



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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## Holiday Awards ceremony features singing, acting talents of front office staff



Photo by Jon Lyman

"In the first stage of winter, the Colonel did proclaim...." Sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the Executive Office staff performs a skit to help acclimate the new commander to Midwest winters. Left to right are Judy DesHarnais (DPM), Mary Kay Linder (administrative assistant), Col. Robert Ball, Marsha Mose (executive assistant) and Maj. Tom O'Hara (DDE). See pages 4-5 for more photos from the Holiday Awards ceremony held Dec. 14, 2001.

## Bright future for St. Paul District in 2002

by Col. Robert L. Ball  
St. Paul District Commander



My wife Sally and I would like to wish each of you and your families Happy New Year. We have thoroughly enjoyed our first

holiday season in Minnesota and are eagerly anticipating spring (yes, we have had enough winter already.) As we put up our decorations and send the kids back to college, we usually end up remembering the good times of the past year and try to predict the good things that will happen in the new one. I thought that I would do that briefly with you.

While I wasn't here for more than five months this past year, I have seen evidence of what you

accomplished in many ways. The flood fight is still being talked about in the areas that were flooded and by the congressional delegations representing those areas. Bonnie Greenleaf was named USACE's Responder of the Year. Pat Johnson was awarded the Chief of Engineers Small Business Specialist Award and the Department of the Army Small Business Specialist Award. We have just been notified that two of our projects have been selected as MSPE Seven Wonders of Engineering award winners.

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**"It has been a very successful year and the new one looks like it will be busy. I hope you are as excited about plunging into it as I am."**

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Numerous accolades for the PRT's work in West Virginia were received. The Pool 8 drawdown has been declared a success by our customers ... and the list goes on. Each of you has been part of a very successful year of service to this region and the nation. You should

be proud of that.

The new-year promises to bring more chances to excel. Flood season is around the corner. The EIS for the Devils Lake outlet will be released in draft in February. The levees at Devils Lake and the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks projects will get into high gear this coming year. Work for Breckenridge and Wahpeton will begin to take shape. The Section 569 program for Northeastern Minnesota will mature this year and projects will begin to come on line.

Other opportunities for environmental restoration on the Mississippi will be examined with our partners and projects will follow. We will complete our force protection assessment of our projects and determine what security measures need to be implemented. All of these and other things will require our best effort and provide countless opportunities to make life better for those around us.

It has been a very successful year and the new one looks like it will be busy. I hope you are as excited about plunging into it as I am. I look forward to serving with you.

## Public Affairs is everyone's job

by Mark Davidson  
Chief, Public Affairs Office

Public affairs - whose job is it? The people at the locks and dams who actually talk to the public? The project managers doing briefings at public meetings? The Corps people at recreation sites working with and talking to the public? The PAO specialists on the 5th floor? The engineer at a field site talking to the

sponsors? The person who answers any telephone for the Corps? Public affairs - whose job is it?

**In my opinion, public affairs is part of the job for every Corps employee.** In this day and age of government cutbacks and constant scrutiny from the news media and special interest groups, every Corps employee should be aware of who is watching and what kind of image they are projecting. This is the reality of the new century.

In my first two years here I have

seen and heard how District employees have done public affairs work, either as part of their job or as a volunteer. On behalf of the District Public Affairs Office we sincerely thank you for your efforts. We can't be everywhere. Your involvement with public affairs as part of your job or as a volunteer shows that it's a total District effort. That's the way it is, and to be successful as a District, that's the way it has to remain.

*(Continued on next page)*

## District wins two "7 Wonders of Engineering" awards

by Mary Dettloff  
Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) announced that the Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, has won two Seven Wonders of Engineering Awards in the society's 2002 Seven Wonders of Engineering Awards Competition. The winning projects are the Devils Lake Levees in Devils Lake, N.D. and the Pool 8 Islands located in Pool 8 along the Mississippi River.

The Seven Wonders of Engineering Awards Competition is conducted annually to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of engineering. The program is designed to acknowledge and publicly recognize those organizations that have advanced the profession and prestige of the entire engineering community. Fifteen projects were submitted for the 2002 competition, seven of which were awarded a Seven Wonders award.

The MSPE Awards Committee judges the entries based on engineering expertise involved, the scope of the project, the significance of the project's contribution to society, the uniqueness of the project and the quality of the entry materials.

Each year, all entries are recognized at a banquet held during National Engineers Week. This year's banquet will be held on Feb. 22, 2002, at the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center. The banquet is sponsored by MSPE and the Minnesota Federation of Engineering Societies,

and in 2002 will be co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology.

For more information on the Seven Wonders of Engineering Awards Competition or the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, please contact Mary Dettloff at 651/457-2347 or mdetloff@mnspe.org.

