

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong

District uses technology to host virtual
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Yankee Voices

Scott Accone and Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhom



Exercise caution when you go for a run

Exercise is important to your physical and mental health during the reign of COVID-19. If you're a runner, though, you have to keep yourself and others safe on your route. The Runner's World website answers these questions you may have:

- Is it safe to go running outdoors? Yes, as long as you're alone and keep your distance from other people.

- Should you wear a mask? Yes, if you can't stay six feet from other people. If you're in a secluded area, though, it's reasonably safe to take your mask off while you run. Find a mask that wicks moisture from your face. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly when you get home.

- What if I fall or get sick? There are various apps that allow friends and family to monitor you on your run. Also, get an ID bracelet or necklace with medical and contact information. Let people know where you're going and when you expect to get back home.

(First Draft Magazine)

Edward MacDowell Lake celebrates 70 year commemoration

By Sally Rigione
Public Affairs Office

July 31 marks the 70th anniversary of the completion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Edward MacDowell Lake Dam. The project was completed in 1950 at the cost of \$2,014,000 and is named after the late composer, Edward MacDowell. The dam, located on Nubanusit Brook in Peterborough, east of Keene, provides flood protection primarily to Peterborough. The project also provides flood protection to the downstream communities of Hancock, Bennington, Antrim, Deering, Hillsboro, and Henniker, all located on the Contoocook River.



Edward MacDowell Lake consists of an earth-fill dam with stone slope protection 1,100 feet long and 67 feet high with a capacity of more than four billion gallons of water and has prevented damages of about \$20.8 million to date. There is a conservation pool at Edward MacDowell Lake covering an area of 165 acres and having a maximum depth of about seven feet. The flood storage area of the project totals 840 acres and covers parts of Hancock, Dublin and Harrisville. The lake and all associated project lands cover 1,469 acres. This is equivalent to 5.4 inches of water covering its drainage area of 44 square miles.

More than 146,000 visitors annually enjoy the picnic areas, swimming areas, hiking trails, boating, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling available at Edward MacDowell Lake.

Due to COVID-19 there was no on-site celebration. A video to commemorate the occasion was produced by the Edward MacDowell Dam team as they celebrated 70 years in the Peterborough community. <https://www.facebook.com/EdwardMacDowellLake/>. Historic information on the Edward MacDowell Lake can be viewed at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Flood-Risk-Management/New-Hampshire/Edward-Mac/>



District, partners, sign Memorandum of Understanding for Cape Cod Bridges

As one of his last acts as commander of the New England District, Colonel William Conde joined federal and state partners in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) regarding the future of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, July 7. The signing took place during a virtual ceremony.

The MOU states that the commonwealth of Massachusetts will lead the design and construction of two replacement bridges. At the same time, the Corps of Engineers will operate and maintain the current Bourne and Sagamore Bridges until the new bridges are in place and open for use by the public.

Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, Congressman William Keating, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant

Governor Karen Polito, Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Undersecretary Scott Bosworth, and Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs

and Project Management participated on the call.

Jonathan Gulliver, Highway Administrator, Mass DOT, hosted the event. Gulliver discussed the positive partnership that the commonwealth has had with the New England District. "MassDOT has enjoyed a very productive relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers over the last couple of years and we have been working hard towards getting to this point," he said. "The MOU that is going to be signed today between MassDOT and the Army Corps is formalizing this partnership and will not only provide access to one of the commonwealth's most beautiful areas but will also support the over \$1 billion in annual tourism."

Gov. Baker thanked all the players that made the MOU signing possible. "I think the path that we have developed is a terrific bridge to the future," he said. "The MOU will serve as a living document and that should reassure residents, the businesses, community and visitors that the current bridges will be maintained while we look toward their successors."

Sen. Warren expressed her delight at the partnership between MassDOT and the District. "Everyone understands that these bridges are vital lifelines in supporting the regional economy and ensuring public safety," she said. "They are the only bridges that are there to serve as the designated evacuation route for these communities, and we all know that these 80-year old bridges badly need to be replaced."

Sen. Markey agreed that signing the MOU is an important step towards getting new bridges. "I'm very excited about what this agreement means in terms of the progress that it represents and how much the citizens of Cape Cod and Massachusetts are going to benefit from this incredible project," he said.

The Massachusetts senator thanked Col. Conde for all his great work throughout his career and wished him the best on his pending retirement. "I have met with you so many times on so many different projects and you are a 'can do' guy," he said. "You are a problem solver, you are someone that always tries to figure out a way to get to 'yes.' I want to thank you for your service to our country and thank you for what you are doing for Massachusetts today with this Memorandum

of Understanding."

