



**US Army Corps  
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New England District

# Yankee Engineer

**BUILDING STRONG®**

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Photo provided by Carol Charette

*How low can you go? Low-flying helicopter rigged with geophysical instrumentation conducts survey on Martha's Vineyard, Mass.*

## Corps conducting aerial magnetometer survey as part of Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on Martha's Vineyard

**by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs**

The New England District, with assistance from the U. S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, and their contractor UXB, conducted an aerial magnetometer survey at South Beach, Tisbury Great Pond and Cape Poge on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Carol Charette is New England District's project manager.

Battelle, from Oak Ridge, Tenn., owners of the geophysical magnetometer mounted on the helicopter, and National Helicopters, from Toronto, Canada, owners of the helicopter, both subcontractors to UXB, are

performing the survey.

The helicopter and the magnetometer both arrived on the Vineyard on Feb. 6. The two contractors spent the first few days assembling the magnetometer onto the helicopter and testing their equipment. The first survey flight took place over South Beach on Feb. 10 and is scheduled to be completed the middle to end of the week of Feb. 14 weather permitting. The aerial survey began at South Beach, progressed to Tisbury Great Pond and then Cape Poge.

The purpose of the aerial survey is to supplement the ground, inland water and ocean surveys to capture areas that could not be surveyed due to access issues or to get 100

percent coverage. The areas flown over can be viewed on maps on the New England District website as well as photos of the helicopter equipped with the geophysical instrumentation containing 22 sensors.

The public was advised via public notice that a low-flying helicopter rigged with geophysical instrumentation would be flying in all three project areas. The helicopters flight path stayed approximately 500 feet away from any homes and flew as low as three feet above the ground.

The New England District website can be accessed by going to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/corpsnewengland/sets/72157625802777982/>.

# Yankee Voices

Diane Ray and Tom Rosato



## Sympathy

...to the family and friends of Office of Counsel retiree **Claire Mackin**, who passed away Dec. 26.

...to **Mark Walsh**, Construction Representative, North Central Resident Office at Fort Devens, Construction Division, on the passing of his mother, **Claire A. (Finn) Walsh**, Jan. 22.

...to **Patrick Blumeris** and his wife, **Barbara**, both from Engineering/Planning on the passing of Patrick's father, **Frank Michael John Blumeris**, Jan. 26.

...to family and friends of Engineering/Planning retiree **Margaret O'Malley** who passed away Jan. 28. Mrs. O'Malley retired from the New England District in 1997.

...to **Marie Sheehan**, Admin Officer, UCRB, on the passing of her grandmother, **Bessie Rowe**, Feb. 6.

## Letters from Overseas

### Thoughts from Joe Moyer in Afghanistan

I thought I would give a quick brief on what I have been doing in Afghanistan Engineering District South (AES) for the last year. As you probably know we are a brand new district and have been around for a little over a year. I have been able to watch as our district went from a whole bunch of tents to RLB offices and housing. We are now awaiting the whims of the Afghan border officials to release another large shipment of RLBs to provide another 100 rooms. This will allow me to staff up to a reasonable level to execute the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) program which has quadrupled since the last fiscal year to over \$1.2 billion in new awards. We have learned to work together as a team, overcome the challenges and streamline the processes. I was asked to try to turn around the ANSF program back in May and was able to salvage the awards that we had pending and completed the customers awards by the end of the fiscal year.

Currently the ANSF program is under a tremendous amount of scrutiny to complete the Afghan Army and Police permanent builds by 2014 so our troops and our allies can start de-mobilizing and get back to their families. We are always looking for some more helping hands to lighten the load so please keep up the strong emphasis on the benefits of the deploying and I will be more than happy to discuss with any folks that are on the fence. We need more New Englanders here, it gets pretty boring when you are the only one cheering for the Patriots or the Red Sox.

One final note: I would like to express my thanks to the great people that assisted in the development and the execution of the family support programs the New England District now has. This is a complete paradigm shift from my previous deployment to Kabul in 2008 and 2009. My kids now have dolls with my ugly mug on them to go bed with and personalized journals -- all good stuff. I do look forward to getting back to normalcy in the States but it can wait a little longer.

