

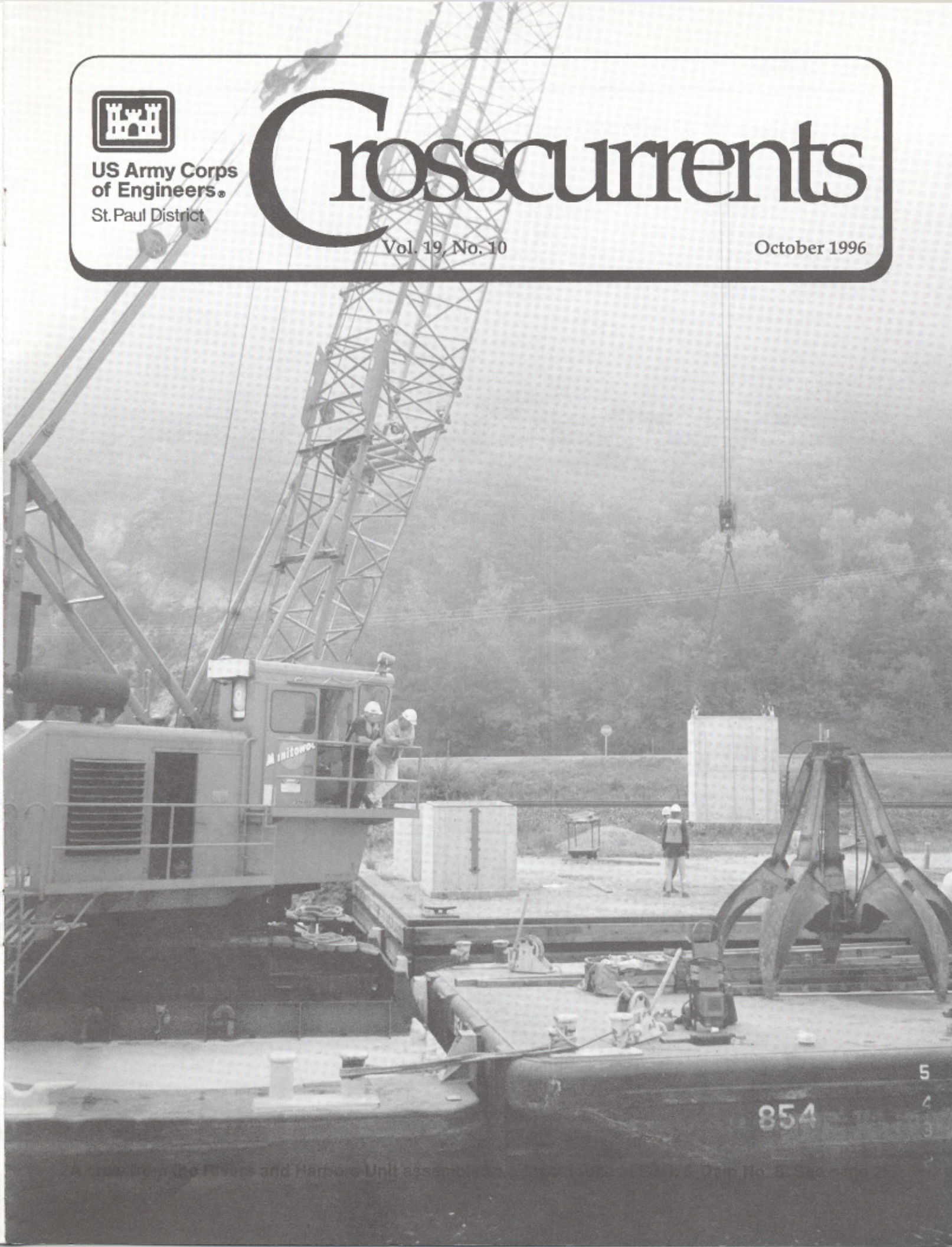


US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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854

5  
4  
3

## District enters FY 97 with \$90 million budget

The St. Paul District has a budget of \$90,063,000 to achieve its mission for fiscal year 1997.

The district mission is to provide high quality, timely, cost-effective engineering services within the district boundaries through civil works, military and international activities.

"We have had an extremely successful 1996. A team effort made it possible," said COL J.M. Wonsik, district commander. "We are in good shape for the challenges we'll face FY 97 — CEFMS, restructuring, continued improvement in our competitive position, marketing, and management of change to our benefit."

