



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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**Six months after Katrina
Task Force Hope
continues hurricane
recovery**



Corps budget is highest ever

by HQUSACE-PA

The President's fiscal year 2007 budget submitted to Congress on Feb. 6 includes \$4.733 billion in proposed new federal funding for the Corps' civil works mission: \$3.791 billion from the general fund, \$707 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, \$197 million from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, \$37 million from special recreation use fees and \$1 million from disposal facilities user fees. The new federal funding will be distributed as follows among the appropriation accounts:

- \$2.258 billion for operation and maintenance;
- \$1.555 billion for construction;
- \$278 million for flood control, Mississippi River and Tributaries;
- \$173 million for the regulatory

program;

- \$164 million for expenses
- \$130 million for the formerly utilized sites remedial action program;

- \$94 million for Investigations;
- \$81 million for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.

Additional sources of funding are estimated at \$538 million, including \$75 million from the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund and \$18 million in permanent appropriations. It also includes \$445 million paid by non-federal interests as rivers and harbors contributed funds.

The FY07 budget is a performance-based budget. As with the FY06 budget, the FY07 budget uses seven objective, performance-based guidelines to select the highest performing construction projects. This year, the guidelines have been modified to reflect two major changes. First, for flood and storm damage reduction projects, risks to human life are considered along with economics. Second, among aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, priority is given to those that are cost effective, that help to restore regionally or nationally significant ecosystems and that either remedy impacts from existing civil works projects or warrant the Corps' unique expertise in modifying the aquatic regimes of watersheds.

The budget provides construction funding for 91 projects, 63 very high performing projects and 28 other high-return projects. The 63 very high performing projects include six national priority construction projects, 14 project completions (including one dam safety and seepage project), 10 other dam safety and seepage projects and 33 other very high

performing projects.

Among the national priority construction projects is the side channels of the Upper Mississippi River system (\$27 million).

The budget transfers several activities to the operation and maintenance budget from the construction budget to improve accountability and oversight, reflect the full cost of operating and maintaining existing projects and reflect an integrated investment strategy.

- Rehabilitation of navigation and hydropower infrastructure, where the extent of the work is not large enough to be considered a replacement.

- Endangered Species Act compliance at operating projects.
- Construction of facilities, projects or features (including islands and wetlands) to use materials dredged during navigation maintenance.
- Mitigation of impacts on shorelines from navigation maintenance activities.

Among navigation projects, the operation and maintenance budget increases funding to maintain locks and dams on ... the Ohio River, the Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway.



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

Cover photo



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Tom Clay, Lock and Dam 7, served on the debris removal mission for Task Force Hope in Mississippi.



Recovery mission: Temporary housing in Louisiana

by Peter Verstegen

More coverage of the district's participation in hurricane recovery in Louisiana and Mississippi will be in coming issues.

Special Deployment Section TASK FORCE HOPE

“Our job is to inspect the work contractors are doing at various sites throughout the New Orleans area, within a 60 mile radius,” said Lisa Lund, channel maintenance coordinator with channels and harbors, Fountain City, Wis. “We are all deployed as quality assurance inspectors.” Each QA inspector may have from one to six sites to inspect on any day.

“The inspection required is for the main utility services such as sewer, water and electric,” said Lund. After the trailers are delivered, a team member inspects the setup of the trailers, including blocking, strapping and utility hookups.

Once construction is complete, the contractor requests an occupancy inspection to verify the trailer is in proper working order. The Federal Emergency Management Agency then takes possession to lease the trailers to people. “We have worked on over 24 travel trailer park sites ranging from 20 trailers per site to more than 300 trailers,” said Lund.

Some of the utilities are installed above ground; other sites offer buried utilities.



St. Paul District photo

Quality assurance team members in New Orleans from left are: Mark Paschke, construction representative, LaCrosse Resident Office in LaCrescent, Minn.; Tom Barickman, a reemployed annuitant and former construction representative in the Western Area Office, Grand Forks, N.D.; Lisa Lund, channel maintenance coordinator with channels and harbors, Fountain City, Wis.; Keff Kapaun, park ranger, Lake Ashtabula, Valley City, N.D.; Kevin Ressie, boat operator, Fountain City; Ann Morrison, park ranger, Blackhawk Park, DeSoto, Wis.; and Mark Schultz, head lock operator, Lower Saint Anthony Falls, Minneapolis.



