

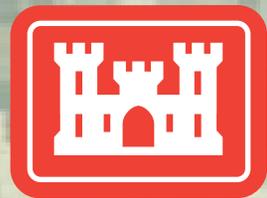
Crosscurrent

August 2011 Vol. 37, No. 7

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

Deckhand goes above and beyond
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District begins recovery mission
in Minot, N.D.
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover



Phyllis Hedberg, operations, works aboard the Dredge Debuque on the Mississippi River July 27.

Photo by Tammy Wick

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Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

Crosscurrents also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

Address all inquiries to:
Editor, *Crosscurrents*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678
651-290-5202
cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

District Commander
Public Affairs Chief
Media Specialist
Crosscurrents Editor

Col. Michael J. Price
Mark Davidson
Shannon Bauer
Patrick Moes

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**The 36th Annual Retirees' Reunion will be Sept. 8.
Tickets are \$15 to \$17.50.
The deadline for ticket purchases is Sept. 2.
Click [here](#) to view the flyer.**



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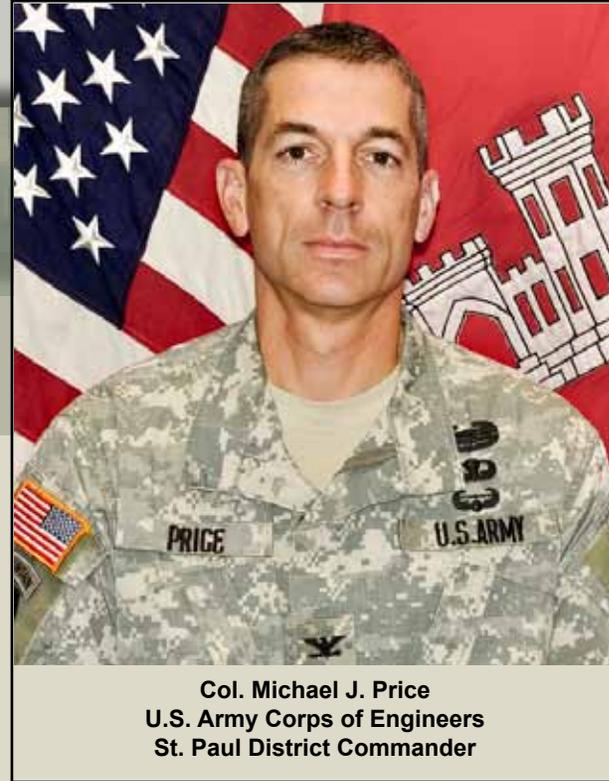
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Comments from the top



Col. Michael J. Price
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Commander

Team,
This month I want to address a concern that has come to my attention. For the past month I've traveled to some of the Indian nations with which the district consults and partners. In preparation for these trips, I have read much of their history and some of the policies and laws that guide our interactions. I have made several observations during my visits.

First, each tribe and band is a sovereign entity, very similar to how each of our states is sovereign. The tribes govern themselves with their own laws, but are subject to federal laws. The tribes have their own law enforcement and other public services that you see in many of the states.

In order for the Corps to meet our trust responsibility to these nations, we need to understand who and what they are. These communities are much like our own with similar problems and great sense of community pride.

The Indian nations have many of the same social problems that any major population has including: health concerns; unemployment; and drug and alcohol addiction. They also are a proud group rich with history and have

industries that support their populations. Many of the tribes also have identified these issues and have very proactive programs in place to address them. The Indian populations are very proud of their traditions and have a unique culture.

We have a trust responsibility to each of the Indian tribes. There are six principles of our trust responsibility: 1) tribal sovereignty; 2) trust responsibility; 3) government-to-government relations; 4) pre-decisional consultation; 5) self-reliance, capacity building and growth; and 6) natural and cultural resource management and protection. We are bound to apply and enforce our federal laws and to consult with these separate sovereign nations as we conduct our work for the nation and for the many communities we support. In doing so, we must acknowledge and aim to understand tribal culture, just like the military has made tremendous efforts to understand the Afghan

and Iraqi cultures. It comes down to respect, consideration of others, and building lasting relationships with our partners. So, whatever you do for the district, I remind you to use due diligence in maintaining and enhancing our

relationships with whomever we work.

