by Mark McInerney

District employees talk with congressional staff representatives during the working lunch portion of the briefing.

Yankee Voices

Ranger James West
Tully Lake

Letter of Thanks

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Larry Rosenberg, Chief of Public Affairs, thanking him for his assistance:

Thank you so much for your kind cooperation and assistance. As a T-6 paraplegic living in a wheelchair it's not always easy to get what I need. You guys have been fantastic and until this moment you had no idea you were working with a disABLED individual. That's not a miss print, I choose to spell disABLED that way to provoke people into paying more attention to our ABILITIES than our "dis".

Again thanks so much for all your effort. After I've digested this information, if I have any further questions I'll get back to you and maybe you can point me in the right direction.

Isn't it amazing how we can sometimes live in the presence of history and ignore it until a friend asks a simple question that we SHOULD be able to answer?

Such is life these days,
Mark F. Walters

Congratulations

…to **Tim Maynard**, Survey Unit, and his wife, **Pam**, on the birth of their first child, daughter **Abigail Katherine Maynard,** Feb. 20.

...to **Marc Paiva** of Engineering/Planning Division and his wife, **Kim**, on the birth of their son **Joseph Philipp**, Mar. 3. Joseph joins his sister, **Catharine**, in the family circle.

….to **Duban Montoya**, Programs/Project Management, and his wife, **Denise**, on the birth of their first child, daughter **Sophia Elena**, Mar. 4.

… to **Wendell Mah**, Planning, and his wife, **Rhonda**, on the birth of their first child, daughter **Adele**, Mar. 6.

… to **Capt. Jan Malaikal** and her husband, **Matthew**, on the birth of their son **Spencer Christiansen**, Mar. 6. Spencer joins his brother, **Anderson**, in the family circle.

…to **George Norton**, Engineering/Planning, who is the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for his longstanding performance as the New England District's Diving Coordinator. Most particularly he was selected for his work on the District's Faulkner Island project.

…to **Bruce Zawacki, Mike Russo, Juan Reyes, Andrea Pittman, William Walker, Tim Maynard, Steve Kelley, Mike Elliott, Mary Donovan, and Barbara Ingersoll** for being selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month. The team was selected for their spending many hours over the Presidents Day holiday weekend installing Unicor work stations and furniture, handling everything from unloading the truck to assembling cubicles.

Sympathy

...to the family of **Frank Vanner**, former assistant Chief of Survey Unit who passed away Mar. 6. Frank has been retired for 32 years. Cards may be sent to:

Femey Vanner
92 Wheaton Ave.
South Seekonk, MA 02771

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District Engineer .....Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
Chief, Public Affairs .....Larry Rosenberg

Editor .....Ann Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Susan I. Douglas
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:
The Business Of Being In Business

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer

One of the most fascinating and unique aspects of the Corps of Engineers, especially at the District level, is that unlike any other federal agency, Congress does not give us money just for being. Except for funding provided to perform our regulatory mission, every cent we get, to pay salaries, benefits, rent and everything else, comes from projects. Just like a business. Now, I know that we don't and can't operate just like a business, but it makes sense that we consider business imperatives when we define how we perform our missions. Imperatives like providing high quality work, at an excellent value, to delight the customer, in an effective and efficient manner, sound more like how a business, rather than government, operates. There are important differences: we don't seek profit, we don't issue stock and we don't compete with other engineering firms. But the point is that our business imperatives compel us to consider doing business in a manner that achieves these imperatives.

We have defined the way we do business. It is called the Project Management Business Process (PMBP) and has been in place for almost a decade, and has evolved and matured over the years. This maturing continues now as USACE revises the regulation that governs how this process works, and you can find the latest draft of ER 5-1-11 at http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/pmbp/er/. In fact, this website allows you to provide comments after you review the document. The concept is that the regulation will provide an outline of the broad principles that will guide doctrine development. Efforts to develop this doctrine are already under way, and divisions and districts will be able to participate in this. We have already identified Mark Otis as our district expert to help USACE completely describe how the process is to work. Conceptually, by defining a set of common business practices that will be uniform throughout the Corps, we facilitate regional and indeed national interoperability, set the conditions for teaming between districts, and most importantly, create a process that can be supported by automated information systems that work.

Process definition is important for other reasons too. Lt. Gen. Flowers' empowerment message to you is "Just Do It," but it is important to remember the necessary conditions that must first be met before the empowerment can take effect. Defining the process and, subsequently, providing good training to everyone on how the process works at your levels, gives us the structure in which we can make a sound determination of what is right, from the customer's perspective, from our district perspective and from a legal, ethical perspective. Good process definition makes questions about being accountable for an action much easier to answer.

One of the most important messages about PMBP is a bit buried. You can find it in the first sentence describing Imperative 7. What PMBP is all about and indeed what the Corps is all about is summed up very nicely. "The USACE PMBP philosophy is to do the right things, the right way, for the right reasons, and to constantly strive for improvement."

I couldn't have said it any better.

MIT presentation

Brig. Gen. Stephen Rhoades, North Atlantic Division Engineer (left), gave a presentation entitled, "Planning and Execution of Construction Projects in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Feb. 26.

