



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

# Crosscurrents

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## Employees support spirit of the holiday season Santa Anonymous



Photo by Peter Verstegen

St. Paul District employees participated in the holiday spirit by supporting needy families under the sponsorship of community-based charitable organizations.

The district managed federal participation of eight agencies plus the Corps in the Twin Cities metro area Santa Anonymous Program for needy children.

Human Resources Division and Programs and Project Management Division and Bill Vennemann from Real Estate provided gifts and food certificates to two families in the Adopt-a-Family Program through Neighbors, Inc., a non-profit social service agency.

The Federal Women's Program conducted a clothing drive for Mary's Shelter, a residence for battered women.

Construction-Operations' Regulatory Branch worked with Ramsey County Social Services to collect gifts for two separate families.

**Top left photo: Bill Venneman, Mary Kay Linder, Mary Street and Lisa Hedin gather presents for Santa Anonymous. Bottom right: Luann Bartuah wraps gifts to present to the Adopt-a-Family Program at Neighbors, Inc. Bottom left, Patrick Harding, Denise McCarthy and Tony Foster load clothing for Mary's Shelter.**

### Mary's Shelter



Photo by Peter Verstegen

### Adopt-a-Family



Photo by Lisa Robertson

# 1996 begins and ends with awards

## January

- North Central Division (NCD) announced that Dave Loss, Engineering and Planning Division (PE), was the recipient of the Planning Excellence Award. Loss received the award for his leadership in the successful Floodplain Management Assessment (FPMA) of the Flood of 1993. The United States Congress received the assessment on time and on budget.

- St. Paul District officials began preparations to introduce CEFMS (Corps of Engineers Financial Management System) in April 1997. The system is designed to integrate every system even remotely related to financial matters.

## February

- The St. Paul District's Rochester Flood Control Project won in the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) "Seven Wonders of Engineering" competition. The award recognized top engineering achievements in Minnesota. Criteria included scope of the project, the project's uniqueness, engineering skills, the significance to society and the quality of the presentation for the award.

- The district hosted the first-ever Mississippi River summit, bringing together major stakeholders who have interests in the life of the Mississippi River. The meeting produced a shared vision statement among the nearly 100 stakeholders. The meeting was held in

Bloomington, Minn.

- A division restructuring proposal was released. The plan would eliminate NCD and transfer St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis into a newly configured Upper Mississippi and Missouri Valley Division.

## March

- The Rochester Flood Control Project earned the Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence in a Corps-wide design and engineering competition. This is the Corps' highest honor for a civil works project in its biennial design competition. The award for Rochester gives St. Paul the distinction of being the only district to earn the Award of Excellence three times. The FPMA and the design of the new Central Control Station at Lock and Dam No. 4 in Alma, Wis., achieved Awards of Merit in the same competition.

- Chuck Crist was named Deputy District Engineer for Project Management (DDPM) and chief of Programs and Project Management Division (PPM). He took over for Lou Kowalski, who retired in April.

- Navigation on the Upper Mississippi River opened March 17, when the MV Gold Cup locked through Lock and Dam No. 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, bound for Mc Gregor, Iowa.

## April

- Lou Kowalski retired after more than 39 years of federal service, including two years active duty as an engineering officer. He achieved the district's top civilian position as DDPM and chief of PPM.

- The district supported 16 cities and 13 counties in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota in their effort to control spring

flooding. Employees in PE and Construction-Operations Division (CO) performed flood fighting efforts.

- The Channel Maintenance Management Plan (CMMP) for the Upper Mississippi River navigation system was completed. The plan merges previous planning efforts into a comprehensive long-term management plan for channel and harbor maintenance.

## May

- Deb Foley from Programs and Project Management Division was honored as Corps of Engineers Project Manager of the Year for fiscal year 1996.

- Tim Bertschi of the Western Flood Control Project Office in Fargo, N.D.; and Jenny Yager and Dave Loss, PE, received recognition as Civil Servants of the Year at a federal employees' awards luncheon in Minneapolis.

## June

- George Fortune, PE, received honors as the Corps of Engineers' first Design Engineer of the Year.

- The Floodplain Management Assessment (FPMA) team received notice that they were awarded the 1994 Outstanding Planning Achievement Award for their assessment of the 1993 flood and floodplain activities along the Upper Mississippi and Lower Missouri Rivers and major tributaries.

- District Historian John Anfinson opens an exhibit of photography by Henry P. Bosse at Corps of Engineers Headquarters. The Bosse photos have become collectors items and are prized for their exceptional composition.

## July

- Harold Taggatz, assistant chief of CO, shared in the Hammer Award sponsored by the National Performance Review. The mission of the team on which he worked was to streamline the Corps' processes, regulations and management of the operations and maintenance of Corps reservoirs, dams and recreation areas.

- The district began work on the Stillwater Project to repair and reconstruct the levee wall in Lowell Park. The objective of the \$3.2 million project was to control erosion.

