

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 50, No. 11 September 2017

Building Strong

Massport, District host Boston Harbor
Navigation Improvement Celebration

Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Ed O'Donnell and Forest Knowles



Health Benefits Open Season for Federal Employees Announced

Benefits Open Season begins Nov. 11 to Dec. 11.

Health Benefit changes are done at the Army Benefits Center website through your EBIS portal (Employee Benefits Information System).

The link is on the front page of the ABC site at: <https://www.abc.army.mil/>

For assistance you would contact the ABC as local CPAC's are not benefits counselors. Contact information is on the ABC main page.

There is NO scheduled FEGLI (Life Insurance) Open Season this year and may not be open again (was open in 2016) for several more years. FEGLI Open Seasons are far and few between.

However, there are some circumstances OPM will consider eligibility outside Open Season for FEGLI. See FEGLI sections for more information.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Shares Important Water Safety Tips

It's almost time to say goodbye to summer and fall is just around the corner. Some of you might be planning on spending the upcoming weekends on or around the water, so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like for you to remember these safety tips while enjoying your visit.

Before heading out to a lake or river, be sure you have a life jacket for everyone. Check that the life jackets are U.S. Coast Guard approved, are the right size and fit, and are appropriate for the activity you have planned. Then please make sure everyone wears a life jacket. On average, 9 out of 10 people who drowned at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake or river project wasn't wearing a life jacket. Life jackets save lives by keeping you afloat and providing time for rescue.

If you plan to swim at a lake, please do so at a designated swim beach that is marked with a buoy line. Designate a water watcher because supervision could save a life. Adults, plan to take turns being a "water watcher" and keep an eye on children when they are swimming. A child can drown in 20 seconds so stay within arm's reach while supervising them.

Know your swimming ability. Each year, swimmers get into trouble swimming after a toy, a boat or some other object that drifts away. It's not worth dying for to swim after an object. Let it go or put on a properly fitted life jacket and then retrieve the item.

Summer is coming to an end, but you don't have to let the fun end. Please wear a life jacket to help ensure you return home alive and encourage your buddy to wear one too. Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns. Learn more at PleaseWearIt.com.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 250 million visits per year. With 90 percent of these recreation areas within 50 miles of metropolitan areas they provide a diverse range of outdoor activities close to home and to people of all ages.

(USACE Press Release)



New England District team responds to coworker's emergency

History has shown that team members of the New England District readily respond to emergencies anywhere, anytime. The situation could be an earthquake recovery all the way across the country, or it could be as close as a few cubicles away.

In the late afternoon on Aug. 15, a member of the Contracting team experienced a medical emergency that caused her to collapse in her work area.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to me before," said the team member. "Just a couple of minutes before, I was speaking with Julio (Hall) about some year-end work and I sent out an e-mail. Suddenly, I felt very unwell and the next thing I knew I woke up in the Emergency Room."

Not long after Hall and his coworker discussed year-end work and Hall returned to his cubicle, he heard noises. "I heard something strange and at first I was like 'what is that?'" he said. "When I heard it again, I went to investigate."

According to Hall, he returned to the team member's cubicle and found her passed-out on the floor.

Hall, who recently retired from the U.S. Army with 22 years of service, is trained in combat lifesaving and C.P.R. Although he said his adrenaline was high, he did not let emotions get in the way. He quickly cleared her mouth and stabilized her while yelling for someone to call 911.

Contracting Chief Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, also working late to meet year end deadlines, heard Hall's shouts for help and called 911. Hall's voice carried over to Information Management, bringing Chief Greg Lantz and contractor Steve Wall to the scene. Lantz dialed the emergency Concord Park Medical Response Team, bringing first responders George Claflin, Sheila Harvey, and Kane Turmelle to assist. Coral Silgato happened to be in the area and responded. Engineering Chief Frank Fedeale also was on hand to watch for the paramedics and the Concord Police who were on the scene within minutes.