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer (right), and other members of the New England District also attended to listen to Brig. Gen. Rhoades deliver the annual James A. Henderson memorial lecture on behalf of MIT's Center for Technology, Policy and Industrial Development and the Construction Engineering and Management Program.

Photo provided courtesy of MIT

Waskiewicz retires with 30 years of service

Current, retired, and former employees, contractors, customers, and friends from all over the country packed the Patriot Enlisted Club for a luncheon in honor of Dennis Waskiewicz, senior project manager in the Programs and Project Management Division, Mar. 1. Dennis retired with 30 years of service.

Approximately 70 people attended the event. Bobby Byrne, Programs, served as Master of Ceremonies. He described Dennis as a team builder, and a calming influence.

"I admire him," Bobby said. "His character, integrity, and honesty sets the highest standard. He was always there for people when they needed him."

Mr. Bob Chase of the Army Research Laboratory presented Dennis with a ruler award. "Because you really measured up to all the tasks you were given," he said.

Mr. Chase also presented him with a letter of appreciation signed by Paul Brenner from the Restoration Advisory Board, a citizen's group in Watertown involved with the base closure for the Army Research facility. Mike Borisky, who worked with Dennis at the Watertown site, sent a letter of congratulations.

Photos by Mark McInerney

Family photo: John Waskiewicz, Rosalind Waskiewicz, Dennis Waskiewicz, and Richard Waskiewicz.

Mr. Chase also presented him with a letter of congratulations from Col. Christopher Young, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations at the Army Materials Command, a letter and coin from Maj. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installations Management.

Mr. Chase concluded his presentations by awarding Dennis a Dept. of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Col. Logan, Chief of Staff of the Army Research Laboratory. Col. Logan was also the last commanding officer of the Watertown installation.

Mr. Bob Martin of Headquarters in Washington, D.C., presented Dennis with a certificate of appreciation.

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, New England District Engineer, ended the presenter line up. "I've never had a significant issue on any of Dennis' projects that have come to my desk," he said. "Old Mr. Smooth takes care of everything. I appreciate his professionalism and the dedication he has given to this organization and the people

Dennis' son, John, presents him with a golf club.

Mrs. Waskiewicz helps fasten Dennis' retirement pin during the awards presentation.

Dennis gets a standing ovation from his family, friends and co-workers.

of New England."

With his wife, Rosalind by his side, Dennis received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, a Bunker Hill Plaque, a District coin, and his retirement certificate from the District Engineer.

Dennis received a clock inscribed with his name and retirement date. Bobby also presented him with four retirement cards. "We had to buy four cards to capture all the sentiments people wanted to express to you," he explained.

John Waskiewicz, Dennis' son, presented his father with a golf putter. "When he masters this club, I will get him another one," he chuckled.

"I am gratified and honored that everyone came to my luncheon," said Dennis. As he scanned the room, Dennis picked out familiar faces and recalled the associated project.

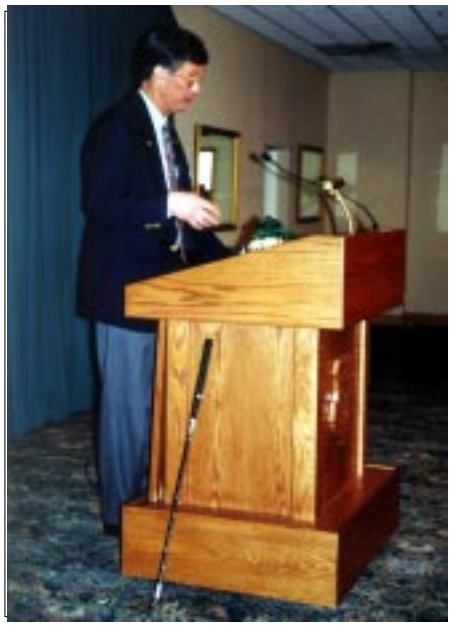
Dennis received his Commander's Award for Civilian Service for serving as the Corps Project Manager for the past ten years for the environmental clean up and restoration associated with the closing of the Army Materials Technology Laboratory in Watertown, Mass. According to the citation, "Dennis used his strong engineering and management skills to lead his project delivery team through the feasibility, design, and remedial action phases of this complex, nearly $100 million project."

Dennis joined the New England Division in 1979, following six years with the Soil Conservation Service. The U.S. Army veteran holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Maine and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Joanne Ellis, Programs/Project Management, organized the luncheon.

Dennis' brother, Richard was also in attendance along with: Armando Jimenez from the North Atlantic Division; Earl Fahey and Carmine Aceto from the Environmental Protection Agency; Chuck Paone from Hanscom Air Force Base; and Simone Shields, Roberto Rico, Bruce Campbell, Pam Hoskins, Chris Kane, Mike Wagner, and Tony Riccio from Roy F. Weston.

Retirees who attended the luncheon were Jack Caffrey, Bill Coleman, Art Doyle, Bob Gauvreau, Joe Ignazio, Bill Kavanaugh, Sr., Dick Reardon, and Ellie Russo.



