

# Yankee Engineer

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*Building Strong*

®



*District awards contract for repairs to  
Point Judith Harbor east jetty in Narragansett  
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# Yankee Voices

Crystal Gardner (left) and Susan Lee



## NAD Campaign Plan Focus

To successfully implement the NAD Campaign Plan, NAD has identified six focus areas:

**1. Implement Planning Modernization process** - Support Civil Works transformation and fast-track planning modernization while continuing the Hurricane Sandy Recovery efforts in the NAD Region.

**2. Shape the workforce of the future** - Balance regional workload and workforce capacities and capabilities to build an enduring, resilient team.

**3. Improve regional business, acquisition and governance processes** - Streamline processes to create a dynamic, efficient Regional Business Center.

**4. Integrate USACE and its capabilities into Combatant Commands (COCOM)** - Increase COCOM Commanders understanding of how USACE supports their missions and can assist them in achieving their goals.

**5. Achieve federal energy security and sustainability targets within USACE operations** - Lead the nation in fostering new and innovative energy and sustainability technologies and practices.

**6. Maintain and improve readiness with contingency capabilities** - Continue to prepare, plan and train our teams to respond to any natural disasters and provide relief for impacted citizens.

## USACE Campaign Plan

These are historic times in our nation and in the world, and the Corps will play a pivotal role in helping shape America's future.

The Corps will grow stronger and become a great organization by delivering superior performance, setting the standard for our profession, making a positive impact on the nation and other nations, and building to last, as evidenced by the strength of our team — educated, trained, experienced and certified professionals.

We will deliver superior performance every time through disciplined people, thought and action. We will use the Campaign Plan to establish our priorities, focus our transformation initiatives, measure and guide our progress and adapt to the needs of the future.

Our intent is for the Corps to be one disciplined team — in thought, word, and action — and to meet our commitments by saying what we will do and doing what we say.

Marching forward with a new Campaign Plan to transform the way we do business.

To realize the USACE Goals, the New England District has adopted five strategic imperatives:

**1. Develop Leaders and Experts** - A multi-skilled, complementary force of trained leaders and experts -- instilled with accountability and urgency -- able to accomplish today's mission; postured to adapt to and accomplish tomorrow's mission. Inculcate a strong culture of improving our record in all three legs of the construction stool - quality, cost and time.

