



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 30, No. 8

August-September 2007

**District activates emergency response  
for flash floods in southeast Minnesota,  
southwest Wisconsin**





Photo by Gary Hazelton, retiree

Kevin Ressie, channels and harbors unit, Fountain City, Wis., travels south in the district's airboat on U.S. Hwy. 61 in Minnesota City, Minn. With him are three residents of Minnesota City. Flash flooding covered the highway and much of southeast Minnesota, Aug. 19. More, Page 4.

Command Corner by Col. Jon Christensen

District's disaster response: proactive, professional, determined

"In life, we don't get to choose which tragedies visit us or when, but we do get to choose how to respond to them..." - Gov. Tim Pawlenty, State of Minnesota

by Col. Jon Christensen
District Commander

St. Paul District Teammates:

It has certainly been an eventful few months for the district. In addition to our regular work load, we had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those people touched by the recent string of disasters occurring within our district boundaries. As a district, we chose correctly on how we would respond - proactively, professionally and with great determination.



Our first test came when the Interstate-35W Bridge collapsed on the lower guide wall of the Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dam on Aug. 1. Corps' employees James Crosby and Dave Nerva were on duty at that time and responded superbly in

the face of great uncertainty and chaos. They immediately launched boats in the water and started calling for re-enforcements.

LSAF lockmaster Tim Meers expertly managed the work force down at the lock, while Shelly Shafer coordinated our response in the Emergency Operations Center. The district played a major supporting role in the recovery effort - in a wide variety of missions ranging from vehicle removal to water control operations. As I visited the various supported and supporting agencies, I heard nothing but great comments in regards to the district's assistance.

Just as operations started to wane at Lower St. Anthony Falls, many areas in southeastern Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin fell victim to record flooding. Eight of our St. Paul District teammates suffered some kind of damage to their homes and property - I ask that you keep these teammates in your thoughts and prayers as they try to personally recover from this tragic event.

Again, district employees and the EOC responded valiantly. The district responded to the crisis by dispatching flood engineers, sandbags and pumps to the affected areas in an effort to mitigate and prevent additional damage. As I toured the area, community leaders clearly were grateful for our support. I am extremely proud of everyone's efforts - you represented the district well and helped to ease the suffering of others.

I thank everyone involved in both operations - you clearly made a difference.



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Corps' personnel rescue residents from rooftops in response to flash floods

# Corps' personnel rescue residents from rooftops in response to flash floods

by Mark Davidson

Two Corps' employees used a canoe, kayak, motor boat and a Corps' airboat on Aug. 19 to rescue dozens of people and animals from flooding in southeastern Minnesota.

The Corps' airboat was used by Kevin Ressie, a small craft operator who works for channels and harbors unit in Fountain City, Wis. Ressie lives in Fountain City.

The canoe, kayak and fishing boat were used by Jon Sobiech, a forester who works for Natural Resources in LaCrescent, Minn. Sobiech lives in Rushford, Minn., a city that was flooded.

Aug. 19 started early for Ressie when he got a call from a friend that worked at the Winona, Minn. hospital at 5:30 a.m.

"My friend knew I owned an airboat, and they were looking for people to start rescuing people," said Ressie. "I told him my boat was broken, but I'd get back to him."

Ressie called Dan Krumholz, the district chief of lock and dams, for permission to use the Corps' airboat at Lock and Dam 5A at Fountain City. Krumholz gave him permission to use the airboat due to the potential life threatening situation.

"I got to the lock and dam around 6:15 a.m. and got the airboat into the water," said Ressie. "I got the airboat across the river and into the water on the Minnesota side."

The [water] on the Minnesota side that Ressie was driving the



Photo by Jon Sobiech

**From left are Pat Vickman, resident engineer, Winona, Minn., and Jeff Sobiech, and Jeff Gulan, locks and dams, Fountain City, Wis. Gulan and Vickman are walking a levee in Rushford, Minn., to inspect it from an engineering perspective.**

airboat in was about three feet of water over Highway 61, which parallels the Mississippi River on the west side. The water was running very fast down the highway in a southerly direction.

"There was a Winona firefighter with me, and we were rescuing people all along Highway 61 until about 11 a.m.," said Ressie. "We rescued about 40 people, which included some babies and elderly people. We rescued people with their cats and dogs."

