

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 46, No. 1 October 2012

*Building Strong*



*New England District celebrates  
National Public Lands Day  
story on page 4*



# Yankee Voices

Ken Paton, Robert Gauvreau, Bob Martin, Evamarie  
D'Antuono and Sheila Winston-Vinculla.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Not counting some kinds of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States. It is the most common cause of death from cancer among Hispanic women, and the second most common cause of death from cancer among white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women.

A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast. Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Women between the ages of 40 and 49 should talk to their doctor about when to start getting mammograms. Women who are 50 or older should get a screening mammogram every two years.

*(CDC News Release)*

## New England District Inclement Weather Program

The Inclement Weather Program is up and running for this Winter/ spring season. Please call **978-318-8888** for the latest District closing and/or delayed-opening information.

Closing or delayed opening information is also available by logging in online to **Channel 7 News (WHDH-TV)** at <http://www.whdh.com>. WHDH also has another very convenient option: "Snow Day Alert." By registering with the news station online, they will send a message to your cell phone if the District has any closing/delay information. To take advantage of this option, go to <http://whdhstore.hipcricket.com> and follow the directions.

This year we have added the following radio stations to this year's notification program: **WOKQ (97.5 FM)**, **WPKQ (103.7 FM)**, **The SHARK (102.1 FM)** and **WCAP (980 AM)**.

Additionally, our Inclement Weather Program has expanded into the world of Social Media where all announcements regarding closings or delays will also appear on the New England District's Facebook Page as well as Twitter "tweets" to followers. If you are a Facebook member you are invited to become a "fan" of the New England District. If you are a subscriber to Twitter you must "follow" CorpsNewEngland to receive tweets.

Those links are:

**On Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland>

**On Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/CorpsNewEngland>

Lastly, it should be noted that this does not affect essential and emergency personnel and those scheduled to work at home on days where weather events affect NAE operations. Further, all closing or delay announcements are for Concord Park headquarters only. The Operations, Construction, and Regulatory Chiefs have been delegated the authority to make inclement weather decisions for the Basin, Resident, and Regulatory offices throughout New England by utilizing individual inclement weather plans and notification procedures for each field office (this is not a change to the current NAE policy).

Wallet cards with the Inclement Weather Information will be distributed through inner office mail in coming weeks.



# Commander's Corner:

## Innovative, Superior Results Drive Relevance!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



*"People with power are the people who are constantly able to discover new and relevant knowledge, which is really tied to the **CAPACITY TO LEARN.**"*

~ Joseph Badaracco  
- Professor of Business Ethics, Harvard Business School; Senior Associate Dean, Chair, MBA Program.

*"Let's be clear: the work of science has nothing whatever to do with consensus which is the business of politics. What is relevant is **REPRODUCIBLE RESULTS.** The greatest scientists in history are great precisely because they broke with the consensus."*

~ Timothy R Minnich  
- Atmospheric Scientist

New England Team:

Greetings! Hope you, your families and your teams fared well through Hurricane Sandy! We've all been very busy assessing our situation and protecting our families, homes, teammates, facilities and projects. Many of our New England District team are responding to urgent "calls to serve" in the New York/New Jersey impact zone.

Our service to the region and the nation today...be it as a private citizen or a public servant...continues a tradition of service begun by our Founding Fathers. This tradition of service is as relevant today as it was then, and certainly just as important!

Relevance is a concept at the heart of any advancing organization. The U.S. Army, our sister services, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), international corporations, small businesses, NGOs, etc. ...all must continually consider, and oftentimes prove, their own relevance. In our case, USACE and New England District achieve relevance

in service to the Nation by doing one thing...delivering innovative and superior results! Whether that's **Defending and Protecting our Nation, Delivering Sustainable Solutions,** or **Building USACE for the Future...** the innovative, superior results drive the relevance.

Here at the New England District, we do this well. We have effective teams, influential leaders, and a strong, smart, diverse workforce. But relevance is not a static concept...relevance today does not mean relevance tomorrow. Just maintaining relevance (never mind increasing it!) is a strategic challenge faced by all organizations, both private and public. Many organizations only use the term relevance when they fear they're losing it...often too late. They're playing not to lose, rather than playing to win! Long term relevance takes agile leaders, focused effort, prudent risk, strong initiative, and creative approaches to advancing an organization, delivering results and serving the community, the region, and the Nation. And, it's a total team sport!