Dennis says a few words to the audience.

Col. Osterndorf presents Dennis with his retirement certificate.

Ice Bowl disc tournament a success at Buffumville Lake

The weather is 22-32 degrees outside. It is snowing and winds are holding steady at 10 to 30 miles per hour with gusts up to 50 mph. What a great day to play disc golf!

"No wimps, no whiners" was the theme for the Buffumville Lake Ice Bowl fundraiser held at the Buffumville Lake Disc Golf Course in Charlton, Mass., Feb. 17. The event was hosted by the Haiti Children Assistance Project (HCAP), which sends financially disadvantaged Haitian children to school.

Approximately 58 non-wimps and non-whiners trudged through snow as deep as ten inches and drifts up to four feet on the disc golf course to raise $950 for the charity.

Photo courtesy of Kraig Steffan

Disc golfer Matt Stroika battles wind and snow in an attempt to get his disc in hole 16.

Buffumville Lake Project Manager Dave Stidham volunteered his personal time to enter the tournament. "My wife, Esther, and I have been involved with the project, along with our friend, Samuel Belizaire and others for a number of years," he said. "Haiti has an 80 percent illiteracy rate, and it is a real struggle for most Haitian families to afford to send their children, even to the free government school, because they still have to pay for uniforms, notebooks, tennis shoes, lunches and other things. Right now, we are sponsoring 20 children in a very poor community in Port-au-Prince to go to the primary school at the Free Methodist Church which Esther use to attend."

Bill Newman of HCAP handled the logistics for the event. Registration began at 8:30 a.m., with the tee-off taking place at 10 a.m. Disc golfers were broken out into three categories, pro, advanced, and novice.

Dave and his partner placed fourth in the advanced division. Ranger Jean Hickson also took time out of her busy personal schedule to participate in the tournament.

In addition, Haitian citizens from the Worcester and Boston areas cooked authentic Haitian food for sale during the Ice Bowl with proceeds going to the HCAP.

The Buffumville Disc Golf Course is a Corps of Engineers recreational facility with much of the maintenance done by volunteers. It was designed and constructed in 1998 by Brian Longcore, a Student Conservation Association volunteer who also worked as a volunteer at Buffumville Lake. District employee Jim Hachigan assisted Brian in its construction.

"After the course was opened, we got a lot of volunteers to help, especially from members of the New England Flying Disc Association and Oxford High School's Project COFFEE, to improve the course, construct tees and install pole holes, and construct steps," said Dave.

Nine holes were added to the course in 2000, and more improvements are scheduled to be performed by Project COFFEE in September. There is no fee to use the Disc Golf Course.

One disc golfer trudges through wind driven snow to get to the next hole. Photo by C.J. Allen

District celebrates Black History Month

"Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics, and Culture," was this year's Black History Month theme. The New England District honored the occasion with a celebration on Feb. 26 in the theatre. The guest speaker was Ms. Michaelle D. Wilson from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, welcomed the audience. "It's a great thing that we as a District can come together and participate in a celebration of great accomplishments," he said.

He was followed by Crystal Gardner, Regulatory, who introduced the event's speaker. Ms. Wilson focused her discussion on the five ways that people can work within their network to make the work place and the country better.

The first was "strive for excellence." She said that everyone can be excellent. "There is no need to have a Ph.D. or to be able to type 100 words a minute to be excellent," she said. "You decide what you will do, and then do it well."

Ms. Wilson reminded managers and supervisors in the room that one of the ways that they can value excellence is to use words like, "please," "thank you," and "you did a wonderful job on that project."

"Making certain that workers know that their efforts are valued is the best support for excellence that managers can provide," said Ms. Wilson.

"Communicate and coordinate inside and outside of your organization" was the second. "This is one way that EPA and the Corps of Engineers can support each other," she said.

The third was to "create an educational mode." "What are we doing to learn from our experiences personal and professional?" she asked. "Is it safe to ask questions?" "Are we giving the answers that will make our organization serve the public better?"

"Work for Diversity" in the work place was the fourth. "If we are going to be a just civil service and provide unbiased service to the public, we're going to have to learn more about each other," she said. "Then we must act upon our learning by building alliances that will make our organization more diverse in staff, management, and services. Diversity is a job we must all concern ourselves with."

Items of African American history were placed on display during the celebration.

Photos by Mark McInerney

Col. Osterndorf and Bill McIntyre present Ms. Wilson with a Bunker Hill plaque.

The final way that people can work within their network to make the work place and country better was to "have a life." "It took me a while -- half my career in fact -- to figure out just how important that was to me," she said. "I decided that I was not going to work so many nights and weekends that I would not see my family, my friends or the inside of my church."

"If you make the decision to strive for excellence, to communicate, to create a learning and diverse environment, and have fun, you can create change in the work place," she concluded. "I hope that you will commit today to work for justice by using these five ways to create positive transformation in your workplace."

Other highlights included Mark Mirabella, Regulatory, singing the National Anthem, followed by Crystal Gardner leading the audience in singing, "Lift Every Voice." Crystal also recited a poem she wrote entitled, "Everlasting Memories."

