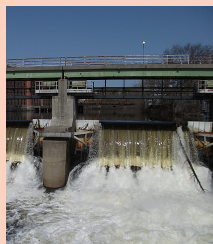


Rangers  
save child  
Page 2



Woonsocket  
Dam repairs  
Page 3



Yankee Voices.....	2
Welcome Home.....	4
Michalak NADELDP choice.....	6
Dredging up the past.....	8



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

# Yankee Engineer

**BUILDING STRONG®**

Volume 44, No. 12 September 2010

## Residents speak at T.F. Green Airport joint hearing

Hundreds of people crowded in the Community College of Rhode Island's Knight Campus in Warwick, R.I., to meet with the federal government and have their say about a local proposed project.

The New England District and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) held a joint public hearing to gather comments on a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for safety improvement at the T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, R.I.

Over 300 people registered for

the hearing with close to 50 people speaking and providing comments.

"Today's joint hearing is being conducted as part of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program to listen to your comments and as part of the Federal Aviation Administration review for their preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement," said Robert DeSista, Chief of Regulatory Division. "I'd like to point out that no decision has been made by the Corps of Engineers. My job today is simply to listen to

your comments to make sure the Corps of Engineers is fully informed of all the issues as we deliberate on the permit application."

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) is seeking permission from the New England District under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to conduct work in U.S. waters in conjunction with airfield safety and efficiency improvement to the airport.

Section 404 regulates the dis-  
*Continued on page 7*

## An adventure of a lifetime

*New England District employees (from left) Mike Tuttle, Bud Taylor and Bogden Figel are currently serving overseas in support of the Corps's mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.*



# Yankee Voices

Bob Hanacek and  
Mike Curran



## Sympathy

... to **Kathy Bucciarelli**, Engineering/Planning, on the passing of her father, **Vincent P. Alberico Jr.**, Aug. 17.

...to **Robert "Ben" Moretz**, Project Manager, Colebrook River Lake, on the passing of his sister, **Kathleen Pennell Austin**, Aug. 20.

...to the family of Contracting retiree, **Carol Husselbee**, who passed away, Aug. 30.

... to **Jim Lewis**, Project Manager, Otter Brook/Surry Mountain Lakes on the passing of his father, **Franklin Lewis**, Sept. 1. The late Mr. Lewis enlisted in the New York National Guard, New York State Guard and then the U.S. Army where he served in World War II in the European Theater of Operations and landed at Omaha Beach.

## Congratulations

...to **Paul Minkin** and **Ruthann Brien**, both from Regulatory Division, on their marriage, Aug. 24.

## Park Rangers save toddler's life

A team of Hop Brook Park Rangers prevented a fun family outing from turning tragic when they saved the life of a toddler over the Independence Day Weekend.

July 5 seemed like a typically busy summer day at the New England District project when Park Ranger Laszlo Lazar and summer Park Rangers Brian Hornbecker and Emily Brown were suddenly called over to aid three year old Deshani Harris, who was unconscious on the sand after her uncle pulled her from the water.

While Hornbecker ran to retrieve a medical kit and Brown called 911, Lazar, who is a CPR certified first responder, immediately administered rescue breaths and dislodged solids from the child's airway. Soon, to the relief of everyone, the little girl began breathing. She regained consciousness and later was able to sit up on her own.

Once sitting, the Park Ranger wrapped her up in a towel to prevent symptoms of shock. "Park Ranger Lazar explained the risks of 'silent/secondary drowning' to the child's father and then directed him to wait for the medical response team," said Hop Brook Project Manager Diana Errico-Topolski. 'Silent/secondary drowning' can occur when water caught in the lungs spreads out when the victim lays down and can result in death by drowning. This is why it is very important for near or resuscitated drowning victims to be seen by advanced medical personnel even if they are walking and talking after the incident. "I'm just happy everyone got to go home," said Lazar.

As Lazar attended the little girl, Hornbecker lent comfort to her distraught mother and then performed crowd control. Brown remained on the phone with 911 during the rescue, providing the dispatcher with critical information and then directed rescue, fire and police personnel to the scene once they arrived.

Hop Brook Lake personnel were later informed by the Middlebury Police Chief that because of their quick action, the little girl was fine.

