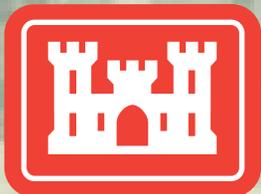


Crosscurrent

June/July 2011 Vol. 37, No. 6

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

**District fights
to the end in Minot, N.D.
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

BUILDING STRONG®

On the Cover



Roland Hamborg, project management, coordinates temporary levee construction in Velva, N.D., June 25. The district fought to the very last minute to save communities affected by historic flooding along the Souris River.

Photo by Patrick Moes

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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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- Minot, N.D., recovery begins



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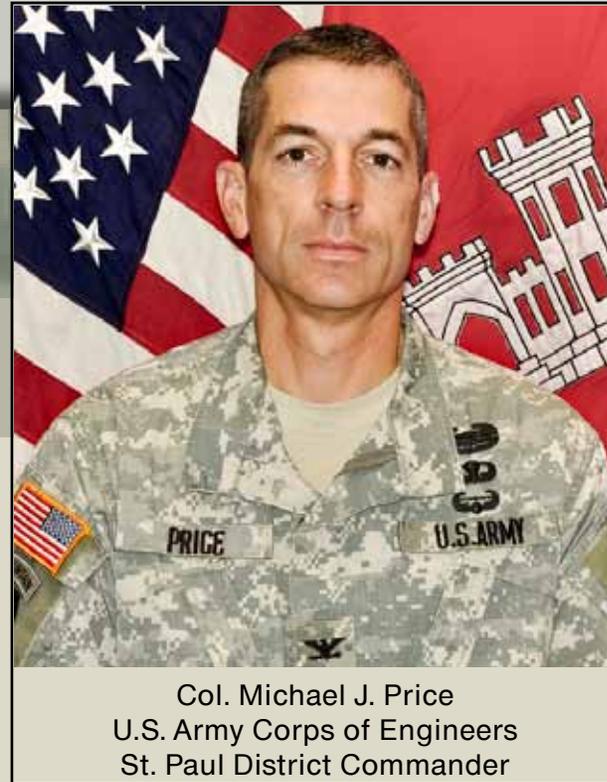
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Comments from the top



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

Team,

This past month I celebrated my one-year anniversary as the district engineer. I have seen the many accomplishments that the district achieved through its extremely professional work force. Well done.

It has been a tremendous year, but one that ended in a surreal manner. Last month I reported that the flooding was winding down, but little did we know that in just a short time the district would experience a historic and catastrophic flood in Souris River Basin. First I want to thank everyone for their extraordinary efforts. I can't emphasize enough that what we did literally helped save lives. Partnering with the cities and the National Guard, the district protected as much as we could in the time we had to prepare for this unprecedented flood. Starting downstream, Velva, N.D., was completely saved. Sawyer, N.D., had minimal damage. Minot, N.D., experienced the worst with over 4,000 homes being damaged and estimates of at least 800 of them completely lost. Burlington, N.D., also suffered overwhelming losses, as the majority of the

city's residents lost their homes. In the end, WE did our best and protected critical infrastructure and gave sound advice to the local leaders ... and our combined actions helped prevent the loss of any life.

But our work is not done and in some regards it is just beginning. The district has been given recovery missions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We've received a housing mission and debris mission. Each of these missions continue to evolve and will not be truly understood until the damage can be assessed. The city, FEMA, and the Corps are also in discussions for the demolition of destroyed structures. We have and continue to assemble a team of professionals to execute the missions FEMA assigns us. We will uphold our proud tradition and execute every mission

given to us to help the citizens affected by this devastating event. We will also reach out to the region for support as we must continue the other critical missions and projects remaining for this fiscal year.

This is the year of the schedule. We are constantly reminded of that and we are now in the last quarter of the fiscal year. We have to do what we said we were going to do. We have a few things left on the table that have to be addressed in the upcoming weeks. Each of you has a part, so I ask that you look at your workload and do what you can to meet our milestones.

It has been a great year for Team Price. I truly enjoy every day I spend with the people within the district. I am proud to stand in your ranks and feel extremely privileged to be called your commander.

BUILDING STRONG!

COL Price

District fights to the end in Minot, N.D.

Story by Patrick Moes

Sirens echoed for more than 20 minutes across Minot, N.D., June 22, signaling an evacuation order for more than 10,000 residents whom would soon see the Souris River swell to historic levels.