Air Force Capt. Kenneth Johnson, Protestant Chaplain, African Methodist Episcopal, from Hanscom Air Force Base provided the invocation. On behalf of the District, Col. Osterndorf presented Ms. Wilson with a Bunker Hill plaque and Capt. Johnson with a Scroll of Appreciation for participating in the District's celebration. Ms. Wilson also received a porcelain angel figurine from members of the Black Employment Program.

Bill McIntyre, BEP Program Manager, recited a tribute to Black History. After the speaking portion of the event, a reception with African-American food samples by Jake's Boss and BBQ of Jamaica Plain, and a display of African American art was available for attendees in Concord Park's cafeteria.

Surry Mountain Lake ice fishing derby provides important data

On Feb. 17, the Sons of the American Legion – Squadron 85, in cooperation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Surry Mountain Lake, held its first annual ice-fishing derby. The event brought well over a hundred people to the lake even though the winds reached gusts of 30 mph. Snowmobiles, four wheelers, blue tarps, and portable shanties set the scene for Saturday's event.

by Ranger John Asseng
Surry Mountain Lake

Photo by John Asseng

This derby participant prepares to release his catch after it is measured and weighed.

Photo by John Asseng

This angler braved the cold wind to pull a black crappie fish out of the water during the tournament.

The Legion gave trophies to both children and adults for the largest pickerel and yellow perch. They raffled off several other prizes as well, including a gas powered ice auger.

Park Rangers took advantage of the event by conducting creel (the amount of fish contained in an angler's fish bag) surveys.

Measurements and scale samples were taken from bass and black crappie to help determine the health of the fishery.

As anglers registered, they were asked to release bass and crappie to help with efforts in management while habitat improvements were being implemented. Fish locations along with biological data were recorded in GIS to help rangers locate effective areas to place artificial habitat structures.

The management of Surry Mountain Lake is heavily dependent on public feedback. By conducting angler surveys and various other outreach programs, the Corps has been able to educate the public as well as obtain important data on the fish being caught. Previous studies conducted by both Corps and New Hampshire Fish and Game biologists indicated that Surry Mountain Lake was suffering from lack of cover and an increase of sedimentation affecting both hatching and survival of young fish.

Bank reclamation along an upstream gravel pit is nearly complete and should curtail further siltation problems. Park rangers have implemented the use of artificial habitat structures to make spawning areas more attractive to crappie and to increase the amount of protective cover for juvenile fish.

Currently the lake produces fine fish every year, and overall, anglers taking part in the survey are pleased with their success.

By continuing our efforts to increase the quality and productivity, the rangers hope to make Surry Mountain Lake a destination spot for warm water anglers in southwest New Hampshire.

Photo by Christie Baker

Angler proudly displays his bass fish catch before returning it back to the icy waters.

30 Second Commercials

Richard Roach, Regulatory

Photo provided by Richard Roach

I'm a Senior Project Manager in the Regulatory Branch. I act as liaison to New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) and help it to get permits for its projects.

I am also an arbiter of the Public Trust and Federal Navigation Servitude, a defender of the environment. I work with the DOT and the federal and state resource agencies to develop environmentally sustainable infrastructure projects that can successfully get through the state and federal permit process and be built in a reasonable time frame.

I guide the DOT through the process and write the documents that are required to get through the process to produce a legally sufficient permit decision. There are a host of laws and regulations that govern the process and the things that must be considered in deciding whether and under what circumstances the Corps can issue a permit. I'm an expert in this arena and serve as a guide to NH DOT.

Over the years I have developed a collegial relationship with my counterparts in other state and federal agencies with whom we must coordinate our efforts. I'm known for being fair minded and reasonable in applying the regulations that govern what other public agencies can do to fulfill their missions.

I was instrumental in getting the permits for Route 101 and to expand the Manchester Airport.

If you need to know what to do to get a permit, you call Richard's Regulatory Rescue Service!

Ann Marie Harvie, Public Affairs

My name is Ann Marie Harvie and I am a Public Affairs Specialist for the New England District, with a focus on Command Information. My mission as Command Information Officer is to tell the Corps story to the internal audience, to the Corps stakeholders in New England, and to the Nation. Actually, what I try to do is scream our story from the rooftops using every resource available because I truly believe that our District and our people are the best in the world.

First, I listen to the stories that the Commander and District employees tell me. Then, I use the Yankee Engineer to highlight both our projects and our people and the wonderful things that they do. I have an extensive distribution list that includes District employees, Congressional, federal, state and local officials, retirees and contractors. To extend the reach of District's story, I also maintain a web site on the Internet with issues of the monthly paper on it.

To get maximum shouting range, I also submit stories to Engineer Update, Essayons, The Military Engineer, Army News Service, Soldiers Magazine, and any medium that is interested in hearing what we have to say.

Photo by Sally Rigione

For information that affects the District's employees, I use our Weekly Bulletin web site on the Intranet. The Weekly Bulletin is a compilation of official and unofficial information submitted to me by our District employees. Every week I e-mail a link to the bulletin, so employees can get the most current up-to-date information on both official and unofficial goings-on in the District.

