



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# YANKEE ENGINEER

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BUILDING STRONG®



District, CRREL cut ribbon on new Climatic Chamber  
Story on page 5

# Yankee Voices

President Joe Biden, Erika Mark, Wendy Gendron and Beth Gosselin



## District team members receive E&C Awards

Congratulations to the following New England District team members who have been recognized by the USACE Engineering and Construction Community of Practice for excellence in their field:

- Bridge Safety Engineer of the Year Award: John Kedzierski
- Levee Safety Professional of the Year: Kevin DiRocco
- The Timothy Skeen Geotechnics Professional of the Year Award: Rosemary Schmidt

## Sympathy...

... to the family of Resource Management retiree **Richard Vigeant**, who recently passed away. Vigeant was a long time employee of the Resource Management Office serving as an Operating Accounting in our F&A Branch. Vigeant served with us for over 30 years.

... to the family of Resource Management retiree **Brenda Faragi**, who passed away, May 30. She retired in 2014, but returned as a rehired annuitant until 2017.

## Happy Birthday Army and USACE! Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army!

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

June is Army Heritage Month. It's during this time that we celebrate the U.S. Army's 247<sup>th</sup> Birthday on June 14, and then two days later, on June 16, we celebrate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Birthday. Happy Birthday to us!

The 247<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday Theme is "Defending America 24/7," which focuses on service to our nation and a relentless commitment to upholding an Always Ready force with unsurpassed capabilities. Older than the nation it defends, the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the history of America and the defense of our democratic values. Our soldiers have contributed to national security in peace and war as well as the development of the United States for 247 years.

Before the U.S. Army was formed, several colonies established militias for defense. The militias were generally composed of armed citizens who trained several times a year to provide military forces in emergencies. When the Continental Congress established the U.S. Army on June 14, 1775, the Congress resolved to encourage the colonies to have their militias work together to fight the British. Our Army was built on the courage and commitment of ordinary people who believed the United States was worth fighting for. Today, the Army Birthday celebrates the people, Soldiers, civilians, and families that make defending America 24/7 possible.

As we celebrate the founding of our military, I appreciate all of our team members who have put on a uniform and served their country, especially those who served in the U.S. Army. I am beyond proud to be a member of the U.S. Army, but especially grateful to command in one of the greatest organizations in the world – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers! Here in New England is where it all started – we pride ourselves on being called the Birthplace of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It's because of your efforts that the New England District has a reputation of excellence and I thank you for all that you do.

I'll speak more about our history during our Founder's Day ceremony coming up on July 29. I can't tell you how excited I am to FINALLY be able to see you all in person, so please save the date and plan on attending our awards ceremony and festivities after. It will be the first time in my command that I will get to see all of you together in one place – that alone is cause for celebration!

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District Commander: John A. Atilano II  
Chief, Public Affairs: Elizabeth D. Gosselin  
Editor: Ann Marie R. Harvie  
Media Relations Officer: Bryan Purtell  
Community Relations Advisor: Sally M. Rigione  
Web Content Manager: Albinko Hasic



# Commander's Corner: Pride Month and Juneteenth

by Col. John A Atilano II  
New England District Commander

In June we celebrate Pride Month, a time when we recognize Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) servicemembers and civilians for their service to our nation. This year's theme is, "All Together."

While we are all together now, it wasn't always that way. In fact, there was a time when members of the LGBTQ community were not allowed to join the military nor the civil service.

Fortunately, that time has now passed, and the U.S. Army recognizes the value of individual talent, backgrounds and perspectives of our Soldiers and Civilians in accomplishing the mission.

Throughout our nation's history, LGBTQ Soldiers and Civilians have bravely served with others to defend our country, despite the barriers that were thrown in front of them. Their selfless and dedicated service has made our military



stronger, our nation safer, and I am grateful for their bravery.

