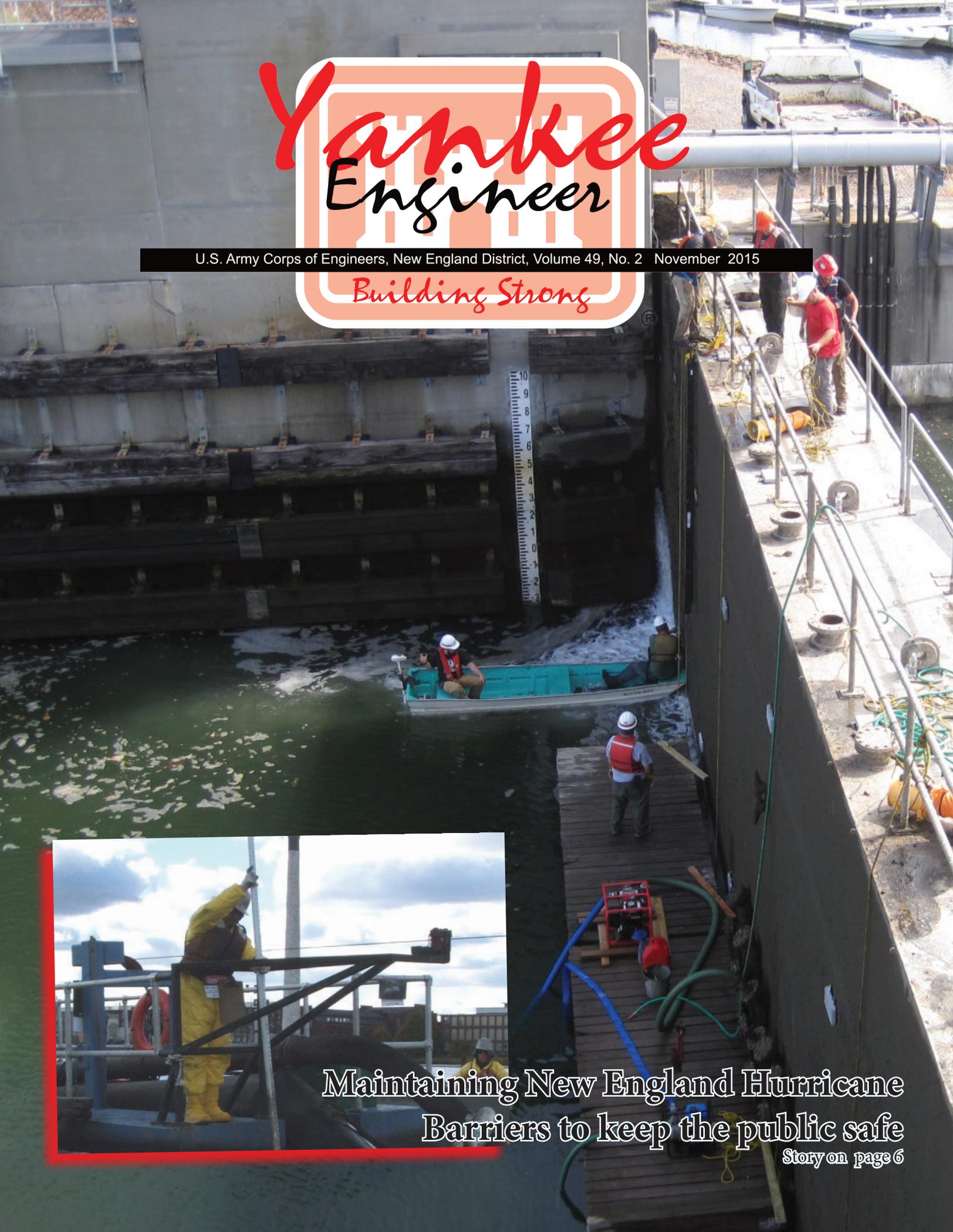


# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 49, No. 2 November 2015

*Building Strong*



Maintaining New England Hurricane  
Barriers to keep the public safe

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# Yankee Voices



Megan Cullen

## Tax Season Info

Do you know that myPay is the quickest way to get your 2015 IRS Form 1095? In fact, once it becomes available in myPay in late January 2016, you will have the option to View, Print or Save your 1095 in PDF format. This will save you time in comparison to the U.S. Postal Service which will take approximately 7 - 10 business days for delivery.

