

Fall Quarterly Issue 1999

Detroit District

Soundings



US Army Corps of Engineers



*Division
Change of
Command*

—See story on page 4

Soundings

Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis—District Engineer
Lynn Duerod—Chief, Public Affairs Office
Dennis Rundlett—Graphics
Jackie Lige—Student Clerk
Susan Shugars—Editing/design/layout,
 RPI Marketing Communications (contractor)

Authorization: *Soundings* is an authorized unofficial newspaper of the Detroit District. It is published quarterly, under supervision of the Public Affairs Office, in accordance with provisions of Army regulation, AR 360-81. It is prepared using desktop publishing and printed by offset press.

Circulation: We print 1100 copies per issue and circulate them to employees, retirees, and anyone requesting a copy in writing.

Contents: Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The U.S. Army doesn't endorse any product or service that may be advertised or mentioned in this publication. News copy is prepared in accordance with Associated Press, AP, Style Guide. All photos are U.S. Army photos unless otherwise indicated.

Submissions:

The Public Affairs Office welcomes comments and opinions about the information published in *Soundings*. News tips, ideas, suggestions and articles may be mailed to:

Soundings

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District
 P.O. Box 1027
 Detroit, Michigan 48231-1027
 or faxed to: 313-226-5993

or e-mailed to: Lynn.M.Duerod@usace.army.mil

For general information, call toll free:
 1-888-694-9313

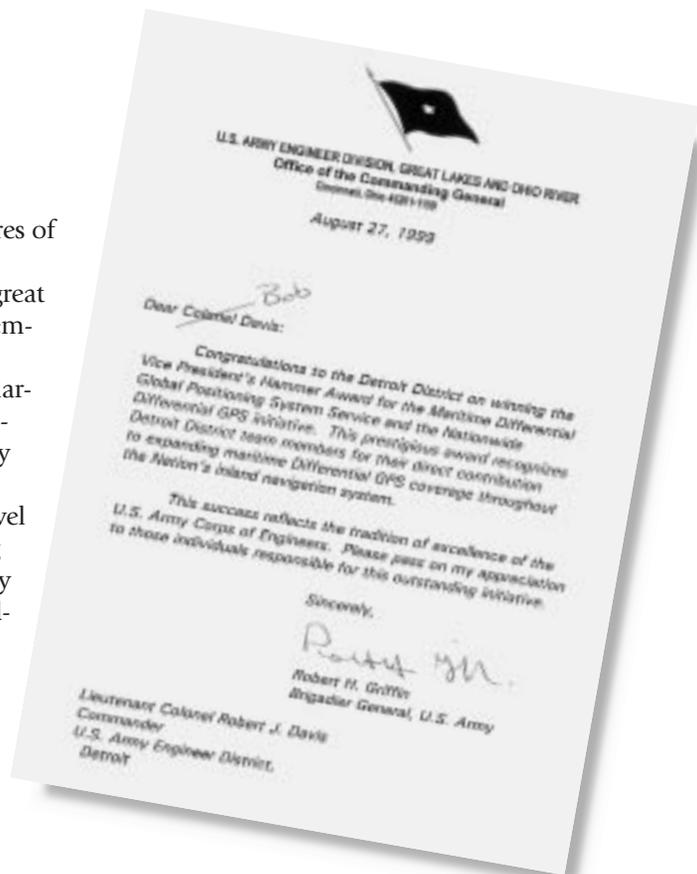
Detroit District wins Hammer Award

Team—

One of the greatest pleasures of being the Commander of the Detroit District is to pass on great news to outstanding team members.

Your work in expanding Maritime Differential Global Positioning System services is truly outstanding. The Hammer Award signifies the highest level of recognition for reinventing government. Please accept my appreciation for this outstanding work.

Sincerely,
 Robert J. Davis
 Lieutenant Colonel,
 U.S. Army
 District Engineer



Flood Control Project enhances quality of life in Fort Wayne

by David L. Foster

On July 1, Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, along with Allen County and the United States Army Corps of Engineers officials, announced the beginning of the fourth phase of construction of the Fort Wayne and Vicinity, Indiana Flood Control Project.

The contract was awarded to Kiewit Western Co., Elgin, Illinois, for a total cost of \$8,317,000.00. The first phase, East-South, has been turned over to the City. The second phase is expected to be complete by 30 October 1999, and the third phase was scheduled to be complete on 30 August 1999.

