



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 29, No. 7

July 2006

**Eau Galle
Recreation Area
hosts summer
awards picnic**





Photo by Shannon Bauer

Craig Evans, project management, and his son, Nathan, were among more than 200 St. Paul District staff and families to attend the annual summer awards ceremony and picnic, June 23. This year, it was held at the Eau Galle Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wis.



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 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
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

Help the district, help yourself

by Tom Crump
Acting District Deputy Engineer

When Lt. Col. John Kunkle, district deputy engineer, deployed to Iraq, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as acting deputy district engineer.

During my five months as deputy, several people have asked me, "Just what does the deputy do?"

My answer is twofold.

My first responsibility is to assist the commander in the operation of the district. By taking care of day-to-day operational issues, it allows the commander to focus on the priorities that really deserve his time and attention. If the command staff can resolve issues before they get to the commander, then the commander can concentrate on executing our missions, planning for future missions, aligning regionally and, most importantly, taking care of our people. If issues need to be raised to the commander, we organize them in such a way as to clearly present the issue, provide possible alternative solutions and make appropriate recommendations.

The second half of the deputy's job is serving as the supervisor of the administrative and advisory offices and the two support

divisions. They are contracting, real estate, resource management, information management, logistics, equal employment opportunity office, public affairs, safety and security, small business, internal review and civilian personnel office. Being a supervisor brings with it a whole host of responsibilities, ranging from coaching and mentoring to doing performance reviews.

Serving as the acting deputy has been a wonderful opportunity for me. By viewing the district from a new and different perspective, I have learned a lot. It has been challenging and rewarding, allowing me to grow personally and professionally.

There are opportunities where each of you can challenge yourselves.

The district is going to continue to deploy folks to help fight the war on terror, to staff the Recovery Field Office and to assist Task Force Hope and the Hurricane Protection Office. We need those volunteers to accomplish the Corps' mission in our region and around the globe. We also need volunteers to step forward and assume the leadership roles that they vacate. I encourage each of you to stretch yourself and raise your hand to fill one of those spots or assume some of those duties. By helping the district, you will also be helping yourself.

Inside this issue

Command column	Page 2
Meet and Greet held at Fountain City Service Base	Page 3
Eau Galle hosts summer awards picnic	Page 6
The running referee	Page 10
Corps tracks with kids at Sandy Lake	Page 12
Plan now for long-term training	Page 13
News and Notes, Retirees' Corner, Employee of the Month	Page 14

Meet and Greet held at Fountain City Service Base

by Russell Williams

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office's Special Emphasis Program's field subcommittee hosted a meet and greet for 23 new employees on a calm, sunny day at the Fountain City Service Base, Fountain City, Wis., June 29. This was the second time the field subcommittees hosted the meet and greet.

"It makes the committee seem worthwhile," said Judith Harris, clerk, Lock and Dam 5A and member of the field subcommittee.

Harris and Terry Fluekiger, committee field chair, worked with the field subcommittee to plan the meet and greet.

Harris said the team built on the format established the year before. They invited all new employees and anyone else who may want to attend.

A light lunch was served that included hot dogs, beans, chips, cookies and beverages.

After lunch, all the new employees were introduced by their supervisor. Other employees introduced themselves afterwards.

"The event provided another opportunity to bring the field and the district office together," said Michael Knoff, chief, hydraulics and hydrology branch. "We're trying to tear down the us-and-them attitude of 'you're a new

Greet, continued Page 4



Photo by Tammy Wick

Steve Lenhart, upper area lockmaster, is about to shake the hand of Adrian Swanson, a newly recruited lock and dam operator. Next, going left, is Amy Thomas, clerk, and Brian Gray, a student employee -- all at Lock and Dam 2 and Arlan Baukol, a temporary lock and dam operator at Upper St. Anthony Falls. To Baukol's right, behind Lenhart, is Robert Turner, Lock and Dam 1.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Left to right: Ben Horn, Jamie Lowe and Kristin Moe – all from the Natural Resources Office, LaCrescent, Minn. They work as student forestry technicians.

Greet, continued from Page 3

employee so you come to the district office in St. Paul for the meet and greet.”

Knoff said this is especially beneficial in the summertime when the bulk of new employees are field employees. For the people from the district office, this was an opportunity to see project sites in the field.

“People out there got to know who people in the district office are and where they work,” said Harris. “Col. [Michael] Pfenning, district commander, introduced himself to all new employee. This lessened their worry about meeting the colonel, because he is in charge of the whole district.”