I've chosen to highlight just a small portion of these unsung heroes who made many sacrifices and worked hard to secure rights for LGBTQ in the military:

- Frank Kameny, who served in World War II, and later as a civilian astronomer, was fired and banned from federal employment in 1957 because he was gay. He became one of the first LGBTQ advocates to confront the government's employment ban.
- In 1978, Army veteran Gilbert Baker designed the rainbow flag that serves as a symbol of LGBTQ pride.
- In 2012, retired Maj. Gen. Tammy Smith became the first openly gay U.S. Army flag officer to serve since the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. (Follow her on Twitter, she is awesome!)

Here in New England, our LGBTQ team members are a vital part of who we are in the District. The work they do every day makes us a stronger, more diverse organization. I am proud of your work and what you bring to the table. Thank you for being part of the team. We really are all in this together.

I encourage everyone to visit <https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/> to learn more about Pride Month.

Happy Juneteenth! This year on June 19 we will commemorate the new Juneteenth holiday. President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth our nation's 11th federal holiday in 2021. It's the first new federal holiday since the recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in 1983.

Juneteenth is considered by many as a "second" Independence Day as it celebrates the end of slavery and the formal extension of the liberties enumerated in the Constitution to Black Americans whose freedom and dignity were denied for so long.

To give you a little background on Juneteenth, we need to go back to the beginning. While the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Lincoln, legally freed slaves throughout the Confederate States on January 1, 1863, the state of Texas resisted for two years.

Finally, under orders of Major General Philip H. Sheridan, Major General Gordon Granger led an advance force of 1,800 men from the XIII Corps to the port city of Galveston. He assumed command over the Military District of Texas and established military control, issuing General Order No. 3, formally enforcing provisions of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas for the first time. You can read about

the order here: <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/juneteenth-original-document>. Over the years Juneteenth spread to the rest of Texas and eventually the country at large. On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday and as of last year, it is now a national holiday.

We remember the U.S. Army's role in the liberation of enslaved persons throughout the Confederacy as one of its core legacies. You can learn more by visiting this website: <https://www.military.com/off-duty/how-us-military-helped-create-juneteenth-holiday.html>.

Black Soldiers have defended our nation since the Revolutionary War. These Soldiers built a legacy of courage and professionalism and continue to serve the U.S. Army with great honor and distinction. Here on our own team, Black Americans play a significant role in our success as a District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I thank them for their contributions to our team.

Please join me in commemorating this important day in our nation's history by reflecting on the amazing accomplishments Black Americans have made not only to our nation's military, but to our nation.

# District attends Raymark EPA Press Conference, Field Office Ribbon Cutting

Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, and Mike Looney, New England District Project Manager for the Raymark Superfund Site, joined Congressional, state and local officials in attending an EPA press event announcing significant funding for the Raymark Superfund Site under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The event was followed by a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of EPA's Raymark Field Office.

During the June 2 event at the former Raybestos Memorial Ballfield, in Stratford, Connecticut, Acone said that the funding announcement was exciting news.

"EPA and USACE's combined efforts to clean up the Raymark Superfund Site has had some positive results so far," he said. "There is still a lot to do at Raymark. This project has not come without challenges, but I'm happy to say that, together, we assessed the issues and found solutions that allowed us to move forward with the project."

Acone spoke about the long and solid partnership USACE shared with EPA.

"EPA frequently turns to USACE to manage large projects because we provide a wide array of experienced professionals," he said. "We are proud to take on these projects for the EPA and the people of New England."

The Raymark Industries Superfund Site consists of more than 500 acres in Stratford, Connecticut. The main products sold by Raymark, once known as the Raybestos - Manhattan Company, were friction materials. These included clutch facings, transmission plates, and brake linings, primarily for the automotive industry.

