

Crosscurrents

January 2017 Vol. 1

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977



Pokegama dam receives much
needed improvements
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unites, thanks district employees
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®

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover



Dave Nelson, construction representative for the Pokegama Dam near Grand Rapids, Minn., stands on the bridge during a construction site visit in October.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

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Articles and photography submissions are welcome and must arrive by the 15th day of the publishing month for consideration. Submissions can be mailed or e-mailed.

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.

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Next month's *Crosscurrents* issue includes:
Red Lake fish passage nears completion
Lock and Dam 10 dewatered



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Comments from the top

Team,

I hope everyone had a relaxing, well-deserved holiday break and you had a chance to recharge your batteries. I recharged my batteries by spending some quality time with my family and experiencing the many winter activities Minnesota has to offer. Thanks again for a great year and I look forward to continued great achievements in the year to come.

Now that Ol' Man Winter has set in I ask that everyone dust off their flood fighting equipment and review the flood fighting handbook. The National Weather Service and our very own water management branch are reporting that conditions are beginning to shape up for another active flood season.

Some of the conditions for flooding are:

- above normal fall precipitation
- above normal soil moisture
- above normal deep frost
- above normal amount of snow pack.

We've met all four of those conditions in most of the river basins in Minnesota and North Dakota and it is only January.

The emergency management office will hold a number of workshops over the next two months to ensure we are as prepared as we can be.

The regional command council, or RCC, made a historic decision last month that effects the entire division. We have been discussing regionalization over the last several months and regionalization has become part of our vernacular. After much deliberation, the RCC decided to implement a new organizational structure for planning division which includes reassignment. There are many unknowns as to how we will move forward and implement the new organizational structure; but rest assured, we will not sacrifice our people or our customers as we execute the reorganization.

This month's Army value is selfless service. I was reminded of this Army value time after time as I participated in numerous retirement luncheons last month. On one day I attended three luncheons that



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

represented 97 years of Corps experience and public service. Taking that one step further, the district had 13 retirements last month totaling 392 years of public selfless service. Nothing is more honorable than serving

others. I know that is why I put the uniform on every day. I also know that our country was established and exists today because of the selfless service of many. Each of you are selfless servants, serving something bigger than yourselves. Thank you.

Finally, the Corps team has suffered a number of losses this past month. The St. Louis District lost three of its employees, one to an automobile accident. That reminds me that life is precious and none of us are immune to "the other guy." Always be aware and extra cautious as we navigate our wintery roads. And lastly, keep those families that have lost a loved one in your thoughts and prayers.

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Holiday awards ceremony



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Bobber stands by the district's front entrance shortly before going to the ceremony Dec. 17.

Story by Patrick Moes

The district held its annual Holiday Awards Ceremony at the James J. Hill theatre in downtown St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 17.

Current employees, retirees, family and friends of the district gathered to celebrate the year with food, musical entertainment from district employees, an ugly sweater contest, a short movie about the past year and several award presentations.

The awards ceremony began with Col. Michael Price, district commander, reflecting on the past year.

"It's been a great year from my perspective," said Price to the more than 150 employees

and guests in attendance.

He said that the next year will be filled with challenges.

Devils Lake, N.D.; Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, Minn.; and the Red River Valley in North Dakota and Minnesota will be a few of the projects the district will be engaged with during 2011, said Price.

The commander also wanted to recognize the district's employees for the work they have done and continue to do.

He presented more than 70 awards to district employees. The awards recognized the work in areas that included hurricane and emergency response and the New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Sarah Wingert, left, regulatory, and Rachael Snyder, regulatory, cut the district's holiday cake.

2010 HOLIDAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Task Force Pacesetter – Hurricane Ike Response Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Bonnie Greenleaf
Lisa Lund

Emergency Response Contracts Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Bonnie Meyerhoff
Natalie Siok

2009 Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Award Shannon Bauer



Photo by Patrick Moes

District employees listen to Col. Michael Price, district commander, talk after receiving their awards.