If you have a story that you want me to tell, please e-mail me at annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil and we will set up an appointment. I will bring my ladder and megaphone.

Editor's Note: The Yankee Engineer is seeking District employees to provide their 30 second commercial for publication in future issues. The Chief of Engineers has asked every Corps employee to develop 30 seconds worth of information that describes your role and how you provide quality service to the citizens of New England. If you have your commercial ready and would like to participate, please e-mail Ann Marie Harvie.

An Inside Look At Recreational Fishing

by Ranger George Melanson
Photos by Ranger J. Kevin Burke
Cape Cod Canal

Each spring, the spawning migration begins for millions of herring fish into hundreds of coastal streams along the Atlantic seaboard from Florida to Nova Scotia. To witness a couple hundred thousand fish in a small stream struggle to advance against river currents can leave you full of astonishment.

It is truly a wonder, how and why these fish return to their natal stream after three to seven years of open ocean living. One small stream, the Herring River in Bourne, Massachusetts, flows through U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal Project property. Although only a small portion of the river traverses through the project's property –the last 300 feet or so where it spills into the Atlantic Ocean via the Canal – it none the less presents a management challenge to the Corps.

Like many coastal streams in the region, the Herring River is a small order stream, a size one out of ten on the river continuum scale. The drainage area is approximately 12 square miles; its overall length as it flows into and out of several ponds is approximately six miles and its average discharge is around seven cubic feet per second. Its vertical gradient from headwater to its mouth is about 100 feet. As minuscule as this river seems, for two months out of the year its helps to produce one of the most sought after shoreline recreational Striped Bass fisheries on the entire east coast.

River herring are actually comprised of two distinct species within the Clupeidae family, the Alewife, Alosa Pseudoharengus and the Blueback, Alosa aestivalis. Both of these species have similar physiological characteristics and life cycles, and fishery biologists manage both species as a single fishery.

River herring are relatively small fish and reach nine to 15 inches long at sexual maturity usually age three to five years for New England stocks. They are dorsal-ventrally flattened and are characterized by having a sawtooth edge on the belly. River herring have silvery scales with a bluish back and a dark spot behind the gill covering.

Recreational fishermen line up along the banks of Cape Cod Canal.

In Massachusetts mature herring enter fresh water streams to spawn beginning in late April and continues into early June. The migration time varies in relationship to stream water temperature. When stream waters reach 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit, the fish begin their journey upstream. Fish who spend most of their lives in salt water and migrate into fresh water to spawn are known as anadromous fish. Besides herring, some common anadromous species include salmon, striped bass, shad and smelt.

Striped bass fishermen go to great lengths and pay high prices to fish with live herring. These prices are not just for the fish but also for all kinds of "gear" to keep them alive. Some anglers build and use all types of contraptions to accomplish this mission. Pull carts and wagons with 40-gallon livewells attached are not an uncommon site along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal. These carts and wagons are used to transport herring from yet another live well attached to the bed of a pickup truck to the fishing spot. In fact, herring are in such a demand that reports from dependable sources tell of men stocking small swimming pools in their garage with hundreds of herring for later use.

Of course not all go to this extreme and most fishermen who get their daily quota of herring from the herring catcher use them immediately. Some put the herring in homemade bait containers and place them back into the saltwater tethered to a rock keeping them alive and fresh. Others just keep the herring in a bucket and change the water occasionally to keep them alive. Some fishermen just let them die and fish with dead herring. Herring are the natural food for the striped bass and consequently the preferred bait by the serious angler. Though striped bass can be caught using all types of natural and artificial bait, most fishermen believe

Park Ranger George Melanson and Bourne DNR Officer Steve Chapman assist a fisherman trying to unhook a striped bass.

that live herring have the best chances to catch the larger bass.

Striped bass Morone saxatilis belong to the temperate bass family, Percichthyidae. They are named for their seven dark lateral stripes that contrast against silvery or brassy sides. Striped bass are also anadromous, migrating up coastal streams to spawn. Stripers can live up to 40 years and are estimated to grow to over 100 pounds. As with many fish species, females are usually the larger of the sexes. The majority of stripers over 30 pounds are female. This allows for a large fecundity (egg amount) and helps to compensate for high mortality in the embryo, fry and fingerling life stages. A female striped bass weighing 50 pounds can have a fecundity of four million eggs whereas a 15 pound female may produce one million eggs. Most female stripers sexually mature after age six. At age six, females reach 29 inches and weigh seven pounds. At age ten, females will reach 40 inches and weigh in at 20 pounds. Males reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age at which time they are 19 inches and three to four pounds.

Most striped bass that migrate into the Cape Cod Canal do so in pursuit of river herring. Some of the bass will holdover in the canal for the season while most others continue north into Cape Cod Bay and the Gulf of Maine. The majority of striped bass that holdover in the canal for the season are considered "schoolies" reaching lengths to 26 inches and 10 pounds. Along the canal shores on any given day in May, it is not uncommon to see several fish in the 45-pound class, several more in the 35-pound class and many more in the 5–25 pound class being caught.

