




US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 26, No. 6

June 2003

A black and white photograph showing a diver in full gear, including a helmet and mask, being assisted by a surface worker on a boat. The surface worker is wearing a high-visibility vest and is holding a large, flexible hose or cable. The diver is standing on a metal structure, possibly a ladder or platform, over the water. The water appears to be dark and possibly muddy or frigid, as mentioned in the text.

**Muddy, frigid  
waters challenge  
district divers**

Page 7

# Team exceeds expectations

By Col. Robert Ball  
District Engineer

They're at it again. Most of the members of the Temporary Housing Project Response Team deployed for the fourth year in a row, this time to Metropolis, Ill.

I was reading a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, praising the work done by the team in Roseau, Minn., last year at the same time that Mississippi Valley Division was sending word that FEMA was giving glowing praise to the team for this year's efforts. By anyone's standards, our PRT is an exceptional organization.

Why is this team so special? A large part is the people involved even though the team composition has changed through the years.

Somehow the PRT continues to exceed everyone's expectations with a different mix of people for each mission. They have fun as they move out with a sense of urgency that impresses FEMA and the people they are trying to help. And, they pass the lessons learned on to the new members of the team (can't get away from learning organizations).

As each new mission starts, the team begins with the level of knowledge and experience that they

---

**... the PRT continues to exceed everyone's expectations with a different mix of people for each mission.**

---

ended the last mission with. As a part of the sharing of ideas and lessons, the experienced team members impart that sense of pride and drive for mission accomplishment that has become their trademark to the new members.

We can all learn a lesson from our award winning PRT. We need to emulate that drive to get the mission done on time, under budget and to standard. We need to be able to have fun as we pursue the noble mission that we have been given. We need to bring new members of the team on board quickly and give them the tools to be fully functioning members of the team, ready to carry on the best winning traditions that we have established.

Finally, we all need to share those hard-earned lessons with each other so mistakes aren't made twice and good ideas are adopted quickly.

And, in case you were wondering, there is a larger than life statue of Superman in downtown Metropolis, Ill.

## Who's who on the response team

- Dick Otto, emergency support function 3 action officer;
- Bonnie Greenleaf, mission manager;
- Kari Layman, mission specialist;
- Kevin Henricks, contract specialist;
- Mark Koenig, area engineer, resident engineer;
- Virginia Regorrah: resident engineer;
- Bob LeMonds, database manager, quality assurance inspector;
- Lowell Hanson, Don Speulda: quality assurance supervisors;
- Randy Melby, Jay Bushy: quality assurance inspectors;
- Ken Beck, William Vennemann:

*Who's who, continued Page 12*

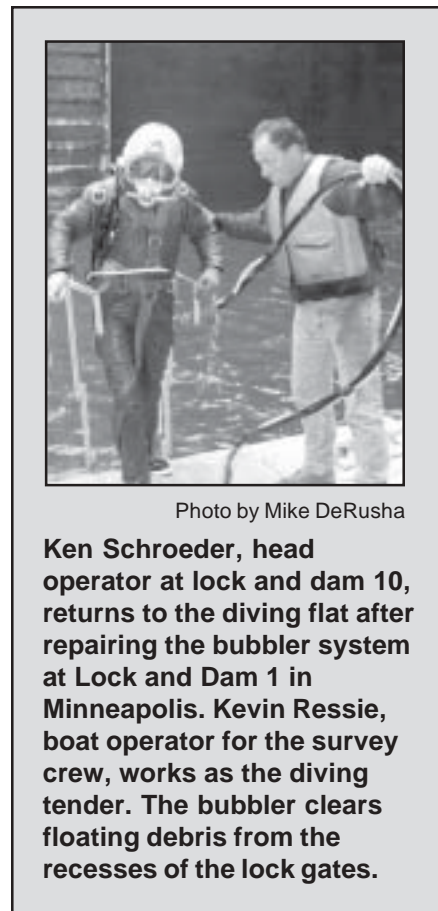



Photo by Mike DeRusha

**Ken Schroeder, head operator at lock and dam 10, returns to the diving flat after repairing the bubbler system at Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis. Kevin Ressie, boat operator for the survey crew, works as the diving tender. The bubbler clears floating debris from the recesses of the lock gates.**



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

## Crosscurrents

*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. 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.