myPay protects against identity theft and is more secure than regular mail by allowing you to access your tax statements securely online. Finally, myPay matches the industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security to protect all myPay users.

myPay also makes it convenient for you to switch from mail delivery to electronic. You can simply log into myPay and from the Main Menu select "Turn on/off Hard Copy of IRS Form 1095." Answer "Yes" to switch from "Electronic and Hard Copy" to "Electronic Only" for faster and safer electronic delivery. To log into your myPay account go to: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

## Employee Spotlight: Megan Cullen, Engineering/Planning

Megan Cullen is a Civil Engineer, P.E., with the New England District's Civil Engineering Section, Design Branch, Engineering/Planning Division.

Cullen joined the New England District team seven years ago, starting as a summer co-op student in 2008 and 2009 in the Environmental Engineering Section. When she graduated from college in 2010, she entered the DA Intern Program. She became a permanent member of the Civil Engineering Section in June 2012. "I prepare civil designs for utilities, road design and repair, site development, drainage projects to include low impact design, channel improvement, maintenance improvement dredging, environmental restoration and local protection projects. I also conduct field investigations, technical reviews of projects and monitor A-E contracts."

In addition to her duties in Engineering/Planning, Cullen also participates in the District's Leadership Development Program. Cullen says that she enjoys taking advantage of the many opportunities the District has to offer. "During my time with the Corps, I have been given the opportunity to deploy for the emergency response effort following Hurricane Sandy, to deploy to Afghanistan and work as a Project Engineer, and complete a developmental assignment at the ERDC Hydraulics System Lab in Vicksburg, Mississippi," she said.

The Civil Engineer has been given an assignment outside of her civil duties and is currently working on an environmental engineering project. "I am grateful to work on a team that encourages us to move outside our comfort zone and challenge ourselves," she said. "I hope to take advantage of more developmental assignments in the future."

Cullen received her Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Engineering from Suffolk University in May 2010. She is almost finished with her last graduate course at UMASS Lowell and anticipates earning her Masters of Science and Engineering in Civil Engineering this December.

Working full-time and going to school really doesn't leave much time for anything else but when she is able, Cullen likes to enjoy her summers hiking, kayaking and bike riding. "I'm in the process of hiking all the 4,000-footers of New England," she said.

She also likes to travel. "I got the travel bug during my sophomore year of college when I left the country for the first time," said Cullen. "A group of classmates and I traveled to El Salvador to learn about the country's history and to build a central stage for their community activities and events."

Cullen has also studied abroad for a semester each in Ireland and Costa Rica and takes trips when time allows. "For the past few academic years, my time outside of work has been committed to completing my Master's Degree," she said. "Come December, I will graduate and have the opportunity to figure out what I like to do with my free time!"





Brig. Gen. Graham (center) gets a tour of the Muddy River Project in Boston, Massachusetts.

Photos by Bob Casoli

## North Atlantic Division Commander tours Muddy River project

North Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. William Graham, took time away from his tight schedule to visit the Muddy River Project while he was in Massachusetts.

The visit, that coincided with an event at MIT, took place, Nov. 10. Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, and Mike Keegan, Chief, Civil/IIS Branch, were on hand to give a detailed briefing on the project and to answer any questions the general may have had.

Other team members were Sean Dolan, Cesar Lopez; Jeremiah Masey; Bob Casoli; and Michelle O'Donoghue.

The Muddy River is a small waterway in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

The three and a half mile long river flows through the heart of Frederick Law Olmstead's "Emerald Necklace," one of the most carefully crafted park systems and one of the oldest remaining linear urban park systems

in the United States.

After a storm in October 1996 caused severe flooding along the Muddy River and several tributaries, especially Stony Brook, the cities of Boston and Brookline as well as the Commonwealth proposed a plan called, "The Emerald Necklace Environmental Improvement Master Plan, Phase I Muddy River Flood Control, Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement," in January 1999. The New England District is authorized to perform work under Section 522 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (PL 106-541). The

District completed design efforts and prepared plans and specifications for Phase I of the project. A project partnering agreement was signed with the project sponsors.

On Aug. 10, 2012, the District awarded a \$30.9 million contract for Phase I, with work ongoing.



Brig. Gen. William Graham listened to a project briefing before going out on a site visit.

