



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Locking through at
Mississippi River
mile 679.2

We are all part of public affairs

By Mark Davidson

We are halfway through the fiscal year and coming up on the beginning of the summer. The Corps of Engineers is still doing lots of good things for the American people from navigation to recreation to homeland security to environmental restoration to disaster response. As an employee, you are involved in one or more of these missions that help make America work.

There are three facets of public affairs, including external and internal information and community relations, that we are each involved in as well. As I've said before, "We are all part of the public affairs team."

External information involves communicating with the American public, our customers. Most often,

we reach the public through the media. Talking with the media should be seen as an opportunity to send our message out to the public. If you have a story to tell and you think the public might be interested, please contact public affairs for help in connecting with the media.

When the media contacts you first, don't talk off the cuff. You will do a much better job communicating your message, if you take a few moments to figure

If you have a story to tell and you think the public might be interested, please contact public affairs for help in connecting with the media.

out what your message is. Contact public affairs before doing the interview, and we can help you formulate your thoughts into meaningful sound bites.

Additionally, we can help train you to do a better interview.

External information also involves answering public queries, keeping our website up-to-date and sending out public notices and newsletters to name a few. We must always strive to get the word out about the Corps and present the good things we are doing to the public.

Internal information involves keeping the communication flowing between Corps' employees, both up and down and side to side. The most visible way the district does this is by publishing a monthly newsletter, *Crosscurrents*. When you have a story to tell, send public affairs your articles and photos.

Just remember, news always focuses on people. We want to hear how what you are doing affects people. We want photos of

people.

Additionally, to find out the most current district and Corps' news, check out the intranet news page at <https://mvpiis/news/>. News is usually posted as it happens. Staying in the know will help you represent the Corps in a positive manner.

Community relations involves all the speeches, tours and public presentations we do, as well as our various interactions with our stakeholders, such as local chambers of commerce, community governments and more. Try and be creative in 2004, time and money permitting. The more we involve ourselves with our community, the more we become a part of it. Contact public affairs first, before you agree to participate, to gather input and feasibility.

Cover



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Daniel Boone locks through a tow boat at Lock and Dam 8, located on Mississippi River mile 679.2 near Genoa, Wis. Boone and his co-workers performed 2,124 commercial lockages in 2003, including 8,548 loaded barges and 3,934 empty barges. Total tonnage was 13,160,824.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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Photo by Francis Schanilec

Ice bridge on river spares schools and neighborhood

Trucking 300,000 cubic yards of fill across ice saves three months

By Virginia Regorrah
East Grand Forks Resident Office

When the contractor approached the East Grand Forks, Minn., Resident Office in December and told the Corps' representatives that the company wanted to haul clay across the river, the first reaction was nonchalant: "How else does the clay get from a borrow source on one side of the river to the other without crossing the river?"

No one in the resident office raised an eyebrow until they realized the contractor literally

meant crossing the river ice with 30-ton trucks – without using the Louis Murray Bridge.

R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., the earth-moving subcontractor on East Grand Forks levees phase three project, decided to use an innovative ice road to transport and stockpile material in advance of the spring construction start-up.

"We thought this made a lot of sense," said John Zavoral, secretary/treasurer for R.J. Zavoral & Sons. "Every dump truck load of material we can haul across the river while it's frozen is one less dump truck that will be driving through the residential streets in the spring and summer."

Engineers in the East Grand Forks, Minn., resident office, soon recognized the value in the proposal. The levees in phase three are in the backyards of the residents in the Maplewood Addition of East Grand Forks. In order to truck material from the

Virginia Regorrah, resident engineer, and Dave Zavoral, R.J. Zavoral & Sons monitor a 30-ton dump truck crossing on 22-inch thick ice on the Red River of the North at East Grand Forks, Minn.

identified borrow areas, the contractor would have to haul on roads directly fronting a middle school, an elementary school and three to four dozen homes.

Aside from minimizing the amount of dirt and dust, which blankets an area during haul operations, it will minimize the number of 30-ton dump trucks rumbling by homes and schools.

"This is literally a win-win-win situation," said Greg Bopppe, East Grand Forks city engineer. "The residents win because this minimizes the trucks on their roads; the city wins because the roads won't experience the deterioration normally associated with hauling; and the contractor wins because he can stage the

Ice bridge, continued Page 8

2004 Civil Servants of the Year

By Shannon Bauer



St. Paul District photos

John Fisher

Position Title: Landscape architect;

Duties: Site and recreation design, planning, interpretive design, special graphics;

Years at Corps: 12;

Previous Positions: Construction surveyor, Utah and Minnesota;

Education: Graduate, University of Minnesota, College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture;

Hobbies: Reading, photography, orchids, gardening.

