US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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'Toys for Tots' tree ready

Photo by Mark Davidson

Mary Kay Linder, administrative assistant, and St. Paul District Commander Col. Robert Ball assembled the Christmas tree on Dec. 4 for donations to the Toys for Tots program. Toys for ages 9 - 14 are needed. Please bring donations to the Executive Office before Dec. 19.

Naval Reserve honors Arley Martin on dredge

By Jim Maybach, plant engineer

The Naval Reserve in La Crosse, Wis., presented an award on Nov. 9 to Arley Martin, Master of the Dredge Thompson, on board the Thompson. The purpose of the award was to recognize the support provided by the Corps of Engineers to the mission of the Naval Reserve by facilitating participation of a Corps employee in the reserve. The award was presented by Lt. Commander Stuart Littlejohn, Commander of the La Crosse Naval Reserve Unit, and Chief Brian Brown, a member of the reserve unit. Eric Carlson, a tender operator for the Dredge Thompson, is a Petty Officer in the La Crosse Naval Reserve Unit and is the employee whose participation in reserve activity was supported by the management of the dredge.

Photo by Jim Maybach

From the left are Naval Reserve Lt. Cmdr. Stuart Littlejohn; Eric Carlson, tender operator on the Dredge Thompson; Arley Martin, master of the dredge; and Naval Reserve Chief Brian Brown. Back to camera is Chuck Schultz, a leverman on the dredge.

Terrorism not the only emergency the Corps faced in 2001

The Chief's holiday message

By Robert B. Flowers
Lt. Gen., U.S. Army
Commanding

The holiday season is traditionally a time to pause and reflect on the past year, and the challenges of the coming year. I'm sure you will all agree that this past year has given us a lot to think about. And we have much to be thankful for, both as an organization and as individuals.

I am personally thankful that no Corps employees were lost during the terrible attacks on Sept. 11. And I am thankful to have the opportunity to lead our great organization with some of the finest people in the U.S. government. You all proved that this past year, and I am very proud of you.

Although the terrorist attacks are foremost in our minds, they were not the only emergency operations we faced in 2001. After an ice storm in Oklahoma last Christmas, our employees cleaned up tree debris at their projects, often working without electricity, phones, or water. Additionally, Tulsa District delivered 250,000 gallons of water to stricken counties.

Seattle District rode out a magnitude 6.8 earthquake, then went into immediate action in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to assess the integrity of Corps projects in the area.

We took part in a flood-fight last spring in the Upper Midwest. We distributed 3.2 million sandbags to local communities, and Corps emergency work (mostly levee building) prevented more than $50 million in damage to North Dakota and Minnesota cities.

Corps personnel responded to Tropical Storm Allison. They supplied emergency power, temporary housing, debris removal and monitoring, distributed 100,000 sandbags, and provided utility hook-ups for 950 temporary housing trailers.

"But the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have dominated our thinking and emotions."

All that, plus our normal work-load — supporting Army Transformation, environmental restoration at military and civil works sites, research and development, building housing and other facilities for the Air Force and Army, civil works projects throughout the country, and support for others, just to name a few.

But the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have dominated our thinking and emotions. I'm enormously proud of the work we did on Sept. 11 and the days following.

At both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we had people on the ground in less than two hours assessing the situation and lending assistance. We had literally *thousands* of volunteers to help in New York, and the city welcomed the work they did through FEMA – structural response, temporary power, debris removal, and more.

The Corps' response to the terrorist attacks was tremendous, and I couldn't be more proud of you all. But work that intense takes a lot out of you, plus the uncertainties of the war against terrorism and what the future holds adds additional strain.

I would appreciate it if everyone would take extra care of each other in the coming year. There is no one better able to assess how people are feeling than those around them. Look each other in the eye now and then and earnestly ask, "How's it going?" Then listen and help each other.

Our entire country seems to be drawing closer together and reaching out to help others, a little more aware of what's important in life, and of our need for each other. If we in the Corps of Engineers continue to be thankful for our blessings, and keep reaching out to one another, we will be more than ready to tackle the challenges that next year will bring.

My family joins me in wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, exciting New Year. Take some well-deserved time off, relax, and enjoy being with your family and friends.

Essayons!

Common Access Cards scheduled for spring

By Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs Office

Prepare for your new identity. Coming soon to a belt clip, wallet, purse or lanyard close to you is a new identification card — the Common Access Card (CAC).

