

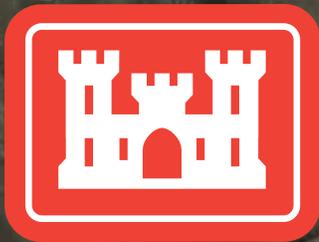
Circumcurrents

Serving
Winter 2018



**Frigid temps
won't stop
the district**

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



Jeff Kleinert operations, adjusts the gate levels at Pokegama Dam, near Grand Rapids, Minn., Jan. 23. Despite temperatures near minus 20, recreation staff continued operations.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Views and opinions expressed in **Crosscurrents** are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Articles and photography submissions are welcome and must arrive by the 15th day of the publishing month for consideration. Submissions can be mailed or emailed. 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 Col. Daniel C. Koprowski
Public Affairs Chief Shannon Bauer
Crosscurrents Editor Patrick Moes
Contributors George Stringham
Allison Fairbanks

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Crosscurrents will now be published on a quarterly basis. Look for the next issue in April.



Crosscurrents is read by comprehensive cartographers like Jack Westman, planning.

Photo by Patrick Moes



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Comments from the top

Team,

It's been a long winter with plenty of cold weather and snow, but the end is in sight. Spring will be here soon and, with that, the beginning of our busy season throughout the district.

One of the questions I have been asked the most in recent months involves the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA. I wish I could offer some insight as to what the final bill will include or when it will become law, but the fact remains that I only know what I've read in the news. The House of Representative and the Senate have both passed their versions, and now members from both chambers will meet in conference to determine the language for the final bill. Once the final

language is approved, both chambers will vote on the bill before it can be signed by the president.

In addition to the upcoming WRDA bill, I wanted to update you on the climate surveys I have been holding. Many of you have offered candid suggestions about the district. I want to thank you for your openness and willingness to help the district become a better place. I want to assure everyone that I will look at each issue independently and fairly to determine what I can do to either fix the issue or mitigate the problem if the concerns are beyond my control.

Another area where we are looking to improve the district is with the development of the operation plan, or O-PLAN. I've tasked Maj. Christian Thompson, St. Paul District

deputy commander, to make recommendations on how the district can use the O-PLAN to support the Mississippi Valley Division implementation plan, or I-PLAN; and the Corps of Engineers' campaign plan. Together, we will develop a path to support our higher headquarters while also improving what we do every day.

While we look to improve what we do, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and perseverance. Each of you plays a critical role in the success of our district. I want you to know that your dedication was noticed by Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca, Mississippi Valley Division commander, during his recent trip to our district. He said he was impressed with



Col. Daniel C. Koprowski
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Commander

the variety and scope of our work, as well as our work ethic. Job well done!

Finally, I want to remind everyone to be safe as the weather becomes warmer. Take time to relax and enjoy being with friends and family. Please keep our teammates deployed in harm's way in your thoughts, too. They have volunteered to deploy and support the Corps' overseas contingency operation.



Jeff Kleinert, operations, takes a snow survey at Pokegama Dam, near Grand Rapids, Minn., Jan. 23. Park rangers at the Corps' Headwaters parks take snow measurements throughout the winter and provide that information to the National Weather Service, so they have more data to help determine the flood forecast for the spring snowmelt.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Tammy Johnson, operations, prepares to adjust a gate at the Big Sandy Lake Dam, near McGregor, Minn., Jan. 23. Despite freezing temperatures, Corps park rangers ensure the recreation areas are maintained and ready for the upcoming camping season.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Dam tenders work thru frigid temps

Story by George Stringham

For many people, the winter months in the Upper Midwest mean indoors projects.

That's not the case for some district employees. While the mercury drops out of site on the thermometer, district employees continue working despite battling the frigid conditions from one of the coldest winters during the past 30 years. The staff remains focused as they continue preparing for the inevitable arrival of warmer weather.

Whether working at any of the district's reservoirs, project worksites or facilities along the Mississippi River, district staff are busy performing maintenance and preparing for the upcoming recreation, navigation and construction seasons.

"While campers may not be knocking down the door come January 1st, we aren't in total hibernation mode up here in the [Mississippi River] Headwaters," said Tammy Johnson, site supervisor for Big Sandy Lake Recreation Area, near McGregor, Minn. "Winter is our time to do some behind the scenes work, preparing for next season's 'production.'" During the winter months, recreation areas such as the ones in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin still need to be accessible to the public for ice fishing, snowmobiling and other recreation activities.