Those levels would reach 1,561.72 feet above sea level at the Broadway Bridge in Minot, N.D., June 26, nearly four feet above the previous historical crest of 1,558.00 feet that was reached in 1881, according to the National Weather Service.

Building temporary levees in communities along the river from Burlington, N.D., to Velva, N.D., district personnel tried to keep pace with the rising waters for more than two months before the flood.

Corps employees worked until the very last minute maintaining the temporary levees holding back the water, which allowed local residents more time to safely evacuate the inundated area before the sirens went off shortly before 1 p.m.

The river overtopped these levees in both Burlington and Minot; but the temporary levees were able to hold back the river in Sawyer, N.D., and Velva.

After the National Weather Service increased the forecast in Minot, secondary levees were built 15 to 20 feet high in only a few days to hold back water from the Broadway Bridge and critical



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Photos by Shannon Bauer

Rick Hauck, left, engineering; Bryan Peterson, operations; and Lance Meyer, Minot, N.D., city engineer, discuss temporary levee construction June 23.

Background photo by Clay Church **Aerial overview of Minot near Broadway Bridge.**



Photo by Patrick Moes

Chris Botz, operations, monitors levee construction in Minot, N.D., June 28. Botz was working as a quality assurance representative during the flood fight.

infrastructure, to include the water treatment facility. More material could not be added to the temporary levees because of time constraints and because the levees were already saturated.

“It’s been close to three months of flood fighting,” said Roland Hamborg, project management, about his experiences during this year’s flood fight. “It’s unbelievable. This [was] a flood fight that [didn’t] ever want to end.

“It got to be, at least in my mind, the Groundhog Day flood,” he said. “Because every day you got up, you had to do it all over again because the forecasts had changed.”

The Souris River flood fight began for Hamborg in early April when the spring snow melt began. Raising temporary levees in Sawyer, Hamborg said he thought that would be the end of the fight within



Photo by Patrick Moes

Charles Boyd, left, engineering; and Grant Riddick, right, engineering, discuss floodfight operations with Capt. Steve Bohl, North Dakota National Guard liaison officer, in the Ward County Emergency Operations Center June 4.

the basin. When the snow melt entered the river, flooding proved to be minimal besides filling the four reservoirs above Minot –Alameda, Boundary and Rafferty in Canada and Lake Darling, northwest of Minot.

However, the reservoirs remained full because of unprecedented rain in the region. The rain exhausted the storage capacity within the reservoirs.

Hamborg said, “It just felt like you were on a roller coaster ride of emotions. It seemed like every time there was a worst-case scenario presented, that became the reality each and every time.”

The challenges created by the continually changing forecast was only one aspect that the district had to deal with. Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann, deputy district commander, said safely evacuating people from the work areas and dealing with Mother Nature were the biggest challenges

Despite the challenges, Bergmann said the



Photo by Patrick Moes

(Above) Luke Schmidt, engineering, measures the width of a temporary levee in Sawyer, N.D., June 24 Schmidt served as the sub area engineer for Sawyer. (Right) An American flag flies above a spray painted thank you sign in Minot, N.D.

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Corps was there for one mission and that was to protect the cities. “We think we are a part of this community,” said the Comfort, Texas, native. “We take it personally. We want to save it.”

The desire to save the communities affected by flooding is a feeling that’s important to many Corps employees. Chris Botz, operations, said, “It’s a team effort. Everybody is pulling together to save a community.”

Botz, a park ranger at Lake Ashtabula in Valley City, N.D., started volunteering for emergency operations because it added more to his job. He said he started out doing debris missions in Mississippi and Louisiana, then he began working on flood duty in Valley City during the 2009 flood.

He said being a park ranger is a good fit for flood duty. “As a park ranger, we are used to dealing with people and part of the [flood fight] involves dealing with contractors and the city.”

As the flood fight winds down and the recovery phase begins for the residents along the Souris River, Botz said, he will always remember being a part of a team that was committed to saving communities.

Bergmann concluded “We continually fought the fight ... we won’t leave until the job is done.”



Photo by Shannon Bauer



Photo by Shannon Bauer

A deck, with four chairs, a table and a BBQ grill, floats down the Souris River in Minot, N.D., June 26.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Col. Michael Price, left, district commander; Mark Koenig, emergency operations manager; and Mike Raasakka, North Dakota Game and Fish, tour flooded areas in Burlington, N.D., June 30.



