



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Zirschky visits district office, Dredge Thompson



Photo by Ken Gardner

Dr. John Zirschky (left), acting assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, has a first-hand look at the Dredge Thompson during a visit to the St. Paul District on Friday, August 5. The Thompson is part of the federal government's National Minimum Fleet. Dave Peck (second from left), master of the

dredge, explains the controls in the pilot house. St. Paul District Commander Col. James Scott and North Central Division Commander Col. Richard Craig accompanied Zirschky. See related stories on pages 4-5.

Lock and Dam No. 1 rates number one with students

"My favorite part of the program was the lock and dam. My favorite part of the tour is the library." — Emily Dufeck, age 11

Dear Colonel Scott,

Thank you for the day here at the Army Corps of Engineers. I was a participant at the Students' Day. I had a great time. I really enjoyed the Lock and Dam No. 1 trip.

I thought the Sophie Rose was really cool.

Thank you for the juice, cookies and popcorn. I enjoyed the tour, too!

After the Engineer was done talking, I was convinced that that might be my career. I can't wait to read the book you gave me.

The certificate was cool. I liked the stuff in the bag. The only thing (was) that I sat in the back row and could barely hear and see, but the people who talked loud enough were great.

Thank you again!!!

Brooke M. Linehan, age 10

Dear Colonel Scott,

Thank you for the day at the lock and dam. It was fun. I also liked the talkers at the beginning (of the career presentations).

Thanks for the bag of stuff. My aunt Joanne took me to this Students' Day. But when the movie came on, people in the back could not see.

I liked the tour. My favorite part was the library, when we got to look up people's (telephone) number (on the computer).

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Molly Dufeck, age 10

P.S. I will come to your other things.

Dear Colonel Scott,

My name is Emily Dufeck, and I was a participant in the Students' Day program.

I want to thank you for the awards and the book. My favorite part of the program was the lock and dam. My favorite part of the tour is the library. I thought it was very interesting.

Emily Dufeck, age 11

Marilyn Kruchten (right), Planning Branch, accompanies her nieces, Laura (left) and Diana Kruchten, at Lock and Dam No. 1 for Students' Day. They were viewing the spillway at the dam.



Students' Day flushed with success

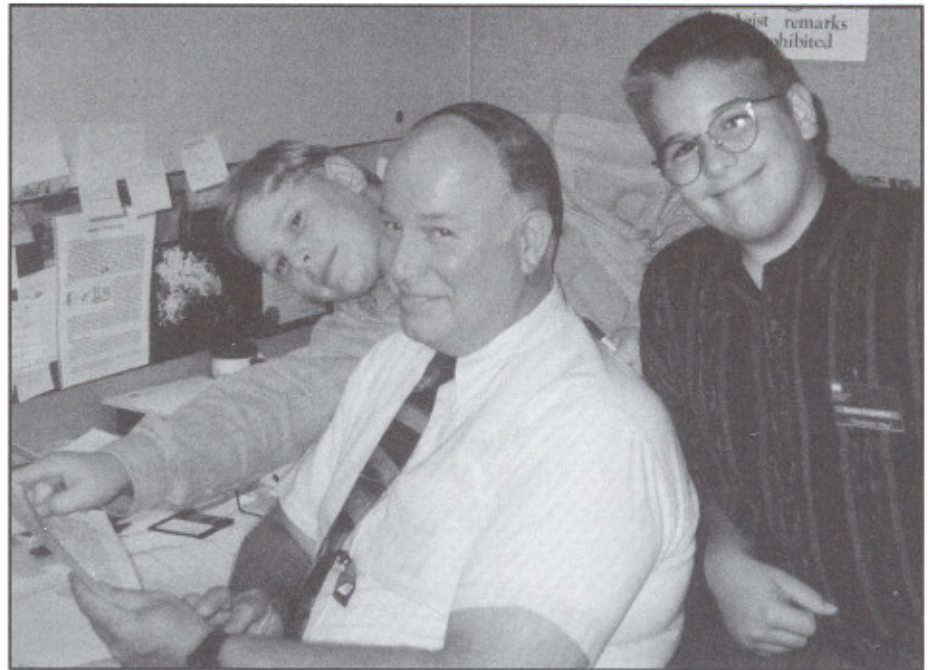
"What happens when you flush a toilet?" Judy DesHarnais, a study manager in Planning Branch, asked nearly 60 students from ages 9 to 18 to consider the question. DesHarnais then illustrated the engineering principles, using her felt-tipped marker on the whiteboard, of this essential household appliance.

DesHarnais' presentation, titled "Engineering," began a series of career presentations for the district's first "Students' Day" on August 10. The students included children of the district employees and students currently working for the district. The day was set aside as part of the district's annual Student Recognition Week, which began August 8. The EEO office coordinated the event.