The field’s meet and greet accomplishes one of its 2006 initiatives and focused on meeting its overall mission to “find ways and develop resources to increase the representation of qualified women, minorities and people with disabilities in permanent positions at corps field locations.” With the support of the commander, district leadership and other SEPC subcommittee members, a diverse group of new and current employees traveled and participated in the meet and greet.

The diversity of the new employees shows both the district’s focus and progress in achieving a diverse workforce, said Lupe Santos-Jensen, Special Emphasis Program manager.

New employees enjoyed the meet and greet.

Benjamin Cox, a student from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, works in the regulatory branch. Cox learned of the Corps through a career fair at the



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Bill Meier (left), channels and harbors unit, Fountain City, Wis., and Kevin Hoeltzle, a student at Lock and Dam 9, attended the meet and greet.

university where he spoke with Marita Valencia, a regulatory section chief, and Daniel Seemon, ecologist in regulatory.

“It’s nice to get out and see the maintenance, surveying and dredging activities going on at the Fountain City facility,” said Cox.

Another University of Minnesota

- Minneapolis student, Maler V. Annamalai, said, “It was also very, very nice to meet other people in the district.” She works in the hydraulics section, engineering and construction division. Annamalai also learned of the Corps though a career fair, where she spoke with

Greet, continued Page 5



Photo by Russell Williams

From left are: Maler V. Annamalai, a student in engineering and construction division; Ben Cox, a student in regulatory branch; and Joseph Titus, Jr., a student in regulatory branch. All attended the meet and greet in Fountain City, Wis., June 29. Said Titus, “It was good meeting new people and getting a lay of the land.”

Greet, continued from Page 4



Photo by Shannon Bauer

From left are: LaVonne Cairns; Judy Harris, Lock and Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wis.; and Rojean Heyer, head operator, Lock and Dam 7, LaCrescent, Minn. Cairns is Heyer's mother.

Jodi Kormanik, hydraulic engineer. Annamalai, originally from Singapore, is a civil engineering student. "I went down with two new employees, met more new employees and other people and saw hands-on examples," she said.

Joseph Titus, Jr., a student at Humboldt High School in St. Paul, said, "It was good meeting new people and getting a lay of the land." Titus is working in regulatory branch this summer.

Prior to ending the meet and greet, the SEPC chairs presented 2006 accomplishment and 2007 initiatives to the commander and senior leaders.



Photo by LaVonne Cairns

The field subcommittee of the Special Emphasis Program Committee organized the meet and greet held in Fountain City, Wis., June 29. Front row, from left: Judy Harris, Lock and Dam 5A; Tammy Wick, Headwaters Project Office; and Lupe Santos-Jensen, special emphasis program manager. Back Row: Dave Nelson, Headwaters Project Office, Terry Fluekiger, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Rojean Heyer, Lock and Dam 7; and Chris Botz, Lake Ashtabula. Members not pictured: Nate Johnson, contracting; Bryan Peterson, Fountain City; and John Dickson, Lock and Dam 8.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Jim Maybach, civil engineer, Fountain City, Wis., physical support branch, Fountain City, attended the event to meet new people. "The Special Emphasis Program Committee did a great job organizing the meet and greet," said Maybach.

Eau Galle hosts summer awards picnic

by Shannon Bauer

Around 224 individuals attended the St. Paul District annual summer awards ceremony and picnic hosted at the Eau Galle Recreation Area in Spring Valley, Wis., June 23.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the day's activities included bingo, bean bag tossing, bocce ball, croquet, children's games, feasting, golf, piñata bashing, softball, Texas horse shoes and volleyball, as well as a pet contest and water balloon toss. Crystal Cave and Cady Cheese factory tours, popcorn and snow cones were also available.

Attendants were encouraged to bring food items to the ceremony to donate to Keystone Community Services in St. Paul, Minn. More than 62 pounds of food and \$51 was collected for this nonprofit food shelf.

The following received awards during the ceremony portion of the day:

Greg Frankosky, physical support; **Paul Madison**, design branch; **Mike McGarvey**, logistics; **Jim Sentz**, design branch; and **Anthony Zacheretti**,

Awards picnic, continued Page 7



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Andy Soileau, center, participated in the sack race. At left is **Josef Stanek** and at right is **Katrina Stanek**. Soileau is the son of **Rebecca Soileau**, engineering and construction division. The Staneks are the children of **Jeff Stanek**, also engineering and construction division.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Those attending the St. Paul District summer awards picnic came together to honor and remember co-workers who are deployed overseas.