From left are Bob Dempsey and Jim Mosner, engineering and construction, St. Paul District, and Wallace Lovell, Nashville District. They worked with the temporary housing group at the Louisiana Recovery Field Office, Baton Rouge, where they reviewed site plans. "The scene identifies the proximity of the trailers to downtown New Orleans," said Dempsey. The site is in a parking lot by a Winn-Dixie store.



Photo by Pam Bailey, ERDC

USACE Strategic Directions: Campaign Goal

Support Stability, Reconstruction and Homeland Security Operations

"The Corps is a critical part of the Army and joint team, both in peace and war. We are deploying more frequently as the lead Army component on interagency teams. In that role, we provide relevant engineering capabilities and solutions for stability, reconstruction and contingency operations. Under the National Response Plan, among others, we respond to the Department of Homeland Security domestically and to the U.S. Agency for International Development internationally. As we work to expand our support and formalize our roles, key areas of emphasis will include establishing effective relationships with our federal department counterparts. We will also implement the elements of Readiness XXI, a plan to apply the fast capabilities of our workforce across the spectrum of operations."

Debris removal and demolition in Mississippi

Gary Deschane, a lock operator at Lock and Dam 1, Minneapolis, worked as a quality assurance supervisor in Hancock County Mississippi. At left, he is working debris removal in Waveland, Miss. As of late February, 68 district employees deployed for hurricane recovery, most in Mississippi and Louisiana, with 13 additional employees on alert. To date, 207 employees have returned from hurricane duty.



Photo by David Lofton



Recovery mission: Reemployed annuitants

Private sector recruits retirees to support recovery in New Orleans

As Bill Spychalla sees it

From Bill Spychalla (photo at right), retired St. Paul District project manager. Spychalla is working with Stanley Consultants, a consulting engineering firm that provides engineering and related services worldwide. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)



In late January, I accepted an offer to join with the rebuilding of the levee and floodwalls hurricane protection system in New Orleans that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina last September.

Around Jan. 15, I received a call from Stanley Consultants to join their team of engineers working with the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers to rebuild the damaged levees and floodwalls to the condition that existed before Katrina hit. One week later, I was in New Orleans.

The work schedule is rather demanding – seven days a week from 10 to 12 hours each day. I usually get into work around 6:30 a.m. and stay until 7 or 7:30 p.m. Every three weeks, I get three days off to come home or go to Florida. It will be a welcome break.

Most of my duties are in the office, tracking the progress of the construction contracts and other duties to support the Corps’ project managers to make sure that the construction is proceeding, so that it will be completed by June 1, 2006, the start of the coming hurricane season.

Our office is in downtown New Orleans, about six blocks from the French Quarter. I am staying in an apartment about one block from the office, so I have

a nice short walk to work.

Mardi Gras has started already with the first Mardi Gras parade happening last night [Feb. 11]. This was a low-budget parade that was mostly people walking with several horse drawn small floats. There are 60 Mardi Gras parades scheduled during the next two weeks, with several really large parades with huge floats that go through the downtown area and will pass right by the office that I’m working at. I will probably see several of them. I do enjoy being here and working on the levee reconstruction program.

As Dave Loss sees it

From Dave Loss, retired St. Paul District project manager. Loss is also working with Stanley Consultants.

Our job is to provide project management support for the construction of the levees and floodwalls. Our mission is to return the flood barriers to pre-Hurricane Katrina levels by June 1, 2006. Where possible, we are providing better structures (for instance, deeper sheet piling and scour protection at the base of the floodwalls), and where levees have been severely damaged, replacing them to authorized levels (which in many cases is higher than pre-Katrina levels).

In our project management support role, the Stanley group is maintaining several databases for tracking data, schedules, construction progress, funds, etc., as well as preparing text and displays for briefings and upward reporting and general assistance for the project managers, as needed. I am assigned the Task Force Guardian. I’ve been here since Oct. 10, 2005 and intend to be here till June 1, 2006.

Flood reduction project wins award

by Peter Verstegen

“You’re doing some great work up there,” said Freddie Rush, executive vice president, Mississippi Valley Associated General Contractors. He was on the telephone to Virginia Regorrah, resident engineer, East Grand Forks, Minn., resident office. The St. Paul District’s East Grand Forks \$14.3 million phase two project and Industrial Contract Services had won the Dan Renfro Partnering Award, sponsored by the MVAGC.