Regarding Minot, N.D., we have a regional team doing great work which continues to grow. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corps are working together to help rebuild the city of Minot. We continue to get additional missions from the city and FEMA and I consider this recovery our district's top priority.

Summer is coming to a quick close. Many of us have been seeing our children off to college and the local schools are gearing up for the new year. If you get the opportunity, enjoy the rest of the summer and get ready for the new football season.

BUILDING STRONG!



Photo by Tammy Wick

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Phyllis Hedberg, operations, talks on the radio during dredging operations southeast of St. Paul, Minn., July 27.

Dredge deckhand stands out as a go-to person

Story by Tammy Wick

Working aboard the Dredge Dubuque on the Mississippi River is a dream job for one district employee.

Phyllis Hedberg, operations, said the favorite part of her job as a deckhand was, “all of it, every aspect.”

But she said if she had to choose one part of her job that she loved the most, it would be the fact that she is working outside with nice people and on the Mississippi River. “Most people never even get to actually see the Mississippi [River] and I get to see it every day,” said Hedberg.

As deckhand, Hedberg is responsible for a variety of duties from driving boats to fusing pipe and running bellies. The bellies are the floating platforms used to move the dredging pipe that the sediment travels through to get to disposal site.

Joe Kupietz, operations, said Hedberg is one of the best at running the bellies. She really watches the line to ensure there are no kinks, which can slow down production for the entire crew. He added that her work ethic rivals anyone on his crew. “She earns her money.”



Photo by Tammy Wick

Crew members conduct dredging operations on the Mississippi River July 27.

While female deckhands are not common within the Corps, Hedberg said she knew that sitting at a desk was an option she would never want to do. She added that she was the first, to her knowledge, to be a female maintenance and repair person on a dredge in the district.

Hedberg said she grew up on a farm and learned from a very young age to use heavy equipment and machinery. Some of the equipment she learned to use as a child is the same equipment she uses now as a deckhand.

Kupietz said working around the dredge equipment seems to be second nature to her.

In a male dominated career, Kupietz said Hedberg certainly holds her own.

Hedberg said she is well respected and is often asked by her supervisor to take charge in certain situations.