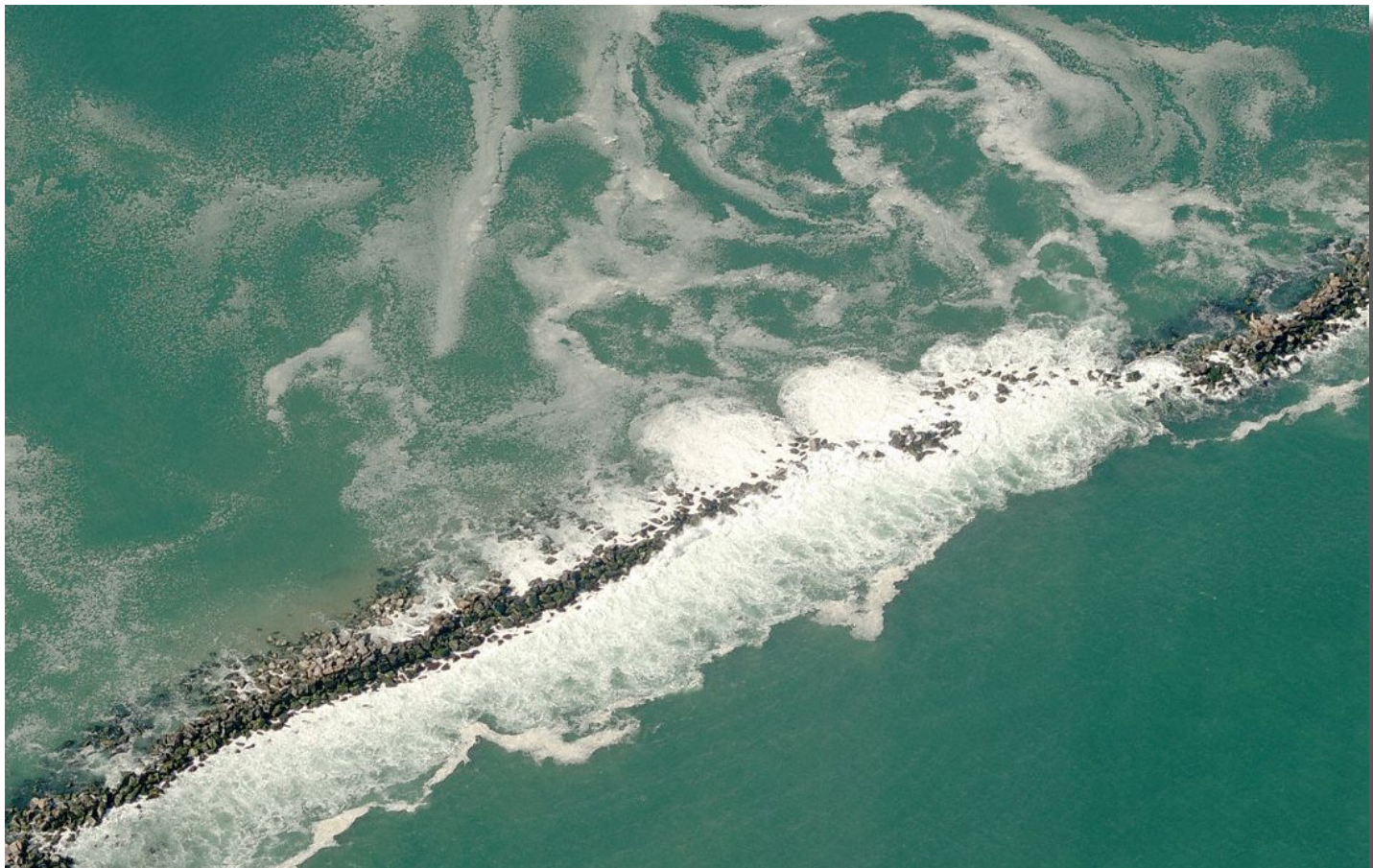
**2. Streamline Business Processes** - Fully engaged Project Delivery Team's that publish and adhere to simple Project Management Plans, plan and execute in accordance with small toolkit of published Standard Operation Procedures, identify and implement best industry practices and communicate/ collaborate transparently to deliver superior results ahead of schedule, under budget and of superior quality...always.

**3. Build Effective Communication Systems** - A culture of transparent 360 communication across the organization supported by a published and implemented 360 Strategic Communication/Relationship Plan that strengthens internal and external relationships to deliver superior results.

**4. Advance Capabilities and Organization** - A clearly defined set of primary District core capabilities (niches) and secondary capacities (surges), and a flat, lean, adaptable, affordable organizational structure designed to accomplish today's mission and postured to effectively respond to an evolving future district and regional workload.

**5. Steward Infrastructure and Advance Technology** - A master plan - with executable courses of action - to posture the District with the right resources to effectively perform the district core capabilities, derived through analyzed inventories of real and organizational property - required versus on-hand.





The New England District recently awarded a contract to repair the Point Judith Harbor east jetty in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

Photo provided by Navigation

## *District awards \$627,000 contract for repairs to Point Judith Harbor east jetty in Narragansett; Work to start in February*

By Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The Point Judith Harbor east jetty in Narragansett, Rhode Island, will be repaired under the terms of a \$627,000 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Atlantic Support Installations, Inc., of Hopedale, Mass. Construction is scheduled to start on or about Feb. 15, and take about three months to complete. The contract was awarded on Dec. 19, 2013.

The work for this project consists of repairing the east jetty at the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge in Narragan-

sett. Repairs involve the mobilization and demobilization, and the furnishing, delivery and placement of new stone to replace stones displaced during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and to fill in existing gaps and low points along the jetty.

"The repairs will be performed to restore the southerly portion of the east jetty to the original profiles and cross-sections," said Project Manager Michael Walsh, of the Corps' New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. "Repairs will require substantial moving and manipulation of existing stones to obtain the required interlocking placement."

Mobilization of equipment and

rehabilitation of the jetty may require a combination of land and marine construction methods and resources.

The project will be managed by the Corps and all work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative from the New Bedford Resident Office to assure compliance with contract requirements.