The MVAGC presented the award at a conference in Destin, Fla., Feb. 1-3. The project had to be substantially complete in fiscal year 2005 to qualify. The award recognized a team led by East Grand Forks Resident Office on the project protecting East Grand Forks and Grand Forks, N.D., from flooding on the Red River of the North.

Close cooperation and detailed planning for a very tight construction window on the construction of railroad closures as part of the flood reduction project in October 2004 at East Grand Forks kept coal trains on time and cemented an award-winning public-private construction enterprise.

Railroad schedules gave the contractor 24 hours to construct the three railroad closures simultaneously. The structures



Photo courtesy MVDAGC

From left are Col. Mike Pfenning, St. Paul District commander; Gary Bridgeford and Kip Langei, both with Industrial Contract Services; Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander of Mississippi Valley Division; and Tony Zelenka, MVD chapter president, Associated General Contractors.

could not be backfilled until the concrete had reached 70 percent of its design strength. The simultaneous construction of the closures required close cooperation among all contractors and subcontractors to meet safety standards, timetables and product quality.

Said Regorrah, “While the construction of the railroad closures are flashy and exciting and represent a construction and safety success, the parts of the closure that truly represent partnering are more mundane, such as the paving subcontractor bringing in his admixture specialist to help develop an effective [concrete] mix, or the use of concrete trucks from both the concrete supplier and the paving subcontractor on the day of construction, because neither one could handle the volume alone.”

Regorrah noted that many other elements within the project, aside from the railroad closures, fit the criteria of partnering. The levees,

roads, railroads, sewers and water storage involved public-private sector partnership. The project called for construction of levees, floodwall, three railroad closures, storm sewers, a reinforcing wall for the city’s water storage reservoir, a pump station, two road closures, one road raise, recreational trails and a recreational trailhead facility, including a restroom, picnic shelter and parking lot.

“This has just been a wonderful project. And the cooperation among the partners is what has gotten us so far, so quickly,” said Mayor Lynn Stauss, East Grand Forks,

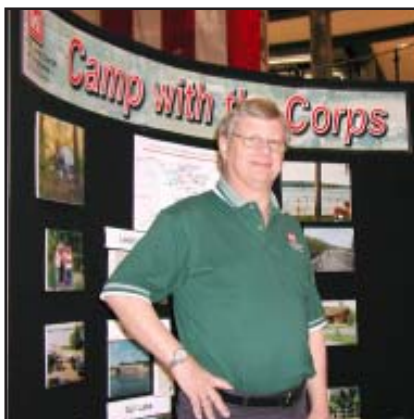
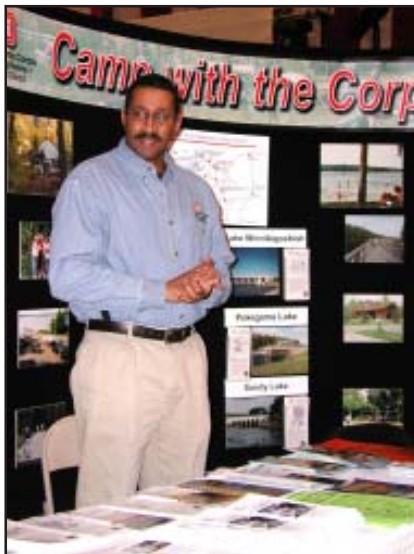
The award is named for Dan Renfro, a retired MVD employee, who was the executive vice president of MVAGC and managed the partnering agreement and maintained the partnership until his unexpected death in 2003. The recognition became the Dan W. Renfro Partnering Award in February 2004.



Photos by Peter Verstegen



Photo by Ray Morris



Above, at left in background is Terry Jorgenson. At the tables are Tom Crump, acting deputy district engineer, and Mark Davidson, public affairs. They represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District at the Government on Display Expo at the Mall of America, Bloomington, Minn., Jan. 28-29. The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota sponsors the event. Seamoor the Sea Dragon attracted families and children. The remote-controlled robot is used to convey water safety messages. At left is Vernon Hadley, contracting, and below is Ken Beck, real estate.