Johnson added that in addition to preparing for the upcoming recreation season, one of the other big responsibilities reservoir staff have is to be prepared for the spring snowmelt. This preparation entails taking weekly snow and ice depth measurements and determining what the water content is within the snowpack. Johnson said they report the information to the district's water management office in St. Paul, Minn.

In addition to using this data to manage reservoir levels, the district shares this information with the National Weather Service, or NWS, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Brian Johnson, engineering and construction, said the snow and ice measurements help the water management staff determine what needs to be done at each of the district's reservoirs.

He said the water management team works closely with the dam tenders throughout the winter to gather the data that will help the NWS determine the potential flood threat for the spring snowmelt.

"The park rangers serve as the eyes and ears for the district," he said. "They are the on the ground at the various reservoirs and their observations are critical."



2013 Holiday Awards

(Below) Judy DesHarnais, left, and Marlene Blevins, both in project management, lead a sing-a-long. (Right) Aaron Snyder, project management, serves as Santa Clause with Janet Golubski, lower right, engineering and construction.



(Above) Tom Sully, executive office, left; Craig Evans, planning; and Sierra Keenan, planning, entertains the crowd with magic tricks. Evans also served as the event master of ceremonies.



(Below top) Dan Ford, left, and Molly Wezel-Peterson, both in engineering and construction, celebrate at the awards ceremony. (Below bottom) Wendy Medlin, visual information, photographs the holiday awards ceremony.





2013 Holiday Awards



(Far left) Bob Edstrom and Carolyn Latour, both in project management, celebrate after taking the gold during the “Frosty Olympics” competition. (Left) District employees attempt to don clothing during the “Frosty Olympics” competition.



From left, Photo booth participants Terri Stamm, safety; Aaron Mikonowicz, engineering and construction; Shannon Gross, resource management; Paul Fleming, engineering and construction; Renee McGarvey, engineering and construction; Gary Wolf, engineering and construction; Chris Afdahl, engineering and construction; Ann Banitt, engineering and construction; and Jody Kormanik-Gilbertson, Mississippi Valley Division hydraulic engineer, take a moment to enjoy the ceremony.



2013 Holiday Awards



(Left) Dave Valen, retired; Jim Sentz, engineering and construction; and Rick Femrite, engineering and construction, relax during a pause in the ceremony. (Below left) Capt. Christopher Stonesifer and Capt. Andrew Maxa enjoy the awards ceremony. (Below right) Terry Alberico, emergency management, embraces the holiday season during the awards ceremony.



The 2013 St. Paul District Holiday Awards Ceremony was held Dec. 6, 2013, in St. Paul, Minn.

The district celebrated the end of another year and recognized several employees for their efforts during the past 12 months.

Employees receiving recognition were: Tom Mings, regulatory – Commander's Coin; Stacey Person, counsel – Certificate of Achievement; Damon Roberts, counsel – Certificate of Achievement; Ben Cox, regulatory – Certificate of Achievement; Tom Hingsberger, regulatory – Certificate of Achievement; and Ben Orne, regulatory – Certificate of Achievement;

District employees were also recognized for receiving national awards from the Corps of Engineers'

headquarters in Washington, D.C. Vanessa Hamer, planning – Herbert A. Kassner Award; Kevin Bluhm, planning – Herbert A. Kassner Award; the Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., Metropolitan project delivery team was selected as the SAVE International Gordon Frank Award for Outstanding Methodology in Government and the Department of Defense Value Engineering Award recipients.

Renee McGarvey, engineering and construction, was selected as the 2013 Corps of Engineers Landscape Architect of the Year. Eric Johnson, operations, was selected as the 2013 Corps of Engineers Hard Hat of the Year.



(Above) Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander, right, presents Tom Hingsberger, regulatory; Ben Orne, regulatory; Ben Cox, regulatory; and Stacy Person, counsel; with a Certificate of Achievement award for their work.



The district's maintenance and repair crew performs winter maintenance on the dewatered Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Billie Fink, operations, prepares to hoist materials out of the lock chamber at Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes

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Corps fights on against Mother Nature, Mississippi River

Story by Patrick Moes

Freezing temperatures, tight timelines and heavy equipment are just another day at the office for the district's maintenance and repair section based out of the Fountain City, Wis., service base.

