



U.S. ARMY

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BUILDING STRONG®



New England District holds Motorboat Operator
Training and Testing courses at Buffumville Lake
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Yankee Voices

Col. John A. Atilano II
New England District Commander



New Dam Safety Manager

Congratulations to Laurie Gibeau who has been selected to serve as the District's next Dam Safety Program Manager.

She brings to this position 22 years of dam safety experience, including over 20 years in private industry.

Her breadth and depth of flood risk management in the realm of technical, managerial, and leadership experiences is impressive.

Besides her time leading multi-disciplinary design and evaluation teams, she has significant experience with emergency response oversight, and leadership in working with customers, environmental agencies, and federal and state dam safety regulators.

Words Worth Repeating

"Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."
- George Washington



Photos by Linnea Shirley

Col. John A. Atilano II salutes at the grave of Col. Richard Gridley, first Chief of Engineers after laying flowers and flags to commemorate the 248th year of the founding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The present honoring the past

Col. John A. Atilano, New England District Commander, marked the 248th founding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at Col. Richard Gridley's grave, the first USACE Commander and Chief of Engineers, in Canton, Massachusetts, June 16, by laying flowers and flags at the site.

Boston native Col. Gridley was named chief of engineer of the Massachusetts Volunteers during the Revolutionary War, and shortly thereafter, chief of engineer of the newly formed Continental Army by Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.

The fine tradition of service that began at Bunker Hill continues to this day. With our varied missions, both military and civilian, USACE and the New England District will continue to protect and serve the nation for many years in the future.

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District Commander: Col. 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: Linnea Shirley

Commander's Corner:

Pride Month 2023 - Equality Without Exception

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

June is Pride Month. This is the time to celebrate the work and accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ Community. It is also a call for greater unity, visibility, and equality for community members. This is in keeping with this year's theme, "Equality Without Exception."



The selfless and dedicated service of brave LGBTQ+ Army Soldiers and Civilians has made our military stronger and the nation safer. Throughout history, LGBTQ+ Soldiers and civilians have bravely served and defended our country, often despite personal challenges and barriers to their service.

For example, 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. And another -- In 1978, Army veteran Gilbert Baker designed the rainbow flag that serves as a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride.

Despite the challenges LGBTQ+ Army Soldiers and Civilians faced, their commitment to service has made our military stronger and the nation safer.

Acknowledging the contributions of the LGBTQ+ Community has evolved over the years since President Bill Clinton officially declared a Pride Month in 1999. Although the name of the observance has changed, the need to recognize the LGBTQ+ Community has not waived.

I am extremely proud of the fantastic contributions of our LGBTQ+ team members. I feel fortunate to work side by side with them and the rest of the team to accomplish our mission. The work you do is important to our region, our country, and our world. I appreciate you.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of negative news stories against the Community in the media lately. I can assure you that kind of behavior will not be tolerated here in the New England District. I stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ Community and I hope that you will do the same.

Celebrating several events during Army Heritage Month

June is a big month for the U.S. Army. We celebrate three special days that occur during Army Heritage Month – The U.S. Army's birthday and Flag Day on June 14 and our own Founder's Day on June 16.

This year, the Army celebrates 248 years of defending the nation. June 14 marks the date in 1775 when the Second Continental Congress established our Army. U.S. Army Soldiers and civilians have a proud legacy of supporting our nation and Army Heritage Month recognizes the achievements and contributions of our Soldiers, families and civilians.

I am very proud to be part of the Army and I thank those who are serving and who have served over the last 248 years. If you are interested in learning more, you can go here: <https://veteran.com/army-birthday/>. Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army!

June 14 is also Flag Day. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution for our flag's design. On this day, we showcase our patriotism and the shared Army values of the love of country and oaths to defend the American way of life. So, if you feel so inclined,

fly your American Flag with pride or wear red, white and blue to show your patriotism. Our flag has a rich history of its own and you can find out more by going here: <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagday.pdf>.