The Flood Control Project has truly enhanced the quality and security of life in Fort Wayne and the residents look forward to the reduction of flood insurance premiums.

The Flood Control Project has truly enhanced the quality and security of life in Fort Wayne and the residents look forward to the reduction of flood insurance premiums.



Flood protection and the recently-refurbished Tennessee Bridge.

Inside...

- Commander's Column3
- Corps Speaks9
- Kudos!10-11
- Retirees' Corner11
- Employees of the Month.....12

Features...

- Powell Bids Farewell5
- Engineer Day & Picnic.....6-7
- Employees of the Year6-7
- Project Delivery Business Process8

On the cover: New Division Commander Brig.Gen. Robert H. Griffin speaks at the Change of Command ceremony on August 5th.

Commander's Column

"Customers and Teamwork"

by Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis,
District Engineer



Whether on a sports field, a dance floor, an orchestra hall, or in business, the best results come through teamwork. One of the many areas where I see continuous improvement within the Detroit District is our growing sense of teamwork.

The journey to high performing teamwork ends when all members of District teams show allegiance to the team leader in accomplishing whatever task is at hand. Examples of these tasks are the completion of a project from initial project identification to completion, the analysis and implementation of a better way to pay for GSA vehicle use, the processing of a regulatory permit, or the task of moving a floating plant team from one location to another and accomplishing critical work.

You should be very proud at the great strides you are

making in teaming to accomplish our mission. I am working very hard within the District to encourage teamwork. In many ways, this emphasis on teamwork challenges our longstanding ways of doing business. Most of us are accustomed to working for, receiving guidance from, and interacting with one boss. Teamwork forces us to work with multiple "team leaders" and to focus on the end product, rather than just our "piece" of the process.

As an example of this concept, we are now in the process of formally designating teams through the use of project management plans (PMPs). Each PMP designates, by name, the members of a project management team. In the past, I've sensed that although some team members were part of a PM team, they would have to "get clearance from the boss," or

"could not commit any resources to the team without an OK from the boss." I've also heard that "my organization exists so that we can provide 'checks and balances' against your organization." I see all these examples as counterproductive and not in the spirit of teamwork.

Teamwork is more of an attitude than anything else. More than once, I've heard it said that, "my organization is a customer of your organization." One of my long range objectives for the district is to get to a point where everyone in the district feels as if they are integral parts of teams and wants to be a part of the team. Within the district, no one needs to feel like a customer or a client, we need to all feel like contributors to the common success...team members!

This brings me to my last point. If we aren't customers

of ourselves, then who are our customers? I am in the process of formalizing a marketing and outreach plan. Part of this plan will list and define our key customers and describe how we delight these customers. The plan will also address basic marketing techniques and actions you can take to cultivate new opportunities for the District. Many of our outreach activities are already paying dividends. We are obtaining new work in several new areas and the future looks very bright. Look for the completion and dissemination of the marketing and outreach plan this fall.

All the best!

Lt.Col. Bob Davis 

Special Emphasis Program: Individuals with Disabilities

President Clinton proclaimed October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. His hope was that government officials, educators, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States observe the month of October with appropriate programs and activities that reaffirm our determination to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

On March 21, 1999, the Detroit District's Special Emphasis Program, "Individuals with Disabilities," Committee was reborn. The committee is a diverse group of district employees committed to addressing the needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities, and to further enhance and support the placement of these individuals. In order to make the objectives a reality in the district, we need interested and concerned individuals willing to give some of their time to keep the committee alive. If you are interested and willing to help in any way, please contact Carla Fisher at (313) 226-6807. 

Southeastern Michigan
CFC

"We Care"
1999

Federal Employees:
Caring ... A Team Effort!

Division Change of Command

by Cathy Schuchter

The official Change of Command ceremony transferring command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division in Cincinnati from Colonel James R. Hougnon to Brigadier General Robert H. Griffin was conducted on August 5th in Cincinnati. Major General Russell L. Fuhrman, Deputy Command General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officiated at the ceremony.

Col. Hougnon commanded the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division since July 8, 1999, when he accepted the command from Brigadier General Hans A. Van Winkle, who assumed duties as the Director of Civil Works for the Corps in their Washington, D.C., headquarters office. Col. Hougnon had served as the Deputy Commander of the division in the Great Lakes Regional

Office since August 1997. He will again assume these duties after the Change of Command ceremony.