The team is currently working on the Lock and Dam 8 dewatering project. The lock, located near Genoa, Wis., is getting a face-lift this winter, as the team makes repairs to the concrete, lock gates and bubbler systems.

Jim Rand, Lock and Dam 8 lockmaster, said the winter maintenance occurs at each lock approximately every 20 years. "This is mission critical maintenance that normally wouldn't be done at a typical lock site like [the Corps of Engineers] has down river," he said. "They are not afforded the ability to stop navigation for three months."

Scott Uhl, maintenance and repair section supervisor, said the district has the unique advantage to perform the maintenance during the winter when the navigation season is already closed due to the frozen Mississippi River. He added that with 13 locks in the district, the team performs a winter dewatering nearly every year.

Joe Schroetter, project manager for the dewatering, said the maintenance is a lot like the annual maintenance you

perform on your car. "This maintenance is extremely important to ensuring the lock is in working condition once the navigation season arrives."

The maintenance this year is similar to previous dewaterings, but Uhl said there are always challenges. He said the two biggest concerns are the construction unknowns under the water and the weather. "Above the water line, we have a real good idea of what we are going to run into. Below the water line, we are relying on our divers' inspections to tell us what we are going to see."

The weather can be a big challenge to the team, too. "Snow doesn't hurt so bad," said Uhl, "but the brutal cold does hinder the job." Cold weather has been a standard this winter with temperatures dropping into the negative 20s on more than once occasion. Uhl said brutal cold is anything below zero. At these temperatures, the team has difficulties getting diesel equipment started, and the work pace slows due to the need to wear additional cold weather clothing.

Despite the cold temps, the team has found a few advantages with the weather. Uhl said single digit temps at night and teens during the day are creating optimal conditions for sandblasting and painting the lock gates. He said this weather typically



Joe Lackey, left, and Kim Wegner, both with the district's maintenance and repair crew, perform winter maintenance on the dewatered Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes

creates low moisture in the air, and it allows the steel to stay clean and rust free.

The team will continue working to meet the March 10 deadline. With much of the concrete demolition completed as a result of a hydro demolition contract, Schroetter said the team is on pace to complete the remaining concrete work,

as well as the remaining maintenance items, in time for the 2014 navigation season.

Rand said he is looking forward to the end of the dewatering maintenance and is looking forward to the next season. "There will be no question after this job is done that we will be ready to go for the next 20 years," he said.



Jim Rand, left, Lock and Dam 8 lockmaster, and Joe Schroetter, project management, discuss the dewatering project at Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes



A contractor uses a water cannon to remove damaged concrete at Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Scott Uhl, operations, monitors maintenance at Lock and Dam 8, near Genoa, Wis., Jan. 14.

Photo by Joe Schroetter



Brett Coleman, project management, left; Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander; Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca, Mississippi Valley Division commander; and Terry Williams, project management, discuss the proposed Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., diversion channel project in Fargo, N.D., Feb. 3.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

Division leader tours district

Story by Shannon Bauer

The new commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca, made his first tour of the St. Paul District, Feb. 3-5.

The three-day visit included stops in Fargo, N.D.; the upper three locks in Minneapolis; the district office; La Crosse, Wis.; and Lock and Dam 8 near Stoddard, Wis. In addition to receiving briefings from district employees on such projects as the proposed Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., diversion channel; Asian carp on the Upper Mississippi River; and the dewatering of Lock and Dam 8, the general met with a number of stakeholders to include Fargo and Moorhead elected officials, the Upper Midwest Environmental

Center partners and Upper Mississippi River Basin Association representatives. While visiting, he also used the opportunity to recognize a number of district employees for good deeds by presenting a number of commander's coins.

Bob Edstrom, project management, coordinated the visit. "Brig. Gen. DeLuca's visit to the St. Paul District went extremely well," he said. "Despite the cold weather, the Mississippi Valley Division contingent witnessed many unique aspects of the work we do across the region. They were impressed with the sense of productivity and diligence our workforce exhibits, as well as our natural hospitality."



Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca, Mississippi Valley Division commander, reviews documents at the district office in St. Paul, Minn., during a district tour Feb. 4.

Photo by Wendy Medlin



Brig. Gen. Peter 'Duke' DeLuca, Mississippi Valley Division commander, presents a commander's coin to Kirby Bauer, Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology during a visit Feb. 4.