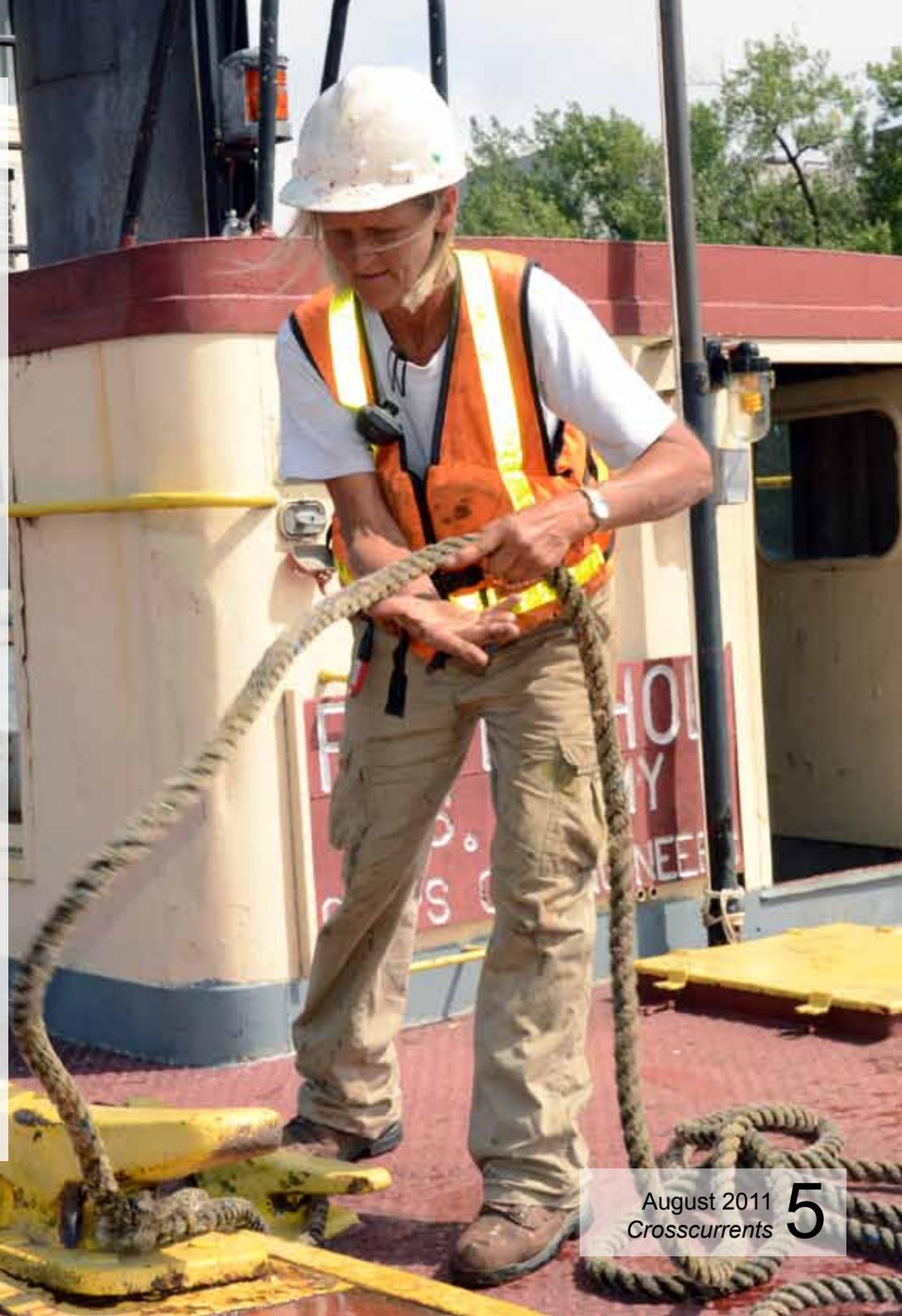
Kupietz said Hedberg “has the ability to operate every piece of equipment assigned to the [maintenance and repair] section, as well as maintain it.”

Hedberg has worked for the district for past 18 years. She said she started working for the Corps at Lock and Dam No. 4 in Alma, Wis., before moving to the Dredge William A. Thompson and then the Dredge Goetz.

Before her career with the Corps, Hedberg worked for the fire department and served in the U.S. Air Force.

Kupietz said she is admired by her coworkers and that she is a very dedicated Corps employee. “She is mission focused, extremely motivated and good hearted [and] she is always there to help anyone.”

Kupietz added that Hedberg’s attitude is encouraging and contagious.



District enters recovery phase in Minot, N.D.

Vicksburg District helps with debris mission

Story by Shannon Bauer

The Vicksburg District's Debris Planning and Response Team is deployed to Minot, N.D., cleaning up the city and surrounding small towns after record flooding of the Souris River late June damaged more than 4,000 homes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency tasked the Corps with removing debris and temporary levees built during the Souris River flood fight, as well as building group sites where temporary housing will be located for displaced residents. A team from the St. Paul



Photo by Shannon Bauer

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor uses a bobcat to push debris along a sidewalk in Minot, N.D., Aug. 2

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District is working on the housing sites.

"The majority of the town along the river is totally devastated. There were homes with more than 6 to 8 feet of water in them," said Jamie Triplett, Vicksburg resident and member of the Vicksburg debris team. "A lot of these people have lost everything."

The Vicksburg District supports all Corps' Mississippi Valley Division debris related missions, and the Souris River falls within the division. The team is trained to be experts in debris removal and is ready to deploy and be up and running within six hours.