New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Chris Behling	Grant Riddick
Tim Grundhoffer	Jim Sentz
Marsha Mose	Gary Smith
Tom Novak	Terry Zien
Tim Paulus	

Superior Civilian Service Award

Bill Csajko	Neil Schwanz
Rick Femrite	Michael Bart
Kent Hokens	Thomas Sully

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Chris Afdahl	Darrell Morey
John Albrecht	Jim Mosner
John Bailen	Alex Nelson
Ralph Berger	Jon Peterson
Adle Braun	Jan Pream
Mike Dahlquist	Dave Rydeen
Bob Dempsey	Russ Snyder
Chanel Kass	Kenton Spading
Beth Killian	Alicia Spinelli
Mike Knoff	Jim Ulrich
Mark Koenig	Greg Wachman
David Kollars	Nathan Wallerstedt
Aaron Mikonowicz	

Certificate of Achievement

Shannon Bauer	Jacob Fall
Franco Beauchamp	Tony Fares
Kevin Casserly	Jane Flewellen
Ferris Chamberlin	Janet Golubski
Josh Cress	Melissa Gulan
Mark Davidson	Mark Klika
Kristin Fairbanks	Noeun Kol



Photo by Patrick Moes

Col. Michael Price, district commander, addresses the district employees during the awards ceremony. More than 70 employees were recognized for their efforts on various projects to include the New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, and, emergency and hurricane response efforts during the awards ceremony. [Click here to view the award presentation photos.](#) Editor's Note. You need to be logged on to the district's server to view the photos.

Paul Kosterman	Phil Sauser
Andrey Kravets	Luke Schmidt
Jan Lassen	Tom Schmit
Dawn Linder	Joe Schroetter
Marcia McCloskey	Brian Siljenberg
Edith Pang	Kevin Sommerland
Judy Parker	Mike Walker
Jim Peak	
Rodney Peterson	

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THE DAY IN PICTURES



1. Holiday greeting cards for deployed district employees.
2. The district safety team of Barry Simmonds, Vern Reiter and Terri Stamm. 3. Jason Foss, left, engineering and Brian Alberto, engineering, sign the holiday greeting cards. 4. Abby Hansen, personnel, waits in the auditorium for the Holiday Awards Ceremony. 5. District employees that received awards sit in the auditorium for a group photo after the ceremony.





1. Andrea Sterling, planning, holds her prize for winning the ugliest sweater contest. 2. District employees sing holiday songs as part of the entertainment. 3. Audrey Rick, left, operations, and Shua Xiong, project management, inspect a holiday gift basket. 4. From left, Joe Mose, engineering; Craig Evans, planning; Marsha Mose, engineering; and Brett Coleman, project management, share a laugh during the ceremony.



100+ year old technology replaced at Pokegama

Story by Patrick Moes

A 500-pound catch in the Headwaters would create a record in many fishing books, but fishing for 500-pound logs will soon be a distant memory for the Pokegama Dam employees.

The dam, located in Grand Rapids, Minn., is nearing completion on a \$3 million facelift. One of the jobs being completed is the replacement of the outdated equipment for modern technology.

"The purpose of the project is to replace an antiquated wooden stop log system with a modern steel leaf gate system that can be operated at the touch of a button," said Jeff Kleinert, Pokegama Lake park manager. He added that the dangers to the dam tender will be reduced by eliminating the need to handle the 500-pound logs with chain hoists and stacking them by hand.

The dam is expected to have all of its gates fully operational by the end of January, said Dave Nelson, construction manager for the project. The remaining projects will be completed by Memorial Day in 2011.

Kleinert said the improvements, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will also provide him and his staff the capability to meet their requirements during an extreme flood event by being able to have all of the gates fully opened.

The 225-foot dam has 14 gates crossing the Mississippi River. The six gates in the middle were originally changed from the wood log system to steel gates in 1967 to eliminate the dangers associated with moving water-soaked logs that resemble railroad ties. The logs were manually lowered and lifted from the Mississippi River as needed to maintain the desired flows and water levels within the river.