Photo by Jeff DeZellar

Alan Walter, left, Minot, N.D., public works director, and Grant Riddick, engineering, examine a temporary levee around Perkett Elementary School in Minot July 1.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

A temporary levee holds back the Souris River near Broadway and 4th Avenue Northwest in Minot, N.D. , June 26.

Feeding the dredge fleet one meal at a time

Story by Patrick Moes

The Dredge Goetz crew works day and night to keep the Mississippi River's 9-foot navigation channel open for vessels moving up and down river.

Keeping the crew fed falls on the shoulders of Nancy Peck, operations, and her coworkers.

Aboard the Quarters Boat Taggatz, one of the three main vessels for the Dredge Goetz fleet, Peck orchestrates a non-stop feeding process that allows the crew to have three hot meals a day, as well as snacks any time they want.

She does this with equipment found at many restaurants to include a convection oven, a broaster and the original butcher block from



Photo by Patrick Moes

Nancy Peck, operations, puts away the weekly groceries aboard the Quarters Boat Taggatz.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Nancy Peck, operations, washes her hands before preparing a meatloaf lunch with vegetables. Peck has worked on the river with the Corps for 23 years.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Nancy Peck, operations, brings groceries aboard the Quarters Boat Tagatz. Produce and dairies are purchased weekly.

the Dredge William A. Thompson, the dredge replaced by the Goetz in 2005.

Peck said the new kitchen is a big improvement as far as the space and equipment are concerned. She said the biggest improvement is the crew's refrigerator. She said "If they're hungry at 10 p.m., they can eat." The 23-year veteran Corps employee said the crew likes the advantage of eating whenever they are hungry and not having to wait until a meal is served.

While the crew can eat whenever they want, organizing the menus takes a little more planning. From bacon and eggs for breakfast to Wednesday night steak, purchasing the food is a job that requires some preparation. Peck said most of the processed meats and canned foods are purchased at the beginning of the dredging season to save money but dairies and produce are purchased weekly.

The grocery list is also dependent upon the menu for the week. Peck said she determines the menu by what people like to eat. "We've worked with the guys for so long that we know what they like," said the Buffalo City, Wis. resident. "All the crews seem to like the same things."

She added that she tries to create something special for the holidays. Whether it's a red, white and blue cake for the 4th of July or purple and gold colored cookies for the Minnesota Vikings Vs. Green Bay Packers game, it's fun for everyone, said Peck.

It's also the fun that keeps Peck working on the river. She said she loves being on the water and getting paid for it. "People used to pay for trips on the Delta Queen or the Mississippi Queen to see the views I see every day."

She said she also enjoys all of the small river towns. "You meet a lot of interesting people in these towns," concluded Peck. "You never know what you will learn from them."



Working the river keeps navigation moving

Story by Patrick Moes

The district is in full swing on the Mississippi River this summer dredging the congressionally mandated 9-foot channel.

“It’s been a busy year so far,” said Marc Krumholz, operations. “We’re out here with every piece of Corps equipment right now.”

The district’s current operations have the Dredge Dubuque and Dredge Goetz, as well as Government Mechanical and Contract Mechanical Plant 1 and 2, working to keep up with the sediment flowing down river.

In the area known as Pool 2, these vessels are working 12-hour days removing sediment. Krumholz said the pool had significant sediment concerns from the river picking up sand and moving it down river this year.

Dan Cottrell, operations, said the dredging plants in Pool 2 have removed around 110,000 cubic yards of sediment this year. This is enough sediment to fill more than 34 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Further down river near Fountain City, Wis., employees aboard the Dredge Goetz continue removing

sediment and placing it on islands along “Old Man River.” With clockwork precision, the crew moves the dredge around the river and picks up the sediment from beneath the water before channeling it through pipes that erupt on the other end with sand and

water.

The crew uses a lot of equipment to manage the dredging mission. At any given time, there are at least three or four boats tied up to the dredging plant with a few more shuttling between the islands, the



Photo by Patrick Moes

Joe Kupietz, operations, explains how the Dredge Dubuque removes sediment from the Mississippi River.



Photo by Patrick Moes

(Above) Jordon Johnson, operations, checks the cutterhead on the Dredge Debuque while working on the Mississippi River. (Right) Phyllis Hedberg, operations, directs a boat during dredging operations.