Awards picnic, continued from Page 6

operations, received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for their support to Hurricane Katrina recovery operations.

Dan Boone, Lock and Dam 8, received the civilian Combat Service Pin for his deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Stu Dobberpuhl and **Robert Engelstad**, both hydraulics and hydrology, received length of service awards for 35 years.

Jon Ahlness, regulatory; **Bruce Boldon**, operations division; **Mark Davidson**, public affairs; **Paul Madison**, design branch; and **Dave Rydeen**, design branch, received length of service awards for 30 years.

Stephen Sandquist, design branch, received a length of service award for 25 years.

Chris Afdahl, design branch; **Mike Dahlquist**, design branch; **Phillip Lapinski**, information management; **Julie Ritter**, resource management;

Awards picnic, continued Page 8



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Rebecca Soileau, geologist in engineering and construction, guides her daughter, **Margaret (Maggie) Rose Soileau** through the music and crafts corner, where children came to draw, build marshmallow sculptures and play musical instruments.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Twenty gathered for awards recognizing their contributions in the successful emergency response to this spring's flooding on the Red River of the North: Back row Jim Sentz, engineering and construction; Shelly Shafer, readiness; Aaron Snyder, project management; Mike Leshner and Mike Knoff from EC, Jeff McGrath and Craig Evans, PM, Robert Engelstad, Ferris Chamberlin and Matt Bray, EC; Stephanie Dupey, executive office; and Diana Tschida, operations. Bottom row: Jon Petersen and Liz Nelsen, EC; Mike McGarvey, logistics; Mark Davidson, public affairs; Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander (for Richard Beatty, PM); Dave Christenson, readiness; Rick Carlson; and Kevin Bluhm, PM.

Crosscurrents

Awards picnic, continued from Page 7

Jim Sentz, design branch; **Theresa Teed**, project management; and **Duane Wilson**, operations division, received length of service awards for 20 years.

Jeff Bailey, information management; **Patrick Harding**, logistics management; and **Greg Sherwood**, resource management, received length of service awards for 15 years.

The following received certificates for their participation in the 2006 Red River of the North flood fight in Fargo, N.D.:

Dick Beatty, project management; **Kevin Bluhm**, project management; **Matt Bray**, design branch; **Rick Carlson**, project management; **Ferris Chamberlin**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Dave Christenson**, readiness management; **Mark Davidson**, public affairs; **Stephanie Dupey**, project management; **Robert Engelstad**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Craig Evans**, project management; **Jeff Hansen**, design branch; **Scott Jutila**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Mike Knoff**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Mike Leshner**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Mike McGarvey**, logistics management; **Jeff McGrath**, project management; **Liz Nelsen**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Jon Peterson**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Jim Sentz**, design branch; **Michelle Shafer**, readiness management; **Aaron Snyder**, project management; **Jeff Stanek**, design branch; and **Diana Tschida**, project management.

Those who participated in the flood fight but were not able to attend the picnic will receive their

Awards picnic, continued on Page 9

Above photo (left to right): **Col. Mike Pfenning**, **Joe Mose**, project management; and **Jon Petersen**, hydraulics and hydrology, compete in a volleyball game.

Right: **Noeun Kol**, design branch, attended the awards picnic surrounded by his children, from left, **Lorenarath**, **Nicholas** and **Vellerie Kol**.



Photo by Paul Davidson



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Awards picnic, continued from Page 8

certificate, if they haven't already, in the near future.

During the ceremony, Col. Michael Pfenning, district commander, displayed to the attendants a flag the district received for its support in the Global War on Terrorism. The flag was received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Kabul Afghanistan, formerly the Iraqi Embassy, where it was flown, according to Pfenning, "in the face of the enemy" on Jan. 20 in honor of the St. Paul District.

Chris Afdahl, Kurt Heckendorf and Miray Welle served as cochairs for this year's event.