The dam's eight exterior gates still had the timber logs until the rehabilitation began in March 2010. The completed project will consist of removing, refurbishing and replacing the six steel gates installed in 1967; permanent removal of all wooden stop logs with the overhead rail system; cutting concrete slots and installing eight new steel leaf gates; installation of three-phase power with an electrical building and new conduits; installation of new gate actuators; repair of concrete floors downstream of all gates; replacement of the left wing wall; and placement of a small

amount of riprap at the downstream toe of the right abutment.

In addition to many upgrades being completed to the gates, the public foot bridge is being modified on the dam to allow for people to walk over the Mississippi River without interfering with Corps employees. Previously, pedestrians crossed the bridge under the equipment used to hoist the gates.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Water runs through a temporary timber log gate at Pokegama Dam near Grand Rapids, Minn. The old logs are currently being replaced with steel gates.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

A crane sits atop the Pokegama Dam during construction. The dam is receiving a \$3 million renovation that will increase safety for Corps employees.

Kleinert said the public will no longer be exposed to any moving parts or have direct access to the motorized and electrical areas. He added that these improvements will also provide a greater security benefit.

“The greatest safety improvement will be for Corps employees that will no longer have to ‘fish’ for log hooks with a pike pole over open bay covers during the log removal process,” said Kleinert.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Water flows downstream from the dam as a construction crew continues the improvements on the more than 100-year-old dam.

District closes 2010 navigation season

Story by Patrick Moes

The district locked the last down-river bound towboat for the 2010 navigation season Nov. 25.

The Motor Vessel A. Steve Crowley locked through Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minn., with 11 barges. The vessel's final destination was reported as New Orleans.

The navigation season started April 11. During the entire season, the 13 locks and dams from Upper St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis to Lock and Dam 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa, saw 77,054 vessels pass through their locks going either up or down the river, according to the Navigation Information Connection OMNI report. The vessels ranged in type from commercial to recreation.

Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, Minn., saw the most vessel traffic. There were 10,903 vessels that passed through its 110-foot wide by 600-foot long walls, according to the report.

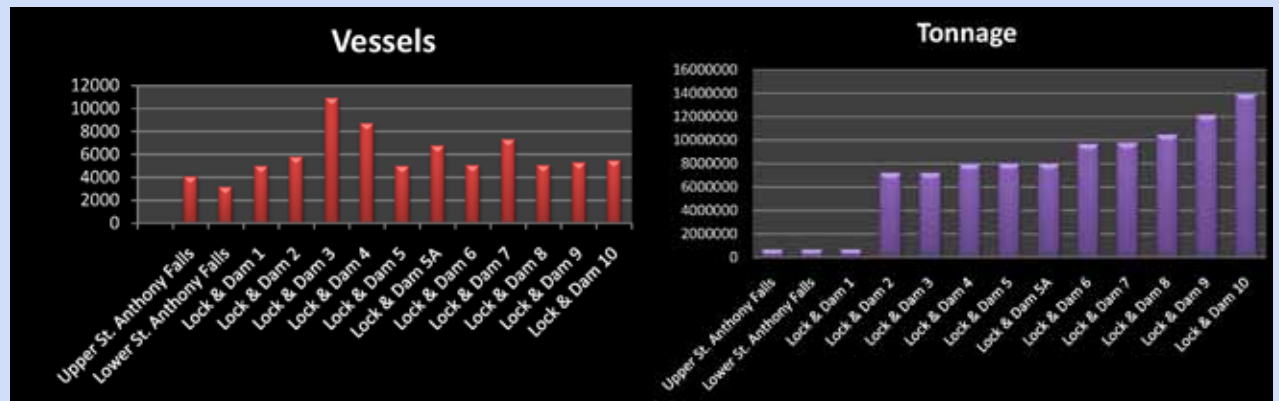
The lock and dam is currently receiving a \$65 million dollar renovation, too. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 project will increase navigation safety, as well as improve the lower embankments.

While Lock and Dam 3 had the most vessel traffic, Lock and Dam 10 had the most commodities pass through its walls. The total tonnage for traffic going in either direction of the lock, according to the report, was 13,914,432.



