

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 55, No. 2 November 2021

*Building Strong*



Repair work on Kennebunk Jetties and Wing  
Walls is complete  
Story on page 7

# Yankee Voices



Boston Harbor Team



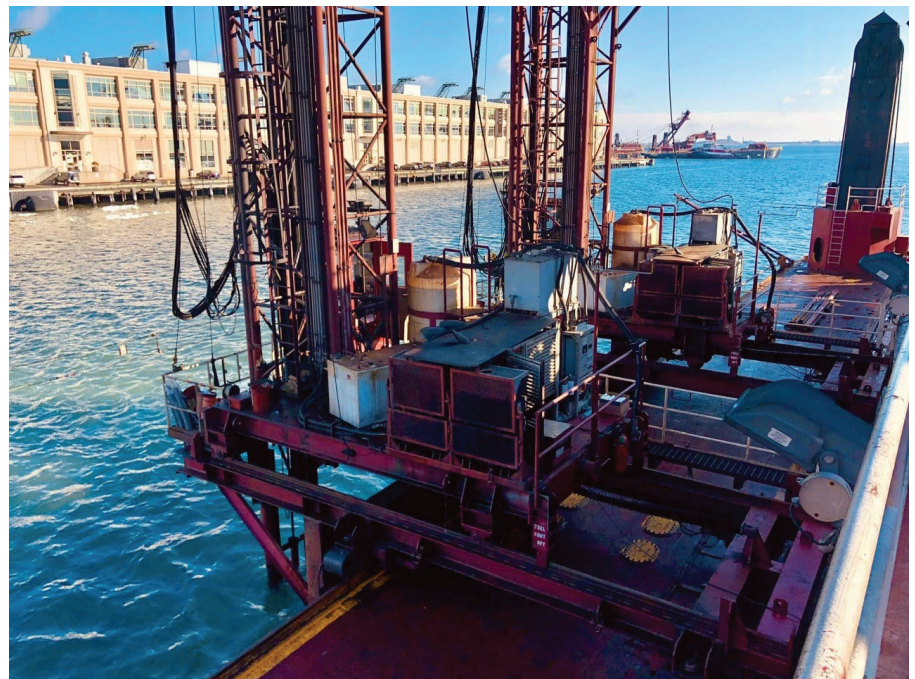
## Casoli named District Hero of the Month

Robert Casoli, Jr., Chief Construction Representative for Boston Harbor, is the Hero of the Month. Despite COVID's impact on our project site and the restrictions that came with it, Casoli has carefully watched the project, keeping it ahead of schedule with a special emphasis on job site safety.

He also recently put in extra effort to get a large team from Engineering out to the site to observe the drilling and blasting efforts.

Casoli's work to keep things moving smoothly while still making time to mentor and educate new team members make him the New England District's Hero Of The Month.

*(Construction Division Contribution)*



Project Management Photo

## Work continues on the Boston Harbor project

**By Albinko Hasic  
Public Affairs Office**

A successful test blast took place in the Reserved Channel on Nov. 13. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock is currently working on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project Phase 3. The drill boat Apache drilled holes into bedrock and loaded them with explosives, which when detonated break up the rock so that it can be dug and removed and the channel deepened to its authorized depths.



# Commander's Corner:

## New England District celebrates Native American Heritage Month

by Col. John A. Atilano II

New England District Commander

November is the time when we celebrate the richness of Native American/Alaskan Natives' cultures, traditions, and histories. What started as a turn of the century effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions Native American/Alaskan Natives made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in a whole month of celebration.



Charles Seymour Whitman, the governor of New York, declared the first American Indian Day on the second Saturday in May 1916. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990, "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

Native American/Alaskan Natives have fought alongside other Soldiers to keep this nation free. The proud warrior tradition, in most, if not all, Native American societies include strength, honor, pride, devotion, and wisdom. These amazing qualities closely correlate with military tradition.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the phenomenal work by the Indian Code Talkers of World War I and II. American Indian Code Talkers from 566 tribes were honored with Congressional Silver Medals, and leaders from the tribes' 33 nations received Congressional Gold Medals. These medals recognized the contributions of the American Indian Code Talkers during both world wars when they used their native languages to encode secret or sensitive information so that the enemy could not decipher radio transmissions. We owe the Native American Code Talkers a tremendous amount of gratitude.

