

2012

A Year in Review

Yankee Engineer Special Edition - Year in Review 2012

Building Strong®





Col. Charles Samaris at an SAME event.



The District participating in Plymouth Maritime Day.



Nacala Dam construction.



A volunteer at National Public Lands Day.

Commander's Corner: Looking back at 2012, moving forward to 2013

by Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander

New England Team,
What a year! As you read the pages of our 2012 Year In Review, one thing is surely clear...we've been busy!

Whether responding to Super Storm Sandy and other emergencies, executing military missions throughout New England, supporting the VA to modernize their facilities, developing and managing the region's water resources through our many Civil Works missions, or restoring the environment by working hand-in-hand with the EPA and other federal, state and local agencies...we, the New England District continue to



Col. Charles Samaris speaking at the VA in Providence, R.I.

provide outstanding service to the people of New England and the nation.

We have accomplished much! So much, in fact, that it is physically impossible to include every project, program, activity, individual and team in the 2012 Year In Review. It was extremely difficult, but we had to identify the most comprehensively representative highlights for 2012. They represent the immense efforts, dedicated service, and superior results for which we can all be very proud. So... here they are!

We successfully overcame many challenges in 2012. And I am confident that, together, we will take on, and overcome, future challenges with character and passion, selflessly serving the people of New England and the Nation, and delivering superior results!

We are BUILDING STRONG!

Essays!

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New England District's Steven Patchkofsky assists during Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick's USACE Assumption of Command ceremony. Marissa Wright also assisted during the event. Corps of Engineers photo

Change in Leadership

Lt. Gen. Bostick assumes USACE Command; Col Savre new North Atlantic Division Commander

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick became the 53rd U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and U.S. Army Chief of Engineers during an assumption of command ceremony, held May 22 in Washington, D.C. He replaced Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp. New England District Park Rangers Steven Patchkofsky and Marissa Wright served as escorts.

Just a few months later, Col. Kent D. Savre became the new Commander of the North Atlantic Division during an assumption of command ceremony, July 31 at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y. He replaced Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca.



Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite (left) hands the Command flag to Col. Kent Savre during the NAD Assumption of Command ceremony. Photo by Justin Ward



A helicopter flies over Nantucket, Mass., to conduct an aerial geophysical survey.

Photo provided by Marie Swiech-Laflamme, Weston Solutions

Project Highlights

As has been reported many times over, the New England District enjoyed the successful completion of a myriad of projects throughout 2012. Below is just a small sampling of the projects and activities successfully completed:

The New England District Team, working closely with the Baltimore District and its contractor, Weston Solutions, conducted an aerial geophysical survey of approximately 2,267 acres of land, beach and water on the Island of Nantucket, Mass. This area is known as the **Nantucket Beach Formerly Used Defense Site** that served as an aerial bombing range during WWII. The survey was part of a remedial investigation (RI) under the Corps' Military Munitions Response Program to locate old munitions buried on land and in the sands offshore. Land based geophys-

ics, digging on discovered anomalies to confirm their origin, dive operations in the waters offshore, and soil and groundwater sampling were also conducted following the aerial geophysical survey. Field work lasted from March to August 2012. Currently the District is reviewing the Draft RI Report.

Steel repairs on the **Sagamore and Bourne Highway Bridges** spanning the **Cape Cod Canal** in Bourne, Mass., began in November 2011 and were completed in December 2012. The \$8.5 million project included removing and replacing deteriorated structural steel secondary members, strengthening of existing structural steel members, replacing structural fasteners, strengthening selected gusset plates, removal of fatigue sensitive details and improvements to the bridge drainage system.

Steel repairs were completed both below the roadway and above on the arch of the bridge's center span over the canal. Traffic control devices that temporarily reduced travel lanes were installed occasionally as needed to allow access for the repair work.

The New England District members of the Regional Groundwater Team finalized the Kandahar Groundwater Evaluation report, which is an appendix to a larger document, the **Kandahar Water Supply Master Plan**. The Master Plan addresses the water supply and distribution for the Afghan city for a projected population of one million people. Regional Command - South (RC-S) took the District's recommendation of conducting a Wastewater Study to go hand in hand with the Water Supply Master Plan. Subsequently,

they awarded a contract to Tetra Tech to do the Wastewater Study. RC-S also worked on developing a distance learning training package to train the key Afghan personnel on how to use the models that were developed as part of the Water Supply Master Plan.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined **Veterans Administration Medical Center** officials and other partners in cutting the ribbon on the new Specialties Clinic and Behavioral Health Addition at the **VA Providence Hospital** in Rhode Island. The new \$18.8 million addition includes 10,000 square feet of specialty clinic space that will house examining and procedure rooms, microscope and resident rooms, equipment storage and a staff lounge. The new addition also includes nearly 13,000 feet of added behavioral health space comprised of 21 consult rooms and offices, two specialized therapy rooms, as well as a waiting and reception area.

