



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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If you think you were cold this last winter, take a look at the work that was being done at Lock and Dam 6 in Trempealeau, Wisconsin. Lock personnel had to cut through ice 3 feet thick in the upper gate bay (110 feet by 60 feet) with chainsaws and ice chisels. The resulting 200 pound blocks were then dragged away with ice tongs to clear the way for opening the upper miter gates. Fortunately, they usually aren't frozen open as seen in this photo. Anyone interested in a job reassignment?

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Protecting the natural environment ...across the nation

The Department of Defense and the Nature Conservancy have signed an agreement establishing a cooperative effort to identify, document and maintain local ecological balances on defense installations.

"The agreement will make it easier for military installations to work with The Nature Conservancy and state agencies to compile data on endangered or rare plants and animals existing on Department of Defense installations," said Christina Ramsey, Director of environmental planning in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Environment. "In addition, DoD will be able to access conservancy and states' data banks to improve and update their natural resources management plans."

Since 1978, each DoD installation has been required to manage the natural resources within its boundaries for multiple purposes and to describe how it will do that in an integrated natural-resources management plan.

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the best examples of rare and endangered species and natural communities by protecting the environment that sustains them. The organization collects and evaluates data and provides that information through a nationwide data base called the Heritage Program. The organization does not expend resources on litigation. Rather, it works to acquire land with ecological resources it feels need to be conserved.

Bob Chipley, director of the State Heritage Program, said the organization's data base includes three types of information: a list of each state's endangered plants and animals ranked according to how rare they are globally and in the state; a point location (almost to the foot) of endangered plants in each state; a point location (almost to the foot) of endangered plants in each state; a history of each rare and endangered species with information on how best to manage the remaining sources.

The cooperative agreement will make it easier for the conservancy to contract local scientists to study DoD lands and recommend how best to manage rare and endangered resources.

In addition, the updated information will be put in the conservancy data base. "In some cases," said Chipley, "we may make recommendations concerning the set-aside of certain lands containing rare species of plants and animals."

Several DoD installations have worked with the conservancy in the past. For example, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., which has been called an "ecological oasis in a desert of development," has developed a coastal-dune management plan. It protects a 55-mile stretch of important habitat along Southern California's coastline, including Vandenberg property and the conservancy's Nipomo Dunes nature preserve in nearby Santa Barbara County.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense for Environment William H. Parker III said the agreement "continues a long history of DoD's commitment to protect the environment and the natural resources entrusted to its care, while at the same time accomplishing its primary mission of national defense."

The agreement is expected to serve as a catalyst for efforts to manage DoD's natural resources in accord with the best and most current scientific information available, said Ramsey.

Story by Tom Joyce, American Forces Information Service

More than trouble-shooting

When we speak of *readiness*, most think of our soldiers boarding an Air Force transport enroute to some "trouble spot." This, however, is just one aspect of *readiness*. To achieve a state of *readiness*, the entire nation has to be involved. This is especially true for those in the engineering profession.

If tensions were to build towards military action, the country would initiate steps to mobilize for war. Ultimately, this could result in total mobilization of the Reserve components of our Armed Forces. For this to be accomplished, the construction of additional military facilities would be required and could involve every engineering element of the country. To gear up for combat, there would be a need to expand the nation's industrial base so that materials required for war are being produced in both the quantities required and on schedule. Again, the engineering profession would be involved in the design and construction of these facilities.

How would individuals become involved in 'readiness'?

Through a military connection - As a member of the Reserves or the National Guard, or as a veteran subject to recall, an engineer may be called on to serve in uniform as a military engineer supporting the military construction effort or within a troop unit.

Through federal employment - During a mobilization, the federal government would need to expand its staff of engineers to oversee construction and design efforts and to provide engineering services. Increased responsibility and potential advancement could act as an incentive for hiring-on with the federal government.

Through private employment - Engineering firms would be called upon to do work for the mobilization effort. In some cases, as occurred in WWII, entire firms may be hired to provide engineering services.

What changes will occur in the way our work is done now?

There would be significant changes in the engineering community as the country's priorities change from civil construction to military and defense industrial construction. Some projects would be terminated. Others would be expedited, both actions affecting the overall workload.

During an emergency situation, expediency takes precedence over permanence. The goal is to get the job done quickly to support immediate needs. Off-the-shelf plans and specifications would be used extensively. Expedient construction methods would be employed, as well as alternative designs and changes in existing uses. Long-term facility design requirements would not be called for in most cases.

Contracting procedures are streamlined during emergencies. Existing emergency regulations can be used during disasters. Letter contracts, Title II contracting for inspectors and expedited contracting procedures may be used. Requirements for approval or delegation of authority would be at the lowest management level.

What can I do now to be ready?

The most important action is to be aware of *readiness*, and to understand what will happen in the event of mobilization. Knowledge of the new procedures

and the type of work that will be required will help us respond quickly and effectively.

Along with a knowledge of potential requirements, we must be aware of the potential problems. Issues such as contractor liability, bid requirements and responsibilities should be addressed and discussed now. Although the answers may not be fully available, we will be on top of the situation when the time comes to respond.

