

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong

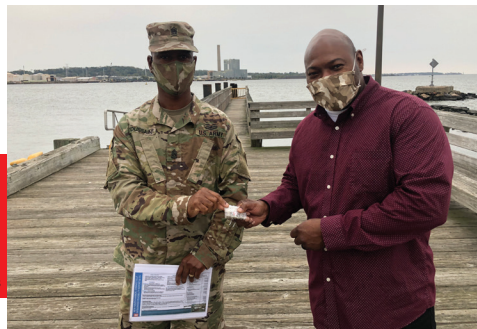


**New England District, EPA
mark project milestone
with land hand over**

Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint presents a Commanders Coin to Larry Sanders



Learn the ABCs of skin cancer

That dark spot on your skin may be a freckle—or it may be skin cancer. How can you tell?

The American Academy of Dermatology takes an alphabetical approach to identifying potentially dangerous skin conditions:

A: Asymmetry. Is the spot or mole generally circular, or does one side look different from the other?

B: Border. Is the edge of the item uneven, notched, or blurry?

C: Color. Does the object vary in color in different areas?

D: Diameter. Is the area larger than a pencil eraser?

E: Evolving. Has the object changed its size, shape, or color?

Contact a dermatologist if you answer “yes” to any of these questions.

(First Draft Magazine)

USACE proposes Hyannis Harbor Federal Navigation Project breakwater repair and maintenance work

By Bryan Purtell
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to repair the breakwater feature of the Federal Navigation Project (FNP) at Hyannis Harbor in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

The authorized FNP provides a stone breakwater extending southeast from the seaward end of the state breakwater on the western side of the outer harbor at Hyannisport; an anchorage area located behind (east) the federal and state breakwaters at the southwestern end of the outer harbor; a channel from Nantucket Sound through the outer harbor and Lewis Bay to the entrance of the inner harbor; a branch channel connecting the outer harbor anchorage with the entrance channel; a riprap jetty extending southward from Dunbar Point; an anchorage and turning basin located in the eastern end of the inner harbor; a channel connecting the eastern and western ends of the inner harbor; and two anchorage areas located on the north and east sides of the eastern end of the inner harbor.

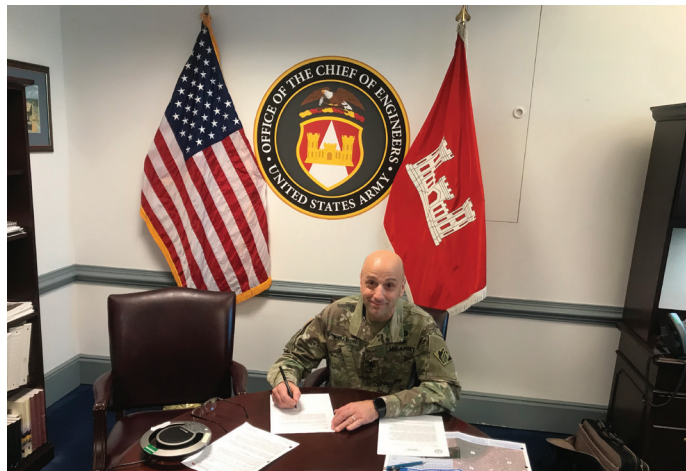
The purpose of the proposed project is to restore full functionality of the FNP breakwater to meet its authorized purpose and to extend the repairs made in the 1960s to enhance the durability of the structure using modern construction methods and practices.

The public notice, with more detailed information, is available for review on the District website under Navigation public notices at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Navigation/NavigationPublicNotices/Hyannis-Breakwater-PN-December2020.pdf>





Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon (center) gets a briefing on the Coastal Storm Risk Management project during a recent site visit.



Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon signs the Chief's Report for the Coastal Storm Risk Management project in New Haven, Connecticut.