Address all inquiries to:

Editor, *Crosscurrents*  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Army Corps of Engineers Centre  
190 Fifth Street East  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638  
Telephone 651-290-5202

District Engineer	Col. Robert L. Ball
Public Affairs Chief	Mark Davidson
Media Specialist	Shannon Bauer
Editor	Peter Versteegen
E-mail	cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

# Pine River Dam receives \$6.4 million renovation

A 1993 evaluation of the dam at Crosslake, Minn., showed that the century-old structure did not comply with today's safety standards.

By Shannon Bauer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, hosted a dedication ceremony for its newly renovated Pine River Dam in Crosslake, Minn., June 14.

This event, held in conjunction with the city's Crosslake Centennial Days, celebrated the completion of a \$6.4 million renovation of the dam that took three years to complete. The day's events included a ribbon cutting, dedication ceremony and tours.

The Pine River, a tributary of the Mississippi, connects Crosslake with Upper and Lower Whitefish lakes. Eleven other natural lakes are today connected and surround these lakes. The construction of the dam at Crosslake raised the water level, making deeper connecting channels between all these lakes and forming the Pine River Reservoir, which is better known as the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. The dam created a 13,660-acre body of water with 119 miles of shoreline, providing dozens of bays for fishing, boating and swimming.

Pine River Dam was one of six Headwaters Reservoirs originally built and operated by the Corps of Engineers for the purpose of improving navigation on the



Photos by Shannon Bauer

**Lt. Col. Tom O'Hara, St. Paul District deputy engineer, U.S. Rep. James Oberstar and Darrel Swanson, mayor of Crosslake, Minn., cut the ribbon.**

Mississippi River. These dams stabilized the flow of water on the Mississippi by providing supplemental water during dry summer seasons. The original Pine River Dam was built of timber in 1886 for \$97,000. The timber structure was replaced with a concrete spillway in 1905, using the existing timber foundation.

The need for water release from the six Headwater's dams was greatly reduced in the 1930s, however, after the completion of the Mississippi locks and dams and the nine-foot navigation channel. Now, the dams are operated mainly for flood-control and recreation in the Headwaters.

Because of an increase in demand for water-orientated recreation, the Corps constructed a 42-acre recreation facility next to its Pine River Dam in 1964. The



**These smiling children were among the nearly 100 visitors to the Pine River Dam dedication ceremony. St. Paul District retirees Bud Johnson, back left, and Dennis Cin, wearing a hat, also attended.**

*Pine River, continued Page 8*



Photo by Kevin Baumgard

**From left are: Murele Ware with the maintenance and repair section, Fountain City, Wis.; Eric Carlson, with helmet and ear protectors; Jim Gallup, Jr., first assistant engineer on the Dredge Thompson; and Pat Flowers, an instructor from Xcel Energy.**

## District hosts public-private oil spill response training

By Shannon Bauer

The Corps' St. Paul District hosted an oil spill response training class in Fountain City, Wis., for its 40-member dredging crew May 14-15.

The training, a combination of classroom instruction and in-river exercises, was conducted by Xcel Energy of St. Paul, Minn.

The objective was to improve the spill response skills of Corps of Engineers' staff and apply lessons learned from a fuel spill in the Mississippi River near Weaver Bottoms last fall.

Other agencies assisting in the training included the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Emergency Management, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S.

Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The training's primary purpose was to familiarize Corps' staff with spill response procedures. It included instruction on proper techniques to minimize spill impacts and training in how to execute effective response notification procedures.

"The exercise provided an excellent hands-on experience in the deployment of oil contamination booms," said Marc Krumholz, St. Paul District operations branch project manager. "The Corps sincerely appreciates the interest shown by the EPA, the MPCA, Wisconsin DNR, the Coast Guard and the Minnesota and Wisconsin state emergency responders who participated in the class. Special thanks go to Xcel Energy for offering their spill response experts as instructors."



