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BUILDING STRONG®



USACE Command Sergeant Major visits
New England District
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Yankee Voices



Congratulations

...to **Capt. (P) Giancarlo Rindone** has been selected for promotion to Major. This is a testament to his excellent performance and his potential for future service to the Army and the nation.

Sympathy...

...to **Joe Zanca**, Operations Division, on the passing of his mother, Rhea Zanca, Oct. 7.

...to the family of Real Estate retiree, **Ray Cottengaim**, who passed away Sept. 28.

Mr. Cottengaim served his country honorably in the U.S. Army from 1966-69. He went on to work as a Realty Specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers retiring in 2007.

His obituary can be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/raymond-cottengaim-obituary?id=36682557>.



Drew Cattano speaks with the media during a tour of New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.

Photos by Bryan Purtell

Media event held at New Bedford Hurricane Barrier

By Elizabeth Gosselin
Chief, Public Affairs Office

In keeping with Hurricane Preparedness Month, PAO's Bryan Purtell arranged for media outlets to tour the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier in New Bedford, Massachusetts and ask questions. John MacPherson, Cape Cod Canal Manager, and Drew Cattano, barrier manager for both the New Bedford and Fox Point Hurricane Barriers, led media on the tour and provided information on the barrier.

The visit went well and proved extremely insightful for the reporters. Cattano discussed regular maintenance for the barrier, the engineering aspects of how the barrier works, and the history of the project. MacPherson shared details of the coordination USACE conducts with partners, emergency departments and city officials for monitoring storms and surges, and criteria for deciding to close the barrier. The reporters were very impressed with the operations and enjoyed speaking with Cattano and MacPherson.



Commander's Corner: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). It recognizes and celebrates the contributions of people with disabilities to the American economy and workplace. This year's theme is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation." President Joe Biden's proclamation can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/09/30/a-proclamation-on-national-clean-energy-action-month-2022/>.



We started recognizing the accomplishments of the disabled in 1945 when Congress set aside the first week of October for "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The "physically" was deleted in 1962 to include those with all types of disabilities. The observance expanded to a month in 1988 and the name changed to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Many important laws have been enacted since then to try to level the playing field for those with disabilities. The

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its Sections 501 and 508 was the first major legislative effort to secure equal rights. You can read about the act and why it's important here: <https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/National-Disability-Employment-Awareness-Month.cfm>.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act. This law guarantees individuals with disabilities equal opportunity in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, telecommunication and transportation - <https://www.prentrom.com/caregivers/the-american-with-disabilities-act>.

A presentation on the significance of NDEAM can be found here: <https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/upload/disability-employment-awareness-month-presentation.pdf>.

The New England District Team is made up of people with different abilities. Everyone who is part of our District brings something to the table. Diversity brings unique ways of thinking and problem solving.

Diversity makes us strong. I invite you to join me this month in celebrating our disabled team members' outstanding contributions to our organization.

What we do for our region and our nation is important and I am proud of the work you do every day. I admire and appreciate our disabled team members who overcome challenges unique to them in order to help us accomplish our mission and deliver the program.

Thank you

Dear Colonel Atilano,

I want to thank you and your staff for their extraordinary efforts assisting the Navy by awarding the contract to support dredging in the Kennebec River. In particular, I would like to share my appreciation of the support your Contracts Department and the Navigation Section of the Programs and Project Management Division, Civil Works/ Interagency & International Services Branch provided. Not only did your team assist the Navy in identification of increased shoaling, your staff worked tirelessly and awarded the dredge contract well in advance of all anticipated time lines. I am grateful for the professionalism and skill of your team as well as their dedication to getting the job done, even during the rush of end of fiscal year obligations.

Their efforts directly support two critical shipbuilding milestones for the DDG 120: acceptance trials and sail away. Your teams' diligence has helped to minimize impact to Navy operational schedules and eventual certification for deployment. Further, through their dedication to achieving our goals, we are able to avoid additional, significant costs to the Navy. The persistence and commitment of your people truly displayed the can-do "ESSAYONS" spirit of the Army Corps in providing this service to the Nation.

Capt. David T. Hart
U.S. Navy



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint (right) poses with Hopkinton teammates during his site visit.

Photos by Brian Murphy

USACE Command Sergeant Major visits New England District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sergeant Major Patrickson Toussaint traveled to the New England District Sept. 20-22 for a site visit. While at the District he toured the Concord Park Headquarters, Operations projects in the Naugatuck and Merrimack River Basins, at the District's resident offices at Westover Air Reserve Base and the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

On the first day of his visit, Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint served as District Commander, Col. John Atilano II's guest during his monthly coffee hour, Sept. 20. During the hour, Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint talked about mission priorities, answered questions and recognized some of the New England District Team for their exceptional service for USACE.

He awarded his special Command Sergeant Major coins to Benjamin Hoell, Contracting; James Newman and Megan Cullen, both from Engineering;

Sally Rigione, Public Affairs; and Douglas Fransioli, Emergency Operations.

During his time at Concord Park Headquarters, Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint also met with Senior Leaders and members of the District's

Leadership Development Program.

Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint started his packed second day by traveling to Connecticut to meet with the Naugatuck River Basin team. He stopped at Hop Brook Lake and Thomaston Dam and received tours



Col. John Atilano and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint speak with audience members during the Commander's Coffee.

of both projects. Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint presented coins to Amanda Lange, Steven Patchkofsky, and David Skaret to thank them for their service to the District. From Naugatuck, Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint finished his day by visiting the Westover Resident Office Team at Westover Air Reserve Base. Before leaving, he presented Joseph Currier, Brett Lord and Fred Pike with coins.

The final day of Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint's visit to New England brought him up to New Hampshire to tour the laboratory at CRREL. After meetings and lunch with CRREL team members, Command Sgt. Maj. Toussaint presented coins to Lyle Seethaler, and Sophie Seace.

His last stop was the Merrimack River Basin and a tour of the Hopkinton-Everett Lakes project. Before heading back to USACE Headquarters, he presented coins to Brad Clark and Jennifer Rockett.



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint presents Bradley Clark with one of his special coins.



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint and Col. Atlano meet with members of the Leadership Development Program.



Command Sgt. Patrickson Toussaint (right) was Col. John Atlano's (middle) special guest during this month's Commander's Coffee. While there, he passed out some of his special coins to individuals for their outstanding work performances.



Inspectors examine Surry Mountain Lake

**Story and photo by Bryan Paul
Engineering Division**

On the Spillway Bridge at Surry Mountain Lake, structural engineers perform a hands on inspection of Fracture Critical Members (FCMs) using an Under Bridge Inspection Vehicle (UBIV) provided by and operated by Intech Contracting.

Per Federal Highway Administration requirements public bridges with FCMs require a hands on inspection every 24 months. With New England District's bridge inventory this keeps the structural engineers busy!

From left to right Eddie Mahoney (Structural Engineer Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, New England District), AJ Moore (Intech Contracting), and Bryan Paul (Bridge Safety Program Manager, Structural Engineer Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, New England District).



Col. John Atilano presents Mark Habel with a Bronze de Fleury medal.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Scott Acone and Craig Martin present Mark Habel with a gift.



Erika Mark presents Mark Habel with photos during his retirement ceremony.



Col. John Atilano presents Mark Habel with his Bronze de Fleury certificate.

Mark Habel retires with 44 years of service

Mark Habel, Navigation project Manager and District Technical Expert for Navigation, Planning Division, retired with 44 years of federal service. A retirement ceremony was held Oct. 5 in the Concord Park Cafeteria followed by a celebration at Nosh by Concord Market in Concord, Massachusetts.

About 35 people attended the retirement ceremony and 54 people attended the after event. During the official ceremony, speakers included Col. John A. Atilano II, New England District Commander, John Kennelly, Christopher Hatfield, Erika Mark, Jen Thalhauser, Wendy Gendron and Craig Martin. Col. Atilano awarded Habel with a Bronze de Fleury medal for his many years of faithful service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. He also received a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for outstanding performance as a New England District Navigation Project Manager and District Technical Expert for Navigation from September 1978 to September 2022.

"Mr. Habel distinguished himself as a leader and Civil Works Planner through his dedication, professionalism, and integrity in the performance of his duties," read Kennelly as Col. Atilano presented him the award. "Throughout his career, he successfully led the navigation improvement and maintenance efforts for numerous projects throughout the New England region."

After the official ceremony, well-wishers made their way to Nosh where more speakers and acknowledgements awaited. Speakers included Bob Boeri from the Massachusetts

Coastal Zone Management Agency, Jeanie Brochi from the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Acone and Mark's wife, Beverly Habel.

Presenters gifted Habel with a framed picture of Christmas Cove in Maine, a rivet from one of the Cape Cod Canal bridges, a framed flag that was flown from one of the Cape Cod Canal bridges, National Park Pass, a Survey Marker installed at Kennebunk Federal Navigation Project in Kennebunk/Kennebunkport, Maine marked as "HABEL" and a dinner cruise on a sailboat in Maine.

Guests at Nosh included Dr. Drew Carey, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Mike Misslin, Massachusetts Dept of Conservation & Recreation and his wife, Jane, and New England District retirees Bill and Sue Holtham, Jay Mackay, Forest Knowles, Bob Meader, Ed O'Leary, Joe Bocchino, Bob Casoli, Mike Walsh, John Garabedian, Stephen Kelly, Judy Antonellis, Ed O'Donnell, Jack Karalius, Dan Bradley and Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Cathy LeBlanc. Habel said he was grateful for all the acknowledgements.

"Thank-you to all those who helped send me off into retirement, and especially those who planned and executed this last farewell "project," he said. "Beverly and I enjoyed seeing and spending time with all of you. We appreciate the many cards and messages of best wishes on this new chapter in our lives and all the gifts and honors received. The friendships I have made over my years with the District mean a great deal."

Dredging up the past



New England District Commander, Col. Michael Pratt (left), and North Atlantic Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Jerry Sinn, present Chris Hatfield with the 1998 Planner of the Year award during a special town meeting in this October 20, 1998 photo.

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