## August

- Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASACW) H. Martin Lancaster released one possible plan developed in the St. Paul District for a \$21 million emergency outlet for Devils Lake, North Dakota. Late in the month, the district held a bid opening for its first contract to raise and extend the Devils Lake levee at Creel Bay.

- District officials visited the southeast Minnesota community of Houston to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the \$6.4 million Houston Flood Protection Project.

- Lou Kowalski, retired DDPM, was inducted into the district's Hall of Fame during the retirees' reunion in St. Paul.

## September

- ASACW Lancaster visited the district to review Environmental Management Program projects on the Upper Mississippi River. He stepped foot on Arrowhead Island, part of the \$2 million Lake Onalaska Project near La Crosse, Wis.

## October

- Four employees from the district helped with Hurricane Fran Recovery efforts. They were: Shelly Shafer from the Eau Galle Lake Project; Joe Skupa, CO; Martin Frawley, Real Estate Division; and Dave Salberg, Lake Traverse Flood Control Project.

- The district conducted a very successful Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) under the leadership of Jan Pream, CO. The district raised cash and pledges of \$32,000 and exceeded its goal of \$27,000.

## November

- Lynn Harris, chief of Human Resources Division, took the lead for federal agencies in the Twin Cities to coordinate contributions for the Santa Anonymous program for needy families.

## December

- NCD recognized the district for the honor of Best District Safety Program in the division for 1996. Natural Resources Section in La Crescent, Minn., was deemed as Best Safety Program for an Operating

Facility. Lockmasters Bob Stahl and Steve Lehnart achieved the Special Award for Sustained Safety Performance for no lost time accidents at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.

- At the district's Awards Banquet in West St. Paul, Connie Brantner from Lock and Dam No. 4 in Alma, Wis., received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for performing assisted rescue breathing in October on the cook of a tow boat. The assisted breathing kept the cook alive until an ambulance arrived. After surgery at Mayo Clinic, the cook recovered at home. The boat had been locking through.

- CO swept the awards in the district's Army Ideas for Excellence suggestion program. Charles Hiam, lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 9 in Eastman, Wis., was recognized as Suggester of the Year for his "portable winch retrieval system." Mark Edlund (CO-TS) received the Evaluator of the Year award for on-time evaluations and modifications which add value to suggestions. Dave Haumersen, chief of CO, was named Suggestion Champion of the Year for consistently encouraging good ideas to improve the district.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Among the retirees to attend December's Awards Banquet, 11 gathered afterward for a group photo. From left: LaVane Dempsey; Deloris Sudeith; Jim Kursu; Mary Rivett; Jean Turcotte; Betty Krueger; Bill Goetz; Lou Kowalski; Harry Novak; Al Rosenberg; and Dale Lynch.

## CEFMS training

**Training team begins with facilities, equipment, curriculum development and establishing help desk**

by Linda Wiley  
CEFMS training team

The Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) training team has been in full swing for several months now. It consists of a core team and 18 trainers. The team has five primary areas of responsibility: facilities, equipment, curriculum development and the help desk.

**Facilities and equipment:** Four classrooms have been set up in the district office. They are all located on the fourth floor and will be referred to as Classroom 100, 200, etc. Three of the rooms are temporary, set up specifically for CEFMS training. The other is the room formerly known as conference room 4 A/B. All classrooms are equipped for a maximum of 12 students and two instructors. Computers are '386s, saved from office upgrades which have been tested for functional



Photo by Lisa Robertson

**A CEFMS classroom (above) has been constructed in the old Regulatory Branch on fourth floor. The classroom is one of four that have been set up in the district office. The computers contain '386 processors, saved from office upgrades.**

reliability.

There will also be a training facility located at the Fountain City Service Base where many of the field personnel will be taught. In addition, most of the field personnel at locations north and west of the district office will be taught at their own office. This will save travel costs and allow people to learn on the actual equipment they'll be using after CEFMS implementation.

**Curriculum development:** Instructors have now had their Huntsville training and brought back materials to tailor classes for our district. They are hard at work developing examples on the

training database and working out any bugs in the system. Courses are being developed with our district personnel and their needs in mind. Our goal is to have each individual get just the training they need — no more and no less. Instructors will practice their skills in dry-run sessions held in January.

**Scheduling:** This seemingly gargantuan task has begun. We are developing class lists based on the CEFMS survey, business processes, and reasonable estimates about who will be doing what in the new scheme of things. Further refinements will come as we estimate how long courses will be and start putting date and room assignments together. If your job has you doing anything with financial transactions, chances are your name will appear on a course roster. The CEFMS team will keep you posted.

**Help desk:** The team expects to have a flurry of questions and problems immediately after implementation in May and is looking at the best way to handle this challenge. Options include staffing a full-time phone bank with our trainers and/or bringing in experienced people from districts who went through this earlier.



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