This is not the first rescue Lazar has performed. In 2008 he came to the aid of a disabled canoeist after his vessel overturned by performing a T-Bone rescue maneuver. Park Ranger Lazar joined the New England District as a summer ranger in 2007 and is now in the Student CO-OP Program.







Photo by Joe Zanca

*The Woonsocket Falls Dam in action during the spring 2010 floods.*

## Corps of Engineers awards \$3.4 million contract for Woonsocket Falls Dam repair in Woonsocket

---

**by Timothy Dugan**  
**Public Affairs Office**

---

The Woonsocket Falls Dam at the Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction Project in Woonsocket, R.I., will be repaired and painted under the terms of a \$3,453,535.54 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The repair work, which will be accomplished by Watermark Environmental, Inc., of Lowell, Mass., will take about six months to complete and started on Aug. 25.

The Woonsocket Falls Dam is located about 100 feet upstream of the South Main Street Bridge. It is equipped with four tainter gates, with each gate 10.1 feet high and 50 feet wide, which can be raised to

allow passage of flood flows.

The work includes repair and overhaul of gates and operating machinery on the Woonsocket Falls Dam.

The Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction Project, constructed between July 1956 and April 1960 at a cost of \$5.4 million, is located in the industrial area of Woonsocket along the Blackstone River. The project area extends 8,300 feet downstream from the Massachusetts state line to the center of the city near South Main Street Bridge.

The project protects about one-half of the industrial properties in the city, several homes, commercial establishments, transportation facilities and public utilities. All work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps of Engineers Quality Management Engineer/Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

---

# Ceremony celebrates employees' return

New England District employees gathered together in the Concord Park Cafeteria, Sept. 1, to welcome home five coworkers who have returned from overseas deployments.

Matt Tessier, Robert Leitch, John Connolly, Frank Fedele and Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre all deployed to assist in the Corps' mission to support the Overseas Contingency Operation.

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander and Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander, welcomed the men home and presented them with awards. They were assisted by Gary Wilson, Human Resources.

Col. Feir said that he thought that the welcome home ceremony was a good program. He thanked the volunteers for deploying and said that the District had a recent increase of interest for overseas assignments. "When I got here, people were a little nervous about deploying, but things have changed and now people want to go," he said.

The Colonel said that although



*Col. Philip Feir fastens Lt. Col. Lefebvre's Bronze Star Medal on his uniform.*

the war is over, volunteers are still needed to do work overseas. "We are always lending assistance all over the world," he pointed out. "Iraq and Afghanistan are not the only opportunities to deploy overseas."

Col. Feir gave Commander's Awards for Civilian Service to each civilian volunteer for performing their duties in an outstanding manner in support of the nation's Overseas

Contingency Operations. It is one of the highest honors a USACE Civilian can receive. The volunteers also received a monetary award for their efforts. "Their courage and competence during their volunteered support captured the essence of the District's motto, 'Building Strong,'" said Col. Feir reading the citations.

Matt Tessier deployed in 2010 to Afghanistan from January to July. Tessier's deployment was unique, according to Col. Feir, because he went outside his comfort zone to become a project manager and went on to do great things. Tessier said the experience was a good one. "I looked at deploying as an opportunity to me," he said. "You really see how much good you're doing. I really enjoyed it."

Tessier thanked his wife, Rachel, for caring for their three small children, all five years and under, while he was away.

Robert Leitch deployed in 2010 to Iraq from February to August. "I didn't know what to expect," he said. "The people were great and I worked on varied projects such as



*Photos by Brian Murphy*

*Frank Fedele receives a Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Philip Feir.*



prisons and courthouses,” he said. “But the best thing that I left with was a great sense of team. I never felt that before in my life. It was a great opportunity and it was an honor to go over there.”

Frank Fedele deployed to Iraq from October 2009 to May 2010. Fedele was in the process of accepting the position of Chief of Operations for the New England District when he was asked to go. He kept in contact with the District while doing exceptional work in Iraq. “I appreciated the opportunity to go over and spend some time in Iraq,” he said. “I also appreciated the support that Tony Mackos, Joni Gardner and everyone else gave me at the District.”

