

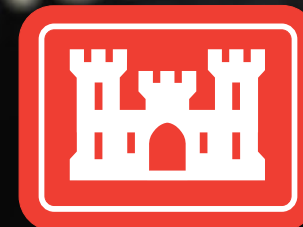
Crosscurrents

Serving the St. Paul District since 1977

Vol. 47, No. 2



In alignment with Department of Defense Instruction 5400.17 and recent Executive Orders issued by the President and orders from the U.S. Army, this content has been redacted.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

(cover) Dave Francksen, channels and harbors survey technician, stands in front of a survey vessel on the Upper Mississippi River, near La Crosse, Wisconsin, May 4. USACE photo by Patrick Moes



Crosscurrents is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published quarterly for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Articles and photography submissions are welcome. Submissions may be mailed or emailed. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. Photos should be at least 5 in. x 7 in. at 300 dpi.

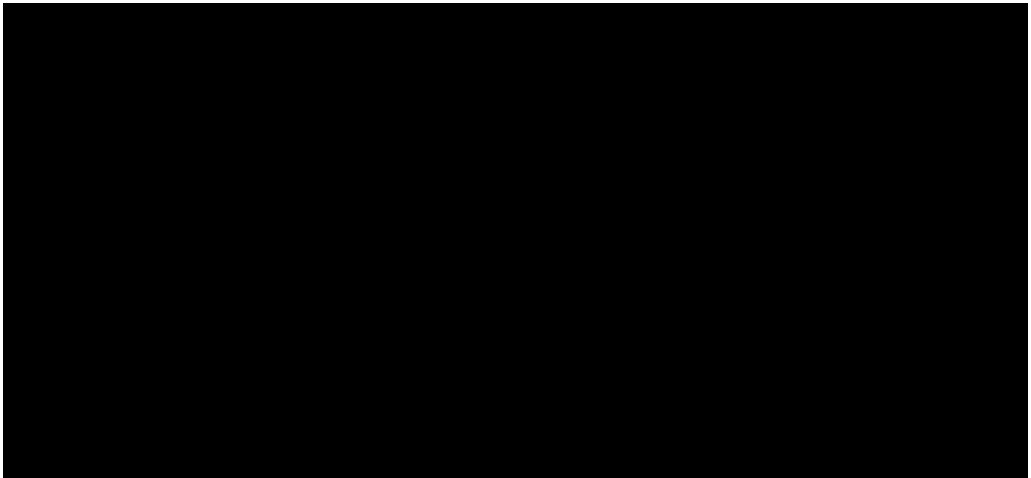
The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander’s internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders. *Crosscurrents* also serves as the commander’s primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

- District Commander | Col. Karl Jansen
- Public Affairs Chief | Shannon Bauer
- Crosscurrents* editor | Melanie Peterson
- Contributing authors | George Stringham
- | Patrick Moes
- | Elizabeth Stoeckmann
- | Nayelli Guerrero

Address all inquiries to:
Editor, *Crosscurrents*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East; Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678
(651) 290-5679 | cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil

Contents

Comments From The Top: A message from Col. Karl Jansen	3
[Redacted]	4
Altmann recognized for antiterrorism work	6
Stringham earns recognition for public affairs work	7
[Redacted]	8
[Redacted]	9
[Redacted]	11
[Redacted]	12
Moe champions safety program	14
[Redacted]	15
Civil Servants of the Year announced	16
Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP	17
Around the District	18
News and Notes	19



1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

2. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to define the objectives and goals of the project. This helps to clarify what needs to be achieved and provides a clear direction for the team.

3. The third step is to develop a plan or strategy to address the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, manageable tasks and determining the resources needed to complete each task.

4. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the strategy into action and monitoring progress regularly to ensure that the project is on track.

5. The final step is to evaluate the results of the project. This involves comparing the actual outcomes against the objectives and goals to determine the effectiveness of the project and identify areas for improvement.

[illegible]

[illegible]

1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 26

100

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

Altmann recognized for antiterrorism work

Story by Melanie Peterson

The Mississippi Valley Division selected St. Paul District security technician, Robert Altmann, for its 2020 Lt. Col. Ronald C. Francis Best Antiterrorism Program Manager Award and its 2020 Antiterrorism Honor Roll.

Altmann was nominated for his work on the St. Paul District antiterrorism program during fiscal year 2020. With an area of responsibility that stretches over 240 miles of the Mississippi River and with 41 field sites scattered across five states, Altmann's commitment to protect personnel and ensure the mission is not affected by terrorist threats has been extraordinary.

"Rob is an asset to the organization and is well-deserving of this recognition. His dedication to force protection and willingness to explore new protection methods are a credit to him and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Jeff Becker, St. Paul District chief of security and law enforcement and Altmann's supervisor.

Under Altmann's management, the St. Paul District's antiterrorism program continually exceeded expectations. St. Paul District led the Mississippi Valley Division in the execution of antiterrorism exercises, completing one hundred percent of required exercise of antiterrorism plans months before the division's regional effort to accomplish this task. Altmann also used an automated system to track and record random antiterrorism mea-

sure execution as a best practice, which is being explored for use within the division.

Altmann said, "Being selected for this award is confirmation that my predecessors, my co-workers and myself have the combined knowledge to create and deliver a first class product which can be adapted for use throughout the division."



Robert Altmann, security technician. USACE courtesy photo

Check out the updated security and law enforcement intranet page [here](#)



- In and out processing
- Foreign travel form
- Marking Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)



Stringham earns recognition for public affairs work

Story by Nayelli Guerrero

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, recently selected George Stringham, St. Paul District deputy public affairs chief, as the division's public affairs officer of the year.

The Mississippi Valley Division presents this award annually to the top public affairs officer within the division's six districts. Stringham received this award in recognition of his leadership, dedication and devotion to duty. As a public affairs specialist for the past 19 years, Stringham has helped hundreds of thousands of citizens learn more about the Corps while providing critical public safety information during numerous disasters.

Stringham's accomplishments include working closely with district leadership to keep both the public and district employees informed during the COVID-19 pandemic and making improvements to increase traffic and visibility to the district's website and social media profiles. He has also volunteered to support the Corps of Engineers at the national level by deploying in support of

Hurricane Laura recovery efforts and serving as the lead public affairs specialist at the USACE Emergency Field Office in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Additionally, he supports the Department of Defense Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness Program by assisting the Republic of Georgia in bolstering their crisis communication abilities.

"George is one of the hardest working, talented and level-headed public affairs practitioners in the business," said Shannon Bauer, St. Paul District, public affairs chief and Stringham's supervisor. "He always puts the public and his customers first. We are absolutely lucky to have him with us here at the St. Paul District!"