Many navigation projects were accomplished during 2012. The New England District Team dredged the 18-foot federal channel in the **Housatonic River** in Connecticut. Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of material were removed from some of the worst shoaled areas. This project was funded



Work being performed on the Cape Cod Canal Sagamore Bridge.

Photo by Kevin Burke

primarily with cost share funding from the state of Connecticut.

Another project that was cost shared about 50/50 with Connecticut was the 44,000 cubic yards of material removed from the **Patchogue River** project in Westbrook, and is being returned to its authorized dimensions. **Clinton Harbor** was also funded by the Connecticut Department of Transportation during the year. Work had just started at the end of the year on the removal of about 48,000 cy with placement on the nearby **Hammonasset State Beach**.

Funding was provided to the District in the Disaster Relief Appropriations

Act of 2012 for dredging at **Cuttyhunk Harbor** in Gosnold, Mass., using the government dredge CURRITUCK and a \$3.5 million project to repair the south jetty at the entrance to the **Merrimack River** in Newburyport, Mass. Work in Cuttyhunk was completed in the spring and work at Newburyport is ongoing and expected to be completed in March 2013.

The New England District team awarded a contract for construction to repair the bulkhead and wharf on the east side of the inner basin at the **Block Island Harbor of Refuge** in Rhode Island. The CURRITUCK dredged the entrance channel to the harbor of the most hazardous shoals in the channel. The result was the removal of about 25,000 cubic yards of sand from the channel.

The CURRITUCK visited **Great Salt Pond on Block Island** and dredged the entrance to improve safe navigation in and out of the harbor. The District team also dredged Wells Harbor and Green Harbor using the CURRITUCK. Also dredged Oak Bluffs with the CURRITUCK and all work was completed by mid-summer.

Other navigational projects completed in 2012 dredging were in **Chelsea Creek**, Mass., and some rock removal in **Boston Harbor**, Mass.



Photo by Jennifer Flanagan

The new addition to the VA Providence Hospital in Rhode Island will provide state-of-the-art health care to Veterans.



New England District Team Members view a New Jersey house damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Photo by Andrew Stamer

New England District Disaster Response in 2012

The New England District responded to two major events in 2012. The Corps of Engineers plays a vital role in the federal government's unified national response to disasters and emergencies. It is the designated lead for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, which provides public works and engineering-related support.

Days before Hurricane Isaac made landfall in Louisiana on Aug. 29, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had resources in place to protect and support residents in the storm's path. The New England District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for the hurricane event when it received the mission from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the Water Team would be needed to assist.

The New England District is home to one of two national water teams that alternate duties every other year. The water team's mission is to provide potable drinking water to disaster victims.

The EOC deployed representatives to the FEMA Headquarters, National Response and Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, D.C., and to Alabama ahead of the storm to be in place and ready to receive deliveries of bottled water. During the hurricane event, the New England District sent a total of 185 trucks carrying 3,330,000 liters of drinking water to Alabama and Louisiana. All of the New England District's team members returned home on Sept. 6.

When Hurricane Sandy hit the New Jersey shore on Oct. 29, it brought

massive flooding, extensive structural damage, power outages and worst of all loss of life all along the Eastern Seaboard. Although not directly hit by the storm, the New England District's advanced preparation and utilization of its Flood Risk Management projects helped reduce regional flooding. Prior to Sandy's unwelcomed arrival, all three hurricane barriers prepared for closure.

The District Emergency Operations Center sent representatives to the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) to advise the states, and lend any necessary assistance. A Levee Safety Subject Matter Expert (SME) deployed to the Regional Response Coordination Center in Maynard, Mass. The National Water Team was



The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, R.I., operates during Hurricane Sandy.