Native American/Alaskan Natives influences are woven through the fabric of American culture. A small sample of their contributions include rubber, kayaks, and snow goggles.

Here in New England, there are 10 federally recognized tribal nations, along with one relocated tribe that we consult with for projects primarily in western New England:

### In Maine:

- Mi'kmaq Nation (formerly Aroostook Band of Micmacs)
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
- Passamaquoddy Tribes, Indian Township
- Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point
- Penobscot Nation

### In Connecticut:

- Mashantucket Pequot Nation in Connecticut
- Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut

### In Massachusetts:

- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

### In Rhode Island:

- Narragansett Indian Tribe

And the Stockbridge Munsee Community of Mohican Indians-WI, a relocated tribe with interests in western Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

We have good working relationships with all the tribes and our interactions are in accordance with the USACE Tribal Policy Principles that recognize tribal sovereignty, our trust responsibilities and the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government and applicable laws and regulations. We consult with all the tribes on projects within their ancestral areas including Civil Works, Regulatory, Operations, Military, etc.

Just this year, I held government-to-government virtual meetings with tribal leaders from the Narragansett Indian Tribe in March. In September I met with the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Mi'kmaq Nation. I'm hoping to have several more virtual tribal meetings this year with the goal of meeting with all federal tribes this fiscal year.

The District is working with the Mi'kmaq Nation on remediating some buildings on lands that the tribe currently owns at the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine and which were acquired during the last Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process for military installations. We're working with the tribe under the DoD Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program that evaluates former military impacts on tribal lands. We've also worked with the Passamaquoddy, Indian Township Reservation, on remediating a former WW2 POW Camp on tribal lands in Princeton,

Maine under this program. I look forward to continuing these working relationships well into the future.

During November, I encourage everyone to find a way to celebrate and appreciate this rich and remarkable culture.



**Grounded in Tradition  
Resilient in Spirit**

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH  
NOVEMBER

# New England District recognizes Veterans Day

by Col. John A. Atilano II  
New England District Commander

On November 11, the country will observe Veterans Day. As you know, freedom is not free and we take time on this day to honor those who have stepped up, left their families and their livelihoods for a time to take up arms, serve their country and keep us safe.

Veterans Day was originally called "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919 to mark the first anniversary of the ending of World War I. Congress passed a resolution for an annual observance in 1926 and then it became a national holiday in 1938.

Veterans Day is for all Veterans who served. It should not be mistaken with Memorial Day which honors those who died. In 2021, the United States has 18.2 million living veterans who have served during at least one war.

Here in New England District, we



have many Veterans from all branches of service who answered the call. As a Veteran myself, I know and understand the sacrifices you and your families have made to keep our country free. I am sincerely grateful to our Veteran teammates for their service to the nation, both in active duty and now as civil servants.

Every year the New England District compiles a document honoring our Veterans. This is only a small sample of our local heroes as participation is voluntary. I would urge you to thank your teammates you know are Veterans. They are all deserving of your thanks. I wish all our Veterans a safe and happy Veterans Day!

## Home school students clean up Cape Cod Canal

A group of local home school students and their parents organized three cleanups along the Cape Cod Canal between Oct. 20 and Nov. 10. The clean ups were coordinated with Park Ranger Elisa Carey.

Each cleanup was at a different recreation area along the South Service road of the Cape Cod Canal. About 40 volunteers participated with 80 volunteer hours. They removed over 88 pound of trash in total. That trash consisted of:

- 72 plastic bottles
- 28 soda cans
- 31 plastic bags
- 101 pieces of fishing gear
- 62 objects made of Styrofoam

And many other odds and ends that never made their way into a trash can. This is the second year that the home school group organized the clean up event.



Students collect trash along the canal during one of three clean ups organized by the Canal and parents.