At a Transition Workshop on August 6, Gen. Griffin distributed his "Operating Philosophy," which emphasized several principles repeatedly:

- Take a simplistic approach to issues.
- Keep a positive attitude.

- Treat people with respect, care and dignity—both our co-workers and our customers.
- A commitment to excellence involves doing things right the first time.
- Think corporately—synchronize the actions of the seven districts.

Gen. Griffin comes to the Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Divi-



Brig. Gen. Robert H. Griffin

sion from the Corps' Northwestern Division office located in Portland, Oregon, where he served as the Commander and Division Engineer. His previous responsibility included directing all Corps water resources activities in an area comprising one-quarter of the land mass of the United States. He also directed the Corps' military construction program for the states of Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. 



Brig. Gen. Robert H. Griffin accepts the Corps flag as the incoming commander, symbolizing the change of command.

Wisconsin DNR sends thanks & update on Fox River Deposit N activities

WDNR started dredging at the Fox River Deposit N site last Thanksgiving and had to shut down due to sustained subzero weather last December 31. As of August 3, they removed about 100 pounds of PCBs in about 4500 yards of sediment and have about 5000 yards left on-site with about 50-60 pounds of PCBs.

With State deciding to go back and finish the work, mobilization started the first week in August, with WDNR planning on dredging in mid- to late-August. Disposal was to be at the Winnebago Co. landfill.

Corps people have been absolutely great on this project. Gary Knapton, Jim Bonetti, Tom Dziadosz have all been great help in getting through the regs, property access, leases, etc.

—William Fitzpatrick,
Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 – October 15



Lt.Col. Lawrence Powell, deputy district commander, says good-bye to Corps family

District Friends,

Let me begin by offering my thanks to you for your support and indulgence these past two (almost) years. I have enjoyed working with all of you. I have learned a great deal from all of you and will carry these lessons with me. You are a great group of people and have much to be proud of. You are without a doubt the best in the Division, albeit a little stubborn. I guess that's what makes you great. The future is bright. We have launched into a race these last several months and I believe we are beginning to adjust to the pace. It is not a sprint, but a distance run and we are a contender.

I want to particularly encourage those of you who do the little jobs day in and day out. You are the backbone of the District. Things like timekeeping, PR&Cs, travel orders and other tasks are what keep the District humming. Thanks for remaining steadfast.



Lt.Col. Powell receives a goodbye handshake.

Many of you have given me special assistance and endured my questions and prodding. I appreciate that very much and hope that we both benefited from them.

For me personally, this has been a great tour of duty. As many of you know, my wife and I are from this area and still have family here. My wife lost her father last December and we believe that it is by God's providence that we were able to be here for his last two years. We will be living in Springfield, Virginia, with duty at the Pentagon. If you are in the area, stop by and visit us; Arnie has the address.

I would like to leave you with one thought—A very wise man once asked for two things: Keep deception and lies far from me, and give me neither poverty nor riches; Lest I be full and deny Thee, or lest I be in want and steal and profane the name of my God.

Thank you all very much. God Bless you.

—Lt.Col. Lawrence D. Powell 



Lt.Col. Powell and family.

Honoring Women's Equality Day

August 26 marked the celebration of Women's Equality Day—the 79th anniversary of the passage of the 19th constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

The Federal Women's Program sponsored a workplace presentation in the Detroit District honoring the men and women who worked tirelessly during the tremendous struggle of women's suffrage. Three individuals presented a brief history of this revolution.

First, student Kevin Berry gave his oratory comments about Susan B. Anthony, who led the first women's rights convention in the United States in 1848 and helped form the American Equal Rights Association. Kevin's essay won the National Women's History Project contest and will be placed in the National Archives.

Next, Kristina Marticzak, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, gave an interpretation of the life and dedication of lawyer and social reformer Alice Paul. In 1913, Paul helped organize the Congressional Union, later known as the National Women's Party.

Lastly, performer and instructor Madeline Porter brought to life the determination and devotion of Sojourner Truth, a nationally known advocate for equality and justice, whose speech at a women's rights convention in 1851 kept an audience spellbound.

Lt.Col. Robert J. Davis closed the ceremony with thanks and acknowledgements to the committee of people from various government agencies that worked hard together to make this event possible. "In closing," said Davis, "the greater struggle for equality continues today. As we leave this place and as we move to the next millennium, let's all work for greater opportunity and equality for our daughters and granddaughters." 

