



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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**Maintenance and repair
unit stabilizes Island 42,
Lower Light in Pool 5**

CATERPILLAR



Photo by Lisa Lund

Bob Kohner, maintenance and repair unit, Fountain City, operated skidster loader on rock barge at the Island 42 Lower Light in Pool 5 in early September. The district was doing maintenance and repair for the U.S. Coast Guard.



US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Address all inquiries to:

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

Phone: 651-290-5202

District Commander Col. Michael Pfenning
Public Affairs Chief Mark Davidson
Media Specialist Shannon Bauer
Editor Peter Verstegen
E-mail: cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

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An ounce of prevention Preparing for pandemics requires advance planning

by Shannon Bauer

A St. Paul District project delivery team is currently drafting an emergency response plan to be used in the event of pandemic flu.

The Office of Personnel Management advises federal employees to do the same for themselves and their families.

Most experts agree that it will not be a matter of *if* a pandemic occurs; it is more a matter of *when* a pandemic will occur.

“Pandemics have occurred intermittently over centuries. The last three ... in 1918, 1957 and 1968, killed approximately 40 million, 2 million and 1 million respectively,” according to an OPM report. “Although the timing cannot be predicted, history and science suggest that we will face one or more pandemics in this century.”

The World Health Organization has stated that “the world is now closer to another influenza pandemic than at any other time since 1968.” WHO uses a six-phase alert system for pandemics similar to the terrorism alert system. Currently, they have rated the world at phase three, mainly due to the threat of the H5N1 virus, commonly called the bird flu.

Although this virus now spreads mainly between birds, a small number of human-to-human contacted cases have occurred in Southeast Asia. When this virus



mutates to be more easily spread between humans, though, experts agree it could be devastating since humans have never before been in contact with it.

Scientists will not be able to develop a vaccine until the virus mutates, and that process could likely take six months or longer. Even then, there will not be enough of the vaccine produced fast enough to be provided to the majority of citizens. According to the Transportation Security Administration, there could be widespread death, up to 40 or more percent absenteeism from work and economic and social disruption.

Additionally, most experts agree there will not be enough medical supplies available for all those who become ill and that the healthcare system will be overloaded. Hence, both OPM and TSA believe it is imperative that all government agencies make continuity of operation plans to handle such an emergency. Most local and state governments, as well as many corporations and humanitarian organizations, have also begun preparations.

Accordingly, the St. Paul District is planning for the worst-case scenario and working with the

Federal Executive Board of Minnesota and others in coordinating response plans at the federal, state and local level. The flu team expects to finish a draft response plan and test it with a crisis management team exercise by February.

“We’re looking primarily at social distancing as a way to protect employees during a pandemic,” said Dave Christenson, readiness chief and flu team member. “Examples of this may include teleworking, cancelling training and meetings and the use of personal protective gear both at work and at home.

“Not everyone will be able to work at home, though,” he added. “We provide some essential services where some employees will still have to come to work.”

Part of the district’s preparations also includes encouraging employees to make their own pandemic preparedness plans for themselves and their families. Christenson said all families should have this anyway – not just for a pandemic – but for any emergency. (A checklist is provided on Page 4 to assist in this process.)

Employees are also encouraged to seek out more information on pandemic flu and staying healthy. The federal government offers a website regarding this topic at <http://pandemicflu.gov/> It contains links to WHO, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and more.

Editor’s Note: Watch your *Crosscurrents*, for more articles on pandemic flu preparations.

Pandemic flu planning checklist for individuals and families

(Courtesy of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

You can prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family. This checklist will help you gather the information and resources you may need in case of a flu pandemic.

1. To plan for a pandemic:

Store a two week supply of water and food.

During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. This can be useful in other types of emergencies, such as power outages and disasters.

Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home.

Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes and vitamins.

Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick or what will be needed to care for them in your home.

Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.

Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

2. To limit the spread of germs and prevent infection:

Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the current behavior.

Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model that behavior. Teach your children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if sick.

3. Items to have on hand for an extended stay at home:

Examples of food and nonperishables:

Ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruits
vegetables, beans and soups;

Protein or fruit bars;

Dry cereal or granola;

Peanut butter or nuts;

Dried fruit;

Crackers;

Canned juices;

Bottled water;

Pet food;

Other nonperishable foods.