"We look forward to our continued partnership as we move to the next several steps and eventually a really good solution for our 84-year old bridges."

- Col. William M. Conde, former District Engineer

Congr. Keating was not able to join the ceremony live, but sent videotaped remarks. He said that the benefit of

the MOU will result in better efficiency, less duplication, less waste and should result in a shorter time frame from completion. "These are more than bridges," he said. "These are lifelines that result in public safety needs, the need to evacuate. They are lifelines for our economic vitality. They are lifelines for our basic quality of life."

Secretary Pollack signed the MOU and wished Col. Conde well on his upcoming retirement.

"We've been working closely with the Army Corps to lay out the framework for moving from where we are now, to two beautiful new bridges that will serve the commonwealth well and the Cape for decades to come," she said.

Col. Conde signed the MOU and said that he was grateful to the District's federal and state partners.

We look forward to our continued partnership as we move to the next several steps and eventually a really good solution for our 84-year old bridges," he said. "It's been an honor and a pleasure."

Under Secretary Bosworth rounded out the speakers by expressing his gratitude for a productive partnership. "Extraordinary work has gone into this, not just getting to the MOU, but getting to this point," he said. "We are embarking now on a journey that's going to be extraordinarily difficult, but we can get it done and together we will build bridges that will last another 80 years."



Photos by Sally Rigione

Maj. Mark Gillman stands at the microphone serving as emcee as Col. William Conde, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn, Col. John Atilano II and Scott Acone prepare to pass the Command flag.

District uses technology to host virtual change of command ceremony

Colonel William Conde relinquished command to Colonel John Atilano II during the change of command ceremony, July 8. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was held virtually for the New England District team and guests, with a few people attending live in the Concord Park cafeteria in Concord, Massachusetts.

Major General Jeffrey Milhorn, North Atlantic Division Commander, presided over the ceremony. Major Mark Gillman served as the emcee. Maj. Gillman introduced Col. Conde and his family: wife Lynne, daughters Gabrielle and Sophia and sons Michael and Mark.

Col. Atilano's wife Daniella, sons John III and Joseph, as well as his mother-in-law Gina Grimaldi attended the ceremony. The Atilano's also have a daughter, Gianna, who attended the ceremony remotely with Col. Atilano's parents.

Members of the official party were Maj. Gen. Milhorn, Col. Conde, Col. Atilano and Scott Acone, Deputy

District Engineer for Programs/Project Management.

Prior to the command flag changing hands, both colonels honored their families for the sacrifices they have made and for the support they have given. Col. Conde presented Mrs. Conde with a bouquet of red roses in full bloom, that symbolize a flourished and successful command. The colonel presented a single rose to each of his daughters and a District challenge coin to each of his sons.

Col. Atilano presented a bouquet of yellow roses to Dr. Atilano. The color symbolizes new beginnings and Dr. Atilano's arrival at the District. Col. Atilano presented a single rose to Mrs. Grimaldi and District challenge coins to both of his sons. Col. Atilano presented a single rose to his daughter later that day.

The presentation of colors followed, with Park Rangers Nicole Giles and Matt Coleman of the New England District Ranger Color Guard shown posting the colors – the U.S. flag and the Corps

of Engineers flag, also known as the Command flag -- in a pre-taped video to comply with COVID-19 pandemics guidelines.

"The colors represent the glories of the past, stand as guardians over the present and inspire Soldiers and civilians loyalty, duty and courage to achieve victory in the future," said Maj. Gillman.

After the presentation of the colors, event participants stood for the national anthem and the invocation, pre-taped by Father Sean Magnuson, the Catholic Chaplain at the United States Military Academy at West Point who is also a close friend of the Conde family.

The traditional method of the change of command ceremony is for members of the official party to pass the Command flag from one to the other. With COVID-19 still a concern, the official party got creative. They still moved the flag as the ceremony requires, but the flag was not physically passed from one officer to the other. Instead, using hand sanitizer before



Col. William Conde presents his wife, Lynne, with a bouquet of red roses.

and after touching the flag pole, Acone, representing the New England District Team, placed the Command flag in a stand. Col. Conde then took the flag and placed it in the second stand, representing his transfer of leadership to the new commander. Maj. Gen. Milhorn then retrieved the Command flag and placed it in the next stand, representing Col. Conde's relinquishment of command. Col. Atilano stepped up to the front and moved the flag to the next stand signaling his assumption of command. During the last movement in the ceremony, Acone took the Command flag and placed it in its original position.