Residence: 12 years in North Hudson, Wis.;

Family: Wife, three children and an ornery tomcat;

Comments: "I feel privileged to work for the Corps, at a job and profession that contributes significantly to peoples lives. I work across the entire five-state boundaries of the St. Paul District on a fascinating variety of jobs with a great group of people. This award is very special in that the people I work with are extremely dedicated civil servants – professionals in every sense of the word. To be picked from such a group for special recognition is a real honor."



Randy Urich

Position Title: Forester;

Duties: Principal natural resource manager on the Upper Mississippi River and Eau Galle, Wis., lake projects. Develop and implement stewardship and protection programs for forests and woodlands, fish and wildlife, grasslands, wetlands, soils and other natural resource features on lands and waters administered by the Corps of Engineers;

Years at Corps: 18;

Previous Positions: From 1985-1986, clerk in regulatory and from 1986-1988, outdoor recreation planner in natural resource management;

Education: Bachelor of Science in forestry;

Hobbies: Outdoor recreation, music, community involvement;

Residence: La Crescent, Minn.;

Family: Wife of 19 years and two children;

Comments: "I am pleased and honored to be selected as a Civil Servant of the Year. I consider it a privilege to serve as a public steward of the outstanding natural resources of this nation and to work with the wonderful people of the Corps."

2004 Civil Servants of the Year



Lori Taylor

Position Title: Engineering technician;

Duties: Civil-site layout and design, CADD customization; serve on various Corps of Engineer's, federal and industry groups to promote CADD standardization; part of Corps' headquarters Corporate Communities of Practice Implementation project delivery team;

Years at Corps: 25;

Previous Positions: started as a clerk-typist in training as part of a high school on-the-job training program, later worked as a clerk-typist in contracting and construction-operations. Held temporary position as an engineering aid in design branch, working for the periodic inspection unit. After college, accepted a permanent position as an engineering technician and worked in design branch and then construction-operations. Then, at Little Rock District, worked as a clerk typist for a few months before finding a technician position, which morphed into a program analyst position. After four years, returned to St. Paul District as an engineering technician in design branch;

Education: Associates Degree in liberal arts (heavy in math and science);

Hobbies: Antiquing, arts and crafts projects, exploring other cultures

Residence: West St. Paul, Minn.;

Family: Two daughters;

Comments: "I remember sitting down with my dad when I was 17, when I found out I would be interviewing with the Corps. He told me, 'Baby doll, if you get in with the Corps or Engineers, you will be set for life ... you will never have to worry about a job.' At the time, I had never even heard of the Corps; I thought engineers only drove trains and a lock was something that kept my brother out of my room. If I wouldn't have gotten the job here, I doubt if I would have even graduated high school (I was a bit of a problem child). But thanks to Al Kraft, my first supervisor here at the Corps, I stuck it out. The Corps has taught me so much and given me the opportunity to serve in so many different capacities and work with so many awesomely brilliant people throughout the country. I can't imagine ever working anywhere else. Dad was right (just don't tell him I said so)!"

Christenson aids Iraqi redevelopment

Traffic snarls in Bahgdad slow convoy, Christenson escapes roadside explosives

By Peter Verstegen

“I am glad I came here,” wrote Dave Christenson. “Here” was Al Hillah, a city in central Iraq, from which he monitored repair and rehabilitation infrastructure projects from late October 2003 to early February 2004.

Christenson, who normally works as chief of readiness branch in the St. Paul District, monitored construction activities of Bechtel National, Inc., a major contractor for U.S. Agency for International Development in South Central Iraq. He also coordinated USAID infrastructure projects with the Coalition Provisional Authority throughout the five provinces in the region.

The CPA is the name of the temporary governing body, which has been designated by the United Nations as the lawful government of Iraq until such time as Iraq is politically and socially stable enough to assume its sovereignty, said the CPA web site. The CPA has been the government of Iraq since the overthrow of its dictator Saddam Hussein and the Baath Regime in April of 2003.

