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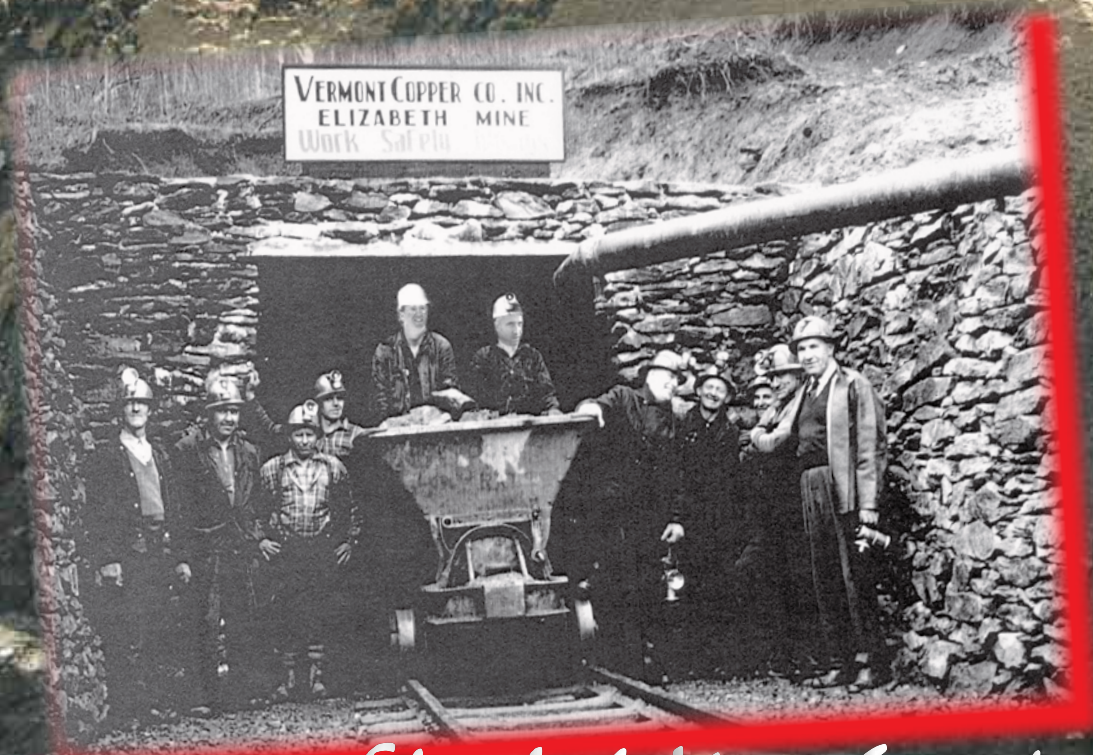
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Work Safe



*Elizabeth Mine Superfund cleanup
Story on page 4*

Yankee Voices

Tim Rezendes, retiree Maurice Boudoin, and Bob Casoli



Keep an eye on your team for safety's sake

Safety is a team effort as much as an individual responsibility. Keep your co-workers in the loop by following these guidelines:

- Keep the lines of communication open. Talk with your fellow employees and your manager about how to avoid accidents and work safety. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

- Alert others of problems. Notify the people around you anytime you spot a potential hazard. A long-standing practice that could injure someone or a new condition that hasn't been explored thoroughly.

- Watch out for others. Make everyone's safety your responsibility. If you become aware of situations that could be dangerous for someone else, take action.

- Report hazards immediately. Accidents can happen any time. Notify your manager right away if you see anything that could endanger you or a co-worker. (*First Draft Magazine*)

DOD Releases Commercial Mobile Device Implementation Plan

The Department of Defense announced the release of a Commercial Mobile Device Implementation Plan that supports the department's June 2012 Mobility Strategy with specific goals and objectives in order to capitalize on the full potential of mobile devices.

The implementation plan focuses on improving three areas critical to mobility: mobile devices, wireless infrastructure, and mobile applications, and works to ensure these areas remain reliable, secure and flexible enough to keep up with fast-changing technology.