Photo by Wendy Medlin



Vanessa Hamer, planning, searches for a number in the pattern crate Nov. 15, 2013.

Photo by Kevin Bokay



Kenton Spading, engineering and construction, searches through Dredge William A. Thompson patters at the district's warehouse in Fountain City, Wis., Nov. 15, 2013.

Photo by Vanessa Hamer



Brad Perkl, planning, explores a pattern crate at the district's warehouse Nov. 15, 2013.

Photo by Vanessa Hamer

Dredge Thompson patterns tell a story of the district's history

Story by Kevin Bokay

A district team visited the Lock and Dam 5A warehouse in Fountain City, Wis., Nov. 15, 2013, to inventory a large pile of wooden patterns used for the Dredge William A. Thompson, which served the district from 1937 to 2006.

The Dredge Thompson, eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, was recently acquired by the Prairie du Chien Community Development Alternatives, Inc. This group plans to convert the vessel

into a museum of river transportation highlighting the dredging machine itself, social aspects, the national impact and its role in transforming the nation's transportation system and the river. A key part to this history is the patterns uniquely built for the dredge.

"The patterns are currently stored in wooden crates and stacked about two stories high in the warehouse. They were previously stored in the 'pattern' building in Fountain City until the building was demolished because of

safety issues," said Brad Perkl, planning.

The dredge patterns range in size from large to small. Some of them measure 12 feet in length or diameter, while others are the size of a shoe box.

Kenton Spading, engineering and construction, said the patterns were used to make replacement parts for the large machinery on the vessel. Inventory sheets showed that some patterns were frequently shipped off to be cast, while others were not used at all. "When a replacement part was needed for the

Dredge Thompson, another vessel, or one of the lock and dams, the pattern was shipped to a foundry," he said. "The foundry made a mold by placing the wooden pattern into a mixture of sand and clay for casting. The mold was then filled with molten metal, left to cool, and the metal part was extracted, finished and readied for return shipment."

The team plans to finish cataloging all of the patterns before shipping to Prairie du Chien, Wis., to reunite with the vessel.

Corps logistics team trains, certifies with help from district

Story by George Stringham

The St. Paul District recently played host to the Logistics Planning and Response Team, or LPRT, training exercise.

The LPRT is a headquarters-level team that deploys in support of Corps responses to natural or man-made disasters. The exercise focused on performing reception, staging, onward movement and integration, also known as RSOI, for 100 Corps of Engineers personnel responding to flooding that resulted from the remnants of 'Tropical Storm Dorothy.'

The first day of the exercise involved a battle handoff between Karl Hunt, former district logistics specialist, and Tami Mahaffey, LPRT lead. This afforded a seamless transition of responsibilities from the local logistics office to the LPRT.

"When the LPRT is called into a response, it is typically 24 to 48 hours into the event," Mahaffey said. "At that point, the quicker our team can engage with the district and get a good turnover, the more effective we can be."

Throughout the exercise, LPRT members were subject to various scenario events and team building activities, and Mahaffey provided situation reports and battle update briefs to the commander daily.

The St. Paul District's emergency management office also played an active role in the exercise, adding an element of realism to the scenario. The LPRT utilized the district's stock of cell phones, which were used in the scenario, as well as testing the serviceability of the phones.

"This was a good opportunity to take our standard operating procedures and apply them to the exercise," said Teri Alberico, emergency management. "While we are certainly accustomed to working in disaster mode, we're always open to working with others to improve our processes."

Vanessa Hamer, planning, also demonstrated FREEBOARD to the team. The web-based computer program is utilized to track and account for pumps and sandbags and to display other operational data during a disaster mission. Hamer is the district's subject matter expert for the program.

For Dorothy Gray, management analyst and training facilitator, this was a great week. "While we do these exercises regularly to keep the teams certified, this is the most interaction we've had with the host district and their emergency management office. Having Teri and other members of her office involved worked out great."



Brandy Urias, left, logistics team coordinator, and Dorothy Gray, logistics team facilitator, discuss logistical support during a disaster response training exercise at the district Nov. 19.

Photo by George Stringham



Teri Alberico, left, emergency management; Kris Fairbanks, emergency management; and Tami Mahaffey, logistics team leader, discuss logistics support during a training exercise at the district's headquarters Nov. 19.