Team members deployed to Minot in early July after receiving the FEMA mission and while the river was still receding. This is the team's fifth mission since forming in June of 2008. Previous missions for the team included debris removal after Hurricane Ike in 2008; the Red River of the North flood in 2009; the tornado in Yazoo City, Miss., in 2010; and the tornado in Smithfield, Miss., in 2011.

"Compared to those four previous missions, this is the worst, because of the total devastation of everything in the river valley," said Triplett.

Triplett has been on the team since its inception. "I like the satisfaction of helping people and being able to see what you've accomplished before you leave," he said.

The team hopes to finish the cleanup before the North Dakota winter sets in and debris removal becomes impossible, he added. "It's going to be a race to get this done."



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Jamie Triplett, Vicksburg District debris resident engineer, left, talks to Willie Nunn, Federal Emergency Management Agency Federal Coordinating Officer for North Dakota, about the current mission in Minot, N.D., July 17. [Click on the photo link for more photos.](#)

The Corps has removed more than 42,000 tons of debris within the Souris River Basin since Aug. 14.

District prepares housing sites before winter sets in

Story by Shannon Bauer

The district's temporary housing planning and response team is currently deployed to Minot, N.D., building temporary housing sites after record flooding along the Souris River in late June damaged more than 4,000 homes and displaced more than 1,100 residents.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, tasked the Corps with building group sites where manufactured homes will be located for displaced residents,



Photo by Shannon Bauer

(Above) Karen Durham-Aguilera, left, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Contingency Operations and Homeland Security, is briefed by Chris Atkins, temporary housing mission manager, on the status of temporary housing group sites being built in Minot, N.D., Aug. 9, 2011. (Right) A Federal Emergency Management Agency contractor installs a temporary housing unit on a private lot.

[Click on the photo link for more photos.](#)

as well as with removing debris and temporary levees built during the Souris River flood fight. A team from the Mississippi Valley Division's Vicksburg District is working on the debris removal.

"There was a shortage of housing before the disaster, because of Minot's growing economy and the oil industry," said Chris Atkins, the district's physical support branch chief and the team's mission manager. "That makes this mission extremely critical."

To date, the team has been tasked by FEMA with developing three 200-unit group sites in Minot and a 50-unit group site in Burlington, N.D. The Corps team will prepare the site and utilities and then turn it over to FEMA, who will haul and install manufactured housing onto the sites. The goal of the team is to finish the sites mid- to late-September. As portions of each 200-unit group sites are completed, they will be

turned over to FEMA for the installation of the homes.

Compared to previous missions, this is different, since we're up against the clock here," said Scott Jutila, engineering. "Winter comes early in North Dakota. If we're going to get people in their homes, we need to get construction done by mid October at the latest."

Jutila, a Forest Lake, Minn., native, voluntarily began serving on the team seven years ago. "Initially I signed up for the team because I thought I had some technical knowledge I could offer, and I wanted to help out," he said. "I get personal satisfaction out of being able to help out."

The housing team deployed to Minot in early July while the Souris River was still receding, directly after receiving the FEMA mission to develop the group housing sites. This is the team's seventh mission since forming in 2000.

Previous missions for the team included the four Florida hurricanes in 2004; Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, flooding in 2008.

The St. Paul District supports all Mississippi Valley Division housing and critical public infrastructure related missions, and the Souris River falls within the division. The team is trained to be experts in housing and is ready to deploy and be up and running within six hours after notification.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

A recovery mission within a recovery mission

Story by George Stringham

Jason Brown, Rock Island District, arrived in Minot, N.D., to his first disaster recovery operation not knowing fully what to expect. However, his experience in the recovery efforts surrounding flooding in communities impacted by the Souris River when it overtopped its banks in June and July 2011 created the opportunity to add another recovery mission as well. This added responsibility is to collect American flags he

finds among the debris in the recovery mission he's overseeing.

"You go through some of these neighborhoods where families have lost so much," Brown said. "Then you see a house that's equally devastated but they [the owners] made sure to get their flag up. They're very resilient."