Maj. Gen. Diana Holland, Mississippi Valley Division Commander, presents a commander's coin to George Stringham, St. Paul District deputy public affairs chief and the Mississippi Valley Division public affairs officer of the year, Feb. 9. USACE courtesy photo



Download the
USACE WeCare app!

This app is to support the suicide / sexual assault prevention campaign.



Moe champions safety program

Story by Melanie Peterson

In addition to serving as the chief of the navigation support section, Kristin Moe also plays an important part in the St. Paul District's safety program as the Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System, or CESOHMS, champion. She will serve an integral role in preparing the district for the stage 2 closeout assessment and stage 3 baseline at the end of June.

There are three stages of CESOHMS implementation. The first stage, Moe said, focuses on the groundwork for the safety program and makes sure there are policies and process-



Kristin Moe, chief of the navigation support section and district CESOHMS champion. USACE courtesy photo

es in place in the district. The second stage ensures that processes are communicated to employees and being followed. There are six objectives (see graphic) that provide the district a framework to follow. The third stage is continuing the existing program with constant improvement and feedback, and with employees taking individual ownership for safety. "It's about creating a new culture of safety where everyone participates and everyone shares the responsibility for a successful safety program," Moe said.

As the CESOHMS champion, Moe said her role is to champion the change. "I believe that change is important and we need to communicate that to all levels of the organization," Moe said. "We need to make sure that people are accountable for their role in the change process. Part of my role is to advocate to remove obstacles that are in the way of this change."

Moe stressed that she wants employees to be engaged and involved with safety in their everyday duties. Some ways that employees can get involved include:

- Coordinating a toolbox talk for your work group
- Share information and lessons learned
- Take action to correct a hazard (ex. clean up after a spill to avoid a potential slip/fall)

- Report a hazard to the safety office (report hazards and safety issues' link on the safety intranet site [here](#))
- Provide a safety briefing to site visitors

"CESOHMS is a comprehensive program that supports us in accomplishing our missions safely," Moe said. "It empowers employees to be proactive and engage in workplace safety so we're all looking out for each other."



The six objectives of CESOHMS. USACE courtesy graphic

Civil Servants of the Year announced



Bryan Peterson
operations

LEADERSHIP

With his team, Peterson ensured continuity of operations throughout the entire 2020 navigation season, with detailed safety measures to protect our crews during the pandemic.

"It is the efforts of the entire navigation team and their accomplishments that even made it possible for me to be considered for this award. They all successfully executed COVID-19 risk mitigation measures within their work areas to assure their safety and the safety of the general public. These are truly the Civil Servants of the Year and I am honored to represent them."

Position title: Chief of navigation
Total years with the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers and federal government: 39 years this July
Previous positions: Survey technician, deckhand, dredging inspector, equipment specialist, chief of maintenance, chief of locks and dams
Education: Civil engineering program at the Winona Technical College
Hobbies: Spending time with grandkids, traveling, hunting, fishing
Residence: Houston, Minnesota



Virginia Regorrah
engineering and construction

EXCELLENCE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Regorrah expertly administered a colossal workload increase while simultaneously tripling the size of her team to posture for

current and imminent projects. Outside the office, Regorrah is a change leader and role model serving as a Girl Scout troop leader, engineering professor and recreation league sports photographer.

"It is a very humbling experience to realize that the individuals that I work with took the time to nominate me for this honor. I will strive to always be worthy of their thoughtful act."

Position title: Western area engineer
Total years with the St. Paul District: 21
Total years with the federal government: 33
Previous positions: U.S. Army engineer officer
Education: Bachelor and Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii, Master of Science in geography from the University of North Dakota and current PhD candidate in civil engineering from North Dakota State University
Hobbies: reading, photography, SCUBA diving
Residence: East Grand Forks, Minnesota



Rebecca Seal-Soileau
engineering and construction

EXCELLENCE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Seal-Soileau was critical to keeping the highly complex International Souris River plan study – involving two countries,

multiple federal, state, and provincial agencies, and the U.S. State Department – on track and continually focused on the outcome while ensuring all issues were addressed and the team came to a unified, mission-focused resolution.

"It is incredibly humbling to receive an award that really reflects the efforts of so many fantastic dedicated people working in supportive teams every day."

Position title: International Joint Commission specialist
Total years with the St. Paul District: 19
Total years with the Corps of Engineers: 27
Total years with the federal government: 28
Previous positions: Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, associate professor of geology at North Dakota State University
Education: Bachelor of Physics and PhD in geology from the University of Minnesota
Hobbies: Hiking, canoeing and kayaking
Residence: Rosemount, Minnesota

Recognizing our Employees of the Month: The MVPs of MVP



March
Andrew Buell
operations



April
Kevin Denn
*engineering and
construction*



May
Kimberly Bahls
*resource
management*



Around the District



Staff at Lock and Dam 5 near Minnesota City, Minnesota (top), and staff and volunteers at Gull Lake Recreation Area near Brainerd, Minnesota (bottom), wear their life jackets for Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day, May 21.
USACE courtesy photos



News and Notes

New Hires

Matthew Buchacker, natural resources specialist, operations, Federal Dam, Minnesota
Alex Crary, student trainee, engineering and construction, Hastings, Minnesota
Erin Fickle, park ranger, operations, Valley City, North Dakota
Landon Hill, park ranger, operations, Valley City, North Dakota
Michael Hvidhyld, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota
Sean Johnston, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Aubrey Jurgerson, park ranger, operations, De Soto, Wisconsin
Jacob Minnis, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota
Elizabeth Moriarty, attorney-adviser, office of counsel, St. Paul, Minnesota
Aaron Pieplow, safety and occupational health specialist, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Timothy Sullivan, lock and dam operator, operations, Red Wing, Minnesota
Helen Walz, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Robyn Yliniemi, safety and occupational health specialist, engineering and construction, Fargo, North Dakota