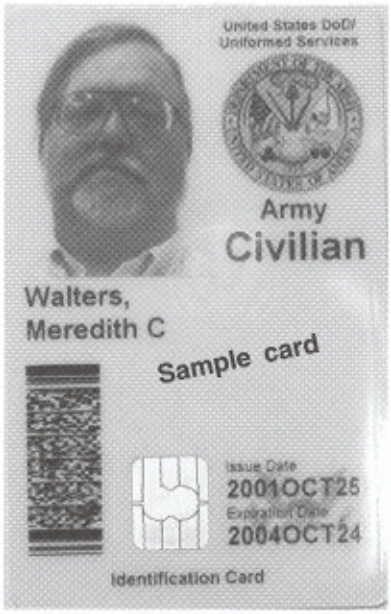
"The card is on a schedule to be issued in the St. Paul District in March and April 2002," said Kevin O'Connor, CAC project lead in Information Management (IM). Mary Chang, the Information Assurance Officer in IM, said the system is presently in use on many military bases and is making its way into the Corps of Engineers. The card will be valid for three years

"You must have an AKO account (Army Knowledge Online) to receive a CAC," said Chang. "Every single person who works for the district, even seasonal workers, must have an AKO account," she said. Through the end of November, 88 percent of the district had registered with AKO. "The AKO help desk is 1-877-256-8737," she added.

"The identity card will serve many purposes, including access to the building and to your computer," said Chang. "It will have bar codes to make it backward compatible for current systems, such as access to the district office," said O'Connor.

Getting an ID card may mean a road trip. Early plans indicate that DEERS stations (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System), located at reserve bases or Camp Ripley, Minn., will issue the cards. The farthest distance for travel – 88 miles – will be for the staff at Leech Lake in Federal Dam, Minn. Details on the logistics of who goes to which location and when are expected to be in place by spring.

The Access Card Office web site at http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard provides smart card basics, CAC policies, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more.



What current employees need to be issued a CAC:

- A picture identification (ID)
- Your government e-mail addresses: USACE and Army Knowledge Online
- A six to eight digit number to use as a personal identification number (PIN)
- Completed and signed DD 1172-2

Newly hired employees, contractors and others will need:

- Two picture IDs
- A government e-mail address
- A six to eight digit number to use as a PIN
- Completed and signed DD 1172-2

CAC FAQs

Why a new ID card?

- Performs more functions;
- Replaces existing building and controlled-spaces passes;
- Provides access to your computer, encrypts e-mail, electronically signs documents.

Who gets a card?

* DoD civilian employees;
* Eligible contractors.

When will I receive my card?

- No later than fiscal 2002. DoD civilians and eligible contractors will receive an ID card as the local commands direct.

How safe is the information stored on the chip?

- Access to information on the chip of your ID card requires your personal identification number (PIN) and system access applications to interpret the information.

What does the card look like?

- The front contains your photo, your name, the organization's seal, an encrypted microchip, and vital personal information in an encoded format, an issue and an expiration date (see sample card at left).
- The back contains a magnetic stripe, and a bar code containing date of birth, social security number and other information.

Keep your PIN private

- Never write your PIN on your card or on anything stored with your card (notes in wallet, purse, etc.).

If you forget your PIN

- You have three chances to enter your PIN correctly. After the third time, the system will lock you out and you will have to return to the CAC issuance station to have your card unlocked.

Questions about AKO?

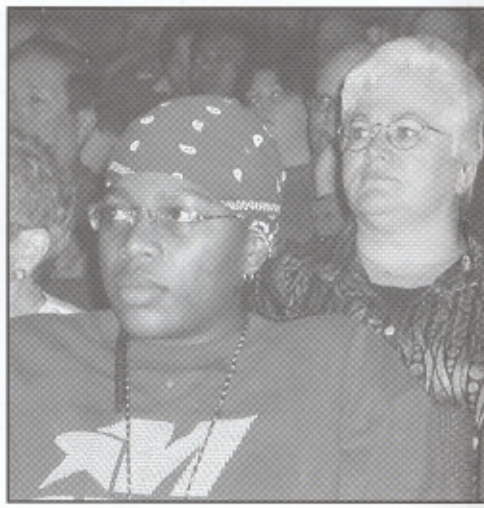
- Phone 1-877-256-8737

Photo by Ben Jensen

Attending the workshop, "Hmong Culture in St. Paul," (from left) are Christine Kroll, Dana Werner, Keith LeClaire and Col. Robert Ball, district commander. Kroll and Werner work in Construction-Operations; LeClaire in Project Management.