The district objectives for FY 97 are:

- Control and minimize the costs of doing business. Where applicable, be

competitive with industry standards and adapt the efficiencies and successes of other districts;

- Deploy CEFMS within the allowable General and Administrative (G&A) overhead rate of 32 percent;
- Expend 100 percent of budgeted funding;
- Recover costs in revolving fund accounts (G&A, Departmental Overhead, and Shops and Facilities) with a target of a near zero nominal balance;
- Minimize overhead rate fluctuations;
- Meet Command Management Review (CMR) indicators; and
- Accomplish the workload within the budgeted year.

"I urge division and office chiefs to keep their operating costs within funding ceilings," said Wonsik.

## Cover photo

The crew from the Rivers and Harbors Unit at the district's Fountain City Service Base assembled the precast components of a new gauge house this September at Lock & Dam No. 8 at Genoa, Wis. Last summer a towboat collided with the original gauge house, located at the end of a guide wall. The gauge house holds equipment to measure the water level of the navigation pool. Standing on the catwalk of the crane are Alan Breitung (at left), head mechanic and operator of the Derrickboat Hauser, and Lanny Krause, Rivers and Harbors supervisor. The Technical Support Branch worked with the Mississippi River Project Office on the plan to replace and repair the gauge house.

Photo by Ken Gardner

## Alligator visits Lake Ashtabula

by Scott Tichy, park ranger  
Baldhill Dam/Lake Ashtabula

There was an alligator at Lake Ashtabula! On August 24, a five-foot female alligator was part of an interpretative program presented by volunteers of the Red River Zoological Society. The toothy critter was joined by a black-footed ferret. Society volunteers presented a monthly program in June, July and August as part of the Lake Ashtabula interpretative schedule.



Photo by Brian Schwartz

Teresa Scott (left) and Pat Kerzman of the Red River Zoological Society show a display of a 15-foot alligator at Baldhill Dam/Lake Ashtabula. They presented an interpretative program and a live alligator to campground visitors in August.

## District demolishes former missile launch site



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Tangles of reinforcing bar protrude from 22-inch thick underground concrete walls at the former Nike missile site at Bethel, Minn.

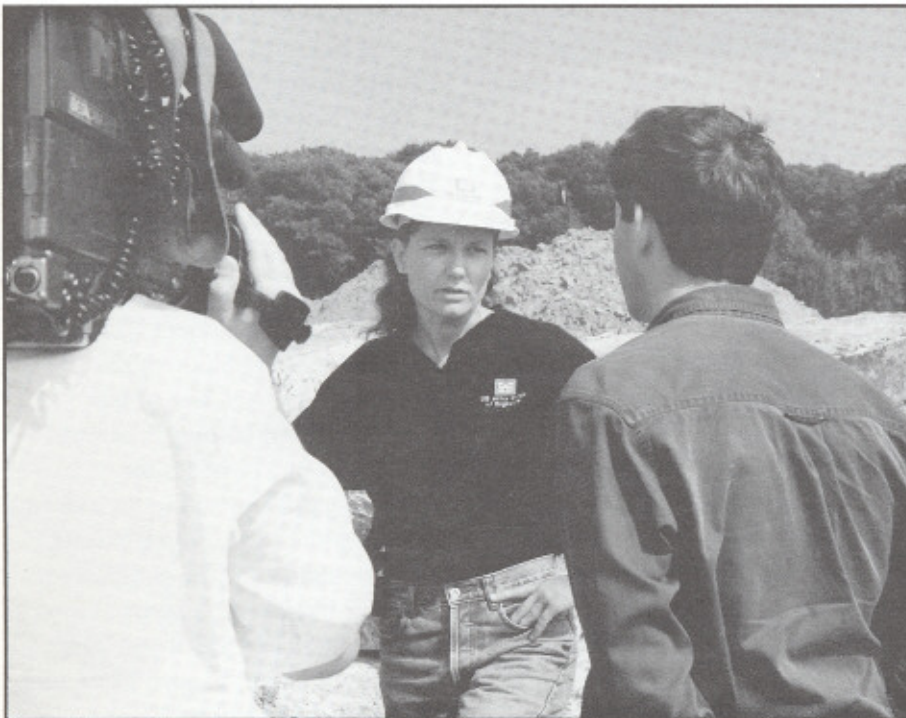


Photo by Peter Verstegen

Lisa Hedin (center), project manager, answers questions for a television crew from KARE 11. At left is photographer Dennis O. Stearns. Reporter Boyd Huppert is at right. The crew visited the former Nike missile site in early September to report on its demolition.

A relic of the Cold War is being turned into rubble. The former Nike missile launch facility at Bethel, Minn., north of the Twin Cities, was demolished this summer as part of the DERP-FUDS (Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites) administered by the district.