After the passing of the Command flag, Maj. Gen. Milhorn said that despite the current COVID-19 pandemic, it was a special day and he was honored to be a part of it. He thanked the Conde and Atilano families for their sacrifices during the colonels' careers.

"We recognize that the two gentlemen who just changed command would not be where they are without all your love, support and, certainly, the sacrifices," he said. "For that I thank you."

Maj. Gen. Milhorn offered his compliments to Col. Conde for his three years of leadership to the District, delivering the program, strengthening

and developing local partnerships, and communicating with all the stakeholders over the past three years.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn listed many of the accomplishments that Col. Conde achieved in the three years he took command of the District. He mentioned that after only a few months of taking command of the District, Col. Conde deployed to Puerto Rico in support of the Corps' Hurricane

Maria recovery mission. He discussed all the dredging and coastal erosion projects in New England. He talked about the Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site in Vermont, Connecticut River and Ecosystem Restoration Project Study, Merrimack Watershed study in New Hampshire, the Stratford Army Engineer Plant and Durham Meadows in Connecticut. In Massachusetts, Maj. Gen. mentioned the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges replacement and the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the commonwealth of Massachusetts. All of these projects, plus EPA Superfund site projects, Silver Jackets program, Regulatory Program and so much more.

"Col. Conde has strengthened relationships with partners such as the EPA and he has improved the working environment for the NAE team so that they can be more productive," said Maj. Gen. Milhorn.

The NAD Commander wished Col. Conde and his family the best and said that Col. Conde will be a great addition to any team he decides
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After presenting his wife, Daniella, a bouquet of white roses, Col. Atilano presents his sons John III and Joseph with challenge coins as his mother-in-law, Gina Grimaldi, looks on.

...change of command ceremony

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to join in the future. For Col. Atilano, Maj. Gen. Milhorn said that he has now inherited the responsibility of the New England District. The Division Commander expressed pride that Col. Atilano and his family have joined the New England District and North Atlantic Division team.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn said that he and Col. Atilano served together for a year when Col. Atilano assumed the position of Deputy Division Engineer at NAD. Maj. Gen. Milhorn said he was confident Col. Atilano will do a great job of leading the organization into the future.

Col. Conde was next to make remarks. He said he was amazed at how fast his command at New England District passed. "It's hard to believe it's already been three years since I joined New England District and learned to spell USACE – it's gone by in a flash," he said.

The former District Commander thanked the New England District team, particularly those who continued working out in the field during COVID-19.

"You all are our field face and the closest thing we have to Soldiers here in the Corps," he said.

Remembering the District's federal, tribal, state and local partners, Col. Conde expressed his appreciation for their support during his command. "Thank you all for your partnership, your support and your willingness to roll up your sleeves to deliver solutions for the region," he said.

Col. Conde reflected on his three years at the District and how much the team has accomplished under his command. "We have an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of professionals in this District family," he said. "You all have so much to be proud of and I truly enjoyed learning



Col. William Conde moves the Command flag signifying his relinquishment of command.

Photo by Sally Rigione

from you, serving with you and pulling with you to deliver our program in New England. Col. Conde also recognized the senior leaders the Executive Office team, his military deputies, his Civilian Deputy and Maj. Gen. Milhorn for all the support they gave him.

Wishing Col. Atilano and his family well, Col. Conde said he knew the command would be a rewarding one for him. "You have a fabulous District family and wonderful region of partners who will take you in like their own," he said.

Col. Conde recognized his parents, wife, and children for standing by him during his entire military career. He closed by thanking the District team again. "I am truly honored and humbled to have served with and for all of you in the New England District, the Corps and the region."

Col. Atilano rounded out the speakers for the event. He thanked his wife and his children for their sacrifices they made to make the day possible. He talked about a two-year deployment which was hard on his family and how his two sons stepped up to help their mother care for their little sister. He

also thanked his parents for all of their support.

The new District Commander thanked Col. Conde and the New England District team for the warm welcome he and his family received when coming to the District. He wished Col. Conde well in his retirement.

"Thank you for friendship, candor and dedicating your life in service to our great nation," he said.

Recalling his time as Deputy Division Commander for NAD, Col. Atilano thanked Maj. Gen. Milhorn for his mentorship. "It was the best pre-command course I could have asked for," he said.