Photo by George Stringham



Barry Simmonds, center, safety chief; poses with a picture of Bobber the Water Safety Dog; Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann, former deputy district commander; and Col. Michael Price, former district commander and current Afghanistan District commander. All three are currently deployed to Afghanistan.



Clayton Tallman, right, engineering and construction, talks with Afghanistan locals while deployed to the country in 2012-2013. Tallman was discussing planned upgrades to a local road that would help area farmers get their crops to the market.

Courtesy photo

Above and beyond: District staff continue voluntary deployments overseas

Story by Allison Fairbanks

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ response to Sept. 11, 2001, began on day one. Only a few hours after the terrorists struck, engineers from Corps of Engineers’ headquarters in Washington, D.C., went to the Pentagon to assess the damage, and personnel from North Atlantic Division and New York District made their way to the World Trade Center to assist rescue efforts and begin planning the ensuing support

operations,” said Bernard Tate, Corps’ headquarters, in a recent article about deployments.

He added that Corps personnel have served in Afghanistan and Iraq in every capacity short of combat. The Corps’ mission to support the Overseas Contingency Operation, or OCO, in rebuilding the countries’ infrastructure has been unprecedented in size and scope. Kris Fairbanks, OCO deployment manager and district family readiness

coordinator, said the Corps has deployed approximately 9,000 civilian employees to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003, and the district’s contribution to this effort has been significant.

Support to the OCO mission from the district began with the first deployment in April 2003. Since then, the St. Paul District has deployed 81 employees on 128 deployments, 25 have served more than one deployment and 21 employees have served more than one-year terms.

Throughout the history of this program, the district has provided employees who have filled a vast variety of positions in-theater to include IT-specialists, construction representatives, administrative assistants, program managers, electrical engineers, safety and occupational health specialists, realty specialists and the commander of the Afghanistan District, to name a few.

Continued on Page 20

Peak looks to help people returning from high stress deployments

Story by Vanessa Hamer

“Pick up a pencil with your opposite hand,” said Jim Peak, chief of construction. “Now, write your name with it. How does it feel?”

This is one of the ways Peak explains reintegration, or the process people undertake when they need to readjust after returning home from extended periods of unfamiliar or high stress experiences. The process was recently detailed in the publication *Introduction to Type and Reintegration*. Peak said the publication is used to provide guidance and assist service members returning home from deployments.

“Every person returning from an overseas assignment goes through a period of reintegration to find their ‘new normal,’” he said.

Peak has been a Corps civilian for more than 38 years and is a veteran of tours in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Japan. From these deployments, he said he’s gained an understanding of what adjustments are needed when returning home and has combined this understanding with his passion for people, their personality types and how different personality types work together.

These personality types he is referring to are the 16 Myers-Briggs personality

types, commonly referred to as MBTI. The MBTI are used to measure how people perceive and make decisions in the world and base it on the type preferences extraversion, introversion, sensing, intuition, thinking, feeling, judging and perceiving. Peak said he made the connection between type and reintegration after returning home from Iraq in 2003. Since this realization, he said he’s been pushing to help others that have to go through the reintegration or ‘coming home’ adjustments.

“An individual’s personality type significantly impacts how they adjust when returning home,” said Peak. “And

it touches several areas of reintegration including a person’s understanding of themselves and others, the way they communicate, have relationships, make decisions, handle conflicts, learn etc.”

Peak’s co-authors, Katherine and Elizabeth Hirsh, collaborated with him to provide material specifically for service members and not just the individuals who work with them or have them as loved ones. He said this is why the book applies directly and speaks directly to service members.

Peak said his wake-up call happened after deploying to Iraq. “Even after dealing with reintegration first hand



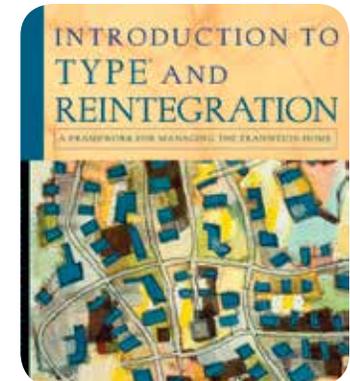
Jim Peak, engineering and construction, second from the left, poses with members of the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion.

Courtesy photo



Jim Peak, engineering and construction, left; Katherine Hirsh; and Elizabeth Hirsh authored a publication to help service members return from high stress deployments.

Courtesy photo



Jim Peak, engineering and construction, co-authored a book to help people return from stressful deployments.