## New England District's military make Veterans Day appearances

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, and Capt. Daniel Brady, Construction Division, both attended local Veterans Day observances to honor Veterans.

Col. Barron served as keynote speaker during the Keene, New Hampshire Veterans Day ceremony, Nov. 11. The event took place at Fuller Park, Keene Recreation Center. "Veterans Day is a time for reflection, appreciation and reverent celebration," said Col. Barron. "It's an occasion for people across the country – each of us, as its citizens – to remember those who throughout our history have answered the call to serve in the Armed Forces and defend our nation."

Col. Barron said that when the nation observes Veterans Day, it pays tribute to all American Veterans, both living and dead, during war and peace for defending the American way of life for nearly 240 years. He said that the price for freedom in the past, present and future is paid for with the nation's citizens' dedication, sacrifice and sometimes lives.

"From far-flung battlefields and combat zones across the globe, to the heart and soul of the American homeland, Americans have served their nation with courage, dignity and honor," he said. "It was true in April of 1775 when the New Hampshire Regiment and Militia fought at Bunker Hill, and it's true today with men and women from New Hampshire serving in every branch of service, often thousands of miles from home and family."

Col. Barron stated that Veterans are strong and resilient men and women, many who quickly reintegrate themselves back to civilian life. "They are police officers, teachers, farmers, writers, carpenters, machinists and

engineers," he said. "Remember it's not THE military, it's YOUR military. When you see an old timer with his Korean War Vet hat on or the young guy with the maps of Iraq and Afghanistan tattooed on his arms, don't wait until next November to say hello."

A wreath laying ceremony was one of the highlights of the observance.

Capt. Brady spoke at the Veterans Memorial Middle School in Melrose,



Tech Sgt. Joseph Swafford

Veterans Day celebrations were held nationwide on Nov. 11.

Massachusetts on Nov. 10, about what being a Veteran means to him. "For me, when I hear the word Veteran used, the first person that comes to my mind is my grandfather," he said. "He emigrated from Italy through Ellis Island to the United States in 1928. He lived the American dream and when his new country needed him in World War II, he was willing to lay down his life to protect it."

Veterans also serve in peacetime. Capt. Brady explained that a Veteran doesn't have to be someone that served during a conflict and that there are many Veterans that have served when the country was at peace. "Despite the radically different experiences of serving during peace time and during war, what unites these Veterans has been their willingness to serve and defend our country."

Capt. Brady spoke briefly of his own military career – serving as a commissioned officer for over eight years and deploying three times – and said that service members study and train day in and day out to be prepared to serve. Once they leave military service, many continue their careers of service by taking jobs such as teachers, police officers, first responders and fire fighters, according to Capt. Brady.

He urged the audience to remember Veterans every day and to remember their values: loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, personal courage and selfless service. "Veterans Day is a time to celebrate their many accomplishments, the most significant of which is winning, defending and preserving our independence, our liberty and our freedom," he said. "I ask you to keep those currently serving and particularly those deployed around the world in your thoughts and prayers."

Following the ceremony, Capt. Brady participated in placing flowers at two memorial sites located at the school. He also spoke with students one on one during the event.

Veterans Day was formally known as Armistice Day. In 1918 on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month an armistice – a temporary stop to hostilities – was declared by the Allied nations and Germany.

To commemorate that occasion and the end of the "War to End all Wars", Nov. 11 officially became Armistice Day in 1919, and became a federal holiday in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, the name of the holiday changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2009-2013, there were 21.5 million Veterans in the United States.

# Operations holds annual Park Ranger training

**By Natalie McCormack**  
**Park Ranger**

This year's annual park ranger training took place at the Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Sixty-plus rangers, project managers, and support staff from the operations division attended the training which covered a wide range of topics from natural resource based invasive species control to visitor assistance related drug and gang awareness.

Some of the presentations this year included a demonstration of bloodhound search and rescue techniques from local officers William Chapman of the Phillipston Police Department and Robert Legare of the Petersham Police Department. The officers showed how the dogs could follow scent trails using articles of clothing or other identifiers to find potential missing persons. They also explained that this breed of dog, unlike the more commonly used German Shepard, could follow trails that were days old.