"The Department of Defense is taking a leadership role in leveraging mobile device technology by ensuring its workforce is empowered with mobile devices," said Teri Takai, Defense Department chief information officer. "As today's DoD personnel increasingly rely on mobile technology as a key capability enabler for joint force combat operations, the application of mobile technology into global operations, integration of secure and non-secure communications, and development of portable, cloud-enabled capability will dramatically increase the number of people able to collaborate and share information rapidly."

The implementation plan establishes a framework to equip the department's 600,000 mobile-device users with secure classified and protected unclassified mobile solutions that leverage commercial off-the-shelf products, promote the development and use of mobile applications to improve functionality, decrease costs, and enable increased personal productivity.

"The DoD Mobile Device Strategy and Implementation Plan aims to align the various mobile devices, pilots and initiatives across the department under common objectives to ensure the warfighter benefits from these activities and aligns with efforts in the Joint Information Environment," said Ms. Takai. "This is not simply about embracing the newest technology -- it is about keeping the department's workforce relevant in an era when information accessibility and cybersecurity play a critical role in mission success."

For further information about the DoD Mobile Device Strategy and Implementation Plan, please visit <http://www.defense.gov/news/dodmobilitystrategy.pdf> and <http://www.defense.gov/news/DoDCMDImplementationPlan.pdf>.



Commander's Corner: Tough Times Call For Tough People...Reloaded!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander



TOUGH = 1) strong or firm, but flexible and not brittle; 2) characterized by uncompromising determination; 3) capable of enduring strain, hardship, or severe labor

New England Team,

April was a pretty tough month. In the blink of an eye, sequestration took a far back seat to improvised explosive devices detonated at the Boston

Marathon finish line. Purposeful violence against innocent folks. A premeditated attack by the worst of humanity, at an internationally heralded event known to bring out the best in people. The most common question raised is "Why?" The simple answer... "to cause FEAR."

At the tactical level, fear amongst a citizenry results in self-imposed censure of daily life. Tactical censure manifests in many forms at many levels... individual, community, state, and nation. At the strategic level, this tactical censure results in the general overall reduction of a nation's freedom. That, my friends, is the end game... to impinge upon our national freedom... by controlling our people and communities through fear. Simply unacceptable.

Our response - as individuals, as a Region, and as a Nation - is the key to thwarting such attacks on our freedom. Our response must reinforce our freedom. Our response must not allow terrorists and criminals to inhibit, or dictate, how we live our lives. We must actively - and aggressively - reinforce our freedom.

That's why - in the midst of such a horrific attack - I'm proud to see our collective resilience reinforced in the creative adaptation of the Army Strong motto within the City, the Commonwealth, and across the Nation... "BOSTON STRONG!"

As discussed last month, Americans - if nothing else - are resilient. With all we've overcome since 9/11, we now must endure and respond to an act of terror targeting an iconic

international event. That's why it's so important to strengthen the resilience in ourselves, our Families, and our workforce! Our strong resilience is our single greatest preemptive measure against these misguided threats to our freedom.

To again paraphrase the American Psychological Association: Resilience is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, tragedy, threats, or stress. It is standing strong and recovering proudly from tough times and challenging circumstances. Research shows that resilience is ordinary, not extraordinary. Resilience is not a trait that we have or have not. It involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions we can build in ourselves and others. We have a responsibility to our Families, Communities and Nation to build individual and collective resilience.

So, in light of recent events during Boston Marathon Week, please take a moment to remember - and reinforce the resilience of - those most affected by this senseless act of terrorism. Our deepest prayers go out to the Families whose loved ones were killed or injured. Our sincere gratitude goes to the first responders - Police, Fire Fighters, EMT... and even Civilians - who "ran to the sound of the guns" in a Herculean effort to secure the area and save lives. And, our sincere congratulations and thanks go to the Local, State, and Federal

Law Enforcement Heroes who hunted and captured the remaining "suspect". Our community's resilience is unparalleled, as New Eng-



land lives the mantra "BOSTON STRONG!"