For more information about the Point Judith Harbor federal navigation project visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/RhodeIsland/PointJudith.aspx>. A map is available at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Navigation/RI/PJH/PJHmap.pdf>.



## Hard work, perseverance turn Pathways Intern's future bright

Matt Cummings, Operations Division, recently graduated from Plymouth State University, earning his Master's Degree in Environmental Science and Policy on Dec. 16, 2013, and has also finished his Pathways Internship at the New England District. Now as a Park Ranger on the Otter Brook lake team in Keene, N.H., he already has years of experience as a Natural Resource Specialist, thanks to hard work and opportunities that the Pathways Internship Program has provided.

Prior to graduation, Cummings presented his sustainability thesis to Plymouth State University faculty, Frank Fedele, Chief of Operations, Merrimack River Basin Operations Manager Rob Shanks, Project Managers Jennifer Rockett and Steve Dermody and Natural Resource Specialists Kim Russell and Marissa Wright. His presentation was a culmination of his studies at the university and his years of experience working for the District's Franklin Falls Dam in New Hampshire.

"We were fortunate that he was able to base his thesis research on energy efficiency here at the Franklin Falls Dam," said Rockett. "One of the biggest benefits Matt brought to the table was exposing us to the possibilities of micro-hydro power. Micro hydro power is a type of hydroelectric power that typically produces up to 100 kW of electricity using the natural flow of water. Small-scale micro hydro power is both an efficient and reliable form of energy that we could possibly use to operate our projects. As our budgets continue to decrease perhaps the idea of micro-hydro at our projects will become a reality. A reality that was brought to light by a Pathways Program graduate."

The Pathways Program has afforded Cummings experiences in many aspects of a Corps Park Ranger that helped him assemble data for his thesis. "As part of my duties, I was tasked with assisting in projects like the sustainability survey of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers buildings for the Franklin Falls Dam project," said Cummings. "After working on the survey, I wanted

to continue researching sustainability. I took the opportunity to tie it in with my education. Over the past summer I began searching and collecting data and then worked on and completed the project in my fall semester."

The District saw great benefits from Cummings' research. "Matt also researched other energy efficient avenues for the MRB," said Rockett. "He research wind power, solar power and hydropower. He went as far as to look at our utilities from the previous years and figured out cost to benefit



Matt Cummings at an ice-fishing event.

ratios for each source of alternative energy. This information is a great benefit to us as we try to comply with the Army's Energy Strategy and Campaign Plan."

Cummings started his career as a temporary summer hire in 2009. "I was hired back for the 2010 summer and after that I was hired on in the student career experience program," he said. "I decided to take the internship because I enjoyed working in the field and it was a great opportunity to further my career."

As a Pathways Intern for Operations, Cummings had many assignments that exposed him to flood risk management, natural resource management, facilities management and recreation.

Rockett served as Cummings' primary mentor, and Cummings said he also had the unwavering support of co-workers Natalie McCormack, Dan Lapella, Victor Ranfos and the entire Merrimack River Basin team.

"I've learned many things from my

mentor with the operation of flood risk management projects," he said. "I think one of the most important things I took away from my mentor was perseverance. At times it would be challenging to pursue my career and go to school, but Jen encouraged me to stick with it and keep working towards my goals."

"Matt's biggest accomplishment in general was balancing grad school with work," said Rockett. "He did a very good job at both. It isn't easy and he managed to do very well in school and was always one step ahead when it came to the daily duties at both Blackwater Dam and Franklin Falls Dam."

According to Rockett, everyone benefited from the Pathways Program. "The Pathways Internship Program plays a key role in preparing rangers for their duties as a full time employee for the Corps," she said. "It's a win-win scenario. At the end of the program the result is a highly educated ranger who has been able to gain much knowledge on flood control, natural resources, recreation and facility/maintenance. For example, Matt was here at the Merrimack for close to four years working and studying and then upon graduating he transferred to the Upper Connecticut basin."

Rockett said that the Upper Connecticut clearly benefited by filling their vacancy with an individual who is already trained and has great ideas to share. "The Merrimack benefitted because Matt was a tremendous help to us and one of our best workers," she said.