The team, most of who have been previously prepared to respond to an emergency, notified the guard on duty, Roudi Clerge, who raised the barriers for the paramedics and police.

Team members brought the AED, cleared the area in the team member's cubicle, kept all bystanders away and escorted paramedics and police to the patient. All the while, Hall kept her calm and reassured as she slipped in and out of consciousness.

"My adrenaline was high, when I heard 911 being called



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. William Conde presents Julio Hall with an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

and the others coming to help, the stress went way down," said Hall. "Everyone was calm and the New England District team was prepared. The situation could have been worse."

"The efforts of the team contributed greatly to a positive outcome during this medical emergency," said Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy. "The impact of Mr. Hall's efforts and presence of mind cannot be overstated."

Col. William Conde, District Commander, assisted by Deputy Commander Maj. Sonny Avichal, held an awards ceremony for the response team, Aug. 10. "I wanted to give you my personal thanks for going above and beyond helping one of our family members at a time when she wasn't feeling well," said Col. Conde. "I know you would do it for anyone. On behalf of the District, thanks for what you did."

Hall received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for "exceptional service during a workplace medical emergency," read Maj. Avichal. "Mr. Hall's unhesitating selfless service and willingness to help his teammates sets an example for all to follow."

Winston-Vincuilla, Lantz, Harvey, Wall and Clerge all received Bunker Hill plaques in appreciation for their contributions to the successful response. Claflin, Silgato and Turmelle were not present at the ceremony, but also received Bunker Hill plaques.



A clamshell dredge performs maintenance work in Boston Harbor.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Joint Massport, Corps ceremony celebrates the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project

To kick off the beginning of the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, and members of his staff gathered with Congressionals and members of state and local agencies, Sept. 15, for a ceremonial event in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Navigation improvements from this project will increase the efficiency for harbor operations and reduce tidal delays for larger vessels.

The event began with a tour of a dredging vessel. Col. Conde and his staff briefed Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and a small group of other participants on the dredging project and observed dredge operations in action. When the group returned from the tour, Col. Conde, elected officials and key port stakeholders signed a propeller to celebrate the start of the project.

A speaking program followed the propeller signing. After an introduction

by Massport Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Thomas Glynn, Col. Conde explained the project to event participants. "About 11.6 million cubic yards of silt, sand and clay and 400,000 cubic yards of rock will need to be removed to deepen the channels," he said. "We anticipate the deepening work will start in the spring of 2018 and

be completed late in 2022."

Other speakers at the event supporting the project were Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Governor Baker, Massport CEO Thomas Glynn and head of the Kraft Group International Forest Products, Daniel Kraft.



Col. William Conde, District Engineer, delivers his remarks during the kick off celebration.

Boston Harbor is New England's largest port, serving as the principal distribution point for the export and import of commerce for Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The project will deepen the Broad South North Entrance Channel to 51 feet; the President's Roads, the outer Main Ship and the Lower Reserved Channels to 47 feet; the Main Ship Channel between the Reserved Channel and Massport Marine terminal to 45 feet and the Chelsea River and a small portion of the Mystic River Channels to 40 feet. The project will help the larger vessels navigate in and out of the harbor. "The recommended plan involves placement of all dredged material and rock at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site," said Project Manager Matt Tessier. "However, it is the policy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use dredged material, where practicable, for beneficial use."

According to Tessier, the District will investigate uses of rock for offshore reef creation and shore protection. The dredged material may have beneficial use as well. "Use of the dredge material to cap the former Industrial Waste Site in Massachusetts Bay also will be investigated in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others."

Tessier said that none of the possible beneficial uses should increase the project costs.

