

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 52, No. 3 December 2018

Building Strong



District team, partners cut ribbon on new  
Hanscom Air Force Base dormitory

Story on page 3

# Yankee Voices

From left: Larry Sanders and Lt. Col. Sonny Avkhal



From left: Bob Mirick, Bill Mullen, Townsend Barker, Dick DiBuono, Joe Finegan, Larry Bergen and Perk Gould.

## Old-Time Hydraulic Engineers hold annual meeting at Colonial Inn

The latest meeting of the Old-Time Hydraulic Engineers met Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Colonial Inn in Concord, Massachusetts. The engineers, all New England District retirees, have been meeting once a year for the past 10 years.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Members Joe Finegan and Larry Bergen were in attendance for the annual event. The other retirees at the gathering were Bob Mirick, Bill Mullen, Townsend Barker, Dick DiBuono, and Perk Gould.



Dave Larsen receives an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Col. William Conde.

## Dave Larsen retires with 30 years of federal service

Dave Larsen, Planning Division, retired from federal service, Nov. 30 after 30 years. Larsen didn't want a party, but the Executive Office could not let him go without recognizing his distinguished service. Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, presented Larsen with an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, a Commander's coin, and his retirement certificate.

Larsen has been a key player in the District's Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program since joining the District team in 1988. Although Larsen was a Study Manager in Planning Division, he served a dual role as a member of the District's FUDS Team.

According to the citation, Larsen lead substantial efforts to reach project response completes for the FUDS Program since July 2014. "Mr. Larsen combined his FUDS Program expertise, personal knowledge of military installations, and project management skills to complete 25 Containerized Hazardous Waste and seven Building Demolition/Debris Removal projects, allowing the District to achieve established annual FUDS Program metrics."





The Hanscom Air Force Base dormitory under construction.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Col. William Conde addresses the audience during the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Col. William Conde (far right) shakes hands with Airman First Class Summer Carrion after cutting the ribbon.

## District team, partners cut ribbon on new dormitory

Airmen and women at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts now have a brand new dormitory, courtesy of the New England District.

New England District team members joined Col. Chad Ellsworth, Commander, 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, and contractors, J&J and BBIX Construction, at a ribbon cutting ceremony, Dec. 4 at Hanscom Air Force Base.

"We're here today to mark the construction completion of the \$13.2 million base dormitory project," said Col. William Conde, New England District Commander. "The project consists of a design-build new three-story 66-bedroom 25,000 square-foot military dormitory."

According to Col. Conde, the design-build contract was awarded to BBIX, LLC of Boston, Massachusetts on Aug. 8, 2016. Design construction began in the spring of 2017. A groundbreaking ceremony took place at the project site on March 13, 2017. "The project took approximately 24 months to complete," he said. "There were numerous challenges, but the team persevered and the dormitory project was completed successfully."

Col. Conde discussed the details of the new building superstructure that is composite deck on structural steel. Exterior wall finishes are a combination of masonry veneer at the lower level and Exterior Insulation Finish System

above. "The roof is a light-gauge metal frame carrying a sloped, standing-seam metal roof assembly with full perimeter gutters," he said. "The dormitory expanded, with new stripping and handicap spaces, the existing parking lot to the east."

The District commander praised the District's team of partners that included the local congressional delegation, the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, Hanscom Air Force Base, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the District's contractors. "The team has done an excellent job of working together to plan, organize and execute design and construction of this important project that will better serve the needs of our Military Service," said Col. Conde. "We welcome continued partnerships of this kind to help support the vitally important military readiness of the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, the U.S. Air Force, the Hanscom Air Force Base members, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nation."

Other speakers included Col. Ellsworth, Airman First Class Summer Carrion and Airman First Class Dominik Daigneault, two of the first residents of the new dorm. Chaplain (Maj.) William Logan delivered the invocation. After the presentations, Col. Conde joined Col. Ellsworth, Chief Master Sergeant Henry Hayes, the 66<sup>th</sup> Air Force Group Command Chief, Mr. Thomas Schluckebier, Base Civil Engineer, Carrion and Daigneault at the front of the room to cut the ribbon.