### Public Affairs....

*(Continued from previous page)*

Public Affairs will be asking for your help during the next year as we organize, and then expand, the public affairs effort. Here are ways for each employee to help:

1. **Take a few minutes every week and respond with sincere answers to the various surveys that are coming out. Under APIC we will all need information from our customers to better focus our programs on your needs and desires.**
2. **Keep us informed in public affairs about "stuff" going on in your office or field site. It might seem mundane and routine to you but it might be a great item to publicize about the Corps. E-mail us, call us at 651-290-5201/02 or stop in and see us. If it's something out-of-the ordinary, we want to hear about it. Tell us about the tours, speeches, open houses, mentoring programs and other positive efforts you are making in the community.**
3. **Public affairs will be conducting a news media "blitz" of positive news items about the Corps in the late spring. Let us know if you have an idea to publicize.**

The bottom line is that public affairs is everyone's job - it's just that some people might be a little more involved than other people.

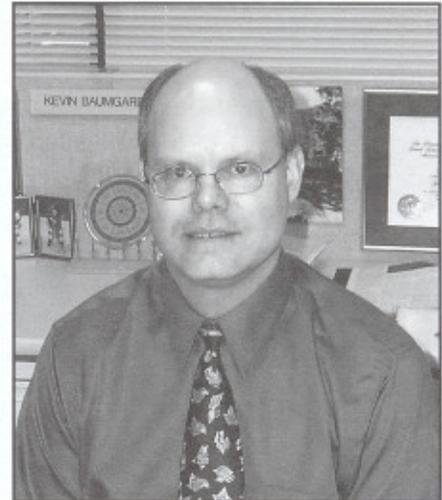


Photo by Anna Wetterling

**Kevin Baumgard, the new Operations Branch Chief.**

## New Operations Branch chief selected

by Henrik Strandkov  
CO-OP

Kevin Baumgard, P.E. has been selected as the Operations Branch Chief in Construction-Operations Division. He will fill a position that has been vacant since former Branch Chief Dennis Cin retired in January 2000. Dennis Erickson has served as Acting Branch Chief in the interim.

Baumgard began his duties as Branch Chief on Nov. 5, 2001. He comes to the Corps from the National Park Service where he has worked in various capacities for the past 16 years.

Baumgard grew up in Rochester, Minn. He graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in the states of Minnesota and Colorado.

Baumgard is married, and he and his family live in Lindstrom, Minn.

# District staff showcase talents, recognize achievements



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Mrs. Claus, a/k/a Marge Thompson, draws a prize-winning name from the collection of meal tickets. Stephanie Dupey assists.



LDP '02 candidates perform a skit to demonstrate acronym Koenig, Terry Jorgenson, Steve Tapp, Dan Oles, and Jim S



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Pat Rogers assists Craig Evans with his magic show.



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Pat Johnson, far left, recognizes key individuals who provided support to the District's SADB program during FY '01. Right of Johnson are Delores Aldinger, Marilyn Kruchten, Mark Davids, Tom Crump, Luann Bartuah, Tom Novak, and Jon Lyman.

# Presentments at Holiday Awards 2001 ceremony



Photo by Jon Lyman

...m development. Left to right are Mark  
Sentz.



Photo by Jon Lyman

Linda Wiley and fiancé Jeff Nielsen sing Christmas carols.



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Henrik Strandskov sings "The Quad  
Cities Blues" with his autoharp.



Photo by Anna Wetterling

Col. Ball leads the congratulatory applause for this year's AIEP award recipients. Accepting awards, left to right of Col. Ball, are Jeff Pfannes, Tom Sully, Ken Buck, William Stute, and Frank Star. Actual winners are in the following categories: Suggester of the year (Lee Kochendorfer); Honorable Mention Suggester of the year (Franklin Star, William Stute, and Duane Putz); Evaluator of the year (Tom Sully); and Suggestion champion of the year (Jeff Pfannes).

## Forest inventory procedure receives a major overhaul

By Dan Oles and Leigh Stuemke  
CO-NR, LaCrescent Office

Imagine swarms of mosquitoes, extreme heat, five-foot tall stinging nettle and acres of poison ivy. If this doesn't sound like a friendly atmosphere, you're not alone. Forestry staff based in the Mississippi River Natural Resource Project Office or CO-NR, face these types of field conditions while conducting forest inventory duties along the Mississippi River.

During the decade of the 1990's, CO-NR staff conducted a forest inventory on all Corps fee title land between Upper St. Anthony's Falls and Lock and Dam 10 in Guttenberg, Iowa. The nearly ten-year project covered approximately 22,000 acres and 250 river miles.

