



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 12 No. 10, October 1989

Meet me in St. Paul, Saul. Meet me at the Fair.



A large-scale aerial photograph of the Mississippi River from the St. Anthony Falls locks to Lock and Dam 2 at Hastings drew a lot of attention at the 1989 Minnesota State Fair Corps booth. Magnifying glasses helped bring items into sharper focus.



Lock and Dam Operator Tim Meers (right) explains how to use navigation charts to fair visitors.



Surprise visitor... Tom Oksness of Construction-Operations mugs it up with Governor Rudy Perpich.

Bits and Pieces

District employees **Matt Bray, Mary Change, Farley Hasse, Lisa Hedin, Tom Raster, Dan Reinartz, and Terry Engel** attended an HEC-2 training session September 19-21 along with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. The class, held at the Dakota County Technical College, was taught by Vern Bonner from the Corps Hydrological Engineering Center (HEC) in Davis, California, and featured guest lecturer **Randy Hills**, a St. Paul district hydraulic engineer. The session taught attendees how to use the HEC-2 Water Surface Elevation computer program, developed by HEC, and used for flood prediction and planning purposes.

Frank Star (CO-PO) attended the 1989 Boy Scouts of America National Scout Jamboree held from July 28-August 10. The Jamboree, only held every four years, was in Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia. Star staffed the Corps exhibit titled "The Great Illusion", along with 14 other Corps employees from around the nation. This exhibit, designed to instill pride, values, ethics and commitment to preserve and protect our public lands, was visited by 8,000 people, including **Chief of Engineers LTG Henry J. Hatch**.

Recent selections: **Bob Whiting**, chief of Environmental Branch, Planning Division; **Lois Hawkinson**,

acting chief of Contracting Division; **Jan Graham**, secretary, Engineering Division.

Vendors are needed for the district's annual **Holiday Bazaar/Boutique** to be held next month. Those interested in participating should contact **Lois Hawkinson** (220-0414) or **Mary Rivett** (220-0237) by October 15th, although latecomers will be accepted. Retirees are also encouraged to participate.

This year's event will be held in room 1033 from 9am to 4 pm each day Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Corps' Employee Benefit Fund.

A **Cost Engineering Branch** has been established in the Engineering Division, the purpose of which is "to prepare all project cost estimates at any point in the project design, construction and operating cycle".

The **Design Branch** of the Engineering Division has been reorganized as follows: General Engineering Section, Specifications and Technical Services Section, Mechanical Electrical Architectural Services Section and Structural Section.

Larry LaPoint, Area Engineer for the Southern Area Office in Mankato, and daughter Chris made a return trip to the Girls 16 & Under National ASA Fastpitch tournament held 10-13 August 1989 in Midland, Texas.

Larry is an assistant coach and Chris is starting second-baseperson and one of the team's leading hitters. The Mankato VFW Pepper Lites won the Girls Minnesota State Championship on 22-23 July 1989 and the Northern Regionals (Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota) Champion on 29-30 July 1989. The Lites finished the National tournament with four wins and two losses, good for 13th place out of 56 teams.

Lynn Harris, chief of Personnel Office, received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for the period of two months as acting deputy district engineer.

Statistics from the **Safety Office** for FY 1989 show an increase in government lost time accidents, contractor lost time accidents and motor vehicle accidents from FY 1988. Safety Officer **Ron Scott's** plan to turn these numbers around in FY 1990 will take a commitment from everyone in the office. Be Careful As Can Be.

Former Ft. Worth District employee **Bob Daniels** has been selected as the new chief of Management and Disposal Branch in the Real Estate Office. He will report at the end of this month.

A welcome to Minnesota to **Ron Brown**, the long awaited replacement for the sociologist position in the Economic-Social-Recreation Branch in the Planning Division. Ron is

a former Correctional Officer at the Marion State Penitentiary in southern Illinois.

All government vehicles now have "screamers" attached to the key rings. These handy little devices may be used to set off a piercing alarm, when the driver feels that they are in a threatening situation. They are meant to be used! Please notify Logistics if replacements are needed.

Following the retirement of **BG Vander Els**, **Brigadier General Jude W.P. Patin** will assume command of the North Central Division on October 17th. More on BG Patin in the November issue.

Industrial hygiene tests have been completed on the 13th floor; results due in one week.

Obituaries

James J. Hartigan of St. Paul, died September 14, 1989, at the age of 84. Prior to retirement in the early 60's, Mr. Hartigan worked at hydraulic labs at the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota. He completed his career at the district office in St. Paul.