# District team holds public meetings for input on Cape Cod Canal Bridges study.

The New England District and their partner, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, held five public meetings to listen to comments from Cape Cod residents about the fate of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges.

The District is conducting a Cape Cod Canal Highway Bridges Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Study. Meetings were held in Bourne, Plymouth, the Island of Nantucket, the Island of Martha's Vineyard and Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, kicked off the series of meetings by giving remarks in Bourne on Dec. 4. Lt. Col. Sonny Avichal, Deputy District Commander, and Tim Dugan, Acting Chief, Public Affairs, opened the other four meetings.

"The Bourne and Sagamore Bridges are part of the Cape Cod Canal Federal Navigation Project," he said. "The bridges provide the only means of vehicular access across the canal to the 15 towns on the Cape and Islands which are home to over 215,000 full-time residents and a destination for more than five million visitors annually. Since bridge construction was completed in 1935, the Corps has vigilantly maintained and repaired the now 83-year-old bridges, to keep them performing as originally intended."

The New England District Commander said it is the District's intent to provide the public with an understanding of what led the Corps to initiate a major rehabilitation evaluation study for the bridges, the initial alternatives being considered, what activities will need to be completed over the year to finalize a report and how the public can help the Corps with the decision-making process.



Photo by Ann Marie R. Harvie

Project Manager Craig Martin begins his presentation during one of the five public meetings held around Cape Cod.

Project Manager Craig Martin gave a detailed presentation during the meeting to include a discussion of the alternatives.

Martin and other members of the study team made themselves available during open houses prior to the meetings as well as after the meetings to answer questions from the public.

The alternatives the Corps is currently studying include:

- 1) without project plan (no action, continue to repair bridges as needed);
- 2) major rehabilitation of each bridge as they currently exist and maintenance of the rehabbed bridges in the future;
- 3) replacement of each bridge with a new structure built to current authorization of four lanes, two lanes each way brought up to modern highway standards with appropriate bike/pedestrian access; and
- 4) replacement of each bridge with a new structure built to include the 4

authorized lanes and 2 auxiliary lanes designed as acceleration/deceleration lanes (entrance/exit) and built to modern day highway standards with appropriate bike/pedestrian access.

Close to 300 people attended the five meetings. Among the attendees were representatives from Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Edward Markey and Rep. William Keating's offices. Many members of local government also came out to hear the briefings.

Some of those who spoke at the meetings offered additional suggestions to the Corps on bridge alternatives that they thought should be considered. Those suggestions will be reviewed as part of the MRER study and NEPA process.

More information on the Corps' Cape Cod Canal bridge study, including fact sheets and the presentation from the public information meetings, is available on the website at [www.CapeCodCanalBridgesStudy.com](http://www.CapeCodCanalBridgesStudy.com).



Park Ranger Karen Tyron talks water safety with kids by having them spin the prize wheel.



Park Ranger Tasha Dooley talks water safety.



Bobber the Water Safety Dog poses with a fan during the event.

## Franklin Falls Dam Commemorates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Community Partners

**By Karen Tyron, Park Ranger  
Franklin Falls and Blackwater Dam**

The Franklin Falls Dam in Franklin, New Hampshire, commemorated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 18.

The construction of the Franklin Falls Dam was completed in 1943 and has benefitted the town of Franklin and surrounding areas ever since. It has played a critical role in the flood control for downstream communities as well as providing local communities with excellent recreational opportunities on nearly 4,000 acres of land throughout the towns of Bristol, Franklin, Hill, New Hampton and Sanbornton, New Hampshire.

All were invited to the Franklin Falls project area to discover why the dam was constructed and how it operates. The tours of the Franklin Falls gatehouse was one of the highlights of the day for those who attended. Local partners and agencies also were invited to set up tables of information to share

with attendees of the open house.