Promotions

Christina Afdahl, civil engineer, engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Scott Barr, maintenance worker, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Peter Burke, lock and dam operator, operations, La Crescent, Minnesota
Samantha Carlstrom, civil engineer (hydraulics), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Matt Clark, program manager (temporary), programs and project management, St. Paul, Minnesota
Daniel De Vaney, channel maintenance coordinator, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Stephanie Dupey, supervisory realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota
Karen Eklund, regulatory specialist, regulatory, Hayward, Wisconsin
Jason Foss, supervisory civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Rebecca Graser, supervisory biologist (temporary), regulatory, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Raelene Hegge, regulatory specialist, regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota
Joel Hermann, lock and dam operator supervisor, operations, Trempealeau, Wisconsin
John Henderson, civil engineer, engineering and construction, Winona, Minnesota
Dakota Koenig, marine machinery mechanic, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Kevin Lakey, lock and dam operator, operations, Trempealeau, Wisconsin
Katie Leslie, archeologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Paul, Minnesota
Andrew Lorenz, engineering equipment operator, operations, Fountain City, Wisconsin
Robert Maroney, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Brainerd, Minnesota
Rachel Mesko, economist, regional planning and environment division north, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Collin Moratz, biologist, regional planning and environment division north, Moline, Illinois
Marcus Patterson, secretary, operations, St. Paul, Minnesota
Ryan Price, supervisory civil engineer (geotechnical), engineering and construction, St. Paul, Minnesota
Amy Rothstein, chief of resource management, resource management, St. Paul, Minnesota
Mitchell Serjogins, lock and dam operator supervisor, operations, Alma, Wisconsin
Joseph Shoemaker, supervisory biologist (temporary), regulatory, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Jamie Simmons, project scheduler (temporary), regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri
Hunter Simonson, natural resources specialist, operations, McGregor, Minnesota
Anthony Skemp, lock and dam operator (temporary), operations, Eastman, Wisconsin
Rachel Steiger, wildlife biologist, regional planning and environment division north, St. Louis, Missouri
Denita Wesley, realty specialist, real estate, St. Paul, Minnesota
Brian Yagle, supervisory biologist (temporary), regulatory, St. Paul, Minnesota

News and Notes

Retirements

Penny Caldwell, supervisory realty specialist, retired March 14, 2021
Jeffrey Kapaun, natural resources specialist, retired April 30, 2021

Taps

Howard Saunders passed away Feb. 21, 2021. Howard had a 20 plus year career as a lock and dam operator. Howard worked on the Dredge William Thompson and is one of the workers credited with saving the life of a fellow worker after an electrical shock and cardiac arrest.

Congratulations



Jeff Becker, security and law enforcement, graduated from the Federal Outreach and Leadership Development program. This training is conducted by the Minnesota Federal Executive Board.

Nayelli Guerrero, public affairs, graduated with a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, May 16, 2021.



Trevor Kough, engineering and construction, and family welcomed a new baby, Theodore Kough

Graduating class of the Executive Leadership Development Program:

Shannon Bauer, public affairs
Chris Bowen, engineering and construction
Nate Campbell, programs and project management
Steve Clark, regional planning and environment division north
Abby Hansen, civilian advisory personnel
Corrine Hodapp, operations
Ryan Malterud, regulatory
Kristin Moe, operations
Desiree Morningstar, regulatory
Elizabeth Nelsen, engineering and construction
Alex Nelson, engineering and construction
Jim Rand, operations
Phil White, readiness operations center
Eric Wittine, engineering and construction

Selectees for the Tier II Leadership Development Program:

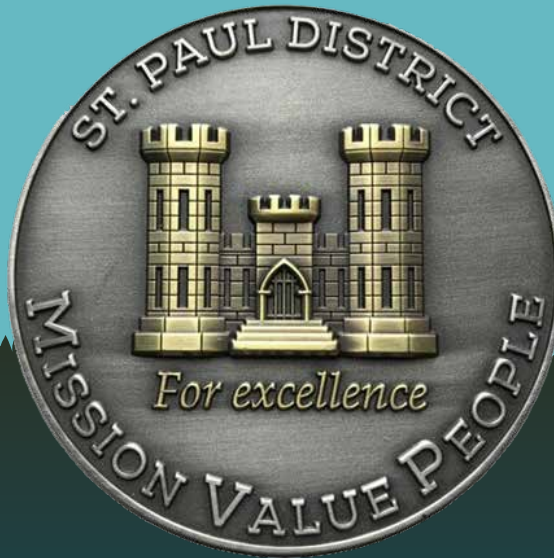
Daniel Burger, operations
Jeff Cook, operations
Sierra Keenan, regional and planning environment division north
Nancy Komulainen-Dillenburg, regulatory
Erin Krug, engineering and construction
Nathan Meisgeier, engineering and construction
Dan Mielke, engineering and construction
Gloria Penaloza, real estate
Michelle Prosser, programs and project management
Bryanna Sauer, resource management
Joey Shoemaker, regulatory
Brian Yagle, regulatory



— 2021 —



SUMMER AWARDS





COLONEL'S MESSAGE

Team MVP,

[REDACTED] is more than a slogan, it's a value and philosophy emphasizing the fact that people are central to all we do. We can only accomplish our vital mission by attracting, training, resourcing, developing, and retaining a capable and cohesive team of talented professionals who

embody the Army values. Stated another way, our people are everything, and without them we are nothing.

This publication recognizes exceptional service and achievements from our talented and dedicated teammates over the past year and in some cases over several decades in the public sector.

In the Army, winning matters. In the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Winning is delivering quality projects on time and within budget, safely." As you turn the pages of this awards book, you'll clearly recognize that our people transcended the COVID-19 pandemic and found a way to win and to help others win. This "can-do" spirit is emblematic of the Corps of Engineers and everyone can be rightfully proud.

From disaster response, to time in service, to functional area expertise, the awardees we are recognizing this summer certainly exemplify the St. Paul District Guiding Principles and our mantra of Mission, Value, and [REDACTED]

I commend all our supervisors and staff who invested time to recognize the contributions of those around them, those who invested their time and talents to produce this amazing book, and I salute all who went the extra mile to serve with distinction. Well done!

It is a true honor to serve alongside all of you ... thanks for all you do and thanks for staying MVP!

~ COL J



Messages from our Senior Leaders

3



From U.S. Army Maj. Timothy Shebesta -

I am only able to spend a short time with the St. Paul District, but it has been a great experience working with you all. Although I will likely never meet most of you face to face, you have taught me a lot about how the district operates and how important all the various roles in the district are. It is remarkable to see how hundreds of people, working on dozens of very different tasks, all come together to make the district operate smoothly. Most importantly, I am impressed with your strength and resiliency to rise above the changing ways of virtual work environments through the pandemic phases. Thank you for welcoming me to the district and allowing me the opportunity to learn from you to empower me to be a better USACE leader. Keep up the good work!

From Kevin Wilson -

First, I need to diverge from the standard message. It's SUMMER in the Midwest! What a great time of year! Midwest summers make even the worst winters tolerable. Over the past 16 months, we have become accustomed to USACE WebEx, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Go To Meeting, Google Classroom, VPN and a host of other programs in our professional and personal lives. Terms like: "you are double muted" "can you hear me now ... how about now?" "your camera isn't on" "we might have a bad connection" have been all too common. Yet, we have endured, we have learned a lot and continue to eagerly face new challenges. I am proud of everyone. We work together as a team, we coordinate and communicate with our partners, and our stakeholders and congressional delegation continue to be appreciative of our "can do" attitude. Everyone's drive and commitment to deliver the program, be wise stewards of the public trust, stay safe, and be considerate of others, all personify the Army values. Thank You! I am looking forward to the next few months as we start to regather, to move the district headquarters to a new location and as an organization to move forward with the future in mind. I appreciate all you have done and sincerely wish you a productive, enjoyable, and safe summer ahead. Great job!!



