Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong

District breaks ground on Durham Meadows water main project

Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Jay Provenzano and retiree Maureen Murray

Safety depends on these basics

Safety in any workplace is a team effort. Pay attention to the three crucial elements that create a culture of safety:

- **Environmental factors.**

These include providing the right equipment, keeping machinery in good repair, and making sure the workplace is clean and clear of hazards.

- **People factors.**

Employees should be trained in safety procedures and expected to use good judgment at all times.

- **Behavioral factors**.

You and your workforce alike should comply with safety regulations and communicate problems when they become apparent.

(First Draft Magazine)

Words worth repeating

"Enjoy the journey and try to get better every day. And don't lose the passion and the love for what you do."

— Nadia Comaneci

Corps of Engineers awards contract for demolition of five buildings on Hanscom Air Force Base in Lexington

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Construction demolition of five buildings on Hanscom Air Force Base in Lexington, Massachusetts, will be completed under the terms of a $2,347,000 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. Work will be accomplished by Ritter & Paratore Contracting, Inc. of Utica, New York. The contract was awarded on Aug. 6.

Once a notice to proceed is issued by the Corps of Engineers, work will be authorized to start. Construction has begun and will extend over 8 months.

The project scope involves the demolition of 5 buildings on Hanscom Air Force Base in support of planned construction of a new Compound Semiconductor Laboratory and Microsystems Integration Facility (CSL-MIF) on the MIT LL campus, which is located on Hanscom Air Force Base.

The proposed location for the CSL-MIF is presently a parking lot on a constrained site. Therefore, a laydown, staging and storage area will be created approximately one-quarter mile south of the CSL-MIF building location by the tear-down and removal (demolition) of five 1950s-era buildings. The building demolition will involve approximately 5,258 square meters (approximately 56,600 square feet) of single and two-story buildings and the complete removal of associated building foundations and branch utilities within five feet of the foundations, and backfilling the foundation areas with suitable fill, grading and seeding.

This work will require the abatement and management of hazardous waste in the buildings, including but not limited to, asbestos and lead paint and other materials common to building construction of the 1950s.

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

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New England District welcomes new Deputy Commander to the team

The New England District team welcomes its new Deputy District Commander, Maj. Mark Gillman. Maj. Gillman joined the District team in August. "I've only been here a short time, but I can honestly say I have never been amongst such a diverse group of professionals," he said. "Each division in our District plays a unique role, like different colored leaves. Your combined efforts to better New England are as impressive as an October Autumn."

A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Maj. Gillman received a commission into the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2004 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He began his career in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division where he served as a Sapper Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Assistant Brigade Engineer, including a deployment to Iraq. Maj. Gillman then served with the 101st Infantry Division (Air Assault) in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he commanded the Sapper Company in 4th Brigade Combat Team (Currahee), including a deployment to Afghanistan. He then went to the 19th Engineer Battalion in Fort Knox, Kentucky where he served as the Operations Officer and then Executive Officer. His previous assignment was in Fort Bragg, North Carolina with the XVIII Airborne Corps, where he deployed to Kuwait as a Strategic Planner with Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve.

Maj. Gillman earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri, Science & Technology, a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was also a Draper Laboratories Fellow, and a Master's Degree in Military Operations from the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has published articles in the U.S. Army's Engineer Professional Bulletin, the IEEE's Sensors Journal and the Defense Acquisitions, Technology & Logistics Magazine.

Maj. Mark Gillman, Deputy Commander, New England District

Maj. Gillman's awards, decorations, and badges include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Bronze DeFluery Medal. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri. Maj. Gillman is an active member of IEEE, SAME, and AUSA, and speaks fluent Japanese.

Maj. Gillman is excited to be a part of the New England team and looks forward to meeting everyone at the District. "The work you are doing is important to our community. I look forward to shaking each of your hands and telling you so," said Maj. Gillman. "I'd love to hear from you about how to make 2020 even better than 2019. Thank you for the warm welcome, and don't be a stranger."

Baby turtles make their appearance at Hopkinton-Everett Lake

This little painted turtle hatchling just made its appearance from a nest out of Hopkinton and Everett Lake, in New Hampshire in mid-September. According to the New Hampshire State Wildlife Service, painted turtles lay their nests close to the water's edge in a sandy or loamy area with an open canopy. Painted turtles can lay 5-8 eggs at a time and this is known as a clutch. Turtles can lay as many as two clutches a year. *Photo by Matthew Hackett.*

Ludlow Construction Company, Inc., performs work on the Durham Meadows Water Maine Construction project.