Special recognition for the success of the day goes to the Franklin Police Department and their K9 demonstration, Franklin Fire Department, Sanbornton Fire and Police Department, Friends of Franklin Falls Disc Golf, Hill Historical Society, Mohawk Trail Riders Snowmobile Club, New England Mountain Bike Association, Pemiquaney Riding Club and the New Hampshire Mushers Association.

The anniversary was a very successful day for the Corps of Engineers and for its partners. Many people who came out to the event told stories of how their family members or friends helped build the dam and they were ecstatic to get into the gatehouse and learn more about how it operates.

Throughout the day visitors had the opportunity to visit the newly remodeled activity center, interactive exhibits and lawn games, take a stroll on the new StoryWalk® Trail and then listen to "Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats" from the StoryWalk® read by

Author Jim Arnosky. Visitors also were encouraged to enjoy a scenic drive on Old 3A and view Old Hill Village and last but not least, Bobber the Water Safety Dog made an appearance and took pictures with the kids.

*Editor's note: Situated on the Pemigewasset River in the town of Franklin, the 1,740-foot-long, 140-foot-high dam impounds a permanent pool of 440 acres with a maximum depth of about seven feet.*

*The flood storage area of the project totals 2,800 acres and can store up to 50.2 billion gallons of water for flood risk management purposes.*

*The project has prevented damages amounting to more than \$178.3 million to date.*

*Additionally, more than 100,000 visitors annually enjoy the recreational opportunities at Franklin Falls, which include designated hiking trails, mountain biking trails, snowmobiling trails, picnicking, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, hunting, horseback riding, dog sledding and disc golf.*

# District's Resource Management Officer retires with 40 years of service

About 50 people traveled to the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, Massachusetts, to celebrate Robert Henderson's retirement with a lunch held Dec. 11. Henderson, the District's Resource Management Officer, decided to retire with 40 years of federal service. His final day was Jan. 2, 2019.

Lt. Col. Sonny Avichal, Deputy Commander, hosted the official part of the luncheon. During the presentations, Sue MacDonald gave Henderson's wife, Regulatory retiree Zina Cassulo-Henderson, a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the District Team in appreciation of supporting her husband and the Corps of Engineers mission for many years.

John Primavera, Chief Regional Business Directorate, North Atlantic Division, presented Henderson with an appreciation plaque for his service from July 1978 to December 2018. The award consisted of coins representing the districts throughout the North Atlantic Division.

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, presented Henderson with the Superior Civilian Service Award. Henderson received the honor for, "his outstanding performance while serving as Chief, Resource Management, New England District from July 1978 to January 2019," read Lt. Col. Avichal. "Mr. Henderson's knowledge and understanding of the business and financial operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been critical to the successful execution of the District's and Division's fiscal responsibilities."

In addition to the official honors, Henderson also received a gift certificate from the attendees.

Henderson began his federal career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England in 1978 as an Accountant Trainee. Since then he has held progressively more responsible



Robert Henderson receives a Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service during his retirement lunch.

positions including Cost Accountant, Systems Accountant and Chief of the Revolving Fund, Military Accounting and Systems and Control Sections as well as the Chief of the Budget Branch. His most recent assignment was as the District's Accounting Officer from July 2004 through December 2007.

Henderson has assisted Headquarters, USACE in performing Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act reviews at several Corps Districts. During the development and implementation of the current Corps financial system (CEFMS), he served on the team that identified requirements, tested the functionality and assisted several Districts in converting from the Corps' legacy systems. In 1998 he was awarded the

Department of the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his efforts.

Henderson graduated from Stonehill College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration as an Accounting major. In 2002 he received his Master's in Business Administration from Western New England College. He is a member of the Yankee Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and the Association of Government Accountants. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager.

Henderson was one of the first New England District team members to deploy to New York during the Corps of Engineers' 911 Response. He also was instrumental in the implementation of CEFMS.

