



US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

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Rescue breathing, CPR save life of young camper



Ranger Jim Lumaye stands near the phone where he encountered Spring Lafever in a semi-conscious condition. The road behind him leads to Deer River.

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

“Those were the longest 15 miles I’ve ever experienced,” said Ranger Jim Lumaye, again and again. Lumaye recalled how, on the evening of June 18, 1995, he used rescue breathing and CPR to save the life of 12-year-old Spring Lafever from Deer River, Minn.

Lumaye works at Winnibigoshish Recreation Area near there. Lafever was camping with relatives at the recreation area. Rhonda Meyer, Lafever’s aunt, accompanied Lumaye to monitor the girl’s breathing and pulse during the long 15-mile drive to the hospital.

“While I was on patrol earlier that evening, Spring approached me and showed me her hand. It was swollen and her thumb appeared reddish in color,” said Lumaye.

“She told me that she had been bitten by a bee. She had taken a nap and it happened while she was sleeping. I asked her how long she had been up. She said about 30 minutes. I didn’t think much more about it, because the most critical time frame had passed. I left her campsite and went over to the campground host to see whether the first aid kit had anything to relieve the sting.”

Lumaye found some ‘Sting Ease’ and returned to Lafever’s campsite with it. He continued to patrol the campsites and day use area. His patrol complete, Lumaye returned to the office.

Outside in a parking lot near the office, he noticed a woman and two children by the pay phone. Walking closer, he saw one of the children was Spring Lafever—the girl with the bee sting. As Lumaye drew closer, he saw she was semi-conscious. He ran over.

“Lafever was semi-conscious and unresponsive. Her breathing was weak. I checked her pulse and it was weak and hard to locate. The woman with her was Rhonda Meyer,” said Lumaye. Meyer sent the other child back to camp for help.

During his patrol that evening, Lumaye had absent-mindedly left the keys to the Ford Bronco in his side pocket. Normally, the keys would be in an office lock box. It was a small detail that shaved vital minutes in his race to save a life.

Lumaye said that he thought the problem was a reaction to the insect bite. A complication was her asthma. “I decided we needed to get her medical attention as quickly as possible,” said Lumaye.

Lumaye ran over to the nearby office parking lot. He grabbed the keys in his pocket, started the Bronco and pulled over. Meyer and Mrs. Masurka, a friend of Meyer’s who had just arrived, lifted Lafever into the passenger seat.

Rescue, cont. on page 7

Competition will generate additional changes

Expect continued downsizing in the long term

by Col. J.M. Wonsik
St. Paul District Commander

The Town Hall meetings we held in late August provided my first opportunity to talk with a large group of district employees. This issue of *Crosscurrents* gives me the opportunity to "talk" with the entire district. I plan to use *Crosscurrents* periodically to share thoughts on current issues with the entire St. Paul family.

As I travel around the district, one of the issues that keeps coming up is FTEs. This issue has been on most everyone's mind since we received our preliminary allocation for FY 96 in June. We rebutted the first allocation and received a revised allocation which we also rebutted.

As I shared with many of you at the Town Hall meetings, I thought our position had improved. We have now received a final total FTE allocation of 701. That breaks down to 646 FTEs for the Civil Works core, 19 FTEs for Support for Others, and 36 in the Formerly Exempt category. This is much better than the June allocation. However, it is the lower end of the possible range (701 to 724) I mentioned in my message on September 6.

This number is disappointing and is going to require very careful planning and decisions in the next couple of weeks. I have asked Dave Haumersen and Bob Post to tell me the impacts and to give me a tentative plan on reaching this number. Lt. Col. Breyfogle will do the same for the support staff, Programs and Project Management, Real Estate

and Contracting.

I will not know the total impact of this number until I have had a chance to review and discuss their reports and plans.

We have used voluntary separation programs like VSIP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Program) and VERA (Voluntary Early Retirement Authority) this year to get us down to our anticipated FTE allocation for FY 96. These programs have been very successful. More than 50 people have taken advantage of the opportunity for separation bonuses and early retirements. We will continue to use voluntary programs such as these to meet district needs whenever possible.

But you should remember this is not a temporary problem — both our workload and our budget are declining. There are no large projects on the horizon. We all know that the Corps of Engineers is not a growth industry at this time.

Because of this, we will continue to review the district organization. We will look for opportunities to streamline, eliminate redundancies, and increase efficiency. Expect the district to change during the coming months — I can almost guarantee it.

Another aspect of this is the district restructuring process announced by the Chief of Engineers in late August. This effort will develop a standardized process and guidelines applicable to all districts across the Corps. This is an on-going, evolutionary process; not

a sudden, one-time cataclysmic event.