DAW 'rides the w

Programs held Nov. 5-8 enco



Attending the opening session for Dive Alda Ottley, Engineering Division (ED); Division (CO); and District Deputy Eng

Photo by Peter Verstegen

Jane Shafer, Resource Management, and Joe Dvorak, Construction-Operations Division, attended the workshop "How to Move On," moderated by Verna Cornelia Simmons (background at left).

From left are Ivette Garrett, Office of Co officer. A variety of ethnic foods was of

waves of change'
compass diversity and change

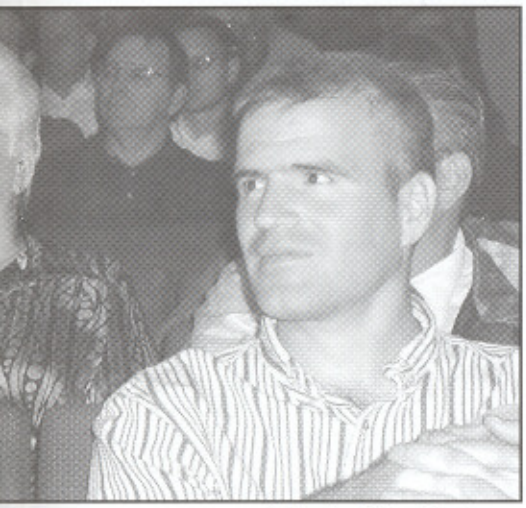


Photo by Peter Verstegen

Diversity Appreciation Week (DAW) are
ED); Jan Pream, Construction-Operations
Engineer Maj. Thomas O'Hara.

Photo by Jon Lyman

Kristin Kosterman, Information Management, introduced the moderator for "Engaging White Men as Full Diversity Partners," held Nov. 6.

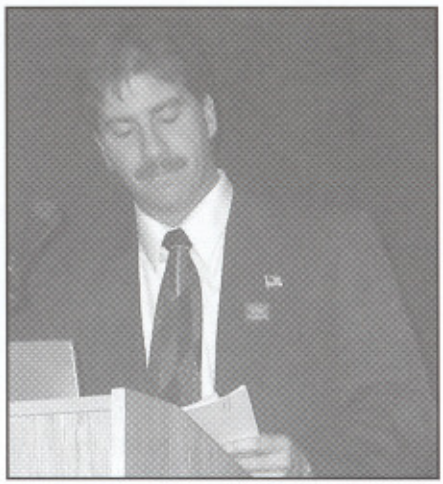


Photo by Ben Jensen

Tom Sully, Engineering Division, emceed the DAW opening session. The session included remarks from Col. Ball, music by the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir and a keynote speech, "Riding the Waves of Change," by Lee Fjelstad.

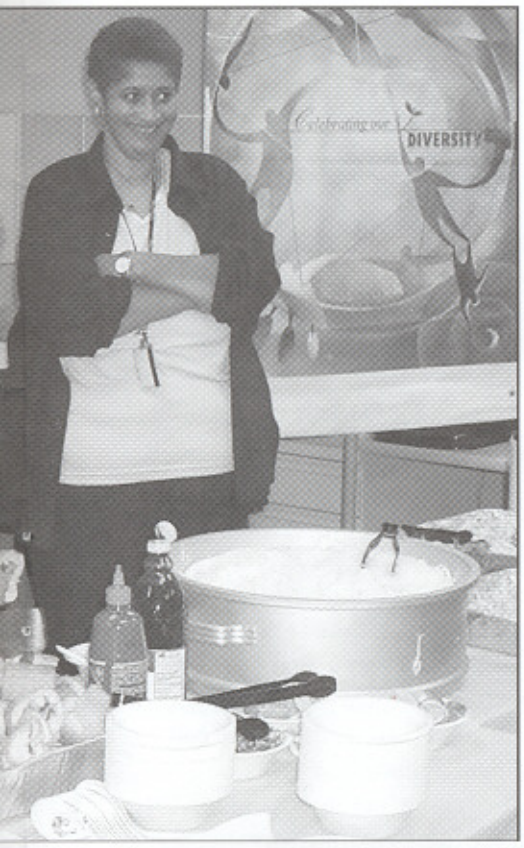


Photo by Andrea Childress

of Counsel, and Marianne Price, EEO
as offered in DAW workshops.