Col. Conde said that the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 authorized the Improvement deepening of Boston Harbor for construction. The authorization includes deepening and widening of existing channels throughout the harbor from Broad Sound North Channel to Conley Terminal as well as potential future improvements to the upstream Mystic and Chelsea River channels. According to Col. Conde, this project will contribute significantly to the economic efficiency



Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker receives a briefing by Col. William Conde and Project Manager Matt Tessier during the tour of the dredging vessel.

of commercial navigation in the New England Region. "This project has been a long time in the making, and I'm thrilled that we can all be here to celebrate that we're going to deepen Boston Harbor so it can remain competitive and be a vital hub for ocean freight for all of New England," he said. "This project would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the partners involved, especially Massport and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The non-federal sponsors, Massport and MassDOT will contribute \$120 million, while the federal government will pay \$210 million to

complete the project. Col. Conde said that industrial, commercial fishing, and recreational vessels all use the harbor. This project will go a long way toward supporting the needs of the city of Boston, the region and the state in meeting the growing navigation requirements to remain competitive within the navigation industry.

"This improvement deepening will make Boston Harbor more competitive in the navigation business, allowing larger container ships to dock at Boston facilities," said Col. Conde. "This will be a major boost for Boston, the Commonwealth and the region."



Col. William Conde joins federal, state and local officials in signing a propeller to mark the project's start.



Bobber hi-fives a young participant during Bobber's trip to the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center.

Photos by Edward Buczek

Bobber the Water Safety Dog Returns

by **Jess Levenson**
Public Affairs Office

After a demanding nation-wide tour, the Corps of Engineers' star mascot Bobber the Water Safety Dog returned to the Cape Cod Canal Visitors Center in Sandwich, Massachusetts, July 25, to help save lives in New England.

Bobber is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Safety Program's ideal spokes dog. He travels the country performing the impossible, no, not walking on his hind legs, but impressing watersafety upon audiences of all ages.

Bobber joined Park Rangers Samantha Gray and Elisa Carey at the Canal Visitors Center. The Rangers don't have a popular animated web-series like Bobber, but together they are vital to the Corps' water safety efforts ensuring proper safety measures are put into practice.

"The Corps is the nation's leading

provider of water-based recreation, but sadly, people are getting hurt while taking advantage of available water recreation activities," laments Gray.

"That's where Bobber and the Corps Water Safety Awareness Program come in."

Scores of guests streamed through



Park Ranger Samantha Gray shows a child how to put on a life jacket as Bobber the Water Safety Dog nods his approval.

the Cape Cod Canal Visitors Center, commenting on the assorted galleries and simulators, and climbing aboard a full-size tug on exhibit.

The loneliest display in the whole room was the life-jackets. Rangers Gray and Carey waited patiently until a family sidled over. Carey slipped away as Gray introduced herself.

The parents admitted their ignorance and the risk of letting their kids on the water without proper water safety knowledge. Ranger Gray stroked her chin, snapped her fingers, and cried, "Oh, Bobber!"

A mammoth golden retriever, wearing a giant life-vest, came bounding out of nowhere! The family's mouths hung agape. "Bobber, can you explain to these kind folk why water safety education is so important?"

"Woof, woof, roof!" Bobber boomed, wiping his paws together.

"Everybody wants to go home to their families," Gray translated. "Plain and simple."

Another wide-eyed young family showed up. "How can we enjoy the

water when our kids are so young?"

"Roof, rup-rup, woof!" Bobber cried, miming a front crawl.

"Aha! Bobber's Four Golden Rules of Water Safety!" announced Gray. "One: learn to swim well."

"Arf-arf, bark, arf!" Bobber continued, holding a paw flat over his head. "Two: Don't swim in water over your head." Bobber nodded with his tail wagging. He pulled Ranger Gray to his side and yowled deeply.

"Three: always have an adult with you! And number four is my favorite: always wear a personal flotation device!"

Bobber's tail revved and his tongue rolled around like it was about to fall off! Drawn to the excitement, more astonished families arrived.

"Bobber, how can you make such a serious subject fun?" asked one.

Gray stepped in. "I'll handle this one, big guy," she said. "We play games, of course! 'Reach, Throw - Don't Go!,' 'Dunk-a-Ranger,' 'Cold Hand Luke,' or the classic 'Does it Fit?' who wants to play that one right now?"