Joe Moyer, Program Manager, Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)  
USACE Afghanistan Engineering District South

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District Commander: Col. Philip T. Feir  
Chief, Public Affairs: Larry B. Rosenberg  
Editor: Ann Marie R. Harvie  
Media Relations Officer: Timothy J. Dugan  
Public Affairs Specialist: Sally M. Rigione  
Web Content Manager: Andrew Stamer





*Mike Walsh, Vincent Gualtieri, Diana Errico-Topolski, Cori Rose, Col. Philip Feir, Barbara Newman, Heather Sullivan, Kevin Kotelly and John Astley during the graduation ceremony. Photo by Brian Murphy.*

## Leadership program graduates future District leaders

New England District leaders of today gathered in the Concord Park Theater on Jan. 25 to attend the graduation ceremony of the New England District's leaders of tomorrow.

The District's Leadership Development Program (LDP) held a graduation ceremony for the 2010 participants who completed the two-year program. In addition, the LDP held a kickoff event for the nine Corps employees entering the program immediately after the graduation. Dozens of program participants, division and separate office chiefs, Executive Staff, and mentors braved bad weather and a looming snow storm predicted for later that afternoon to attend the event.

John Astley, New England District Counsel and LDP Director, welcomed everyone and thanked those who traveled long distances and for enduring the weather conditions to attend. "We have a great group of people who just finished and an even better group, if that's possible, coming forward. We've got great diversity throughout the various program areas and we've got phenomenal mentors who have volunteered to step up to help work with folks who are interested in developing their leadership skills over the course of the next two years," he said.

Before graduating the current LDP participants, Astley recognized Scott Acone, a program graduate who recently received a promotion to a leadership role. Acone is now a mentor in the LDP.

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, followed and addressed the audience. He thanked Astley for running the program. "It's a great program, John," he said. "Thanks for stepping up to the plate to do it."

Col. Feir told the audience that he too has a role in the LDP. "People will come on board and shadow me as I go about my day to day activities," he said. "I answer questions about why I made a decision and to

be honest it doesn't seem like extra work to me. When the shadowing is over, they sometime say to me, 'That was the best experience I ever had.' It's amazing to me."

Col. Feir congratulated the graduates and welcomed the new program participants. "There are some wonderful mentors that are going to help those of you who are coming in," he said. "It's a great program – one of the best in the region."

Graduating from LDP class of 2010 were: Diana Errico-Topolski, Vincent Gualtieri, Cori Rose, Heather Sullivan, Mike Walsh, Barbara Newman, and Kevin Kotelly. James West was also a graduate, but he was unable to attend.

The graduation ceremony shifted to the kick-off event for the new participants. Astley gave an overview of what the program is all about and what the new class can expect in the next two years. He discussed the goals of the program, the projects that they will work on, and a calendar of events. He concluded by talking about the benefits of participating in the program.

The Leadership Development Program participants for 2011 are: Marci Montrose (Mentor: Sheila Winston-Vincuilla); Marissa Wright (Mentor: Scott Acone); Ralph Gendron (Mentor: Chris Way); Reese Piper (Mentor: Bobby Byrne); Andrew Jordan (Mentor: Gary Lacroix); Brian Mulvey (Mentor: Dave Margolis); Daniel Lapolla (Mentor: Steve Patchkofsky); Matt Tessier (Mentor: Frank Fedeale); Karen Hoey (Mentor: Sean Dolan); Jeff Teller (Mentor: Farrell McMillan); Casey Haskell (Mentor: Scott Acone); Karen Wolfe (Mentor: Heather Sullivan) and Natalie McCormack (Mentor: Joe Faloretti).

New England District employees who are interested in learning more about the LDP can go to its Sharepoint site at <https://nae-ap1rm-52761.nae.ds.usace.army.mil/Collaboration/ldp/default.aspx>.



Photos by Brian Murphy

*Programs/Project Management employees past and present pose for a group shot at the Otis/Rosato retirement luncheon.*

## Retirement luncheon held for Otis and Rosato

When two of New England District's top employees decided to join the retirement community, their co-workers decided to honor their impressive and distinguished careers in style.

Members of Program/Project Management team hosted a retirement luncheon for Mark Otis and Tom Rosato in the Grand Ballroom at Hanscom Air Force Base's Officer's Club, Jan. 20.

Over 100 family members, friends, co-workers and retirees attended the event. Rosato retired with 37 years of service. Otis retired with over 33 years of service.