Chief of Engineers signs Coastal Storm Risk Management Chiefs Report

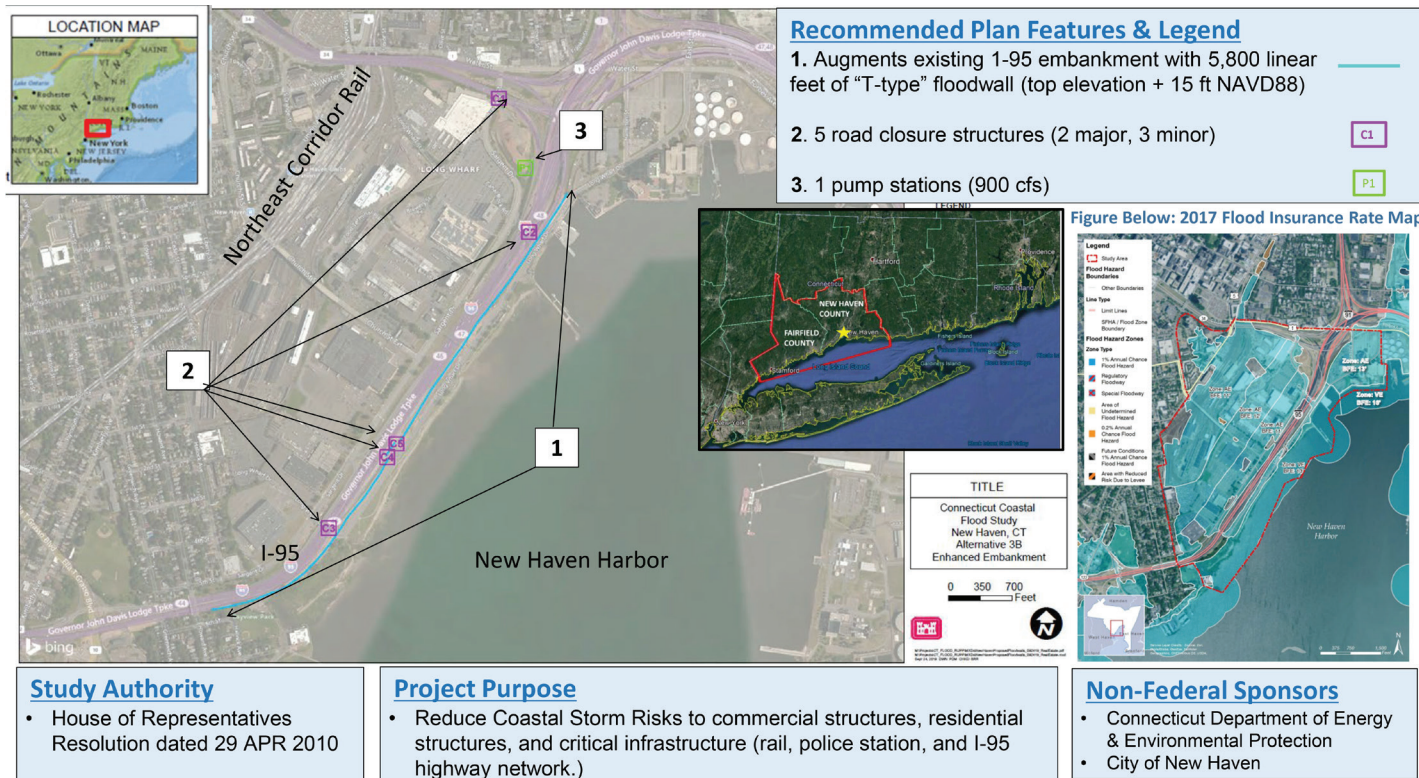
Story and photos provided by **Byron Rupp**
Planning Division

On Jan. 19, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, the 55th Chief of Engineers, signed the Fairfield and New Haven Counties Coastal Storm Risk Management Chiefs Report which recommends a \$133 million project in New Haven, Connecticut. The project would consist of a coastal floodwall system, road closure structures and a pump station for Congressional approval. The feasibility study was authorized by Congress in 2010 and study efforts began in 2016. The study team analyzed nearly 1,700 square miles of shoreline in Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut, which frequently experiences coastal storm damage.

The recommended project would reduce the risk of

damages from flooding to critical infrastructure, including a low-elevation section of Interstate-95, rail lines, as well as risks to area businesses and local residents within the Long Wharf District in New Haven, Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection sponsored the study and the city of New Haven and the state of Connecticut fully support the recommended plan and plan to partner for design and construction implementation.

The signing of the Chief's Report marks the successful completion of the feasibility phase and means the recommended project could receive Congressional authorization in a future Water Resources Development Act. More information on this project from the New England District can be found here: <https://go.usa.gov/xAPvA>.



New England District, EPA mark project milestone with land turnover

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently turned back a valuable piece of waterfront property to the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts. The turnover, which took place Jan. 7, signaled a milestone in the decades-old clean-up of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site.