From Michael Bart -

District Family: I continue to be humbled and amazed at your flexibility and determination to serve our country in the myriad of missions that St. Paul District executes. We are in a unique period of our history that will likely have continued influence on how we do our work in the future. You have demonstrated commitment, resourcefulness, and a "can-do" attitude on a daily basis. I personally thank you for your contributions and dedication! You exemplify public service and the best we as a team can be.

From Terry Birkenstock -

Thanks to all of you for continuing to pull together to get us through this challenging period in our history. It has felt like a giant experiment over the past year with the pandemic. As a learning organization, we will try to retain the best practices we discovered and eliminate the things that are not working. Thanks for continuously sharing your perspectives on that and also on how we can build the best and most effective "workplace" of the future. Change is constant and there is certainly more in store for us over the next year, but you have proven to be agile, flexible, and productive no matter what gets put in your way. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Corps.



Messages from our Senior Leaders

4



From Tamara Cameron -

Gratitude. That is the one word that comes to mind as I think about our MVP team and what we have accomplished this past year. Together, we have weathered quite a storm of change in both our personal and professional lives, adapting to rapidly changing conditions while accomplishing our many missions. As I traveled around the district, I saw examples everywhere of collaboration among many disciplines of operations, engineering, planning, and environmental stewardship that have collectively contributed to the betterment of our sites and our service to the public.

I am grateful for the sacrifices many made to prepare for the busy season ahead. I encourage all of our individual work units to take some time to celebrate our collective achievements and to appreciate each other. As always, please stay safe at work and at home and continue to look out for one another.

From John Carrell -

I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous work that was accomplished by the MVP Team. This past year was a testament to our resilience and commitment to each other and the mission. I am honored to be a part of such an outstanding organization, and I look forward to continued excellence as we deliver the program while also taking care of each other. We know there will be challenges ahead but together we will overcome all obstacles.



From Chad Konickson -

Thank you Team MVP! I'm awed and inspired by the resilience and adaptability everyone has shown over the last 15 months. Seeing the dedication to our many missions, despite unprecedented challenges, reminds me why it's such a privilege to serve alongside you. I'm excited that this summer represents our transition to a new and improved state, made better by the lessons of the last year, and shaped by our collective commitment to our most valuable asset – each other. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer!

From Amy Rothstein -

MVP team members: I am proud to be a part of this great organization with outstanding employees. Your dedication to accomplishing the mission while taking care of yourself and others is commendable. While we may not have envisioned this year to include the added challenges brought upon us by COVID-19, we were able to adapt, persevere, embrace new technologies, and expand our communication platforms with others. I appreciate the hard work of all MVP employees to ensure we succeeded in our endeavors.



Messages from our Senior Leaders

5



From Kevin Sommerland -

Our annual summer awards ceremony affords us an opportunity to step back and acknowledge the contributions of TEAM MVP. It is through your dedication and commitment to excellence that we continue to be viewed as an elite district among many. As I have traveled to various projects throughout the district and engaged with district office employees, I am amazed by your level of enthusiasm and technical expertise demonstrated on a daily basis. Take pride in your personal accomplishments and continue to safely enjoy the summer season and all the recreational opportunities the upper Midwest has to offer.



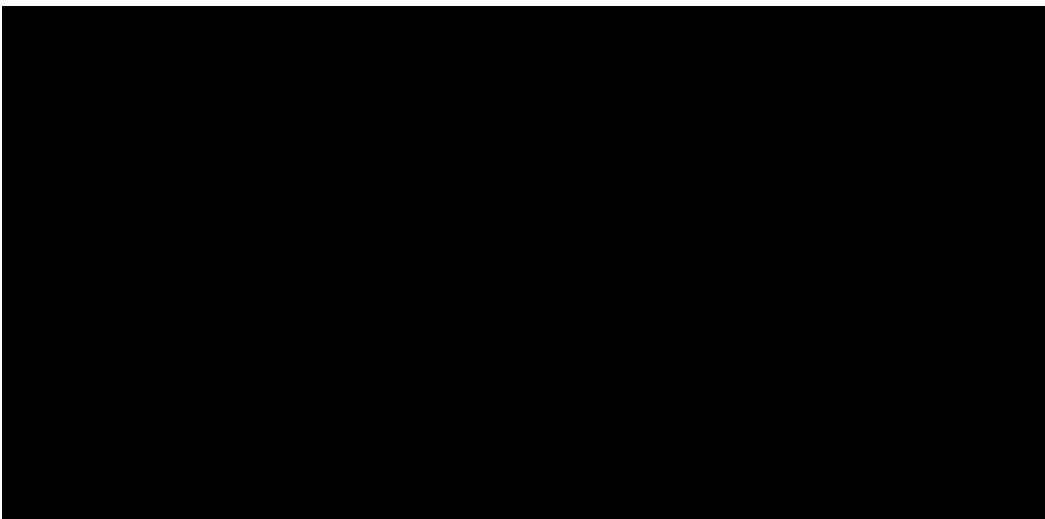
A circular medal with a red, white, and blue ribbon. The medal features an illustration of three towers and the text "ST. PAUL DISTRICT" at the top, "MISSION VALUE PEOPLE" around the bottom, and "For excellence" in the center.

MISSION
committed to successfully deliver our program

VALUE
passionate about using our expertise to serve others

PEOPLE
dedicated to our inspired and professional workforce

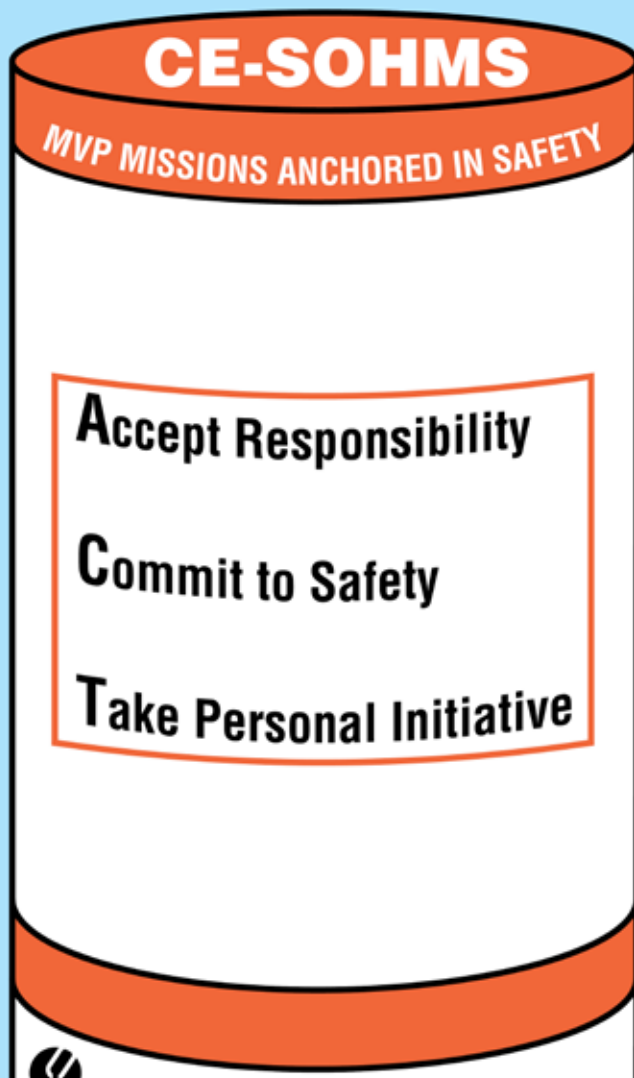
DRIVEN to be a
WORLD-CLASS
DISTRICT
THAT DELIVERS
for our
Workforce, Partners,
Region, Enterprise,
and Nation
by **BUILDING STRONG**