And finally, June 16 commemorates the founding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Happy birthday to us! I'll be speaking about our rich and storied history in detail during our Founder's Day awards ceremony and picnic on June 23. I'm really looking forward to seeing you there.

This is going to be my last Founder's Day as commander, so I'd like to see as many of you participate as possible so we may celebrate this great day together one last time. It's going to be a fantastic day, so join me in celebrating our team by recognizing length of service and other special awards. We'll also induct our latest Distinguished Civilian Gallery member. After the awards ceremony, there will be food and fun for all!

Please take some time this month to celebrate the U.S. Army and USACE. We are a part of an amazing organization, and you should be proud of the work that you do for New England and the nation.



Students take to the water for a swim test during the Motorboat Operator Training.

Photos by Linnea Shirley



A student puts out a fire during the fire suppression portion on the training.



Students and teachers line up for a photo during Motorboat Operation Training.



Trailing was covered extensively during the Motorboat Operator Training.

New England District holds Motorboat Operator Training and Testing courses at Buffumville Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District held a three-day long motorboat training for 11 team members and a one-day refresher for another 11 team members at Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Massachusetts. The three-day course was held June 12-14 and the refresher course took place on June 15.

ER 385-1-91 requires all USACE employees who operate USACE vessels up to 26 feet in length to complete training before they are licensed to operate a vessel. A refresher must take place every five years in order for operators to retain active motorboat operator licenses.

On the first day of the initial course, the morning was filled with topics that

included a safety briefing, pretest, required safety equipment, rules of the road, aids to navigation, Marlinespike, trailer and boat maintenance, and fire suppression. After lunch and a change into swimwear, the group worked on trailering in Buffumville's parking lot before ending the day with a personal floating device (PFD) swim test and in water self-rescue techniques.

The students continued trailering on the morning of Day 2, practicing launching and retrieving basics, before moving onto the maneuvering course. After lunch the students worked on close quarter maneuvering, docking, additional course maneuvers, and ended the day with water-based emergency procedures.

The final day of the three-day training included a trip to the Thames River in New London, Connecticut, where students worked on buoy ID, navigation, and additional close quarter maneuvering and docking. After lunch the class learned how to safely anchor, tow, and recover a vessel. Once back on shore the instructors held a course review session and then the three-day course concluded with a written post-test.

New England District's Motorboat Operator Courses are taught by an in-house Operations Division team. The instructors were Kane Turmelle, Timothy Russell, Steven Patchkofsky, John Asseng, Adam Durando, Nicole Giles, and Matthew Hackett.

Chief of Construction Sean Dolan retires

Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction, traded in his hard hat for a golf club after almost 36 years of service. To celebrate his distinguished career, 80 coworkers and retirees met him at the Chelmsford Elks Lodge in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, April 28 for lunch and an awards ceremony.

Ray Goff hosted the event with Scott Acone representing the Executive Office. Acone presented Dolan with his retirement certificate. Dolan also received the Superior Civilian Service Medal from Acone. According to the citation, Dolan distinguished himself as a leader and construction professional through dedication, professionalism and integrity in the performance of his duties. For more than three decades, he led the execution of countless construction projects and safety policy efforts across the North Atlantic region and during overseas deployments.

There was no shortage of speakers at the lunch. Allan Huntley, NAD Engineering and Construction Chief presented Dolan with a USACE Crystal Castle -- a tradition to present to NAD retiring Engineering and Construction Chiefs -- and read the retirement message from Pete Perez. Rich Doughty, Resident Engineer, Metro South Resident Office spoke and wished Dolan well on his retirement. Dave Margolis presented a framed USACE flag that was had been flown on the Keegan survey boat that included a picture of the vessel. Christine Johnson-Battista presented assorted personal gifts. Goff presented Dolan with a shirt from "Sean's Bar," the oldest bar in Ireland. John MacPherson gave Sean a Cape Cod Canal Marine Traffic Control hat and golf shirt, and U.S. flag that had been flown at the Canal.