Examples of medical, health and emergency supplies:

Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood-pressure monitoring equipment;

Soap and water, or alcohol-based (60-95 percent) hand wash;

Medicines for fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen;

Thermometer;

Anti-diarrheal medication;

Vitamins;

Fluids with electrolytes;

Cleansing agents/soap;

Flashlight;

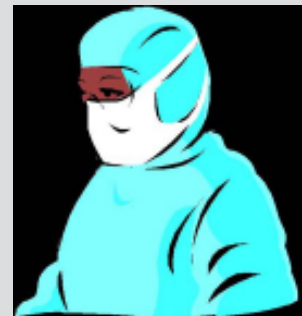
Batteries;

Portable radio;

Manual can opener;

Garbage bags;

Tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers.



Retirees make it 31

by Peter Verstegen

Awards presentations, mission updates, pausing for a moment of silence to remember colleagues past and renewing longtime relationships over a long lunch occupied 57 St. Paul District retirees and current employees at the 31st annual retirees' reunion in Eagan, Minn., Sept. 14.

Wayne Knott, who retired as section chief in the old combined engineering and planning division, served as master of ceremony.

Judy DesHarnais, acting district commander, presented Hall of Fame awards to Dave Loss and Gary Palesh, project management retirees. She also described current initiatives in the district and the Corps and recognized Leonard Lohmann posthumously with a Career Service Award. Jim Lohmann, nephew of Leonard Lohmann, accepted the award on behalf of the Lohmann family. Leonard Lohmann was the long-time records manager.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Hall of Fame honorees surround this year's winners, Dave Loss, left, and Gary Palesh (both seated), project management. Left to right, standing, are Peter Fischer, engineering; Bill Spychalla, project management; Mary Kay Linder, executive office; Dave Haumersen, construction-operations division; Lou Kowalski, district deputy for programs and project management; Al Geisen, design branch; and Jim Kursu, programs management.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

LaVane Dempsey, a retiree from engineering division, and Ann Allen, a retiree from resource management.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Jim Lohmann, nephew of Leonard Lohmann, accepted a Career Service Award from Judy DesHarnais, acting district commander. Leonard Lohmann was a former St. Paul District records manager.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Thirty-two district retirees gathered for a group photo at the conclusion of the 31st annual retirees' reunion held in Eagan, Minn., Sept. 14. Fifty seven attended the reunion.

'Retired' district Headwaters project manager oversees 30 projects in Iraq

The following appeared in the Gulf Region Division, Central District, Iraq, News, October 2006.

Even though he's officially retired after four decades of government service, 72-year-old Jim Ruyak is at work every day serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I'm here because the work of helping people in need is the most satisfying undertaking one can do," Ruyak said. "When you look at the conditions these people are living, you just naturally want to help in any way you can."

Ruyak is overseeing 30 projects in western Al Anbar Province, working out of Gulf Region Division Central District's Al Asad office. He's helping build five schools, three primary health care centers, an electrical transmission line and substation and a water distribution network.

Ruyak arrived in May and is heading home this month. He says he plans to return to Iraq but is looking forward to a short break. "I get a little tired after six months at this pace," he added.

Ruyak knows something about contingency deployments as he volunteered for short-term duty on a number of occasions while with the St. Paul District from 1973-2000. He helped with recovery operations in the aftermath of floods and hurricanes.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Jim Ruyak, retired St. Paul District Mississippi Headwaters project manager, served as a project engineer in Iraq from May to October, 2006. He worked at the St. Paul District from 1973 to 2000 and has volunteered for previous overseas deployments as a retired annuitant.

Shortly after Operation Desert Storm, he went to Kuwait to help restore that nation's infrastructure. In October 1992, he served as resident engineer/contracting officer rebuilding Ali Al Salem Airbase there.

In 2004, he arrived at Gulf Region Division, Central District, in Baghdad, where he was responsible for more than 50 projects including electrical power generation plants, hospitals, sewer systems, water treatment plants,

police training facilities and Iraqi Ministry Buildings.

Ruyak is widowed and is the parent of three daughters and one son (who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point). Regarding his current Iraq tour and the military personnel he works with every day, Ruyak said, "I have a great sense of pride when I see our young troops doing the great job they're doing. I wish our folks at home could see all the good stuff that goes on over here."

Baghdad International Airport renovations nearly complete

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central District

Baghdad, Iraq – It could be an international airport anywhere but this one connects the world to Iraq. Walking from its coffee shop with its inviting aromas to its duty-free store where a new Harley Davidson Road King is parked inside, it's hard to believe one is still in Baghdad.