As stated last month, our partners appreciate that we shoot straight, take action, and "do what we say we're gonna do!" But they also look to us to advance our team through innovation, initiative, and leadership. What I know is that the best, most impactful ideas don't emanate from the top...the best ideas rise from the trenches.

So, I challenge everyone to identify, develop, and report ways to do what we do BETTER! Think

critically, raise awareness, and take action! And it all starts with each one of us living our values, sharing our vision, applying our guiding principles...and taking that first positive leap forward! Innovative, superior results drive our relevance!

*"One must be frank to be relevant."*

~ Corazon Aquino

- 11th President of the Philippines, the first woman to hold that office, and the first female president in Asia

Essayons!







Volunteer Dick Caouette and Park Ranger Jesse Caney spread wood mulch for slope stabilization along the Heritage Trail in Southbridge.

Photo by Tom Chamberland

## *District hosts National Public Lands Day celebrations*

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.

A dozen local volunteers, Girls Scouts and Park Rangers gathered at Black Rock Lake on the morning of Sept. 22, to winterize and enhance the native butterfly garden and walking path. "This event creates a wonderful opportunity to work with members of the community in order to enhance and preserve our public lands and resources," said Marissa Wright, NPLD coordinator for Black Rock Lake.

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves at the site to install bulbs, deadhead plantings, put in new plantings and

mulch the area after all of the other work was completed.

"The butterfly garden and the field habitat in the area contain native plantings that provide food sources

for butterflies, birds and other wildlife," said Wright.

Black Rock Lake team member Tim Titus, as well as Wright, assisted with the event.



Photo by Tom Chamberland

Volunteers work alongside Park Ranger Jesse Caney raking out fine gravel along the Lake Siog Pass on Sept 22.



West Hill Dam partnered with a local car dealership for their fifth NPLD event on Sept. 22 with 180 volunteers arriving to work.

The volunteers installed a new butterfly garden and sitting area; aerated and topdressed the wheelchair accessible playground; built and installed new blue bird houses; sealed the park benches, trails, playground, beach area and road bridge railings; cleaned, brushed and replaced worn water bars on the Woodland Trail; removed invasive species in various areas of the project and made improvements to existing butterfly and pollinator garden and lawn improvements.

"We had a great turnout this year and had great weather," said Viola Bramel, NPLD coordinator for West Hill Dam.

West Hill Dam team members who helped out at the event were Bramel, Joe Zanca, Matthew Coleman, Kurt Stefanczyk, Andrew Labonete, Shannon

Schaeffer, Nicole Giles, Janis Lawrence, Joe Lawrence, Jim Lawrence, Grainne O'Grady and Jim Spiher. Tom Pietrowska of the car dealership also participated in the event.

East Brimfield/Westville Lake held two events this year. On Sept. 22, New England District team members, along with members of the Holland Trail Committee and other volunteers, spread 85 tons of fine gravel along 600 feet of the Lake Siog Pass Trail. The trail connects the town of Holland to the Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield.

On Sept. 29, volunteers in Brimfield spread 64 tons of gravel six feet wide along a 1,000 foot section of the west side loop trail adjacent to the Grand Trunk Trail, moved trail side edges along one mile of the Grand Trunk Trail and spread mulch on the slopes of the Bridge Road parking lot expansion. "Also on Saturday, we had eight volunteers working on the newly constructed Heritage Trail, spreading 20 yards of

topsoil, eight yards of mulch, and three tons of gravel," said Tom Chamberland, NPLD coordinator for East Brimfield/Westville Lake.

"The work completed some much needed trail shoulder stabilization and improvement to the West Street School Trail where it crosses the newly constructed Heritage Trail."

Chamberland said although attendance was down, most likely because of bad weather, a lot of projects were completed.

"These volunteers really pitched in and worked hard," he said. "I want to thank them all."

East Brimfield/Westville Lake team members who participated in the event were Chamberland, Keith Beecher, Glenna Vitello and Jesse Caney.

New England District projects have participated in the nation's single largest volunteer event, that focuses on the care and stewardship of public lands, for over two decades.



A Connecticut Girl Scout Troop works to improve a butterfly garden at Black Rock Lake.

Photos by Marissa Wright

## *Quintessential employee retires after 37 years of service*

In celebration of a distinguished career spanning 37 years, Bobby Byrne retired from the New England District, Oct. 3.