Photo courtesy Stan Kalinoski, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**A crew practices deploying a spill containment boom around the stern of the Thompson. The exercise occurred during higher river flows, giving the crews an opportunity to practice under more challenging conditions.**



Photo by Kevin Baumgard

**Eric Carlson, tender operator on the Dredge Thompson, holds a line for the deployed boom that would contain an oil spill.**



Photo by Jeff Kapaun

**Nic Evans, co-op ranger at the Lake Ashtabula Project, helped the children make throw jugs and showed them how they are used.**

## Youngsters learn to bait a hook, tie a spinner, cast a line at Lake Ashtabula

By Jeff Kapaun

Rangers at the St. Paul District's Lake Ashtabula recreation site near Valley City, N.D., provided the opportunity for area youngsters to bait a hook and cast a fishing line into the lake June 7.

The 15th annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day was held at the Mel Rieman Recreation Area on Lake Ashtabula in conjunction with National Fishing Week.

Forty-nine kids, ages 6-10, from the Barnes County area participated in a variety of educational programs and hands-on fishing.

Twenty volunteers from three different agencies helped run the event. These agencies were the Corps of Engineers, Barnes County Wildlife Club and the Valley City Women of Today. The wildlife club sponsored the event and provided volunteers and funding.

Volunteers divided the kids into

groups, with half the youngsters fishing and the rest going through the various programs.

An hour and a half later, the groups switched to allow everyone to fish and participate in the programs.

Activities included a casting game to teach the kids how to cast a fishing line. Prizes were given to the most accurate casters in all five age groups. Kids tied a fishing spinner from scratch, which they kept to show their parents.

Kids learned how to make throw jugs and how to use them for live saving. A throw jug, tossed out into the water like a ring-buoy, is a plastic milk carton with rope gathered on the inside. One end of the rope is strung through a hole in the bottom. Knots anchor the rope to the carton. The kids learned to hang on to one end of the rope and toss the jug into the water. Each child took home the jug he or she made.

Kids caught smallmouth bass, perch and bullheads. Rangers explained the catch-and-release concept to the kids earlier in the day, so they released all fish back into the lake so another person could enjoy catching it someday.

Volunteers provided a lunch of hotdogs, chips, pop and ice cream.

Before the kids boarded the bus to go home, drawings were held to see who would be the lucky 30 kids that would win a rod/reel combo.

Not only were those 30 kids winners, all the kids were winners as everyone received a bag containing different fish coloring books provided by the Corps and North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Each child also took home his or her own tackle box, tackle included.

## Response team assists Illinois recovery from storms, tornadoes and flooding

### Missing street signs make site location and placement of trailers a challenge.

By Tricia Liggett  
East Grand Forks Resident Office

The Saint Paul District's Temporary Housing Planning and Response Team deployed to Illinois May 26 after a rash of severe storms swept through the area between May 6-11.

President Bush declared the region a disaster area on May 15. The declaration cleared the way for individuals and businesses in 13 affected counties to receive federal assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency in disaster response, providing millions of dollars annually in the form of grants for home repair, temporary rental assistance, transportation expenses, medical costs and other expenses not covered by insurance.

FEMA coordinates with federal agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers, to perform certain duties that include structural inspection expertise, temporary roofing, temporary housing, temporary power, and debris removal.

After developing the specifications in-house, the St. Paul District's temporary housing team deployed a crew to provide travel trailers for residents adversely

affected by the severe weather. Team members were Dick Otto from the natural resource project office, Lisa Brantner from the Winona resident office; Lowell Hanson from the Devils Lake, N.D., project office, Ray Marinan from Sandy Lake Dam, and Tricia Liggett from the East Grand Forks, N.D., resident office. The team deployed May 27 and returned June 13 after working with a contractor to install 25 travel trailers.

"Placing travel trailers is a very rewarding experience," said Hanson. "These people lost everything and are still so appreciative. It makes it all worth it."

Of the 25 travel trailers, 20 were placed in southern Illinois in Massac, Pope and Pulaski counties, with the remaining five trailers in Adams County, located in northwest Illinois, 325 miles away.

The southern disaster area was rural and heavily wooded. Missing street signs made site location and placement of trailers a challenge. After several wrong turns, phone calls, and good guesses, the site locations were found.