We are at the very beginning of this process. I urge you to be informed — the draft guidelines and other information are on cc:Mail and posted on each floor of the district office. Read it and discuss it with your co-workers. Ask questions. Be actively involved in this on-going process. Your ideas and thoughts on the proposed process and guidelines can make a difference to the Corps, the St. Paul District and ultimately, to each of you. We need your comments by Sept. 27 for inclusion in our response to USACE.

The reality of life in the Corps today is the ever-present need to improve productivity and our competitive profile. Headquarters, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and even potential local sponsors will compare us to other districts and to the private sector. Our competitiveness will influence decisions on new missions, new projects, workload, and staffing. How we compare may prove to be the key factor in determining the future of the St. Paul District. To this end — improving our competitiveness — you can expect an ongoing review of what the district does and how we do it. And you may see some restructuring within the district as we find ways to be more competitive.

Every member of the St. Paul family can help in this effort. There is a saying that goes "Work smarter, not harder." We need everyone to work

Downsizing, cont. on page 8

District restructuring process begins

Dr. John H. Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Williams, Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced at an Aug. 24 conference for Corps of Engineers Senior Leaders in Annapolis, Maryland, a proposed process to restructure the Corps' 40 districts.

Corps districts are responsible for executing the Corps' engineering, construction management, operations and environmental missions.

"Since we began the Corps restructuring process last year, we have implemented many changes that have improved the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization," Zirschky said. "Until now, we have focused on the Washington and division-level headquarters and have found significant cost and time savings opportunities. Examining the Corps districts is the next step."

The proposed restructuring process does not impose a standard configuration for each district; instead, it establishes general

principles and guidelines. Foremost among these is that no district headquarters in the U.S. will be closed and all districts will retain some expertise in engineering, construction, planning, operations and project management.

"Under this proposal, we have proposed draft guidelines for our field commanders," Lt. Gen. Williams said. "Once the guidelines are approved, we will ask the division commanders to remodel their organization in accordance with the guidelines. But before we finalize the process, we will ask our employees, our customers and elected representatives to let us know what they think."

The proposed district restructuring guidance is a continuation of a wide-ranging initiative begun in May 1994 to improve customer service, cut costs, and meet the objectives of the Clinton Administration's National Performance Review and related legislation.

Zirschky explained that the Corps has eliminated four levels of

redundant review of projects, delegated project approval authorities away from Washington to divisions and districts, reduced the Corps staffing by more than 1,800 employees and improved business processes. (See *PATs show results*, below.) "We have also developed new performance measurement and improvement standards, which have been commended by the General Accounting Office, and have found personnel reductions at the Washington and division-level headquarters to make us leaner and more efficient," Zirschky added.

The comment period for the district restructuring process began on Aug. 23 and will close in October. The restructuring guidelines are expected to be sent to the Secretary of the Army for approval or modification by the Spring of 1996, before the Corps district restructuring begins.

Copies of the guidance for Corps district restructuring process are available from all Corps district Public Affairs Offices and on the Corps' "home page" on the Internet at "<http://www.usace.army.mil>" under the heading "News."

PATs show results

"The district's process action teams (PATs) are beginning to show results," said Tom Heyerman, the district's Total Army Quality Coordinator. "Although these changes implemented are not earth shaking, they are steps in the right direction and contribute to the quality concept of incremental improvement brought about by our team work," Heyerman said.

Here are some PAT initiatives:

- Blanket Purchase Agreement:**
Replaced 60 percent of the district's BPAs with VISA card purchases;
Streamlined the process to reproduce drawings.
- Biddability, Constructibility, Operability:**
Developed a Lotus-based CC:Mail comment/response system.
- Federal Information Processing:**
Simplified the document process.
- Plant Replacement and**

Improvement Program:

- Prepared a booklet to explain the PRIP process in plain talk.
- DA 3953:**
Reduced the number of required requisitions by encouraging the use of VISA cards for purchases under \$2500.
- Travel Orders:**
Simplified the Travel Order cancellation procedure and endorsed the use of group travel orders where possible.