Striped bass are the largest fish available to shore anglers. Two years ago, one fortunate fisherman caught a 62-pound striper off the east end of the canal at Scusset Beach. The striped bass fishery in New England waters is world renown and fisherman from far and wide come to enjoy its rewards.

During the seven-month fishing season more than 300 thousand visitors come to fish along the banks of the canal. On any given weekend day, it is not uncommon to have 200 fisherman lined up shoulder to shoulder over a 1/4 mile stretch of the canal around the Herring River mouth. Day and night, as long as the weather is fair, heavy fishing prevails.

Corps rangers are not only confronted with various situations and behaviors pertaining to violations of CFR Title 36 rules and regulations governing public use of water resources development projects administered by the Corps of Engineers, but also to an array of federal, state and local fishing law transgressions.

Management practices to protect and conserve the resources are necessary and extensive. To help deter herring poaching, the Corps installed chain link and rail fences around the mouth of the Herring Run River and around the fishway holding pools and weirs. Signs complement the fences to help deter trespassing, and to explain fishing rules and regulations. Additionally, rangers at the project interact closely with the Town of Bourne's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). The DNR establishes the herring catching rules and is permitted to perform catching services on Corps property. The catching services help to regulate the amount of herring that are removed from the stock and help reduce poaching. Bourne DNR officers perform patrols to enforce rules and regulations and the Corps contracts MEP to perform additional patrol details.

Over fishing and poaching have obvious effects to include stock mortality, laws, and law enforcement but there are additional effects that often go unmentioned. These additional effects come in a wide variety of overuse of other resources. Over the years, fishermen have gained access to the project from numerous points, and many footpaths have eroded to become hillside ditches. Other effects observed are littering, sanitation problems and injuries to other wildlife, mostly hooked or entangled sea birds. To help resolve these problems the Corps provides additional trash containers, portable toilets, signs, increased patrols, increased interpretation, animal rescue and trail maintenance erosion control projects.

In June, when the herring run is over, most of the striped bass have moved into the Gulf of Maine. The striped bass that remain in the canal disburse more evenly and more reasonable recreational fishing prevails. A variety of fish species including bluefish, scup, tautog, mackerel, cunner and flounder help take some of the pressure off the striped bass. The fishing season continues until October when the last of the bass transit the canal on their journey south to warmer waters for the winter.

District continues cleaning up the Massachusetts Military Reservation

The U.S. Army National Guard hired the New England District to accomplish several environmental clean-up initiatives at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) on Cape Cod in 1999. The initiatives include the construction of a replacement drinking water supply system, the disposal of unexploded ordnance, and performing an impact area groundwater study.

Drinking Water Supply System

In August 1999, DOD, through the Joint Program Office at MMR, asked the District to provide a three million gallons per day replacement water supply to the base and surrounding communities.

The project consists of four interrelated activities: water source development, environmental documentation, design and construction. The project team, which includes the District's contractor Foster-Wheeler, is required to find the correct quantity of environmentally-safe water in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) requirements, then design and construction a water distribution system to provide the drinking water. New water source well pumping tests were completed in July 2000, and reports were sent to the MDEP in September 2000.

An Environmental Assessment for the entire project was completed in August, and work on the final design is complete. Construction of the project began in September 2000 and is expected to be completed by July 2001.

Disposal of Unexploded Ordnance

The New England District, through the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, has contracted Sudhakar Company, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala. to use a sophisticated detonation chamber to safely dispose of ordnance such as shells and other munitions. The ordnance is being discovered during an environmental study of the installation's impact area.

The T-10 Donovan Blast Chamber was developed by DeMil International for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to destroy hazardous conventional munitions while controlling and containing the detonation and its by-products. The T-10 unit includes three principal components, which include the actual detonation chamber, an expansion tank into which detonation gases and overpressures are vented for cooling and pressure reduction, and the air pollution control unit which filters detonation gases to 0.5 microns before discharge into the atmosphere. In addition, the trailer-mounted unit is totally self-sufficient, providing its own generator and compressor.

The photo provided courtesy of DeMil International.

The Donovan T-10 blast chamber has disposed of over 2,000 pieces of munitions

The chamber operators, supervised by experienced unexploded ordnance personnel, wrap each shell in an explosive blanket before it is placed within the chamber. Once this has been completed and the chamber sealed, the explosion will occur. During the actual explosion, the sound generated is similar to the slamming of a heavy door.

To date, over 2,000 items have been destroyed in the chamber.

Impact Area Groundwater Study

The National Guard Bureau announced its decision to use the District as the supervisory contractor for the Impact Area Groundwater Study in September 2000. The study is being conducted in accordance with Administrative Orders by EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The transition to supervisory contractor was complete in January. The six to ten year project is estimated to cost $250 million, and involves completing groundwater and unexploded ordnance studies followed by cleanup project implementation.

The District plans to share the results of the study with the U.S. Army and DoD in order to aid others with similar projects.