"One thing I valued most in my experience with the Pathways program is that it allowed me to pursue my degree and work towards my goals of gaining a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Cummings. "The education I gained will help me with many areas of my career and the experience I have gained has made me capable and confident in the duties I can perform. I also value the connections and relationships I was able to develop with co-workers and contacts while I was a Pathways Intern."

# Jeff Perchak retires with 36 years of service

By Sue Loubier  
Westover Area Office

After 36 years of federal service, Westover Resident Office Lead Civil Engineer Jeffrey S. Perchak retired Jan. 3. A retirement celebration luncheon for Perchak was held on Dec. 3, 2013 at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee, Mass. Approximately 85 family, friends, fellow Corps employees from Concord, Devens, New Bedford, North Central Resident Office, and Thames River Basin, retirees, National Guard, Westover ARB base personnel and contractors he has worked with over the years attended.

Ray Goff, Westover Resident Office Resident Engineer, serving as Master of Ceremonies welcomed the audience and introduced the speakers. Speakers honoring Perchak included Sue Loubier, Secretary at Westover Resident Office, Pat Devine, Civil Engineer at Westover Resident Office, Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction Division, Andrew Jordan, Acting Chief of Cost Engineering, Larry Rea, Chief Warrant Officer, New Hampshire Army National Guard and Scott Acone, Chief of Engineering/Planning Division.

Lt. Col. Joseph Danao of the Connecticut National Guard spoke and presented Perchak with a backpack full of mementos. Gary Puryear, Base Transition Coordinator, 99th RSC New England also spoke and presented Perchak with a Certificate of Special Recognition from Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal. He also presented Perchak with a Certificate from Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy honoring his retirement and dedication to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Perchak with his retirement certificate and pin as

well as a Commander's Coin. During his remarks, Col. Samaris thanked Perchak's family for their support and the sacrifices they had to make during his career. Col. Samaris also presented Perchak with the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Goff and Loubier then presented Perchak with a Corps of Engineers watch with his retirement date engraved on the back and a Corps of Engineers money clip with "Jeff" dollars. He received some tomato seeds for his annual tomato garden. Perchak also received a gift card to use toward the purchase of a metal detector. Perchak's wife, Ann, received a bouquet of flowers and was thanked her for all her hard work putting the luncheon together.

During the festivities, a slide show with photos depicting different people Perchak worked with and projects he worked on over the years was shown on a big screen.

After the ceremony, guests enjoyed the many desserts that Perchak's daughters baked as well as a Corps of Engineers cake.

Perchak received a letter at home from Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal congratulating him on his retirement and recognizing his significant achievements during his career.

Upon retirement Perchak planned to wave to people on their way to work in the mornings, play in the garden, trade in the Miata for something newer and faster, travel the USA prospecting for gem stones, to include checking out parts of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition along the way, fly fishing and sampling local foods, donuts, culture and history.

Perchak's wife, Ann; his two daughters, Jenna and Katelyn, his mother, Barbara, and his aunt, Joanne accompanied him to the lunch.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Dick Carlson, Jim Leonard and Moe Beaudoin attended the event. Other Corps retirees who attended were Greg Buteau, Joe Bocchino, Mark Vance, Charlie Miller, Andre Janet, Champak Shah, Bob Hanacek and Rick Casano.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Jeff Perchak receives a Superior Civilian Service award from New England District Commander Col. Charles Samaris during his retirement lunch.





Sean Dolan (left) and retiree Bill Haynes catch up during the lunch.



The Concord Park Cafeteria brimmed with District Team members enjoying lunch.



Olivia Gray, pushing daughter, Kate, looks for a place to sit.

## *New England District Team celebrates the holidays with lunchtime event*

After a year fraught with challenges and budgetary constraints, the New England District Team took some time to look back at their successes and accomplishments and to celebrate the holiday season with a lunch on Dec. 20 in the Concord Park Cafeteria.

This year's event was hosted jointly by Office of Counsel, Programs/Project Management, Emergency Operations, Safety and the Work Environment Association (WEA).

For a fee, employees, retirees and guests were able to enjoy freshly carved roast beef sandwiches, grilled vegetable wraps, salads, hot grilled vegetable sides, chips and beverages. About 241 people attended the lunch.

Music piped into the cafeteria set a festive mood while event participants munched, talked with friends or played the holiday trivia games placed on the table. Holiday themed movies played continuously throughout the celebration for those wanting to sneak away to somewhere less busy to get into the spirit of the season.