District reaches public at Government on Display Expo

by Peter Verstegen

Eleven volunteers from St. Paul District answered questions from the public about Corps of Engineers missions, including camping, flood and hurricane response, at Government on Display at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., Jan. 28-29.

Volunteers included: Ken Beck, real estate; Al Canfield, information management; Tom Crump, deputy district engineer; Mark Davidson, public affairs; Tom Dirnberger and Stephanie Ehnstrom, resource management; Vernon Hadley, contracting; Terry Jorgenson, engineering and construction; Carol Johnson, resource management; Bart Spriggle, operations; and Tom Sully, executive assistant.

Frank Star, operations, assisted with the set up of Seamoor and coached volunteers on how to use the machine's remote controls to move it around the Corps' display and have Seamoor "talk" to children.

News and Notes

Public structures mission wins 'Seven Wonders' award

The St. Paul District won a "Seven Wonders of Engineering Award" for "Hurricane Katrina – Task Force Hope Mississippi Temporary Public Structures," sponsored by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers. Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander, accepted the award on behalf of the Corps at a banquet in Brooklyn Park, Minn., Feb. 24.

Kari Layman, engineering and construction, developed the nomination package and **Bonnie Greenleaf** and **Joe Mose**, project management, and **Doris Sullivan**, engineering and construction, edited the package.

Entries in the awards competition were judged on the engineering methods, systems and skills utilized; the extent that the project advances the engineering profession; project complexity; the significance of the entry to society; and the extent to which the project meets the needs of the market, client or owner.

The MSPE conducts the competition annually to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of engineering. The goal is to acknowledge and publicly honor those who have advanced the profession and prestige of the entire engineering community.

In 2005, the district won one of nine merit awards for the Fargo South Dam Fishway in Fargo, N.D.



Photo by Bob Anderson

Jay Grimsled (above) received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service on Jan. 30 at the Louisiana Recovery Field Office, Baton Rouge. Presenting the award to Grimsled is Mike Lowe the LA-RFO assistant deputy commander. Grimsled received the award for his outstanding service as a quality assurance representative on the temporary housing mission.

District public affairs effort wins Kassner awards

Four St. Paul District personnel won Corps-wide recognition for outstanding photos and writing in the 2005 Herbert A. Kassner journalism competition held Feb. 10.

Mark Davidson, public affairs, won first place in the single photos category; **Peter Verstegen**, public affairs, won second in the story series category; and **Tammy Wick**, administrative assistant at headwaters project office, Grand Rapids, Minn. and **John Lymon**, visual information, placed second and third respectively in the stringer/contractor photo category.

Verstegen was listed as a significant contributor in the first place publication "Riverwatch Forward On-Line," published by Memphis District for the Louisiana Recovery Field Office-Task Force Hope.

A panel of eight professionals in the public affairs and journalism fields in the Washington area went to Corps' Headquarters and spent the day judging a total of 138 articles, photos and publications from the field. This was the largest group of entries in the history of the Kassner Awards.

The Corps' competition is named for Herbert A. Kassner, the public affairs officer for the former Lower Mississippi Valley Division until his death in 1988. It recognizes military and civilian employee print and broadcast practitioners for journalistic excellence in furthering the objectives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers internal communication program.

The first place winners will also receive the Corps' Golden Quill Award, and a letter signed by the Chief of Engineers. The second and third place winners will receive a certificate and letter signed by the chief of Public Affairs.

Announcements

Tom Crump is serving as the acting deputy commander while Lt. Col. Kunkle, deputy district commander, is deployed to Iraq for six months.

Thomas B. Sully, project management, will assume all duties

and responsibilities of the executive assistant, which Crump had been doing.

Michael Bart is on board as chief of engineering and construction division.

Dan Schmidt has accepted reassignment from his current position as lockmaster at Lock and Dam 5, Minnesota City, Minn., to the lockmaster, Lock and Dam 3, Red Wing, effective May 28, 2006.

Dave Hawkenson, the current lockmaster at Lock and Dam 3, is retiring



Photo by David Nerva

Angelo Padretti, Corey Maynard and Moe Ware, maintenance and repair unit, Fountain City, Wis., install a new bronze aluminum alloy chain at Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis in mid-February. They are on the deck of the Crane Barge Leonard. The rest of the crew, not shown are Rick Roffler, Lonnie Earnie and Ron Cory.