Matilda A. Meindl of West St. Paul, died September 24, 1989, at the age of 84. Affectionately known as a "quiet gal," she worked in the office service branch from approximately 1956 to 1970.

From the Commander

On District Team Building Progress

Editor's Note: In early August, approximately 30 members of the district's management staff participated in a team building session, facilitated by a contractor, Personnel Decisions, Inc. The purpose was to explore various means of improving the operation and management of the district, or "the way we do business". Problems were discussed and goals set. This is one of the methods by which follow-up and the district's progress in meeting those goals are being monitored.

I want to use a small part of the *Crosscurrents* to give you my snapshot of where we are in implementing some of the initiatives that we committed to at our Team Building Workshop. These will be brief as I am told short is better than long.

Manpower and FTE's for FY90—Resource Management has developed a plan which I approved to both coordinate a recommendation for allocating FTE's and keeping District employees informed. At this writing, we are unsure of what our District total will be - maybe a few more - maybe a few less. LTC Mahoney has convened the first meeting of the Program Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC) to go through some "what if" exercises. Clearly, our construction placement will increase in FY90 and the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management will require some increased staffing. More later when we get our final numbers.

Classifications and Alternate Work Schedules—Lynn Harris has developed plans to review both of these items. Before Christmas, I will make a decision on Alternative Work Schedules in the St. Paul District.

Morale—I have received no requests from Division Chiefs to date regarding their need for additional professional assistance in addressing morale issues.

Operating Division/Staff Relationship—I developed a draft action plan, received comments, and I am revising the plan. I plan to hold a half day seminar during the third week of November for about a dozen of us with Personnel Decisions, Inc., to further explore our options here.

Coordination of Actions—I have established a plan and timeline for completing this one. I have distributed my written philosophy on coordination and had a half day "give and take" workshop with District leadership on 6 October to shake out the ideas and rough spots. I hope we complete action on this item by mid-February 1990.

District Goals—I have established a plan and timeline for completing this item. Resource Management has the lead and will begin by distributing the NCD and OCE goals to our branches, division and separate office chiefs. Then I want to have their ideas on what our goals should be and how we should staff them. Target date for completion - end of November 1989.

Brown Bag Lunches—LTC Mike Mahoney has held his first couple "brown bag lunches". They are well attended and interesting. I will let him describe them in a subsequent issue.

I will update you next in our December issue of *Crosscurrents*.

Communities of Excellence Awards Announced

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe Division in Frankfurt, Germany, and Mobile District, Mobile, Ala., received top awards in the Corps' "Communities of Excellence" program.

The purpose of the program is to recognize excellence in working environments and services for Corps employees and to reward Corps of Engineers offices around the world that have achieved the goals of the program.

The three levels of awards include: Commander's Award—one within the continental United States and one overseas, Honor Awards, and Awards of Merit.

In addition to the two winners of the Commander's Awards, Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. H.J. Hatch announced that the winners of the Honor Awards are Japan District at Camp Zama, Japan, Portland District in Oregon, and Tulsa District in Oklahoma; and the Awards of Merit went to Huntsville Division, Huntsville, Ala., and Los Angeles District.

A total of 80 per cent of all division districts, separate field operating activities and laboratories competed in the program.

The two winners of the Commander's Award will now go on to compete in Department of Army's Communities of Excellence awards program.

In making the announcement, Hatch said, "People are the Corps. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and to perform meaningful work in an environment that is creative and exciting."

The two major areas considered in the evaluation of the proposals are facilities excellence and services excellence. Within these areas, consideration focused on such items as customer service, productivity enhancements, logistics and medical services, to list a few.



Colonel Roger L. Baldwin, District Commander, St. Paul District

Corps Studies Saved Lives

By Warren E. Nordman
HQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

As Hurricane Hugo roared toward land with winds approaching 140 miles per hour, crucial decisions had to be made quickly. Emergency managers had to determine what areas to evacuate, where people would be evacuated to and how long evacuation would take. The information they needed to make the decisions was provided through studies completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Hurricane Evacuation Studies are the result of a joint effort between the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS). Their value was evident during Hugo when hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated from areas devastated by the storm and loss of life was kept to a minimum. Fortunately, studies had already been completed for South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia and were integrated in the state and local emergency preparation plans. Advance study data had also been provided for the San Juan area of Puerto Rico.