In addition to the work the District is performing for the National Guard, it is also providing contract support for community relations. The National Guard attends two monthly meetings – A senior management board meeting for local officials for surrounding towns, base commanders and regulators, and an impact area review team meeting for the EPA and citizens – in which Corps employees provide answers to technical questions that the public may have.

Tick. Tick. Tick:

Lyme Disease Explosion Starts in Spring

Spring is here, and so is tick season across America and in many foreign countries.

Being bitten by an infected tick can result in debilitating, sometimes deadly, military and civilian Lyme disease experts warn.

Left untreated, Lyme disease can advance from early flu-like symptoms to painful and permanent damage to the joints, according to the National Centers for Disease Control. The disease can also affect the nervous system, causing numbness, pain, stiff neck and severe headache or muscle weakness in the face or limbs. Occasionally, heart irregularities occur.

The first stage of the disease begins three to 31 days after the tick bites. Symptoms can include fatigue, chills and fever, headache, muscle and joint pain or swollen lymph nodes.

Another mark of Lyme disease, researchers said, is a peculiar expanding circular skin rash in the areas where the tick bite occurred. Patch shapes vary depending on location. The rash appears mostly on the thighs, groin, trunk and armpits, and on the faces of children.

As the patch enlarges, the center may clear, giving a ring-like appearance. It may be warm, but isn't usually painful. However, researchers said, some people never develop a rash.

People can pick up ticks during walks in parks or the woods, or while hiking and camping. Children are especially susceptible because they run around in tall grass, play in wooded areas and roll on the ground, researchers noted. The individual risk of getting Lyme disease is reasonably small. Only about 12 percent to 15 percent of ticks actually carry the bug.

Experts said removing ticks from the body quickly may prevent a person from contracting Lyme disease. Ticks generally must feed on a person for 24 to 48 hours before the person becomes infected.

Lyme disease experts warn field personnel not to wear tick and flea collars meant for pets. Cats and dogs don't sweat, but people do, and harmful chemicals can get into the human body through sweat glands.

Named after Lyme, Conn., where it surfaced in 1975, Lyme disease has become one of the fastest-growing vector-borne diseases in the United States.

The highest incidence occurs in the Northeast from Massachusetts to Maryland and in Wisconsin, Minnesota, California and Oregon. A vector is a host -- the tick, in this case -- that passes the disease germ.

Researchers at the Armed Forces Pest Management Board note that all military recruit training areas are infested with ticks. CDC officials said a number of service members have been infected in Germany over the years.

The federal Food and Drug Administration approved a Lyme disease vaccine in December 1998 for persons ages 15 to 70. The vaccine's effectiveness depends on getting three doses in a year. The second dose is given a month after the first and the third, 11 months after that and just before the start of tick season. In other words, start now for protection next year.

FDA officials emphasize the vaccine is not 100 percent effective and is not a substitute for other standard preventive measures. The best way to avoid Lyme disease is to stay away from places where ticks live -- tall grass and weeds, scrubby areas, woods and leaf litter. Another good idea: Check children and pets after they've played outside.

If you can't avoid tick-infested areas, CDC experts suggest you wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants, tuck pant legs into socks or boots, tuck shirt into pants, tape area where pants and socks meet to keep ticks out, and wear light-colored clothing so ticks can be seen easily.

After being outdoors:

- Promptly remove and wash clothing;

- Inspect your body carefully and remove attached ticks with tweezers, grasping as close to the head as possible and gently tugging the tick free without crushing its body. Squeezing the tick's body may force infected fluid into the wound;

- Place tick in sealed container for examination by a local health department; and

- Wash the wound and apply an antiseptic.

The center's address for comments, questions and requests for educational material is:

U.S. Army CHPPM
ATTN: Entomological Sciences Program
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5403
or call DSN 584-3613 or (410)436-3613
or visit chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento on the Web.

The following hot lines are available for public use:

Lyme Disease Foundation Inc.
1 Financial Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103-2610
or call (800) 886-LYME
or visit the Web site at www.Lyme.org
or send e-mail to lymefnd@aol.com.

American Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc.
Mill Pond Offices
293 Route 100
Somers, NY 10589
or call (914) 277-6970
or visit the Web site at www.aldf.com
or send e-mail to Inquire@aldf.com.

(American Forces Press Service. Picture provided by the Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc.)

Dr. Westphal designated acting secretary of the Army

by Staff Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Dr. Joseph W. Westphal has been designated the acting secretary of the Army, effective Mar. 5.

Dr. Westphal had been serving as the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, a position he had held since June 1998.

As the assistant secretary, he was charged with civilian oversight and leadership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and administration of Arlington National Cemetery.

The departure of the previous acting secretary -- who was also the under secretary of the Army -- Gregory Dahlberg, left a vacancy at the service's top civilian post. Since Dr. Westphal had already been through the "presidential appointment and senate approval" process, he was eligible to move into the job, officials said.

Dr. Joseph W. Westphal

Dr. Westphal has a long history of Capitol Hill and other government experience, officials said. Dr. Westphal has served on both House of Representative and Senate committee staffs over the years.

Immediately prior to coming to the Pentagon in 1998, Westphal had been the senior policy advisor for water at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. As such, he worked on issues relating to the Clean Water Act, Mississippi River water quality and international agreements.