Taps

Mike Emmons

“Something I will always remember about him,” said Lt. Col. Randy Westfall, a gulf regional commander when Emmons served in Iraq, is ...‘When we really need something, we’d ask Mike to roll up his sleeves (revealing his Marine Corps tattoo) and go ask the Marines for it. Mike usually came back with what we needed.’”

Said Westfall, “Mike was a great guy, a Silver Star winner, “old flat top” as the young Marines referred to him, a courageous guy who figured out a way to contribute to our efforts and stepped forward to help establish the Al Asad Resident Office and helped keep it integrated with the Marines by his presence and will to succeed.”

At the time he passed away, Emmons was an operator at Lock and Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wis. “He made sure the mission was completed no matter what,” said Mark Beseler, lockmaster. “Mike was highly decorated with medals and ribbons in his army stint. Mike was also highly decorated with his friendship within the Corps’ family.”

Emmons had a very strong background in small engines and welding and the talent of completing the mission with very little resources. He was always willing to mentor fellow employees with his knowledge and experience. Emmons served two tours in Vietnam and received the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

He passed away Nov. 16, 2005, while still employed with the St. Paul District.



Leonard Lohmann

“I will never forget Leonard’s beautiful violets!” said Teri Alberico, project management. “I enjoyed talking to him about them and the flower shows he put them in. They graced various windows at the St. Paul District and brightened our days, as did Leonard. He was a dedicated and thoughtful co-worker and will be greatly missed.”

Said Col. Robert Ball, previous district commander, “I had the privilege of serving with Leonard for three years – 2001 to 2004. He was not only an institution within the St. Paul District, he was also an outstanding employee. He was one of the first members of the district to be chosen as Employee of the Month – a much deserved honor. In typical Leonard humility, when we called him to tell him that he had been selected, he was afraid that we had called to tell him that it was time to retire. He was a joy to work with, and I am indeed fortunate to have known him.”

Said John Blackstone, former project manager, “Leonard Lohmann was all business when on the phone and when the conversation or transaction was completed could hang up faster than anyone I ever knew.”

Added Lupe Santos, equal employment office, “The other part of this is, he would tell you that he would be right there, and when you would turn around, he was there.”

Lohmann passed away Oct. 28, 2005, while still employed with the St. Paul District.



Broomball team sweeps ice

by Tom Crump

It was broomball, the second season. The St. Paul District's co-ed broomball team had fun out on the ice out in the crisp winter air under night lights at the rink in downtown St. Paul, Jan. 25.

This is the second year the district has fielded a broomball team for the Wells Fargo Winter Skate broomball league. The

broomball league plays from mid-November until February on a hockey rink constructed in Landmark Plaza in downtown St. Paul. Each team has five players on each side on the ice at a time.

Frequent substitutions mean that the action never stops. Joe Mose, project management, is the team captain. He directed the team in orchestrated chaos as players substituted on and off the ice. "I

enjoy the competition" said Mose.

Said Tom Novak, "I didn't even see our goal. I was too busy gasping for air." Novak works in project management and is the team's self-proclaimed "all-star and most-gifted player."

While the league is free, players must supply their own equipment. What were once sawed off straw brooms are now molded plastic heads on the end of the stick. Players wear either tennis shoes or special broomball shoes designed to give them a little more grip on the ice. Safety equipment, including helmets, mouth pieces, shin, elbow and knee pads help protect the players.

Molly McKegney, office of counsel, said, "I like having fun on the ice and getting to know co-workers outside of the office setting."

"It's great fun, super exercise and wonderful camaraderie," said Lt. Col. John Kunkle, district deputy commander. Everyone's welcome. We need more players."

Contact Mose or visit the website on the intranet under "Activities, Events and Groups" for more information.



Photos by Tom Crump

Above, from left: Tom Novak, Joe Mose, both project management, and Jim Sentz, engineering and construction. Photo are right: top row, from left: Lt. Col. John Kunkle, deputy district engineer, Joe Mose, Lisa Hedin, retired, Teri Alberico, Stephanie Dupey, Tom Novak, all project management; and Jim Sentz. Hedin was formerly employed with the district as a project manager. Bottom row, from left, are Molly McKegney, office of counsel, Azure Schermerhorn and Mary Norris, students and teammates.