Presentations

Following DesHarnais came presentations on archaeology, landscape architecture, tribal relations, biology, locks and dam operations, natural resources, law, and on being an engineering technician. Jane Carroll, Doris Sullivan, Teri Sardinas, Rojean Ashley, Melissa Morris, Karin Greeman, Jody Rooney, Lorilee Taylor and Paul Machajewski conducted the presentations.

District Commander Col. James T. Scott welcomed the students to the district. Their welcome included a video about the Mississippi River and a presentation by District Historian John Anfinson.



St. Paul District photo

Students' Day kept Bob Engelstad, center, busy with his sons, Randy Engelstad (left) and Bobby Engelstad (right). The day provided him the opportunity to show his sons what he does. (He was listening to a conference call when this picture was taken.) Engelstad is a supervisory hydraulic engineer in the Engineering and Planning Division.

The Students of the Year honored in an awards ceremony on August 11 were Gail Molner of Lock and Dam No. 8, Ilyana Cortez of C-O, and April Pream of RM. Also recognized were David Casey, Cindy Haagen-son, Jackson Hoffman, and Kris Wagner, C-O; Raegan Pederson, HR; Jerry Drexler, IM; Mason LaFavor, LM; Samantha Cumberworth, OC; and Aaron Johnson, Elaine Hill and Lonnie Mundell from PE.

Lockmaster Joe Dvorak hosted a tour of Lock and Dam No. 1. Students also toured through the district office and watched

demonstrations of equipment in several offices. At the end of the day, Scott presented certificates that acknowledged their participation in Students' Day.

Students' Day committee members included Dale Gross, Angie Peterson, Mary Kay Linder, and Joann Meier.

Scott recognized over 75 students who worked for the district. The district sets aside the week to recognize outstanding students in any one of five student programs: the Federal Junior Fellowship, Co-Op program, Stay-in-School, Summer Aid and Volunteers.

The Employee Benefit Fund donated support for bus transportation to Lock and Dam No. 1; the RSS Skyway store donated cookies.

Restructuring Work Group meets here, briefs Zirschky

Group supports concept of 'powering down' decisions and approvals

by Ken Gardner
chief of Public Affairs

The latest effort at restructuring the Corps took place at the St. Paul District office the first week of August.

For three days, eight employees from around the Corps reviewed the role statement recommendations submitted the Headquarter's Restructuring Task Force by districts and divisions. The work group, led by Paul Seguin, a member of the Corps Restructuring Task Force at Corps Headquarters (USACE), represented both divisions and districts and a variety of functional areas. (Note: Seguin worked in the district's Planning Division in the 70s and early 80s)

Reviewing role statements

Their task was a formidable one. They would review more than 200 role statements divided into 13 functional matrices which came out of the June Restructuring Conference in Washington, D.C. They would also consider hundreds of individual recommendations from field units which added to, deleted, or modified those role statements.

After three days and several long nights, the work group briefed Dr. John H. Zirschky, acting assistant secretary of the Army for civil works (ASA/CW), and Maj. Gen. Stanley Genega, director of civil works at USACE, on August 5 in St. Paul.

According to Seguin, the work group did not make any dramatic changes

in the field recommendations. Rather, the work group continued the work started at the June Restructuring Conference in Washington, D.C. "In general, the group supported the concept of powering down decisions and approvals" to the lowest level appropriate for each issue, he said.

Powering down

A good example of that powering down was the issue of where policy and technical review should occur. "The group reached a consensus that technical review should only occur at the district level. Policy review should only occur at the level that has approval authority," Seguin explained.

A new set of matrices, based on the work group's recommendations, was distributed to divisions and districts by Corpmail on August 15. According to Genega's cover-letter,

he and Zirschky will continue to review the work group's recommendations and distribute a revised draft to members of Congress soon. "Later this fall, we intend to present a final draft version of the roles matrix to the decision-makers (Secretary West, other members of the Army Secretariat, and LTG Williams) for approval," Genega wrote.

The August work group was drawn primarily from participants in the June Restructuring Conference. In addition to Seguin, the group included Jim Blencher, Rock Island District; Lenny Kotkiewicz, North Atlantic Division; Gail Mazzola, North Central Division; Roy Smith, Vicksburg District; Susan Smith, Vicksburg District; Bill Willis, Detroit District; Ruth Villalobos, Los Angeles District; and Myron Yuschishin, Savannah District.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Dr. John H. Zirschky, acting ASA/CW, listens intently as Paul Seguin (left) explains a point during the restructuring work group outbriefing on August 5 in St. Paul. Looking on at center is Maj. Gen. Stanley Genega, director of civil works at USACE.

ASA/CW presents two awards

Adamski honored

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Dr. John Zirschky honored Steve Adamski



Adamski

with the Joseph W. Kimbel Award at a town-hall meeting in St. Paul on August 5.