USAID in Iraq administers programs in education, health care, food security, infrastructure reconstruction, airport and seaport management, economic growth, community development, local governance and transition initiatives. USAID retained the Corps of Engineers in July 2003 to provide technical advice and to evaluate and



Photo by Brian Lane, Rock Island District

Dave Christenson, chief of readiness branch, visited a war monument at the entrance to a former Iraqi Army camp in Iran.

monitor the agency’s infrastructure reconstruction program in Iraq. Bechtel was awarded a major reconstruction contract, with Iraqi companies receiving subcontracts.

“Our team monitored the repair and rehabilitation projects of Bechtel,” said Christenson. The company, based in San Francisco,

conducts engineering, construction and project management throughout the world. “I worked as team leader and supervised project managers on the team,” he said.

What satisfied Christenson most was helping develop and establish coordinating mechanisms, identifying and sharing resources and initiating a process for establishing priorities to coordinate development efforts in the south central region of Iraq.

The high point of his tour was being the acting USAID representative in the south central region. “The USAID regional coordinator was so pleased with Christenson’s teamwork that he gained his trust to the extent that he would appoint him as temporary regional coordinator in his absence,” said Col. Kevin Williams,



Photo by Dave Christenson

“George the Giraffe” came to Iraq in a holiday care package from St. Paul District employees.

Iraq, continued Page 7

Iraq, continued from Page 6

commander, Iraq Reconstruction Office.

Christenson said he volunteered for three reasons: to earn extra money; to see a different part of the world and do something different; and to deploy in a contingency operation. "I was in the Reserve for 27 years and never deployed," Christenson said. "This provided an opportunity to contribute in an overseas operation." His work in readiness taught him to be flexible and adaptable to various situations.

His greatest challenge in Iraq was access to project sites due to security concerns. Security dictated use of convoys and armed escorts. "A low point of my tour was sitting in a bunker during the first mortar attack at Al Hillah," Christenson said. "It was a scary time the first time I heard the sound of a mortar nearby. The second time, it is not as scary – still caused my stomach to churn."



Photo by Dan Foltz, Rock Island District

Dave Christenson, readiness branch, toured the historic City of Babylon near Al Hillah, Iraq.

Christenson also had to adjust to the Iraqi winter. "The cold and rainy weather is not what I expected when coming over here," he said. "It feels like October weather in Minnesota. Plus the mud. Then,

when it dries out, it's the dust. Everything has this tan tinge to it."

"I had a landmark week early in my tour," he continued. "I got stuck in downtown Baghdad in a traffic jam caused by a demonstration at the Palestine Hotel and then almost ran into an IED [improvised explosive device] setup on the way home. The good guys found 29 IEDs along the highway. Later that week, we had the mortar attack. I learned to be real careful and keep my head down."

"There are great people over here – dedicated and committed to doing good works. I have enjoyed working with the local USAID and Bechtel representatives, but I will not miss the frustrations of dealing with the lack of communication between organizations. Many organizations had different missions, yet they had little time for coordination of the various infrastructure projects."

He returned to St. Paul Feb. 12.

Annual equal opportunity awards presented



District Engineer Col. Robert Ball presents Jodi Dutta, engineering and design, her EEO Honorary Award.



Photos by Peter Versteegen

Col. Robert Ball (right), district engineer, presented seven Equal Employment Opportunity Honorary Awards April 14. Ken Buck, construction operations chief; Jodi Dutta, engineering and design; Dick Otto, natural resources chief; and Jan Pream, construction operations, received individual EEO awards. Above Terry Jessesky, Darrel Oldenburg and Joe Dvorak, all area lockmasters, received the organizational EEO award. Dean Peterson (left), locks and dams project, is their supervisor. They were recognized for going above and beyond in support of the district's EEO program.

Ice road, continued from Page 3
material during the winter resulting in a shorter levee construction period during the summer.”

When asked why they decided to build the ice bridge and haul over the river, Zavoral cited the improved safety for the neighborhood, particularly for the children. “We continuously tell the operators to be careful and watch for children, but when you see a ball roll out in the street, it just makes you cringe.”

Making the ice bridge required research and coordination.

The contractor began the process to thicken the ice, and Tricia Liggett, contracting officer’s representative for the project, researched the requirements.

Liggett found three documents on the use of ice bridges, one from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and two from the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unit in Hanover, N.H.

Liggett contacted the DNR Waters Division to determine permitting requirements and the ice engineering group at CRREL for technical support

Liggett initiated a conference call between the contractor and CRREL’s ice bridge experts, Leonard Zabilansky and Dr. Steven Daly. CRREL provided the subcontractor with the guidance needed to finalize their safety plan and to ensure the ice bridge was ready for operation.