The ceilings of the main terminal are shaped to represent Iraq's favorite tree, the date palm. After 21 months of extensive renovations, Baghdad International Airport has the welcome mat fully extended for travelers entering or exiting the country.

Allan Nelson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Quality Assurance Representative, has been overseeing the \$13 million in improvements there for nearly two years and that work is almost finished.

He says when he started, none of the air conditioning units worked, the sewer lines were blocked and water was pouring from the bathrooms out into the corridors.

He's been involved with rebuilding three lift stations, repairing the plumbing, getting a new potable water filtration system installed, renovating three electric substations there, new street lights erected for the section of highway leading to the airport, new fire detection system, painting the walls, and cleaning the carpets.



U.S. Army photo by Norris Jones

Allan Nelson has been overseeing the \$13 million in improvements at Baghdad International Airport for nearly two years and that work is almost finished. In his job at the St. Paul District, Nelson was the lock leader at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn.

“We put in two new 2,400-ton chillers and rebuilt the two existing 1,700-ton chillers. Today, there's plenty of air conditioning capacity.” He's currently working with a contractor who is placing new 33kV feeder lines to provide a more stable source of electric power to that area.

“The airport was built in the early 1980s and little was invested on routine maintenance over the years. Much of the infrastructure there was nonfunctional when I arrived.”

New runway light fixtures, 2,600 in total, were replaced along with 350 kilometers of cable. “The tower now has a new control panel and all the new runway signs and lights can be turned on or off from that one location,” he explained.

Baghdad International Airport, which employs 1,200 Iraqis, currently has 20 flights daily transporting 2,000 passengers to

and from locations outside Iraq. “With the improvements, it has the capability for 10 times that amount,” Nelson noted.

The airport plans to open the newly rehabilitated Terminal D next month and will then temporarily close Terminal C for routine cleaning.

Nelson is from Hager City, Wis., and worked as lock leader at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn. The 54-year-old has three daughters and will be returning stateside next summer. He plans to retire and find time to do a little fishing with his two grandchildren as he lives on a 40-acre farm near a trout stream.

He appreciates his opportunity to serve in Iraq and help with the airport project. He said, “I find it tremendously satisfying to walk through the terminals today and see this great facility back to being fully operational.”

Thieves ‘locked up’ at Lock and Dam 7

by Mark Davidson

According to the people that work at the district’s lock and dams, lots of unusual things happen out there. But apprehending the “bad guys” in the lock chamber is more unusual than most things that happen on the Mississippi River.

Fred Maule, lockmaster at Lock and Dam 4, Alma, Wis., got a call the afternoon of Aug. 25 from the Buffalo County, Wis., sheriff’s department that a boat was stolen on Aug. 24. Maule notified his lock and dam chain-of-command immediately and made calls to other lock and dams up and down the river to let them know what the missing boat looked like.

The Motor Vessel Phyllis got involved in the situation by letting the Corps’ personnel know that they had seen the missing boat. By this time, law enforcement agencies on both sides of the Mississippi

River had been notified, and it was ascertained that the boat was stolen.

The day shift crew at Lock and Dam 7, Todd Ennis and Rodney Berg, notified local law enforcement and watched the stolen boat. They then turned over the situation to the swing shift crew, Mike Myhre and Gene Nesler.

The stolen boat entered the Lock and Dam 7 lock chamber to lock through. Myhre and Nesler positioned the stolen boat by itself in the upper end of the chamber, after raising the water, so law enforcement personnel could easily surround the boat.

The Winona County, Minn., sheriff’s office arrested two males on the boat. They were assisted by the La Crescent, Minn., police department and the Houston County, Minn., sheriff’s office. And, of course, by the St. Paul District, Army Corps of Engineers.

Corps re-shapes site for dredged material

Mike Schamaun, maintenance and repair unit, Fountain City, Wis., runs the controls of an excavator as he reshaped a placement site for dredged material at Upper Boulanger placement site at Mississippi River mile 821.5 in Pool 2, July 13. This was one of five sites where the Corps reshaped dredged material this summer for future storage. The site was endorsed for use in 1996.



Photo by Lisa Lund

Volunteers enrich camping experience at Corps' Mississippi River Headwaters parks

By Shannon L. Bauer

A number of volunteers pitched in to keep the St. Paul District's Headwaters' campgrounds clean this past summer rather than see five out of six of these sites close because of a fiscal year 2006 budget shortfall.