Photo by John MacPherson

activated and deployed to Washington, D.C., Lakehurst, N.J., and the Concord, Mass., EOC. All three of the hurricane barriers—Stamford Hurricane Barrier in Connecticut, Fox Point in Rhode Island and New Bedford in Massachusetts, operated successfully during the storm. District Team members were on site monitoring storm surge and high tide levels at the barriers, closing them at

critical times to reduce potential flooding in the respective cities. The closures and operations efforts are estimated to have prevented \$29.7 million in flood related damages. The team at the Cape Cod Canal office in Buzzards Bay, Mass., also managed operations at New Bedford and Fox Point hurricane barriers. They monitored wind speed in case sustained winds reached the



Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee (left) gives Richard Patterson and the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier a thumbs up during prep work for Hurricane Sandy.

level that would close down the Cape Cod Canal highway bridges to traffic. Although high winds were prevalent throughout the event, the bridges over the Cape Cod Canal stayed open.

Hydraulic engineers located in Concord, Mass., monitored the rainfall throughout the region and the water level in the region's major rivers to regulate Corps-managed dams and to minimize downstream impacts.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, Lt. Col. Steven Howell and a small team of New England District employees were deployed to New Jersey to set up a Corps Recovery Field Office (RFO) there, which was co-located with FEMA in a large, abandoned building.

The RFO closed on Nov. 30 after successfully completing its mission.



Hurricane Isaac made landfall in Louisiana, leaving flooding and destroyed homes in its wake.

Photo courtesy of FEMA



Park Ranger Christine Renzoni sets a bird free after it has been banded and its information recorded at West Hill Dam.

Photo by Kevin Burke

Activities in the Field

Team members in the field are often the public's first and only contact with the Corps in New England. They hold countless interpretive programs and host dozens of school visits each year. Below are just some of the examples of activities the District field offices held this year:

New England District project offices held volunteer cleanup activities April 21-22 in celebration of Earth Day. West Thompson Lake in Connecticut, and East Brimfield, Westville Lake and the Cape Cod Canal in Massachusetts all held events.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined the Ranger Color Guard in representing the Corps in New England during the Concord, Mass., Patriots' Day parade, April 19. The town invites the District to participate in their annual celebration. Patriots' Day is a Massachusetts civic holiday commemorating the anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War, which began April 19.

If you like bird watching, West Hill Dam in Uxbridge,

Mass., is the place to go. Bird banders have netted 96 species of birds at the New England District project and are keeping a close eye on the populations. The 2012 Bird Banding began the week of May 6 and ended the week of June 3. The information collected from the bird banding initiative is shared with the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. The center is a part of the U.S. Geological Survey. The information also goes to Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife.

The District conducted visitor surveys in the summer. This was part of a nationwide effort to survey visitors at more than 30 Corps-managed recreation areas. These surveys provided the Corps with baseline information to be used for budgeting and planning purposes. The Corps hopes to

learn more about visitor recreation habits to better plan for new trends in the way leisure time is spent at Corps sites. Findings will help ensure that recreation facilities at Corps lakes are operating efficiently to maximize visitor outdoor opportunities and enjoyment.

Federal, state and local officials gathered with hundreds of local residents to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the New England District's Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Project, July 28. The ceremony at the Hopkinton Dam featured distinguished guests, speakers and music provided by the Hopkinton Town Band. Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Project Manager Stephen Dermody served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Cape Cod Canal team members Elisa Carey, Gabe Lundgren and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Plymouth Maritime Day event in Plymouth, Mass., July 14. The event celebrates the town's historic nautical traditions that date back to the Pilgrims when they landed in Plymouth in 1620. Tens of thousands of people attended the event, many either passing by or stopping at the New England District's Water Safety Trailer. Those who chose to stop, and it is estimated there were at least 1,000 visitors to the trailer, were greeted by one of the Rangers and Bobber (the rangers took turns inside the costume). Little ones enjoyed meeting the dog and playing games at the trailer, all the while learning about water safety.

Team members at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

flood damage reduction projects at East Brimfield Lake and Westville Lake hosted two trail events on June 23. The first event was the first ever trail ride on the newly opened Lake Siog Pass, a 1.5 mile trail that connects to the Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield, Mass. Later in the afternoon, the Grand Trunk Trail Blazers, along with the Sturbridge Trail Committee, hosted their first "bike and hike" event at Westville Lake. This event was rescheduled from June 2, National Trails Day, when it was rained out.