Just as safety had been the primary reason for constructing the ice bridge, safety was also key when operating the ice bridge. In addition to safety and environmental conditions, these documents stated that an ice bridge for a 30-ton vehicle needed 22 inches of sound,



Photo by Francis Schanilec

Tricia Liggett (left), project engineer with the East Grand Forks resident office is with Dave Zavoral, R.J. Zavoral & Sons, on the Red River of the North. The hole in the ice was to take soundings of the river bottom.

clear ice. At the beginning of January, the ice measured 18 inches. Zavoral began working on increasing the depth of the ice, first by clearing the snow and driving pickups on it, next by flooding the area and letting it freeze. By the time hauling started Jan. 28, the ice measured 40 inches thick.

Since the river was 120 feet wide at the crossing site, only one vehicle was allowed on the river at one time. This meant the approaches had to be wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass. Operators wore personal flotation devices and crampons in the event that the trucks broke through the ice, and they kept their windows down, even during the record-setting cold spell when temperatures dropped to 30- and 40-degrees below zero. Operators received

briefings on the safety preparations and their requirements, including keeping their speed less than 20 mph to prevent a wave from building up under the ice.

“We even considered showing the drivers the Discovery Channel special on the ice hauling in Canada above the Arctic Circle,” said Dan Zavoral. “But, since the title of the show is ‘Suicide Missions,’ we decided to forego that.”

The distance from borrow pit to stockpile area is less than a half-mile as the crow flies. With the ice bridge in operation, round-trip haul times were less than four minutes. In just under a month, the subcontractor had stockpiled more than 300,000 cubic yards of impervious fill.

“Without the ice bridge, this would have taken us three months of hauling,” said Zavoral.

Said Marc DeMers, engineering technician with Zavoral, “It’s good you guys were involved. You knew who to contact, you found the information and you put us in touch with the right people to make this happen.”

In addition to the benefits to the community, CRREL sees a wider benefit to the operation. R.J. Zavoral kept detailed records of the ice thickness, weather conditions, temperatures and haul records which will be forwarded to CRREL for use in studies regarding the use of ice bridges.

CRREL’s Zabilansky complimented the cooperation between the Corps and the company and Zavoral’s ingenuity following the successful completion of the hauling. “What a success story. I take my hat off to you for seeing the opportunity to harmonize with Mother Nature by taking advantage of her seasonal bridge,” he said.

News and Notes

By Shannon Bauer

Awards



Teed recognized with U.S. Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Theresa (T.C.) Teed (above), project management, received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service on the outskirts of Baghdad late March for saving a young soldier's life. Teed volunteered to deploy to Iraq in February. Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers, presented her this medal in person.

The soldier Teed is credited for saving began choking on something he was eating for lunch, while guarding the building Teed works in. He ran into Teed's office, making

the universal sign for choking. Teed grabbed him, took off his flak vest and applied the Heimlich maneuver, thereby dislodging the item and saving his life.

"Her willingness to come forth, paired with her ability to maintain composure during what was clearly a pressure situation, demonstrated bravery in truest form," said Col. Robert Ball, the St. Paul District commander. "I am enormously proud of her [Teed]."

Public affairs staff garners two awards

Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected the St. Paul District public affairs office for two Corps-wide annual public affairs awards early April.

Shannon Bauer, media relations specialist, was selected for the Michael C. Robinson Award, which is to recognize the top Corps' public affairs practitioner of the year. The entire staff received the Locke L. Mouton Award for outstanding public affairs efforts in media relations.

This is the third year in a row the staff has garnered the Mouton award, as well as the second time during the last three years that a St.

Paul District public affairs staff member received the Robinson award.



Regorrah selected for Construction Management Excellence award

Headquarters Mississippi Valley Division selected Virginia Regorrah (above), East Grand Forks, Minn., resident engineer, as the recipient of its 2003 Construction Management Excellence Award.

The Construction Management Excellence Award is given out annually by each Corps' division to recognize excellence in construction management by construction field

News and Notes, continued Page 10

Wanted: Your news!

PAO seeks information about special events in you life (e.g., births, deaths, marriages, engagements). If you would like to share these items, please contact Public Affairs at 651-290-5202, -5108 or 5201 or send an e-mail to: cemvp-pa@mvp02.usace.army.mil.

personnel. Regorrah will now compete Corps-wide.