Photo courtesy of John Senn, EPA

District breaks ground on Durham Meadows water main project

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, and members of the New England District team traveled to Connecticut, Sept. 17 to join their partners in breaking ground on a project that, when finished, will bring safe drinking water to one local town.

The groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of the Durham Meadows Water Main Construction Project. "This is an important project as it will provide clean drinking water to the area residents impacted at this Superfund site," said Col. Conde.

The Durham Meadows Superfund Site is located in Durham, Connecticut with groundwater contamination centered mostly on Main Street, where the Durham Manufacturing Company (DMC) is currently located and where the Merriam Manufacturing Company (MMC) once stood. Both companies manufactured metal items such as cabinets and boxes. The companies disposed of wastewater in lagoons or sludge-drying beds, with both companies subject to chemical spills. MMC also used inadequate drum storage practices. The companies used chemical solvents such as Trichlorothene, 1, 1, 1, Trichlorethane and Methylene chloride. These chemicals and their improper disposal led not only to the contamination of both facilities, but also to the groundwater area around the facilities.

MMC, established in 1951, was mostly destroyed in a March 1998 fire, leaving only a small warehouse facility. DMC is still an operating manufacturing facility. In addition to the EPA and the contractor, other project partners include AECOM, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health, the city of Middletown and the town of Durham.

"The $24.4 million project consists of laying 30,000 linear feet of water main and installing an 800,000 gallon water tank," said Project Manager Stephen Dunbar. "The water main will be installed to allow connections to about 120 homes and businesses in Durham as well as two local schools and Durham Fairgrounds. It will also enhance fire protection to those locations."

The clean water will come from the nearby town of Middletown's public water supply. Existing water supply wells in Durham at the affected homes, businesses, schools and fairgrounds will either be closed, abandoned or used as monitoring wells.

Ludlow Construction Company, Inc., of Ludlow, Massachusetts was awarded the contract on Nov. 26, 2018 and began mobilizing to the site in July. The project is estimated to take about three years to complete.

According to Col. Conde, strong parternships were key to getting the project to where it is today. "I can't stress enough the importance of project partnerships and interagency cooperation in completing a challenging effort like this," he said.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said work will continue until Dec. 1 and work will resume in April 2020. "Your combined efforts have brought this project from the initial concept to final plans and specifications, to making it a physical reality on this construction site to aid and support the needs of the community," said Col. Conde.

A dredge performs work at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. Photo courtesy of Marie Esten

New Bedford Superfund Site hits milestone

The New England District team has been cleaning up the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site for decades. On Sept. 6, the project hit a major milestone – all hybrid dredging was completed and demobilization of the hybrid dredge began. The contractor who performed the work is Jacobs Services of North America.

According to Project Manager Marie Esten, mechanical dredging with LHCC placement began Sept. 17 and is expected to be complete by early 2020. "At that point, all subtidal dredging will be complete," she said. "Work in the wetlands will then begin".

Work in other areas of the harbor are ongoing. According to Esten, planning is underway to complete two sections of wetlands work in 2020. Both areas are at the Northern end of the harbor, one on the eastern and the other on the western shore. "Capping of small subtidal areas will begin in March 2020."

New Bedford Harbor is an 18,000 acre urban estuary, that received contamination from polychlorinated biphenals (PCBs) from the 1940's until the 1970's. The PCBs were mainly introduced into the harbor from two manufacturing facilities that improperly disposed of their product waste. EPA designated the Harbor as a Superfund Site in 1982 after performing extensive water, sediment, air, fish and shellfish testing of the harbor. The tests indicated that the levels of PCB in the harbor posed a significant risk to human health. Fishing in and around the harbor has been restricted because of the risk. At the start of the cleanup, EPA requested the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is the New England District's mission to support EPA to complete the clean-up.

District awards contract for toe drain repair at Union Village Dam

By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs

A project to repair the toe drain at the Union Village Dam in East Thetford, Vermont, will be completed under the terms of a $103,000 contract recently awarded by the New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Willey Earth Moving Corporation of Windsor, Vermont. The contract was awarded on Sept. 10. Once the notice to proceed is issued the work will be authorized to start.

The work consists of excavation and removal of toe drain fill materials and foundations soil. The area is located upstream of the left abutment upper toe drain manhole. Work also consists of replacement of excavated materials with new filter materials.