The site contained three underground magazines/launch elevators. These magazines housed Nike missiles that could be raised to the surface using elevators, and launched from the surface.

The missiles served to protect the Twin Cities from aerial attack. Other sites that protected the metropolitan area were in Roberts, Wis.; Farmington, Minn.; and St. Bonifacius, Minn.

"The district is demolishing the site to remove the potential hazards associated with the facility," said Lisa Hedin, project manager. "Slip, trip, and fall hazards as well as confined spaces existed at the site, and presented a safety hazard to anyone accessing it."

The \$250,000 project consists of removing mechanical equipment such as generators, elevators, heating and hydraulic lines; demolishing roofs and the top five to seven feet of the walls of the underground magazine; removing driveways and launch pads; filling in the launch silos; and finish grading of the site.

When the work is completed, the Minnesota Sheriff's Youth Ranch intends to use the area for athletic fields.

The Corps has an inventory of 136 former defense sites in Minnesota and Wisconsin, about half of which are in Minnesota.

## ASA(CW) visits EMP projects

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works ASA(CW) H. Martin Lancaster flew over a dozen Environmental Management Program projects on the Mississippi River on September 9, 1996.

In the photo at right, a news crew from La Crosse, Wis., interviews him on Arrowhead Island, part of the \$2 million Lake Onalaska Habitat Project. Lancaster visited the site to see first hand how the island design reduces wave action and associated turbidity in the lake.



Photo by Ken Gardner



Photo by Peter Versteegen

Attending the Houston ground breaking are (front row from left) Sharonne Baylor, Houston project engineer; Melissa Gulan, area engineer; and Dave Haumersen, chief of Construction-Operations.



Photo by Ken Gardner

“Stage 1, the first of three stages for the Houston Project, consists of excavation of a high-flow channel in the Root River to ease the constriction beneath the Hwy. 76 bridge (above),” said Nan Bischoff, project manager. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 1997.

## Houston project ground-breaking held this August

Houston, Minn., is getting 100-year flood protection.

Houston is located in southeast Minnesota in Houston County, about 140 miles south of St. Paul.

The city sits on the banks of the Root River, which is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

On a rainy August 19, officials from the St. Paul District, the City of Houston, residents and visitors were among nearly 55 people to gather in the community center to break ground for the \$6.4 million Houston Flood Protection Project. The project falls under Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, one of the Continuing Authorities Programs.

“The project provides for extending and upgrading the existing levee system,” said Nan Bischoff, project manager. “The plan includes nearly 2.4 miles of permanent levees, almost one-half mile of road raise, interior drainage, channel excavation and a sandbag closure.”

The project is being constructed in three stages. Stage 2a, the ponding area, is complete. Stage 1, the channel excavation, and Stage 2b, the levees and road raises, will be under construction in spring, 1997.

## Profiles in Fitness

# A view from Paintbrush Divide



Photo courtesy Paul Machajewski

**Paul and Lynn Machajewski biked and hiked through the Teton Mountains in Wyoming. He works in Fountain City, Wis.**

by Paul Machajewski  
Program Analyst  
Mississippi River Project

The sign between us reads "Paintbrush Divide, Elevation 10,700." The above photo was taken in Grand Teton Park in Wyoming in September 1994.

This is a journal of our hike up Grand Teton to Paintbrush Divide.

My wife, Lynn, and I and two of our friends entered the trail at 7,500 feet at 7:30 a.m. The temperature was 75 degrees and the sun was shining. We hiked on a trail around Jenny Lake which is at the base of the Grand Teton. Clouds circled the mountain three-fourths of the way up, but the top was visible.

We traversed across a prairie and

began the climb through the forest. We passed a few people while we were on the prairie, but once we got into the woods, we saw no one.

Along the way, we each snacked on our trail mix and fruit. However, as we ascended the mountain, the thinning air and the weight of our backpacks made the hike harder. So we stopped for lunch along a mountain stream. The ice cold stream was beautiful and refreshing. It's amazing how some mountain streams never run dry.

We got back on the trail and began to zig-zag our way up Paintbrush Divide — an area between Grand Teton and Mt. St. John.

Our goal for the day was to reach a small glacial lake at elevation 9,010 feet and set camp for the night. As

we began to grow tired due to the thinning air, we arrived at our destination. For supper, our friend attempted to make beef stew. It did not work. Instead, we went with an old faithful, macaroni and cheese. After dinner, we did a little hiking around the area and watched the colors and shadows of sunset reflect on Grand Teton. What a beautiful sight.