The WEA held its popular basket auction fundraiser and announced the names of the winners after lunch. The themes of the 12 donated baskets -- some compiled and donated individually, others by offices -- varied in themes from a winter log basket to a home improvement basket

filled with tools. The Commemorative Bottle sale was also another popular fundraiser for future District events. The beverage inside the bottles came at no charge.

Although 2013 could be considered a fiscally stressful year for District employees, their tradition of helping those worse off than themselves continued. Jerry Nunziato, assisted by Janet Brayden, coordinated the WEA-sponsored Toys for Tots Program. District team members, as well as the Community Based-Health Care Organization, donated 315 unwrapped, non-violent toys to needy children. The U.S. Marines picked up the toys the day of the holiday lunch.

Retirees that attended the holiday lunch were Amal Guirguis, Brenda Faragi, Greg Buteau, Bobby Bryne, David Lubianez, Forest Lyford, Bill and Sue Holtham, Phil Durgin, Alexine Raineri, Raimo Liias, Bill Haynes, Robert Batt, Susan Rodkey and Richard Santino.

An after-hours celebration also took place at The Den, located at Hanscom Air Force Base, on Dec. 13. The 80 people who attended were treated to an Italian buffet dinner and dancing. Retirees who attended were Bobby Byrne, Greg Buteau and Joe Bocchino. The after hours celebration was coordinated by Judy Antonellis, Sue MacDonald and Dara Gay.

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Jan. 20 marked the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service?

After a long struggle, legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort.

Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service -- a "day on, not a day off." The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

## About Dr. King

King was a vital figure of the modern era and a pivotal

figure in the Civil Rights Movement. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world.

Following in the footsteps of his father, in February 1948, at the age of 19, King entered the Christian ministry and was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. In 1954, upon completion of graduate studies at Boston University, he accepted a call to serve at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

While there, he was an instrumental leader in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, made famous by the nonviolent resistance and arrest of Rosa Parks. He resigned this position in 1959 to move back to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1960 until his death in 1968, he also served as co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church. King was arrested 30 times for his participation in civil rights activities. King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. and died on April 4, 1968. He had gone to Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions.

*(Corporation for National & Community Service)*

# District observes National American Indian Heritage Month

New England District team members gathered in the Concord Park theater to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month on Nov. 19, 2013. Dr. James Woods, a citizen of the Lumbee Tribe served as keynote speaker during the District's observance. The 2013 U.S. Army theme was, "Guiding our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions."

Jackie DiDomenico, EEO Officer, hosted the event. Bill Scully, Deputy Commander for Programs/Project Management, welcomed the audience and introduced Woods. "This month, we celebrate and honor the many ways American Indians and Alaska Natives have enriched our nation, and we renew our commitment to respecting each tribe's identity while ensuring equal opportunity to pursue the American

dream," said Scully.

Woods, who is also the Director of the Institute for New England Native American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, focused much of his PowerPoint-driven presentation on the significant contributions American Indians made during war time. The keynote speaker told the story of Daniel Nimham, Sachem of the Wappinger Indians and his warriors who sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Kingsbridge, Aug. 31, 1778 during the Revolutionary War.

Woods also discussed the contributions and sacrifices American Indians made during the War of 1812, the Civil War, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Plain Wars, World War I and World War II -- to include the crucial work performed by the Navajo Code Talkers -- Korean and Vietnam

Wars as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to the DoD Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs, there are currently 16,000 Native American Service Members on active duty, 160,000 Veterans and 6,000 DoD Civilian employees.

In appreciation for Woods' coming to speak to the New England District team, Scully presented him with a Bunker Hill certificate.

In addition to his duties at UMASS Boston, Woods is a member of the Board of Trustees of Plimouth Plantation, a bicultural living history museum in Plymouth, Mass. Woods has also served as a consultant for the National Museum of the American Indian, the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.



# Dredging up the past



Photo by C.J. Allen

Kim Kaminski-Donaher, Dave Schafer and Heather Sullivan (from right) talk to a student during a Career Night held in Boston, Mass., during Engineer's Week in this March 2003 photo. Dianna Barela (with her back to the camera) was also helping students with questions about employment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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