A little girl's hand shot up. Ranger Gray and Bobber strapped her in the smallest life-vest available.

"It's like Cinderella's slipper!" she giggled.

"Last question!" Sam warned. The session was coming to a close.

"What's it like travelling the country spreading your message?"

Ranger Sam's daughter, Penelope, parted the crowd and handed Bobber a drawing of them together on the tug boat. Bobber yipped and danced.

"Bobber gets to spend time with people he cares about," concluded Gray. "He couldn't have a better job in the world."

For more information, please visit:

- Bobber's website - <http://bobber.info/>.

- The Water Safety Program website - http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/.

- The Cape Cod Canal Visitors Center website - <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Cape-Cod-Canal/>.



Bobber and his friend Penelope Gray tour the tug boat at the Cape Cod Visitor's Center. The pair wear life jackets, just as they would if they were boarding a vessel on the water.

Herlihy says goodbye to New England District, hello to Fort Bragg

Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy, Deputy Commander, New England District packed up the family, the horses and the golf clubs to set out on his new adventure at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he will serve as Battalion Commander. Before he could leave New England District territory, team members held a farewell get-together in the Concord Park Cafeteria, Sept. 11. Many New England District team members past and present crammed into the crowded event to wish Lt. Col. Herlihy well and let him know how much they would miss him.

While the team drank punch and munched on cake and cookies, Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, hosted a brief awards ceremony in his honor. "These farewells are kind of bittersweet because generally three years is the max any time a green-suiter is anywhere," he said. "But as you know we cover a lot of ground and meet a lot of people, create a lot of friendships and Dan has certainly done that in the last two years."

Col. Conde said that he has done many transitions to different organizations in the last 23 years and by far the transition to the New England District has been the best, thanks in large part to Lt. Col. Herlihy. He said that Lt. Col. Herlihy made him feel welcome from the beginning and gave him many details that he needed to get familiar with the District and the mission. "On behalf of the entire District and all our partners out there across the District, thank you for all you've done," he said. "I wish you the best of luck entering what will probably be your best job in the Battalion Command down in Fort Bragg for the next few years."



Col. William Conde presents Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy with a gift from the New England District team during the goodbye reception.



Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy cuts his goodbye cake during his reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy

The District Commander presented Lt. Col. Herlihy with the Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional and meritorious service while serving as the New England District Deputy Commander June 30, 2015 to Sept. 13, 2017. Col. Leon Parrott, Deputy Commander, North Atlantic Division signed the award. "His extraordinary leadership, positive attitude and superb work ethic ensured the New England District's success during complex military and civil work and environmental missions," read Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management.

Acone presented Lt. Col. Herlihy with a Concord Minuteman Statue on behalf of the District.

Lt. Col. Herlihy expressed gratitude for the many people who came to say goodbye. "I strongly feel that time is our most precious resource and the fact that you have given up your time to stand in line and spend some time with me today, especially during fourth quarter, really means a lot to me, so thank you," he said. "Thank you also to all the retirees who made the trip in to come and see me. I really appreciate that."

He thanked the audience for teaching him a lot about the Corps over the past two years. He said that his father asked him what he learned while he was at the New England District, and Lt. Col. Herlihy narrowed it down to just the "very important items," that he learned. Some of the critical life lessons to live in New England included: "Using a turn signal out on 128, not I-95, but 128 is a sign of weakness," "Pound for pound the Piping Plover is the most ferocious bird in the Avian Community" (said tongue in cheek) and



Col. William Conde awards Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy with the Meritorious Service Medal.

"Fruit fly traps do not work."

Lt. Col. Herlihy said that one of the more important things he learned while at the New England District is, "The gruff, Yankee exterior is just a very thin façade," he said. "It doesn't take long when you interact with folks on a personal level to know that just below the surface there are a lot of folks here that would give you the shirt off their back, willing to dig in and row hard and do whatever it takes to accomplish the mission."

