



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 20, No. 10

December 1997

South of La Crosse, Wis.

District builds EMP islands in Mississippi River



Photo by Ken Gardner

Bulldozers from a Corps of Engineers' contractor build and shape the sand base for "Island A" on the Mississippi River south of La Crosse, Wis. Work began in November and ended for the season Dec. 5.

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs Specialist

River south of La Crosse near Stoddard, Wis. This project is one of several in Environmental Management Program (EMP) on the Upper Mississippi River that are coordinated by the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Initial construction began this November on the \$2.3 million Pool 8 islands habitat project on the Mississippi

Islands, continued on page 3

Each individual has ownership in The Vision

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

The bottom line is that each one of us has ownership in the success of our Vision.

Here's just one of many examples that show The Vision and its sub-strategies at work in the St. Paul District.

Each one of us in the district office will be moving to a new location sometime between February and June. This will save \$480,000 annually by eliminating unneeded and costly rented space, thereby, by reducing our overhead. This cuts our costs to our customers and makes us more competitive.

Reducing costs in this and other ways addresses one of the major goals of The Vision: "Revolutionize Effectiveness."

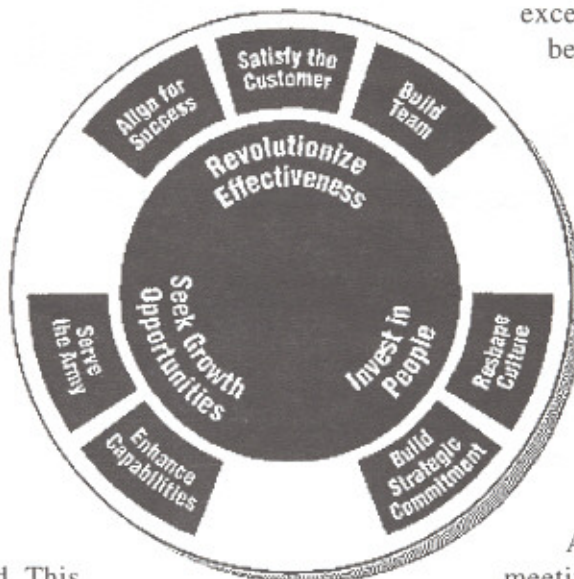
This is a good example of a local action that supports the Corps-wide goal of revolutionizing effectiveness.

But it doesn't stop there. If we use some of the savings to buy special training, then we are also meeting the goal of "Invest in People." On the other hand, if, instead of training, we use some of the savings to invest in new technology, this falls under the sub-strategy of "Enhance Capabilities."

This one example demonstrates how interrelated The Vision strategies and sub-strategies are.

Here's another quick example. One of the sub-strategies is to "Build the Team." As we successfully continue to build the team, I believe we would also see "Enhanced Capabilities" and will further "Reshape Culture."

By looking at our accomplishments in this manner, you'll find that many of our programs and accomplishments directly or indirectly support the elements of The Vision. Just another example of the



excellent efforts you make on behalf of this district.

When the district initiated quality management in 1994, we started a journey to become a more effective organization. The message of TAQ is to focus on internal and external customer satisfaction — address their needs and improve the quality of our work.

The vision and TAQ go hand-in-hand.

As I said at our last Town Hall meeting, The Vision identifies the Corps as the world's premier engineering organization:

- A vital part of the Army — the St. Paul District's civil works mission serves the Army and this serves the nation.
- The engineer team of choice — responding to our nation's needs in peace and war;
- A values-based organization — respected, responsive and reliable. Our response during the Flood of 1997 in Red River of the North basin demonstrated that this district —you— were the team of choice in communities endangered by flooding. The advance measures, the emergency response and the recovery effort clearly demonstrated we are respected, responsive, and reliable.

The Vision sets goals to bring us into the 21st century. But our ownership has both prepared and allowed this district to continue to demonstrate real achievements to this end.

In closing, with the holiday season here, I'd like to extend my best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season to all the members of the MVP team.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season



Photos by Ken Gardner

Lisa Lund, project engineer, answered general questions about the Pool 8 Islands Project during a media day in November. Above is a news crew from WKBT, channel 8, La Crosse, Wis. The project site is on the Mississippi River in the background.