Brown, who normally works as a construction representative, arrived



Jason Brown, quality assurance inspector from Rock Island District, displays his collection of American flags from Ward County, N.D. Brown is working the Corps debris removal mission in Ward County, N.D.

[Click on the photo link for more photos.](#)

Photo by George Stringham

in Minot on July 17 to serve as one of the Corps' quality assurance supervisors, overseeing the removal of flood debris in these north-central North Dakota communities. Although this is his first such deployment with the Corps of Engineers, he's had other service with another Corps, the U.S. Marine Corps.

He served prior to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, but said that serving the country, being a patriot and taking care of the flag are values he holds high. He said he attributes his drive to collect the flags to his values and family.

"I came from a family that's always been proud of our country and proud and willing to serve in our military," Brown said. "These experiences have taught me the value of what this flag means and what it stands for."

His collection grows with every passing day, and as of Aug. 16, he's collected or received more than 80 flags. The word has gotten out about Brown's mission. Not just throughout the Corps of Engineers cadre working the flood recovery efforts, but also among the debris removal contractors.

"I've had a couple instances where, at the end of the day, one of our other QA guys will come up and give me a flag that he recovered or one



Photo by George Stringham

Jason Brown, debris quality assurance inspector, admires the American flag he flies from his truck. Brown, who's also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has taken on a mission to collect American flags he finds while performing his job.

of the contractors gave to him to pass on to me," Brown said. "It really means something to me that they've taken on this mission as well."

After a little more than three years in the Marines, Brown received an honorable discharge for an injury he sustained on the job. Upon leaving the Marine Corps, he worked as a project manager for a project management contracting company. In September 2009, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rock Island District, working out of their Peoria, Ill., office.