The Chief of Programs and Civil Project Management Branch joined more than 150 family, friends, co-workers and non government colleagues, as well as very special guest, Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Civil Works, the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, at Café Escadrille in Burlington, Mass., to celebrate his dedicated career, his friendship and to wish him well in his new position in the private sector.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, and longtime Byrne "side kick," served as Master of Ceremonies. He introduced Byrne's family, the ASA (CW), and the 41 retirees who attended.

According to Scully, Byrne spent his entire federal service career with the Corps in New England, 32 of those years working side by side with him. "He was a great Counsel," said Scully.

Scully summarized Byrne's long and distinguished career, which began in 1974. Byrne was also a successful Congressional Liaison for the Corps, who had a long and lasting relationship with members of Congress that represent New England. "One of his legacies he will leave with us is the wonderfully extraordinary relationships he was able to develop and sustain with all the congressional staffs," said Scully.

The Master of Ceremonies said that Byrne headed the Engineering Intern Program for several years and still mentors young team members. "Mentoring has always been important to him. He's been heavily involved in our Leadership Program," he said.

Scully said that not only was Byrne dedicated to his work at the District, he was also very involved in the District's outside activities – the former Bowling League, the Golf League and the softball team. Byrne also met his wife, Susan, while working for the District.

Byrne's outstanding work over his career has resulted in numerous citations and awards to include a Superior Civilian Service Award for a 12 month temporary assignment as Acting Deputy District Engineer while the Deputy Commander was deployed to Iraq. He also received the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Award for his extensive assistance and support



Photo by J. Brewer

Scott Acone (left) presents Bobby Byrne with gifts from the New England District.

of the Jacksonville District in helping them become more organized and resource efficient. "He has been such a great part of the development and the successful execution of Programs," said Scully. "Bobby paved the road and left it better for those he leaves behind."

The first speaker, special guest ASA Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said that one of Byrne's strengths was how he deals with people. "I first met Bobby when I was a Congressional Staffer for Sen. Warren Jeffords in Vermont," she said. "Bobby and I spent a lot of time together working on projects in Vermont and we became friends."

ASA Darcy said she was surprised to hear the news that Byrne was retiring. She said that the size of the turnout at his luncheon shows that people care about him. She concluded by wishing Byrne the best and thanked him as a friend for his service.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member and retired Chief of Engineering Dick Reardon said he and Byrne go back many years. Although they worked closely together, they never worked for the same Division. "We developed a bond that will last forever," he said. "If I had to point out only one of his strong characteristics, it would be selfless service. He's very genuine, transparent and caring and that makes him a very unique person."



Reardon concluded by calling Byrne, "The most influential and respected person in the District."

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member and retired Deputy Chief of Planning Nick Avtges, said he worked with Byrne about 30 years ago, and he compared their career paths in a way that kept the audience laughing. Avtges said that the retirees present at Byrne's luncheon represented approximately 1,500 years of service. "They are an elite group of retirees from the Corps and Bobby joins them," he said. "When you're working at the Corps, you're not only working together, you're developing life-long friendships."

Executive Office retiree Joe Bocchino kept dipping into his "money bag" as he spoke, pulling out little meaningful trinkets for Byrne to remind him of different periods of time in this career. Bocchino recollected how he and Byrne met. He laughed as he said, "Everybody is going to talk about 'Good Bobby' – good government, good worker, good husband, good friend. Fair Haired Boy. I feel it's my job to tell you stories about when Bobby wasn't so good."

The tales about Byrne leaving the windows open at the Waltham Office during the dead of winter which caused the water pipes to burst, how Bocchino would never get in trouble with his wife after a late night because he was with Byrne, as well as Byrne's escapades on the softball team had the audience roaring with laughter. Bocchino concluded by admitting that Byrne really was a good teammate, a good friend and a good colleague. "I can't say enough about you, Pal," he said.

Dave Goodrich mentioned that the District will miss the many talents that Byrne brought to the table – especially his leadership and his amazing communication skills. "He's just a great supervisor," he said. "He treats everyone with respect. He deals with you fairly and honestly."

Goodrich credits Byrne's work over the years for the District's robust budget program. "His ability to develop good relationships with people in headquarters, division, Congress and the Assistant Secretary of the Army says a lot about him," he said.