Gang and drug awareness was another training that was well received. Presented by Massachusetts State Trooper Gregg Nadeau, Corps rangers were given insight on trends in the gang populations throughout New England. He provided ways to identify if these groups were present in our parks as well as a real perspective of their culture and attitudes. He also provided a brief introduction to drug identification.

As stewards of the natural resources at Corps civil works projects, rangers face the enormous task of preserving the native species and natural habitats at their projects. Cape Cod Canal Park Ranger John Pribilla, provided the group with a demonstration of invasive

species control methods which can be implemented at their perspective projects. John also provided live samples of native and nonnative plant species to aid in identification.

Another presentation which tied into park maintenance and removal of nuisance vegetation was given by Assistant Park Manager Michele Breen from the Cape Cod Canal. In our district wide efforts to use less intrusive, more natural methods to complete maintenance tasks at our projects the staff at the Canal implemented the use of goats as "Biological Control Methods for Vegetation Management." Michele



Park Rangers participate in the team building exercise.

Photo by Natalie McCormack

described the successes and downfalls of using this technique for removing nuisance plants, as well as provided her audience with a comical story of her motherly duties as pack leader of this particular tribe of goats.

In addition to these presentations, the whole team participated in a team building activity hosted by two representatives of Tandem Training and Consulting, Inc., John Dubois and Traci Blecher. Many laughs and thought provoking insights into communication and teamwork were shared. The objective of this activity was to work as

a team to build a bridge out of Popsicle sticks, straws, paper and other common arts and crafts materials that could hold a three pound weight. The caveat to the challenge was that the team of eight only had a few minutes to plan their strategy together before splitting into two smaller groups and each group had to build one side of the bridge which would come together at the end. Needless to say some very creative bridges came out of these efforts.

Lastly, many refresher presentations and trainings were also provided on several topics including dam safety, reservoir control, pollinators & threatened/endangered species, FLIPL reporting, Central Violations Bureau case preparation and tort claims, new hiring actions, leadership development, water safety, contracting updates and policies, talking to the media, sustainability, real estate, and annual ethics training.

Thank you to all the presenters for providing the Operations field staff and park rangers with valuable knowledge to carry into the coming year! Other presenters not mentioned above include Laura Fraser, Greg Hanlon, Marissa Wright, Frank Fedele, Ryan Killman, Eric Pedersen, Paul Chansky, Karen Hoey, Erin Bradley, Steven Lehmann, Larry Rosenberg, Amy Bourne, Maureen McCabe, Anne Kosel, Mark Anderson and John Astley.

The annual Ranger Training PDT who organized this year's event were: Eric Pedersen, Kim Russell, Keith Beecher, Michele Breen, Dylan Dickson, Dan Defiore, Brianna Green, Marci Montrose and Natalie McCormack. Finally, thank you to the WEA Committee for their support by providing the refreshments for the event.



A New England District team member monitors the dewatering process at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier.

Photos by Diana Enrico-Topolski

## Maintaining the Hurricane Barriers to keep the public safe

One of New England District's missions is flood risk management – keeping people and property safe. The District's flood risk management projects have done their jobs over the years and one of the reasons is that they are kept in top condition through rehabilitations and inspections. Two of the District's hurricane barriers, the New Bedford-Fairhaven Hurricane Barrier in Massachusetts and the Stamford Hurricane Barrier in Connecticut, both have had such work performed in recent months to keep them in top shape in case they are needed.

Work on the \$242,271 contract to perform rehabilitation wiring and other work to the New Bedford-Fairhaven Hurricane Barrier is nearing completion. The purpose of the maintenance work is to replace equipment that is nearing the end of its service life.

The work includes replacing one gate operator, motors and controls. "The operator and motors for the conduit gates are all original equipment

that were put into service in 1966," said John MacPherson, Deputy Canal Manager at the Cape Cod Canal.

According to MacPherson the contract also includes replacing all power and control cables for all four conduit gates. "The new cables will be installed in existing conduits that run inside the harbor dike," he said.

While work is ongoing at the barrier the conduit gates will occasionally be closed for short periods of time. "A pre-construction meeting is scheduled to be completed in mid-November and field work to follow this fall/winter," said MacPherson.

Fall River Electrical Associates, Incorporated of Fall River,



New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.

Massachusetts has the contract. "The New Bedford Office is handling the supervision and administration," he said. "Ted Frazzetta is the Construction engineer. Cape Cod Canal electricians will also monitor the work."