The Corps Flood Plain Management Services Program completed the first hurricane evacuation study for Lee County, Florida in 1979. Since then, seven studies have been completed and twelve others are underway. The Army Engineers act as managers to conduct the study and coordinate the participation of local, state and federal agencies in the effort. FEMA has overall responsibility for the program and the NWS National Hurricane Center performs computer modelling for storm surges and impacts.

The need for hurricane evacuation

studies arose with the rapid and large population growth experienced in coastal areas over the last 20 years. All levels of government became increasingly concerned about the relative complacency of coastal residents to hurricane threats. It was clear that the ability to prepare and react to major coastal storms had to be refined and improved. To do so, reliable data was needed to allow emergency managers to make well informed decisions.

The studies are prepared from exhaustive research and provide detailed information on a broad spectrum of storm potentials. They evaluate areas vulnerable to destruction and flooding from storm surges and estimate the arrival time of gale force winds.

Based on those predictions, the Corps prepares detailed maps dividing impacted areas into zones depending on the storm intensity. Within each zone, population data, evacuation routes, available shelters and medical facilities are studied.

Behavioral research is even performed to predict what percent of the population would comply with ordered evacuation and what their likely routes and destinations would be. This data is then used to

determine the time required to respond and evacuate the affected zones for each hurricane scenario.

Throughout the study process, local and state emergency planners are closely involved to review the study phases, provide input and react to the concepts presented. The Corps planners never lose sight of the fact that the final results must be relevant to the particular plans and resources of each local official. This close coordination produces a document and decision making tools to give the emergency manager the benefit of the latest technology in hurricane planning.

The full impacts of Hurricane Hugo are still being determined. It is obvious, however, that the extent of injuries and fatalities would have been far greater if affected areas did not have their high degree of preparedness. This readiness was significantly enhanced by the planning partnership forged between the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, NWS and the individual states. Their foresight enabled people in Hugos path to respond quickly and wisely.



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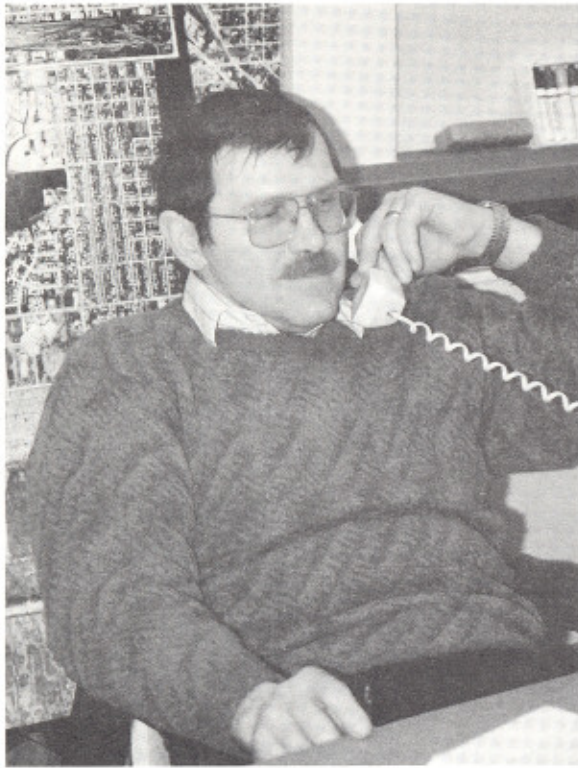
Crosscurrents

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District Engineer COL Roger Baldwin
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NCO Profile of the Month: Dave Christenson



**Chief of Emergency Management Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
and
Sergeant 1st Class, 416th Engineer Command
U.S. Army Reserve**

typical as other units as it has a "real time" mission. We're actually providing assistance to upgrade facilities so other units can train," says Christenson.

He also looks at his service in the Army Reserve as a part of national readiness. "By being involved in the Reserves, by being involved in the military, I feel that it helps the country by providing a deterrent to any type of war," says Christenson. In his Reserve career, he has seen an increased emphasis

on the training and development of the reserve soldier and the NCO. According to Christenson, "I think the Army realizes the need to rely on reserves for their fighting force." He adds that, as the once large-standing Army has been reduced through cutbacks, the reservists' role has increased. For instance, says Christenson, about 60 per cent of the Army's engineering forces are reservists.

Before joining the Army Reserve, he served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force from 1967-71. A member of the United States Logistics Group (TUSLOG), he was stationed in Ankara, Turkey from 1968-69. According to Christenson, an interesting part of his tour there was learning about various aspects of Turkish culture. "In certain outlying villages, it was almost like you went back in time where oxen-drawn carts with wooden wheels were still used," he notes, "In contrast, the cities were modern and cosmopolitan."