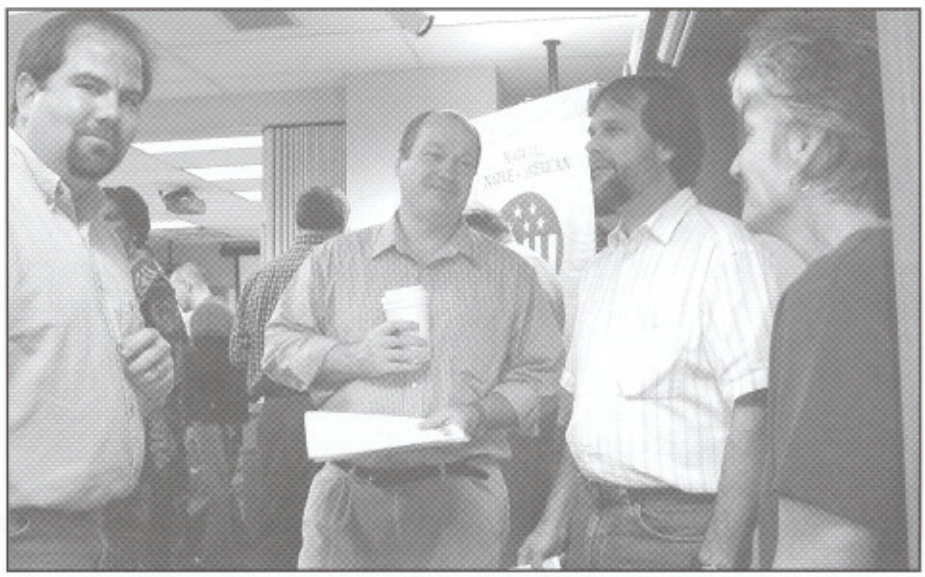


Photo by Peter Verstegen

During a break in "How to Move On," are (left to right) Byron Williams, Project Management; Dan Reinartz, Engineering Division; Dan Seemon, Construction-Operations Division; and Lynn Stebe, Real Estate Division.

DAW activities included a "Cultural Pursuit Contest." Shua Xiong, a student assistant in Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, won the $30 first prize. Ivette Garrett, an attorney in Office of Counsel won the $20 second place. The Employee Benefit Fund (EBF) donated the prizes.

Design and construction experts form partnership to improve security

WASHINGTON, DC (November 20) – Leading design and construction industry groups and several federal agencies have agreed to collaborate on issues related to the security of the nation's structures and other types of man-made infrastructure in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) decided to work collectively to assist the nation's war on terrorism. It has formed a steering committee to guide the collaborative efforts.

"It's going to take both government and the private sector working together to meet the challenges we face as a nation," said Robert F. Shea, Acting Administrator of FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. "We need to find a role for all who want to help."

In its charter, the group's key objective is using the collective technical expertise of professionals in the design and construction industry and government, as well as the group's research and development capability. Members will engage in regular forums to share information and build professional relationships, working cooperatively to protect America's citizens. The partnership plans to hold quarterly discussion forums on key issues, as well as a yearly conference.

"Events have provided the engineering community – the professions, the industries and all public and private entities – an unprecedented opportunity to combine and share their enormous capabilities to serve our nation and free world," said Retired Lt. Gen. Henry J. Hatch, P.E., Chairman of the Federal Facilities Council. "Not since World War II has a renewed collaboration been so needed."

More than 40 organizations have already expressed interest in joining TISP and many more are expected to respond to letters of invitation.

"We must examine the vulnerability of our infrastructure systems," said H. Gerard Schwartz Jr., president, American Society of Civil Engineers. "The events of Sept. 11 have issued a wake-up call to the nation, providing a unique opportunity to the civil engineering profession to take a leadership role in responding to the need to protect and enhance our infrastructure."

The partnership's steering committee authored the charter and will be planning the initial forums. The steering committee consists of representatives from the American Institute of Architects, the Society of American Military Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Associated General Contractors of America, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Facilities Council, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

"Together, we are a tremendous resource of expertise," said Retired Army Maj. Gen. Pat Stevens, Executive Director of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). "Our Society has stood for engineering in the nation's defense for over 80 years and brings thousands of military and civilian engineers and over 2,400 corporate members to the table, so of course we are eager to build a more secure environment for our nation and its people. Perhaps the partnership can even assist the new Office of Homeland Security."

The partnership has the strong support of Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, who visited the World Trade Center's ground zero in the days following the attack. "If architects and engineers can work together to prevent another disaster like this one, we should not hesitate," he said. Dwight A. Beranek, P.E., Flowers' chief of Engineering and Construction, proposed establishing TISP Sept. 21 at a joint forum where the idea received unanimous support.

The steering committee membership's first discussions involved the scope of the partnership, which they decided to limit to the built environment. "The more you think about security, the bigger it gets," said Beranek. "We decided we had to focus on our source of expertise – security in design and construction – without losing sight of all the factors that can influence that."

A signing ceremony involving all the participating organizations is tentatively planned for late January 2002.