In contrast, the northern location was centralized in the small town of Lima, Ill., which aided in making site inspections and trailer placement easier, although the damage to homes and businesses was more extensive.

The response team worked so that residents hardest hit by the disaster were able to move into the travel trailers within a month of the disaster.

"Our team has a good reputation, from the contracting folks to the construction team in the field," said Bonnie Greenleaf.

Steven Nelson, a Lima, Ill., resident expressed his gratitude stating, "Being at home to continue the cleanup process and start rebuilding is nice. Living out of a hotel gets old really fast."

*Lisa Brantner also contributed to this article.*



St. Paul District photo

**The temporary housing response team helped the tornado victims in the southern Illinois community Metropolis, Ill., home of the fictional superhero, Superman. From left: Lowell Hanson, Ray Marinan, and Lisa Brantner arrived at the disaster recovery center in Metropolis, Ill., the day after Memorial Day and returned to St. Paul June 13. Otto worked at the disaster field office in Springfield, Ill. and Liggett assisted the response team in the field.**

## District divers inspect locks, reservoirs

By Mike DeRusha

Divers in the St. Paul District suit up and submerge in the Mississippi River on warm and sunny days in July and on cold and snowy days in December.

Summer inspections of locks and reservoirs can be great – the exception being lack of visibility in water murky enough to block the mid-afternoon sunlight less than two feet under the water's surface. (See *Cassidy thinks outside the cube*, below.)

Imagine doing a job where sight is limited to six to eight inches, depending on the depth of the dive, the degree of sedimentation and the time of day.

Divers often touch something, only to have it move or have something bump into them.

Many times divers perform their jobs in total darkness using only their hands and memory to guide them in task completion.

Divers have tried using lights to



Photo by Mike DeRusha

**Ken Schroeder (center) prepares to dive at Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis. Randy Piel (left), head operator at Lock and Dam 5A, and Kevin Ressie, a boat operator for the survey crew in Fountain City, Wis., assist with the helmet. They are on the diving flat which houses equipment and an air compressor.**

illuminate their work. “The problem with that is the light reflects off everything in the water; its like driving in a heavy snowstorm with your high beams on,” said Bob Sikkila, diving supervisor.

Divers rely on a diving tender to guide lines for air and an intercom from the diving flat as they descend to their assigned task and back to the surface. Diving tenders help position divers by looking at air bubbles that rise to the surface.

Diving in December and setting bulkheads for lock dewatering present a cold-water challenge. Dry suits and long johns help divers stay warm in frigid water. A diver who climbs out of icy water needs to inspect his equipment to prevent freezing for a second dive.

The benefit of winter diving is water clarity – visibility increases due to the lack of algae and other plant life that dies off in the winter.

## Cassidy thinks outside the cube

By Peter Verstegen

Karen Cassidy, design branch, trades her cube in the district office for a workbench on the diving flat each summer. For three to five weeks, she works in a Corps of Engineers' lock chamber on the Mississippi River.

Cassidy takes notes, marks up inspection diagrams and listens to the voice of a diver on an intercom as he describes what his hands feel in the muddy water, such as spalling (like a pothole) on the side of the concrete lock wall.

Cassidy has accompanied the diving crew on periodic

inspections of the locks since 1994. “I went in totally blind my first time,” she said. “I thought I was going with the survey crew.” Divers inspect three to four sites per year and Cassidy is there, documenting their findings.

She documents deterioration in concrete, the presence of zebra mussels, rocks in the recesses of the lock and waterlogged trees obstructing the gates. Engineers use the information to assist with maintenance, repair and budgeting. This summer, she will participate in inspections at locks 7-10 on the Mississippi River in July and August.

“I love being out of doors and love being on the water,” she said. “The guys are great to work with. They get the job done and do it well.”



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Jeff Kleinert, manager at Pokegama, and Tammy Wick, Headwaters office, Grand Rapids, Minn., registered guests for the Pine River Dam dedication June 14.**

*Pine River, continued from Page 3* site facilities included campsites, shower facilities, beaches, boat ramps, playgrounds, picnicking areas and more. Use of the park grew from 779,000 visitors in 1971 to 2,730,730 in 2002.