The 5-acre property, located along the harbor, was formerly used as a sediment dewatering facility (Area D). When in operation, the facility dewatered hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of contaminated dredged material before sending it off-site for safe disposal at licensed facilities. The New England District completed dredging to remove PCB-contaminated sediments from the bottom of the harbor in early 2020, marking the conclusion the sub-tidal remediation that makes up much of the overall project.

"Today is a historic day, and a proud day, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Col. John Atilano II, New England District Commander. "We have partnered with EPA on the clean-up of this harbor since the late 1980s and we are now closer than ever to the finish line."

Contaminated since 1940 because of decades of PCB-contaminated waste being dumped into the harbor by local manufacturers, New Bedford Harbor is one of the largest and most complex cleanups the New England District has ever undertaken.

Marie Esten, New England District's project manager, outlined the challenges of cleaning up such a large area.

"The site itself is 18,000 acres and is more than six miles long, with several areas so shallow we could not bring a dredge in," she said. "It's also spanned by low bridges that made it

difficult to get equipment in and out. Additionally, the project is on a tidal estuary where water flowing both ways makes recontamination during work a constant concern."

According to Col. Atilano, when the New England District first began this project, the technology to remediate the harbor's contaminants properly and efficiently did not exist.

"Over the past two decades, this building housed equipment and processes that emerged from the evolving state-of-the-art and enabled us to get to where we are today," said Col. Atilano.

In the last decade alone, approximately 600,000 cubic yards of material passed through the dewatering facility, equal to about 50,000 dump trucks.

"Today we are turning this valuable piece of real estate back to the people of New Bedford," said Col. Atilano. "The sediment dewatering process building was a necessary component and in some ways a symbol of our subtidal cleanup work. Now that the subtidal environment has been remediated, we are very happy to no longer have need of it."

"We will continue to work diligently on the next phases of the project," said

Col. Atilano. "This spring, we look forward to cleaning up several wetland areas in New Bedford, Fairhaven and Acushnet."

Intertidal/wetland remediation and restoration continues along the harbor shoreline, four of the eight remaining zones will be completed in 2021.

Col. Atilano credited the strong partnership with EPA and the city of New Bedford for the progress on the project.

"Strong partnerships like that are critical to almost every project the New England District undertakes," he said. "I want to thank Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Deziel and my New Bedford Superfund team for the hard work and dedication they put into getting this project to where we are now."

The New England District Commander also thanked the residents of New Bedford, Fairhaven and Acushnet for their continued resilience, assistance and interest in the harbor clean-up process.

"I cannot guarantee you an end date to this phase or the project overall," he said. "But I can guarantee you that the New England District will continue to work hard with the EPA and local officials to ensure the efforts are a success."



A dredge performs work in New Bedford Harbor.

File photo

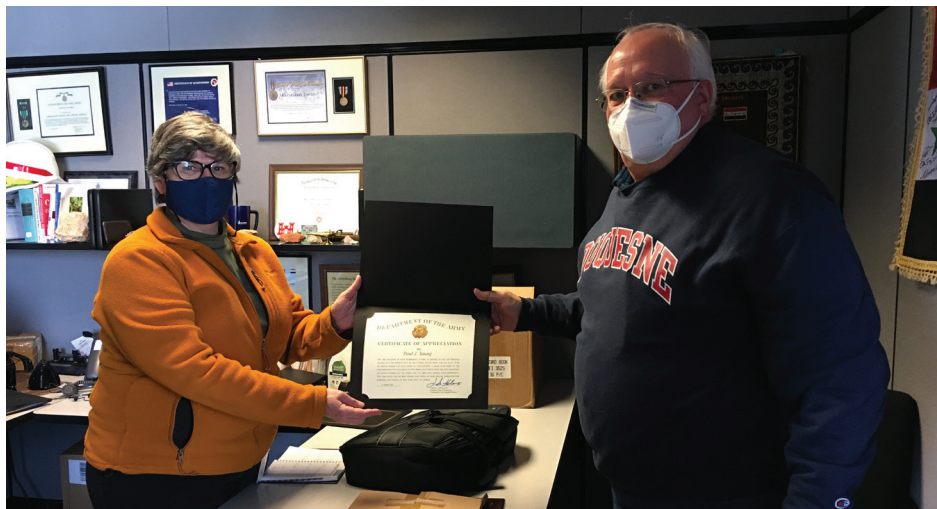
District geologist retires with more than three decades of service

Paul Young, Geologist Extraordinaire, retired from federal service after more than 35 years. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented an in-person retirement celebration, but Young's friends and coworkers could not let him retire without some sort of event to celebrate his distinguished service.