During the facility's 70 years of operation, liquid wastes were diverted into a drainage system and unlined



Scott Acone joined USACE partners in cutting the ribbon on the new EPA Field Office.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Scott Acone speaks with EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe during the event.

lagoons. The lagoons discharged to groundwater and nearby Ferry Creek. As a result, groundwater coming from this facility has extensive solvent contamination, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Solids, which settled in the lagoons, were periodically removed by dredging and then widely used as "fill material." At first, the contaminated material, which contained primarily lead, PCBs, and asbestos, was used for fill at the facility itself, but eventually was taken to residential, commercial, and municipal properties. In addition, several wetland areas abutting or close to the Housatonic River were filled with this manufacturing waste.

According to Looney, EPA tasked the New England District team with the remedial design and construction of operable units (OUs) 3, 4, and 6 in accordance with an EPA record of



Scott Acone addresses the audience during the press conference.

decision from 2016.

"The work entails the excavation, consolidation, and capping of approximately 100,000 cubic yards (CY) of Raymark waste," he said. "Excavated Raymark waste from OUs 3 and 6 will be consolidated at the OU 4 Memorial Ballfield and covered with a low-permeability cap. Approximately 10,000 CY of the highest contaminated waste will be transported for off-site disposal."

Janet McCabe, EPA Deputy Administrator and David Cash, EPA New England Regional Administrator, made the funding announcement at the press conference. Other attendees included Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Sen. Chris Murphy, Congr. Rosa DeLauro; Connecticut DEEP Remediation Division Assistance Director Raymond Frigon and Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick.



# District, CRREL cut ribbon on new Climatic Chamber

Col. John Atilano II, New England District Commander, joined Congressional representatives and Dr. Joseph Corriveau, Director of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in cutting the ribbon on the new Climatic Chamber building in Hanover, New Hampshire, June 2.

Col. Atilano said he was honored to be present at the opening of the new facility.

"This unique and important project will provide a critical means to examine extreme cold weather environments under test conditions necessary to develop and validate Army field material which is required for Soldiers and unit readiness," he said.

The facility will support new research which requires an environment with the ability for year-round below freezing temperatures and varying rapid temperature changes made with computer-controlled precision, and

large spaces to conduct testing.

Col. Atilano thanked Senators Maggie Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen and Patrick Leahy and Congresswoman Ann Kuster for their efforts to make this \$5.5 million project a reality.

The District Commander thanked his Chief of Military Programs, Mark Anderson, his Project Manager, Eric Rosenberg and his staff, as well as contractor Colby Engineering and all the District's partners for their hard work and coordination on the project.

"The New England District is proud to be able to provide our servicemembers with the tools they need to remain an effective military force for our nation," he said. "I look forward to working with you all again."

After the speaking portion of the ceremony, Justin Troiano, from the office of Sen. Hassan; Dr. David Pittman, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center director and director of R&D for USACE, Col.

Atilano; Corriveau, and Milla Anderson, from the office of Congr. Kuster cut the ribbon to CRREL's new Climatic Cold Chamber. A tour of the new facility followed the official ceremony.

Work on the project included preparing the site and constructing a new 3,800 square foot building. The facility houses a cold chamber, an office, a staging area for vehicle access into the cold chamber for research and testing. Corriveau said he looked forward to start working with the chamber.

"Our partners are already lining up because they can't wait to work with us to get new technologies into this facility for development and testing," he said. "It's interesting because when we're talking about extreme cold, that's when you get below minus 25 degrees, not below freezing, and this facility will go down to minus 54 degrees, and it's already been tested. We can achieve that."



Photos courtesy of CRREL

Justin Troiano, from the Sen. Maggie Hassan's office; Dr. David Pittman, ERDC director and director of R&D for USACE; Col. John Atilano II, New England District commander; Dr. Joseph Corriveau, director of ERDC's CRREL; and Milla Anderson, from Congr. Ann Kuster cut the ribbon to CRREL's new Climatic Cold Chamber building.

## Ken Heim retires from the New England District

Dr. Ken Heim, New England District's Senior Hydrologist and Groundwater Modeler, made the decision to retire after 12 years at the agency. Friends and co-workers held a send-off for him in the Concord Park Courtyard, June 16. His last day was June 17.