As part of the five-year periodic inspection and replacement of the zinc anodes, the gate at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier was dewatered to provide access to clean out the interior.

"The work is done every five years to inspect the zinc anodes for deterioration and to replace those that are deteriorated below a specific percentage. The gate is dewatered so zinc anodes can be inspected and replaced from within the barrier/gate," said Diana Errico-Topolski, Project Manager. "Second, it allows for engineering to go inside the barrier/gate to inspect the structural components of the gate as part of the five-year periodic inspection."

According to Errico-Topolski, the engineers inspect the welds, seams, joints and various parts of the gate. "The navigation gate at the Stamford Hurricane Barrier is 90 feet by 35 feet by six foot flap gate," she said. "The gate is comprised of six levels and 96 compartments within the gate. The existing cathodic protection of the hurricane barrier consists of six anodes per compartment, and about 50 exterior anodes."

Veterans Marine Service of San Diego, California performed the work on the \$35,054 contract and finished on Sept. 30.

Errico-Topolski was the project manager. Other New England District personnel who worked on this project were Sheila Harvey, Joe Fentress, Kane Turmelle, Marcus Madison, Adam Stewart, John Winkelman, Ben Loyd, Todd Randall, Christopher Cogley, Marci Montrose, Brett Markure, Brian Hornbecker, Bill Augustine, Chris Way, Steve Patchkofsky and Marissa Wright.



Blizzard of 2015

## New England District Inclement Weather and Contingency Alert Program

During periods of extreme weather that may impact on operations, District employees are advised that the District's Inclement Weather/Contingency alerts and announcement hotline is up and running.

During those periods, beginning at 5:30 a.m., affected personnel should either call 978-318-8888 for the latest advisory information or:

- Closing or delayed opening information is available by logging in online to Channel 7 News (WHDH-TV) at <http://www.whdh.com/category/271838/weather-closings-delays>.

- 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://www.whdh.com> and click on "School Closings" in the navigation bar and follow the directions.

- District Team members can also listen to the following radio stations to receive closings or delays: WOKQ (97.5 FM), WPKQ (103.7 FM), The SHARK (102.1 FM) or WCAP (980 AM).

Additionally, the Inclement Weather Alerts and announcements regarding closings or delays will appear on the New England District's Facebook page, the NAE Facebook Internal News Site (employees only), and as Twitter "tweets."

If you are a Facebook member, District employees are invited to become a "fan" of the NAE Facebook Internal News Site, a closed page that employees must request membership to be included. Subscribers to Twitter must "follow" the CorpsNewEngland to receive tweets.

Those links are:

- NAE Facebook Internal News Site: <http://tinyurl.com/oyf4snr>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland>
- 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 Concord Park Headquarters only.

# Saving more lives is in sight during hurricane season

**By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.  
New York District**

“Hurricane Sandy represented one of the largest scale evacuations declared in recent history in the United States,” said Edward Schneyer, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management. “During Sandy we rescued 250 people from their flooded homes, evacuated two major hospitals and several adult homes.”

He said he was able to do this effectively because his agency has storm surge maps created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. Storm surge is when a significant amount of water is pushed from the sea onto the land caused by a hurricane.

These maps provide emergency managers in all hurricane prone states an understanding of the potential for the extent of storm surge that could occur for worst case Category 1 to 4 storms, identifying areas from which people should evacuate if faced with the threat of storm surge.

Presently the Army Corps is updating these maps with higher resolution modeling and topography performed by NOAA’S National Hurricane Center’s Storm Surge Unit, so agencies will have more accurate information to educate the public, thus reducing risk to themselves and their property. “Historically, 49-percent of human casualties from hurricanes are due to storm surge,” said Donald E. Cresitello, USACE Hurricane Evacuation Study Program Manager for the state of New York, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. “Other impacts like riverine flooding due to rainfall, falling trees due to high winds, and indirect impacts like carbon monoxide poisoning and electrocution, can cause deaths. The development of these maps is the first step in the hazard

analysis for the hurricane evacuation study process.”

As the hurricane evacuation study managers for the National Hurricane Program, the Army Corps is responsible for creating these maps. The maps, which are officially named the, “New York Hurricane Evacuation Study Hurricane Surge Inundation Maps,” are being produced in collaboration with the Army Corps’ New England and Baltimore Districts.