Courtesy photo



Jim Peak, engineering and construction, inspects his vehicle after it was damaged by a rocket attack.

Courtesy photo



Jim Peak, engineering and construction, stands near the Arc of Triumph in Baghdad, Iraq in 2003.

Courtesy photo



An M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle crew conducts training at Fort Carson, Colo., prior to deploying to Iraq.

Photo by Vanessa Hamer

several times, he said, each process is unique, depending on where you deploy to, where you come back to and if you have family deploy with you.”

After receiving his MBTI certification, Peak said he went to a weekend retreat for service members and their spouses and introduced type and its benefits in the reintegration process. “Everyone has to reintegrate at some point in their life, but my focus has always been supporting service members and their families” he said.

Most people don’t know that the Army culture is more represented in certain personality types, which is important in

figuring out how they reintegrate verses other types. This led to Peak’s further involvement with the Type community in the Twin Cities and eventually the connection with the co-authors of the publication *Introduction to Type and Reintegration for CPP, Inc.* “It took many late nights writing things down, organizing thoughts and getting something ready for printing,” said Peak. It was published for three focus groups: the deployee, the support group such as family or friends and the support professionals.

“Our main goal,” said Elizabeth, “was to help people recognize their natural

personality or style through MBTI and then utilize this information to make sense of their deployment and how the experience fits with civilian or non-deployment lives.” Katherine said they wanted to show “people that there were 16 ways of making the transition home. This knowledge might help someone returning to recognize the need to find their own way to reintegrate. “We wanted to empower them to seek what works for them, not simply what society, family, military buddies, professionals or official sources recommend,” she said.

Elizabeth said they wanted to provide reintegration guidance that is specific

to their personality, and in a way that honors their uniqueness, honors their experience, as well as uses their personal style, as a foundation to create strategies for future relationships and careers.

“How did writing with your opposite hand feel?’ said Peak, ‘Awkward? Challenging?’” He said it represents reintegration as a self awareness, as something that can be positive, not negative. He added that If you approach it like you’re writing your name with your opposite hand for instance, you can think about and recognize how you would normally process reintegration.



Aaron Buesing, engineering and construction, discusses watershed planning during a Red River of the North Watershed conference in Fargo, N.D., Jan. 15.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



Joel Heitkamp, Fargo, N.D., radio personality, left, discusses watershed planning with Judy DesHarnais, St. Paul District deputy for programs and project management, and Aaron Snyder, project management, in Fargo, N.D., Jan. 15.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

National planning team study explores watershed planning and the future

Story by Aaron Snyder

Watershed planning should be a critical component within the Corps' planning portfolio.

Despite its importance, the process has been misunderstood in the past as misguided with no clear purpose or output. This misunderstanding around watershed studies threatens the Corps' capabilities and role in watershed planning.

A team working for the Corps' Planning Community of Practice was recently tasked with addressing these misunderstandings, identifying problems facing watershed studies and providing solutions to address the problems.

The problems facing watershed studies are not unique. There are funding constraints, complicated and confusing processes, limited guidance and poor communication of the value of watershed studies.

During the research, the team worked to identify a framework that could address the issues by proposing a new process specific to watershed studies, information and resources to help teams and communication objectives to ensure the value of watershed studies is known and documented.

Although much of the information developed by this team hasn't been formalized as guidance or distributed to

the field, important progress has been made on how watershed planning is another way for the Corps of Engineers to achieve Integrated Water Resource Management.

Tackling the problems facing these studies has been challenging. Like most things we do in the Corps, there are no easy solutions. After looking at lessons learned as part of this team, it's clear that planners will be key to the Corps' future. They will need to think big, develop creative ideas, programmatic solutions and keep focused on the future.

Moving forward, Corps planners will need to be a guiding path for the stakeholders in the watersheds. The focus should not be on what the Corps can do but on what progress can be made at the local levels, with the Corps participating where it can.

Working on the national team created many opportunities and built critical networks. Although the task focused on watershed planning, the team determined that it was important to also support: budget development, defining the watershed planning portfolio, communication, coordination and support of other planning activities. There were many great lessons learned along the way.

A routine business trip becomes anything but routine

Story by Patrick Moes

A routine business trip to Fargo, N.D., for two project managers was anything but normal when they came across a vehicle in the ditch.