Bobby Byrne, Chief of Programs, served as Master of Ceremonies for the luncheon. Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander began the ceremony by retiring both men and presenting

them with their certificates and pins.

In addition to Col. Feir and Byrne, Bill Scully, Raimo Liias, Gary Morin and retiree Joe Bocchino stepped up to the microphone to talk about their co-worker's careers, say a few words of praise and tell stories.

Celia Orgel, Division Program Manager, presented Otis with a letter of appreciation from Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, North Atlantic Division Commander. Rosato's children, son Anthony and daughters Crissy and Diana, also said a few words on behalf of their father.

Otis and Rosato both received Bunker Hill plaques in appreciation of their dedication and service to the District. Bob Leitch presented one to Otis and Jen Flanagan presented one to Rosato. Otis received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his distinguished service

through the years. The two new retirees also received Minuteman statues as gifts from attendees. Rosato received a digital camera package and a gift card. Otis received a gift card to a golf shop. Bocchino presented Rosato with various gifts to remind the new retiree of their adventures when they both worked for the District.

Thomas Rosato began his service to the Corps and the nation in the District's Planning Division, evaluating the hydropower potential at the District's federal reservoir projects. After Planning, Rosato moved over to the Emergency Operations Center and assisted in developing many of the standard operating procedures that are still used today. He also served as Chief of the Emergency Operations Center for a time, before he moved on to



Operations Division. While there, he was responsible for maintenance support of the District's dams and hurricane barriers. Rosato's final move was to Programs/Project Management where he served as a Project Manager until his retirement. Some of the high profile projects that he worked on include the first three border patrol stations that the District built in support of the Department of Homeland Security, Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and the Woonsocket Local Protection Project.

"Tom has been given tasks throughout his career for which precedence had not been set or a standard operating procedure developed, and he continually accomplished these tasks in an exceptional manner," wrote Col. Feir to Brig. Gen. DeLuca informing him of Rosato's retirement. "His ability to 'get er done' sets a high standard for those left to follow in his footprint."

Mark Otis, Chief, Environmental and Military Project Management Branch, began his career with the Corps in Operations Division in the Navigation Section and later became the project manager for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. Otis took assignments in key district leadership positions over the years. He played a key role in the District's initial involvement in developing solutions and best remediation methods for Superfund projects, in the development of a solid relationship with EPA Region 1, and the District's designation as a Hazardous, Toxic and Remedial Waste design center.

"His statesmanship, vision and professionalism have without a doubt been directly responsible for maintaining what has become a true



*Surrounded by other New England District retirees, Tom Rosato holds up his Minuteman statue that was given to him as a gift during the retirement luncheon.*

and model team partnership with EPA," wrote Col. Feir to Brig. Gen. DeLuca. "Mark's leadership contributions, particularly over the last 13 years as a branch chief leading the project management of our environmental and military programs, have made significant long-term contributions to the New England District, the Corps of Engineers and the United States Army."

Otis' wife, Ellen, accompanied him to the event. In addition to Rosato's children, his wife,

Marianne, sister Jane Rosato, and mother Yolanda Rosato attended the festivities.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Dick Carlson, Fran Donovan, Earle McDonald and Dick Reardon as well as retirees Bocchino, Lynne Bleakney, Amal Guirguis, Sue Holtham, Bill Holtham, Bernie Manor, K.C. Mitkevicius, Ira Nadelman and former District family member Tony Riccio welcomed Otis and Rosato into the retirement community.



*Ellen and Mark Otis listen to stories and anecdotes being presented during the retirement luncheon.*



Participants in the 2011 Ranger Conference held at Concord Park Headquarters in Concord, Mass. (Photo by Brian Murphy)

# New England District starts off the New Year with a Ranger Conference

**By Park Rangers  
Natalie McCormack and  
Karen Hoey**

The green and grey filled Concord Park's hallways Tuesday morning, Jan. 11, ready to partake in a three-day Ranger's Conference which would include a Visitor Assistance refresher, a question and answer session with Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, and Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander, as well as updates on the Facilities and Equipment Maintenance System (FEM), Dam Safety/Geotech, and Social Networking.

The first day started off with a welcome from the Interpretive Services Outreach Program committee (ISOP). The committee planned and organized the event, and was host for the many participants and presenters who attended the conference. The opening remarks were given by the Chief of Operations, Frank Fedele.