According to Fedele, the support from some District members included encouraging phone calls on the weekends and care packages. “They went out of their way to let me know that they were thinking of me,” he said. “That meant a lot. I encourage people to show that same support to the people who are still over there.”

John Connolly went to Afghanistan in 2010 from February

to August. Construction in New England District has had an extremely heavy workload of late, but the need for resident engineers overseas was just as great which is why he decided to volunteer.

“When I went over there, there was some fear of the unknown,” he said. “It was hard, it was frustrating, but I would go back in a minute. It’s an experience you can’t pay for. If you want to go, call me and I’ll talk with you.”

Connolly has recently accepted an opportunity to transfer to Baltimore District.

Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre received the Bronze Star for Exceptional Meritorious Service in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom and a Bunker Hill plaque for his service in Afghanistan from July 2009 to this past June. Lt. Col. Lefebvre is retiring from the U.S. Army, but hopes to be able to find a position that will keep him in New England.

He said that it was good to see a lot of New England District faces in Afghanistan. “I was the first one over and it was great to welcome the New England District folks over there,” he said. “Afghanistan is very fast-paced. If you want to go over and you’re looking for a challenge, talk to people who have been there. It’s a great opportunity and one that you will never forget.”

Lt. Col. Lefebvre thanked his wife, Shelly, for her support while he was away and for caring for their young son while also working a full time job. “I appreciate Shelly a lot,” he said. “It’s not easy to have your spouse gone for a year, work



John Connolly receives a "check" from Col. Philip Feir.

full time, and take care of a child.”

It is a big sacrifice spouses make when their loved ones are deployed. In appreciation for their support, the wives received Bunker Hill plaques. “We understand the sacrifice associated with the separation of a loved one and the burden it places on the shoulders of all family members,” said Col. Feir, reading the citation.

The plaques were awarded personally to Julie Leitch and Shelly Lefebvre. Janet Fedele and Rachel Tessier could not attend, so their husbands accepted the awards on their behalf.

The names of all the volunteers will be permanently displayed on a plaque in Concord Park that honors all District employees who volunteer for overseas assignments. The volunteers were able to fasten their name plates to the plaque themselves.

In addition to the Welcome Home ceremony, Dawn Clappsy of North Atlantic Division presented the NAD Deployment and Briefing Process before the ceremony to those who were interested in volunteering. After the Welcome Home ceremony, Connie Morinello presented the NAD Family Readiness briefing. Anyone who would like to deploy overseas should speak with their supervisor and then contact the Human Resources Office.



Matt Tessier adds his name to the plaque honoring employees who have deployed.

## Michalak to represent District in Leadership Program

Scott Michalak of Engineering/Planning has been selected as New England District's representative in North Atlantic Division's Fiscal Year 2011's Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP).

The ELDP provides participants with an opportunity to experience a unique perspective on leadership and will allow Michalak to participate in various senior-level USACE activities within NAD's geographical area. The ELDP begins October 1 of each year and lasts approximately 12 months with a two to three year follow on period.

"The ELDP is an essential professional development program for high potential employees who will someday serve at the Senior Leader Level," said Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, NAD Commander. "The program is aligned with the USACE Campaign Goal #4, 'Build and cultivate a competent, disciplined, and resilient team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.'"

Entrance into the ELDP offers tremendous opportunities, but only a few employees are able to participate each year – essentially one person per District. The selection criteria are stringent. Michalak was evaluated on his ability to team across functional and geographical boundaries, lead change and formulate a vision. In addition, Michalak and other competitors for the position had to submit a resume and an essay addressing their qualifications relative to the selection criteria. Nomination packages must include an endorsement by the District Commander and then forwarded to the ELDP Program Manager. The Program Manager



Photo by Sally Rigione

*Scott Michalak is New England's choice for the 2011 NAD Executive Leadership Development Program.*

presents the nomination packages for the Division Commander for review and final approval.

There is a great deal packed into the one year program. There are eight main components which include formal training, mentorships and shadowing assignments with North Atlantic and New England District Leadership, a developmental assignment, an ELDP Associate Team Project and attending various leadership meetings throughout the North Atlantic Division.