Buffumville Lake Park in Charlton, Mass., launched its new Life Jacket Loaner Program on June 16th during a Water Safety Festival held at the beach. A District team member stationed at loaner kiosk showed kids how to properly fit and use life jackets. The Life Jacket Loaner Program is being enacted at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities nationally. The program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first-served basis, while recreating at USACE lakes and waterways. With the help of rangers, park hosts, volunteers and parents, the loaner program is widely at Buffumville Lake Park.

Dozens of power boats crowded the dock at West Thompson Lake during the Connecticut Outboard Association's Annual Regatta July 6-8. West Thompson Lake has been hosting the event for about three decades, which draws thousands of participants and spectators to the New England District project.



Col. Charles Samaris and the New England District Color Guard march past the Minuteman Statue.

Photo by Brian Murphy



Bobber the Water Safety Dog (played by Gabe Lundgren) greeted visitors and handed out water safety information during the Plymouth Maritime Day event in Massachusetts.

Photo by Lisa Carey

Dr. Kurt Getsinger, head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) Chemical Control and Physiological Processes Team (CCPPT) led a three-day field tour in July in three northeastern states (New Hampshire, Vermont and New York) to give U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA-OPP) personnel a better understanding of the relationship between operational aquatic plant control activities and applied research and development (R&D) efforts at ERDC. The tour focused on aquatic herbicide use patterns and began at New England District's Hopkinton Lake in New Hampshire, followed by Lake Morey and Lake Champlain in Vermont, and finally at Saratoga Lake in New York.

Three New England District projects held volunteer clean ups in honor of National Public Lands Day. Black Rock Lake in Connecticut held a small butterfly garden event, while East Brimfield/Westville Lake and West Hill Dam held events with multiple projects for volunteers to accomplish.

The sheltered waters of the Cape Cod Canal offer some of the most scenic and enjoyable recreational boating opportunities on Cape Cod. Yet swift currents, and a high volume of large commercial traffic, can make transiting the Canal a challenge for boat operators of any level of experience. Despite all safety precautions by the Corps and Coast Guard, a record number of 581 marine emergency incidents were

successfully responded to over the past year by a Corps team consisting of Marine Traffic Controllers, Boat Operators and crew, and Park Rangers, all working cohesively to make the Canal one of the safest waterways in the country.



Children putting on life jackets at Buffumville Lake

Photo by Janice Lawrence

Regulatory activities in 2012

In January New England District negotiated an agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to accept funds in order to expedite the processing of MassDOT Department of Army permit applications. The agreement will expedite Corps review of permit applications submitted by MassDOT pursuant to the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands, and with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which

provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

New England District has again suspended the NWP's in the six New England states, most recently on March 15. Instead, New England will continue using the highly effective and successful state-specific general permits, which have been in place for over 20 years. The New England District most recently proposed suspending the NWP's in a public notice dated Feb. 28.

Regulatory announced the availability of the updated National Wetland Plant List (NWPL). The NWPL may be found at: http://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil. The plant list can be downloaded from the website in its entirety, by region or by state.

The New England District review of the permit application by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Transportation for the South Coast Rail project continues. The project proponent, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), is seeking a Corps of Engineers permit

under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, incidental to establishment of passenger transit between Boston and New Bedford and Fall River, Mass. Because the proposal may have a significant

Regulatory Permitting Actions

Letters of Permission – 2
Regional General Permit – 2,240
Standard Permit – 36
No Permit Required – 147
Pre Application – 582
Permit Modification – 346
Non-Compliance Action – 15
Unauthorized Activity/Alleged Violation - 102

impact, a Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an in-depth and multi-agency environmental study, is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Corps is working with the Commonwealth to obtain all the information required and technical reports needed to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Regulatory sought public comments on 15 projects which have applied for funding through New Hampshire's In Lieu Fee program, the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. The sponsor for the program is the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The In Lieu Fee program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources authorized by the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or the state of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Regulatory also sought public comments on 22 projects which have applied for funding through Maine's In-Lieu Fee program, the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program.

The District issued an emergency

permit on Oct. 26, to the Coastal Property Owner's Association to conduct work in waters of the U.S. in conjunction with placing dredged sand to support a coastal dune on Plum Island in Newbury, Mass. The emergency permit was issued in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy and its impact on the coast. The Association performed work and discharged dredged material below the high tide line (HTL) of waters of the U.S. in order to bulldoze sand from the intertidal zone and place it in front of the coastal

dune that exists just above the high tide line at Plum Island Beach in Newbury. This activity is referred to as beach scraping.