Reunion was a blast!

The Dredge "Tompkins" and "Hains" fifth biennial reunion was held on July 24, 1999, at the Mershon Recreational Area near Nunica, Michigan. Sixteen retired and current employees were present this year; however, with family and friends, approximately 40 persons attended the gathering. The weather was great, the food delicious, and it was

nice to see each other again. If you have not been previously contacted about attending a reunion, please send your name and address to: Dredge Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 629, Grand Haven, MI 49417, and we will contact you. 



Employees Present—Standing (L to R): Jack Badgero, Tony Yore, Vince Antonich, Ross Kittleman, Marv Mershon, Bob Livingstone, Carl Little, Joe Mills, Bob Ortuquist and Glen Smith. Kneeling (L to R): Jim Hop, John Cramblet, John Holmes, Dick Behm, Ernie Liebreatu and Carl Lamphere.

Combined Engineers Day, Corps picnic...

The last "Engineers Day" Corps picnic of the century proved to be a day to remember, despite rain delays and cancellations. After the celebration and awards presentations for the "Employees of the Year," "Length of Service Awards," and Leadership Development Group graduation, everyone filled up on food, played games and swam in the pool nearby.

Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis, district engineer, presented the awards and welcomed the crowd to this special event.

"Thanks to all of you for coming out this morning to honor your colleagues in this beautiful park setting. I'm also pleased to see the family members and friends that have taken time out of their busy schedules to enjoy this time with us. Today is a day for us to take a time out, enjoy ourselves, and celebrate. I want to tell all of you that I appreciate the work that you've done in the past year and how well you will conquer the future challenges and how well you continue strive to improve.... In fact,... we are setting the pace within the division for execution of our programs...," said Davis, as he went on to thank the picnic organizers for their hard work. "I think it is also important to recognize all of those on the picnic committee who are helping to make this a super day..." 



Left: William Wheeler's daughter, Denise, accepts the Distinguished Civilian Employee Award honoring his many years of dedication and service to the Corps, from Lt. Col. Robert Davis, district engineer.

Below: Bruce Johnson's family enjoys a day in the sun with dad and his fellow workers.



1999 Employees of the Year Awards

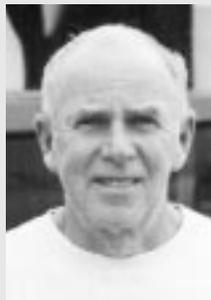
Administrative Award Marilyn Hill

A contract specialist, Marilyn Hill personifies the "best of the best," using her talents and expertise to make the Corps vision a success. She keeps informed of ever-changing regulations and implements them quickly. For example, she quickly transitioned from paper solicitations to electronic bid sets and effectively used electronic means to expedite procurements. She is ever mindful to give a fair share of contracting dollars to small and disadvantaged businesses. She thrives on work and seeks out the most challenging assignments. She's a team player, has unlimited potential, and is constantly improving herself. She's an absolute professional producing high quality work.



Boater/Maintainer/Operator Award Raymond Crimin

Raymond Crimin, master of the crane-barge "Harvey," seeks to "revolutionize effectiveness" by always looking at projects with an open mind and by having an exceptional talent for giving positive feedback. He "seeks growth opportunities" through his willingness to support the efforts of other teams and his positive attitude toward new or different projects. He "invests in people" by his proactive support to train new employees to become licensed crane operators. His outstanding accomplishments include quick mobilization when the Poe Lock boom failed, quickly removing scaffolding blocking one of the shipping channels, and safely removing an old trestle bridge without incident.



Supervisor Award Ross Kittleman

Ross Kittleman, area engineer at Grand Haven Area Office, shows he "invests in people" through his open door policy, his active listening and mentoring skills, and his care and respect for others. He encourages people to find and apply innovative ways to accomplish the Corps' mission by using a proactive, supportive approach to the district's customers. He "revolutionizes effectiveness" through his advocacy of the value and use of automation. He "seeks growth opportunities" by doing his part to ensure the Corps' stability and to keep it positioned as the government's engineering agency of choice. His professional and supervisory conduct reflects his selfless dedication to the Corps.



A day to celebrate our successes!



Left: "Smokin'," Kevin Drake braved the smoke and heat to serve up tasty items from the grill.