Goodrich said that Byrne's ability to reduce tensions in meetings and run successful conferences and projects



Col. Charles Samaris fastens a retirement pin on Bobby Byrne during his retirement luncheon.

seemed effortless. "That is one of his greatest assets that the District will miss," he said.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member and retired Chief of Construction Dick Carlson told Byrne that he was "absolutely exhilarated" for him and the opportunities that lay ahead for him. "It's wonderful to talk about the things that you did, but I am exhilarated for what you are moving towards."

Carlson talked about Byrne's efforts in Military Construction Work in the 1990's as well as helping to strengthen the District's efforts in the Superfund, Civil Works and Environmental Programs. "There's no one better," he said.

Byrne's younger brother, Kevin, thanked everyone for coming to the luncheon. He remarked on Goodrich's comment about how things seemed to come easy to Byrne. "Try being his younger brother," he laughed. "In school he got A's without any effort at all. I had to settle with my B's and C's."

The younger Byrne shared a funny story from their childhood about how he got his older brother into trouble by destroying their mother's hurricane lamp. He talked about Byrne's wife, Susan and praised her hard work, "raising three phenomenal kids."

"Behind every great man is a great woman," Byrne's brother said. "I just wanted to shine the light her way for just a minute."

Byrne's son, Tim, thanked him for being a great father and a great coach. "He's always been there. He has always

*Continued on next page*

## Bobby Byrne retires...

*Continued from previous page*

said and done the right things," he said.

Byrne's sister, Betsy, talked of fond memories of golf tournaments, skiing trips, all involving friends from the District. "All of you are his family and I know you know that," she said. "It was a challenge for Bobby to make the decision to leave the Corps. Thank you for taking care of him for these 37 years."

Byrne's son, Chris, said that in this day and age it is unique for someone to be in the same position for 37 years. "My Dad told me once to do something that I love," he recalled. "I told him that I wanted to do something that would make me rich!"

Byrne's son said that the decision to retire was extremely difficult on his father. "It's not that he loves rivers and bridges," he said. "The decision was hard because of you."

Scully concurred with Chris Byrne's statement. "With Bobby it has always been about the organization and doing the right thing," he said. "People are what make this organization great. And Bobby you are one of those people who always raised the bar and elevated both our performance and our reputation."

Scott Acone assisted Scully in presenting a number of gifts. Byrne received a flag flown over the Capitol, courtesy of Sen. Jack Reed's Office; a picture of Col. Samaris and Lt. Col. Howell folding the flag, a Bunker Hill Plaque and a Minuteman Statue. Byrne's wife, mother and daughter all received flowers during the luncheon.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy District Commander,



Byrne's long time friend, Bill Scully served as Master of Ceremonies.

presented Byrne with a Gerber, a multifunctional tool often used in the military. Howell said that like the Gerber, Byrne is a "Jack of All Trades."

"There is probably nothing more precious to a Soldier than a Gerber because it will save a life," he said. "As a Soldier here in the New England District, Bobby has saved my life many times, explaining things to me that I didn't understand."

Howell also presented Byrne with some Iraqi sand.

Acone presented Byrne with a picture of a missing golfer and a gift certificate for new golf equipment from the audience.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, thanked Byrne's family for their sacrifice during his service to the Corps. "Public Service is Public Service and you can't do it without a strong family," he said.

Samaris told the audience that he and Byrne were called to Sen. Reed's Office for a meeting where the Senator presented Byrne a certificate of appreciation for his many years of dedicated service and asked to take a picture with Byrne. "If that doesn't speak volumes about Bobby, I don't know what does," he said about the honor.

The colonel said that Byrne was a go-to-guy that everybody wanted on their team every single time. "He would have made a tremendous Army officer," he said. "I would've been glad to serve with him anytime. He would have been an outstanding commander at any level."

Samaris presented Byrne with his



Fran Donovan (from left), Bobby Byrne and Mike Curran.



retirement certificate and pin. The colonel said that all of Byrne's coaching and mentoring has set the conditions for someone else to be able to take his place.

When it was his turn to speak, Byrne said that it was easy to be an MC at someone else's luncheon and that it was kind of surreal to be at his own. He thanked Judy Antonellis and Kathy Bucciarelli for putting together the event.

The guest of honor said that the day was all about being with family and friends. "When you sit down and talk with family and friends, you don't write anything down – it's from the heart."

Byrne thanked his wife for all the years of love and support. He also expressed great pride in all three of his children. "It's not for what you've accomplished or what you are going to accomplish, it's because of the people you are and the character that you have," he said. "I am very proud of you."