Because of CO-NR's river forestry experience, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) hired them for the initial forest inventory of FWS fee title land within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. As part of the Corps Work for Others program, CO-NR began a forest resource inventory on FWS land in Pools 7 and 8.

The FWS owns and manages a large amount of forested land within the refuge and no comprehensive forest inventory of FWS lands exists. This creates a major gap in data used by land managers. A forest inventory gives natural resource managers useful information for managing wildlife habitat and other forest resources.

The CO-NR field crew consisted of forestry technicians Leigh Stuemke, Liz Burand, Scott Maki and

forester Dan Oles. When they started the FWS inventory, they realized the outdated procedure for collecting and summarizing data needed some serious improvements. The first improvement included using Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, which determine location coordinates by receiving signals from Department of Defense satellites.

During the previous inventory, locations were estimated using aerial photos. GPS reduces the human error in recording data collection locations. In addition, the GPS receivers connect with desktop computers for downloading data, which eliminates the need for

manual data entry.

When the field season ended, Burand, Stuemke and Oles began the process of summarizing the field data. Once again they scrutinized the procedures followed in the previous inventory and collaborated in designing an improvement strategy. The previous procedure included a great deal of subjectivity. They wanted a procedure that returned the same results no matter who summarized the data. They discussed the ideas with Randy Urlich, supervising forester at CO-NR, and developed a procedure that grouped the field data into similar units.

The next step involved automating the process. By importing the data into ArcView, a Geographic Information System software, and

*(Continued on Page 8)*



Photo by Randy Urlich

**Dan Oles, Leigh Stuemke and Elizabeth Burand improved the CO-NR forest inventory process, which can be used by St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis Districts as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All three received a "Just Did It" award from Col. Ball for their innovative efforts.**

# District supports community service activities

- Washington Middle School
- "Neighbor to Neighbor" Community Center
- "Toys for Tots" Drive



Photo by Mark Davidson

Maj. Thomas O'Hara (left), Mary Kay Linder (center) and Bruce Ario (right) pose in front of the more than 80 toys donated by District employees to the "Toys for Tots" holiday drive. The toys were taken to the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce for distribution.



Photo by Mark Davidson

A Washington Middle School student (left) explains a building project to Al Geisen (center) from the St. Paul District while the middle school principal, Patricia McHugh (right) looks on. The St. Paul District and the middle school, part of the St. Paul School District, entered into an educational and mentoring partnership during a ceremony on Dec. 18, 2001.



Photo by Mark Davidson

Gale Rebar (left) receives a check for a foodshelf donation for \$108 from Col. Ball (center) while Principal Patricia McHugh (right) looks on. Rebar is director of the "Neighbor to Neighbor" Community Center, which has a food shelf program. District employees also donated 230 pounds of food to the food shelf. "Neighbor to Neighbor" is located next to Washington Middle School in St. Paul.

# Bits and Pieces



Photo by Anna Wetterling

**Accepting FY '01 Mishap-free Awards are, left to right, Leon Mucha, Ken Buck, Bruce Bolden, Bob Whiting, Roland Hamborg, and Tim Bertchi.**

## Numerous field sites receive mishap-free awards for FY '01

by Jeff Pfannes  
Safety and Occupational Health Officer

The following offices were recognized at the Holiday Awards 2001 Ceremony for being accident-free during FY '01:

- Blackhawk Park
- Brainerd Field Office
- Eastern Area Office
- Eau Galle Lake Project
- Green Bay Field Office
- Headwaters Project Office
- L&D 10
- L&D 5
- L&D 7
- L&D project office
- Lac Qui Parle Flood Control Project
- Lake Traverse Flood Control
- Leech Lake
- Lower St Anthony Falls
- Orwell Dam
- Pokegama Lake
- Sandy Lake
- Two Harbors Field Office
- Upper St Anthony Falls
- Western Flood Control Project Office

## Diversity Appreciation Week (DAW) winners

Shua Xiong, CPAC, won first place in the DAW Cultural Pursuit contest, and Ivette Garrett, Office of Counsel, won second place.

## Thanks to VI

PAO thanks Anna Wetterling for helping with the design and layout of "Crosscurrents" while Peter Verstegen recovers from his surgery in December.

## Forest inventory....

(Continued from Page 6)

Microsoft Access, a relational database, they created a data set linked to a set of maps.

A simple forest inventory snowballed into a complete process overhaul. In addition to the FWS receiving a more accurate data set for wildlife management, CO-NR gains an improved process for their next forest inventory of Corps fee title land. The improved process may also benefit Mississippi River forest management programs in the Rock Island and St. Louis Districts.

And Oles, Burand, and Stuemke are the District's first recipients of the Corps' "Just Did It" awards for their initiative in developing this automated inventory.



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St. Paul District

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