



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Col. Wonsik assumes command of district



Visual Information photo

Col. J.M. (Mike) Wonsik, at right, assumed command of the St. Paul District in a change of command ceremony here on July 12. Wonsik is the 56th district engineer.

Wonsik succeeds Col. James T. Scott, at left, who relinquished his

command to move to Champaign, Ill., where he will command the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories (CERL).

North Central Division Commander Col. Richard Craig, second from left, presided over the

ceremony. Lou Kowalski, the district deputy for Programs and Project Management, passed the Corps' flag to Scott to relinquish command.

Before coming to St. Paul, Wonsik served as special assistant to the

See Change of Command, page 2



St. Paul District file photo

William A. Thompson

William A. Thompson: a man of the river

William A. Thompson, after whom the dredge is named, was well-known and highly respected by the people closely involved with the Mississippi River. He was born on December 16, 1854 at Greenwich, N.Y., where he attended public school. He graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in civil engineering in 1878, when he entered federal service with the Corps of Engineers.

In 1896 he was appointed to the

position of assistant engineer, responsible for improvements on the river between Winona, Minnesota, and the mouth of the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Chien. He held this post until his death in 1925.

"Captain" Thompson worked at Rock Island, Illinois, until 1885, when he was placed in charge of a sub-office established at La Crosse, Wisconsin. He moved there in 1896 with his wife and son, and worked for the rest of his career.

Change of Command attended by Native American tribal representatives



Visual Information photo

Representatives of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin attended the district's change of command ceremony. From left are Louis Dixon, vice chairman of the Menominee Tribal Legislature; Mrs. Wonsik; Col. Wonsik; Frieda Bergeon, member of the tribal legislature; and Kenneth Fish, director of the Treaty Rights Protection Office.

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commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

This is his second assignment to a Corps' district. During 1978-81, Wonsik served as a construction engineer with the Walla Walla District's Lower Snake River Resident Office in Clarkston, Washington.

Wonsik is registered as a professional engineer in Texas and Washington.

He attended the University of Texas where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering. Wonsik received his Corps of Engineers commission in May 1970 and entered active duty in April 1971.

Wonsik, a native of San Antonio, Texas, is married to the former Curtiss Bridges of New Braunfels, Texas. They reside in Woodbury.

Three district projects dedicated in September

The dedication of the new control station at Lock & Dam No. 2 in Hastings, Minn., (at right) is set for Sept. 14. The St. Paul Flood Control Project and the Rochester Flood Control Project will be dedicated on September 15.

The new control station is part of a \$225 million, 20-year major maintenance-major rehabilitation project on locks and dams between Guttenberg, Iowa and Hastings.

Work on the St. Paul Project started in 1991 and raised levees and floodwalls four feet.

The Rochester Project started in 1989 and consists primarily of channel modifications, levees and relocations.

At St. Paul and Rochester, project designers and project managers worked closely with city officials to insure that the Corps' project fit with local plans for the riverfront. Both projects feature imaginative architecture and public access.



Photo by Peter Versteegen

VSIP offers "win-win" for employees and taxpayers

by Liz Sackett
Human Resources

In an era of government downsizing, the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) has been a "win-win" for agency personnel, potential retirees and the taxpayer. The program has provided an incentive bonus to individuals who wish to leave, a bit more job security for employees who wish to stay, and allowed the Corps to fulfill its missions.

Since the inception of the VSIP in January 1993, the Corps has allowed well over 1000 to voluntarily separate and to receive an incentive bonus to retire or switch careers or otherwise leave federal service.

Since January 1994, the St. Paul District has avoided 45 involuntary separations by use of VSIP. In St. Paul, most of the 45 VSIP's authorized have gone to long-term

federal employees eligible for retirement. When they left, their jobs were eliminated or used to place other people who worked in positions that were in jeopardy.

The goal of VSIP is to make work force reductions in as sensible and humane a manner as possible while at the same time keeping an eye on mission capability and the taxpayer's money.