Lt. Col. Herlihy said that he thought the team embodies the tradition of Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief of Engineers. "I've always enjoyed the opportunity when I could present someone with a Bunker Hill certificate because we really still serve in the tradition of those first engineers for our Army," he said. "The fact is that people will always remember the Battle of Bunker Hill and General George Washington and General Putnam and the 'don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes' and all the lore and legend that goes with that. However, they don't always remember the engineers that set the conditions for our Army to have a success."

According to Lt. Col. Herlihy, the Army Engineers were the most powerful military of the day and they were laboring through the night doing pick and shovel work, not for praise and not in the spotlight.

"In many ways that's what we do here today," he said. "It's not in the spotlight, it's pick and shovel work and not glamorous but we are doing things that protect our nation, set our military up for success, set our economy up for success, protect our generations of children and grandchildren from an environmental standpoint."

Lt. Col. Herlihy said that the New England District team does it all as quiet professionals. "I think Col. Barron

mentioned it at his retirement," he said. "The vast majority of soldiers may never know what the true impact of what the Corps does for them on a daily basis. I'm thankful that I know and I can share that fraternity of quiet professionals with that pride in a job well done. It was an honor to serve with you."

After Lt. Col. Herlihy addressed the audience, others got up to say a few words. Col. (Ret.) Christopher Barron traveled to Concord to honor his former Deputy. He told a joke about all of the Deputy's pets. Acone explained that every time Lt. Col. Herlihy would deploy, a new pet would appear in his home. "First it started out with a goldfish and progressed to a horse during his last deployment," he said.

Lt. Col. Herlihy said he recently got a second horse and both will be accompanying the family to their next assignment. "What could go wrong with that?" he asked.

Col. Barron said he enjoyed working with Lt. Col. Herlihy and wished him well.

Gary Morin, sporting sunglasses, represented Programs and Project Management. He said he wanted to acknowledge his tour of duty at the District. He said that the PPM was glad to help him learn about the Corps of Engineers. He awarded him a handmade, fluffy purple heart as the audience laughed. "We know that you had a lot of pain and suffering at times and probably took a lot of bullets for the District all at the hands of our former DE," he said. "This award is to recognize that."

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Bill Scully attended Lt. Col. Herlihy's goodbye. Other retirees who attended were Col. (Ret.) Christopher Barron and Jerry Nunziato.



Lt. Col. Daniel Herlihy receives a Concord Minuteman Statue as a gift from the New England District team.

Karalius retires after 32 years of federal service

Jack Karalius, Navigation Branch, made the decision to retire after 32 years of federal service. Friends, co-workers and retirees gathered in the Concord Park Cafeteria, July 27, for a pizza lunch to remember his distinguished career and to wish him well.

Ed O'Donnell, Chief, Navigation Branch, hosted the event. He introduced the retirees who came to welcome Karalius into the District's retirement community.

O'Donnell also recognized special guests Geoff Stedman and Tony Mobilia of the Connecticut Harbor Management Commission who made the trip to Concord Park to thank Karalius for his service.

O'Donnell talked about Karalius' early career. After graduating from Rutgers, he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam era and served at CRREL.

After his time in the U.S. Army, Karalius went to work for engineering firms Stone and Webster and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Using the GI Bill, he was able to earn advanced degrees both at Bentley and Northeastern University.

Karalius came to the District in 1985, according to O'Donnell, starting in Regulatory and then working in Construction before ending up in Navigation. O'Donnell said while working in Navigation, he had to deal with many people with various personality types.

O'Donnell said Karalius always acted professionally and treated everyone with courtesy. "He never said a bad word about anyone," said O'Donnell. "Everyone said he was the nicest guy they ever met."

Scott Acone spoke next. He had some stories about Karalius, particularly about his enormous sweet tooth. "One of his favorite days of the year was All Saint's Day, the day after Halloween, because to Jack it was



Jack Karalius and his wife, Cindy, cut the retirement cake during his celebration.