Dolan's wife Michele, daughter Samantha and son Sean, Jr., accompanied him to the event. Good friends Rich and Rita Saville traveled



Photo by Brian Murphy

Allan Huntley, NAD Engineering and Construction Chief presents Sean Dolan with a USACE Crystal Castle during Dolan's retirement.

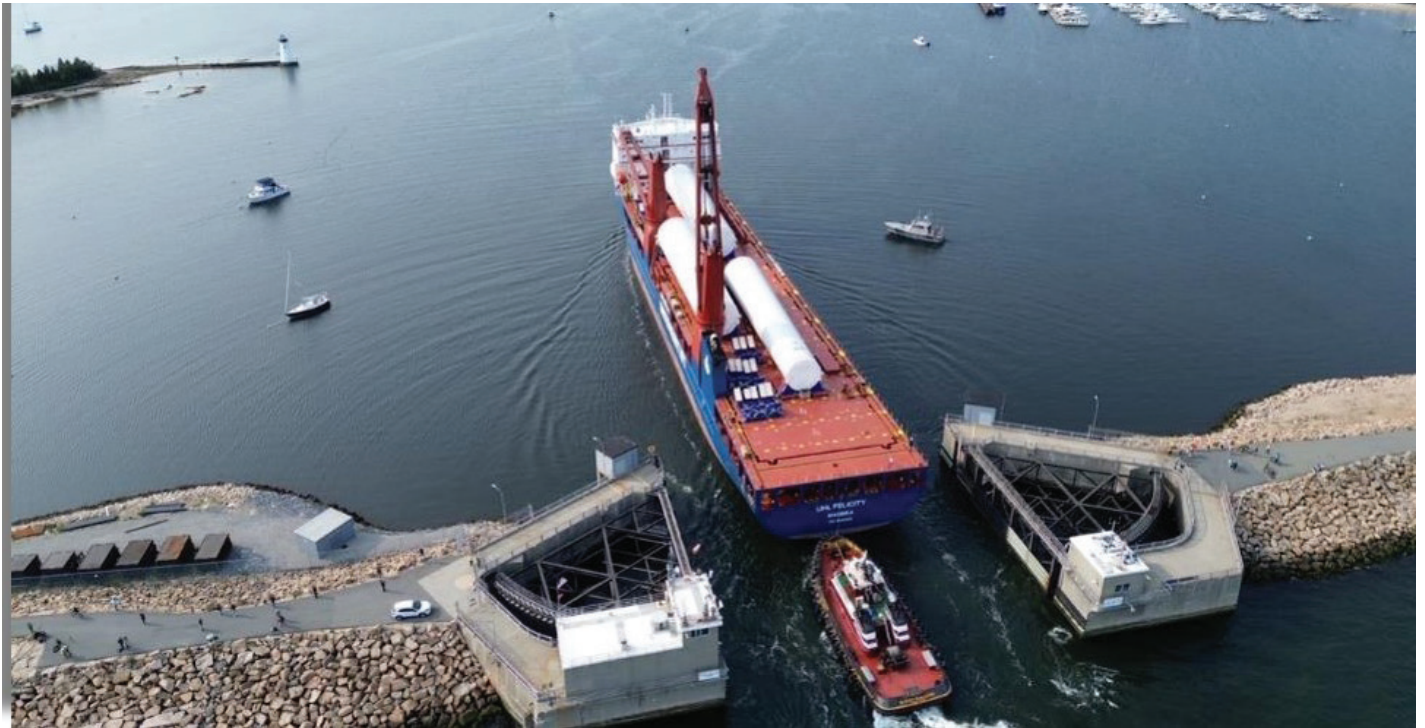
some distance to attend the retirement. Retirees who attended to welcome him into the retirement community were Sue Loubier, Jeff Perchak, Pat Devine, Chris Johnson-Battista, Paul Battista, Fran Donovan, Rhoda Caira, Ed O'Donnell, Sue MacDonald, Bob Meader, Greg Buteau, Bobby Byrne, and Mark Habel.