Regorrah is currently working on more than \$55 million in active construction contracts, including the East Grand Forks, Minn., and the Crookston, Minn., flood control projects. She received this award for successfully managing several major construction contracts and providing superior contract administration, as well as implementing effective partnering relationships, which facilitated the quick resolution of issues and kept the construction activities on track.

“Virginia [Regorrah] is on the hot seat for three major construction contracts. It’s a lot of responsibility. There are numerous players involved, including homeowners, construction contractors, city engineering staff, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, utility companies and other state and local agencies. Keeping these partners all involved and moving forward in the same direction is not always an easy task, especially when you are working in someone’s backyard doing something they don’t want done,” said Tom Eidson, Corps’ engineer and Regorrah’s supervisor. “She has earned this award for successfully resolving the many issues which emerge during construction of large complex projects such as these.”

Canfield honored as employee of the quarter in Baghdad

The Iraqi Reconstruction Office in Baghdad recognized **Al Canfield** (above right), St. Paul District information management, as Employee of the Quarter last winter for transforming its information technology system.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Anthony Bertucci

Al Canfield at work in Baghdad, Iraq.

“His work covered all areas of communication, including computer networks, satellite phone systems and Internet phone systems,” said David Bequeaith, then IRO north team leader. “Some of the potential obstacles directed at him included nightly mortar attacks, hair-raising vehicles trips ... extreme temperature fluctuations and complications of providing phone communication for a team using five different phone systems and multiple e-mail servers.”

Canfield’s tour began Sept. 14, 2003, at Fort Bliss, Texas. He arrived in Baghdad Sept. 22 and returned to the district Feb. 12, 2004.

Welcome

Tonya Baker is a student intern in construction operations as of Feb. 17. She graduated from the Minnesota Resource Center with a certificate in administration in October 2003. Her hobbies include walks and visiting the Animal Humane Society.

Angela Drinkwitz, records management.

Perry Gamble came aboard as a print specialist in information management on Jan. 12. He previously worked as a printing supervisor with the South Carolina Department of Corrections printing and graphics department. He attended Midlands Technical College in 1990 and received an associate’s degree in commercial graphics in 1992. He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1987. Hobbies include sports, movies, sketching and writing.

Carol Rogoski is a student intern in construction-operations as of Feb. 17. She is currently taking classes at the American Indian OIC in Minneapolis. She has a 16-month old son and hopes to continue working for the Corps of Engineers after graduation.

Announcements

Al Nelson was selected as the lockmaster at Upper St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis, effective March 22. This is a temporary promotion not to exceed one year.

Angie Peterson was selected to replace Mary Kay Linder as the executive office administrative assistant, starting June 1.

Bryan Peterson was selected as the chief, maintenance and repair section, physical support branch.

David Reynolds became the new park manager at Eau Galle Lake Recreation Area, Spring Valley, Wis., March 1.

Retirements

Robert A. Anfang, environmental, St. Paul District; 30.5 years federal service.

News and Notes, continued Page 11

Carl G. Brommerich, physical support, Fountain City, Wis.; 34 years federal service.

David C. Doll, western flood control, Fargo, N.D., 30 years federal service.



Dennis Erickson (left), construction operations, St. Paul District; 30 years federal service.

Robert C. Halvorson, channels and harbors,

Fountain City, Wis.; 31 years federal service.

Lanny A. Krause, physical support, Fountain City, Wis.; 33 years federal service.



W. Mike Osterby (left), engineering, St. Paul District; 25 years federal service.

Don E. Schroeder, Lower St. Anthony Falls

Lock, Minneapolis; 19 years federal service.

Michael M. Weburg, regulatory; 35 years federal service.

Final Farewell

Ole Henderson of Federal Dam, Minn., passed away March 23. Henderson began working for the Corps around 1947 as a dam tender at Winnibigoshish; he then became the dam tender at Leech Lake until he retired in May of 1975. At Leech, he began constructing the first recreation facilities in the Mississippi Headwaters.

Corps teams with Big Sandy Water Institute

By Jeff Steere, park manager, and Bob Espenson, ranger

In collaboration with 14 area agencies and organizations, the McGregor, Minn., School conducts the Big Sandy Water Institute during the months of June, July and August at the Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area.