Below: "Get it in the hole, come on, you can do it!"



Below: Physical activity will help them sleep better tonight. "Jump baby, jump."

Student Award Matthew Markley

Logistics management student trainee, Matthew Markley displayed above average performance in every assignment and in every team effort he was involved with at the district. His professional, no-nonsense attitude was always his key characteristic. He succeeded as a student and excelled in many other areas as well, including keeping senior staff apprised of their projects' progress. He consistently surpassed standards and excelled at tasks from his various assigned projects.



Technical Award Eric Burr

Eric Burr, a civil engineering technician, lives the Corps vision. He "revolutionizes effectiveness" by embracing and applying new technologies and improving work processes. He "seeks growth" by tackling new challenges with undaunted enthusiasm that spreads to others. He "invests in people" by teaching others and helping them to meet the technical challenges confronting this organization daily. One major accomplishment is his key role in making computer aided drafting and design, CADD, a productive tool and an integral part of our workflow.



Engineer/Scientist Award Carl Platz

Civil engineer and team leader Carl Platz, "revolutionizes effectiveness" by ensuring that improvements are made in both the Corps' performance and in customer satisfaction. He "seeks growth opportunities" by developing and enhancing his relationships with all customers, thus ensuring future work for the Corps. He "invests in people" through his leadership ability, which has earned him the respect of all those around him—he is a true team player. Some of his significant accomplishments include his "delighted customers" on the Bofors-Nobel project, the Ott/Story/Cordova project, and the Thermo-Chem Superfund site project.



Distinguished Civilian Employee William Wheeler

William Wheeler managed the Resource Management Office, RMO, with the skill and courage of an exemplary leader. With his exceptional knowledge of the Corps business and financial management processes, he effectively trained and mentored many district personnel, leaving an immeasurable impact on the district's performance. Many comptrollers within the division sought his advice and sound judgment on issues directly impacting the vision and mission of the Corps. Much of the district's current success can be attributed to his foresight, leadership, and wisdom.



Product Delivery Business Process

Scott Parker, The Detroit District Deputy for Project Management, has agreed to prepare a series of articles addressing District implementation of the Product Delivery Business Process. Parker points out that the title "Project Delivery Business Process" is more appropriate than "Project Management Business Process" since our real focus should not be internal, but external—delivering quality products (studies, projects, and services) to our customers in a timely, cost-effective manner. "Delighting our customers should be our highest priority and is definitely the key for acquiring future work," said Parker.

In February 1998, the Corps issued the Program and Project Management Regulation, ER 5-1-1.1, to establish philosophy, policy, and guidelines for management of all programs and projects assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The following essential

elements were established as being critical for successful execution of the business process. These elements will be the topics of future articles:

- Consistent project definition
- Each project has one PM
- The PM is the team leader
- Every project will be managed with a management plan
- PMs manage project resources, data, and commitments
- The DPM has programmatic oversight for all work
- All work will be managed using the PM automation information systems (AIS) and PMBP

Assigning Project Managers' project responsibilities

by Scott Parker

This first article deals with the assignment of project responsibilities to Project Managers, particularly those within the Program and Project Management Division.

Three new project manager positions were created in the Program and Project Management Division (in addition to the three previously established and filled positions). Position recruitment started in September 1998, and the positions were filled by March 1999. According to Parker, "A good project manager does not have to be a technical expert." Accordingly, the positions were structured to include the widest range of career fields. "Regrettably, the process started on a rough note with an unfortunate spell-check correction and my lack of proof reading on the job announcement," said Parker, "but it ended very successfully. I was very pleased with the quality, skills and abilities of all the applicants." Wayne Schloop, Harry Salisbury, and Bob Erwin were chosen to fill the PM positions.