Others assisting them with ceremony or picnic activities included: Maler Annamalai, hydraulics and hydrology; Shannon Bauer, public affairs; Pat Berczyk, civilian personnel; Kevin Bluhm, project management; Matt Bray, design branch; Ferris Chamberlin, hydraulics and hydrology; Dave Christenson, readiness management; Dan Cottrell, natural resources; Mark Davidson and his son Paul, public affairs; Stephanie Dupey, project management; Liz Dvorak, civilian personnel; Stephanie Ehnstrom, resource management; Kris Fairbanks, construction branch; Scott Goodfellow, hydraulics and hydrology; Rebecca Gruber, regulatory; Jeff Hansen, design branch; Patrick Harding, logistics management; Corrine Hodapp, Eau Galle Park; regulatory; Larry Joachim, real estate retiree; Carol Johnson, resource management; Terry Jorgenson, design branch; Mark Klika, design branch, and his wife Lorraine; Mike Knoff, hydraulics and hydrology; Jodi Kormanik, hydraulics and hydrology; Linda Krueger, civilian personnel; Mai Lee, hydraulics and hydrology; Jon Lyman, information management; Mike McGarvey, logistics management; Joe Mose, project management; Marsha Mose, engineering branch; Jim Mosner, design branch; Liz Nelsen, hydraulics and hydrology; Byron Nelson, design branch; Tom Novak, Blackhawk Park; Jon Petersen, hydraulics and hydrology; Dave Reynolds, Eau Galle Park; Ellen Schepcke, Eau Galle Park; Tony Schoenecker, natural resources; Jim Sentz, design branch; Michelle Shafer, readiness management; Greg Sherwood, information management; Brian Sipos, Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam; Rebecca Soileau, hydraulics and hydrology; Kevin Sommerland, real estate; Jeff Stanek, design branch; Doris Sullivan, design branch; Tom Sully, front office; Marge Thompson, regulatory; Bill Vennemann, real estate; Annette Vogel, construction branch; Gary Wolf, design branch; and



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Shua Xiong, information management (student trainee), with her son, Jaden Vang. Xiong works in IM's records management.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

From left are: Dave Reynolds, park manager at Eau Galle Recreation Area; Jeff Hansen, design branch; Dick Otto, natural resources; and Dennis Anderson, project management.

Elana Zien, daughter of Terry Zien of project management.

Additionally, the picnic committee would like to give special recognition to the staff of Eau Galle Recreation Area for site preparation and serving as event host. They include manager Dave Reynolds; park rangers T.J. Helgeson, Corrine Hodapp, Jeff Horn and Anita Lampert; maintenance worker Phil Lapinski; and administrative assistant Ellen Schepcke.

Official disclaimer: If an individual was inadvertently omitted from this list, please contact public affairs for acknowledgment in next month's issue.

The running referee

by Mark Davidson

Why does Jodi Kormanik, a water control hydraulic engineer with the engineering and construction division, run?

Does she run on the basketball court as a referee to stay in shape for marathons?

Or does she run in marathons and other races to stay in shape for basketball?

On June 17, Kormanik ran in her second Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minn. It was the marathon's 30th anniversary and a record 7,206 runners started the 26.2-mile race.

"I finished in 4:53:54," said Kormanik. "Not

as good as I wanted to, but the conditions were brutal. For the first time in Grandma's history the black flag was raised. This was an extreme warning for the runners due to the heat and humidity.

The female marathon winner, Halina Karnatsevich, 37, of Belarus, took the lead right from the gun and won with a time of two hours, 33 minutes and 39 seconds.

Kormanik and 6,912 other runners finished the race. She finished in 4,784 place out of all of the runners. Out of 2,607 female runners whom finished the race, she placed 1,580.

Kormanik runs in half-marathons, marathons, 10k races and other races about

Running referee, continued Page 11



Photos courtesy Jodi Kormanik

Jodi Kormanik (above right) finished the 26.2-mile Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minn., in a time of 4:53:54. She cooled off in Lake Superior after she finished the race.





Photo by Peter Verstegen

Kormanik officiates summer basketball one to two weekends a month. She brought her uniform to work to referee games July 21.

10 times a year. She runs about 20 miles a week to stay in shape.

"I actually just started running [in] January 2005," said Kormanik. "Prior to then, I would guess the longest I had run is maybe two miles. I found running to be a great stress reliever. It's something you can do that gives you time to think or not think, you can do it alone or with a friend, and the only cost are new running shoes every three months."

But competitive running is not the only athletic activity Kormanik does. She also is a basketball referee. She was a referee five years ago for just one season of springtime American Athletic Union basketball games, mostly on the weekends.

"Then, this past basketball season I decided to take it more seriously and I became a Minnesota State High School League basketball official," said Kormanik. "I started contracting games from various basketball organizations and even refereed one varsity high school girls game during this past winter season."

Even though the high school basketball leagues are not going on now, Kormanik is officiating summer basketball about one to two weekends a month. A typical tournament will allow her to referee about eight to 10 games over two days.