About 25 people came out to wish Heim well and to watch him receive a Civilian Service Commendation Medal from Engineering Chief Dave Margolis. Deputy District Engineer, Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, presented Heim with his retirement certificate.

After the official ceremony at Concord Park, event attendees had the option to attend a bowling and pizza party at Hanscom Lanes, Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Heim began his career at the District in January 2020 as a Senior Hydrologist and Groundwater Modeler. Some of the projects he worked on during his career include Joint Base Cape Cod in Massachusetts, Formerly Used Defense Sites in Bucks Harbor



Photo by Deborah Acone  
David Margolis, Chief of Engineer, presents Ken Heim with the Civilian Service Commendation Medal.

and Glenburn, both in Maine. He also worked on the Border Wall Construction, the White Swan Superfund Site in New Jersey and the Kandahar Water Supply Master Plan.

Prior to joining the New England District team, Heim worked for the ENSR Corporation.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from California State Fullerton and a Doctorate in Hydrogeology/Hydrology from the University of Nevada. He is a professional hydrologist, licensed by the American Institute of Hydrology.

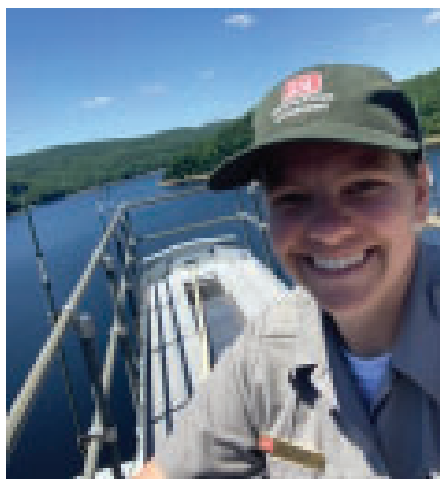
In his spare time, Heim is a bowler. In fact, he was one of the founding members of the District bowling league when it was revitalized at Hanscom Air Force Base. He also enjoys woodworking, working on his 1954 Nash, hiking and camping.

Heim and his wife, Valerie, who is also retired, recently purchased a new camper and they are both looking forward to using it for new adventures during retirement.

## Ranger Spotlight On: Nicole Baldwin, Natural Resource Specialist Colebrook River Lake and Dam

**By Park Ranger Marci Montrose**

I started permanently with USACE in 2018 at Bonneville Lock and Dam in the Northwest Division as an Interpretive Ranger in their Visitor Centers. I graduated from the University of Vermont in 2010 with a degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Water Resources. After graduating I took two SCA internships, one being with USACE which was the first time I had heard of it. I had five years in between my internships and my first summer ranger position with the USACE. In that time, I had moved to California and traveled across the country for my next couple seasonal positions



Park Ranger Nicole Baldwin (including a Kayak/SUP Ranger and Education Technician). In 2017 I started permanently with the Parks Service at Redwoods National Park and in 2018 I

moved to Washington State to work at Bonneville where I was an Interpretive Ranger and then a Supply Technician. I had grown up in Connecticut and knew at some point in my career I would want to come back to New England and in February 2020 I got the position at Colebrook. I enjoy working for USACE because every day is different with opportunities to learn something new while working in a gorgeous place. I love the opportunities for trainings, travel and meeting other rangers.

I am really looking forward to planning and starting my garden, kayaking and sitting around a campfire as the weather continues to warm up! Axe throwing is fun too.



## Look for ways to stay safe during Safety Month

by Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli  
Deputy District Engineer

June is National Safety Month, the annual observance that the National Safety Council maintains to keep each other safe from the workplace to anyplace.

Please find a minute and spend it looking around to make your workspace, kitchen, break room, conference room, or job site to find ways to make it safer. Our employees work in a variety of environments; apply your own knowledge and experience to keep each other safe.

Common safety concerns at work and home include:

- Loose mats/carpet
- Wet floors
- Cables/cords
- Extension ladders that are not fully locked
- Major appliances on extension cords/surge protectors.