"Our budget went down by more than half and that left us in a position of either closing some of the parks or looking for more volunteer help," said John O'Leary, Headwaters' operations manager. "When the word got out about our predicament, though, there was tremendous local support to keep us open.

"We're an important part of the community up here," he continued, "and everyone from local government to individuals came forward to help."

For example, the city of Crosslake, Minn., sent all of its city workers to the district's Cross Lake Dam and Recreation Area for a few days in the spring to clean up the place after the winter and prepare it for the camping season.

Additionally, each of the sites had a number of campers who spent at least a month, if not longer, working 20 plus hours and up to seven days a week, doing everything from cleaning to maintenance work. The sites have always had a few volunteers to help with the other campers, but they have never had to do hard labor before.

"It wasn't glamorous work," said O'Leary. "They mowed grass,



Photo by Tammy Wick

Ray Haggard (left) and Chris Poirier (right) have been regular campers at Pokegama and Winnibigoshish Dam campgrounds for many years. This summer they served for 111 days at Pokegama Dam Recreation Area in Grand Rapids, Minn. Their duties included providing information as campground hosts, cleaning the picnic shelter and restrooms daily and selling firewood from their campsite. With them is Pokegama park ranger Patrick Duffney.

cleaned up bathrooms, took out the garbage and even picked up fish guts.

"They rolled up their sleeves and did whatever was needed to help us keep our places open," he

Hosts, continued Page 11

Hosts, continued from Page 10 continued. “They did a tremendous job.”

A number of the volunteers came from across the country, such as Roger Anderson from Gardner, Mass., and Patricia and Leroy Bjornson from Trinidad, Texas, both of whom helped keep the district’s Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area in Federal Dam, Minn., clean for much of the camping season.

Others were more local, including retired Cross Lake park ranger Bob Gossett, who returned to work – this time without pay, and Bud and Ginny Allen, now Crosslake residents but who first decided to move to the area after visiting the Cross Lake campground.

Some, such as Lawrence Cable of Kemp, Texas, possessed special skills that benefited the site where they volunteered. Cable, a retired electrician, performed some minor



Photo by Jason Hauser

Bob Drake volunteered at the Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area, serving as a campground host, collecting fees, taking out the garbage and performing maintenance duties. Additionally, he assisted staff in removing, cleaning and storing more than 50 buoys from the Leech River navigation channel for fall shutdown of the project

electrical repairs at Leech Lake that saved the district hundreds of dollars.

The majority of the volunteers were retired couples, around 60 to 70 in age, said O’Leary. In exchange for their labor, they received an electrical campsite free of charge. In addition to performing routine maintenance work, they took in camping and firewood fees and answered questions from other guests. At night, when the park rangers were off-duty, they were often the campground’s sole representatives.

Hence, all of them received special training prior to beginning their volunteer jobs. Jeff Steere, park manager of Big Sandy Recreation Area, which is located north of McGregor, Minn., provided this training.

Because Steere is the master

trainer for the Headwaters’ employees, he provided the volunteers with the same kinds of training, such as lawn mowing and the use of all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, that he provides all the Corps’ park employees. For his efforts, he received special recognition from Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, when the chief visited the district late September.

At Sandy, Steere and park ranger Terry Ladd were the only Corps’ employees there during the summer. They had 15 volunteers who donated around 6,000 hours of labor. “If we wouldn’t have had the volunteers, we wouldn’t have been able to keep up with just the two of us,” he said. “I don’t think we burned them out, but it was a lot of work for them.”

All of the volunteers received special recognition from the

Hosts, continued Page 12



St. Paul District photo

Bud and Ginny Aschenberner volunteered this past summer at the Cross Lake Dam and Recreation Area in Crosslake, Minn. They are also local residents of Crosslake, moving there three years ago after first being introduced to the area by staying at the Cross Lake campsite.



Photo by Tammy Wick

Ken and Norma Maki are avid campers that have frequented district’s Winnibigoshish and Pokegama campgrounds in the past. This season, they started out as campground hosts at Winnie Dam, providing visitors with information, cleaning restrooms and doing maintenance work for 73 days. They finished out their summer at Pokegama for an additional 46 days.

Hosts, continued from Page 11

Headwaters' staff at the end of the camping season. Each site presented the volunteers with commemorative plaques, as well as coveted Headwaters' traveler

mugs. All said they were glad to have been able to help.