A virtual celebration was held Jan. 22 with dozens of people signing in to wish him well on his retirement.

The festivities began with trivia about Young. Some fun facts the audience discovered about him were: his first job was at Stop and Shop; one of his favorite vacation spots is in Maine; and some of his favorite minerals are Smoky Quartz and Calcite.

The event transitioned to an overview of Young's career. He has performed geological work on many of the District's dams and has provided support to many dams not owned by the District. While at the New England District, Young helped close out seven Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) to include the Aqua Tank, Rhode Island; Floyd Bennet Field, New York; Nike BU 34135 and Atlas S-11 both in New York; the Communications Annex, Maine and Lyndonville and St. Albans both in Vermont.



Engineering Division photo.

Maryellen Iorio presents Paul Young with a certificate of appreciation prior to his retirement.

Young also lent geological support to coworkers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Young was a staple at USACE events that involved speaking to youngsters about geology. He was a particular favorite when he presented at the, "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day" events held at the District because of the minerals he showed and the ones that he gave away. Other programs included visits to Girl Scout troops in Andover, Massachusetts; numerous trips to elementary schools in Reading and Ashburnham, Massachusetts; the entire eighth grade of Locke Middle School in Billerica, Massachusetts; All Saints Academy in Middletown, Rhode

Island; the Boston Mineral Club and Harvard University's Mineral Museum's Science Rocks! event.

Over the years, Young has been the recipient of many awards. They include the USACE Safety Award; the FUDDER Award for Excellence; and the Civilian Service Commendation Medal upon his retirement. Young received the FUDDER Award for Excellence for his outstanding support to the District's FUDS Program over the course of his career with the New England District.

"Paul served primarily as a Project Geologist and had a positive and significant influence towards the completion, response complete, ready in place of many FUDS projects due to his superior technical knowledge," according to the citation.

Young received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for his work as a Project Geologist, Geo-Environmental Engineering Branch, from April 1994 to January 2021. "Mr. Young has served the Geo-Environmental Branch as project geologist supporting numerous teams in the successful closeout of FUDS projects and the construction of coastal storm damage reduction projects," according to the citation. Young picked up his award and retirement certificate at the Concord Park Office.



Photo by Brian Murphy

Paul Young (right) shows off some of his specimens during a Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work event.

Emergency Management Chief retires from New England District after 34 years of service

Dave Schafer, Chief, Emergency Management Office (EMO), who organized hundreds of deployments for U.S. disaster emergencies or to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission overseas, has retired with 34 years of service.

A virtual retirement ceremony was held Dec. 21. Dozens of people to include Schafer's daughters Momoko and Shiho, logged in to honor him.

Col. John Atilano II, New England District Commander, and Lt. Col. Mark Gillman, Deputy Commander, hosted the event. Lt. Col. Gillman said Schafer's history with the New England District was long and storied. According to Lt. Col. Gillman, Schafer joined the New England District immediately after graduating college, starting in the Reservoir Control Center (RCC). While there, he helped automate the center.

Soon after joining the District, Schafer volunteered to deploy to multiple emergency missions and cultivated his interest in Emergency Management. He joined Emergency Management as chief in the summer of 2001. Just a few weeks after taking the position, the attack on New York happened on Sept. 11, 2001. Schafer found himself coordinating the disaster response with the District serving as the lead agency.

"Since then he has deployed about 1,000 people for disaster recovery," said Lt. Col. Gillman.

The Deputy Commander revealed that Schafer will continue to serve people in need after retirement as a registered nurse.

"It has been a pleasure working with you these past 18 months," said Lt. Col. Gillman.

Col. Atilano virtually presented Schafer with the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his outstanding service from July 1992 through December 2020. Brig.



Dave Schafer, Chief, Emergency Management Office, retired from federal service after serving 34 years of civilian and military service.



Dave Schafer and Christopher Scabia circa 1999.

File photos

Gen. Thomas Tickner, North Atlantic Division Commander, signed the award.

"I want to thank you and your family for your three decades of service to our country and to the Corps of Engineers," said Col. Atilano. "Clearly you've got big plans, 30 days in Bosnia before embarking on a career as a nurse, which I think is outstanding."

Lt. Col. Gillman invited Schafer to pick up the award and all other items from the retirement ceremony in the Executive Office at his convenience.