I am going to look through my own office and home for these things to ensure I keep you and my family safe.

## Words Worth Repeating

"Always be a little kinder than necessary."

- James M. Barrie

"One's first step in wisdom is to question everything - and one's last is to come to terms with everything."

- Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

## Harris receives prestigious USACE award

Matt Harris, Office of Counsel, has received the E. Manning Seltzer Award for Special Contributions.

Harris obtained the award for his meticulous research and expertise in regulatory matters. He provided zealous representation of his District in the "New England Clean Energy Connect" and "Vineyard Wind"

litigations.

The E. Manning Seltzer Award recognizes an attorney who has made one or more special contributions to the Corps legal service mission through the development of a legal theory, a legal management innovation or practice or outstanding performance in solving a legal or management problem.

## Heroes & Heroines of the Month (May)

The New England District leadership recognized the following individuals as heroes for the Month of May:

**Jennifer Flanagan** (Project Manager, Civil Works & IIS, PPMD): Flanagan is currently managing three of the District's most challenging projects:

1) the Muddy River Flood Risk Management Project in Boston - reducing flood risk in the Back Bay.

2) the FDA Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center - a state-of-the-art headquarters for the FDA's laboratory in Winchester, Massachusetts.

3) the VA West Haven Surgical Tower - a new surgical facility for the Veterans Affairs campus in West Haven, Connecticut. Flanagan's ability to collaborate with stakeholders and build strong teams to deliver for New England has been demonstrated time and again.

**Tim Pickering** (Construction Representative, New Bedford Resident Office, Construction Division): Pickering is the Con Rep for this latest iteration of the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier Dewatering Project.

A partial list of project tasks includes isolating the gate pocket area, sealing the gates to minimize leaks, pumping out 40' of water from the sealed area, removing several feet of sediment, greasing everything that moves, and painting everything that doesn't.

This is a high visibility, time-sensitive effort, as the harbor is partially unprotected while work is underway.

Pickering has been on site nearly every day since work began - 10+ hours a day, six days a week, tirelessly coordinating with the contractor's site superintendent to resolve ongoing issues and keep the project moving forward.

Pickering's continual communication with Operations personnel, the contractors, the Coast Guard, the city of New Bedford, and many other stakeholders has been critical to ensuring the work is progressing as quickly as possible.

**Julia Rupp** (Project Manager, Geo-Environmental Engineering Branch, Engineering Division): After working for several years in the private sector, Rupp jumped into our FUDS and Environmental Program, supporting multiple programs.

Rupp's unique experience in private industry allowed NAE to take on new environmental compliance work under the Fence-to-Fence Program for the Air Force Civil Engineering Center. She's managing work at installations in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire covering everything from air emissions to hazardous material disposal.

Rupp's expertise and dedication have allowed her to keep this program moving forward despite unreasonable execution timelines from Air Force and current market challenges impacting contractor availability and pricing.

(Executive Office Submission)