After the sun set, the temperature dropped quickly and we retired to our tents and our sleeping bags. We took comfort knowing our bags were made to keep us warm to 10 degrees below zero. As we fell to sleep, I wondered what it may be like on top of Grand Teton.

The next morning we woke and had pancakes and hot chocolate for breakfast. After breakfast, we were back on the trail headed for the top of Paintbrush Divide.

The next two hours of our hike was the steepest, yet the most fun. We were all excited to make it to the top of the divide. It seemed we were focused only on making it to the top. About a half hour before we made it, I realized that we had climbed to a height above the tree line — an elevation where vegetation cannot survive. I had never been to an area like this before.

As we approached the top of the divide — from the leeward side, the opposite side of the wind — the temperature was about 65 degrees. When we reached the peak of the divide, the temperature dropped about 20 degrees instantly and the wind howled!

We stood together and looked back at what we had accomplished. At the same time, we all said, "Cool!" This was the highest I had ever climbed. The best part was that my wife and best friends were with me.

## Bits and Pieces

### Fitness for your body and bank account

By Lisa Robertson  
student in Public Affairs

From now until mid-October, the Feds for Fitness committee will encourage physical fitness by promoting YMCA memberships. Under the Corporate Membership Program, dues are reduced to \$55 and are valid from November 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997.

The pass is good at all metro area YMCA locations, including Hudson, Wis. The deadline to register for the program is the close of business on October 15, 1996. Lisa Hedin (PE-M) will be accepting membership dues (payable to the "Skyway/East YMCA".)

The Feds for Fitness program currently supports the use of lunch time combined with flextime to exercise. The nearest YMCA, located in the skyway, has an exercise room for weightlifting, working out on treadmills, and climbing on stair-machines. There is also a swimming pool and hot tub, indoor/outdoor running tracks, and tennis courts.

For people who enjoy a more ordered form of exercise, the YMCA has organized racquetball leagues and aerobics classes. For a nominal fee, lessons in swimming, yoga and martial arts are also available.

The Skyway Y plans to remodel from September 23 to December 25 to add new equipment. Along with building a second fitness studio, the Y will add weight-lifting machines, treadmills, and stationary bikes.

The health club will remain open during renovation.

If you are interested in visiting the Y, walk-in orientations and scheduled orientations are available.

*\*\* For more information, contact Lisa Hedin at x5431. Additional information will be posted under #CENCS-ALL on the computer bulletin board.*

### Sinking a sweet tooth into success

By Lisa Robertson  
Student in Public Affairs

By now many of us have probably noticed that the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has been holding a candy drive. Judging by how successful candy sales have been, many district employees have regularly "donated" to the CFC's cause. This is especially true in the Construction-Operations Division (CO) where the most candy has been sold so far.

Donna Zappa (CO) who is assisting in the candy sale said, "I think it's going a lot better than we expected. I mean, we thought it would do really well, but more people have a sweet tooth around here than we thought."

What types of candy have our employees been eating? The answer is chocolate: milk chocolate, chocolate with almonds, chocolate with caramel — anything as long as it has chocolate in it.

According to Zappa, chocolate bar sales have probably been the best, while the surprise seller was Gummi Nerds which "went over much better

than anyone expected." Sprees were, well, least preferred. But don't worry. Just about anything with sugar in it was eventually eaten.

According to Maryann Miller (CO-TS) most candy is sold shortly after lunch time when people crave a sweet dessert or a snack. "Half the people are dedicated to going to the YMCA," said Miller, "but they come back from the Y looking for their chocolate."

For those of you who haven't gotten a sugar fix in a while, the sale will continue through the end of October or until the candy has sold out.

### Upcoming CFC events

**Kick Off:** Tuesday, Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

**Balloon Message Center:** Tuesday, Oct. 22

**Bake Sale:** Thursday, Oct. 24

**Book Sale:** Friday, Oct. 25

### Awards Ceremony set for Dec. 13

The St. Paul District's Holiday Awards Ceremony is scheduled for the Southview Country Club in West St. Paul on Friday, December 13, 1996. The event was held at the Southview Country Club last year.

Bill McCarthy, Real Estate Division, is coordinating this year's ceremony. Denise McCarthy, Contracting Division, and Lisa Hedin, Engineering and Planning Division, will be the masters of ceremony. Bill McCarthy may be reached at 290-5386.



## Ballard is 49th Chief of Engineers

LTG Joe N. Ballard became the 49th Chief of Engineers and commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at an Assumption of Command ceremony on Oct. 1 at Ft. Meyer, Va. Ballard, who is the first African-American Chief of Engineers, is a native of Oakdale, La.