Adamski is the deputy District Counsel here.

The Joseph W. Kimbel Award recognizes "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attorney who has demonstrated the highest potential for future legal achievement, symbolizing the continuing tradition of extraordinary professional potential and performance exemplified by 'Judge' Joseph W. Kimbel."

Sustained excellence

Adamski has excelled in contract law, litigation support, environmental and regulatory matters, fiscal law, and labor and personnel law, the award citation said.

Adamski first joined the Corps in 1985 as a legal clerk. In 1990 he distinguished himself as Civil Servant of the Year and earned the Commander's Award for EEO achievement in eliminating barriers for the handicapped.

Taggatz honored

Harold Taggatz, deputy chief of the Construction-Operations Division, received the Superior Civilian



Taggatz

Service Award from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army Dr. John Zirschky on August 5. Zirschky presented the award to Taggatz at a

meeting with employees in St. Paul.

The award recognizes his exceptional performance and leadership as chairman of the Performance Measurement and Data Management Task Group of the Operations and Maintenance Program Improvement Implementation Committee — a committee with a Corps-wide mission.

Performance measurement

He was instrumental in developing a performance measurement concept for the Corps-wide Operations and Maintenance organization that could institute a cultural change. The award also recognizes his leadership in developing a plan for an enhanced data management system to support that change.

These measures will enhance the management and operation of Corps projects into the 21st century. His performance has set a record for achievement for others, the award citation said. Taggatz has been with the St. Paul District nearly 32 years.

Zirschky: Shorten project process, prepare for FTE cuts

In remarks to St. Paul District employees at a town meeting on August 5, Dr. John Zirschky, the acting assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, urged Corps employees to shorten the product development process and to prepare for cuts in full-time-equivalents (FTEs). He reiterated that government-wide personnel reductions are driving Corps-wide FTE cuts of 3,401.

Rebuild customer support

According to Zirschky, 31 percent of the Corps' planning, engineering and design (PED) work is behind schedule or over budget. With this in mind, Zirschky is visiting districts with a call to rebuild customer support through improved execution and performance.

Zirschky also hopes to eliminate and reduce layers of review in order to shorten the project review process.

To support quicker reviews, Headquarters is considering delegating more authority to divisions and districts — to districts for technical review and to the lowest appropriate level for policy review.

He recalled Continuing Authorities projects where review time had been shortened from 187 days to 83 days; and Section 14 projects which were shortened from over three years to 44 days.

Zirschky's visit to the district coincided with the Restructuring Task Force (see page 4). He also toured the Dredge Thompson.

From supplies to travel orders

Logistics makes user-friendly changes in service

Suggestions from the Army Communities of Excellence program and customer feedback have prompted some user-friendly changes in Logistics Management (LM).

Olivia Vavreck, chief of LM, initiated the changes in response to customer comments.

Customer comments

"I personally read all employee input and suggestions for improvement," said Vavreck. "The comments indicated a necessity for change in LM in order to meet customer needs."

Toward that end, LM has changed supply room procedures to facilitate emergency orders. LM staff now deliver supplies on a daily basis.

LM re-wrote the supply catalog, which lists everything from adding machine tape to twine, in easier to understand language. LM even borrowed an idea from its counterparts at the St. Louis District—network software to allow the ordering of supplies electronically, resulting in a faster turnaround for the customer. (Information Management is evaluating the software for use in this district.)

Improvements in five areas

In the 10 months since the district moved into its new office, LM has improved service to five areas—travel and transportation, property, supplies, fleet management, and facilities and space.

Examples abound. The processing of travel orders are now more simple, making it easier for the traveler. A certification of tax exempt status now accompanies travel orders. LM initiated regulatory changes in the Property Book, making it easier for hand receipt holders to reconcile their property inventories.

Working with building owner

Many changes needed cooperation with the building's owner and management company.

The owner has purchased and installed a bicycle rack in a secure area of the garage. Also, the owner has agreed to purchase and install shelves in the rest rooms. (Shelves

for planners and briefcases was an employee suggestion which LM approved last May.)

LM is also working with the building manager and parking contractor to provide designated parking for all Corps vehicles. This includes three parking spaces for field personnel. All of these spaces will be marked. LM has approved and is in the process of issuing building security access cards to field locations.

"LM recognizes the need for respectful relationships with our customers and the need to be a vital part of the district team. Our goal is to be positive, helpful, and supportive," said Vavreck.

At right, Kurt Hendrickson of Logistics Management works with Greg Johnson, a landscape architect from Engineering and Planning Division, to mount a new wood topographical map of the St. Paul District. Johnson constructed the lands and waters in relief.