New England District has extended the public comment period until Feb. 10, 2013 for those who want to submit comments on the Deepwater Wind proposal to construct five wind turbine generators and do other work off the southeast coast of Block Island, Rhode Island. In response to additional requests for review time and in order to more coincide with the public notice comment periods of both the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Corps has extended its original 45-day comment period for a second time through Feb. 10, 2013. Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC and Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission System, LLC (known collectively as Deepwater Wind) are seeking a permit from the Corps in compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.



Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Women's Equality Day.



Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.



Women's History Month

Equal Employment Opportunity Special Emphasis Programs

The District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) and its Employment Program Managers hold educational programs focused on diversity throughout the year. Jacqueline DiDomenico is the EEO Officer for the District.

Children of the New England District team had fun while learning valuable lessons in science and engineering during the District's "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day," April 20. Held the last day of April vacation annually, the event combines enjoyment and education by using hands on activities. About 40 children signed up for this year's event, that was hosted by the EEO and the Federal Women's Program (FWP). Denise Kammerer-Cody is the New England District's Federal Women's Program Manager.

The FWP and EEO hosted a celebration in honor of Women's History Month, March 19 in the theatre. This year's theme was, "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment." Kristen Williams, Ph.D., Political Science Professor and chair of the Women's and Gender Studies at Clark University, served as keynote speaker.

The FWP partnered with EEO and sponsored a very special presentation for Women's Equality Day. Reenactor Lynne McKenney Lydick portrayed Clara Barton in her presentation, "Follow the

Cannon: A reading of Clara Barton's Civil War Letters" on Aug. 29 in the theatre.

The New England District's Hispanic Heritage Program Manager, Ruthann Brien, assisted by the EEO, hosted a program that highlighted the works of Mexican artist and political activist Frida Kahlo in the New England District theatre on Oct. 17.

The event's keynote speaker was Professor Esteban Loustaunau, Associate Professor of Spanish and the Director of Latin American Studies at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass.



Maurice Beaudoin was the 2012 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee.

Photo by C.J. Allen

District Awards and Accomplishments

2012 was a year of individual, team and project awards and accomplishments for the New England District.

The **New England District Leadership Development Program (LDP)** graduated a new crop of future leaders during a ceremony in the Concord Park Theatre, Jan. 18. **John Astley**, who stepped down as the Program Director, served as Master of Ceremonies. Four people graduated from the two year program this year. They were **Ralph Gendron**, **Marci Montrose**, **Reese Piper** and **Marissa Wright**. The first year participants who are moving on to the second year of the program are **Casey Haskell** (mentor Frank Fedele), **Karen Hoey** (mentor Joe Faloretti), **Andrew Jordan** (mentor Gary LaCroix), **Dan LaPolla** (mentor Chris Hatfield), **Natalie McCormack** (mentor Terry Negron), **Jeff Teller** (then mentor Farrell McMillan) and **Matt Tessier** (mentor Cori Rose). The new LDP participants who are joining the program as first year participants for 2012 are **Michael Adams** (mentor Sean Dolan), **John Almeida** (then mentor Bobby Byrne), **Patricia Bolton** (mentor Scott Acone), **Jason Paolino** (mentor Scott

Michalak), **AJ Raiber** (mentor Dave Margolis), **Jennifer Samela** (mentor Mark Anderson) and **Steve Umbrell** (mentor Sheila Winston-Vincuilla).

Eva Marie D'Antuono, Small Business, and **Bobby Byrne**, PPMD's Chief Programs and Civil Project Management were honored at the Annual Small Business Awards luncheon held during the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2011 Small Business Conference for DOD Engineering, Construction and Environmental Programs. Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple, then Acting USACE Commander, presented Byrne with one of four Small Business Champion Awards for his dedication, commitment and hard work in support of the **New England District's Small Business Program**. SAME Executive Director Robert D. Wolfe presented D'Antuono with the **SAME 2011 Small Business Advocate Award**. One such award is given annually to a Department of Defense person for outstanding support to DOD Small Business Programs.

The New England District's **Middletown Air Force Reserve Center Team** and its contractors, KBE Building



Photo provided by SAME

Robert Wolfe presents Eva Marie D'Antuono with the SAME 2011 Small Business Advocate Award.