The newest District retiree gave praise to his siblings, saying that he was truly blessed to have them. He also thanked his mother, who has been there since day one. "Bill talked about selfless service, which is funny because that's a term I have to describe my mother," he said. "Some people just talk about leadership, but it's not about what you say. It's how you do it – how you live your life. My mother never sat us down and said 'I'm going to show you about always being there for friends and most importantly to put the needs of others first.' She has lived that way every single day – quietly – and that's something I've always had. To say thank you is just not enough."

Byrne also talked about two other important people who influenced his life that were not physically at his table, but always with him – his father and Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Joanne Ellis.

"My Dad had many lessons; he was a humble man who taught me about giving back," he said. "He coached sports before and after my siblings and I played, and taught me how much you get back when you give a little of yourself. Always give back."

He said that he feels blessed because not only does he

continue to coach sports, but his son, Tim, coaches alongside him, which he said means a great deal to him.

Regarding Ellis, Byrne referred to her as "the other woman in his life," spending 25 years together working side by side at the District. "She epitomized family," he said. "She taught me about the organization and how important it was to have family and friends."

Byrne also thanked all the retirees for coming to his luncheon and expressed his gratitude to each of them for their friendship and mentorship over his career. He also thanked all of the partners and association representatives that came to the event to wish him well, including the Veterans Administration, the Society of American Military Engineers, and many small businesses. He ended the event by toasting everyone in the room and thanked them for their friendship. "All the gifts and accolades are nice, but it is all the friendships that I have made that are the most valuable thing I take with me," he said. "Friendship and people are important. Once you have that, you'll always have that."

Family members who accompanied Byrne to the luncheon were his wife, Susan; his sons Tim and Chris; his daughter, Katie; his mother, Charlotte; his sister Betsy and his brother Kevin.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members who came to wish Byrne well were Andy Andreliunas, Nicholas Avtges, Maurice Beaudoin, Larry Bergen, Dick Carlson, Frank Ciccone, Fran Donovan, Joe Finnegan, Bob Harrington, Joe Ignazio, Ralph Mallardo, Paul Pronovost, Dick Reardon and Jim Wong.

Other retirees who welcomed Byrne into the retirement community were Col. (ret) Brian Baker, Paul Battista, Lynne Bleakney, Joe Bocchino, Greg Buteau, Charlie Coe, Joe Colucci, Mike Curran, Dave Dulong, Robert Gauvreau, Mark Geib, Bob Hanacek, Bill Holtham, Sue Holtham, Chiway Hsiung, Peter Huie, Chris Lindsay, Bernie Manor, Bob Martin, Farrell McMillan, KC Mitkevicius, Mark Otis, Tom Rosato, Col. (ret) Carl Sciple, Col. (ret) Curt Thalken, Don Wood and Bruce Zawacki.



Bobby Byrne (center) posed with all the retired attendees at his luncheon.

Photos by J. Brewer Photography



Col. Charles Samaris (center) and the District's partners prepare to break ground on the Muddy River Restoration Project.

Photo by Bob Casoli

## *District, partners, break ground on Muddy River project*

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined other members of the New England District team, Congressionals, state and local partners in breaking ground on Phase 1 of the Muddy River Restoration Project, Oct. 10 in Boston, Mass.

The non-federal sponsors for the project are the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the city of Boston and the town of Brookline. "Today is an exciting and long-awaited day for everyone gathered here as we break ground on Phase 1 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration Project," said Col. Samaris during the event. "This is the fruit of a lot of hard work over many years by many people, agencies and organizations to make this project a reality."

Phase 1 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration project in Boston and Brookline, Mass., will be constructed under the terms of a \$30,961,340 contract issued by the New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Charter Environmental of Boston, Mass. Construction is scheduled to be completed in approximately 36 months.

"The project objectives are to reduce

flood risk and enhance aquatic/riparian habitat within Muddy River through improvements to restrictive drainage culverts, dredging accumulated sediment, removing nuisance vegetation, improving fisheries/wildlife habitat, bank stabilization and promoting and enhancing the recreational use of emerald necklace parklands," said New England District Project Manager Mike Keegan.

The project consists of the installation of two, 24-foot by 10-foot pre-cast concrete arch culverts supported by drilled shafts for 3-foot diameter and approximately 50-foot long caissons under existing roadways to support the culverts; the construction of concrete headwalls and wing walls also supported by caissons; installation of granite veneer and capstones on wing walls and headwalls; major excavation to construct open channel sections of river; and significant landscaping of new and existing channel sections.