Ressie said most of the people were on their house's steps and some were on the roofs. The people and animals were delivered to higher ground in another part of Winona County safely.

"I remember picking up one

person from their house, and we pulled away from the property," said Ressie. "I turned around to look back, and I saw the person's basement cave in at that very moment."

While Ressie was busy in Winona, Sobiech was in the middle of the flooded area in Rushford, Minn., where he lives.

Three levees along Rush Creek were overtopped Aug. 19, flooding Rushford, with very little damage to the levees.

Sobiech and his family and friends were up late Saturday night, Aug. 18, after being involved in a wedding the day before. At about 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 19, Sobiech and his brother, Jeff,

*Floods, continued on Page 5*

*Floods, continued from Page 4* decided to get out of the house and see how they could help people.

“We spent about 14 hours that day, without the cell phones working, going throughout the town, helping and rescuing people using my canoe, kayak and motorboat,” said Sobiech. “The air and the water smelled disgusting. My brother and I had a headache the entire day from the smell.”

Sobiech and his brother used the vessels in a variety of ways to help and rescue people. They rescued four people that were trapped in their homes by the water.

“We also transported a bunch of people to another part of town where their other family members

were,” said Sobiech. “We assisted about 45 people that were trapped in town and helped them get out of Rushford.”

Sobiech and his brother, despite having to get out of the boat many times and walk through gas and sewer infested water, also assisted seven business owners in Rushford by transporting them to their businesses so the owners could save some of the products in their stores.

“We used my motor boat to transport food and water when the local authorities got the donation from a local grocery store,” said Sobiech. “We probably transported more than 10,000 pounds of food and water that day and city of

Rushford officials are still using the food and water salvaged weeks after the flooding.”

The Sobiech brothers family were concerned about them being out in the flood area with no communications but were relieved later that day when their father, who lives in Little Canada, Minn., saw them on a television news report.

“The mayor and fire chief of Rushford knew where we were most of time,” said Sobiech. “We stopped by the emergency operations center that the city had set up in city hall many times, which was on high ground.”

Near the end of his long day,  
*Floods, continued on Page 6*



Photo by Jeff Sobiech

**Jon Sobiech, Natural Resources office in LaCrescent, Minn., and Josh Nelson, Red Wing, were in Rushford, Minn., to support disaster response. Nelson is a family friend who attended a wedding with Sobiech the day before. Sobiech and his family live in Rushford.**



Photo by Jon Sobiech

**Scott Baker, Eastern Area Office; Jeff Gulan, Fountain City channels and harbors unit; Pat Vickman, Eastern Area Office; Jeff Sobiech, Natural Resources Office, LaCrescent, Minn., and Melissa Gulan, Eastern Area Office, discuss flooding at the Emergency Operations Center in Rushford, Minn., Aug. 19.**

*Floods, continued from Page 5*  
Sobiech contacted Jeff and Melissa Gulan and Pat Vickman, all with the Corps, to get something done in Rushford.

“I contacted Jeff, locks and dams, Melissa, and Pat, both at the Eastern Area Office, to get them to walk the levee in Rushford and inspect it from an engineering perspective,” said Sobiech. “Town officials were unsure what steps should be taken next and wanted a professional opinion from the Corps.”

After dealing with flooding in his basement, Bryan Peterson, chief of maintenance and repair section, operations division, helped assess

levee damage and supported recovery of public utilities. Peterson also lives in Rushford.

Said Sobiech, “We managed to open the gates on the Rush Creek River manually, because there was no power to open them. It took hundreds of cranking turns to get it open.” Opening the gate wells allowed water to drain from the interior.

Sobiech and his wife, Christa, donated the freezers in their house and garage space to the local Red Cross and Catholic Church so these organizations could store food in the freezers and store water, food and clothing in the garage.

Looking back, one memory of that day Sobiech said he will always remember is people coming up to their boat to ask him and his brother to get one of their family members out of a house.

“The other memory of that day I have is how proud I was that people didn’t complain or point fingers,” said Sobiech. “It was all about helping the other guy, even if the helping person lost everything in the flood.”

Said Peterson, “I’ve lived in Rushford my whole life. The residents there appreciated Col. [Jon] Christensen’s [district commander] first-hand look. It meant a lot to them.”