The Army Corps provides these maps to emergency managers in New York City, Westchester County and Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island, New York.

The Army Corps also guides emergency managers on how to use these maps by providing the maps in a hurricane decision making software entitled, “HURREVAC” (Hurricane Evacuation), developed by Sea Island Software for the National Hurricane Program.

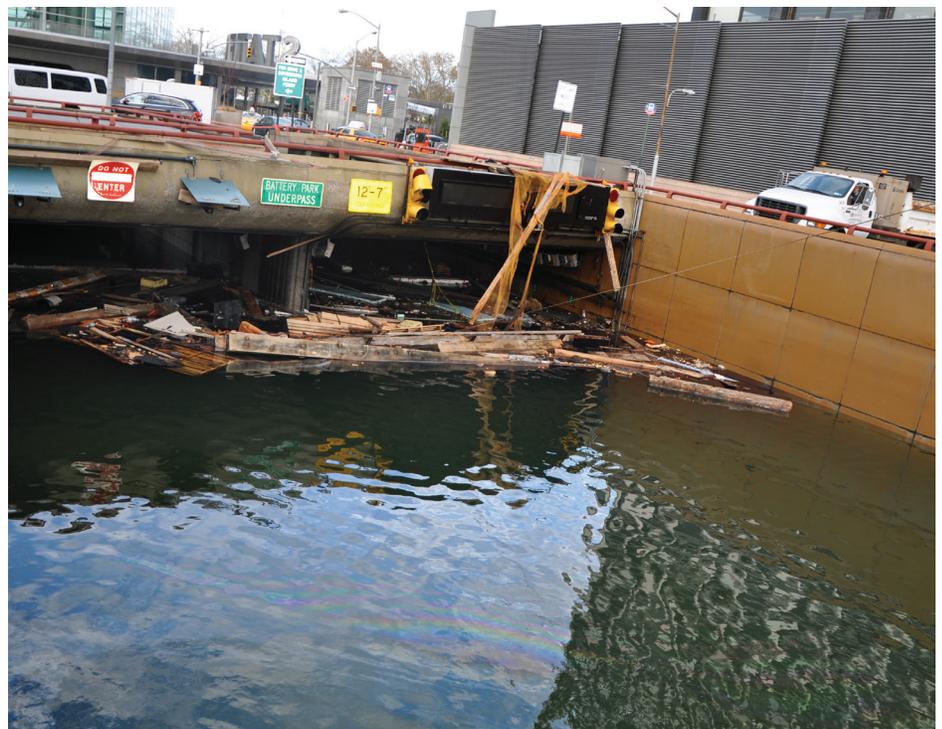
Cresitello said, “Agency officials can use these maps to help reduce risk to the public. They can use them for

evacuation planning, to redefine their hurricane evacuation zones, identify where shelters should be located and identify where assets should be staged prior to impact from a storm.”

Schneyer said, “The storm maps serve as a very valuable resource for both government and private sector agencies, as well as private residents. As a government agency tasked with emergency management responsibilities pertaining to evacuation and sheltering of the public, we use the maps to gain insight and perspective into the geographical area impacted and use this information to determine the number of buildings or population potentially impacted by a flood.”

From this information his agency can also pre-identify damage assessments even before the storm impacts the region. Suffolk County, New York where Schneyer manages approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline and its hurricane evacuation zones contain 225,000 residents.

The new maps, like previous ones, are being created using GIS



Hurricane Sandy caused massive flooding throughout parts of the Northeast.

Photo by Donald Cresitello

(Geographic Information System). This is a computer-based information system and tool capable of capturing, storing, analyzing, and displaying location information.

The tool inputs data from various sources, such as aerial photography, and combines these layers of information in various ways to perform analysis and create maps.

The new maps will be a considerable improvement from the older maps because they will have higher resolution storm surge modeling data and topography that will provide greater detail and accuracy. The new maps will not only show the extent of inland storm surge, but also the depth of the water – in ranges of feet – during different categories of storms.

In addition, the maps will illustrate areas that will experience more flooding and areas that will experience less flooding.

“Knowing what the depth of water may be in those areas helps emergency managers better perform their initial response after a storm and helps them know what kind of impacts they may expect during these types of storms,” said Cresitello.