In 1993, a Corps' evaluation of the dam showed that the century-old structure did not comply with today's safety standards. At the time, the condition, length and species of the timber piles were unknown. "There were signs of seepage and evidence of voids beneath the spillway structure," said Corps' project manager Nan Bischoff. "The concrete was in very poor condition."

The spillway, or the channel where the water passes through the dam, could only pass flows of 7,200 cubic feet per second. According to

Bischoff, it needed to be modified to pass flows of 16,300 cubic feet per second in order to survive a maximum flood. The concrete spillway had 13 six-foot-wide bays, 11 outfitted with 5-foot by 4.5-foot slide gates and two with stop logs. The stop logs hadn't been removed in years.

A plan to enlarge the gate bays on the top of the spillway added only two of the five feet of freeboard necessary to protect the dam during a flood, evidencing the need for additional measures. The designers, said Bischoff, had to find a way to increase the spillway capacity and raise the top of the structure without compromising the dam's historic character.

The main embankment extended 1,200 feet through the campground and showed signs of seepage near

the dam. There were also trees and brush growing into and on top of it. The proximity of the campground meant that cutting down trees and raising the earthen embankment would destroy some campsites. The challenge, explained Bischoff, was to provide five feet of freeboard over the design pool with minimal impact to the campground.

Corps' engineers drafted plans to renovate the dam to balance dam safety requirements with aesthetics, recreation and historic preservation in mind. The corps hired Barr Engineering of Minneapolis to prepare the plans and specifications used for construction and Park Construction Company of Minneapolis for the construction work.

The construction started in June of 1999 and included enlarging the



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**From left are Mark Edwards and Deb Griffith, ranger at Cross Lake Recreation Area. A new accessible fishing dock was constructed downstream of the dam, replacing one in need of major repair. Edwards contributed to the accessible design.**



spillway gate openings to increase the amount of water allowed to pass through the structure, installing new gate operators, refurbishing the concrete structure, grouting under the foundation and installing a concrete-capped sheet pile wall atop the embankments alongside the dam, which ties the dam into high ground.

Sheet piling was installed on the upstream side of the spillway across its entire width, serving as a cofferdam during construction and doubling as a permanent seepage cutoff. To minimize the impact on the campground, only the top of the embankment was cleared of trees to allow access by the pile-driving equipment. The concrete was patterned and colored to resemble a fieldstone wall. Openings were placed in the wall to allow for foot traffic through the campground. Slots were provided in these openings to place bulkheads in during extreme floods.

Additional improvements were made to the Corps' recreational facility at the same time as the dam renovations were being completed. A new accessible fishing dock was constructed downstream of the dam, replacing one in need of major repair as well. Existing walking path access was improved leading to the dam, picnic shelter, two fishing docks and the swimming beach, as well as along the floodwall going into the camping areas.

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers presented the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, with a Seven Wonders of Engineering award for this project in February 2003. This MSPE competition is conducted annually to recognize outstanding achievements in engineering.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Serving one of three sheet three cakes are, from left, Jeremy Nguyen and Mara Burginger from Cross Lake Recreation Area and Chris Kalahar from Pokegama Dam. Nearly 200 visitors went on dam tours, viewed conference room displays and other activities.**



Photo by Tammy Wick

**Stephanie Ehnstrom, left, attended the dedication as a participant in the district's leadership development program. Nan Bischoff, right, was project manager for the renovation. She first became involved in the early 1990s as technical manager during the dam safety evaluation.**

# Ergonomics fits jobs to people

By Chris Beaman, Safety Office

Ergonomics is the science of fitting jobs to the people who work in them, and the goal of any ergonomics program is to reduce work-related musculoskeletal disorders, or MSDs.

Employees develop MSDs when a major part of their job involves reaching, bending over, lifting heavy objects, using continuous force, working with vibrating equipment and doing repetitive motions. As you can see, at least one of these actions is inherent to every job in the district.

Several years ago, a group of trained St. Paul District employees presented initial ergonomics training to the workforce as mandated by EP 385-1-96 dated June 1, 2000, which said, "Personnel who are potentially exposed to MSDs will receive instruction on hazards associated with their jobs and equipment. Personnel will receive training at an initial orientation and annually thereafter."