Resource Management Officers Ray Donnelly from the Philadelphia, Greg Johnson from Baltimore, Bob Jennings from Norfolk, Laura Boyle from Europe and Rich Robinson from New York were among the accounting and budgets officers who attended Henderson's lunch to wish him well. Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Ralph Mallardo attended the lunch. Other retirees included Angie Vanaria, Barbara Duffin, Laura Lally, Tony Mackos, Farrell McMillan, Joan Gardner, Susan Mehigan and Bill Scully.



Robert Henderson poses with his NAD plaque of appreciation.

# Holiday parties end the year with fun and camaraderie

The New England District Holiday Party Committee definitely had fun on their minds when they planned this year's evening and in-house holiday parties.

Thinking outside of the box this year, the team kicked off the holiday season with a bowling and pizza party at Hanscom Lanes, Hanscom Air Force Base, Dec. 7. Seventy-five team members participated in the event. Retirees included John Astley. Many of the attendees bowled as 80's tunes played in the background. Those that didn't enjoy themselves by visiting from lane to lane talking to the players while munching on pizza.

The good times carried over to the in-house holiday celebration, held at Concord Park Headquarters on December 13. In addition to a catered Italian meal, fun and games abounded, but not before recognizing some team members for outstanding work. Lt. Col. Sonny Avichal represented the Executive Office and presented Bunker Hill plaques to several groups and individuals at the beginning of the party. The following team members received plaques:

John Kedzierski, District Bridge Safety Program Manager, for being chosen as one of five USACE selections for the National Society of Professional Engineers 2019 Federal Engineer of the Year.

Joseph Smeraldi, Office of Counsel, for single-handedly coordinating and processing FOIA requests for the entire New England District.

Karen Umbrell, Project Management, for her exceptional support to the team managing the NAE headquarters relocation, updating analysis and clarifying calculations whenever requested and for overseeing the funding for the Continuing Authorities Program – the most successful program in NAD.

Sarah Rudner, Human Resources, for her outstanding efforts in serving as a Regional Human Resource Specialist on the NAD Hiring Review Team.

The NAE Alternate Disputes Resolution Team (William Mehr, Theresa Negron, Suzanne Grant, Robert



Party participants build their own "gingerbread houses" during the holiday celebration.



Contestants in the holiday sweater contest line up waiting to be judged.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Garrahan, Jenna Gustafson, Fredrick Pike, Evamarie D'Antuono, and Byron Rupp) for their hard work, dedication and tireless efforts to reduce a \$40,000 claim by a contractor down to a \$5,000 settlement.

The Holiday Party Team (Mary Daley, Cesar Lopez, Charlotte Skolnick, Crystal Daley, Sarah Turner, Sarita Martinez, Donald Hassett, Capt. Erik Patton, Gregory Penta, Janet Patev, Joseph McInerny, Katelyn Rainville and John Kedzierski) for their extraordinary efforts in planning and executing a successful holiday party.

Appetizers and an Italian lunch served by key leadership staff followed the awards ceremony. This year's holiday celebration was crammed with activities. They included a jelly bean guessing contest, a team-building tarp contest, a rather unusual saran wrap unwrapping contest, holiday music bingo, a holiday sweater contest, ornament decorating, dreidel game, silent auction baskets, an art contest, dessert contest, wreath making, Yankee swap, and music. And finally, what Corps of Engineers holiday celebration would be complete without a miniature "gingerbread" house building contest?

In addition to the merry making, the District team collected 114 toys, 17 books, and 16 stuffed animals this year for Toys for Tots.

Retirees Bob Henderson, Peter Hugh, Beverly Lawrence, Angie Vanaria, Donna Russell, and Greg Buteau joined current team members at the party.



Lt. Col. Sonny Avichal looks to see if a "gingerbread house" measures up during the holiday party.

# Dredging up the past



Sheila Winston-Vinculla (from left), Tom Rosato, Bob Gauvreau, and Evamarie D'Antuono enjoy each other's company during the 2010 Holiday Party, held at Concord Park headquarters.

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