How can I learn about 'readiness'?

The St. Paul District has a comprehensive Mobilization Plan. Review of this document will provide information on the Corps' role during a mobilization or natural disaster. The district conducted mobilization awareness training during 1987 for all employees. New employees will be scheduled for this training in the future.

In addition, most professional engineering organizations have programs for responding to emergency situations. The Association of General Contractors has an emergency mobilization plan for natural disaster situations. Each Society of American Military Engineers post has developed a Fast Start Plan, to prepare their members for responding to a mobilization.

By being aware and involved in *readiness*, Corps employees support the nation's capability to respond to any emergency situation.



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Crosscurrents

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Around the District

By Ken Gardner
Public Affairs Officer

Ah, what a strange place North Dakota is. Now, if ND has a special place in your heart, please don't take offense. I am commenting on the weather there, not judging the entire state.

And what compels me to comment on the weather (since we can't do anything about it)? Just this little fact: April 3rd will go down on record as the date that the Red River of the North flooded Breckenridge and Wahpeton, beginning a three-week floodfight.

Oh yes. April 3rd is also the day the St. Paul District terminated a contract to supply water to Edmore, ND, under drought emergency water supply authorities from last summer's drought. Where else could we be involved in a drought and flood on the same day?

Speaking (or writing) of being involved, some of our people are involved in new or temporary jobs.

Economist **Chuck Workman**, who is normally chief, Environmental Branch, is the acting deputy chief of Planning Division, filling in for **Dave Haumersen**, who left Planning when he was named the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management. And **Gary Palesh** has temporarily taken over Chuck's duties as chief of the Environmental Branch.

Over in Engineering Division, another Chuck is acting. This time it's **Chuck Spitzack** filling in as chief of Design Branch for the recently retired **Bob Fletcher**. And the toughest act of all, **Lynn Harris** is filling in for **Lt. Col. Mike Nelson** in the Executive Office following Nelson's retirement on May 31. Lynn will be spending part of his time in Personnel, part of his time in the Executive Office, and the rest wearing a path between the two until **Lt. Col. Mike Mahoney** gets here in July.

And while we are on the subject of leaving (we were, weren't we?), another district person has exercised his option to leave the district. **Scott Thureen**, of Small Projects and Flood Plain Management Branch, reports to a new job with the City of Bloomington on June 19th.

And finally, retiree **Carl Anderson** was honored on May 13 by friends and neighbors at his Minneapolis residence for his on-going literary efforts. Carl, who turned 93 in April, published a book last year called "Pursuits of Happiness."

He is reportedly now working a book recalling the history of his hometown, **Braham, Minnesota**.

And that's what's happening around the district this month.

Obituaries

Elmer Pierre, White Bear Lake, died on March 25, 1989, at the age of 82. Mr. Pierre worked in the fiscal branch of the St. Paul District from 1929-1970.

William T. Jensen, Grantsburg, Wisconsin, died April 29, 1989. Mr. Jensen worked on several survey jobs as well as construction projects in his years with the Corps.

Frank Daley, Minneapolis, died on April 18, 1989, at the age of 85. Mr. Daley worked on Lock and Dam's 5 and 5A during his 33 year career with the Corps, from 1932-1965. He was the author of "Profile of a Priceless Legacy", a book containing historical information on working for the Corps of Engineers, as well as his family's genealogy. "Profiles of a Priceless Legacy" is available from the Minnesota Historical Society and Hennepin County Historical archives, as well as the Minneapolis Public Library.

John DeFord, West St. Paul, died April 6, 1989 at the age of 83. Mr. DeFord was an attorney in the Office of Counsel from 1955 to 1970 and worked in several other districts including Omaha.

Lock-News-and-Qudos

Marvin Pedretti, Lockmaster at #10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, hosted 120 Clayton County officials and local mayors to a lock tour on May 16th.

Lockmaster **Robert Stahl** at St. Anthony Falls received a wonderful letter from the public regarding their service to pleasure boaters. The text reads as follows:

"Dear Lockmaster Stahl,

As a frequent pleasure boater of the Mississippi River from Minneapolis to Lake Pepin, I would like to say thank you to your and your team for the courtesy and understanding of the pleasure boaters.

The St. Anthony locks are, by far, the best example of positive public relations by the Corps. Always friendly, understanding and helpful are the marks of these locks.

While I recognize pleasure boaters are the last priority in lockage, of the many times I have locked through St. Anthony, I have never been made to feel unimportant or the 'last priority'.

Many of my fellow boaters have also commented on this positive attitude at the 'falls locks'. Thank you and keep up the good work."

...and in our own backyard

"There are two kinds of people in this world - the takers and the caretakers"
from *Centennial* by James Michener.

This is a small story about some small caretakers who got some fairly big recognition. Cub Scout Pack #86 of Deer River, Minnesota donated one of their prize, end-of-the-summer, just-before-school-starts Saturdays to ... pick up ... garbage?!? Yes, it's true.