Christenson has been duly recognized for his duties with the military. As an active Airman, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

It's been more than ten years since David Christenson, at the invitation of a fellow Corps employee, joined the U.S. Army Reserve. As a noncommissioned officer during that time, he has had opportunities most of us can only hope for. Serving in the Reserve has given Christenson the chance to develop and apply professional skills. It has meant travel and meeting interesting people; and the opportunity to see real accomplishment and change.

Christenson, a Sgt. 1st Class with the 416th Engineer Command at Fort Snelling, is a member of a five-man Facility Engineering Team which identifies problems and monitors physical structures and Reserve centers throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. As an NCO within this group, it's his job to evaluate projects, prepare cost estimates and develop documents for pavement work, painting, repair and remodeling contracts.

Seeing projects through to completion is a big portion of the pride Christenson has in his NCO duties. It's also part of the joy of his work in an outfit he regards as unique. "Our unit is not as

Serving in the Army Reserve, he has earned the Army Achievement Medal and in 1987 received a letter of commendation from Maj. General Roger W. Sandler, Commander of the 88th Army Reserve Command.

According to Christenson, the contacts he has developed in the military and knowing how the Army "works" help him considerably in his position as Chief of Emergency Management with the St. Paul District. "Through the reserves, I think I've gained a better understanding of the total Army structure and how the Corps fits into that structure," states Christenson. In the Corps, it's his responsibility to prepare documents for the district's emergency response to national and natural disasters. He refers to the district's flood fighting plan during this past Spring's Red River flood as having been most effective, particularly the response of the people who did the work. Christenson's job also carries security and law enforcement responsibilities. He has spent his entire Corps career with the St. Paul District since joining in 1976.

A native of Hartford, Wisconsin, Christenson received his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in 1975. Dave, his wife Susan and their two sons reside in St. Paul. In their free time, the Christensons do a lot of biking, golfing and playing tennis. One day, they hope to do some traveling abroad, perhaps Europe.

Christenson looks forward to a long career with the St. Paul District where he welcomes the challenges and enjoys his work relationships with fellow employees. As far as being a non-commissioned officer in the Army Reserve, he likes the work, with its travel, benefits and opportunities, and he looks forward to serving several more years.

Retiree's hold annual luncheon



Colonel Roger Baldwin describes retiree Roger Fast's appointment as the first St. Paul District representative to the Honorary Colonel of the Engineering Regiment.



Kay Smith, the newest member of the St. Paul District Hall of Fame shares a laugh with Lieutenant Colonel Mike Mahoney, deputy district commander at the recent retiree's luncheon. Kay's selection for the Hall of Fame was announced at the luncheon by Colonel Roger Baldwin. Kay retired in July after 13 years with the district. She was chief of the Examination Section in Accounting and Finance when she retired. She had earned several honors during her 13 years with the district including Civil Servant of the Year in 1985 and the North Central Division Commander's "Champion in Customer Care" Award in 1986.

The 14th annual St. Paul retiree's luncheon was held September 13 in St. Paul. More than 100 retirees, spouses, and current employees attended.

Retiree Dale Lynch served as master ceremonies. District Engineer Colonel Roger Baldwin presented a slide briefing on district activities during the past year including the status of major projects, organizational changes, and key personnel changes. Several retirees were honored during the luncheon.

Baldwin introduced Kay Smith as the newest inductee into the District's Hall of Fame. She retired this year from Accounting and Finance where she had worked as chief of the Exam Section.

The colonel also presented a certificate to retiree Roger Fast naming him the district's first representative to the Honorary Colonel of the recently formed Engineering Regiment. The regimental system follows an old military tradition which dates back hundreds of years. Regiments were authorized for combat units in 1957. The Engineer Regiment was authorized in 1986. Retired chief of engineers, Lieutenant General Fred Clarke, has been named the first Honorary Colonel of the Engineer Regiment. Each district can have a designated representative to participate in certain ceremonial activities.

In addition, two retirees were acknowledged for their personal "records." Carl Anderson, at 93, was the oldest retiree at the luncheon. Bill Schultz was the only retiree at the luncheon who first went to work for the Corps in the decade of the 1920s. Bill started in late 1929.

At the end of the luncheon, retirees Wes Walters and Harry Andersen were given a round of applause for their efforts in planning this year's luncheon. In response, Wes later said "The recognition should go to all those who have served as master of ceremonies, taken reservations and made name tags over the years. Special recognition should go to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harich, who arranged for 3 of the 14 annual luncheons."