# Wear Your Life Jackets To Work Day

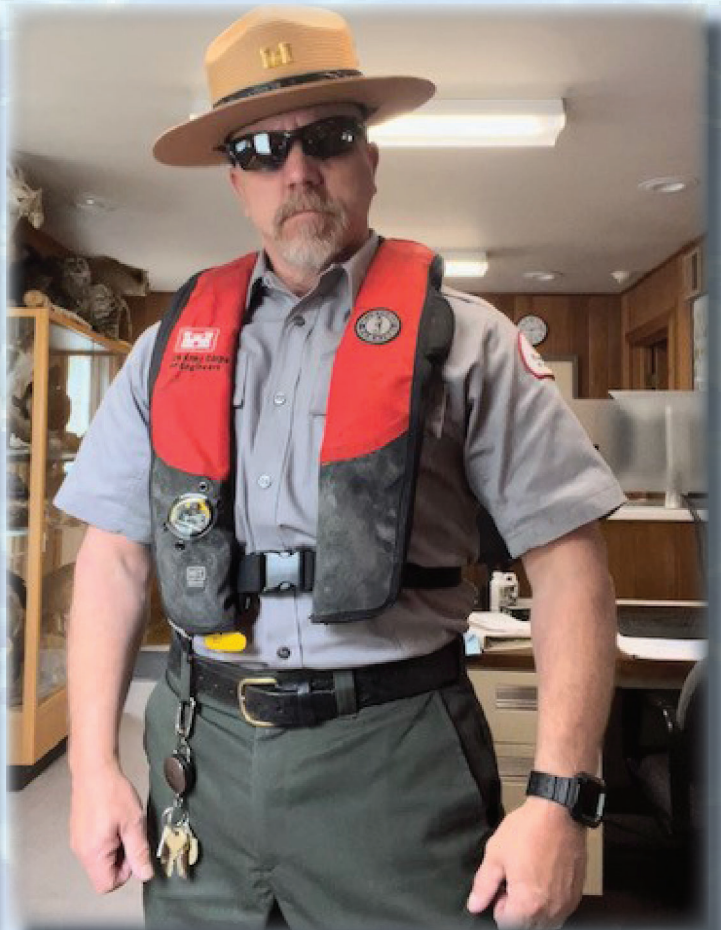
Water Safety is important every day, but May 20 was Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day. The USACE National Water Safety Program held a contest and asked everyone in USACE to put on their life jackets and take a picture. New England District team members responded in force with nearly 40 photos submitted. Team members got creative, put on their life jackets, took a picture, and emailed it to National Water Safety Program Manager Pam Doty. Participants were also encouraged to post on their social media pages with the tags #wearyourlifejacketatworkday and @boatingcampaign.

The pictures of USACE employees wearing life jackets that the Program received will be used to make a video that will be posted June 8 on the USACE National Water Safety Program's social media pages (Please Wear It on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Eric Pedersen, Chief of New England District's Operations Division, sent a message out to the District to ask for maximum participation. He also emphasized the seriousness of the Water Safety Program.

"While this is a fun way to emphasize water safety, we all must remember to take it very seriously," he cautioned. "It only takes seconds to drown, 60 for adults and only 20 for children in fact. As you are donning your life jacket for the photo, it is also a good time to inspect your life jacket to make sure it is in good condition and fits properly."



**Col. John A. Atilano II**  
**Commander, New England District**



**Park Ranger Dave Skaret**  
**Hop Brook Lake**





**Seasonal Laborer Nick Majeski, Park Rangers  
Nick Bowers, Josh Garland and Sam Liebow,  
Ball Mountain Lake**



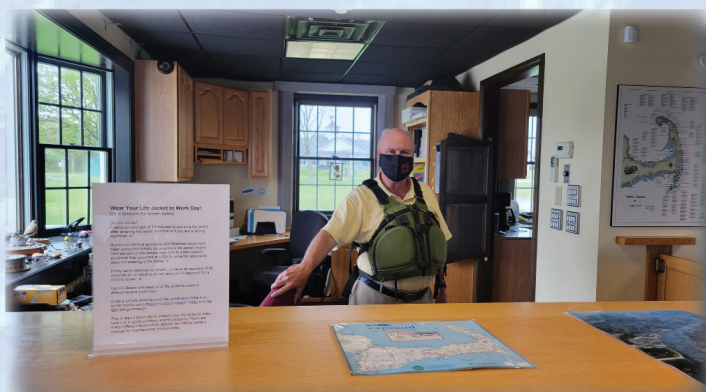
**Project Manager Janet Cote  
Project Management**



**Civil Engineering Tech  
Bradley Clark  
Merrimack River Basin**



**Park Manager Nicole Giles, Park Rangers Jay Lamell, Angela  
Erskine, Bobber (James Higgins), Park Rangers Mark Fuller,  
Alphonsus Ho, Cathy St. Andre, and Aidan Buck, Buffumville  
Lake and Hodges Village Dam**