SAFETY is our Priority



7



MVP MISSIONS ANCHORED IN SAFETY

Accept Responsibility

Commit to Safety

Take Personal Initiative



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

YOU NEED TO ACT!

Accept Responsibility

- Know your PHA's/
AHA's
- Anticipate Hazards
- Share Lessons
Learned

Commit to Safety

- Learn Safety
Standards
- Promote Safe
Behavior
- Recognize Safe
Actions

Take Personal Initiative

- Report Safety
Concerns
- Identify Improvements
- Eliminate Unsafe
Practices

Executive Leader Development Program

8



Shannon Bauer



Chris Bowen



Nate Campbell



Steve Clark



Abby Hansen



Corrine Hodapp



Ryan Malterud



Kristin Moe



Desiree Morningstar



Elizabeth Nelsen



Alex Nelson



Jim Rand



Phil White

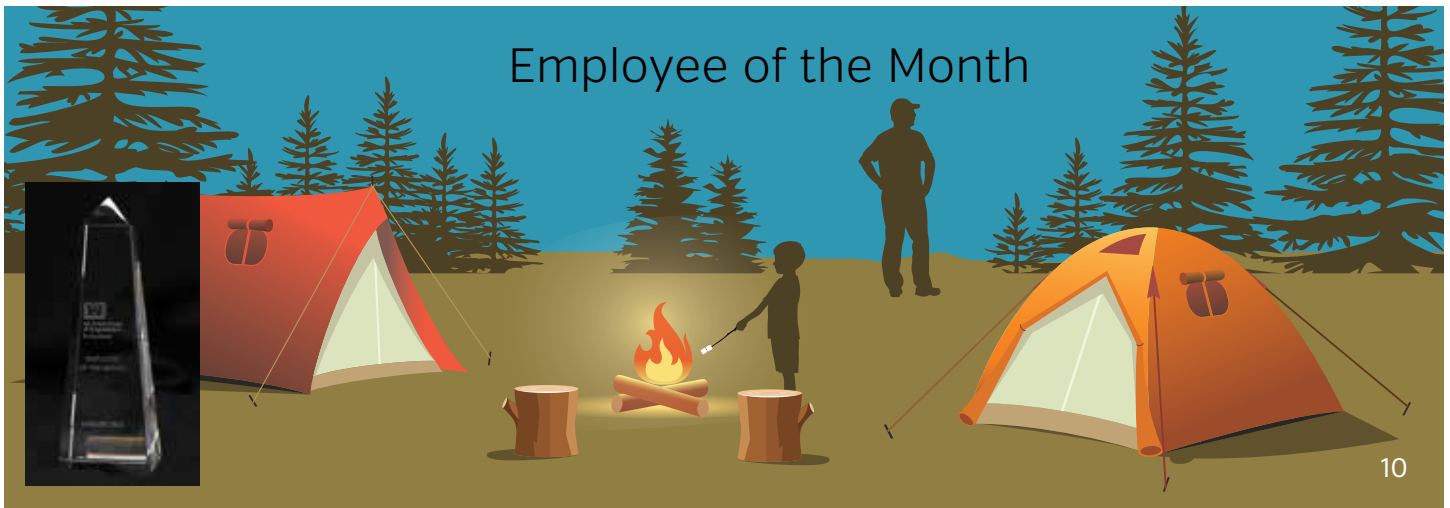


Eric Wittine

I applied for the executive leadership development program as an opportunity to continue my leadership self-awareness as I work to advance my professional career. I am incredibly thankful that the St. Paul District offers such programs, and more importantly, allows civilian human resource agency employees to take part in the program. Although our class ended up meeting in a virtual environment, I feel I gained another amazing cohort of leaders to call friends, coworkers and mentors. I look forward to using what I learned as my career progresses forward. ~ Abby Hansen



My leadership journey has culminated in the realization for me that I learn best by immersing myself in books, podcasts and videos and take little nuggets of leadership gold that work for me. St. Paul District's leadership development program is an awesome place to get lots of leadership nuggets while also building relationships with other colleagues who have a passion for leadership and learning more about yourself. ~ Ryan Malterud



Individuals are nominated by their coworkers for the work/tasks they complete while at work. The nominations are gathered and verified by EEO, CPAC and their supervisor. All nominations that are cleared by EEO, CPAC and supervisor are sent to the Employee of the Month selection committee and the committee selects one individual for the month. If an individual is not selected, their nomination is forwarded to the following month because the nomination is valid for a total of six months.



Kulah Dukuly
January



Ted Hecht
February



Andrew Buell
March



Kevin Denn
April



Kimberly Bahls
May



Christine Afdahl
June

Other District Recognition



11



U.S. Army Capt. Joshua Baida
Passed the Professional
Engineer Exam



Wade Carr
Passed the Professional
Engineer Exam



Nayelli Guerrero
Bachelor of Arts from the
University of Minnesota



Marie Kopka
Lean Six Sigma Green Belt



Erin Krug
Officer Commission to the
U.S. Navy Reserve



Cherrie Law
Masters of Accountancy
Degree from Rutgers
University



Kacie Opat
Passed the Professional
Engineer Exam



Samuel Smith
Project Management
Professional



Elizabeth Stoeckmann
Certified Knowledge
Manager

Other District Recognition



12



Kimberly Warshaw
Project Management
Professional



Commissioned as
U.S. Army 2nd Lt.
Cameron Tomczyk



Other District Recognition

13

These individuals were critical to the channel closure response and successful reopening of the Mississippi River navigation channel in pool 4 between June 3 and June 6, 2021. Working collectively as a team, these individuals supported the movement of the grounded vessel and barges out of the area, mobilized dredging assets, surveyed the area and processed the data, coordinated with industry and environmental partners, identified the placement and cut layout, dredged the channel, and reset the buoys. This team effort by staff from the Dredge Goetz, channels and harbors, maintenance and repair and the physical support branch was critical in reestablishing navigation as quickly as possible while maintaining the safety of the entire team.