Corporation of Farmington, Conn., and DeRita Construction Company, Inc., of Middletown, Conn., recently received top honors from the Connecticut Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC), and from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACE) for their outstanding work on the project. The Middletown AFRC received "Best in Show" in ABC's Excellence in Construction Awards and the 2012 Engineering Excellence Grand Award from ACE. Work on the \$54 million AFRC in Middletown included the construction of a five-story facility, vehicle maintenance shop and an unheated storage building. The team members who worked on this project were **Jeff Perchak, Ray Goff, Pat Devine, Kurt Mintell, Sue Loubier, Cori Rose, Joe Redlinger and Kirk Bargerhuff.**

Team Kandahar – Stephen Lefebvre, Ken Heim, Drew Clemens, Tracy Dorgan, Mike Holbrook, Mike Narcissi, Mike Kulbersh, Forest Lyford and Michael Boiardi all received Commander's Coins for their work in designing a ground water model for the Kandahar City Water Supply.

Kulbersh also received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his outstanding work for the Corps.

The District welcomed home team members who deployed overseas to support the Corps' **Overseas Contingency Operations.** All received Commander's Awards for Civilian Service, monetary awards, and a nameplate that was fastened to the Deployment Plaque displayed in the main hallway of Building 2. Family members who accompanied the team members to the welcome home ceremonies were also honored with wives receiving Bunker Hill plaques of appreciation and children gifts presented by WEA as a thank you for the sacrifices they had to make while their family members supported the mission. Those honored this year were:

- **Bogden Figiel**, Engineering/Planning. Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander, mentioned that Figiel was one



Photo by CJ. Allen

Wendy Gendron was the District's 2012 Planner of the Year.

of the few Americans to actually speak with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

- **Andrew Jordan** and his wife, Jennifer, son, Tristian and daughter Juliannah; Lt. Col. Howell gave the children commander's coins from the District in appreciation for the time they had to spend away from their father.

- **Steve Lehmann** and his family – wife Kristen and children Joshua, Noah and Rebecca.

- **Joe Redlinger**, his wife Anamaree and son Phillip.

- **Mike Hicks**, Regulatory and his wife, Irene.

New England District representatives traveled to Cambridge, Mass., on March 22 to receive a prestigious international award for one of the District's high profile Flood Risk Management projects, the **Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area.** The **Charles River Watershed Association** and the **International River Foundation** presented the New England District with the 2011 **Thiess International Riverprize** during the awards ceremony. The Riverprize recognizes and rewards organizers that have accomplished outstanding river management. Other Corps of Engineers Team Members who attended the event were **Col. Jefferson Ryscavage**, USACE Headquarters, Project Manager **Merlon Bassett**, **Lt. Col. Steven Howell**, New England District Deputy Commander, and Chief of Public Affairs, **Larry Rosenberg.**

Wendy Gendron was named as the 2012 Planner of the Year. The Planner of the Year Award is the opportunity to recognize someone in the Planning Community who made a significant contribution to the organization. Gendron received the honor for her tireless work on the Broad Meadows Marsh Restoration Project in Quincy, Mass. It is one of the biggest restoration projects NAE has done. Her success also includes a number of successful projects in Rhode Island.

Jim Doucakis, Boston Resident Office, Construction Division, received the distinction of being named the Federal



Photos by C.J. Allen

Jennifer Jordan, with children Juliannah and Tristian, join her husband, Andrew in receiving awards and welcome home recognitions when he returned from his overseas deployment.

Women's Program (FWP). The Supervisor of the Year This award is given annually on Founder's Day to recognize a supervisor who has significantly promoted the employment and advancement of women and/or minorities.

Mike Narcisi and **Erica Mark**, both from Regulatory, received Technical Outdoor and Onsite Wetland Enfusion Training (TOO WET) certificates for completing 150 hours of training that included a Prospect Course and a course on the North Central/Northeast Regional Supplement for the Corps Remediation Manual.

Maurice "Moe" Beaudoin, Resident Engineer, New Bedford Office, Construction Division and New England District's 101st member of its Distinguished Civilian Gallery took his place of honor during an induction ceremony that took place at the Founder's Day celebration, June 22 in the Concord

Park Cafeteria.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District Deputy Commander, and Regulatory's **Brian Valiton** accepted for the District the **Environmental Business Council (EBC) of New England's Nicholas Humber Environmental Award for Outstanding Collaboration**. The District and 11 of their partners received the award in recognition of the outstanding public-private partnership that resulted in the expedited and innovative remediation of the New Bedford Boat Slip MGP Site.