Courtesy photo

A tow prepares to enter Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. The 2010 navigation season ended with 77,054 vessels passing through the district's 13 locks and dams. Nearly 96 million tons of cargo passed through the locks and dams heading to various destinations.



A graph shows the amount of vessels in the thousands that passed through each of the district's 13 locks and dams. The lock and dams locked 77,054 vessels during the 2010 navigation season that ran from April 11 to Nov. 25.

A graph shows the amount of tonnage in the thousands that passed through each of the district's 13 locks and dams. The lock and dams locked a combined total of 96,128,905 million tons of cargo during the navigation season.

Division commander wins small business award with help from St. Paul

Story by Jackie Robinson-Burnette

Lt. Gen. Robert L. “Van” Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander, recently recognized the Corps’ division and district commanders for their significant contributions to the Corps’ Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program during the Corps’ Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon.

During the award ceremony, Jackie Robinson-Burnette, Corps small business program chief, asked each division and district commander to stand as she called out the top 10 districts. After the applause, she asked for the division commander with four or more districts in the top 10 to remain standing. Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division commander, was the only division commander left standing, and he was awarded the 2010 Col. Richard Gridley Award for significant contributions to the Corps small business program.

“This award represents the obligation we have to our service-disabled vets and the resolve of senior leadership, project managers and technical staff in our districts,” said Walsh.

Van Antwerp challenged Corps commanders to meet the statutory 3 percent goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The commanders responded to Van Antwerp’s challenge by achieving 3.6 percent and awarding \$900 million in contracts to the small businesses during the 2010 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 2010.

Of the many exciting and meaningful endeavors for the small business program championed by the Mississippi Valley Division, the new Veterans Curation Project is being praised and recognized at the Secretary of the Army and Congressional levels. The project is a collaborative effort to provide archivist training, or archaeology collections and record management, employment, and job skills for wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The project is the first of its kind in the Nation, and is supported by \$3.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Veterans are now sorting through a massive government archaeological collection that had been neglected for decades.



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, center, Mississippi Valley Division commander, receives the 2010 Col. Richard Gridley Award as Jack Beecher, Corps program manager, and Lt. Gen. Robert L. “Van” Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander, congratulate him. Four districts within the division, including St. Paul District, were among the top 10 in the Corps for the highest percentage of dollars awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses during fiscal year 2010.

The top 10 Corps districts awarding the highest percentage of dollars to the small businesses during the 2010 fiscal year are:

1. Norfolk	15.1	6. Seattle	8.4
2. TEC Alexandria	10.9	7. St. Paul	7.6
3. Detroit	10.1	8. Rock Island	6.9
4. Los Angeles	9.5	9. Chicago	6.8
5. St. Louis	9.4	10. Vicksburg	6.2

New deputy joins district team



Photo by Patrick Moes

Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann adjusts to his new office at the St. Paul District headquarters. Bergmann was assigned as the new deputy district engineer Dec. 1.

Lt. Col. Kendall A. Bergmann assumed the duties of deputy district engineer for the St. Paul District, Dec. 1.

He previously worked as a National Guard advisor with First Army. During his tenure there, he worked with Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin Guard units.

Bergmann attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. While he was there, he earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree and his commission into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to his degree, Bergmann has attended the Engineer Officer Basic Course and Infantry Officer Advanced Course.

Here are some other tidbits of information about St. Paul District's new deputy district engineer.

Hometown

I grew up in Comfort, Texas.

Hobbies

I love the outdoors. I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. I have been a Cubmaster for my son's Cub Scout Pack at Fort Hood, Texas, and Bismarck, N.D. I continue to support his Boy Scouting activities. I enjoy working with youth outdoor activities, too. In Bismarck, I taught youth shooting at Capital City Sporting Clays and supported the Pheasants Forever Youth Program.

Family

My wife, Lana, and I have been married 18 Years and have three beautiful children. Brandi, 14; Kyle, 12; and Renee, 7. Lana is a huge supporter of the Military Family Programs and was the family readiness advisor for the 141 Maneuver Enhanced Brigade, North Dakota National Guard, when they deployed more than 2,200 soldiers to Kosovo in August 2009.