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Service and others. The project is in the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

The project marks the start of Phase II of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP). Work to construct a sand base for "Island A" began in early November. Island A is the largest of seven islands to be restored in the project.

Work this fall on the Pool 8 islands habitat project will be limited to constructing the sand base for Island A and the construction of six seed islands in the area below Heron and Trapping Islands. Seed islands are small rock structures designed to stimulate formation of islands through natural river processes.

This habitat project is being constructed as part of the EMP. Congress established the EMP in 1986 to protect and balance the resources of the Upper Mississippi River and to guide future river management.

The EMP is the only system-wide program which targets habitat rehabilitation and enhancement and long-term resource monitoring. The construction of habitat projects on the Upper Mississippi River has restored, protected or enhanced thousands of acres



A news crew from channel 19, which serves La Crosse, interviewed Gary Palesh, technical manager for the Pool 8 Island Project.



What is to become fill for the formation of Island A gushes out of dredge line. A tractor operated by a contractor shapes the island, located on the Mississippi River near Stoddard, Wis. The island project is a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and public interests.

floodplain and aquatic habitat. The projects benefit aquatic, wetland and terrestrial species.

The work is being done by J.F. Brennan Co., Inc. of La Crosse, Wisconsin, working as a subcontractor for L.W. Matteson, Inc. of Burlington, Iowa.

Work was halted prior to river freeze-up. "They just quit last Friday (December 5)," said Lisa Lund, project engineer. Construction on the remainder of the project will resume after high water levels recede next spring.

Be alert and stay alive

by Ron Scott, Safety Officer

Several years ago, a district employee on TDY attempted to drive home. The drive involved a long stretch of freeway driving. All she remembers is waking up in the hospital, having fallen asleep at the wheel of her vehicle.

It is extremely important now that winter is upon us, that we remain fully alert while driving. Here is a list of questions to help determine if you are too fatigued to drive.

1. Can you remember the last mile you drove?
2. Do you recall the last milepost marker you passed?
3. Have you been tailgating?
4. Are you weaving or changing lanes for no reason?
5. Are you driving slowly in the high speed lane?
6. Did you remember to roll down the window for some fresh air?
7. Are you constantly shifting in your seat?
8. Are the other vehicles on the road getting on your nerves?
9. Did you remember to pull over and take a stretch break every two hours?
10. Did you forget to turn off your turn signals from the last lane change?
11. Can you remember the color of the last warning sign?
12. Are oncoming headlights bothering you?
13. Are you unable to focus clearly?
14. Do you require the use of caffeine to stay alert?

Remember that driving is work, and it may be more physically fatiguing than your job because it demands constant attention. At 55 miles per hour, each second your vehicle travels 80 feet, so you can't ease up mentally for long without wandering off of the road or into oncoming traffic. Keep alert and stay alive.

A holiday message from the Chief of Engineers

by LTG Joe N. Ballard
Commanding

This past year ranks as one of the best of my career. I am truly blessed to be leading this great organization and working with some of the finest people in the Department of Defense.

As I reflect on the past year, I have ample reason to be proud of the way you have supported the United States and our soldiers. The Corps has protected U.S. forces in the Middle East and continues to support our soldiers in Bosnia. We built numerous facilities at Army and Air Force bases around the nation to enhance their capabilities as power-projection platforms, and to enhance the quality of life of families. We also have the lead in renovating the Pentagon, the nerve center of the entire Department of Defense.

As always, our support to the nation remains steady. Corps team members saved lives and property by fighting floods in California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Ohio River and Mississippi valleys.

The Corps continues to restore wetlands and wildlife habitat, including taking an active part in restoring the Everglades, the world's largest environmental restoration project.

We cleaned and decontaminated toxic waste sites, including former defense sites in order to turn them back to public use.

Perhaps most importantly, we continue to look to the future, and we have established a Vision and Strategic Plan to guide us as we face the coming challenges. I look

forward to the coming year with great anticipation of what we can accomplish together.

The Corps family wishes you and your family happy holidays and a joyous and prosperous New Year.



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of Engineers**

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Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Editorial views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers, nor of the Department of the Army.

Crosscurrents

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