Donna Russell received the EOM for January for her outstanding efforts in managing the WEA Store and her fundraising efforts for the committee.

Rhonda Anderson received the EOM for February for her exceptional work and leadership skills within Engineering/ Planning.

Robert Cannon was named the

EOM for April for his meticulous maintenance work at the Cape Cod Canal.

Gladys Leone was named EOM for May for her excellent support of the Construction Division and resident offices. She also supports the District's security office, filling in for **Jerry Nunziato** when needed, and runs the WEA Committee's wildly popular flea market fundraiser.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented coins to members of the New England District softball team, Oct. 9 in the Executive Office as a form of appreciation for making it all the way to the Championship Game this year, with a regular season record of 11 wins and one loss. Team members on the **New England District Softball Team** for the 2012 season were: **Diane Ray** – Team Manager, **Jack Karalius**, **Mark Anderson**, **Mark DeSouza**, **Andrew Cattano**, **Kane Turmelle**, **Todd Randall**, **Mike Elliott**, **George Claflin**,



Photo provided by SAME
Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple presents Bobby Byrne with a Small Business Champion Award.

Jack Perry, Mike Riccio, Lt. Col. (ret) Stephen Lefebvre, Jesse Morrill-Winter, Michael Bachand, Joey Ray and Brad Karalius.

Counsel's **John Almeida** and **Julie D'Esposito** received the **E. Manning Seltzer Award** for their delivery of outstanding services.

John Astley, Chief of Counsel, received the **Lester Edleman Spirit of Arrowhead Award**, which recognizes the Corps legal manager who best exemplifies excellence in service to clients, excellence in leadership and has made significant contributions to the Corps Legal Services Committee.

Terry Negron, Office of Counsel, was recognized for the vital legal assistance she provided in the important OCO mission while she was deployed to Afghanistan for three months.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Engineering General, sent a letter of congratula-



Photo by CJ. Allen
Jim Doucakis (middle) stands with his staff and Col. Charles Samaris after receiving the FWP Supervisor of the Year Award.

tions to Engineering/Planning's **Francis Fung** for receiving his Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. There are only five Lean Six Sigma Black Belts in the entire Corps of Engineers. Six Sigma is a process improvement set of tools and strategies to improve the quality of process outputs.

Diane Ray, Regulatory, received the North Atlantic Division Regulator of the Year Award for her selfless service and dedication in protecting the aquatic environment.

The **Charles River Dam Team** received Bunker Hill plaques in recognition of outstanding contributions to stewardship of the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area in an effort to protect over 8,000 acres of scattered wetlands. Awardees were **Merlon Bassett, Matt Coleman, Grainne O'Grady** and **Luke Beasley**.

Cape Cod Canal Park Ranger **Elisa Carey** received the 2012 New England

District Interpreter of the Year Award for her outstanding work with over 40,000 direct contacts at the Cape Cod Canal.

The New England District newsletter, **YANKEE ENGINEER**, published by the Public Affairs Office, received the Mangum Opus Silver Award for the article documenting the District's response to the June 2011 tornado, the Ragan Communicators Award for the Nacala Dam Rehabilitation Project article, and two APEX Awards for one of the most improved newsletters and the annual report.

Ann Marie Harvie, Public Affairs, received the Work Environment Association's Employee of the Month Award for July.

Bill McIntyre received the same honor in August for his efforts and extended hours in support of year-end project awards and overall support of the District.



Col. Charles Samaris with the 2012 Leadership Development Program Graduates and John Astley.



New England District Pie Fest

Photo by Brian Murphy



Founder's Day picnic

Photo by C.J. Allen

Work Environment Association events and activities in 2012

According to its charter, the purpose of the WEA is to contribute towards the accomplishment of NAE's mission by enhancing the morale and welfare of the District workforce by providing specifically approved and authorized activities and fulfilling worthwhile benevolent needs for the common good and benefit of all NAE staff. In so doing, the efficiency of the workforce will improve and NAE's overall capabilities to successfully fulfill its mission requirements will be enhanced.

WEA holds many events and fundraisers throughout the year, to include the very popular breakfast fundraisers, which have helped fund and defray the costs of some of the bigger events the association holds. Below are some of the activities the committee held in 2012:

WEA hosted several successful events during the winter months to drive away the blahs by improving morale and to also raise funds for future initiatives. The annual Chili contest held in February, the after hours St. Patrick's Day get-together and the flea market, both held in March, were all highly anticipated and well attended events.