The concept of the institute came from a brainstorming session among the Big Sandy Lake Association, Big Sandy Lake Foundation and directors at the school district and the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Members of the group identified a need for opportunities for youth to experience safe recreational use of our lakes and streams regardless of whether they live on a lake or not. With this idea in mind, a core of classes was developed around the exploration of local waterways, water ecosystems and the use of recreational watercraft.

As partners joined in the planning effort, an educational program began to take shape. Kayaking, canoeing, fishing, water ecology and additional outdoor educational programs are offered at the Sandy Lake Recreation Area. Snorkeling classes are offered at the Savanna State Park across the lake from the recreation area on Loon Lake. Red Cross swimming lessons are offered at Round Lake, near Tamarack, 12 miles from the park. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers fishing, forestry and wetland programs at the Rice Lake National Refuge, 17 miles from the recreation area near McGregor.

Classes begin in mid-June with a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-sponsored watercraft certification class; the two-day class is for children 14- to 16-years of age. Corps of Engineers' Park Ranger Scott Tichy comes over from Lake Ashtabula, Valley City, N.D., with the Corps' electric boats, and teaches a two-day class for children from the ages of eight years and older on boating and water safety.

The park rangers present numerous interpretive programs over the course of the six-week school to the children on such topics as water safety, water ecology and wetlands.

"All in all it has been a very successful program with nearly 250 registrations for the six-week school in 2002, and over 650 children attending classes in 2003," said Terry Ladd, park ranger at Sandy. Monthly meetings are under way to organize the coming season.

"The water institute has grown into an amazing program," said John O'Leary, headwaters project manager. "Hundreds of kids participate in some of the most sophisticated interpretive programs in the country. I think it is becoming a national model."

Observances

April/May

"Days of Remembrance" of Victims of the Holocaust
(One week incorporating Ha'Shoah)

May

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month



Dave Himmerich: January 2004 Employee of the Month

Dave Himmerich, chief of information management, was nominated for the employee of the month for his efforts to help Mark

Photo by Jon Lyman

Col. Robert Ball, district engineer, presents the Employee of the Month plaque to Dave Himmerich, chief of information management.

Krenelka, Western Area Office, Grand Forks, N.D., return to Grand Forks after the Holiday Awards Ceremony on Dec. 12, 2003.

After the ceremony, Krenelka went out to his government vehicle to make the trip back to Grand Forks and found it wouldn't start. A number of Corps employees tried unsuccessfully to help Krenelka start the vehicle. He said he needed to get back to Grand Forks no later than the next day, but preferably that same night.

The problem was that as a result of the ceremony and the fact that it was already almost 4 p.m., no one was available in logistics management to repair his assigned vehicle or switch to another vehicle.

Dave Himmerich, chief of information management, was among those trying to start the vehicle.

Once it was determined the vehicle was dead, Himmerich volunteered to take Krenelka from Woodbury, Minn., to the district office in St. Paul to contact logistics for another vehicle. Himmerich also agreed to bring Krenelka back to the vehicle later that evening, if needed. Himmerich brought Krenelka back and then spent the next two and one-half hours of his own time to help solve Krenelka's transportation problem.

After numerous phone calls and assistance from Bob Mike, logistics technician in LM, they finally arranged vehicle recovery and Krenelka's return flight Grand Forks – all for less than it would have cost for Mark to spend the night and drive back the next day.



Marilyn Kruchten: February 2004 Employee of the Month

Marilyn Kruchten, the writer-editor in project management, was nominated for employee of the month.

Photo by Jon Lyman

Col. Robert Ball, district engineer, presents the Employee of the Month plaque to Marilyn Kruchten, writer-editor, project management.

for employee of the month.

She reviews and prepares correspondence and reviews documents from a wide variety of disciplines, all with seemingly immediate or conflicting schedules. In addition, Kruchten is often asked to assist support staff when emergencies arise. She consistently accepts tasks cheerfully and finds ways to adjust her priorities to meet the schedule for the task at hand.

Her attention to detail and willingness to do whatever needs to be done to distribute a professionally finished product to the public within deadline makes her efforts invaluable to the project management administrative staff.

She is that critical member of project delivery teams that more often than not goes unrecognized for her consistent, high quality role in producing and delivering a quality product.

Her nomination resulted from a ready consensus during a spontaneous discussion among several in project management at Linda Haberkorn's desk one day. One among the group mentioned how valuable Kruchten's support is and how she always displays a can-do attitude – she takes the assigned work and just gets it done on time and with consistent high quality but seems to rarely get public recognition for it. The administrative staff could not think of a time she didn't perform in this manner.