Terry Williams and Brett Coleman, both in project management, were heading toward Fargo for a meeting when they noticed a vehicle had gone in the ditch along Interstate 94, near Barnsville, Minn., Jan. 9.

Not knowing whether there were any injuries, Coleman said they decided to pull over and see if anyone needed their assistance. Williams said the Ford F150 truck was lying on its driver side and the trailer that was attached to the truck

was upside down in the snow bank.

As the two project managers surveyed the situation, Williams said it quickly became apparent that there were multiple people in the vehicle, including small children.

Coleman said he noticed a guy standing next to the truck holding a small child. He approached the man to offer his assistance, and he soon had a small child in his arms. Coleman said he passed the child off to another bystander that had stopped to help before turning his attention toward the truck. He said he first noticed the mom standing up in the truck. After helping

her get out of the vehicle through the missing sun roof, he retrieved a few of her personal belongings before turning his attention toward the three children.

"The kids made no sound but were carefully watching everything," said Coleman. "One by one, the kids were removed and taken to another vehicle to wait for emergency vehicles."

Coleman said the seat belt was stuck on the last kid so he used his pocket knife to start cutting the belt. "About half way thru the seat belt, the mechanism released, and the kid was free," he said. "Once freed, the kid dug through the snow in the cab to find his handheld

gaming system."

After everyone had been safely removed from the vehicle, Coleman said he and Williams continued to stay with the family and reassure them that everything was going to be OK.

Williams said, "Brett's leadership and quick action directly resulted in the family getting to safety." The two project managers waited until emergency responders arrived before leaving the scene. Coleman added, "Once state patrol arrived, and [we] saw ambulances coming, our help was no longer needed or required, so Terry and I continued on our trip to Fargo."



Volunteers, to include Brett Coleman and Terry Williams, both in project management, assist a family after their vehicle went in the ditch along Interstate 94, near Barnsville, Minn., Jan. 9.

Courtesy photo



Brett Coleman, left, and Terry Williams are the project managers for the proposed Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., diversion channel project.

Photo by Shannon Bauer



Volunteers and veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project participated in the second deer hunt at the Eau Galle Recreation Area, near Spring Valley, Wis., Dec. 14.

Photo by Patrick Moes



Jon Sobiech, planning, left; Tom Drinken, Wounded Warrior participant; and Scott Pariseau, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer, review a map of the Eau Galle Recreation Area prior to heading out to the deer stands at the park, near Spring Valley, Wis., Dec. 14. This was the second Wounded Warrior hunt at the park.

Photo by Patrick Moes

Volunteers support second Wounded Warrior Hunt at Eau Galle Recreation Area

Story by Patrick Moes

District staff volunteered their time Dec. 14, 2013, to support the second Wounded Warrior Hunt at Eau Galle Recreation Area, near Spring Valley, Wis.

Volunteers with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a few outdoor enthusiasts also helped.

Jon Sobiech, planning, said the event

was a great opportunity to support the veterans and get outdoors.

For many of the volunteers, the event began weeks earlier. Sobiech said the volunteers scouted several areas within the park to determine where tree stands and ground blinds could be positioned.

Despite these efforts to get the veterans an opportunity of harvesting their own deer, the cold weather forced

the deer to hunker down during the hunt. At the end of the day, none of the veterans were able to harvest a deer.

The six veterans braved the cold and the lack of deer didn't deter their spirits. Josh Walker, an Army veteran, said it was great to just get outdoors and be with other veterans and outdoors enthusiasts.

In addition to Walker, the other

veterans included Travis Vliet, Dan Hinze, Shawn Plante, Matt Goetsch and Tom Drinken. They were assisted by Paul Sickman, Dave Hausman, Jim Devlin and Brad Peterson, all with the DNR, and Jon and Jeff Sobiech. Corps employees Bryanna Sauer, resource management; Steve Clark, planning; and Kelli Phillips, operations, provided food for the hunters.



Editor's Note

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

Taps

Rev. Bernard A.G. Pedersen passed away Jan. 5. Services were held Jan. 11 at the Church of St. Agnes in St. Paul, Minn. He worked in the information management office.

Nelsen, Gustafson selected as emerging leaders

The Mississippi Valley Division selected two district employees to participate in the division's 2014 Emerging Leaders Program.

Liz Nelsen and Jon Gustafson, both in engineering and construction, will work with other leaders within the program to explore ways of making the division and district better.