When the waters of Lake Winnibigoshish dropped during the drought last summer, portions of shoreline below the dam and normally under water were exposed. Old tires, large chunks of metal and other pieces of debris were suddenly marring the landscape in a rather obvious way. It was then that summer Park Ranger Erik Petersen put out the call for volunteers, recognizing that the Corps did not have the additional manpower required. Pack #86 responded.

After a day of grubbing in the underbrush along the riverbanks, stuffing plastic bags with "untouchables" and dragging a canoe-cum-garbage barge, the cubs were rewarded with a weenie roast. To their and Cubmaster Jim Peterson's surprise, that turned out to be the least of their rewards.

A few month's later, the pack's clean-up effort was nominated by the St. Paul District for a North Central Division "Take Pride in America" award. The TPA program recognizes significant achievements on the part of the public in preserving and protecting (and in this case, cleaning up) the natural environment. Guess what - the cubs won! Major Chuck Rogers of Engineering Division presented the certificates of appreciation to the pack of excited, red-faced 8-10 year olds.

In the words of Jeff Kleinert, resource manager at Lake Winnibigoshish, "It's hard to describe the pride that was shown by the children receiving the awards, and by the parents who were attending the banquet of which we were a part - special people, special recognition, perhaps resulting in special stewardship by all visitors in the future."

Information supplied by Jeff Kleinert,
Resource Manager at Pokegama and
Winnibigoshish Lakes

Story by Joan Guilfoyle,
Public Affairs Specialist



Curt Hanson

"has been employed at the Lac qui Parle Project since 1967 and has served in an outstanding manner in various positions since that time ... He is a very valuable and highly regarded employee as well as a respected and admired citizen in his project area." Hanson was instrumental in the formation of the Lac qui Parle Lake Association, dedicated to its preservation and enhancement; and was the recipient of a Special Act Award "for initiative and foresight in utilizing surplus manpower and unusual dry conditions to accomplish major maintenance" (at the project).

Our Civil Servants of the Year

Selections have been made for the "Civil Servant of the Year" award program. St. Paul District winners are Dick Otto, CO-PO, in the executive category, John Bailen, ED-M, in the professional category and Curt Hanson, CO-PO, in the service category.

Each federal agency in the Twin Cities can nominate employees whose professional achievements exemplify the highest image for federal civil service. The purpose of the award program is to recognize employees who have demonstrated clearly exceptional performance in their basic day-to-day duties. Significant performance in public service and community affairs is also a factor. Consistent outstanding performance is accorded more weight than a single demonstration of ability in specialized parts of the whole job.

Members of the nominating committee for the St. Paul District were Bob Post, chief of Engineering Division; Lou Kowalski, chief of Planning Division; Lynn Harris, chief of Personnel; Bill Goetz, chief of Construction Operations Division; Lois Hawkinson, chief of Contracting Branch; and Russ Williams, chief of Resource Management.

Otto, Bailen and Hanson received their awards at the Federal Executive Board award luncheon on May 2. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was NASA astronaut Robert Cabana.

John Bailen

"As Project Manager of this \$200 million ... Major Rehabilitation Program for the locks and dams on the Mississippi River...he has done an excellent job of keeping the rehabilitation of the individual locks and dams and the entire program on schedule. Because of John's excellent management skills, he is able to individually manage a project which would normally take two or three project managers."



Dick Otto

"has provided excellent professional leadership in the area of resource and recreation management ... He is a true Civil Servant of the Year." The nomination includes information on Otto's achievements with an Eau Galle building project, as author of a training manual for employee development, as chairperson for the 1988 North Central Division resource conference, as chairperson of the Recreation Work Group of the Mississippi River Channel Maintenance Forum and the implementation of a shoreline management plan for the Mississippi River.



Readiness \ 'rēd-e-nes \ *n.* 1a: prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action b: prepared for immediate use. (from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

By Dave Christensen
Chief, Emergency Operations

I was approached recently by a new employee (an engineer) who asked, "I've been hearing the term *readiness*, but I don't really know what it means. Could you explain it?" That got me thinking. What does *readiness* mean to "young" employees of the Corps of Engineers, particularly engineers? What should it mean?

For individuals born since 1955, the odds are very good that they have had no personal experience with the military, unless they voluntarily joined up. People of this age, approximately 36 years today, represent the cutoff point of being too young to have served in the nation's

last conflict, the Vietnam War. Thus, they have no personal experience of terminology familiar to combat veterans: "national mobilization," "expanding the industrial base," "mobilizing forces," or "expedient military construction."

Not an easy answer

These facts made me realize that the question of "What does *readiness* mean?" would not be an easy one to answer. I started by reviewing what George Washington said during his first

annual address to Congress in 1798: "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." In a nutshell, this is what *readiness* is all about. Today, *readiness* equals deterrence. We deter conflict by being ready to respond, not just militarily, but as a nation homogeneous in our efforts. Additionally, *readiness* encompasses our ability to respond to natural disasters within the country.