Col. Atilano concluded his remarks and ended the ceremony by saying he was honored to be a part of the Corps team. "I look forward to working closely with all of you in the coming months and years as we engineer solutions for our nation's toughest challenges."

At the conclusion of the change of command ceremony, the Atilano family moved to the Executive Office while the Conde family remained in the cafeteria to celebrate Col. Conde's retirement.

Col. Conde retires from U.S. Army with 32 years of service

Colonel William Conde, former District Commander, was honored during a virtual retirement ceremony that immediately followed his change of command ceremony, July 8. The Conde family and Major General Jeffrey Milhorn, North Atlantic Division Commander, were physically in the Concord Park cafeteria while the ceremony was broadcast live to invited guests and the New England District team.

Maj. Gen. Milhorn hosted the ceremony, assisted by Major Mark Gillman, Deputy District Commander, who served as the emcee. Maj. Gen. Milhorn highlighted Col. Conde's 32-year career, mentioning all of his assignments, his education and his family life. "We offer our most sincere regards and most sincere appreciation for all of your efforts in support of our regiment, the U.S. Army and our nation for all that you've done," he said. "We could not be more proud of you and all of your accomplishments."

Col. Conde received many honors during his retirement ceremony. Mrs. Lynne Conde presented her husband with his awards. The first was the Legion of Merit. He received the medal for exceptional and meritorious service to the nation throughout a distinguished career in the Army beginning in 1988 and culminating as the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

"His superior leadership and professional excellence and dedication to a lifetime of selfless service exemplify the values and ideals of the Army and the Corps in every way," said Maj. Gillman as he read the citation.

Col. Conde received the Silver de Fleury Medal. Maj. Gillman recited the history of the de Fleury Medal, named after Francois-Louis Teissedre de Fleury, a French Engineer who served in the Continental Army. The Army Engineer Association is the awarding organization.

"Only a handful of individuals who have rendered outstanding and significant service in the Engineer Regiment are inducted into the Silver Order of de Fleury," said Maj. Gillman.

The new retiree received the honor for, "having an exceptionally significant impact on the United States Army Engineer Regiment throughout 25 years of honorable service as an engineer officer and most recently as the Commander of the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Col. Conde also received numerous proclamations, citations, thank you letters and well wishes. Maj. Gillman named all the Senators, Governors and other well-wishers that sent their regards. Some of the letters and proclamations were on display during the event.

Mrs. Conde was recognized for playing a significant supporting role in her husband's career with a certificate



Photo by Sally Rigiore

Mrs. Lynne Conde presents Col. William Conde with the Silver de Fleury Medal.

of appreciation. Col. Conde presented his wife with the certificate. "Throughout her husband's career, Mrs. Conde provided inspirational leadership in contributing to the morale, welfare and spirit of numerous engineer units," said Maj. Gillman. "Her compassion, grace and willingness to serve others set an example for all to follow."

Following the awards portion of the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Milhorn presented Col. Conde with his retirement certificate.

Col. Conde recalled enlisting in the U.S. Army with a high school friend for two years to earn college money. Those two years evolved into a distinguished military career that spanned more than three decades. "I would absolutely do it all over again and I am so grateful for all the people that I met and served with along the way. Plus I picked up a pretty awesome wife who gave us four pretty amazing kids," he said.

The Army's latest retiree thanked all the Soldiers, civilians and their families who he has served with throughout his career. Col. Conde also thanked his parents, his sisters and their husbands and said that he looked forward to spending more time with all of them.

Col. Conde concluded his remarks by thanking his wife and children for all their sacrifices they made that came with military life and said he looked forward to more family time.

Maj. Gillman told Col. Conde he was proud to have served with him and wished the family the very best in retirement.

Father Sean Magnuson, the Catholic Chaplain at the United States Military Academy at West Point and a close friend of the Conde family, ended the retirement ceremony with a pre-taped benediction.

Dredging up the past



Photo by Ivan Massar

Unusual change of command ceremonies are not new to the Corps team in New England. When the New England District was New England Division, Colonel Philip Harris, Division Commander (right), relinquished command during a ceremony attended by senior staff at Vinny Testa's restaurant in Boston, Massachusetts, May 1, 1992. A small Command flag was passed over plates of salad and pasta. Lieutenant General Henry Hatch, Chief of Engineers (left), presided over the ceremony. Lieutenant Colonel James Hughes (middle) temporarily assumed command until Colonel Brink Miller's arrival, July 7, 1992.

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