**Volunteer Dave Cavanaugh  
Cape Cod Canal**



**Park Manager Joe Zanca  
West Hill Dam**

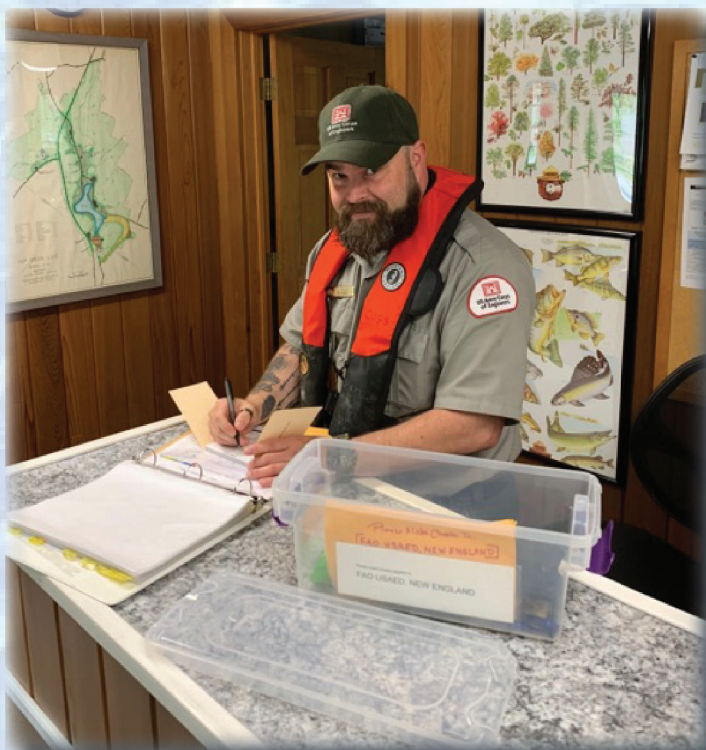




**Park Manager Jason Tremblay, Park Rangers  
Hammond, Blakeslee  
Edward MacDowell Lake**



**Park Rangers Elisa Carey and Samantha Gray  
Cape Cod Canal**



**Park Ranger Chris Cogley  
Hop Brook Lake**



**Park Ranger Marci Montrose  
Hop Brook Lake**





**Park Rangers Cole La Rose, James Finan, Colin Monkiewicz and Park Manager Lydia Graham  
Knightville and Littleville Dam**



**Park Ranger Ryan Maher  
Hop Brook Lake**



**Kevin DiRocco, P.E.  
Levee Safety Program Manager**





**NRM Specialist Matt Underwood  
Upper Connecticut River Basin**



**Bryan Paul and Don Hassett  
Structural Engineering  
Engineering Division**



**Park Ranger Michael Servant  
Otter Brook Lake/Surry Mountain dam**



**Tammy Turley  
Chief, Regulatory Division**





**Otter Brook Lake/Surry Mountain Dam**



**Park Ranger Steve Dermody  
Hopkinton Lake**



**Park Ranger Samantha Schupp  
Hopkinton-Everett Lakes**



**Park Rangers Amanda Rasmuson, Anthony  
Divoll, Teresa Podlesney and Samantha Hutchins  
Tully Lake**





**Park Rangers Ron Woodall and Viola Bramel  
West Hill Dam**



**Adam Durando  
Deputy Chief, Operations Division**



**Survey Technician Brian Demars  
Survey Section  
Engineering Division**





**Survey Technician Matthew O'Neill**  
**Survey Section**  
**Engineering Division**



**Shadow Hassett (Don Hassett)**  
**Structural Engineering**  
**Engineering Division**



**Charles "Norm" Farris**  
**Regulatory Division**



# Dredging up the past



Col. Brian Osterndorf and the New England District Ranger Color Guard lay a weath at Col. Richard Gridley, first Chief of Engineers, grave in Canton, Massachusetts in this June 17, 2000 photo.

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