## Rochester project protects community; district works to prevent Wisconsin dam failure

by Peter Verstegen

As a result of the district-built Rochester flood reduction project, the city of Rochester and property owners in the project area were protected from the heavy rains Aug. 18-19 and high waters that flooded several neighboring communities in Southeast Minnesota and Southwestern Wisconsin.

“Rains in the area during the flood ranged from 8-inches to 10-inches,” said Scott Jutila, hydraulic engineer, engineering and construction division.

Said Kevin Bluhm, an economist in project management, “The flood control project worked very well and contained the high water as it flowed through Rochester without incident or need for emergency actions. By using conservative figures, the flood event that was contained saved the community, the state and the federal government an estimated \$80 million and prevented the need for emergency work, sand bagging, interrupting business and flood-related losses such as cleaning up homes and businesses from flooding.”

The project in Rochester included several design reaches. They controlled flooding along Bear Creek, the South Fork Zumbro River and Cascade Creek.

In the Bear Creek and South Fork Zumbro River reaches, the



St. Paul District photo

**The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requested assistance from the St. Paul District in lowering the level of a reservoir behind Hidden Valley Dam, one of the agency’s high-hazard dams in Vernon County. The Wisconsin National Guard airlifted in pumps supplied by the district. The dam is a Natural Resources Conservation Service structure with an emergency grass-lined spillway and low-flow conduit. Due to the high flows and velocities, the spillway has reportedly experienced 8-10 feet of erosion, raising concern by dam safety officials of structural failure. The district’s Fountain City Service Base supplied three pumps Aug. 19 for use at the location. Dick Otto, area flood manager, was at the site to provide assistance. All residents downstream of this structure were evacuated.**

flood was contained several feet below the top of the channel. However, along Cascade Creek the estimated peak discharge equaled the design discharge, and the flood control channel was flowing full.

The flood was estimated to be about a 100-year event on Cascade Creek, and a 15-year event on the South Fork Zumbro

River.

Said Jutila, “There is no estimate for Bear Creek. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources gauge on Bear Creek was not recording during the flood peak. Based on high-water marks, the flood on Bear Creek was between a 10-year and 25-year flood event.”

# District delivers crucial response on I-35W Bridge collapse

by Shannon Bauer

The St. Paul District opened its uppermost three locks and dams to limited commercial traffic Sept. 6 for the first time since the Interstate-35W Bridge collapsed in Minneapolis Aug. 1.

With the exception of emergency traffic, the U.S. Coast Guard closed the Mississippi River to navigation between Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, both in Minneapolis, shortly after the incident. In addition to debris blocking the channel, parts of the bridge fell on the lower guide wall of Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, which is located between the latter two.

It took until Aug. 20 to locate the eight known victims (a total of 13 died but the others were located on land), and debris removal could not commence in earnest until then. A U.S. Navy dive team, being housed in the main building of the lower lock, had to be called in to assist the incident commander, the Hennepin County Sheriff, in locating the victims.

Greg Frankosky, physical support chief, said the district's maintenance and repair unit loaded



White House photo

**Jim Crosby, left, and Dave Nerva, right, flank President George Bush during his visit to Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis. Crosby and Nerva were on duty Aug. 1 when the I-35W Bridge collapsed during rush hour. The president commended their swift and heroic response.**



Photo by Aaron Snyder

**Bryan Peterson, St. Paul District's maintenance and repair unit chief, right, briefs Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division commander. They are at Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis, in early August. Crear was at the lock and dam for a first-hand assessment of the Corps' efforts to support local, state and federal recovery efforts and debris removal from the collapse of the I-35 bridge into the Mississippi River Aug. 1. Part of the interstate bridge fell on the lower guidewall of the lock and dam.**

*I-35W Bridge, continued Page 9*

*I-35W Bridge, continued from Page 8*  
and unloaded the Navy team’s five semi loads of equipment, set up barge dive platforms and lifted vehicles out of the water that contained victims. They also removed other vehicles, concrete and tress steel that were blocking in the occupied vehicles.

After the recovery mission ended, the Minnesota Department of Transportation took over from the sheriff’s department as the lead agency on-scene. Their contractor, Carl Bolander and Sons, Co., who they hired to remove debris, initially focused on

removing items blocking the navigation channel. Although debris remains, they made enough room for a tow with barges to lock through.