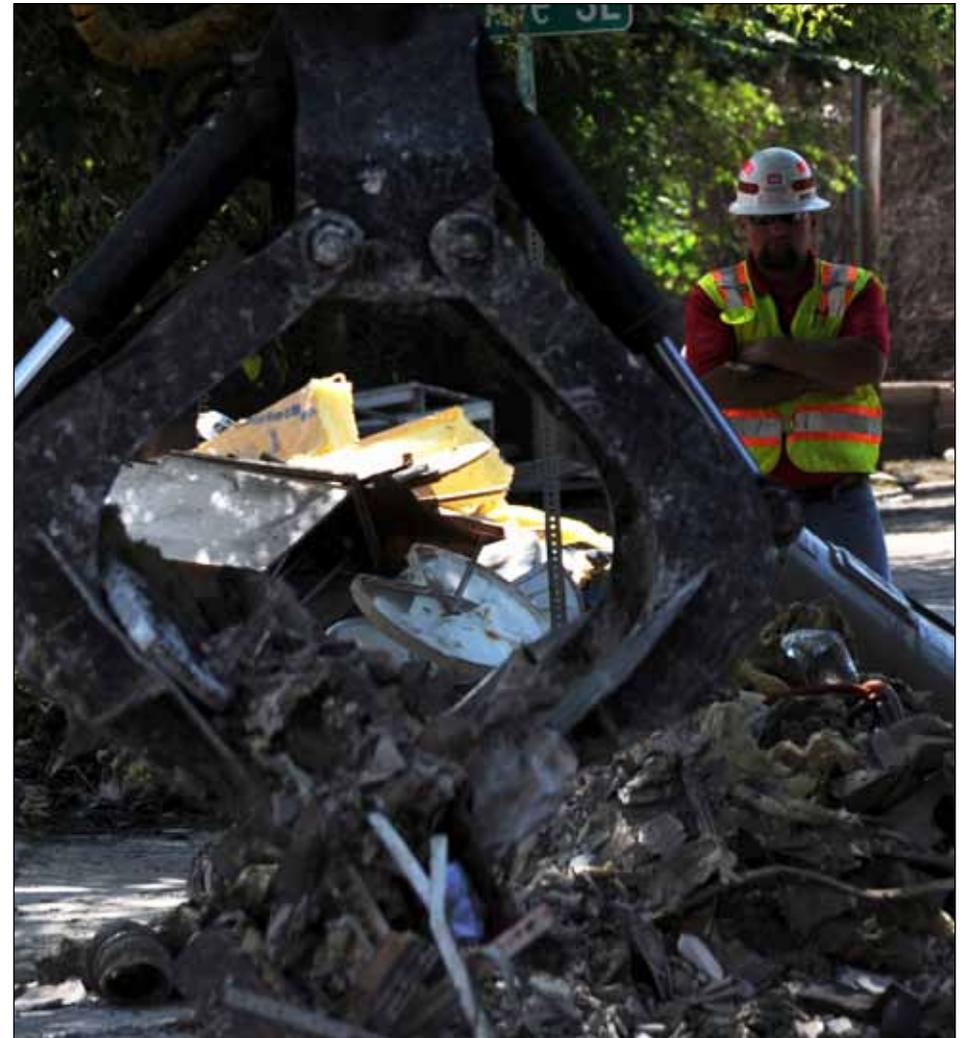


Photo by George Stringham

Jason Brown, Rock Island District, oversees the removal of construction and demolition material in Minot, N.D.

Fargo, N.D. / Moorhead, Minn., feasibility report finished in record time

Story by Patrick Moes

The Fargo, N.D. / Moorhead, Minn., Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement is nearing completion for the district.

To date, the district has invested more than 80,000 labor hours into the 586 page report, said Brett Coleman, project management. That is the equivalent of having two people work more than 19 years on the same report.

This report didn't take 20 years to complete. The district compiled more than 200 employees to complete the project in less than 34 months.

During this time, Coleman said district employees participated in 34 presentations, attended 29 work group meetings and 25 agency meetings.

Additionally, a district project delivery team

organized an expert opinion elicitation panel, which concluded that the Red River of the North's peak stream flows have two distinct patterns – a wet period and a dry period. Coleman said the results from the panel's findings were developed into the flow frequency curves within the report.

Lastly, in creating the report, the district's hydraulics and hydrology branch, working with local contractors, completed a detailed Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System model from Lake Traverse, near Wheaton, Minn., to Emerson, Manitoba. The model has 700 drainage cells with many cross-sections. Terry Williams, project management, said that once the model is complete, it will be used for the entire river basin during future projects.



Photo by Patrick Moes

(Left) Members of the Fargo, N.D. / Moorhead, Minn., Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management product delivery team completed the study in 34 months. (Above) Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander, signs the final report before sending it to the Mississippi Valley Division in Vicksburg, Miss., for review.

District uses advance measures to help North Dakota town

Story by Patrick Moes

The district is 99 percent complete on a flood mitigation project in Minnewaukan, N.D.

The small community of 320 people is located on the northwest side of Devils Lake in Benson County. The area is currently dealing with record flooding from Devils Lake. The flooding has caused the lake to rise approximately 30 feet in the past 20 years.

The project began in February when the city and the State of North Dakota requested advance measures assistance under Public Law 84-99. The project's intent was to provide "temporary protection of the public school, water tower and other critical infrastructure from rising lake levels until the new school is open and operational," said Nathan Wallerstedt, project management.

The low-lying areas of Minnewaukan are currently being relocated two miles north of their current location because of continued flooding in the area. The relocation process will take several years. However, Wallerstedt said the most critical structure, the new public school, is scheduled to be complete and operational prior to the start of classes in the fall of 2012.

He added that the project has included building a temporary embankment near the school and city's water tower that is approximately 3,000 feet in length. Construction started in mid May and Wallerstedt said the project was nearly complete as of July 28.

All of the major pieces of the project are complete and the project will be finalized this fall when the district's contractors can place the last bit of vegetation seed on the embankment.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of November.

While the project nears completion, Wallerstedt said there have been many challenges. "One of the largest challenges was trying to design the project, get appropriate

approvals and begin implementing the project in a very short period of time." Unlike most levee advance measures projects associated with spring flooding, this project had some characteristics that are usually associated with more permanent flood control structures, such



Photo by Patrick Moes

Nathan Wallerstedt, project management, reviews the Minnewaukan, N.D., map Aug. 16. Wallerstedt said the city asked the Corps for help under Public Law 84-99 to prevent continued flooding from destroying critical infrastructure within the city. The project will be completed this fall.