Sean Dolan joined the New England as a Department of the Army Engineering Intern in June 1987. After completing the Engineering Intern program, he took a position in the Construction Division as a project engineer. Early in his career he assisted FEMA on the San Francisco earthquake, Hurricane Bob and the 1991 Nor'easter. He worked on numerous small dredging and DERP projects, the Revere Beach Flood Reduction Project, the closure of the Former Naval Fuel Annex in East Boston, and the repainting of the Bourne Bridge. In December 1993 he joined the South Central Resident Office and worked for the next three years on the \$24 million Town Brook Tunnel Project in Quincy. Later he was the team leader managing the onsite construction for the \$7.5 million

Roughan's Point Flood Reduction Project in Revere and the \$10 million reconstruction of the Quincy Reservoir Dam in Braintree.

In December 2000, he accepted a position with the Europe District in Baumholder, Germany as a project engineer. In September 2002 he was promoted to resident engineer where he was responsible for managing a \$40 million annual construction program that included the geographically dispersed military communities in Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl and all NATO facilities in the Benelux. In July 2005 he returned to New England District as the Safety and Occupational Health Manager responsible for executing the District's safety and occupational health programs. In April 2006 Dolan deployed to Afghanistan for six months to support the USACE overseas contingency mission. In December 2009 he was promoted to Chief of Construction responsible for managing New England District's construction program and remained in that position until his retirement.

Dolan retired on April 30. He plans on golfing, traveling and spending time with his family during his retirement.



The FELICITY passes through the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier.

Vineyard Wind vessel passes through the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier

The Portuguese-flagged ship FELICITY which is 492 feet long and 84' wide, passed safely through the navigation gate opening in the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier on May 24. Weather conditions were near

optimal with light winds. This ship was the first heavy lift vessel to deliver massive parts of offshore wind turbines into New Bedford Harbor. FELICITY was expected to make repeated trips from Portugal to deliver parts of

Vineyard Wind's offshore wind turbines destined for installation 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard Island. Many more ships are coming that will deliver towers, blades, and rotor-generator assemblies. (SITREP submission)

West Hill Dam hosts Space2Thrive 5k event

With all the events and activities happening at its recreation site, West Hill Dam is the place to be for the summer.

On June 10, the team hosted the Space2Thrive annual 5k race. About 275 people, to include 92 registered race participants, made their way to the West Hill Woodland Trail for the event.

Space2Thrive is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing spaces and events where individuals with disabilities and their families can access recreational opportunities and participate in adaptive sports.

"Racers stayed to the Orange Blazed east side of the river, below the park, to the dam, through the grassland habitat and back to the Park," said Park Ranger Viola Bramel.



West Hill Dam photo

Runners participate in Space2Thrive 5k event.

Bramel said mothers with strollers and two wheelchair participants had a slightly shorter run.

"It was a perfect Ranger Day where there were no injuries and all the runners came back safe," she said.

In addition to the race, participants could enjoy the park playground and water area.

"Space2Thrive had creative crafts and safety activities during and after the race," said Bramel.

This is West Hill Dam's second time hosting the event that attracts people as far away as Rhode Island to local track teams and high schoolers.

Project Manager Joe Zanca and Bramel staffed the event. They were assisted by regular West Hill Dam volunteers Bruce and Sue Pastorini, Robin and John Tobin-Andrews, Kathy and Ron Roberts, Linda Lestus, Janice Hains and Jeannie Heath.