Prior to opening for navigation, the district needed to make sure it was safe. Tim Meers, lockmaster at Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, said the district’s survey team and Launch 20 did soundings in the channel. Then, Bolander’s subcontractor, Portable Barge, swept the river bottom with a 30-foot steel beam to ensure the channel was free of obstructions.

It’s still not quite business as

usual, though. The navigation channel currently remains closed to recreational craft in this area until a date yet to be determined.

“There has been less urgency now than during the initial search and recovery operations,” said Meers. “We’re still busy, though, supporting Minn. DOT and the contractors, running tows through the locks and providing tours to various officials wanting to visit the site.”

The Patrick Gannaway of Aggregate Industries was the first tow to lock through Lower St. Anthony Falls since the incident.



Photo by Al Van Guilder

**Launch 20, the district’s hydrographic survey boat, conducted acoustic soundings in the navigation channel at Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Sept. 5. The soundings are read to check the depth and configuration of the channel, as well as wreckage and debris from the collapsed Interstate-35W Bridge. For more, see “Hydrographic survey crew maps river channel,” Page 10.**

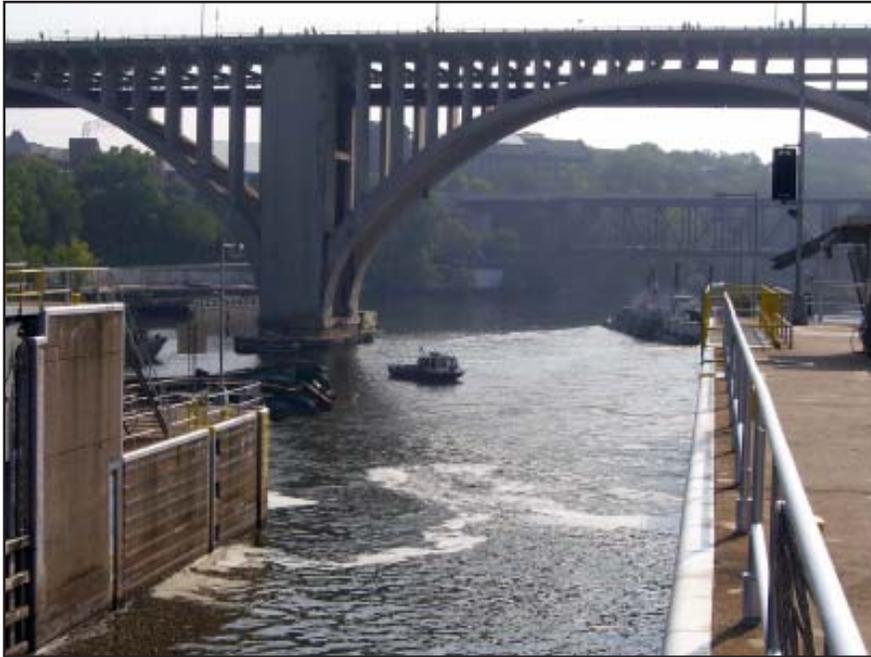


Photo by Tim Meers

**The St. Paul District hydrographic survey boat, center left, scanned the bottom of the Mississippi River Sept. 5 to verify the nine-foot channel could be opened for limited navigation. The boat is over the area where the I-35W bridge collapsed, Aug. 1. The lock wall at Lower St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis, is in the foreground.**

## Hydrographic survey crew maps river channel in wake of bridge collapse

by Lisa Lund

In order to open up the Mississippi River for commercial barge traffic after the Interstate-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Aug. 1, debris needed to be removed and the channel needed to be surveyed.

As soon as the Corps was given the green light that the debris had been removed, the Channels and Harbors unit in Fountain City, Wis., deployed the hydrographic survey launch to the site just downriver of Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis. This consisted of a two-man survey crew, Mark

Scholl and Steve Sing, and Launch 20.

The crew arrived at the site early morning on Sept. 5 and started the hydrographic survey. This survey was a typical job after an atypical event — collapse of a major bridge during rush hour. They activated the computer, lowered the survey booms over the water and began the hydrographic survey.

Hydrographic surveys record the water depths and position by using a commercial software program.

They recorded data for a 700-yard stretch from up-river of the railroad bridge, under the 10th Street Bridge and through the

I-35W debris field to Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.