He had also worked on the House Committee on the Budget and was the executive director of the Sunbelt Caucus, a bipartisan organization of members of both the House and Senate.

In addition, he had served as the special assistant to Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.).

Dr. Westphal has a doctorate in political science from the University of Missouri. He taught political science for 12 years at Oklahoma State University, eventually becoming head of the political science department at OSU. He has also been an adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dahlberg, the past under and acting secretary, has returned to a position on Capitol Hill as the minority staff director for the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

As for naming a permanent secretary of the Army, President George W. Bush has made no official announcement -- as of this date - concerning a nomination.

Bourne Bridge work resumes

by Sue Douglas
Public Affairs office

Deck and pavement repairs to the Bourne Bridge spanning the Cape Cod Canal has resumed under the terms of a $3.4 million contract with MIG Corporation, Inc., of Chelmsford, Mass. The work is being undertaken in five phases encompassing both the Bourne and Sagamore bridges.

"At the end of March, travel over the Bourne Bridge will be limited to one lane in each direction for approximately two months," said Francis X. Donovan, Assistant Engineer-in-Charge of the Cape Cod Canal. "These travel restrictions will allow completion of the third and final phase of work on the Bourne Bridge. " The work includes pavement and waterproofing removal and replacement and inspections/repairs to the concrete deck.

The actual start date was March 19, based on a favorable weather forecast. Message boards located in the vicinity of both bridges announced the start date. Motorists are advised to alter their schedules to avoid predictable rush hour and weekend traffic periods.

During the construction period, local and state police will be on duty to assist the motoring public. Wide load transits will not be allowed on the Bourne Bridge and should be coordinated with the Corps of Engineers at 508-759-4431.

Information on transportation alternatives is provided at http://www.smartguide.org and http://www.gocapecod.org.

Public Affairs Contingency Workshop

One Corps Team - One Corps Regiment

by Larry Rosenberg
Chief, Public Affairs

With a goal so simply stated - "communicate the role of the Corps of Engineers Regiment as part of the total Army force structure during contingency operations" - five of the North Atlantic Division's chiefs of public affairs and other PAO professionals spent a week in the Europe District's EOC cage with one mission: hammer out a communication plan.

Once finished, the Public Affairs Annex to the NAD Operations Plan (Swift Builder) will define the standards and procedures for all division public affairs operations during contingency deployments.

"It was my hope that by putting our best minds together in an atmosphere that promoted ideas we'd be able to overcome many of the pitfalls encountered during contingency operations," said Col. Gregory Bean, deputy commander, North Atlantic Division. "And we're fortunate that we have many Public Affairs professionals committed to the success our mission."

Pictured (left to right): Peter Shugert, New York, Dave Lipsky, NADO, Torrie McAllister, Europe, Ed Voigt, Philadelphia, Lucy Lather, Baltimore, Dana Finney, ERDC, Alicia Gregory, NAU, and Larry Rosenberg, New England (not pictured is Joan Kibler, TAC).

District briefs Congressional representatives

Continued from page 9

- How a Problem Gets Solved;
- Flood Damage Reduction and Erosion Control;
- Projected Construction: Flood Control and Recreation;
- Federal Navigation Projects – Maintenance and Improvements;
- Environmental Restoration;
- Regulatory;
- Support to the Military;
- Defense Environmental Restoration Program and Formerly Used Defense Sites;
- Support to Others;
- Emergency Operations;
- District Communications Program;
- Process of District Contracting;
- Small Business;
- Project Management Business Process.

According to most Congressional representatives, the briefings provided an excellent insight into the Corps. "Until today, my only impression of the Corps was existing bridges, highways, and the Cape Cod Canal, " said Grant Rogers, one of two representatives who attended from newly elected Cong. Langevin's office in Rhode Island. "The briefing was very helpful."

The Congressional representatives and District staff also participated in a working lunch. The time allowed attendees to interact with the District staff and each other in both an informational and informal manner.

Due to the success of the briefing, similar informational sessions will be held in the future. "I expect that we will do something every two years, with intermediate sessions focused on either a specific topic such as dredging, environmental, etc., or on a regional basis," said Col. Osterndorf.

District staff that gave presentations were: Bobby Byrne, Chief of Programs; John Kennelly, Chief of Planning; Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management; Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations; Bill Hubbard, Chief, Environmental Branch; Chris Godfrey, Acting Chief, Regulatory; Bob Martin, Military Program Manager; Bill Holtham, DERP/FUDS Program Manager; Mark Otis, Chief, Environmental Projects; Ruth Kitowicz, Chief, Emergency Operations; Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs; Charlie Coe, Chief of Contracting; and Eva Marie D'Antuono, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Advisor.

Another benefit from the Congressional briefing was the preparation of an exportable power-point presentation that can be easily used by Corps staffers when outreaching and introducing the public to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dredging up the past . . .

Lt. Col. Stanley J. Murphy, Deputy Division Engineer, surveys the area during a group site visit to a Defense Environmental Restoration Project on Martha's Vineyard in this July 1988 photo.

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