Luke Anderson



Noah Andow



Craig Bauer



Joe Bernaix



Jake Bernhardt



Matt Boberg



Tony Broxson



Eric Carlson



Dan Cottrell



Ryan Danielson



Dan De Vaney



Brady Dehnke



Kaleb Doerr



Dalton Eide



Dave Francksen



Channing Helgeson



Danny Hentges



Chris Hill



Jacob Jandl



Brandon Johnson



Dakota Koening



Mike Kouba



Brian Krause



Kaden Lisowski



Adrian Loewenhagen



Andrew Lorenz



Nick Lorenz



Adam Loven



Matt McFarlin



Jon Miller



Joel Miller-Oates



Matt Mohlke



Matt Platteter



Josh Przybylla



Matt Rolbiecki

Other District Recognition

14

These individuals were critical to the channel closure response and successful reopening of the Mississippi River navigation channel in pool 4 between June 3 and June 6, 2021. Working collectively as a team, these individuals supported the movement of the grounded vessel and barges out of the area, mobilized dredging assets, surveyed the area and processed the data, coordinated with industry and environmental partners, identified the placement and cut layout, dredged the channel, and reset the buoys. This team effort by staff from the Dredge Goetz, channels and harbors, maintenance and repair and the physical support branch was critical in reestablishing navigation as quickly as possible while maintaining the safety of the entire team.



Dale Rud



Jason Schieffer



Kurt Schroeder



Mike Seibel



Logan Skoug



Langston Spencer



Bart Spriggle



Chris Stai



Kris Taverna



Dan Teigen



Al Vanguilder





Federal Executive Board Civil Servant of the Year Nominees

15

Nominations for Civil Servant of the Year are for current employees who have distinguished themselves by sustained, superior performance, special acts, community service or other noteworthy contributions during the previous calendar year. Nominations may be based on the employee's contributions at work, outside work, or both.



Matt Clark



Nancy Komulainen-Dillenburg



Jake Fall



Troy Frank



Faye Healy



Richard Schueneman



Jim Sentz



George Stringham



Clay Tallman



Theresa Thury



Vinai Vinlander

Federal Executive Board Award

16



Bryan Peterson **Civil Servant of the Year - Leadership**

As navigation business line manager for the Mississippi River between the Twin Cities and Gutenberg, Iowa, Bryan expertly led his team of 250 employees to ensure ongoing commercial navigation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The navigation mission supports a multibillion-dollar industry that depends on continuous operation of 12 locks and dams, and maintenance of 240 miles of river channel through surveying and dredging. With his team, Bryan ensured continuity of operations throughout the entire 2020 navigation season, with detailed safety measures to protect our crews during the pandemic. He relied upon strong industry and agency partnerships, as well as a high level of trust and credibility, to overcome significant challenges and maintain a vital public service to our region and to the Nation.

-nominated by Tamara Cameron

Virginia Regorrah **Civil Servant of the Year - Excellence Beyond Expectations**

Virginia is commended for her exemplary service and diehard commitment to the Western Area Office. Virginia expertly administered a colossal workload increase while simultaneously tripling the size of her team to posture for current and imminent projects. Additionally, she displayed genuine dedication to her staff in developing an internal training program to improve their technical competencies, boost workplace confidence, and establish a self-sustaining high level of morale. Outside the office, Virginia is a change leader and role model serving as a Girl Scout troop leader, engineering professor and recreation league sports photographer.

-nominated by Christian Bowen



Rebecca Seal-Soileau **Civil Servant of the Year - Excellence Beyond Expectations**

Rebecca is recognized as a Civil Servant of the Year in the "Excellence Beyond Expectations Award" for the U.S. Army core values she exemplified through her work as the U.S. alternate co-chair for the International Souris River Plan of Study Team. Rebecca was critical to keeping the highly complex study involving two countries, multiple federal, state, and provincial agencies, and the U.S. State Department on track and continually focused on the outcome while ensuring all issues were addressed and the team came to a unified, mission-focused resolution. Rebecca broke barriers while mediating through controversial issues that ultimately formed long-term partnerships at the international, national and local levels.

-nominated by Michelle Larson



Jeff Becker

Graduated Federal Outreach and Leadership Development (FOLD)

Mission Statement

To serve as a premier inter agency leadership program by which we develop and support future leaders to deliver exceptional results in a dynamic environment. Program Objectives include developing oral and written communication skills, providing mentorship/coaching, driving positive change, developing critical thinking, assessing talent and performance, assessing self, team-building, maximizing business relationships, embracing diversity, and managing up in your organization

About FOLD

The Federal Outreach and Leadership Development (FOLD) Program is a program created to assist in the development of future federal executive leaders and to address projected leadership vacancies brought on by retirements. This program is unique in that it is designed for federal participants and is offered to all federal employees through an application process. Participants of this program will interact with local executives, visit local agencies, work in groups, refine their writing and speaking skills, share information and explore unique challenges faced and addressed by federal leaders in Minnesota. The program is self-managed and participant driven.