In order to be as responsible as possible to our customers, and those interested in our projects, the PMs within the Programs and Project Management Division have been assigned geographic areas of responsibility consistent with the district's area offices. Unless specifically designated otherwise, all current and potential future projects are assigned to the Project Manager in whose area the project is located. The assignments are as follows:

Area Office

Detroit
Grand Haven
Kewaunee
Duluth
Soo

Project Manager

Harry Salisbury
Bob Erwin
Jinane Karmo
Wayne Schloop
Wayne Schloop

In addition to the above assignments, certain individuals have been designated as subject matter specialists. They will provide subject and process guidance to assigned PMs and to the district as a whole. These subject matter experts are:

Jinane Karmo — Continuing Authorities Programs
Bob Erwin — EPA Superfund Activities
Jeff Weiser — Support for Others / Outreach

Within the Programs and Project Management Division, specific projects have been assigned to PMs as indicated (all other projects are assigned geographically):

Gary O'Keefe—

- Fort Wayne, IN
- Taconite Harbor, MN (Sec 107)
- Two Harbors, MN (Sec 107)
- Duluth, McQuade Road, Harbor, MN (Sec 107)
- Fox River, Section 216, Disposition Study, WI
- Fox River, WI (O&M of navigation facilities)
- Replacement Lock, Sault St. Marie, MI

Jeff Weiser—

- Upper St. Marys River (Vidal Shoals) Deepening

Project management responsibilities have also been assigned to the following individuals outside of the Program and Project Management Division (See monthly Project Review Board agenda for a complete list of assigned projects):

Bill Rito	Bill O'Donoghue
Joe Wanielista	Colette Luff
Jim Galloway	Bill Rossow
Terry Long	Mike Geiger
Dave Schweiger	Vic Kotwicki 

Soo Locks featured on web site

Donald Erfourth, Chief of Electrical Branch, Soo Area, installed two new television cameras showing the East and West approach of the locks. These pictures are on the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) world wide web site and can be seen at <http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil./ierd/webcams/>

Mr. John Gagnon, pagemaster of the web site, reported that since the new cameras were installed, the Soo Area Office web site has become the most popular site in the Corps of Engineers. During the first week of August, the site hits were 15,000 per day and expected to increase to 25,000 per day within two weeks. Mr. Gagnon said he has been flooded with phone calls and e-Mail praising the Corps for the pictures and requesting that additional cameras be installed. Mr. Gagnon further stated that this web site has resulted in a very significant contribution to public relations at minimal cost. 

Corps Speaks...

On July 6th, **Lt. Col. Robert Davis** and **Stan Jacek**, Soo Area Engineer, gave a general briefing and tour of the locks tower to representatives of the IJC, including U.S. Chairman T. Baldini and three of his staff.

Stan Jacek gave a briefing and tour to Jeremy Pierce of the *Detroit News* on July 7. Mr. Pierce is the environmental reporter for the *News* and is writing an article on impacts of low lake levels. His article appeared in the August 22 Sunday edition.

John Love of Engineering and Planning Division spoke July 10 at Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. The Environmental Policy class, comprised of grad and undergrad students, numbered about 40 students and 3 professors. John talked about Great Lakes water levels and water supply.

Kurt Bunker, Soo SYM Branch, conducted an on-site tour on July 20 for five students and their instructor from the Michigan Works Summer Job Shadowing Program. Kurt defined the various types of work offered and conducted a tour of the facility.

On July 29th, **Joyce Henderson**, Chief, Soo Area Administrative Branch, provided a tour for 8 students and 4 supervisors from Northern Transitions. The students were on summer break from various schools and worked two hours each day at Northern Transitions (NISH). Currently, the parks & grounds and janitorial contract is with NISH, and these individuals were able to see sites and possible work areas they may be offered in the future.

Trudi Britz and **Alan Frappier** of the Soo Area Office Construction Branch escorted a 15-person group from Upward Bound on July 30. The

group was composed of high school freshmen. The tour consisted of a brief introduction and then a walk through the Poe Basement, Poe cross-over tunnel, Davis Building (which is currently being refurbished) and then to the new powerplant.

On August 4th, **Joyce Henderson**, Chief, Soo Area Administrative Branch, met with Ms. Anita Newell, a counselor from the Sault Area High School who is tasked with doing an Externship with selected government agencies and local businesses. Her task is to learn more about the various job possibilities and the qualifications a student would need to assist him/her in preparing their school curriculum to meet the needs for future job opportunities.

On August 12th, Physical Scientist **Adam Fox** of the District's Watershed Hydrology Section spoke before approximately 30 members of the Grosse Ile Rotary Club. Much of the membership is comprised of boat

owners and riparians. The evening's topic was "the Decline in Great Lakes Water Levels", which prompted several questions from those in attendance during the nearly hour-long presentation.