St. Paul District photo

TAQ to debut

St. Paul District employees will get their first formal introduction to Total Army Quality (TAQ) at a town-hall meeting scheduled for October 3 in the First Trust Building's Jerome Hill Theater. Al Geisen, the district's TAQ coordinator, will brief district office employees.

"The district will have an opportunity to learn about TAQ implementation at the town meeting," said Geisen. "TAQ is founded on the principles of total quality management. Its goal is to improve the processes we work in."

The processes are the people, equipment, materials, input, methods, and the environment that work together to produce a product or service.

Geisen's presentation will define TAQ, describe its history, outline the principles, show how TAQ works, highlight the benefits, explain why the district is adopting TAQ, and lay out the district's TAQ plan.

Centennial of service at Fountain City

Nearly 200 people attended the Fountain City Service Base open house (photo at right) on August 13 to commemorate 100 years of service. The service base offered tours and displays to the public for the event. At left, Jack Gros-sell, the maintenance foreman at the service base, helps answer questions. The 3.6 acre base is home for the district's fleet of dredges, work barges, tenders and survey boats. It also provides warehouse services for the district.

Lock and Dam No. 1 holds open house

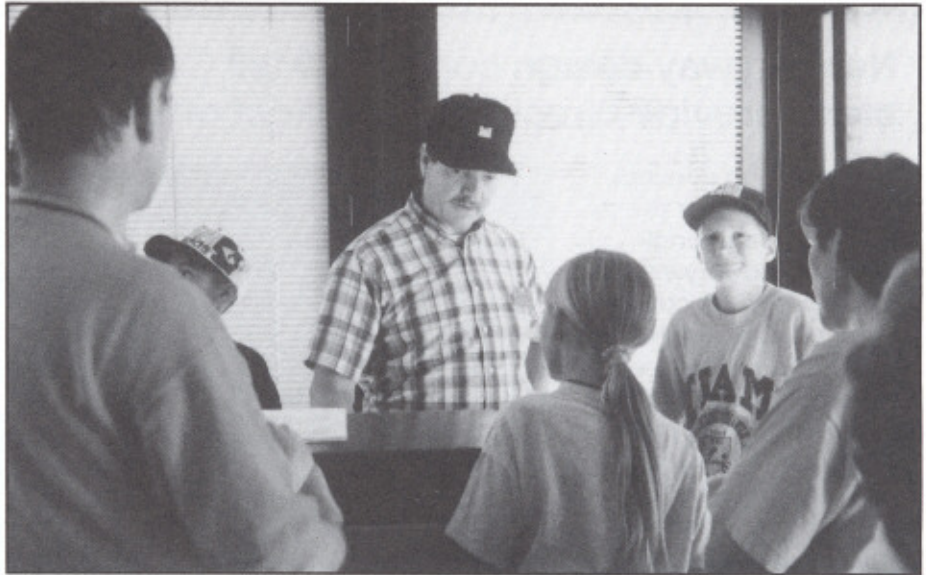


Photo by Ken Gardner

Lock and Dam No. 1 joined Highland Park's annual Highland Fest by holding an open house (above photo) on Sunday, August 14. The district provided the public with informal tours of the lock and dam, exhibits and videotapes. Above, Head Operator Jim Ryan explains the lock controls to visitors.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Bits and Pieces

New skyway design concept to tell Corps story, provide directions to district offices

A new design concept was approved for the Army Corps of Engineers Centre skyway entrance. When constructed, the design (top right) will tell the Corps story and give directions to the public on how to locate Corps offices from the skyway. Also, the new design will jazz up hallway colors. The model and sketches will be on display on the 5th floor across from the GIS room until Sept. 16. The Design Committee for Public Space coordinated the effort. Members are (from left) Karen Nagengast, Doris Sullivan, John Anfinson, Tom Novak, Linda Wiley, Ken Gardner, Mary Kay Linder and Jon Lyman.



Phone file formatted for Franklin flipchart

HQUSACE has recently approved an idea submitted through the Army Ideas of Excellence Program (AIEP) by Bill Spsychalla, project manager. Spsychalla suggested that Corps telephone directories be published in a format and size easily and directly placed in a Franklin Planner. North Central Division (NCD) has approved the suggestion for adoption by other districts within the NCD.

Individuals with suggestions may contact the AIEP coordinator, Ann Marie Scheie, at extension 5237.

Obituaries

Ruth Hageman, an environmental protection assistant in Regulatory Branch, died at home on August 15, 1994. Nearly 29 of her 38 years of federal service were with the district. She was age 78. Her daughter, Marinanne Hageman, worked for the district in the Stay-in-School program between 1980-84.

Fred Hinderberger, 84, of Lynxville, Wis., died at a Prairie du Chien hospital on August 10, 1994. He retired in 1965 as lockmaster of Lock and Dam No. 9. His son Gary Hinderberger is head lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam No. 10.



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St. Paul District

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Crosscurrents

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