Vanessa Alberto



Lucas Anderson



Mark Angelo



Theresa Gant-Gaines



Abby Hansen



Kevin Hanson



Joel Hermann



Adam Howard



Craig Jarrot



Christopher Laine



Christopher Laine



Robert Wachholz





Charles Boyd



Tim Hermann



Jessica Kempke



Ashley Kiley



Robert Maroney



Kristin Moe



Rachel Perrine



Jonathan Peters



Thomas Rohrer



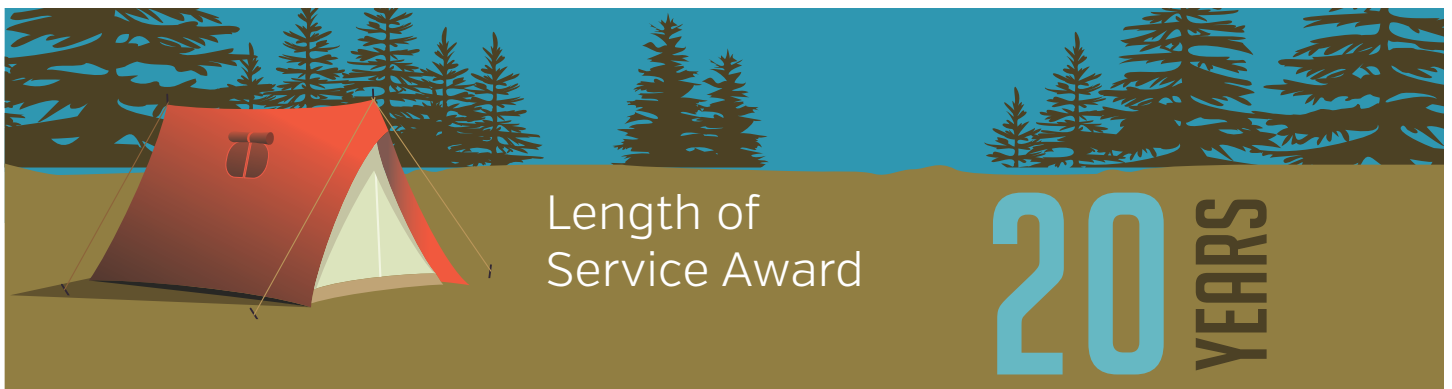
Matthew
Stanton



Clay Tallman



Kay White



Lowell Moline





Michelle Kniep



Ilona Moen



Angelita Phipps



Cherie Price





Tamara Cameron



Jodi Creswell



John Perry



Sue Robinson





Christine Afdahl



Terry Birkenstock



Jon Hendrickson



Kenneth Mertes



Retirements

23



Mark Hogeboom
Writer/Editor
January 2, 2021



Don Brantner
Lock and Dam 2
January 16, 2021



Bruce McFarlin
Dredge Goetz
February 26, 2021



Penny Caldwell
Real Estate
March 13, 2021



Steve Eggers
Regulatory
March 31, 2021



Greg Larson
Regulatory
March 31, 2021



Duane Isle
Logistics
April 30, 2021



Jeff "Goose" Kapaun
Lake Ashtabula
Recreation
April 30, 2021



Timm Rennecke
Leech Lake Recreation
May 31, 2021



Michael Bart
Engineering and
Construction
June 30 2021



Piloting Innovative Risk Assessment Efforts Awards

24



Grant Riddick

Certificate of Achievement

Riddick provided his geologic expertise and senior leadership to help make the Winona levee risk assessment a success. Riddick is always willing to help facilitate the discussion for risk efforts and help push the team toward finding consensus on the best estimate of risk. He is an effective communicator within the cadre and always goes out of his way to promote discussion from local sponsors and less experienced district personnel, as was the case for the Winona risk assessment.

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Each awardee is commended for exemplary service to the St. Paul District and to the nation for their invaluable contributions to the innovative risk assessment work performed by the St. Paul District dam and levee risk cadre. With their leadership, technical expertise and dedication to supporting the cadre's risk workload, the cadre was able to successfully provide critical risk-informed decisions for the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay coastal storm risk management project, time-sensitive recommendations for levee accreditation for the Winona levee system and provide the first comprehensive risk assessment for a Mississippi River and tributaries levee system at the Commerce levee. Their commitment to service and technical quality reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Army.



Theresa Gant-Gaines



Tim Grundhoffer



Jeff McGrath



Alex Nelson



Ryan Price



Colin Riddick



Greg Wachman



International Souris River Plan Awards

25

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Each awardee is commended for their exemplary service to the St. Paul District and to the nation for their individual contributions to the International Souris River plan. Each team member's willingness to step into any project and find a path forward led to a successful outcome of the plan formulation phase of the study. The awardees' dedication to the project and loyalty to the team reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.



Patrick Dowd



Scott Jutila



Michelle Larson



Kacie Opat



Abby Moore



Kim Warshaw



International Souris River Plan Awards

26

Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Each awardee is commended for their exemplary service to the St. Paul District and to the nation for their individual contributions to the International Souris River plan. Each team member's willingness to step into any project and find a path forward led to a successful outcome of the plan formulation phase of the study. The awardees' dedication to the project and loyalty to the team reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.



Garrett Blomstrand



Brett Hultgren



Chanel Mueller



Mitch Weier



Elizabeth Nelsen



International Souris River Plan Awards

27

Meritorious Medal for Civilian Service

The awardees are commended for their exemplary service to the St. Paul District and to the nation for their individual contributions to the International Souris River plan. Each team member's willingness to step into any project and find a path forward led to a successful outcome of the plan formulation phase of the study. The awardees' dedication to the project and loyalty to the team reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.



Michael Bart



Rebecca Seal-Soileau





Hurricane Laura Response

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Each awardee is commended for their invaluable service to our nation. The awardees served as vital members of the district's response to Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Each team member volunteered to deploy during the National COVID-19 pandemic, working hand-in-hand with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State of Louisiana and several local agencies to assist local survivors. Following landfall as a Category 4 hurricane near Cameron, Louisiana, on August 27, 2020, the team worked in five parishes, to assist FEMA's recovery efforts. The awardees dedication and selfless service reflect great credit upon themselves, the St. Paul District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.



James Adank



Terri Alberico



Mark Angelo



Nicole Baker



Craig Bauer



Arlan Baukol



Travis Burrier



Eric Carlson



Bill Chelmowski



Christine Craig



Ryan Danielson



Keith Davenport



John Dehnke



Maria Delaundreau



Dwight Deloney



Patrick Dowd



Michael Farone



Samantha Fink



David Francksen



Susan Funke

Hurricane Laura Response

29



Jay Grimsled



Joe Gurin



Jeffrey Hallam



Shane
Hargreaves



Amy Heffernan



Jamie Hill



Chris Hill



Noah Jenneman



Yevette'e Jordan



Dan Kelner



David Keune



Ashley Kiley



Billie Jo Korpall



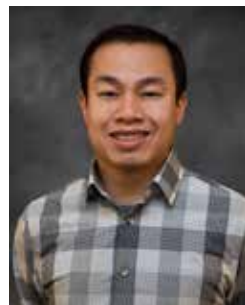
Kristin
Kosterman



Chris Laine



Curt Larsen



Alex Le



Eric Lockington



Ray Marinan



Todd Martenson

Hurricane Laura Response

30



Curt Marty



Jamie Mercer



Brent Meyer



Matthew Mohlke



Abby Moore



Clarence Mrozek



Vincent Ngov



BJ Nissalke



Brandon Olson



Nathan
Osmundson



Larry Puchalski



Daniel Reburn



Chad Rethwisch



Darold
Sanderson



Zachary Santjer



Bill Schmidt



Jim Sentz



Megan Severson



Hunter Simonson



Anthony Skemp

Hurricane Laura Response

31



Logan Skoug



Chad Stellpflug



George Stringham



Jerry Stussy



Jonathan Sundquist



Susanna Tsolakov



Gordon Tufte



Angela Wall



Shawn Weissenflugh



Doyle Wilkins



Gary Wolf



Ashley Woods



Tammy Wick





Hurricane Laura Response

Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Each awardee is commended for their invaluable service to our nation. The awardees served as vital members of the district's response to Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Each team member volunteered to deploy during the National COVID-19 pandemic, working hand-in-hand with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State of Louisiana and several local agencies to assist local survivors. Following landfall as a Category 4 hurricane near Cameron, Louisiana, on August 27, 2020, the team worked in five parishes, to assist FEMA's recovery efforts. The awardees dedication and selfless service reflect great credit upon themselves, the St. Paul District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.