And as a result, emergency managers can better focus their limited resources. “As emergency managers dealing with the recovery effort and critical decision making, these storm maps provide the geographical area of primary concern where efforts and resources need to be focused to make essential and accurate damage assessments to determine life and property hazards,” said Schneyer.

“In the initial stages of a response our recovery resources are limited, especially for an event the size of Sandy. If resources are dispatched to areas that were not impacted, valuable time is lost mobilizing and re-assigning those resources.”

These maps are not just a tool for

agencies, but also the general public. Schneyer said, “These maps provide an important level of awareness to residents that either live in a flood area or are preparing to purchase property located in a potential flood zone or hurricane storm surge zone.”

Schneyer’s agency is bringing this awareness directly to its residents. They are taking the information from the Army Corps’ maps and entering it into an interactive mapping program developed and viewable on its county’s website.

The public can visit the website to locate their residence, see if their home is in a hurricane storm surge zone and, if so, which designated shelter is nearby.

The Army Corps also wants the public to use these resources. “It’s important for people to know their specific zone,” said Cresitello. “The public should be aware of what evacuation zone they live in and should listen to their local officials (i.e. mayor, emergency manager, etc.) so they don’t question or ignore an official emergency evacuation order.”

He added, “We don’t want the public deciding on their own if they should evacuate or not. If a location is in danger then they should heed the evacuation order. It doesn’t matter if it’s six inches or 10 feet of water.”

During Sandy, people who should have evacuated but didn’t were stranded without help and faced many dangers including electrocution from downed power lines and fires from massive gas leaks.

Schneyer added, “The more information, especially information resulting from scientific studies and available technology, the more situationally aware we, and our residents, will be. This very valuable resource is an excellent tool for public education, emergency management planning, and emergency preparedness in general.”

## Hurricane Sandy recovery program nearly complete

**By Edward Loomis  
North Atlantic Division**

Extensive pre-storm preparations included establishing emergency operation centers, lowering pool elevations behind dams, issuing sandbags, and pre-positioning water and generators. After the storm surge, as part of the unified federal response, the Corps drained 475 million gallons of salt water from flooded critical infrastructure in the New York City metro area, installed more than 200 generators to critical facilities such as hospitals and police stations; removed hurricane debris; refurbished 115 transitional housing units; provided more than nine million liters of bottled water; and assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in returning affected ports to operation.

Consistent with the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, the Army Corps collaborated with federal, state, local government, and non-governmental agencies, tribal partners, and academic organizations on a North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS) to assess the flood risks of vulnerable coastal populations in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The Comprehensive Study, which applied a regional framework to reducing risk for vulnerable coastal populations, was submitted to Congress and released to the public in January 2015. Nine new study focus areas resulting from the NACCS will analyze the coastline as a system to develop the most effective solutions in the future.

The NACCS framework can be used not only in planning the future protection of the 31,000-mile NAD coastline affected by Sandy, but for customization by other U.S. coastal areas – even other countries – managing similar risks.



New England District team members pose in their costumes during the annual Halloween potluck lunch held in the cafeteria.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Annual Halloween Potluck scares up tasty lunch treats

Things got pretty spooky when New England District team members dressed up for Halloween and shared a favorite dish during the annual Halloween Potluck Lunch on Oct. 30.

Although costumes were optional and not everyone dressed up, over a dozen team members donned their creative costumes and took part in the lunch. Some costumes were scary, some were goofy. Some costumes left you scratching your head – all put a smile on people’s faces.

There were many dishes provided for the lunch. They included chicken fried rice, mac and cheese, Mexican stuffed

shells, Vegetable Korma, Buffalo chicken meatballs, chili, salads, pizza, pasta dish and more. The desserts were as numerous and varied as the main meal and ranged from healthy fruit salad to slightly less healthy brownies and cookies.

The event has only been held annually these past few years and it is growing more popular every year.

Peter Hugh arranged the potluck lunch this year. His set up and clean up team were: Julie Carignan, Michelle Jackson, Helen Madhi and Sarita Martinez.

## Work Environment Association hosts 'Year End Barbecue'



District employees enjoy a year end barbecue celebration.

Photos by Brian Murphy

The New England District celebrated the end of another successful fiscal year with the Work Environment Association’s annual Year End Barbecue Lunch, Oct. 8 in the café. Over 85 people signed up for the event. For a small fee, District team members had their choice of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and pasta salad.