At this time, Fedele also gave new and seasoned rangers the chance to introduce themselves and talk a little bit about what programs/projects, committees, and partnerships they have become involved in through the Corps.

Following a brief address about the state of the Operations Division by Fedele, the focus was changed over to Visitor Assistance, which was lead by Bill Jackson a Park Ranger from the Vicksburg District's Lake Ouachita. Reviewed in the Visitor Assistance training were points about policy, verbal judo, and personal protection.

Originally, the Visitor Assistance training was scheduled as a two-day process, but due to the impending storm it was fit into the last four hours of that day. Thanks to the flexibility of the Concord Park staff, Jackson, and those attending the conference, we were able to use the cafeteria space in place of the gym at Hanscom Air Force Base, which would be closed the following

day due to hazardous conditions.

As was predicted on the first day of the conference, all of the Concord area was shut down due to the massive amounts of snow that fell that evening and throughout the following day. In all, about 21 inches blanketed the ground and covered the roadways. Unfortunately this caused some major changes to be made to the original schedule for the conference. Several presenters who were supposed to talk that day could now no longer make it, but fortunately others volunteered to present the following day. In lieu of the canceled events for the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Snow Day did give Rangers and Managers from different Basins a chance to connect while stuck, for the most part, at Hanscom Air Force Base's, Hanscom Inn.

After clean up from the previous day the conference was able to continue with an excellent presentation on the use of Social Networking sites. Andrew Stamer explained the value of this resource and how it



is currently used by the Corps. He also gave tips on using these sites to inform the public about upcoming events and closures at the projects.

Siamac Vaghar from Geotech presented next. He discussed the current conditions of the New England District's dams and the Cape Cod Canal.

Vaghar also handed out an information table sheet which reveals

how the Corps classifies the safety of the dams.

Mr. Fedele and Tina Krawczyk gave a very informative overview on the ENG 93 form (Payment Estimate - Contract Performance).

It was after this presentation that Col. Feir said a few words and then presented Steven Patchkofsky with the Interpreter of the Year award plaque.

The day ended with Jackie DiDomenico, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, giving a Prevention of Sexual Harassment presentation and Reese Piper presenting a FEM update and overview.

This conference was thrown a few curve balls, but thanks to everyone's flexibility and good nature, it was able to be a successful and informative couple of days.

## Park Ranger speaks at Trails Symposium

by Thomas Chamberland  
Park Ranger

Park Ranger Tom Chamberland served as a presenter at the 20th National Trails Symposium sponsored by American Trails in Chattanooga, Tenn., from Nov. 15-18th. Chamberland's presentation was entitled, "From Spaghetti to Trail: the story of the Titanic Rail Trail."

The presentation covered a brief history of, and the renewed effort begun in 2000 involving the Corps of Engineers in working to re-energize the trail from the "Blackstone to the Pioneer Valley".

Chamberland's focus was on the hard work and effort in building the local town and regional committees and partnerships, the Corps "Handshake" Grant program, along with fostering cooperation with two state and federal agencies along the trail route. The 66-mile Titanic Rail trail, when complete, will connect all five Thames River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Projects along with the West Hill Dam Project on the Blackstone River, and will be the only major east west trail in Southern New England.

During the symposium, attended

by over 500 trail enthusiasts from all 50 states and three foreign countries, Chamberland was able to network with the Connecticut State Trails Coordinator, made initial contact with the Paul S. Sarbanes, Transit in Parks, Technical Assistance Center. This center offers technical and financial assistance to Federal Land managers to improve transportation related projects, of which the Titanic Rail trail qualifies. This assistance will help the trail, thru the Corps of Engineers and both the Last Green Valley and Blackstone Valley Heritage corridor as a "total package" trail system. Chamberland

also attended presentations on the latest from the Public Access Board regarding the status of outdoor accessibility, and building and developing regional and large scale trail related events.

The Symposium's focus presentation was on "Pathways to Play" a concept of infusing play into pathways to encourage active lifestyles for children, families, and communities. Chamberland also participated in the two day discussion of the National Trails Trailing Partnership (NTTP.net) on ways to determine need and improve trail related training.



*A group of hikers walk along the Grand Trunk Trail in Massachusetts.*

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Gary Lacroix helps a child build a cup tower during the Museum of Science's Zoom into Engineering Day event on February 19, 2005. Lacroix was one of several engineers who helped out at the event under the District's Community Relations Program.*

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