Chris Botz



Christine Davis



Eric Dykman



Kristen Fairbanks



Jeff Ferguson



Jason Hager



Eric Hammer



Andrew Huffman



Sean Kelly



Zach Kimmel



Emily Kostner



Jane Mathison

Hurricane Laura Response

33



Jeff McCullick



Bonnie Meyerhoff



Paul Morken



Chris Olson



Brad Perkl



Zachary Rogers



Bryan Sprang



Susan Taylor



Randy Urich



Alan VanGuilder



Kory Warrington



Phil White



District Level Award

34



Jesse Scott Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for Jesse Scott for actions he took on February 4, 2021 to assist a motorist with a medical condition. Because of his commitment, integrity and actions while on duty, Jesse quickly rendered potentially life-saving aid during a critical medical emergency. Accordingly, for dedicated service to the Corps and a willingness to help others in need, Jesse is nominated for the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.



Nancy Komulainen-Dillenburg Regulator of the Year

Nancy Komulainen-Dillenburg is the regulatory division's regulator of the year. She is recognized for her sustained and superior commitment to listening and responding to concerns from federally recognized tribes about regulatory actions. Nancy has engaged openly, honestly and frequently with consulting tribes on multiple complex actions in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She has led and facilitated meetings with tribes, where she readily shares information, listens respectfully with intent to understand and answers questions directly and honestly while also showing empathy and compassion. Her efforts have provided opportunities for tribes to engage meaningfully in the identification of cultural resources and led to project modifications to avoid or minimize impacts to important tribal resources. Nancy is unfailing in her commitment to engage with tribes, and her actions every day enhance our organization's ability to accomplish our mission and uphold our responsibility to meaningfully consult with tribes about our actions. Nancy is recognized for her commitment, integrity and leadership in the regulatory program!



Joe Jordan Rock Island District's Professional Occupation Employee of the Year Award

For outstanding dedication and exceptional service, Joseph Jordan is awarded the 2020 Rock Island District Employee of the Year in the professional occupations category. Joe has long provided outstanding environmental compliance leadership on Rock Island District projects as both a senior biologist and regional technical specialist. This includes endangered species act management, emergency dredging, flood protection, and water level management with habitat restoration projects. Joe Jordan is valued across the nation as a National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] technical reviewer and with each review he enhances the MVR reputation of NEPA excellence. Joe regularly volunteers to take on other jobs, where he believes he can help, such as serving on the Alternate Care Facility Site Assessments team supporting COVID-19 care facilities. His enthusiasm is infectious as newer team members eagerly seek out his mentorship on NEPA compliance and project execution. Joe's

technical expertise and reputation has culminated with the successful completion of the South-Central Coast Louisiana Project Environmental Impact Statement and Integrated Feasibility Report. Joe led the MVN environmental planning product delivery team virtually from MVR and quickly established efficient working relationships with MVN personnel and stakeholders from the region. His outstanding leadership and technical acumen ensured the project complied with environmental laws and regulations as well as every environmental planning project milestone. Joe's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of civil service and reflects highly upon him, the Rock Island District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nationwide Permit Team – Dedication to Duty

The Nationwide Permit, or NWP, team achieved exceptional results during the 2020/2021 NWP reevaluation. These important permits are developed nationally and evaluated by the district to determine if they will be issued, further conditioned, or revoked, based on regional needs. That evaluation requires timely and robust coordination with states and tribes, including soliciting and evaluating complex and wide-ranging water quality certification decisions. The results of this effort were extraordinary given the aggressive, out-of-cycle schedule, the implementation of new, controversial regulations, frequent schedule accelerations and evolving guidance. The team preserved important state and tribal relationships through very sensitive and volatile consultations, and thorough horizontal and vertical coordination. The exceptional outcome reflects the team's professionalism, integrity, adaptability, and commitment to transparency.



Meghan Brown



Maria DeLaundreau



Todd Vesperman



Sam Woboril

Division Level Award

36



Eastern Area Office

Conway Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project Superior Safety Performance 2020

This project is recognized for its superior safety performance. The Area Office Quality Assurance team and contractor team exhibited outstanding management and safety awareness working over 22,500 hours resulting in ZERO lost time incidents.



Tom Johnson



Scott Baker



Todd DeCosse



Bill Grinde



Calvin Halverson



John Henderson



Jackson Hoffman



Anthony Horacek



Bonnie Meyerhoff



Chris Settles



Kaleb Tweite



Christina Vasseur

Division Level Award

37



George Stringham

Mississippi Valley Division Public Affairs Officer of the Year

The Mississippi Valley Division presents this award annually to the top public affairs officer within the division's six districts. George received this award in recognition of his leadership, dedication and devotion to duty. As a public affairs specialist for the past 19 years, George has helped hundreds of thousands of citizens learn more about the Corps while providing critical public safety information during numerous disasters.

George's accomplishments include working closely with district leadership to keep both the public and district employees informed during the COVID-19 pandemic and making improvements to increase traffic and visibility to the district's website and social media profiles. He has also volunteered to support the Corps of Engineers at the national level by deploying in support of Hurricane Laura recovery efforts and serving as the lead public affairs

specialist at the USACE Emergency Field Office in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Additionally, he supports the Department of Defense Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness Program by assisting the Republic of Georgia in bolstering their crisis communication abilities.

Chris Botz

MVD Civil Responder of the Year

Chris Botz was selected as the Mississippi Valley Division's Civil Responder of the Year for his exceptional leadership, dedication to duty and selfless service. He deployed for 50 days to support Hurricane Laura recovery efforts during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Chris performed at a high level as the technical monitor team leader, establishing himself as an individual that can be relied upon to accomplish every task. Chris was singled out on several occasions for excellence by both Federal Emergency Management Agency and Corps leaders. Chris showed outstanding leadership under pressure during his deployment in support of Hurricane Laura, when his team found themselves in the path of Hurricane Delta. Chris developed and orchestrated an evacuation plan and got his teams to a safe location.



Division Level Award

38



Jon Miller

2021 Operations and Maintenance Castle Award Nomination

Jon Miller is officially commended for demonstrating the highest standards and Army values in operations and maintenance, customer service, safety and professionalism. Jon's positive impacts on his team and the dredge Goetz operation are a testament to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers values. Jon's work performance has shown him to be a valuable asset to the federal government. It is with great pride that I recognize his dedication, outstanding achievements and contributions. For his efforts and impacts, Jon is awarded the Operations and Maintenance Castle Award in recognition of his service to the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Headquarters Level Award



Melanie Peterson

2nd Place USACE Civilian Writer of the Year 2020 Herbert A. Kassner Communication Competition

Awardees submitted a broad selection of products that showcased their work, and the command, in a creative and professional manner.