Additional healthy options for vegetarians included a veggie burger. WEA members served up several year-end celebration cakes for dessert. Team members brought soft drinks of their choice to go with their meals.

Loredana Caruso took the lead in organizing this year’s event for the WEA Committee. Her team that assisted in the set up and clean up were Greg Penta, Karen Wolfe, Bonnie Ortiz, Sally Rigione and Kirsten Traver.

## Martha Abair's career celebrated during retirement lunch

After 40 years of dedicated service to the Corps of Engineers and the nation, Marty Abair, Senior Project Manager and team leader of the Vermont Project Office, Regulatory Division, has retired.

A celebration of her career took place Sept. 30 at the Minuteman Commons, Hanscom Air Force Base. Over 60 people attended. Frank DelGuidice served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Speakers included members of the EPA Team – Denise Lenard and Jet Merrow – and District team members Jay Clement and Mike Hicks.

Among the gifts she received were



Maj. Daniel Herlihy presents Marty Abair with her retirement certificate.

classic vinyl Elton John records from Bob DeSista. Abair also received a dog gift basket and a gift certificate for an agility program she uses for her dogs.

Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, presented Abair with her retirement certificate and pin. Abair also received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her 40 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Corps and the nation, all served at the Vermont Project Office.

District retirees who attended Abair's retirement were Richard Roach, Karen Adams, Alexine Raineri and Susan Mehigan. Abair plans on spending her time training her dogs.

## Security's Jerry Nunziato retires after 31 years of federal service

Jerry Nunziato, Security, has made the decision to retire after 31 years of federal service. A pizza party was held in his honor, Nov. 5, in the New England District cafeteria.

Steve Andon served as Master of Ceremonies for the official portion of the lunch. Andon and Nunziato worked closely together in Security for over 10 years. "It's been outstanding working with you for all these years," he said.

Otis "OH" Hawes, the new Chief of Security, said that he met Nunziato back in 2012 and said that as soon as he came to work for New England, Nunziato welcomed him right away.

Don Hassett deployed to Iraq with Nunziato and presented him with a collection of DoD coins from the Marine Corps, Air Force, Army and Navy. Hassett also praised Nunziato for his many years of being the District's point of contact for the Toys for Tots program. Due to Nunziato's efforts, thousands of toys have been collected over the years to benefit children in need.

Frank Fedele, Chief of Operations, thanked Nunziato for his many years of ensuring his summer staff received

their CaC cards and for assisting with background checks for park hosts.

Retiree Joe Faloretti said that he appreciated Nunziato's help he gave to the New England District Ranger Color Guard at the change of command ceremonies that had been held at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts and congratulated him on his retirement.

Crystal Gardner, Regulatory, recalled the days of working with Nunziato in Contracting. She told a funny story about a garlic and onion pizza and how that the aroma was so strong they both got sick. "I have known Jerry personally for years," she said. "He was a disability program manager; he loves motorcycle rides. It's been nice knowing you. I wish you well and God's blessing."

Rick Fortuna, Regulatory, said he met Nunziato when he was part of the Army Medical Command that had been located in the basement at Concord Park. "Jerry was always the one with the welcoming face," he said. "I wish him well on his retirement."

Maj. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, also spoke. "When I see Jerry, I see a quiet professional doing

things behind the scene with the utmost professionalism," he said. "He cares, he's here with the crickets to protect our most valued resource – you."

Maj. Herlihy presented Nunziato with his retirement certificate and a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his many years of professionalism and dedication to the Corps of Engineers and the nation.

Nunziato received many gifts for his retirement: a shirt, baseball cap, a can of tuna fish with an amusing story to go with it; a box of band aids; a minuteman statue that Bob Webb added to a wooden base with a clock and District coins and some gift certificates. Mrs. Agatha Nunziato received a bottle of wine as a gift from the District as a token of appreciation of supporting her husband during his 31 year career.

Retirees who attended the lunch were Merl Bassett, Rick Casano, Joe Faloretti, Bob Hanacek, Joe Redlinger and Jan Szwed.

Nunziato plans to work on some household projects and work as a crossing guard before the couple move to Arizona or New Mexico.

# Dredging up the past



Photo by Mark McHemey

Mike Rowe, from the television series "Dirty Jobs", visited the Stamford Hurricane Barrier in October 2006, for the barrier's yearly maintenance.

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