Ice, cold equal recipe for fun

District employees brave cold weather in broomball competition

Story and photos by Patrick Moes

District staff traded their cubicles and computers for 10 degree weather, ice and broomball at the downtown ice rink in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 8.

The first game of the season paired both Corps teams against each other with bragging rights on the line. Dressed in layers and broomball shoes, the two teams emerged from the warming house looking

for the victory.

“Personally, being retired Navy, anytime I can beat [the] Army is a good day,” said Patrick Mally, contracting. “But this was a tie game, so it was like kissing your sister.”

The two Corps of Engineers team played to a 3-3 tie.

Regardless of the final score, Rachael Snyder, regulatory, said the game was for



(Above) Brett Coleman, project management; Mike Wyatt, project management; Tom Crump, regional planning division north; and Kari Hauck, engineering; race toward the ball in the first game of 2010 broomball season. The two Corps teams played to a 3-3 tie Dec. 8 at a downtown St. Paul, Minn. ice rink. (Right) Tom Novak, project management, concentrates on stopping the ball prior to the game.





fun, getting to meet people and socialize. "It's the fun that matters compared to designating a winner or loser," added Snyder.

The excitement comes from beating other teams, said Snyder. "We have a record for not winning a lot of games."

Winners and losers aside, the broomball players are getting a great workout while building teamwork.

Mally said "sometimes you expend a lot of energy to move an inch," referring to the difficulties of playing a game on ice. "The game gives everyone an equal chance to literally hold each other up."

(Left) Patrick Mally, contracting, shares a laugh during the Corps vs. Corps broomball game Dec. 9. (Below) District employees run, fall and slide in an attempt to get the ball and score during the game. (Right) Mike Wyatt, project management, moves the ball up the side of the rink looking for a game-winning goal.



News & Notes

Editor's Note: Send your announcements (births, weddings, graduations, etc.) to: cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil.

District donates money, food, toys to less fortunate

District employees donated 64 toys to Keystone Community Services in St. Paul, Minn. during the annual toy drive. The toys ranged from basketballs to stuffed teddy bears. They will be distributed to kids for the holidays.

In addition to the toys, employees donated \$103 and 141 pounds of nonperishable food to Keystone.

Book exchange and coffee

The district library will host a book exchange Jan. 24 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Stop by the library to browse the book exchange collection and enjoy free coffee and treats with fellow district employees.

You can bring in your favorite books and other materials to add to the collection, as well as take home new reading material. Contributions are encouraged but not mandatory for participation.

Retirements

Dennis Anderson, 32 years federal service, biologist, district office

Jeff Anderson, 35 years federal service, Upper St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis

Ralph Augustin, 33 years federal service, biologist, district office.

Liz Dvorak, 34 years federal service, personnel, district office

Roger Gilman, 16 years federal service, Lock and Dam 8, Genoa, Wis.

Fred Kann, 20 years federal service, Lock and Dam 10, Guttenberg, Iowa

Steve Lenhart, 36 years federal service, upper area lockmaster, Hastings, Minn.

Mike Leshner, 32 years federal service, engineering, district office

Curtis Marquardt, 31 years federal service, physical support, Fountain City, Wis.

James Maybach, 19 years federal service, engineering, Fountain City, Wis.

Dick Otto, 34 years federal service, operations, La Crescent, Minn.

Tim Peterson, 33 years federal service, Two Harbors Field Office, Two Harbors, Minn.

Jerry Stadler, 37 years federal service, biologist, Fountain City, Wis.

Congratulations

Eric Lockington was selected as the head lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam 8 Dec. 21.

Newcomers

Derek Ingvalson, biologist, district office

A race to the finish



Courtesy photo

Cranes rise near Lake Borne, La., along Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity reach 148.02. A total of 18 headings, which includes in excess of 100 cranes, are being used in this eight mile reach to complete the flood wall construction. The project will be completed no later than June 1.