And, as always, THANK YOU once again for your selfless service and immense commitment to the Boston Post, SAME, your communities, our region, and the Nation!

YOU set that standard!

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Aerial view of the Elizabeth Mine Superfund site, Strafford, Vt.

Elizabeth Mine contractor receives honors for site cleanup

Working for the New England District, contractor and strong industry partner, Nobis Engineering, Inc., recently won the American Council of Engineering Companies 2013 Engineering Excellence Award.

Nobis Engineering, Inc., a small, disadvantaged company from White River Junction, Vt., received the honor for their outstanding work as part of the New England District's Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site Clean Up team.

"The Elizabeth Mine Team completed \$21 million in field work over the fiscal years 2011 and 2012 construction seasons, completing the 45-acre engineered cap last fall—weeks ahead of schedule and \$654,000 under budget," said New England District Project Manager Stephen Dunbar. "In addition, at the close of 2012 construction season, Nobis Engineering, Inc., recorded roughly 96,000 man hours without an OSHA recordable event or lost time."

The Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site is located in Strafford, Vt. It is an

abandoned copper and iron-sulfate mine that operated from 1806 until 1958. The operations were open-pit type mining. At the end of its operation, the mine was abandoned without any closure measures to restrict access or to prevent run-off from entering the mine. In addition, there were 40 acres of exposed tailing piles (TP) which were still producing acid mine drainage. The acid run-off was causing water quality problems in receiving waters of the drainage, Copperas Brook, and downstream in the west branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approached the New England District for assistance in 1999, beginning a long and massive cleanup effort. Nobis Engineering, Inc., joined the cleanup team in spring 2011. "Nobis Engineering, Inc., graded and compacted more than 3 million cubic yards of waste rock from the existing TP1 and TP2, plus the material from TP3, TP4 and the south mine/south open cut," said

Dunbar. "They installed the 45-acre engineered cap, razed the nearly collapsed copper mine structures, but preserved the historical foundations. They also conducted wetlands restoration near TP4, extended the Copperas channel to prevent further erosion, maintained the water treatment plant and conducted water quality monitoring."

Additionally, Nobis Engineering, Inc., screened 145,000 cubic yards of on site materials, utilizing it for the vegetative support and topsoil layers of the cap. Northwoods Excavating, Nobis' subcontractor, used GPS technology on all of their equipment to ensure they achieved tight grading tolerances to prevent water ponding. "They achieved positive drainage across the entire site," said Dunbar. "Adding to the significance of this achievement was the fact that the varied composition and moisture content of the tailing material would render it easily compacted in some locations and undulating like a wa-

tered in others.”

A project of this magnitude doesn't come without certain challenges. Before installing the 45-acre cap's impermeable geomembrane, workers inspected every square foot of the compacted surface, removing sharp stones and small sticks that could potentially rip and tear the geomembrane. “During the 2011 construction season, significant defects in the delivered geocomposite, which is a plastic grid that transports water covered on both sides with permeable fabric, jeopardized the construction schedule,” said Dunbar. “Nobis and New England District team members traveled to the manufacturing plant, identified the cause, and worked with the manufacturer to increase the quality of geocomposite delivered to the site and to establish a strong QA/QC plan that would ensure the cap was constructed as designed.”

According to Dunbar, this extra effort paid off exponentially – the cap was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

The weather, at times, was considered a little less than cooperative. The project was directly in the path of Tropical Storm Irene, but despite that there were minimal impacts or lost work time due to emergency planning and fortification of site surface water and erosion/sediment control



One of the crumbling buildings on site that had to be demolished.

Corps of Engineers photos

measures, according to Dunbar.

Because the Elizabeth Mine had historical significance, construction plans had to be developed to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act.

In addition the massive engineered cap had its own set of issues. “Construction required intricate construction sequence plans, logistics and effective construction quality control plans,” said Dunbar.