Currently, field-site supervisors are conducting annual ergonomics training with all their employees. In the district office, safety specialist Chris Beaman or safety manager Jeff Pfannes will be presenting a class in conference room 5A on July 15 and 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Lupe Santos-Jensen, district training coordinator, at ext. 5481 to register. The half-hour instruction will consist of a video entitled, "Office Ergonomics Today" and a question-and-answer period.

Many of us may know of a co-worker who suffers in silence from the symptoms of MSDs (see the sidebar on this page) by doing nothing, or by fitting themselves into their job through accommodation. This no longer has to be the case. Here's some ways for you to reduce your risk to MSDs:

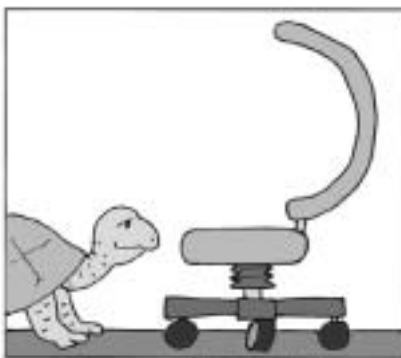
- **Report all MSD hazards to your supervisor:** Contact your supervisor and/or the safety office as soon as possible so we can take steps to protect everyone in the district.

- **Report any signs or symptoms of MSDs:** Talk to your supervisor as soon as you start feeling symptoms of MSDs. Your supervisor, in turn, should notify the safety office, so we can evaluate the situation and recommend solutions.

- **Follow work rules and procedures:** These procedures have been set up to prevent MSDs. Please don't take chances, and don't take shortcuts.

- **Take ergonomic training seriously:** Training is designed to help protect you from painful injuries by teaching you hazard recognition and symptom identification.

- **Share your suggestions:** Discuss fixes for ergonomic problems with your supervisor and the safety office. District personnel can team up to keep everyone healthy and right on the job.



The ergonomic chair for turtles

## What are the symptoms of MSD?

Workers suffering from musculoskeletal disorders may experience less strength for gripping and less range of motion. In extreme cases, a person may experience loss of muscle function and inability to do everyday tasks.

Here are some common symptoms to watch out for:

- Painful joints
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Shooting or stabbing pains in arms or legs
- Swelling, inflammation, burning sensation
- Pain in wrists, shoulders, forearms, knees
- Fingers or toes turning white
- Back or neck pain, stiffness

What are the causes of MSDs?

Workplace MSDs are caused by exposure to the following risk factors:

- **Repetition.** Doing the same motions over and over again places stress on the muscles and tendons.
- **Forceful exertions:** Forced physical effort required to perform a task or to control equipment or tools.
- **Awkward postures:** Awkward postures include repeated or prolonged reaching, twisting, bending, kneeling, squatting, working overhead with hands or arms or holding fixed positions.
- **Contact stress:** Pressing the body against a hard or sharp edge can result in placing too much pressure on nerves, tendons and blood vessels. For example, using the palm of your hand as a hammer can increase your risk of an MSD.
- **Vibration:** Operating vibrating tools, such as sanders, grinders, chippers, drills and saws can lead to nerve damage.

# Bits and Pieces



U.S. Army photo

**Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers (right) presented Mark Krenelka, a construction representative in the Western Area Office, a commemorative coin for his work in Iraq.**

## Dispatch from Iraq

*The following is an excerpt of a first-person dispatch to Jay Bushy in the Western Area Office in Grand Forks, N.D., from **Mark Krenelka**, who served on engineering support team in Iraq from early April to late June 2003.*

I'm doing fine. Our Kuwaiti contractor has completed his assessment and submitted his prices for infrastructure repair at this palace compound and is now waiting for notice to proceed. A couple of days ago, we went to another palace compound to visit with special forces and do an assessment there. We have concentrated our

efforts on trying to maintain the water supply to the area lake and canal system.

The other day, we traveled almost all the way to the Euphrates River to check on the status of the irrigation system. It was great to get out into the country and visit with the farmers and their children.

Yesterday, I visited a warehouse full of Iraqi soldiering stuff. There was crate after crate of AK-47's, sniper rifles, bayonets, berets, uniforms, blankets, etc.

