



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Quarters Boat Taggatz

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Mission

The Quarters Boat Harold E. Taggatz is one of three vessels that make up the St. Paul District's new dredging fleet. This fleet, which also includes the Dredge Goetz and the Towboat General Warren, is based out of the district's service base in Fountain City, Wis., and used to maintain 850 miles of the Upper Mississippi River and its navigable tributaries in the basin, including the Illinois River, and other rivers throughout the Midwest and southern portions of the nation. This fleet replaced the district's former dredging vessel, the self-propelled Dredge William A. Thompson and its sleeping quarters.

The Taggatz is part of the Corps' minimum fleet of 12 dredges used for self-defense and emergency dredging work. It is the only cutterhead dredge operation within the minimum fleet. There are also three dustpan dredges in the Corps' fleet, all within the Mississippi Valley Division with the remainder of the fleet consisting of ocean going dredges on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts.

History

The Corps of Engineers commissioned the building of the Taggatz in May of 2006 and awarded the contract in August of 2006 to Patti Shipyard of Pensacola, Fla. It cost approximately \$13 million to build. It arrived in the St. Paul District on July 25, 2008, after an extended delay in St. Louis awaiting flood runoff throughout the Midwest.

The vessel was named after Corps of Engineers' employee Harold E. Taggatz, who worked at the St. Paul District from 1962 to 1998. For the last 12 years of his career with the district, Taggatz served as assistant chief of the Construction-Operations Division. He was highly respected by both Corps' employees and other federal and state agency personnel for his leadership, integrity and commitment to accomplishing Corps' objectives using a balanced, environmentally acceptable approach. Taggatz had a deep concern for the quality of life and work conditions of Corps' employees at field site locations and therefore the vessel apply named. To be honored is such a way, the employee must be deceased, contributed extensively to the Corps mission and receive the approval of the Corps' Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C.

Dredge Features

The Quarters Boat Taggatz is 160 foot long and 40 foot wide and will be used to house those working on the dredging crew. It has a two-level house with living quarters for a crew of 60 and mess capability for 40 persons at one sitting. In addition, it has office space to perform administrative work and an engineering room, where all barge parameters can be monitored.

Other features include the ability to make its own potable water, Internet and e-mail access to all employees thru a satellite communication system, separate shower and restroom for each berthing room, a lounge for card playing and TV watching, an exercise room and air conditioning. Unlike the Thompson, where some staterooms had up to six bunks, there should rarely be more than two or three people in a room. With separate showers, the crew will now be able to accommodate more women crew members. It is expected that the updated living accommodations, increased horsepower of the tow boat and state-of-art operability of the dredge will allow the Corps to improve retention of crew and increase interest in dredging as a career choice.