"There was camaraderie there and that was real neat to see," said O'Leary. "They liked each other and kidded around with each other.

"They obviously enjoyed what

they were doing, and that says a lot about them and a lot about the [Headwaters'] staff," he continued. "The staff went out of their way to make sure the volunteers felt like part of a team."

O'Leary said the budget looks better for the Headwaters' parks next year. The campgrounds will still need volunteers but not to the same extent as was needed last season.

Already some of the volunteers have expressed an interest in returning to work next year. Steere said of his 15 helpers, eight so far have said they would be back to help out again in the spring.



St. Paul District photo

Jeff Steere (left), Sandy Lake manager, and John O'Leary, headwaters manager, recognized Don and Betty Fossum, center, for their volunteer efforts at Sandy Lake from April to October.



Photo by Jack Atkins

Patricia and LeRoy Bjornson served as campground hosts at the Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area in Federal Dam, Minn., for the majority of the season. They performed most of the fee collection and customer registration and grounds and equipment maintenance, as well as many other duties that arose during the season. Pictured behind them is Leech Lake park ranger Jason Hauser.



St. Paul District photo

Bernice and Doug Sokolowski, Hastings, Minn., volunteered as campground hosts at Sandy Lake from June to October.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, recognized Jeff Steere (right), Sandy Lake park manager, at the district's Town Hall meeting in September for a remarkable volunteer program.

News and Notes

Lockmaster far from home
Steve Lenhart (left) upper area lockmaster in St. Paul District, accompanied Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, on a half-day tour of Camp Clark, Afghanistan. Right, he is on a site inspection in Khowst Province, 57 kilometers from Pakistan.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Newcomers

Denise Blackwell-Kraft, regulatory, for the second time around, Gull Lake Recreation Area;

Susan Enright, student, Two Harbors, Minn.;

Michael Gunderson, welder, Fountain City Service Base

Robert Maroney, regulatory, Brainerd, Minn.;

Stacy Marshall, regulatory, Waukesha, Wis.;

Jeffrey Olson, regulatory, district office;

Chad Rethwisch, laborer, natural resources, Blackhawk Park;

Richard Rothbauer, project management, district office; and

Ashley Schnable, human resources, district office.

Retirements

Patricia Ann Neros, regulatory administrator at Two Harbors, Wis., with more than nine years of federal service.

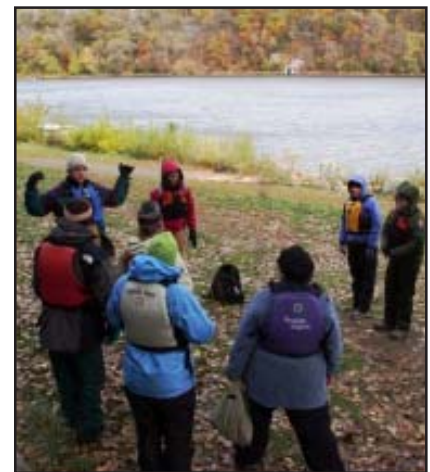
Perkl conducts archaeology education

by Peter Versteegen

Brad Perkl, archaeologist in project management, conducted presentations on archaeology and the Corps' mission for the nine-foot navigation channel and locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi at sites along Pool 1 and Upper Pool 2, Oct. 11. He teamed with two community educators from the National Park Service.

Wilderness Inquiry sponsored the Mississippi River field trip. Participants paddled 24-foot voyager canoes in pools 1 and 2. "This was one of the field trips as part of the North American Association for Environmental Education 35th annual conference," said Perkl.

Conference members, park service staff, Wilderness Inquiry staff and the Center for Global



National Park Service photo

Brad Perkl (top left), project management, discusses archaeology at the St. Paul Yacht Club in Pool 1 just north of the Lake Street Bridge on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

Environmental Education at Hamline University, St. Paul, participated.

"There's No Place Like Home," is this season's Holiday Awards Ceremony theme. The program will offer essays on the meaning of the theme. Mark your calendars for The Prom Center, I-94 and Inwood Ave., Oakdale, Minn., Friday, Dec. 15, 2006.

June Employee of the Month Davenport connects with Italian consulate



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Mark Nelson (left) acting district deputy commander, recognizes Richard Davenport, logistics management.

Ken Beck, formerly real estate division, and Mike McGarvey, logistics management, nominated Richard Davenport for the June Employee of the Month for his effective assistance in obtaining visas for Beck's tour of duty in Italy.