They electronically transmitted the raw data to the channels and harbors office for processing. Some of the data looked a little questionable due to the global positioning satellites and interference under the 10th Street Bridge.

Steve Tapp, operations manager for channels and harbors, along with the U.S. Coast Guard, decided to rerun the survey to verify the data.

Thursday morning, the crew started the process again. This time, better satellite readings allowed for tracking the data more accurately. So, again, the data was sent back to the channels and harbors office and processed.

However, before the channel could be opened for navigation, the USCG requested a beam sweep on the river floor by the debris removal contractor.

USCG also requested a quality assurance inspector from channels and harbors. Al VanGuilder, a survey technician from channels and harbors, assisted the contractor with that role.

With the knowledge and skills of the survey crew, the required data was collected and processed in a timely manner to allow Tapp to make the recommendation to the USCG to open the channel.

The channel had been closed from river mile 847.0 at Lock and Dam 1 to 854.0 at LSAF lock and dam for 36 days, from Aug. 2 through Sept. 6. The evening of Sept. 6, the Corps released its navigation notice to commercial interests that the channel was open again for shipping.

## Check with contracting before spending government money

Jim Roloff  
Chief of Contracting

Given that the Corps is charged with serving the nation in widely varying capacities, it is a challenge being sufficiently prepared for any turn of events. Stuff happens, so there are times when someone or some organization in the district has such an unusual and compellingly urgent need for contractor-provided supplies or services that to delay would result in serious injury, financial or other, to the government.

### Haste makes waste – maybe

Immediate action in such instances may be warranted; however, if the action requires the supplies or services of a vendor or contractor, not just any employee is allowed to simply pick up the phone and direct them to deliver the requirement. This would result in an unauthorized commitment — an agreement that is not binding solely because the government representative who made it lacked the authority to enter into the agreement on behalf of the government. Only duly appointed contracting officers have this authority.

Unauthorized commitments often happen innocently by anyone, regardless of position, grade or rank, when typically well-meaning individuals are merely trying to get a job done or simplify a process. They are usually the result of



miscommunication.

An example may be when a Corps' employee at one of our recreation sites directs a grounds maintenance contractor to use a chainsaw to cut down and haul away trees that are threatening to fall after a major storm. If this activity is not included in the contract's statement of work, this constitutes an unauthorized commitment, also because a change to the contract was directed by someone other than a contracting officer.

It is not unlawful to seek information from contractors. What is important is that they understand you are only seeking information, not asking them to perform, and that only an authorized contracting officer may do so.

### The credit card has limits

Government purchase card holders may authorize purchases, but only up to established limits: \$3,000 for supply-type items; \$2,500 for a service — something that directly engages the time and effort of a contractor whose primary purpose is to perform an identifiable task rather than to furnish and end item of supply; and \$2,000 for construction — alteration or repair (including

dredging, excavating, or painting) of buildings, structures or other real property.

### You'll be stuck with the bill

Any person who makes an unauthorized commitment may be held personally liable for the act and disciplinary action could be warranted. If funds are not available, the agency may be in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, which is the authorization of obligations or expenditures in excess of or in advance of appropriations.

In order to right the situation, a ratification must be processed. This is the act of approving an unauthorized commitment by an official who has the authority to do so, typically a contracting officer. Depending on the dollar level involved in the unauthorized commitment, however, this could be Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the chief of engineers.

### Prevent, don't cure

Still, in order to ratify the unauthorized commitment, a number of things must be in place, including a determination that the price is fair and reasonable. Legal counsel concurrence with the contracting officer's recommendation that payment be made to the contractor is another, and funds must be available and have been available at the time the unauthorized commitment was made.

Potential impacts of an unauthorized commitment are undue financial hardship on the contractor or vendor during the ratification process, financial

*Contracting, see Page 12*

**Contracting**, from Page 11  
 impact to the government in terms of time lost processing the ratification, and possible loss of goodwill and credibility with the affected contractor.

### Who gives the okay

So, how does one preclude the need for ratification of an unauthorized commitment, especially in an emergency? Keep handy the names and phone numbers of the district's four contracting officers. The essential information they will require is the nature and severity of the emergency and the knowledge that funds are available. He or she will then contact the contractor. The following individuals are the only district employees who can commit the government:

- **Jim Roloff:** office 651-290-5414; BlackBerry 612-518-8434; cell 651-470-7968;
- **Kevin Henricks:** office 651-290-5415; BlackBerry 651-357-8078;
- **Tina Guillot:** office, 651-290-5763;
- **Dawn Linder:** office, 651-290-5407.