Lac qui Parle speaks volumes

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

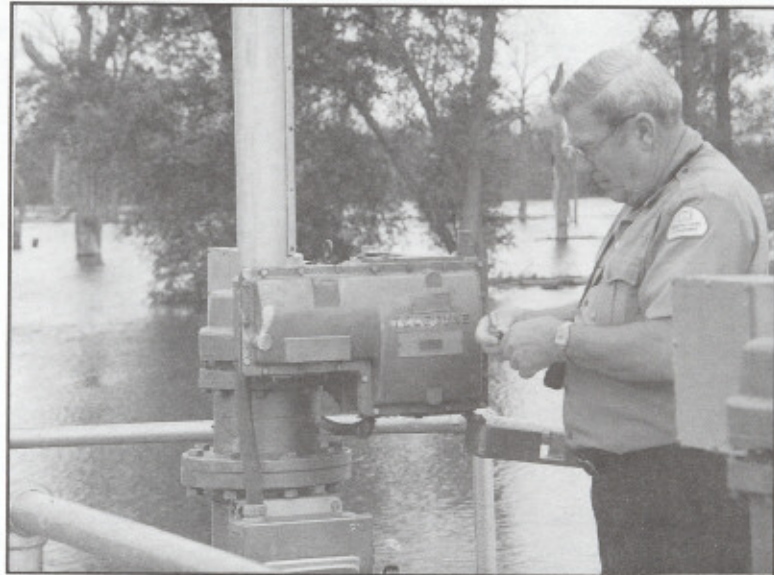
Lac qui Parle, French for the "lake that speaks," is rumbling. More than 1.5 times the normal summer rainfall has soaked the basin that drains into the district's Lac qui Parle (LQP) reservoir near Watson, Minnesota.

The rumbling reached its crescendo on July 11 when nearly 4.5 million gallons of water surged through the gates of the dam and skimmed over the dam's 2,500-foot emergency spillway. The high water had flooded out the summer at a nearby Minnesota state park, eroded roads, and inundated farmland.

"The emergency spillway helps prevent a dam from failing," said Kenton Spading, a hydrologic engineer in Water Control Section. "Otherwise, water would overtop in an area not engineered for it and the dam could fail."

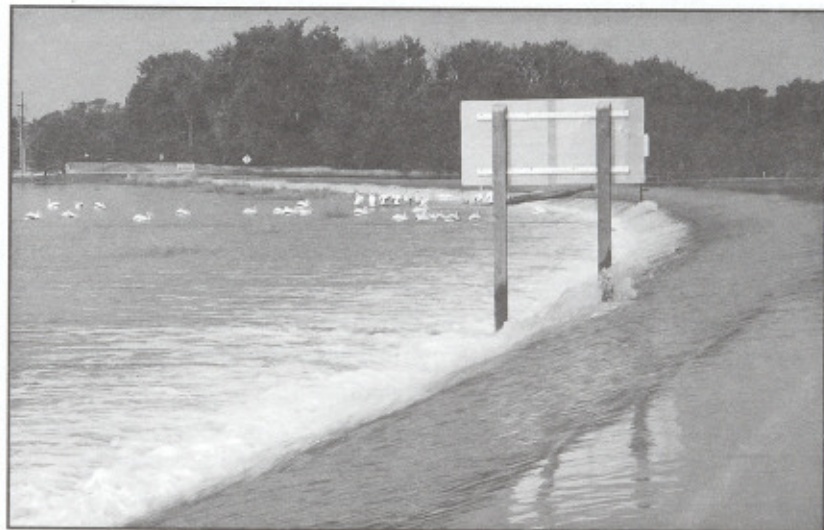
The LQP dam is part of a larger project located on the Minnesota River in Western Minnesota. The multi-purpose project is designed to prevent flooding to agricultural land and in downstream Montevideo—which it has done. Marsh Lake Reservoir and Dam, Lac qui Parle Reservoir, the Chippewa Dam and a diversion channel called Watson Sag, are project components. They all serve to store or divert water. Additional purposes are water conservation, fish and wildlife management, and recreation.

The normal pool storage level at LQP dam is 933 feet. The pool peaked at over 942 feet in July. "The level dropped in mid-August to 933.5.



St. Paul District photo

Curt Hanson, project resource manager at Lac qui Parle, opened the gate lifters at the dam to release high water from the reservoir.



St. Paul District photo

At its peak in July, nearly one foot of water inundated the emergency spillway at Lac qui Parle. Fish that tumbled over the spillway made an attractive meal for the pelicans.

"We're right on the money at 933 for late August," said Spading. "We'll raise the pool level in September by one foot to help prevent fish kill during the winter."

LQP began as a waterfowl project under the Works Project Administration (WPA) sponsored by

the State of Minnesota between 1936 and 1939. Between 1941 and 1951, the project was reconstructed by the Corps of Engineers for flood control, as authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1936. The Corps assumed full operational authority upon completion of the three flood control dams in 1950.