The project is in response to severe flooding in past years along and adjacent to the Muddy River as well as several tributary areas, particularly Stony Brook.

To accomplish this construction work will require dewatering sections of Muddy River, removal of existing cul-

verts, construction of new and temporary roadways and modification of existing roadways, the installation and modification of traffic signals and controllers, and the construction of a weir structure upstream of the project area.

The project is managed by the District and supervised by a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

Other participants in the groundbreaking ceremony were Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Congressman Michael Capuano, Betsy DeWitt, Board of Selectman Chair for the town of Brookline, Secretary Richard Sullivan, Jr., Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, former Massachusetts Governor Michael Doucakis, Fran Gershwin, Chair, Muddy River Restoration Project, Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee, and Commissioner Edward Lambert, Jr., Department of Conservation and Recreation.

New England District team members who accompanied Col. Samaris to the ceremony were Mike Keegan, Sean Dolan, Jim Doucakis, Bob McCusker, Rob Talbot, Steve Umbrell, Bob Casoli, Larry Rosenberg and Tim Dugan.





The New England District Softball Team 2012.

Photo by Hanscom Air Force Base

## *District Softball Team Makes Hanscom League Championships*

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.

The District is part of the Hanscom Air Force Base Recreational Softball League, which consists of 12 separate teams. Although Hanscom Service Units make up most of the teams on the league, other teams hail from MIT, U.S. Navy members stationed at the USS Constitution, and Fort Devens. All games are played at the Hanscom Ball Field.

According to the team's manager, Diane Ray, it was a big thrill to make it all the way to the end game. "Everyone loves the Championships," she said.

"The team gets more spirited and our fans get more excited. It's really a lot of fun."

This was the District's fourth try at the Championship. The big game was played Sept. 24 against Hanscom's ESH-HN Team. Although the trophy was not in the cards for the District team this year, team member Kane Turmelle received Hanscom's MVP coin for the team for his efforts on the field and at the plate.

The New England District Softball Team has been playing in the Hanscom League for about eight years after they solicited membership in 2004, according to team cofounder Dan Bradley. "We started the team to enhance the networking amongst ourselves when we moved from the Waltham facility to Concord," explained Bradley.

The season runs from June until

August, but the excessive make up games from rain days extended this year's season into September. The team played one or two games per week and four of the team members also served as umpires for games played by other teams.

The team will get together some time in the future at a local restaurant to relish their coins, relive great moments from this past season and strategize their plans to take the big trophy next year.

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





Col. Charles Samaris (center) stands with Hampstead, N.H.'s finest during "Read With a Hero" Day.

Photos provided by Hampstead Central School.

## *Commander, local heroes read to New Hampshire schoolchildren*

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined local police and firefighters in Hampstead, N.H., to participate in the Hampstead Central School's "Read With a Hero" Day at the School, Sept. 10.

An annual event usually populated by the local fire and law enforcement staff in the community, this year the children got to see a new face on the reading roster. "My nephew attends the school," said Col. Samaris. "My sister coordinated with the school and they asked me to participate. Most of the other guys have done it before, but this was my first time."

Col. Samaris and nine police and firefighters each visited two classrooms, spending about a half an hour with the students. "I spent time with third and fourth grade classes," he said. "They had a table full of books so I picked one about America. The kids sat down on the floor and I read. The book contained the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star

Spangled Banner, so we recited the Pledge and sang the National Anthem."

After reading, the Colonel had the kids do push ups. "They usually ask me what Soldiers do," he laughed. "So we did push ups."

Col. Samaris concluded his presentation by pulling down a globe and showing the children all the countries and places he has been stationed in his career. "We had a question and answer period about the Army and Sept. 11," said Col. Samaris. "Most of them made statements like, 'My cousin is in the Army.' They shared their stories with me."

Based on the reaction of the students when he walked in the door to read to them, Col. Samaris believes that they appreciated the time he spent with them. "When I came in they got really quiet, like, 'There's a Soldier!' They really seemed to enjoy it."



Col. Samaris talks with schoolchildren during the "Read With a Hero" event.



Col. Samaris shows the children all of the places he has been on a globe.





A student from the St. Joseph's School Robotics team explains his creation to Col. Charles Samaris during the demonstration.