### Thunderstorms and wind damage Gull Lake recreation site

A series of storms rolled through the Headwaters' campsites, Aug. 13. The only campground with significant property damage was Gull, reported John O'Leary, headwaters manager. Staff or customers were not injured. Many trees were blown down. Two customer-owned vehicles sustained damage from fallen trees and the wind ripped shingles off of the picnic shelter. Phone service and power were out.



Photo by Stacy Cottrell, volunteer

**Dan Cottrell (left), park ranger at Blackhawk Park, helped organize a bicycle parade at Blackhawk Park for children, July 1. Children learned bicycle safety tips and decorated their bikes for a parade.**

## Kids learn bike safety tips at Blackhawk Park

by Dan Cottrell

Blackhawk Park, located in DeSoto, Wis., hosted the second Annual Kids Bike Parade on July 1. Sixteen kids, 12 years of age and under, participated.

The participants were given a half hour to decorate their bikes in whichever fashion they chose. Flags, streamers and red, white and blue leis were provided. In addition, patriotic glow-in-the-dark temporary tattoos were popular favorites.

The children ranged in ages from 3 to 12 years. Many of the older ones helped younger ones operate the tape and scissors. Parents and grandparents were on hand to help and took pictures of the proud children with their decorated bicycles.

Once all the decorating was complete, Park Ranger Dan Cottrell went over some bike safety topics including the use of hand signals and the benefit of wearing a properly fitting helmet.

The parade meandered through the Upper Camp area with many campers clapping as the bicyclists went by.

After the parade, all kids were given a Great Outdoors fun book and two lucky winners of the raffle were given bags of Independence Day decorations to take home.

One parent commented "You know, he won't take any of this off his bike until September!"

# Domestic violence crosses age, culture, social status and education

*It is not your fault*

*If it hurts or scares you, it is not healthy*

*It is not okay to feel afraid in your own home*

by Nate Johnson

*Nate Johnson, contracting, started on the Special Emphasis Program field committee in 2004, which was merged into the Gender committee in 2006 when the field disbanded. He is now an ad-hoc member of the Gender Committee.*

Domestic violence strikes across all ages, cultural backgrounds, educational and economic levels.

Domestic violence is a prevalent and often ignored societal problem. It is defined as physical, psychological, economic or other abuse inflicted on a spouse, partner or other family member within a dwelling

National awareness and dialogue on this issue rose in conjunction with the second wave of the Women's Rights Movement during the 1960s. Prior to this time, domestic violence was often considered a "family matter" and went ignored by the law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Since 1987, October has been recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Minnesota has been at the forefront of the domestic violence issue with the first national battered women's shelter opening in 1974 in St. Paul, Minn., the participation the Minneapolis Police Department in the influential Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment and the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project.

It is difficult to gather concrete statistical data on this issue as it often goes unreported and some advocates differ on the definition of abuse. Studies have shown

that domestic violence "accounted for 20 percent of nonfatal violence against women in 2001 and 3 percent against men (Rennison 2003), from 1976 to 2002, about 11 percent of homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner (Fox and Zawitz 2004), [and] in 2002, 76 percent of [domestic violence] homicide victims were female; 24 percent were male (Fox and Zawitz 2004)."<sup>1</sup>

Domestic violence often repeats on a cycle of build up, abuse and honeymoon stages. Buildup may last for years and often escalates into abuse. After the abuse there is generally a honeymoon phase where everything seems normal and the relationship reverts to the pre-build up stage. The cycle time between abuses typically decreases with time. On average, it takes seven attempts to leave an abusive relationship before the abused partner is successful.

There are numerous local and national resources for people who feel threatened or are abused by their domestic partners. Lists of shelters can be found online and state resources can be found online.

## Phone Resources:

Minnesota: 651-646-6177

Iowa: 1-800-942-0333

National Hotline and Wisconsin:  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm>



Photo by Jon Lyman

District retirees completed their 32nd reunion in Eagan, Minn., with a group photo.