Although there were many challenges in getting this large and complex project complete, the Elizabeth Mine Superfund Cleanup Team met each one head on and completed their mission. “The success of the entire project is attributed to the hard work of the project field team – engineering,

construction, Nobis and Northwoods,” said Dunbar. “Also frequent communication between all the stakeholders – EPA, state of Vermont, towns of Strafford and Thetford, Vermont, Nobis and Northwoods.”

New England District team members on this project were Scott Acone (Project Manager through 2010) Dunbar (Project Manager as of 2011), David O'Connor (Construction PM), Chris Caisse (onsite Construction Representative), Mark Anderson, Jr. (Technical Lead), Jon Kullberg and Silas Sanderson (both from Geotechnical Eng Sec) Kathy Malinowski (Geology/Chemistry Sec), Kathleen Atwood (Cultural Sec) and Mike Penko (Environmental Resources Sec).

In 2004, the New England District nominated Nobis Engineering for the 2004 U.S. Small Business Administration's Region 1 Small Business Contractor of the Year, which they won.

In addition to Nobis Engineering, two other contractors worked on the Elizabeth Mine project over the years. Their work also contributed to the success of the project. Weston Solutions, Inc., a company that has offices in Connecticut and Massachusetts, worked on the project from 2006-2010. Conti Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., of Edison, N.J., was on site from 2003-2005.



Contractor placing waste rock along the northern limit of the Elizabeth Mine Superfund site to improve drainage throughout the area in this July 14, 2011 photo.



Hurricane Sandy Recovery Team

Photos by Brian Murphy

District teams, individuals receive honors during awards ceremony

Appreciation for jobs well done was the focus of the latest Welcome Home and Awards Ceremony held in the Concord Park Headquarters cafeteria, March 27. Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, recognized dozens of New England team members and welcomed home team members who were deployed overseas.

"This is the best part of my job," said Col. Samaris about recognizing New England District team members who do great work. "There's a broad spectrum of awards for people who not only add value to the District but across the Corps."

Scott Michalak assisted Col. Samaris with the first group of awards, which went to the Risk Management Cadre Team. They received a New England District plaque of appreciation for helping to build a national reputation of being a go-to Risk Cadre to support national dam safety program activities managed by the Risk Management Center (RMC). "You are determined to be the best at what you do and the can-do attitude improves USACE's knowledge of our dams, which is absolutely essential to our dam safety program," said Michalak. "Your efforts went far beyond your normal workload and are recognized and appreciated across the Corps of Engineers. Thank you for your service to the RMC and professionalism in executing the Corps' National Dam Safety portfolio priorities."

The recipients of the award were Anastasia Papadopoulos, Thomas Davidson, Silas Sanderson, Erik Matthews, Jason Paolino, Michael Boiardi, Leanna Martin and Casey Haskell. "The best part about this is that the folks that you see represented here today – they are in demand, period," said Col. Samaris. "Everybody knows these people and they are asked for -- in most cases by name -- across the Corps. There are 35,000 people in the Corps of Engineers they know they're here. THAT is cool."

The Risk Management Cadre Team was followed by the New England District Geology and Geotechnical Engineering Dam Site Characterization Team. Raimo Liias assisted Col. Samaris with the awards. This team received New England

District Bunker Hill plaques for their efforts in helping build a national reputation of being a foundation site characterization powerhouse, determined to be the best at what they do, bringing new and creative ideas. "Your can-do attitude has improved our knowledge of our dams and foundations, which is absolutely essential to our dam safety program," said Liias. "Your efforts that went far beyond your normal workload are recognized, appreciated and communicated around the Corps of Engineers, and your products have been shared around that nation as our best examples."

Recipients of this New England District Bunker Hill plaque went to Michael Bioardi, Thomas Davidson, Tracy Dorgan, Kristen Ridenhour, William Gray and P.J. Mion.