District, university excavate archeological site

by David Berwick, senior archeologist

Nearly 20 students, under the supervision of University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Dr. Jim Stoltman, worked this summer to excavate a prehistoric archeological site near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The St. Paul District contracted with Stoltman to excavate the site. Stoltman also conducted a field school for students with permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The district's efforts, under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, are to locate and nominate significant archeological sites to the National Register of Historic Places. This summer's field work will undoubtedly lead to this archeological site being eligible for the National Register. And, it may prove to be one of the most important sites found along the

floodplain of the Upper Mississippi River within St. Paul District.

Stoltman believes the lowest levels of the site - nine feet below the surface - may date to the Late Archaic Period, between 1200 B.C. and 600 B.C. The upper levels span the Late Woodland Period between A.D. 750 and A.D. 1000. During much of this time, the people who inhabited this site hunted deer and other small game, collected wild plants, fished and collected mussels in the backwaters of the Mississippi River.

Beginning in the Early Woodland, around 600 B.C., people began to use large, heavy, ceramic vessels as household items. Through time, however, the skills of native potters increased and their vessels became better made and more highly decorated. These pots were for cooking, and some pieces of

broken vessels still show the evidence of burned residues from past meals.

The use of burial mounds to inter the dead was another feature of the Woodland peoples who lived in southwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. While few burial mounds are known on the Mississippi River floodplain, many burial mounds are located on the terraces and uplands surrounding Prairie du Chien — most notable for this area are the mounds of the Effigy Mound Tradition. These burial mounds, built in the shapes of animals, are preserved on the bluff tops at Effigy Mounds National Monument not far from this summer's excavations.

In the levels of the site dating to the Middle Woodland Period, 100 B.C. to A.D. 500, students discovered clues suggesting that trade networks during this time were

Site, continued on page 7

Archeology students under the supervision of University of Wisconsin-Madison Prof. Jim Stoltman (left) excavated a prehistoric site near Prairie du Chien, Wis. Stoltman's work for the district was funded with a \$20,000 contract and authorized under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The site is one of eight archeological projects the district funded this summer along Pools 3, 9 and 10 of the Mississippi River.



Photo by Dave Berwick

Peterson heads Mississippi River Project

Dean Peterson, the former area engineer in the Eastern Area office in Winona, Minn., is now the first project manager for the district's



new Mississippi River Project in Fountain City, Wis. He began his duties August 20.

Peterson will manage all Corps operations and maintenance on the

river from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa and at Eau Galle Reservoir at Spring Valley, Wis.

The Mississippi River Project Office (MRPO) consolidates all river operations and maintenance activities under a single manager located close to the river. In the past, river activities such as lock and dam operations, channel maintenance and natural resource management, had each been managed from the district office.

As project manager, Peterson is responsible for 13 locks and dams, the Fountain City Service Base and Boatyard, channel maintenance and management of recreation facilities and natural resources on Corp-managed lands along the river. Channel maintenance includes channel surveys, dredging, and several commercial harbors.

The MRPO is one of three project offices managing operations and maintenance activities under Construction-Operations recent reorganization. Others are the Headwaters Office managed by Jim Ruyak and the Western Flood Control Project managed by Tim Bertschi.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Lock & Dam No. 1 opens house

Head Lock Operator Tony Escobar (left) answered questions from visitors during the open house at Lock & Dam No. 1 in St. Paul on August 13.

Below (from left) are Billy Schreifels, Lisa Tomczak, a Co-op Program student, and Larry Miller. Schreifels and Miller attended the open house with MaryAnne Miller, Construction-Operations Division.

Lock and dam personnel hosted the open house for an estimated 1,500 visitors as part of Highland Fest.



Photo by Ken Gardner

Rescue, cont. from page 1

Lumaye radios help

Meanwhile, Lumaye radioed the emergency dispatcher at the Itasca County sheriff's office. The dispatcher called for an ambulance. It was 7:20 p.m. Lumaye turned on his siren and lights. The three headed for Highway 46 and the hospital at Deer River.

Now on Highway 46, Lumaye asked Meyer to monitor her niece's pulse and breathing. Meyer reported that her niece had stopped breathing. He radioed the sheriff's department. Lumaye pulled over and started rescue breathing on Lafever. "After three to four breaths she began breathing and became hysterical," said Lumaye.

A mile or two passed. Lafever stopped breathing again. The ambulance crew radioed Lumaye. "We have stopped at mile marker

eight," said Lumaye. He briefed the crew, successfully performed rescue breathing, and resumed the journey.

Farther down the road, Lafever stopped breathing the third time. This time, Meyer reported that Lafever had no pulse. Lumaye pulled over to check. No pulse. He heard a gurgling. He pulled Lafever out of the Bronco and performed CPR. "After three to four compressions, Spring rejoined us in a hysterical state," he said.