## 55 attend 32nd Annual Retirees' Reunion

Fifty-five retirees and district personnel attended the 32nd annual retirees' Reunion at City View/ Lost Spur Banquet and Conference Center in Eagan, Minn., Sept. 13.

Col. Jon Christensen, district engineer, met retirees for the first time and conducted a presentation on current district projects and missions. He inducted retired Chief of Engineering and Construction John Bailen into the Hall of Fame.



Photo courtesy John Bailen

## Bailen inducted into Hall of Fame

Col. Jon Christensen, St. Paul District engineer, inducted John Bailen (above), retired chief of the Engineering and Construction Division, into the St. Paul District Hall of Fame at the retirees' Reunion Sept. 13.

Bailen served the Corps of Engineers for 33 years, the last six as the chief of engineering and construction. He provided exceptional leadership and sound technical guidance to the district, the Mississippi Valley Division and the Army during a period of great change, including regionalization and an increased emphasis on protecting and enhancing the nation's environment. Bailen was known for his quick wit, astute business sense and unquestionable integrity. He was a champion for national, regional and local efforts to advance the organization's ability to deliver quality products in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Building strong relationships was the cornerstone of his work philosophy, and he worked tirelessly to strengthen partnerships and develop subordinates.

# News and Notes

**Announcements:**

**Teri Alberico**, environmental, was selected late August as the district’s new emergency management specialist, effective Sept. 2.

**Jon Petersen**, hydraulics and hydrology, was selected early-September to fill a temporary detail as executive assistant, effective Sept. 17.

The Employee Benefit Association Council announced its election results mid-September. New council members include **Stephanie Dupey**, project management; **Angie Peterson**, executive office; and **Natalie Siok**, Eastern Area Office. They

join current council members **Rick Hauck**, engineering; **Kari Layman**, hydraulics and hydrology; **Tom Sully**, project management; and **Diana Tschida**, program management.

**St. Paul District employees** donated 73 pounds of food and \$100 to Keystone Community Services Food Shelf at its annual Summer Awards Ceremony and Picnic held in June.

**Newcomers:**

**Bruce McFarlin**, Dredge Goetz;

**Kong Meng Vang**, Lock and Dam 5A;

**Major Preston Hayward**, contracting division;

**Xai Vang**, Lock and Dam 5; **Chee Meng Xiong**, Lock and Dam 8.

**Retirements:**

**Joseph Dale**, Lock and Dam 4, effective July 31, after more than 25 years federal service.

**Judith Brownell**, Dredge Goetz, effective Aug. 31, with more than 7 years federal service.

**Taps:**

**Capt. Tim Milum**, the senior Master of the Motor Vessel Mississippi, passed away late-August.

**Allen Rosenberg**, regulatory specialist, passed away Aug. 6

## Leech Lake Recreation Area hosts 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Derby

by Jason Hauser

The staff and volunteers at the Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area, in Federal Dam, Minn., hosted more than 50 young contestants ranging in ages from six months to sixteen years old for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Derby, July 21.

Park staff and volunteers taught the children the positive values of fishing and water safety, as well as proper catch and release practices.

Three different age groups received first, second and third place prizes for catching the largest fish.

Nine area businesses donated food and prizes for the event. Each contestant received at least one prize and was able to enjoy a fee hot dog with chips and an ice cold pop.

Contestants split into three age groups, 0-5, 6-11 and 12-16.



Photo by Seth Kuhn

**Jason Hauser, park ranger at Leech Lake, joined the youngest group of contestants at the fishing derby, July 21.**

## Postcard from Iraq

I am not sure if you guys are still interested in photos from Iraq, but I figured that one with Col. Michael Pfenning, Gulf Region North commander, and me would be a nice one to send – seeing that we both came from the St. Paul District. The location is at one of my projects, the Mosul passenger terminal. I gave a tour of the facility to Pfenning and Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh.

*Alda P.R. Ottley  
Project Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mosul Resident Office*



Gulf Region Division  
2007  
Baghdad, Iraq

## Postcard from Iraq

Here's a picture of an infrequent mortar detonating in our proximity. The photo was taken in July '07 at Camp Fallujah, where no body armor is required. Deployed to Baghdad and Fallujah for 13 months. A great experience, but I'm glad to be home with my family as of Aug. 18.

*Sincerely,  
Paul Kosterman,  
project management*



Gulf Region Division  
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Baghdad, Iraq