Commemorating the Juneteenth National Independence Day

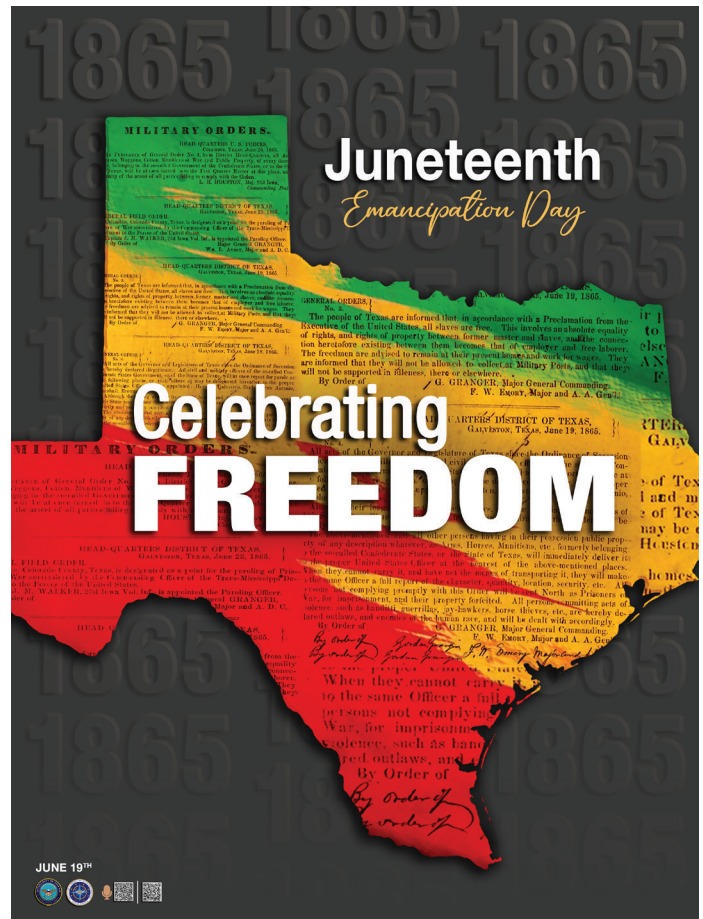
By Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, P.E., PMP
Deputy Commander, New England District

On June 19, we will be commemorating the end of slavery more than 150 years ago. Juneteenth represents victory over the institution of slavery and the beginning of the fulfillment of America’s promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for Black Americans. For many, Juneteenth is a “second” Independence Day, and it is important to recognize its significance.

A brief summary of the history of Juneteenth: While the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln legally freed slaves throughout the confederate states, the state of Texas resisted the proclamation for two years. The U.S. Army played a significant role in freeing 250,000 Black slaves in that state. When Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger assumed command over the Military District of Texas, he established military control and issued General Order Number 3 that formally enforced the provision of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas for the first time. The Juneteenth National Independence Day officially became a federal holiday in 2021.

There are many ways to commemorate Juneteenth. Here are a few ideas:

- Learn the History of Juneteenth – There is so much more. You can read more in depth and view videos by going here.



- Visit a museum
- Read books written by Black authors and poets [I purchased a Juneteenth book for my daughter as she loves reading before bed]
- Support Black-owned businesses

Congratulations...

... to the **North Atlantic Water Safety Team**. Water safety fatalities are down by almost 50% when compared to this time last year. In Fiscal Year 2022 to June 5, North Atlantic Division had one fatality in NAP. In Fiscal Year 2023 to June 5, NAD had no fatalities.

“I just wanted to thank all of you for the incredible work we have done in reducing water safety fatalities this year,” wrote Col. John A. Atilano II, New England District Commander in a note to the Water Safety Team. “This is because of your leadership. I especially want to thank Samantha Hutchins, and the entire Operations Division as you all are at the tip of the spear for this effort. Keep up the great work and remain vigilant!”

... to **Jenna Gustafson**, Counsel, for being awarded as one of the recipients for this year’s Joseph W. Kimbel

Award for Professional Potential! Please reach out to Jenna and congratulate her.

Named after Judge Joseph W. Kimbel who served in USACE with distinction for 43 years, this award recognizes an attorney who has demonstrated, over a period of one year or more, the highest potential for future legal achievement and who truly is a “Rising Star” in the USACE Legal Services Community.

Gustafson has mastered the legal subjects facing her district at a parabolic rate. She brings that interdisciplinary understanding of USACE to her practice of procurement law and litigation. She has dedicated herself to excelling at providing her clients with comprehensive advice in all procurement matters and zealously advocating on their behalf in both protests and contract disputes.

Dredging up the past



Michelle Abbott, Regulatory, teaches children about wetlands during the Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day in this May 1, 2018 Photo.