"During a weekend in late June in Rochester,

Minn., I refereed a total of 15 games in three days," said Kormanik. "The games that I reffed ranged from eighth grade to high school varsity, both girls and boys."

Kormanik will be attending a basketball official's camp in Duluth this summer to get ready for the upcoming season. She plans to referee a full time schedule this upcoming basketball season. This means she will officiate one-two high school varsity games a week along with some ninth grade, sophomore and junior varsity games.

Kormanik played basketball, fast-pitch softball, soccer and tennis in high school and also played fast-pitch softball in junior college. A St. Paul District employee since December 1997, she certainly knows sports and has experienced many different kinds of referees.

"I believe it takes a certain type of individual to referee. You can't give just anyone a whistle and expect him or her to be able to call a good game, and I think that the kids out there playing should have good referees," she said. "I have made the choice to become a dedicated official that will continue to work at becoming better each year."



Photo courtesy Jodi Kormanik

Jodi Kormanik (left), an engineer in water control, referees an American Athletic Union tournament in St. Louis Park, Minn. She became a Minnesota State High School League referee last season, which lasts from November through March.

Corps tracks with kids at Sandy Lake

by Jeff Steere

The Big Sandy Water Institute is a summer educational and recreational program focusing on teaching students how to enjoy and preserve local water resources and natural resources through environmental education, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling, boat and water safety and swimming.

These classes are held at five locations, including the Corps' Sandy Lake Recreation Area, McGregor, Minn. Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Savanna Portage State Park, Long Lake Conservation Center and the Catholic Youth Camp also host classes.

Other classes included bog walks, hypothermia, boat safety and rescue, impaired vision, bird watching, animal tracks, orienteering, introduction to global positioning systems, fish ecology and fish identification, archery, tree planting and gardening.

Participants also get to go on a field trip to Paul Bunyan Nature center and Three Bear Lodge and Theme Park. A family fun day is scheduled for the last day of the Big Sandy Water Institute at the Big Sandy Recreation Area were participants and their families enjoy kayak races, water balloon toss, swimming, fishing and a picnic lunch.

This year's classes started June 19 and finished Aug. 3 with a two-week break for Red Cross swimming lessons after July 4.

This is the institute's fifth year, with more than 1,850 kids



Photo by Tammy Wick

Ranger Terry Ladd (right) instructs students about animal tracks during the Sandy Lake Water Institute, June 22. When conditions are right, he takes the participants for a walk to find tracks on shore or on a sandbar. High water levels this spring hampered locating tracks, so Ladd built a form (above) and filled it with dirt. "We used precast molds of animal prints for the kids to press into the dirt and then we let them fill them with plaster of paris," said Tammy Wick, headwaters office. The institute averaged about 27 students per day after the first two weeks of classes.

participating in the first four years.

The Corps is among 12 public or nonprofit program sponsors.

Corps' personnel helping out this year included Tammy Wick from

the headwaters office; Pat Duffney, park ranger, Pokegama Dam; Terry Ladd park ranger from Sandy Lake; and Jeff Steere, park manager, Sandy Lake.

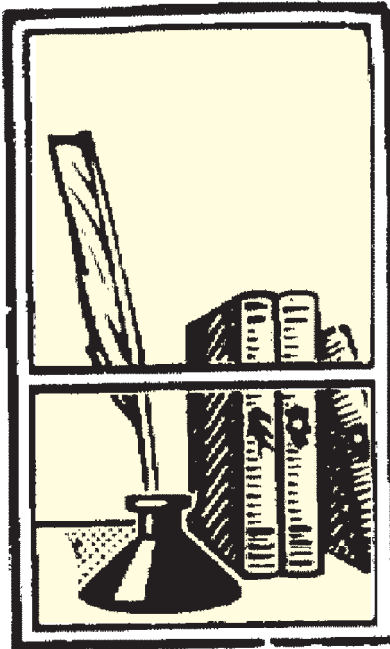
Plan now for long-term training

by Pat Berczyk, human resource specialist, and Linda Krueger, chief, civilian personnel advisory center

Long-term training, or LTT, refers to training to which an individual is assigned on a continuous, full-time basis for more than 120 calendar days. The assignment may be to either government or non-government facilities.

Most training needs of district employees can be met by short-term, low-cost training programs. To keep the Corps abreast of managerial, technical, scientific and other specialized advancements, some employees may need training opportunities beyond the customary short-term programs. It is St. Paul District policy to use LTT when such assignments are more appropriate to providing needed knowledge, skills and abilities than assignments of short duration.