Michael Ganley, Chief, Readiness and Contingency Operations Division at North Atlantic Division, said Schafer was the most competent EM Chief NAD has had. "It's been awesome working with you," he said.

Ganley presented Schafer with a certificate of appreciation for his remarkable career of 34 years of combined active duty and civilian service to the nation. Brig. Gen. Tickner signed the certificate and included a Commander's coin.

Ganley took a few minutes to tell a few stories of some of the adventures he and Schafer had overseas in places like Serbia, Georgia, Albania and Kosovo.

Duban Montoya, Emergency Management Specialist for NAD and Schafer's close friend presented him with his retirement certificate. Montoya said he and Schafer



Dave Schafer, (front row left) posing with the New England District BDT Team in June 2002.

have been best friends since they both started at the New England District. Schafer has accompanied Montoya on trips to Colombia to visit family and Montoya credits Schafer's parenting skills with Montoya wanting to be a father himself. Montoya congratulated Schafer on becoming a nurse and talked about all of the long nights of classes his friend endured to make his dream come true. Montoya said Schafer had an uncanny ability to pick up languages easily to include Japanese and Spanish. Montoya said that he looks forward to having more quality time and fun with his friend in the future.

"It's been a phenomenal adventure working in the EMO with you," he said. "I'll miss you."

Amy Hamilton, Emergency Management Specialist for New England District, followed Montoya and presented gifts to Schafer from attendees. He received an engraved USACE Castle and a gift certificate to a home improvement store.

"Obviously we're going to miss you," she said. "You had a big impact on my career. I'm very grateful for your guidance. This is bittersweet for all of us, but I wish you the best of luck with your new endeavors. It sounds like you've got a lot of great stuff planned."

Schafer thanked Col. Atilano and Lt. Col. Gillman for hosting the event. "I certainly never envisioned having my retirement party in a virtual Zoom meeting, but I guess we're all becoming used to this," he said. "But I guess we've all become used to this."

The new retiree told his audience that he appreciated everyone that took the time to attend to attend the event and that he's going to miss them. He said that working for the Corps of Engineers gave him a lot of unique experiences to travel to different countries and he made a lot of friends all around the globe.

"I got more out of the Corps than what the Corps got

out of me," he said.

Schafer said he came to the New England District right after graduating from UMASS Amherst in the intern program. After finishing the program he moved on to RCC. He said his first disaster deployment was to Hurricane Andrew. He recognized certain individuals that helped him with his career, especially Paul Marinelli and Dick Carlson. He remembered when he was in the EMC and 9-11 happened. He recalled how Scott Acone, Dave Margolis, Mike Keegan and Dave Goodrich came down to the EMC and helped him run the day-to-day operations that came with organizing a disaster response.

"I was only seven weeks in the chair when 9-11 happened," he said. "We were the lead District. If it weren't for these folks who came in, I would have been completely lost. I learned so much from them."

Schafer said he will always be grateful for the New England District team and their willingness to deploy wherever they were needed when he needed people to go.

"They not only stepped up, but they stepped up and did the job so well that we were often held up as the example of how things should be done in the Corps of Engineers."

He said being part of the Civilian Military Emergency Preparedness Team (CMEP) gave him the opportunities to travel through Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He said during his career he was able to travel to 20 different countries and made friends all over the world while working on the team.

Schafer thanked Rachel Fisher who worked with him for 17 years. "She was fiercely loyal to her job and a constant source of support," he said.

He also thanked Montoya. "I feel so lucky," he said. "He's more of a brother than a friend. Thank you for being there all these years."

Of the EMC, Schafer said there was always something new and interesting going on, but now it's time for him to move on and make room for "fresh blood."

Schafer said he is handing the keys to the EMC to Hamilton, who was named the new Emergency Management Chief. As far as what the future holds for him, Schafer said he is excited about becoming a registered nurse and will go where he is needed.

He concluded by thanking all of his friends from NAD that called in to wish him well. "The friendships all these years have been invaluable," he said.

The rest of the event consisted of many of the participants telling stories and wishing Schafer well in his retirement. In addition to becoming a Registered Nurse, Schafer plans on spending a month in Bosnia skiing, traveling the world and purchasing a new residence in New England.

Dredging up the past



Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, stands with the 2012 Leadership Development Program graduates: Reese Piper, Marissa Wright, Marci Montrose and Ralph Gendron. John Astley was the program director.

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