Red Sox Opening Day is a pretty big deal at the New England District. To

celebrate the beginning of the national pastime at Fenway Park, WEA turned the game on the television screens in the Concord Park cafeteria and hosted a hot dog fundraiser, April 5. Many of the District team members who participated wore their Red Sox gear.

The 2012 Founder's Day celebration, highlighting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 237th birthday, was chock full of fun activities, great food and amazing company.

The day-long event was held at New England District Headquarters at Concord Park, Concord, Mass., on June 22. Engineering/Planning and WEA co-hosted this year's event. Approximately 350 people signed up for Founder's Day.

The Work Environment Association (WEA) hosted its End of Year Barbecue on Oct. 15 in the Concord Park courtyard immediately following the awards ceremony. The annual event celebrates the successful fiscal year end and kicks off the new Fiscal Year in a positive way. About 200 employees signed up for the barbecue.

So many things in New England trigger thoughts of the end of fall and the beginning of the winter/holiday season – falling leaves, colder tempera-

tures and for the New England District Team members, the annual Pie Fest sponsored by the Work Environment Association (WEA).

This year's event held Nov. 1 in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms, boasted nearly 75 pies in every imaginable variety crowding the decorative tables in anticipation of the hungry break-time crowd. Candy corn was on hand for those who needed the extra sugar rush and apples were available for the more health conscious. Spiced hot cider, coffee, and cranberry juice by the gallons assisted event participants in washing their pies down.

The overwhelming smell of pie, cider and coffee brought New England District Team members and members of the Community Based Health Care Organization, located downstairs, to the Conference Rooms in droves and lining up for their turn at the pies.

This wildly popular event is free to all employees. All of the food and beverages are donated entirely by New England District team members who enjoy showing off their incredible baking skills and those who support the Pie Fest solely because the event is so much fun.

New Employees

Rhonda Anderson	Engineering/Planning
Michael Bachand	Engineering/Planning
Thomas Boutilier	Contracting
Joanne Burnham	Engineering/Planning
Alex Cote	Operations
Eric Crockett	Construction
Cynthia Dmitrijev	Contracting
Lyndsey Flieger	Regulatory
Richard Fortuna	Regulatory
Brent Goosen	Operations
William Gray	Engineering/Planning
Brianna Green	Operations
Sheri Heck	Human Resources
John Kelley	Operations
Marshall Lord	Operations
Robert Lubicz-Nawrocki	Operations
Alicia Morrison	Operations
Kyle Rivers	Engineering/Planning
Richard Uronis	Operations
Drew Vagnini	Engineering/Planning
Mark Wilmes	Operations

Overseas Deployments in 2012

When the call for help goes out -- whether it be 10 miles or 10,000 -- the New England District Team has always answered. When requests to go overseas to assist with the Corps' continued Overseas Contingency Operations went out in 2012, the following team members stepped up to volunteer:

Afghanistan

James Fielding
Mike Hicks
Steve Lehmann**
John Murner**
Theresa Negron
Carl Niemitz
Mike Russo
Jeff Teller**
Karen Wolfe**
Robert Zwahlen

Iraq

Mike Hicks**

**Indicates multiple deployments

Employee Passing

Robert Davis	Engineering/Planning
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Retirements

Joyce Boudreau
Robert Byrne
Paul Cohn
Lorraine Cronin
Michael Curran
Deborah Gabrielson
Robert Hanacek
Eileen Hughes
James Law
Theodore Lento
Christopher Lindsay
Dennis Long
Paul McIntire
Howard McMillan
Lang Nguyen
Mark Vance
Frank Vilkas
Quentin Walsh
Bruce Williams

Retiree Passings

Alan Kingsbury	Jan. 3
Richard "Dick" Hays	Jan. 26
Mitchell Warchol	March 2
Virginia Fournier	April 6
William Farrell	June 14
Edwin Riley	June 20
Patricia Wysocki	July 1
John Collins	Aug. 6
Margery Cotter*	Oct. 3
Leo Levrault	Nov. 7

*Distinguished Civilian Gallery member

Retirement Celebrations in 2012



Bobby Byrne (right)



Robert Hanacek (right)



Christopher Lindsay (left)



Michael Curran



Eileen Hughes (left)



Lang Nguyen (left)



Farrell McMillan (right)