Corps of Engineers'-sponsored long-term training is the most common type of LTT for district employees. Corps' Headquarters funds tuition, books, travel and per diem, and other non-salary costs for Corps employees who are competitively selected for the Corps' LTT program. Typically, the trainee attends graduate-level or professional school and may obtain an advanced degree, although obtaining a degree is not the primary purpose of LTT. In addition to the Corps' LTT program, the district may provide locally sponsored LTT. The procedures for applying for locally



sponsored LTT are similar to the Corps LTT program.

An employee on a LTT assignment must enroll as a full-time student. He or she must carry 15 or more semester hours (or equivalent quarter hours). Employees taking long-term training in a government or non-government program must sign a written agreement to continue in the service of the agency after completing the training. The period of continued service is usually three times the length of the training period and begins when training is completed.

To qualify for LTT, employees must be GS-11 or higher and must be serving under permanent appointment. Typically, employees must have a minimum of three years' federal civilian service plus one year of Corps civilian experience beyond the intern level.

Every Corps' employee who meets the established criteria and standards will be given an equal opportunity to be considered for LTT. Although many of the

district's LTT candidates have been engineers and scientists, it is not limited to those fields. District employees in a wide range of administrative and professional occupations could potentially benefit from LTT.

If you are interested in LTT for fiscal 2008, you need to begin planning now. Examine your interests. Consider what you hope to gain from LTT and how you would use the training on the job. Find out which educational institutions offer the program you want. Early on, talk to your supervisor to see whether LTT is an option for you.

If you plan to attend graduate school, you may need to take the Graduate Record Examination in August. In September or October, you will need to apply to school. The request for LTT typically comes out in the January-February time frame when headquarters sends out the announcement for applications.

The Department of the Army also offers centrally funded, long-term training programs. The purpose and qualifications for Army LTT programs vary. Information is available from the Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System catalog at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/catalog/>.

Long-term training is just one option for getting job-related formal education. Some employees attend college or technical school part time at night or on weekends. Others participate in the growing number of distance learning opportunities. Talk to your supervisor about your career goals and whether LTT or other academic programs fit your goals.

News and Notes

Retirees' Corner

Raasch "retires" to Hawaii

Dave Raasch, project management, retired from the Corps' St. Paul District, December 2004. His wife, Mary Jean, resigned from her job the following March.

In his retirement from the Corps, Raasch partnered with Bob Northrup, another Corp's retiree, to initiate a residential development in Balsam Lake, Wis.

They designed and constructed a planned urban development addition to the Village of Balsam Lake, including construction of several new homes for sale. The development proved successful and 12 of the 14 lots sold quickly.

"In January 2006, it was my wife's turn to get adventurous," said Raasch. "She applied for and accepted a mammography position at the Women's Center of Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii."

The Raasch's sold their home in Prescott, Wis., and moved to Hawaii in March.

After two months of surfing and playing on Waikiki and North Shore beaches, Raasch decided to get back to the "real world." He accepted a project manager position with KFC



Photo by Mary Jean Raasch

Dave Raasch, who retired from project management in December 2004, now works in Hawaii.

Engineering Management, a small locally owned company with its home office in Honolulu. "It is predominately a consulting firm providing program management, construction management, and architecture and engineering design services to public, private and federal agencies, (including a contract with the Honolulu District of the Corps of Engineers).

Raasch's main work effort is project management services to Veteran Administration hospital and clinic staff in Hawaii and the Pacific rim.

His job takes him on occasional trips to all the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and the Philippines.

"Mary Jean and I thoroughly enjoy Hawaii, and welcome friends from the St. Paul District to look us up if vacationing on Oahu."

April Employee of the Month

Harris recruits, mentors and supports co-workers

Mark Beseler, lockmaster, and the crew at Lock and Dam 5A, Fountain City, Wis., nominated Judith Harris, administrative clerk,



Harris

for Employee of the Month honors.

Harris splits her time between Lock and Dam 5A and the project office, both in

Fountain City.

She has provided assistance with the overflow of work while the survey crew clerk was deployed.

She is very active in the Special Emphasis Program field subcommittee and the field meet and greet meetings to welcome newcomers to the Corps. She has represented the Corps at the Winona State Career Fair.

She often assists locks and dam clerks with questions on inputting vouchers on deployed employees. She often adjusts her schedule to assist staffing needs.

Said Beseler, "Harris maintains an excellent working relationship with co-workers, supervisors and district office personnel. She frequently mentors fellow employees and is a very dependable, multi-tasking employee who gives 110 percent."