## *District Commander meets future engineers during robotics demonstration*

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, got a glimpse of the nation's future engineers when students from St. Joseph's School in Wakefield, Mass., demonstrated robots and submarines that they constructed at school during the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Boston PostAugust meeting in Newton, Mass.

"This is my favorite meeting of the

year," said Col. Samaris.

SAME is sponsoring the First Lego League (FLL), which introduces young students to real world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots. "The St. Joseph's School Lego Team has 25 students that get involved with the planning, design and execution of their LEGO robot in annual competition," said David Heislein, SAME's Education

Chairman.

Col. Samaris walked around to each station admiring the students' handiwork. "They were showing me what they built, and I talked to them about the value of robotics to the military such

as identifying and clearing improvised explosive devices."

According to Kevin Murphy, Robotics Coach for St. Joseph School, demonstrating what they have learned to Col. Samaris and the other meeting attendees was a great experience for the students.

"We were very proud of the job our students did this summer at the SAME meeting in August," he said. "Our students had the opportunity to interact with these professionals and show what the St. Joseph School Robotics Program is all about."

According to Heislein, SAME will continue to support St. Joseph's for the December competition. "What this team of students has accomplished is nothing short of amazing," he said. "The curiosity in these kids never stops."

Col. Samaris agreed. "Those are some sharp kids," he said. "They are all very smart. All you have to do is let them go. The devices that they created were very cool."



Photos by Kevin Murphy

Col. Charles Samaris admires a robot built by a student from the St. Joseph's School Robotics Team.

# Nacala Dam Project Coordinator visits New England District

New England District team members working on the Nacala Dam Rehabilitation project located in Nacala, Mozambique got a special visit from one of their overseas counterparts.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Infrastructure Practice Group hosted an Infrastructure College in October in Washington, D.C. The main goal of the College was to have the national Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Infrastructure teams meet their colleagues from other MCAs to share experiences and lessons-learned in managing similar projects. Carlos Bonete Martinho, Project Coordinator for the Mozambique MCA, made a stop in New England on Oct. 10 and 11, after the College to visit his colleagues for a technical knowledge-exchange visit where he observed and discussed U.S. dam safety practices and compared the same with that employed in Mozambique.

Martinho first met with Col. Charles



Photos by Siamac Vaghar

Carlos Bonete Martinho (second from right) at the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center.

Samaris, New England District Commander, and the New England Nacala Dam Team. A tour of the Reservoir Control Center followed the meeting.

Siamac Vaghar, Patrick Blumeris and Matt Tessier took Martinho up to New Hampshire to visit Hopkinton-Everett and Franklin Falls Dams. "Basically we showed him how we operate and maintain our projects," said Vaghar. "Project Manager Steve Dermody and Jennifer Rockett showed Mr. Martinho around their projects and Instrumentation Lead Andy McAvoy demonstrated how our automated instrumentation is maintained and operated."

The second day of Martinho's trip consisted of meeting Cape Cod Canal Manager Larry Davis, and spending the day touring the Cape Cod Canal. Vaghar, Blumeris and Thomas Davidson accompanied him on the trip, which included a tour of the Marine Traffic Control Center, the Visitor's Center and a boat ride tour of the Canal. "I would like to thank you, colleagues and USACE, for the fruitful visit provided as well as all the arrangements and support," said



Carlos Bonete Martinho pilots a Corps vessel during his tour of the Cape Cod Canal.





Construction on the Nacala Dam Rehabilitation project in Mozambique is currently underway.

Martinho about the trip. “The interesting dams and infrastructures visited has definitely enhanced my management skills and lessons-learned.”

The Nacala Dam Rehabilitation is a \$27 million project to restore clean drinking water to the people of Nacala, Mozambique. The New England District team is consulting on the project. The dam is located on the Muecula River, about 30 kilometers upstream from Nacala. The project involves moving the existing National Road N12 off the embankment crest to a new embankment downstream of the dam. The dam crest width will be narrowed by about 18 feet and the embankment will be raised about 12 feet by making the slopes of the dam faces steeper, significantly increasing the footprint of the dam on the ground. Construction on the project is ongoing.



Jennifer Rockett gives Carlos Bonete Martinho (left) and Patrick Blumeris a tour of the Franklin Falls Dam gatehouse during Martinho's visit to the New England District.

# Dredging up the past



Sean Dolan (left) and Frank Fedeles discuss a piece of machinery in the tunnel being constructed as part of the Town Brook Local Protection Project in Quincy, Mass., in this photo taken in the 1990's.

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