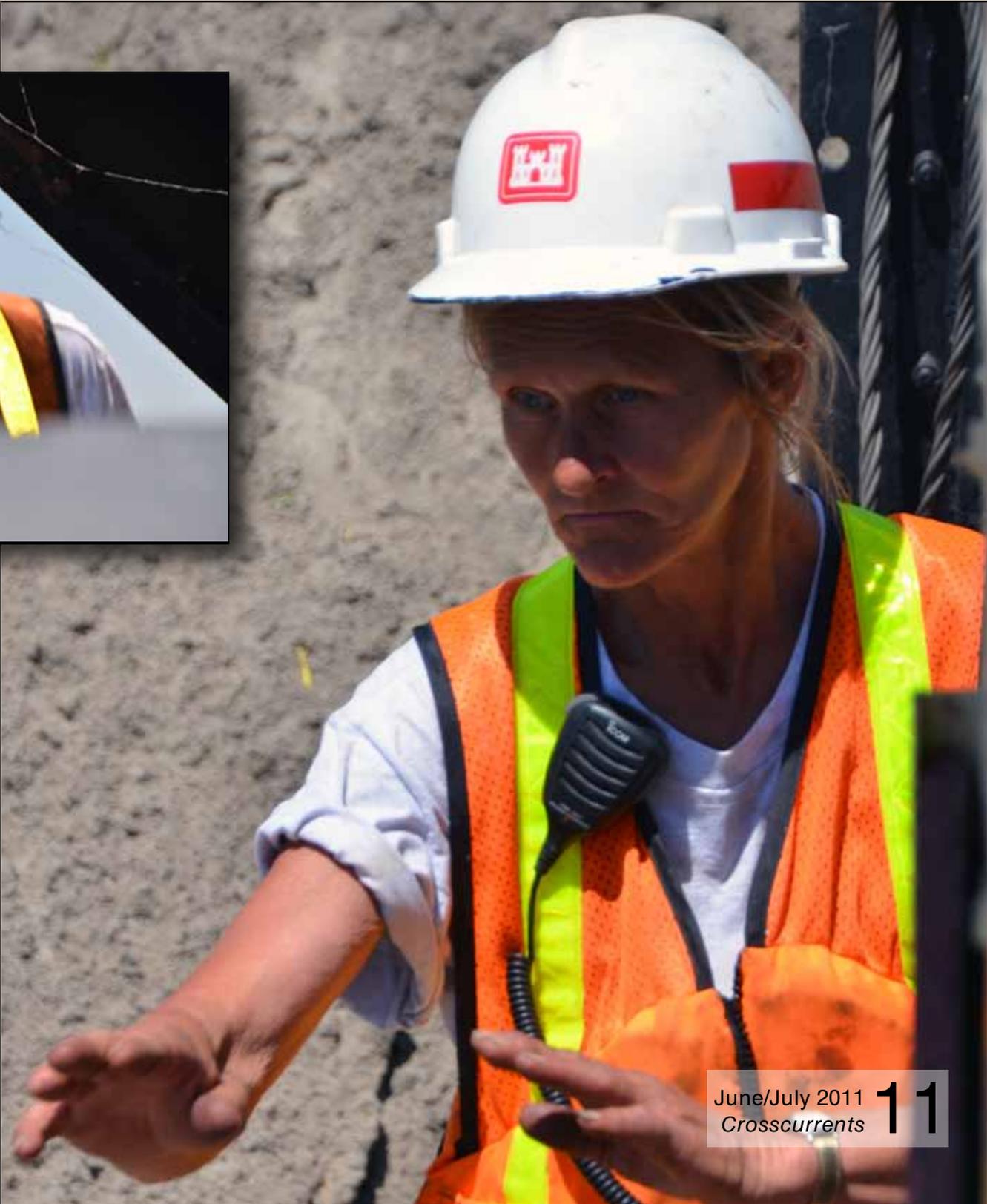
dredge and the quarters boat.

With all the equipment requiring fuel to operate, the dredge fleet comes equipped with its on fuel barge. Dredge Goetz Captain Bob Gross said the fuel barge lasts anywhere from two to three weeks under the current operating conditions but the costs keep going up with the current fuel prices. "We spend now on one load of fuel what we used to spend during an entire season," said Gross.

While dredging seasons pass from one to the next; the vessels' names continue to remind the crew of people that worked for the district before them.

The Dredge Goetz is named after William

Photo by Patrick Moes





“Bill” L. Goetz. It was christened on June 24, 2005, and replaced the now retired Dredge William A. Thompson. In addition to the Goetz, the Quarters Boat Tagatz and the tug boat Motor Vessel Warren were both named after former St. Paul District employees. Harold Tagatz was the assistant chief of the construction-operations division before retiring in 1998, and Gouverneur Kemble Warren was the first St. Paul District commander from 1866 to 1870.