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Courtesy photo

Contractors finish placing riprap along the shoreline to protect critical infrastructure in Minnewaukan, N.D.

as an inspection trench and a riprapped lakeside slope. Wallerstedt said the trench is dug to ensure the foundation material is suitable, as well as to verify that there are no hidden pipes that could damage the project. These items were needed due to the nature of the flooding.

He added that the ongoing flooding in the region makes it necessary to have more permanent flood control measures.

Construction Challenges

Wallerstedt said that because the contractor was not able to begin construction until mid May, Devils Lake had already risen more than two feet this spring. The additional lake rise inundated much of the project area that was anticipated to be dry if construction would have started a few weeks earlier. In addition to the lake rising, Wallerstedt said frequent spring rains added to construction delays. "The construction contractor also struggled to secure a reliable riprap source nearby due to the high demand in the area. Many of the roads to access these riprap sources were not passable due to wide spread flooding in the area."



Courtesy photo

(Above) Employees with Mi-Ty Contracting LLC, the Corps' contractor, roll out geotextile fabric before placing riprap. The plastic helps protect the foundation material from erosion due to high waves from Devils Lake.

By the numbers

The district has used 7,000 tons of rip rap; 12,000 square yards of geotextile fabric; and 21,000 Cubic yards of impervious fill to complete the Minnewaukan, N.D., project. The project will be complete this fall when final seeding can be applied.

Regular mission, irregular event

Story by George Stringham

Vicksburg District's Barry Sullivan arrived in Minot, N.D., on July 20, to be the resident engineer for the debris removal mission for communities in Ward County, North Dakota, that were inundated by the flooding Souris River

Sullivan said he thought this deployment was going to be another debris removal mission. While helping people get their lives back in order is nothing unfamiliar to him, a July 28 event changed his perspective on why he's in Minot. On that morning, working with a debris



Photo by George Stringham

Vicksburg District employees Barry Sullivan, left, Corps' debris removal mission resident engineer, and Shannon Herrin, quality assurance supervisor, discuss the debris removal mission in Minot, N.D., July 29.

removal crew in a community east of Minot, a contractor spotted a man lying face down on the ground next to his riding lawnmower.

"We're very fortunate that John Stokes with Steve Goldman [the sub-contractor] saw him and got my attention," Sullivan said. "My thoughts went from our debris work to responding to this gentleman. Sitting next to his lawnmower, face down like that, I was really worried."

Sullivan said that when he got to the gentleman, he determined he had a pulse and was breathing. His eyes were open but he wasn't moving and was non-responsive. Sullivan dialed 911 and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or USCBP, agent arrived within minutes. The USCBP, along with the National Guard and other federal law enforcement agencies, are augmenting the Minot Police and the Ward County Sherriff departments while recovery efforts continue.

Sullivan said that upon arriving at the scene and with the assistance of the USCBP agent, and another nearby contractor, Anthony "Pappy" Britt, they secured his neck and spine, rolled him over and cleaned the dirt from his face and mouth, which resulted in better breathing. One of the contractors also gave him some water. Two ambulances arrived shortly after the 911 phone call, and the first responders stabilized him for transfer to a local medical facility. In the interim, Sullivan said a neighbor told him that the gentleman had a stroke or more in the past and he passed this valuable information to the first responders before they departed.

"Barry's quick action and calm demeanor played a critical role in what happened," said Col. Michael Price, St. Paul District commander. "The actions by both him and our contractors out there are worth commending and recognizing."

"This was one of those unique experiences where everyone's fortunate there was somebody close to immediately assist him," said Price. "While our mission is to assist the communities of Ward County to recover from this catastrophic and historic event, the broader aspect is that there's the human element that goes along with all disasters."

Sullivan has since followed up with the neighbor on the status of the gentleman and learned that he's recovering.