Michalak will be following in some impressive footsteps. Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction, recently graduated from the program. Other New England District alumni include Bobby Byrne, Deputy Chief, Programs, Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering Planning, Christine Godfrey, former New England District Chief of Regulatory, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Chief,

Contracting Division, as well as Engineering/Planning's Dave Margolis and Project Management's Heather Sullivan and Scott Acone.

Michalak is an excellent fit to the ELDP. He joined the New England District in July 2000 and is currently the District's Levee Safety Program Manager (LSPM), a position he has had since 2006 when the Levee Safety Program began. Since becoming the District LSPM, his efforts have led to a number of key and critical revisions within the North Atlantic Region that influence Corps national policy and procedures. Michalak was instrumental in getting "Interim Vegetation Guidance" issued from Corps of Engineers Headquarters so that clearer metrics would be provided to communities regarding vegetation clearance adjacent to flood damage mitigation projects. He also is responsible for prepar-

*Continued on next page*



## Residents speak at T.F. Green Airport joint hearing

*Continued from page 1*

charge or fill of material in U.S. waters including wetlands.

The RIAC wants to perform work which would include constructing runway safety area enhancements, extend the runway, relocate a taxiway as well as roadway relocations and alignments.

The proposed work would directly impact more than seven acres of wetlands that are under the New England District's jurisdiction. Currently there are three alternatives (to include a no action alternative) developed for the project. Depending on the alternative, waterway impacts could range from 773 to 918 linear feet. Because the project would entail filling wetlands, RIAC will develop a detailed mitigation plan for the impacts to the wetlands function and values.

According to Bryon Rakoff, Branch Manager, Planning and Programming for the FAA, each person was given three minutes to speak to provide a fair chance for all to be heard, but said additional time would be given after everyone has had their turn.

"We understand that some of you may feel the need to speak longer," he said. "We are here to listen and we will stay here until all have had a chance to speak."

Many of the comments made by participants showed that they were very concerned with noise pollution and fuel emissions from the planes flying overhead.

"I live in a house that was designated to be sound

proofed in 2002," said Chris Doppke. "We did not qualify because we were not there the required three year minimum. Now you want to extend towards my house without soundproofing. This is a problem."

Preston T. Pelky opposes the expansion. He said that since homes have been removed, homeowners have been experiencing water seepage in their basements and worries that the problem would get worse if the permit is granted. "We believe that the RIAC should be denied future expansion while the water flow problems persist and have not been addressed," he said.

Not everyone was against the expansion. "I support the need to extend to 8,700 feet," said Geoff Cook. He suggested that mitigation should include a "green" space such as a park or walking trails that could be given back to the community.

Lena Elliott just wants the decision to be made, and be made quickly. "Get on with the expansion, stop the constant delays and allow us Warwick residents to get on with our lives," she said. "The sooner the better."

Comments on the proposed project were accepted through Sept. 15. The Public Notice on this proposed permit can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg/05/2005-395.pdf>.

Copies of the DEIS Executive Summary, DEIS Volumes and DEIS technical reports are available on line at <http://www.vhb.com/pvd/eis>. Hard copies can be found in various libraries in Warwick and Cranston, R.I.

## Michalak to represent District in Leadership Program

*Continued from previous page*

ing and overseeing the development of the Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Inspection of Completed Works Program. He provides guidance and support to other functional areas within the New England District regarding the HQ USACE program initiatives, policies, regulations and guidance as they pertain to flood damage mitigation.

Other assignments at the District include being a member of the National Water Response team, a member of the NAE Base Development Team supporting the USACE Engineering Infrastructure and Intelligence Reach Back Center, and a member of the NAE Critical Infrastructure Security Team.

Michalak is a registered professional engineer in the state of Vermont. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners, Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon. Michalak was an USACE Emerging Leader for 2006 and is a graduate of the NAE Leadership Development Program.

The selection process for the ELDP for Fiscal Year 2011 is over, but it's not too late for interested employees to start thinking about 2012. For more information on this worthwhile program, please contact Scott Accone, the District's ELDP point of contact, and then speak with your supervisor.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Park Ranger Tom St. Denis talks about the starfish on his arm during this Sept. 12, 2003 picture at the Big E! Exhibition in Springfield, Mass. (Photo by C.J. Allen)*

First Class  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Concord, MA  
Permit No. 494

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