The next group of awards went to the New England District Groundwater Modeling Team. The team was recognized for its exceptional initiative and innovation in working collaboratively to devise improved automated methodologies to generate plume shells for the Massachusetts Military Reservation, employing multiple software platforms, resulting in increased efficiency and reduced cost. "The new methodology has been applied multiple times over the past six months and the data visualizations have led to more streamlined technical presentations to the stakeholder, resulting in more efficient project executions and decision-making," said Liias. Award recipients were Michael Kulbresh, Kenneth Heim, and Christopher Kilbridge.

Col. Samaris presented New England District team members who deployed in support of Hurricane Sandy with Commander's Coins to thank them for their work. Team members who deployed to help were Wendy Gendron, Leanna Martin, Dave Goodrich, Sheila Winston, Heather Sullivan, Alex Garneau, Mike Keegan, Andy Jordan, Christopher Caisse, Mike Sheehan, Steve Umbrell, Drew Cattano, Mark Anderson, Dara Gay, Kane Turmelle, Megan Cullen, Mark Walsh, Brett Markure, Steve Wolf, Steve Dunbar, Cora Bertrand, John Astley, William Pumyea, Andrew Stamer, James Doucakis, Erika Mark, John Murner, Terry Chase,



Raimo Liias looks on as Col. Charles Samaris shares a laugh with members of the New England District Groundwater modeling Team during the awards ceremony.



Col. Charles Samaris presents Jeff Teller with his awards.



The Risk Management Cadre Team received Bunker Hill plaques in appreciation for their work.



Terry Negron is honored for her legal expertise overseas.

Don Hassett, John Asseng, Grace Bowles, Randy Lecuyer and Marissa Wright.

"We still have team members that are rotating down to New York," said Col. Samaris. "Philly District and New York District really appreciated all the support. And most importantly, the residents of New York and New Jersey greatly appreciate all the value that's been added not only by the local districts but by those who rotate in to help. All the people on the ground are amazed at the people who came from as far as California to come and help them out."

Terry Negron, Office of Counsel, received the Overseas Contingency Operations Award in recognition for providing critical legal support and her excellence in public service when she served overseas.

Jeff Teller, Real Estate, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and a Secretary of Defense Medal for

the Global War on Terror for exceptional meritorious service as Project Manager for the 3rd SBCT, 2nd Infantry Division, Task Force Arrowhead during continuous combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During his deployment, which went from April 22, 2012 to Nov. 3, 2012, Teller planned, vetted, and received command approval for approximately \$20 million in construction projects on behalf of Regional Command South Headquarters. He also conducted the recon of projects in FOB Spin Boldak. "His work with Coalition Force partners, to include Romanian Battalions, greatly furthered ISAF relationships as we continue our war on terror," read Executive Office Assistant Steven Andon.

The Secretary of Defense Medal bestowed upon Teller symbolizes the honor and achievement of civilians with the Department of Defense to defend freedom against danger that may develop on foreign soil. The ribbon's blue stripe is associated with the Department of Defense; gold represents excellence; black and red symbolize threat of terrorism; red, white and blue are for patriotism and love of freedom.

Teller said that his experience overseas was a great opportunity and he encouraged people to go. He also said that if anyone had any questions about deployment, they could stop by his cubicle and he would be happy to talk with them.

Maj. Stephen LaValle received the Army Commendation Medal for his exceptional work at the Hurricane Sandy Emergency Operations Center in New Jersey. Col. Samaris commented that LaValle was "the go to guy if you needed to know what was going on down there."



Maj. Stephen LaValle listens as Steve Andon reads the citation on the Army Commendation Medal he received for his work during the Hurricane Sandy Recovery efforts.

Dredging up the past



Col. John H. Mason (left), shown in this circa 1973 photo, passed away Jan. 5. Col. Mason served as New England's 19th Division Engineer from Aug. 1, 1972 until he retired from service on Aug. 30, 1976. In addition to his command, Col. Mason served his country faithfully during World War II where he participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He also served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He received many decorations during his long and distinguished career to include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal and three Bronze Stars.

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