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

Union Village Dam, a dry-bed reservoir project on the Ompompanoosuc River in Thetford, is a 1,100-foot long, 170-foot high earthen structure capable of storing 12.3 billion gallons of water in a 740 acre lake. Construction on the $4.1 million dam was completed in 1950, and since that time the facility has prevented damages of more than $64.8 million. More than 41,000 visitors annually enjoy picnicking, including a pavilion which can be reserved for a nominal fee, swimming, hiking, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling available on Union Village's 991 acres of land and water.

A dredge at work in Boston Harbor. Photo by Brian Murphy

Corps of Engineers to begin maintenance dredging of the Boston Harbor federal navigation project

By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The Boston Harbor Federal Navigation Project will undergo maintenance dredging under the terms of a $6,393,350 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District in Concord, Massachusetts.

Work will be accomplished by Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (GLDD) Company, Inc., of Oak Brook, Illinois. The contract was awarded on July 11, 2019. Maintenance dredging is required to be completed no later than 8 months after Notice to Proceed is given to GLDD.

According to New England District Project Manager Jenifer Thalhauser, GLDD is expected to begin dredging by the end of September. The project consists of maintenance dredging of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of silt, sand and clay within the following areas of the Boston Harbor federal navigation channel: 35-foot Broad Sound North Channel; 30-foot Broad Sound South Channel; 15-foot Nubble Channel; 35-foot anchorage; and the 35-foot Main Ship Channel.

The Broad Sound North Channel, Broad Sound South Channel, and the Nubble Channel will be dredged, with placement of all material at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site (MBDS) approximately 15 miles offshore of Boston Harbor. The Main Ship Channel and 35-foot anchorage will be dredged with placement of material in the Main Ship Channel confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cell.

All dredging will be accomplished by mechanical means and dredging of silt material going to the MSC CAD cell will require the use of an environmental bucket. Contract quality assurance will be conducted by Robert Casoli, who has over 20 years of specialized experience and almost 35 years of federal service. During the course of the contract, additional work in the Boston Harbor will be ongoing.

Hop Brook Lake team, volunteers celebrate project's 50th anniversary

Hop Brook Lake's Golden Anniversary event held Sept. 8 not only celebrated the project's 50 years of service to the nation, but also celebrated the partnerships with many local groups and organizations that came out to participate and honor the project.

It was an all-hands on deck affair for the Hop Brook team as everyone participated in the event. Dozens of people decided to skip the local fairs that weekend to take advantage of the many free activities the Hop Brook team, their partners and volunteers put together for them. A fly-fishing demonstration and fly tying instruction was one of the many highlights of the day. "The two gentlemen that volunteered to do this event for us are a part of a local fishing club," said Project Manager Diana Errico-Topolski. "They hoped that people would try fishing, love it and join their club."

Watching K-9 police do their work is always a thrill and the local search and rescue unit did not disappoint. According to Errico-Topolski, the demonstration was a win-win for everyone. "The K-9 officers were happy to have this opportunity to exercise and train their dogs," she said.

The Project Manager said the Hop Brook team has worked with the K-9 unit in the past. In the near future the team plans to provide opportunities for canine officers across the state to train in the fall. One officer in particular has a special connection to Hop Brook Lake. "One of the officers was a summer Park Ranger at Hop Brook for three seasons in the early 2000's," said Errico-Topolski.

The K-9 unit was not the only furry creatures working their magic at the celebration. Local celebrity Bobber the Water Safety Dog walked around the event, playing with children, taking pictures and of course, spreading the important Water Safety message.

Photos courtesy of Hop Brook Lake

Event attendees were treated to a piece of anniversary cake crafted by Marissa Wright.

The Housatonic Model Yacht Club held a demonstration and explained to visitors how the yachts operate and race on a weekly basis. "They raced throughout the day as they do every Sunday during recreation season," said Errico-Topolski.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog poses with K-9 Officers for a photo opportunity during the 50th celebration event.

The two dam tours by Park Ranger Marci Montrose were particularly popular during the celebration with more than two dozen event participants taking part.

A guided, family mountain bike ride around Hop Brook Dam and a tree identification scavenger hunt rounded out the day's events.

Hop Brook Lake is situated on the brook of the same name in the towns of Middlebury, Waterbury and Naugatuck, Connecticut. The project was completed in December 1968 at a cost of $6.2 million. To date, the project has prevented damages of about $108.4 million. The year-round conservation pool attracts almost 200,000 visitors a year. Recreational opportunities at the project include picnicking, swimming, hiking, fishing and special permit group events.

Dredging up the past

Photo by C.J. Allen

Park Ranger Viola Bramel poses with a Cub Scout Troop after finishing a clean up project at Buffumville Dam's National Public Lands Day in this September 2011 photo.

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