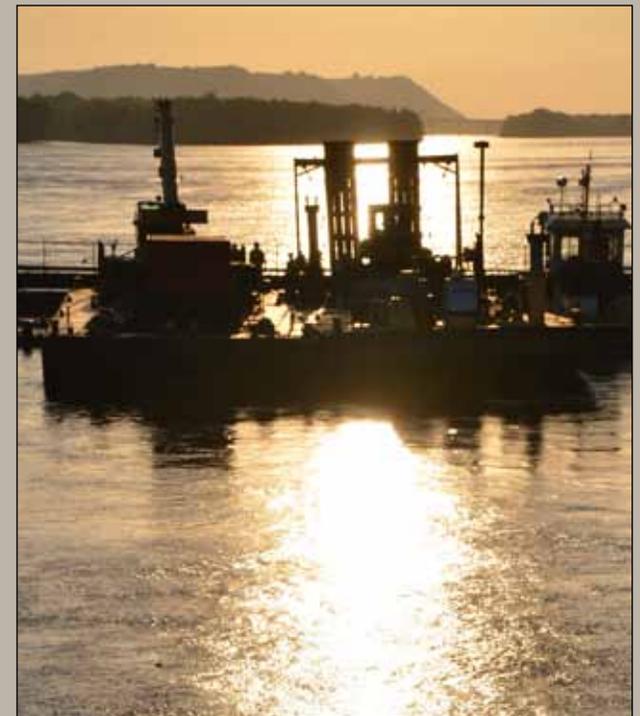


Photo by Patrick Moes

(Left) Marc Krumholz, operations, looks at the pipe fuser aboard the pipe barge. (Above) The Dredge Goetz crew works into the night near Wabasha, Minn., to maintain the Mississippi River 9-foot navigational channel.

Corps leaders visit the district

Story by Patrick Moes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers command sergeant major visited the district June 8 to 10 to tour the dredging operations on the Mississippi River and to talk with employees.

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum, the 10th Corps command sergeant major, said he made a promise to Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the former Corps commander, to visit all 43 districts. Buxbaum's visit to the St. Paul District was his 37th district tour. He has six districts to visit before his retirement next year.

Buxbaum said the employees are doing great work on the Mississippi River and wanted to know if there were any issues that need to be resolved.

He said that he "can go to anyone in headquarters and 'poke' on them about issues involving Corps employees."



Photo by Patrick Moes

(Above) Dredge Goetz Captain Bob Gross, left, talks to Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum, center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers command sergeant major, and Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann, district deputy commander, about dredging operations aboard the Dredge Goetz June 9. (Right) Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum climbs under the front of the Dredge Debuque after looking at the dredge's cutterhead June 8.



Photo by Patrick Moes



Photo by Patrick Moes

Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division commander, talks to district employees during a town hall at the district office in St. Paul, Minn., June 14.

Mississippi Valley Division Commander Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh visited the district for a town hall at the district's headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., June 14.

Walsh spoke to more than 100 people about the current situation in the division, as well as presented awards to district employees for their efforts during recent flood fights and other projects.

Walsh said the St. Paul District is viewed as an expert for flood fighting across the Corps, and he thanked the attendees for their commitment to excellence. He also took time to answer questions from employees about everything from the Hurricane Storm

Damage Risk Reduction System in New Orleans to future funding and staffing issues.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Steve Clark, planning, listens to Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division commander, respond to his question during the town hall June 14.



Photo by Patrick Moes

Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division commander, presents a commander's coin to Teri Alberico, operations, for her flood fight efforts.

Do we walk to walk?

Story by Barry Simmonds

As I prepared and anxiously looked forward to the walleye opener this year, I was reminded of an old saying. It's a question that parents and mentors use to get people to think about what they are doing. The saying is "Don't just talk the talk, walk the walk."

So, as I got my boat ready, I remembered to have life jackets on board along with a throw rope, a horn, a flashlight and other safety items. But for me, it goes beyond that. The last couple of years have been an exception because of moves; but I normally spend a

good deal of time on the water throughout the year. I'm usually ice fishing or soft water fishing as much as I can get away with. A few years ago, I came across a rule change that the Professional Walleye Circuit instituted. The rule was that if the boat was under power, everyone in the boat had to be properly wearing a Personal Floatation Device. I don't recall there ever being a fatality during a PWC event, but no chances were being taken. The rule was made and everyone had to abide by it.