Davenport's extra effort enabled Beck to depart on-time for a position with the U.S. Navy in Naples, Italy.

Said Beck, "I would like to recognize Davenport for his persistence in obtaining my wife's and my Italian visas on schedule for my transfer to the U.S. Navy in June. The Navy provided us with a contact at the Italian Consul General in Chicago to process our required Visa requests.

"When neither Richard or I could find anyone at the Consul General's office who would respond or reply to our messages, Davenport searched the internet and located Consul Onorario D'Italia, for Minnesota. He provided us with accurate contact information and updated visa forms," said Beck, who arrived in Italy on time.

July Employee of the Month

Jacobson makes a difference – on duty and off – during hurricane recovery duty

Cynthia Calhoun, an administrative assistant, operations division, Stevens Point, Wis. nominated Otis Jacobson, Lock and Dam 6, Trempealeau, Wis., for July Employee of the Month.

Here's what she said:

"While I was temporarily stationed in Slidell, La., I had the pleasure to meet one of our fellow St. Paul District employees, Otis Jacobsen. He works at one of the locks and dams and due to the differences in our duties, I do not think that we would have crossed paths if it weren't for this assignment in Slidell. His pleasant disposition and willingness to help anyone was quite impressive.

"He was sent to Louisiana as a quality assurance supervisor. When he arrived in Slidell, he was put into a QA slot. Everyday he would come into the office, always with a smile on his face; and when he asked for copies of right of entry, he wasn't demanding in any way. He was one of many QA's who would come into the office and need additional rights of entry on a daily basis and he understood that he may have to wait just a few minutes for one of the office people to assist him.

"Besides his positive attitude, his genuine concern for his team members and the office personal was very refreshing.

"During my tour of duty in Louisiana, we had the fortune of having two days off, one being the July 4 and one day being Sunday prior to July 4.

"That Sunday, he took me into New Orleans to show me some of the more damaged areas from the hurricanes and levee breach. His experience and familiarity with the area were impressive.

"He explained some of the markings on the buildings and gave some history about the area (since he had already been in the area prior to this tasking). He took me to a levee; he also showed me the difference in a full barge versus an empty one. This may seem simple to most people in the Corps but I work in the office all day and don't have these types of opportunities too often.

He merits the Employee of the Month honor because, despite the everyday frustrations and uncertainties, his attitude was always up-beat, he was always smiling and always willing to help in any way necessary. I was proud to work with him and even more proud to know that he was from the St. Paul District.

He always displayed a professional attitude and was concerned about those around him. His initiative helped me have a greater understanding of the overall situation in Louisiana and see how what each of us can do to help make a difference.



Photo by Angie Peterson

Lt. Col. John Kunkle, acting district commander, recognizes Otis Jacobson, operations division.

OATH OF ENLISTMENT

“I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.”

District offers platform to re-enlist two into Minnesota, Wisconsin Army National Guard

by Peter Verstegen

Richard Pecoraro, contracting, and Adrian G. Swanson, lock operator at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn., independently tapped the resources of the Corps of Engineers to re-affirm their pledge “to support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies,” when they re-enlisted

in the Army National Guard this fall.

Maj. Leigh Bandy, contracting officer, re-enlisted Pecoraro in the Minnesota Army National Guard in the District Office, Oct. 17,

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, re-enlisted Swanson in the 264th Engineer Group, Wisconsin Army National Guard, after a Town Hall meeting in St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 6. The 264th is based in Chippewa Falls, Wis.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Maj. Leigh Bandy, contracting officer with the St. Paul District, administered the oath of office to Richard Pecoraro, contracting, Oct. 17. He will return to his previous rank of sergeant first class (E-7) after a 10-year break in service. Pecoraro had 17 years on active duty prior to 1996. He re-enlisted for one-year and will be assigned to the National Guard’s 34th (Red Bull) Infantry Division, based in Rosemount, Minn., as a platoon sergeant.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, administered the oath of office for Adrian G. Swanson, lock operator at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minn., after the district’s Town Hall meeting Sept. 6. Swanson is a sergeant (E-5) with the Wisconsin Army National Guard, 264th Engineering Group. He is a communications team leader at the 264th and has been in the Army eight years. Strock re-enlisted Swanson for six years.

Photo of ACU by Shanon Bauer
ACU courtesy Maj. Leigh Bandy