## District Personnel Changes: July\*

### Hello

#### Construction-Operations Division

Phyllis A. Ammann, laborer  
 Franklin G. Camden, deckhand  
 Robert B. Flen, laborer  
 Patrick A. Fritz, laborer  
 Lonnie M. Gulseth, surveying technician  
 Timothy L. Hanson, deckhand  
 Donna R. Heyer, laborer  
 Terrance C. Hogan, laborer  
 Matthew B. Hoy, deckhand  
 Kenneth D. Kelley, laborer  
 John C. Klein, laborer  
 Cheryl A. Larose, laborer  
 Bryan H. Letourneau, laborer  
 Stephen J. McDonald, deckhand  
 Ilona M. Moen, laborer  
 Charles D. Mosholder, laborer  
 Benjamin D. Newman, deckhand  
 Raymond S. Paananen, laborer  
 Joseph J. Rau, deckhand  
 Randy L. Sackett, laborer  
 Juan Santos, Jr., laborer  
 Michael A. Savage, laborer  
 Jarod J. Skrede, deckhand  
 Allen D. Stahl, lock & dam equipment mechanic  
 Lucas W. Stinson, deckhand  
 Erik D. Trottle, laborer  
 Angela L. Wall-Hanson, laborer

#### EEO Office

Sandra R. Harrison, office automation clerk

#### Engineering and Planning Division

Sharaine R. Smith, office automation clerk

#### Office of Counsel

Elizabeth I. Hallowell, office automation clerk

#### Resource Management Office

Lisa M. Stanonik, office automation clerk

### Farewell

#### Construction-Operations Division

Earl E. Scherlin, surveying technician  
 Robert D. Torkildson, laborer

#### Human Resources Division

Lenora P. Brooks, secretary  
 Tamalin M. Fox, office automation clerk

#### Information Management Office

Richard W. Gorr, computer systems analyst

#### Office of Counsel

Toi L. Walker, office automation clerk

## August

### Hello

#### Construction-Operations Division

Brian M. Krause, deckhand  
 Lorri L. Nelson, deckhand  
 Casey J. Staige, deckhand

#### Information Management

Kristin A. Gigstad, computer clerk

#### Office of Counsel

Georgia L. Stanonik, legal assistant

### Farewell

#### Construction-Operations Division

Chad J. Caya, laborer  
 Shane D. Delaney, forestry technician  
 Keith M. Flury, civil engineering technician  
 Cindy Lou Haagenson, biological science technician  
 Matthew B. Hoy, deckhand  
 Kenneth D. Kelley, laborer  
 Mark D. Miller, deckhand  
 Meggin L. Olesen, office automation clerk  
 Christopher R. Olson, deckhand  
 Norman R. Rubin, surveying technician  
 David L. Vonch, deckhand  
 Aaron F. Wilson, laborer  
 Lori A. Wozney, student trainee

#### Engineering and Planning Division

Jane L. Carroll, historian  
 Jacqueline E. Horstman, student trainee  
 Sharaine R. Smith, office automation clerk

#### Human Resource Division

Jeffrey M. Demay, personnel staffing & classification specialist  
 Phillip E. Hart, office automation clerk

\*July and August changes include many student and seasonal employees.

## Retirees gather in St. Paul for 21st reunion



Photo by Ken Gardner



Photo by Ken Gardner

In above photo, retirees Julia Herl, 88, and Irv Kendall, 84, were among the 76 Corps of Engineers family members to attend the 21st Annual Retirees' Reunion. Herl worked in the Cost Section from 1927 to 1938. Kendall worked in Hydraulics Branch from 1938 to 1974, with a break for military duty.

In photo at top left, members of the district's Hall of Fame welcomed the 1996 inductee, Lou Kowalski (second from right), into distinguished company. Kowalski retired in 1996 as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management (DDPM). From left, followed by their Hall of Fame year, are Richard W. Leonard, 1975; Peter A. Fischer, 1987; James E. Kursu, 1995; Sheldon Fox, 1985; Kowalski, 1996; and Roger Fast, 1981.



Photo by Ken Gardner



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

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# Crosscurrents

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Public Affairs Officer Kennon Gardner  
Editor Peter Versteegen

## Gatekeepers at Genoa's gateway

In photo above left, Lockmaster James Greene (left) and William Stute, lock and dam operator, discuss a problem with a downstream mitre gate at Lock & Dam No. 8 at Genoa, Wis. The gate, which experiences a small "bump" during operation, may result in the lock being de-watered this winter for inspection and repair of the gate.