The four of us in the Forward Engineer Support Team-A group received an award the other day. Attached is a picture of me and the boss.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

## Mose helps Corps Headquarters realign

Marsha Mose, executive assistant at the St. Paul District, is participating on a Functional Area Assessment team that is reviewing the Command Planning Group (the strategic planning cell) at Corps Headquarters.

This is an ongoing initiative directed by the Chief of Engineers as a result of the USACE 2012 report.

The purpose of the FAA's (there

are more than 20 of them looking at all HQ functions) is to assess the "as-is" missions and functions of all headquarters and division organizations and offices and then to identify the "to-be" condition, in an effort to realign the headquarters offices both at Washington and division levels to more effective and efficient operations.

The resulting objective organization will be identified by Oct. 1, 2003, with implementation to follow.

District operations are not being studied with this initiative and in theory should not be directly impacted by the resulting organization.

"The Chief's intent is that the headquarters and division offices should be more efficient and effective in their support of the district's delivery of quality products and services to their customers," said Mose. My role on the team is to remind them of the field perspective ... so HQ doesn't get so wrapped up in what they're doing for each other that they lose sight of the customer out at the end of the chain."

More detailed information on USACE 2012 can be found on the web site: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/usace2012.htm>.

## Wanted: Your news!

PAO seeks information about special events in you life (e.g., births, deaths, marriages, engagements). If you would like to share these items, please contact Public Affairs at 651-290-5202, -5108 or -5201 or send an e-mail to: [cemvp-pa@mvp02.usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvp-pa@mvp02.usace.army.mil).

## Dave Reynolds honored as April Employee of the Month



Photo by Irene Stearns

Col. Robert Ball, district engineer, honored **Dave Reynolds** (right) for his work and coaching in adapting the software application, Microsoft Access, to update the St. Paul District sign plan at Baldhill Dam and two other projects within the Western Flood Control area. The creative approach resulted when the old sign manager program became obsolete.

Chris Botz, park ranger at Baldhill Dam, Valley City, N.D., nominated Reynolds.

"I called Dave Reynolds to see what he was using to update his sign program at Eau Galle Lake in

Spring Valley, Wis., and he informed me about a sign program that he created in Microsoft Access that would enable me to include a digital picture along with other data recorded in the sign program," said Botz. Reynolds provided assistance beyond what was expected by creating the program and instructing other projects within the district how the application could help their sign program.

"His efforts helping other field offices greatly reduced the labor and expense to updating the various individual sign programs," said Botz.

*Who's who, continued from Page 2*

- real estate specialists;
- Dave Valen, electrical engineer;
- Gary Wolf, sanitary engineer;
- Lori Taylor, site engineer;
- Mike Osterby, cost engineer;
- Ray Marinan, logistical support specialist;
- Dennis Anderson, NEPA compliance specialist;
- Ken Peterson; information management.

## Children under 13 must wear PFDs while boating on federal waters

To comply with a new U.S. Coast Guard regulation, St. Paul District will now require all children under 13 to wear a personal floatation device, or PFD, approved by the Coast Guard, while in an operating vessel on all Corps' lakes.

Coast Guard regulation 33 CFR 175 became effective this year. It applies to all federal waters, including the Mississippi River and Corps' reservoirs. Corps' reservoirs in St. Paul District include Cross, Gull, Lac Qui Parle, Leech, Orwell, Pokegema, Sandy, Traverse and Winnibigoshish lakes in Minnesota; Ashtabula and Homme lakes in North Dakota; and Eau Galle Lake in Wisconsin.

## Coming events

- July 19 Kid's Fishing Derby, Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area, call 218-654-3145, ext. 6;
- July 23 Brig. Gen. Don Riley hosts town-hall meeting, visits district
- Aug. 6-10 M/V Mississippi in the district for community relations and employee events;
- Aug. 11 Mississippi River Commission visit officially starts;
- Sep. 11 Tentative: retiree luncheon in St. Paul, Minn.;
- Sep. 21 Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and dam at Minneapolis, 40 years old;
- Dec. 12 Holiday awards ceremony and luncheon.