Photo by Elisa Carey



Photos by Scott Accone

Rose Carvelli (left) assists Col. John Atilano II (right) in pinning on her husband, Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli's, new rank on his uniform as daughter Emma Rose looks on.

## Carvelli promoted during ceremony

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, Deputy Commander, New England District, who received his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel during a ceremony held at Lexington Green in Lexington, Massachusetts, Nov. 30.

Col. John Atilano II, Commander, New England District, presided over the ceremony and assisted Lt. Col. Carvelli's wife, Rose, and daughter, Emma Rose, to pin his new rank on his uniform.



Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli (left) shakes hands with Col. John Atilano II during the promotion ceremony.



Team Essayons pose with their medals at Fenway Park.

Photos provided by Jon Belmont



Margela Shirley climbs over a wall during the event.



Team Essayons tackles the rope course together.



Jon Belmont conquers the wall to move on to the next challenge.

## Team Essayons participate in Fenway Spartan Sprint

Jon Belmont, New England District's Chief of Staff, and Team Essayons, (a team of friends that included New England District team members Jessica Rudd, Margela Shirley, Lisa Belisle and Joanne Ly) made a successful run at the 2021 Fenway Spartan Sprint held at Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts, Nov. 13.

"The Spartan race is an obstacle course challenge offered in various difficulty levels and distances," said Team Leader Belmont. "They're run at venues around the world, usually on challenging off-road terrain but some shorter-distance races are also done

in urban areas or stadiums. Obstacles include walls, low crawls, box jumps, rope climbs, monkeybars, and sandbag carries and other such challenges."

Belmont ran his first race in 2017 shortly after retiring from active duty in the U.S. Army. The 2021 race was his eighth.

According to Belmont, there are three types of events – the "Sprint" distance, the "Super" distance and the "Beast" distance. Team Essayons ran the "Sprint" distance which is about 3 miles long with about 20 obstacles.

"The elite racers can do it in under 30 minutes, but we came in at around

73, beating our 2019 time by four minutes!" he said.

Belmont first assembled Team Essayons for the Fenway Sprint in 2019.

The team planned to run together again in 2020 but the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. "This is the second year several district members have participated," he said.

Members of Team Essayons have had some experience with similar events with some of our competing in Spartans, Tough Mudders, trail half marathons, and other obstacle course or off-road races.



Mohawk, Northeast, Inc. performs repair work at Kennebunk, Maine

Photo by Coral Siligato

## New England District completes repair work on Kennebunk Jetties and Wing Walls

Work to repair the Kennebunk Jetties and wing walls in Kennebunk/Kennebunkport, Maine is complete. The jetties and wing walls provide protection for vessels entering and exiting the Kennebunk River. The New England District's contractor, Mohawk, Northeast, Inc., of Plantsville, Connecticut started the work in the summer of 2021 and completed the \$1.75 million project, Nov. 9.

"The project involved needed repair and maintenance of jetties and wing walls of the Kennebunk River Federal Navigation Project that sustained damage during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and consecutive Nor'easter storms in March 2018," said Project Manager Coral Siligato. "The repair work targeted the loss of armor stone along both jetties, undermining of the east wing wall, and unbalanced settlement of the west wing wall."

According to Siligato, the work included reconfiguring approximately 140 linear feet of the east jetty nose into a

rubble mound structure with 7-11 ton armor stones.

"The 240 linear foot east wing wall was disassembled and re-built with the existing historic stacked fitted stones along with new stone protection at the base," she said. "The 110 linear foot portion of the west wing wall was partially disassembled and re-built with the existing stacked fitted stones and approximately 80 linear foot in additional areas along both jetties required placement of new armor stone."

The District coordinated the work with its partners -- the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Geological Survey, Maine Historic Preservation Office, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the town of Kennebunk, and the town of Kennebunkport.

# Dredging up the past



Park Ranger Gary Pelton speaks with guests at his retirement luncheon in this Nov. 30, 2012, photo.

File photo

First Class  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Concord, MA  
Permit No. 494

Public Affairs Office  
New England District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751  
Meter Code 40