Liz Nelsen



Jon Gustafson

Congratulations

- Congratulations **Alex Nelson**, engineering and construction, and his wife, **Katie**, on their marriage Jan. 4 in St. Paul, Minn.
- Congratulations **Clay Tallman**, engineering and construction, for earning his Project Management Professional, or PMP, certification.
- Congratulations **Jon Sobiech**, planning, and his wife, **Christa**, on the birth of their son, **River Atlin Sobiech**, Nov. 27, 2013. River was 7 lbs, 23 ozs., and 20 inches.



Retirements

- Russ Arneson**, internal auditor, district office.
- Gordon Bateman**, lock and dam operator, operations, La Crescent, Minn.
- Milan Gilman**, lock and dam operator, operations, Genoa Wis.
- Otis Jacobson, Jr.**, lock and dam operator, operations, Minnesota City, Minn.
- Jim Mosner**, civil engineer, engineering and construction, district office.
- Rod Pederson**, maintenance specialist, operations, Watson, Minn.
- James Putz**, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minn.
- Vern Reiter**, safety specialist, district office.
- Dave Tropple**, lockmaster operations, Minnesota City, Minn.
- Larry Ward**, lock and dam operator, operations, Hastings, Minn.

Leadership development training begins



The district's leadership development program this year encompasses executive leaders from numerous business lines within the district. From left, **Mike Knoff**, engineering and construction; **Kevin Baumgard**, operations; **Chris Atkins**, operations; **Mike Dahlquist**, engineering and construction; **Aaron Snyder**, project management; **Tamara Cameron**, regulatory; **Terry Birkenstock**, planning; **Craig Evans**, planning; and **Pete Lillie**, resource management.

Photo by Wendy Medlin

District welcomes new deputy commander

Maj. Christian A. Thompson assumed the duties of deputy district commander of the St. Paul District Jan. 6. Prior to this assignment, he was assigned to the 36th Engineer Brigade Security Forces Assistance Advisory Team as the operations and executive officer, as well as primary advisor to the 4th Brigade, 203rd Afghan National Army Corps G3 and executive officer, and senior brigade staff advisor.

Thompson hails from western Kansas and was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga., in January 1998. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, Masters of Science degrees in geology and geophysics from the University of Missouri at Rolla, and a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University.

His previous assignments include the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany where he commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion for two years, which included an operational deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. Upon leaving Germany, Thompson was assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as an engineer observer/trainer and



Maj. Christian Thompson
St. Paul District Deputy Commander

brigade special troop's battalion staff trainer. His most recent assignment was at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., where he served as the battalion executive officer of the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Gold German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency and the Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal.

Volunteering to serve

Continued from Page 13

Since the first deployee left the district to support the mission, Fairbanks said the only thing that has remained constant has been change. Deployments changed from primarily Iraq to exclusively Afghanistan; deployment durations have changed from three months to six month/one-year mandates; and deployees began leaving originally from Fort Bliss, Texas, until the development of the Corps' Deployment Center in Winchester, Va. Deployees are again departing from Fort Bliss since the Corps' Deployment Center closed in September 2013. Additional changes included building Family Readiness programs for Army civilians.

Fairbanks said there have been many

changes to the program, but St. Paul District employees have stood ready to meet the ever-changing needs of the mission. "Although funding has been in short-supply for the support of this priority program, the district has answered the call. We meet the requirements of deployment cycle support and provide deployees with a family readiness program that is supported by the generosity of the entire district."

The St. Paul District currently has five employees and two Rock Island District employees who are physically located in the St. Paul District, deployed to Afghanistan. The commitment of these individuals and all who have served both the Corps and their country are to be commended, said Fairbanks.

Engineer volunteers to promotes STEM

Jon Gustafson, engineering and construction, presented the Best Land Surveying Practices award to the Girls Scouts Dakota Horizons team from East Grand Forks, Minn., Jan. 18.

Gustafson helped judge the Future City Competition at the University of Minnesota as a technical judge.

Future City is an engineering competition for middle school students (6 to 8 grade) throughout the region. This year, more than 60 teams enrolled from North Dakota and Minnesota. The competition spans September through October, and the student teams submit multiple products, including a SimCity model, 500-word narrative of their city, a 2,000-word research essay and, finally, the competition culminates with teams submitting 50 inch x 25 inch model of their city and a presentation.