I have three daughters, all grown, and now I have grandchildren.

I wouldn't dream of having my grandkids in my boat without their PFD on. So why would I even consider not wearing one myself? Let's be honest, sometimes they're not real comfortable. Ok, but whose fault is that? Did we skimp and try to save a few dollars and not buy something else which may have been more comfortable? A PFD floating away from you as you try to recover from accidentally falling into the water isn't going

to help you one bit. And if you go in the water and the PFD is still in the boat, it still isn't going to help you.

So, I guess we can "talk the talk" all we want. We can have our little five-minute tool box talks, we can spend a few minutes from time to time discussing a topic and call it training, we can even point out all the self inspections we do and slap ourselves on the back and be proud. However, if we don't set the example and actually "walk the walk" when we are at home, what does that say about us?

If you happen to go out on the water this summer please wear a PFD. If you are mowing the grass, wear hearing protection and safety glasses. Don't stand on chairs. Don't run with scissors! Don't touch hot burners! There are a lot of ways to "walk the walk." Safety isn't a lab coat you put on at work and take off when you leave for the day. Safety is a way of living. You either are ... or you are not. It is incorporated into everything we do.

Please, live safely.

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Photo by Mark Davidson

The Corps' Bobber made a guest appearance at the St. Paul Saints homeopener at Midway Stadium in St. Paul, Minn., to promote water safety May 12.

News & Notes

Retirements

Larry Albrightson, 21 years federal service, lock and dam operator, location, Minneapolis

Therese Jaszczak, 31 years federal service, administrative specialist, district office

Jan Lassen, 39 years federal service, engineer, district office

Greg Yale, 18 years federal service, Upper Saint Anthony Falls lockmaster, Minneapolis



Photo by Patrick Moes

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The sun sets on the Dredge Goetz crew while working on the Mississippi River near Wabasha, Wis., June 8.

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.

Newcomers

Lucas Anderson, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Matthew Anderson, park ranger, De Soto, Wis.

Sara Bellefeuille, student trainee, Spring Valley, Wis.

Justin Breza, student trainee, Genoa, Wis.

Michael Dinkel, laborer, Valley City, N.D.

Daniel Fleck, engineering technician, district office

Gus Garbe, student trainee, Valley City, N.D.

Devin Gathman, engineering technician, Devils Lake, N.D.

Mitch Goss, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Roberta Huck, administrative assistant, district office

Craig Jarnot, biologist, Bemidji, Minn.

Branden Johnson, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Greg Larson, ecologist, district office

Jeff McCullick, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam No. 8, Genoa, Wis.

David Myhre, engineering technician, district office

Kelly Obermiller, administrative assistant, district office

John Parisien, engineering technician, district office

Colin Riddick, engineering technician, district office

Scott Rolbiecki, deckhand, Fountain City, Wis.

Bruce Shalles, lock and dam operator, Lower St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis

Samuel Smith, student trainee, district office

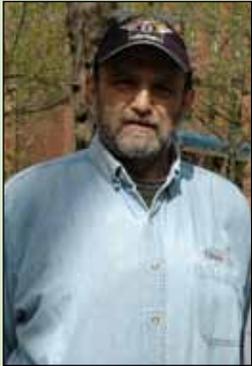
Marissa Vine, student trainee, La Crescent, Minn.

Robert Wachholz, student trainee, Alma, Wis.

Brady Wendt, student trainee, Spring Valley, Wis.

News & Notes

Taps



Bob Mike, logistics, passed away June 30 after a long fight with cancer. He was 64 years old. Funeral services were held at Holy Family Maronite Church in Mendota Heights, Minn., July 7.

Congratulations

Timothy Tabery, operations, was selected as the lockmaster at Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis, July 3.

Damon Roberts, legal, was selected to represent the district in the Mississippi Valley Division's Emerging Leader Program.

Donations

District employees donated 81 pounds of food and \$30 to Keystone Community Services in St. Paul, Minn.

District welcomes in summer with picnic at Como Park Zoo



Photo by Jon Lyman

From left, **Kevin Bluhm**, **Lance Awsumb**, **Tom Crump**, **Dan Kelner**, **Katie Young**, **Aaron McFarlane**, **Sierra Schroeder**, **Dave Potter** and **Alex Kelner**, all associated to the district's planning division, celebrate winning the tug-of-war competition. The district's summer picnic was held at Como Park Zoo in St. Paul, Minn., June 24.