Photo by Brian Murphy

'Extra Candy Day,'" he said.

Acone said he would often find Karalius' trash barrel filled with empty Halloween candy wrappers. Acone said Karalius also enjoyed the annual New England District Pie Fest. As a parting gift, Acone presented Karalius with some boxes of candy. He also awarded Karalius with the "King of Chocolate" certificate for his excellence in chocolate tasting.

With his unofficial presentation concluded, Acone presented Karalius with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, his retirement certificate and a Bunker Hill plaque.

O'Donnell had several gifts to give Karalius from the audience to include a book entitled, "How to Retire, Happy Wild and Free," and a Tom Brady T-Shirt.

Wendy Gendron continued the gift giving by presenting Karalius with a Fitbit Fitness Tracker. Karalius wife, Cindy, accompanied him to the lunch and presented him with books entitled, "You're Only Old Once," and "101 Fun Things To Do In Retirement."

Karalius also received a Harley Davidson T-Shirt, representing his love of riding motorcycles. Cathy LeBlanc presented him with coffee. Gary Morin complimented LeBlanc's gift with a New England District coffee mug. Probably

needing something a little stronger than coffee after a busy day watching his granddaughters, Karalius received several packages of drink mixes and a set of margarita glasses.

Stedman and Mobilia said they go back about 17 years working with Karalius on various harbor projects. They presented him with a framed picture of Norwalk Harbor and Stedman read a letter that acknowledged Karalius' many years of service and thanked him for a job well done.

Karalius thanked both men for traveling all the way from Connecticut to be at his lunch and that he would miss all of his Connecticut projects.

Karalius reminisced about his early days at the District. He acknowledged O'Donnell and Judy Antonellis for putting together his lunch and O'Donnell for saying nice things about him.

After Karalius finished speaking, the retirement party concluded with cake and a chance for the audience to congratulate Karalius and say goodbye.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Bill Scully attended Karalius' retirement.

Other retirees who traveled into Concord Park were Greg Buteau, Kathy Bucciarelli, Bill Haines, Forrest Knowles, Bill McIntyre, Bob Meader, Bill Mullen, Rich Roach and Brian Valiton.



An event organizer addresses participants before the triathlon.

Photos by Alicia Lacrosse



Attendees gather at the starting line of the triathlon.



Swimmers complete the swimming portion of the triathlon.

Surry Mountain Lake hosts local 'Give Peace a Tri' Triathlon

The team at Surry Mountain Lake in New Hampshire collaborated with local nonprofit organizations Mother's Unity and the Sustainability Project to host the annual "Give Peace a Tri" Triathlon, July 13 at the Corps project. Hundreds of people turned out for the event. "The purpose of the triathlon is to support the Sustainability Project mission and to support the MoCo Arts Yoga for Peace Project," said Park Ranger Alicia Lacrosse. "The Corps issued a Special Use Permit for this event. Park Rangers assisted event organizers as needed and maintained park facilities and restrooms."

According to Lacrosse, the triathlon consisted of swimming a quarter mile, biking eight miles and running 3.1 miles. "The first racer finished just under an hour, but the

whole event from start to finish went from 7-11 a.m.," she said.

Mothers Uniting has been hosting this triathlon at Surry Mountain for the past 12 years. "Some sort of triathlon has been held annually at Surry Mountain for over 20 years," said Lacrosse.

The event was open to the public if they previously registered for the event. Park Rangers Lacrosse and Laura Hays worked during the triathlon.

Surry Mountain provides recreational opportunities such as fishing, swimming and boating to 58,000 visitors annually. The project was completed in 1941 at the cost of \$2.8 million. Since its construction the dam has prevented damages estimated at \$149.5 million.

Dredging up the past



Carol Longnecker, Safety, demonstrates a piece of equipment during a safety demonstration at the Murphy Federal Center in this circa 1980's 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