About one-half mile down the road, the lights of the ambulance blinked. "I could see the red lights of the ambulance down the road, but they seemed stopped by a car that was parked on the side of the road," said Lumaye. "I thought 'No. You've stopped too soon. You've got the wrong car. This is where you belong.' As it turned out, the ambulance crew stopped at a house

nearby to pick up their final emergency volunteer."

The ambulance arrived. Paramedics scrambled out. Lumaye briefed them again. One gave Lafever a shot in her upper leg. "She was hysterical, but breathing on her own," said Lumaye. "We strapped her onto a back board. We then put her onto the stretcher."

Meyer stayed with her niece in the ambulance. Lumaye followed at a normal pace and later joined them at the hospital. Lafever stayed overnight for observation and later fully recovered.

Lumaye returned to camp and advised Lafever's relatives of her condition and related events.

"I could not have done this without the assistance of Rhonda Meyer, Spring's aunt," said Lumaye. "We counted on each other and that is the only way we got the job done."

Site, cont. from page 5

Students uncover clues to early trade

very wide, and the people living at this site had access to resources far from the Mississippi River basin. Several small pieces of obsidian or volcanic glass were traded into this site from sources in the Rocky Mountains.

This summer's field work will not only help archeologists to understand more about the peoples and cultures who used the Mississippi River in the past, but it will help other scientists understand the nature of the river and its flooding. Dr. James Knox, from the Geography Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was excited when two buried soil horizons were discovered at the site. The formation of these older soils on the

floodplain suggest time periods in the past when the floodplain was fairly unchanged by major flood events. Today, as with most other times in the past, recurring flooding prevented soils from being formed on the floodplain. The ability to date the archeological levels that surround these buried soils, will help date these periods of soil formation.

The artifacts, soil samples and other remains from this important archeological site are now in the laboratories of the University of Wisconsin. With time and through the efforts of many researchers, their secrets will reveal a rich history of the Mississippi River and its early inhabitants.



Photo by Dave Berwick

A student holds a stadia rod at the top of a feature. The rod measures depth for 3-D rendering.

Bits and Pieces

Creator of 'Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes' here for Diversity Week

Jane Elliott creator of the powerful "Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes" exercise in discrimination, will appear on Oct. 11, the second day of Diversity Week. The opening ceremony for Diversity Week will be held Oct. 10 at the Jerome Hill Theater. A reception at the Great Hall will follow the opening ceremony. Diversity Week ends Oct. 12 with a participatory ethnic luncheon and music at the Galtier Towers. Similar to last year, employees will be asked to bring food to share or to contribute cash to support the luncheon. For more information, contact Joann Meier in EEO at 290-5383.

Protection for wildlife habitat, historic site

A Corps of Engineers contractor is piling about 5,000 cubic yards of limestone riprap around 1,700 feet of shoreline on Red Oak Island to preserve wildlife habitat and an historic site. The project is in Lake Onalaska within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

The district awarded a \$216,000 contract to a La Crosse, Wis. contractor for the project which began in late August. The J.F. Brennan Co., Inc., is placing the riprap on the erosion-sensitive north and south ends of the island.

Red Oak Island is a remnant of a glacial terrace and its soil is prone to erosion. The unique soil types and associated vegetation provide valuable wildlife habitat that is rare in the floodplain. The project will be done before Oct. 1 to comply with Lake Onalaska's voluntary waterfowl avoidance area.

Downsizing, cont. from page 2

"...look for ways of improving work processes..."

smarter, to look for ways of improving work processes, to take advantage of available technologies and to improve our products. This is basic to today's workplace — both in and outside government. Whether you call it quality, Total Army Quality, Army Communities of Excellence, Army Ideas for Excellence or the suggestion program, the idea is the same. We need to be innovative, to work smarter, to make the most of our time and tools, and make efficiency, competitiveness, and quality a part of our daily work lives.

In summary, our short-term FTE situation is not as good as we anticipated. In the long term, expect FTEs to be an issue for sometime to come. Downsizing and the need to be competitive will generate additional changes in the district. Every member of the St. Paul District has an important role in determining the future of the district. Be innovative and look at ways to improve what you do and how you do it.

Rest assured that although the district is not in a growth situation, it is not going out of business, either. Our size and work load will stabilize in the next year or two. Our challenge remains balancing missions, taking care of our customers and ensuring the continued professional growth of the members of the district.

Both Curtiss and I are glad to be here and to be part of this outstanding organization. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



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Crosscurrents

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