District displays wares for National GIS Day

Dick Chaney and Mike Walker participated in National GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Day at the Minnesota State Capitol on Nov. 14. Chaney, the district's GIS coordinator, is at right. The Land Management Information Center (LMIC) and the Governor's Council on Geographic Information sponsored the event. The district displayed its GIS work and remote sensing activities. Walker is a cartographic technician in Project Management.

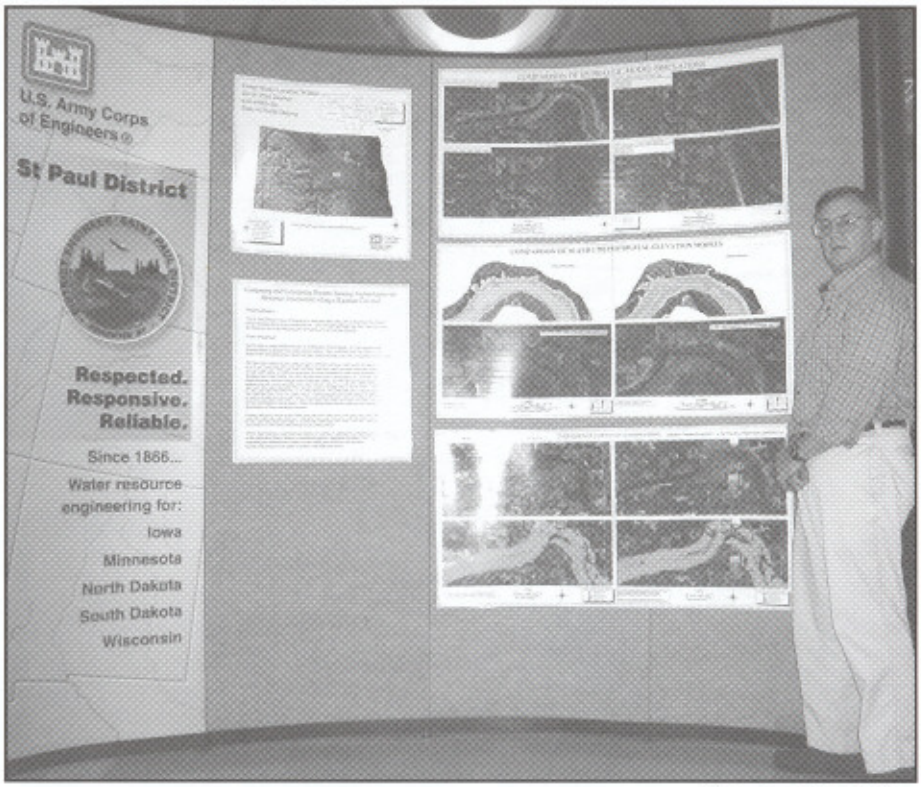


Photo by Mike Walker

Successful fiscal year close out celebrated

St. Paul District photo

Employees of the St. Paul District celebrated a successful the year-end closeout on Oct. 11 with a fruit and food party sponsored by office and division chiefs. Maj. Thomas O'Hara, deputy district engineer (center), recognized and honored personnel in Resource Management and Contracting divisions and the individuals who supported them to reconcile the district's fiscal accounts at the end of the fiscal year.

Bits and Pieces

St. Paul District photo

Ann Banitt and Jeff Stanek from Engineering Division (ED) represented the St. Paul District at the 2001 Career Jamboree at Lakeville High School on Nov. 5. They described the district's missions to students.

Crosscurrents

US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

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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

District Engineer	Col. Robert L. Ball
Public Affairs Chief	Mark Davidson
Editor	Peter Verstegen
Phone:	651-290-5202
e-mail:	cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

Tropple selected

Dave Tropple has been selected for the position of lock leader at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn. He assumed his new duties on Nov. 4.

TSP open season runs Nov. 15 - Jan. 31

During this time, all Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees may enroll in the Thirft Savings Plan (TSP), regardless of the dates on which they were hired. Employees who are already enrolled in the TSP may also change the percentage of pay they contribute to the plan.

The maximum contribution for FERS employees has increased to 12 percent. The maximum contribution for CSRS employees has increased to seven percent. This is effective in January 2002.

Army civilian employees may make changes to existing accounts or enroll during this open season by accessing the ABC website at https://www.abc.army.mil or by phone (toll free) at 1-877-ARMYCTR (1-877-276-9287). For the latest information about TSP visit their website at http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/index.html.

A TSP open season brochure was distributed to all employees Dec. 3. Questions regarding TSP should be referred to your civilian personnel representative.