General Williams advised district commanders in a January 1995 letter that "we must be careful how we use VSIP so that we do not sacrifice our ability to manage programs and successfully accomplish our mission."

VSIPs were first authorized under the Defense Appropriations Act provisions to provide a cash incentive to eligible employees in the Department of Defense to minimize

the need for involuntary separations due to reduction in force (RIF), base closure, reorganization or similar actions. The program was later expanded to include non-defense agencies.

The district engineer may authorize a VSIP to a permanent employee who meets certain basic eligibility criteria if that employee's separation will allow the district to avoid a corresponding involuntary separation.

Some VSIP's have been authorized to employees who have simply resigned to move on to new ventures. These go to relatively short-term employees and tend to be most cost-effective for the taxpayer.

While certainly not a panacea, the VSIP Program has helped the district make substantial employee reductions with relatively little employee pain.

Bits and Pieces

Meeder presents FPMA summary to disaster workshop

Curt Meeder, supervisory regional economist in Management and Evaluation Branch, presented a summary of the Floodplain Management Assessment (FPMA) to a workshop sponsored by the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center in Boulder, Colorado, on July 18. The center is part of the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado and is one of the leading academic centers in the United States focusing on natural hazards issues, including earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.

Meeder also spoke at the Rivers to the Sea Institute for K-12 educators at Hamline University on July 26.

Retirees gather Sept. 7

The 20th "Old Timers Reunion is Sept. 7 at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. Contact Peggy Peterson at 776-8740 for more information.

Hello*

Construction-Operations Division

Dennis H. Boardman, deckhand
John J. Brunet, laborer
Scott H. Ehnstrom, laborer
Delmar R. Ellingboe, laborer
Douglas A. Grimsled, deckhand
Kenneth O. Hammer, laborer
Paul C. Hansen, laborer
Terrance C. Hogan, laborer
Kenneth L. Hovell, lock & dam operator
Samara J. Jabrosky, student trainee
John M. Jacobson, Sr., laborer
Larry D. Johnson, lock & dam operator
Frederick L. Kann, lock & dam operator
Richard A. Kann, laborer
Lewis L. Keith, laborer
Philip H. Kramer, laborer
Olivia M. Kruger, office automation clerk
William S. LaRose, laborer
James T. McCann, lock & dam operator
Thomas P. Mikrut, lock & dam operator
Neil D. Morarend, laborer
Gerald E. Orlikowski, laborer
John S. Sares, laborer
Shawn M. Schneider, laborer
Kenneth C. Stewart, laborer
Troy J. Stoenner, student trainee
David A. Studenski, biological science technician
Richard J. Trausch, laborer
John M. Welch, lock & dam operator
Edward M. Yankuns, laborer

Engineering and Planning Division

Amy C. Johnson, biological aid

Information Management Office

Levon D. Olson, office automation clerk

Logistics Management Office

Partick J. Harding, supply clerk

Real Estate Division

Scott A. McCrady, realty clerk

Resource Management Office

Eric S. Blahna, accounting clerk
Grady L. Mosley, office automation clerk

Good-bye

Construction-Operations Division

Jeanine M. Altringer, office automation clerk
Randolph C. Baker, deckhand
Leeland F. Burrows, lock & dam operator
Dennis V. Dickson, park ranger
Craig D. Hinton, supervisory civil engineer (retired)
Donald J. Miller, civil engineer

Equal Employment Opportunity

Phillip E. Hart, office automation clerk

Engineering and Planning Division

Maurice M. Bowers, civil engineer (retired)
Debra Mae Hayes, office automation clerk
Mendy M. Jackson, student trainee
Wayne A. Knott, supervisory civil engineer (retired)

Information Management Office

Susan Quinn, telecommunications specialist
Timothy Roberts, office automation clerk
Jean Turcotte, supervisory computer programmer (retired)

Logistics Management Office

Craig A. Hucek, supply clerk

*Represents new hires for May and June. Many individuals are seasonal workers.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
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Crosscurrents

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