"Sometimes you wonder what you are doing here," Sullivan said. "Then something like this happens and everything starts to fall into perspective."

District employee volunteers for overseas deployment

Story by Patrick Moes

He served in the United States Marine Corps for more than 22 years before retiring as a master sergeant in 2007.

While he was in the military, Tony Delgado, executive office, worked as personal administrative chief managing paperwork and pay for Marines. During this time, he deployed to the Middle East to support the initial start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With deployments to Okinawa, Japan; 29 Palms in California; and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in Miramar, Fla., too, Delgado finds himself again preparing for another deployment later this month. He will be deploying to Afghanistan.

He said he volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan to support the Global War on Terrorism because he is used to moving around. He added that he sees the deployment as a new travel experience. "I've never been to that part of the world."

Traveling aside, Delgado said overseas deployments were something he didn't know he could do until recently. He said he started asking questions about the process and found out he was eligible to deploy so he filled out the necessary forms. He then asked his boss, Judy DesHarnais, deputy for programs and project management, if it would be OK and he said he got the thumbs up.

Expectations

Delgado said he doesn't foresee any real changes in his job duties while he's deployed. He will be working for another deputy for programs and project management in Afghanistan, so it will be very similar to what he does for the district. "I think it will be a lot of what I do right now except it will be for more people, and I'll work more hours."

While Delgado's job expectations are similar to what he already does, he said he initially had reservations about deploying to a combat zone. "When I first went over there [as a Marine] I was worried," he said. "I'm not too worried anymore; the threat is still there, but I don't have too many concerns."



Photo by Patrick Moes

Tony Delgado, executive office, reviews documents at his desk Aug. 19. Delgado will deploy to Afghanistan later this month.

District employees interested in volunteering should contact their supervisor and Kris Fairbanks, operations.

News & Notes

Retirements

John Kochendorfer,

lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam No. 10, Guttenberg, Iowa

Dale Pfeiffle,

environmental protection specialist, Waukesha, Wis.

Newcomers

Matthew Andersen, construction control representative, Devils Lake, N.D.

Jason Johns, construction control representative, Devils Lake, N.D.

Travis Brantner, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Daniel Win, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Gene VanRiper, Jr., deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Daniel Wegner, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam No. 5 Minnesota City, Minn.

Blackhawk Park hosts 13th annual fishing derby



Courtesy photo

The Corps' water safety dog, **Bobber**, visited with kids during the Blackhawk Park fishing derby Aug. 6.

Nearly 100 people to include 42 kids participated in the Blackhawk Park fishing derby Aug. 6.

The kids saw presentations on catch and release techniques, fishing regulations, tree identification and water safety.

In addition to the educational classes, the kids had caught a variety of fish from rock bass to catfish.

Matthew Anderson, Blackhawk Park park ranger, said most of the kids caught at least one fish but all of them received small prizes.

Editor's Note

Do you have news that you want to share with the district? Send your announcements of births, weddings, graduations, etc. to *Crosscurrents*. cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil.

The 2012 Leadership Development Team

The St. Paul District recently announced the 2012 Leadership Development Class. The selectees are:

Kevin Andersen, project management

Andrew Beaudet, operations

Jane Flewellen, engineering

Jon Gustafson, engineering

Shaun McClary, real estate

John Murphy, engineering

Jimmy Rand, operations

Barbara Walther, operations

Congratulations

Abby Hansen, personnel, and her husband, Luke, welcomed the birth of their son, Jameson Kenneth Hansen, July 25. He was nine pounds, six ounces.

Randy Urich, operations, was selected to permanently fill the environmental stewardship section chief position in La Crescent, Minn., July 31.

Lock and Dam No. 5A hosts open house



Courtesy photo

Dawn Brabbit, left, operations, gives a safety briefing before a lock and dam tour Aug. 13.

Nearly 400 people attended the Lock and Dam No. 5A open house Aug. 13. The attendees had the opportunity to tour the lock and dam and learn more about navigation on the Mississippi River.

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