The most apparent misconception is that Great Lakes water levels respond quickly to changes in regional weather. The membership was mildly surprised to learn that the most recent drop in lake levels is the byproduct of over two years of drier than average weather across the northern and central Great Lakes. Overall, the response was favorable toward the Corp's work and the membership had a positive perception of the Corps' role in the Great Lakes.

The Rotary was pleased to learn about the District's webpage and were impressed with the amount of water level information (observed and forecast) available to them free of charge. The Rotary discussed which of the members would regularly download and post these data for the Club's use. In closing, Chapter President Ted Anderson announced that the Rotary should plan to have a Corps speaker revisit the Rotary before the 2000 boating season begins. 

ENGLink Training

by Jerry Doline, District Emergency Manager

On Wednesday, 18 August 1999, in our district EOC, Dave Luff gave a hands-on, "ENGLink Interactive" training class to our Primary, LRE ICE PRT. Training consisted of how to track Corps/FEMA emergency/disaster mission assignments and report same up from the field disaster site(s), Corps-run Emergency Field Offices (EFO's), Corps-run Emergency Response and Recovery Offices (ERRO's), the FEMA-run & Corps (and other Federal/State Agency) staffed Disaster Field Offices (DFO's), all the way up to the host, (Corp's) district's EOC, and then on to that district's division— and then, finally, on to HQUSACE's UOC, in Washington, D.C.

More ENGLink training of our Alternate, ICE PRT Cadre, CAT and CMT members is to follow. 



Some of our LRE ICE PRT Cadre members at their "EOC duty stations" (from left to right): Benjamin Harrison, Alternate Action Officer; Lawrence Peete, Primary LERT; Eleanor Laethem, Primary Mission Specialist; David Luff, Primary Action Officer, and Kevin Drake, Primary Mission Manager.

Kudos!

EPA commends Corps

EPA thanks and applauds the Corps and Contractor Sverdrup Environmental for their quick action during the effluent line break that occurred on Friday, June 25, requiring an unscheduled shutdown of the Ott/Story System.

A new 3-mile long pipeline is being installed to carry treated effluent water from the Ott/Story/Cordova Groundwater Treatment Facility (GWTF) to its discharge point at the North Branch of the Muskegon River. The new pipeline is being installed parallel to the existing line, which was installed in the 1960's. The existing line is being used until the new line is complete and will

remain in place for future potential use by the PRP's.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. that day, the construction crew installing the new line accidentally hit the existing line with construction equipment, slicing it open and causing the GWTF treated effluent (approximately 600 gallons per minute at that time) to spill onto the ground. The GWTF was promptly shut down, but the line continued to drain for quite some time.

Carl Platz of Grand Haven, who was on annual leave in Detroit at the time, was paged by Steve Fink of Sverdrup informing him of the situation. Platz responded to the page by asking Sverdrup to immediately

Carl Platz near the construction activity.



notify the customer — EPA and MDEQ Project Managers John Fagiolo and Dennis Eagle. Platz worked out the plan of action with Sverdrup to repair the line, which was indeed completed late in the afternoon. The facility was turned back on that same evening.

Per Platz's request, Fink left a voice-mail message later that evening with Fagiolo and Eagle informing them of the events. Fagiolo replied, "I applaud USACE and Sverdrup on their efforts for a quick notification of EPA and MDEQ. Based on my own professional experience, I am well aware that such incidents accidentally occur during excavation and underground piping projects. It appears that Jackson Merkey, Sverdrup, USACE and MDEQ have the situation well under control and I would like to commend all the involved project partners for their expert handling of what could have been a potentially difficult situation."

Thanks to the Team/Partnering processes in place today, a problem was solved and responsibility taken to get the job done with hardly a blink of an eye. 

Corio Weds

 Mary Corio, Engineering and Planning Division, was married

to Jeffrey Joseph Hoen-scheid on Saturday, September 25. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii. 

Kroll awarded

 Margaret Kroll, daughter of Diane Kroll of the Human Resources Office, received awards for her three years (6th-8th grades) at O.L. Smith Middle School in Dearborn. At the honors assembly, Margaret was presented with the following awards:

- President's Award for Educational Excellence
- Honor's Award
- Awards of Excellence for Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Physical Education
- First Division Award — Band
- Outstanding Guidance Assistant
- Scholastic Olympics Participation 

Thanks & goodbye

"I've tried to do this in person, but in case I missed somebody ... Thanks for everything. I've really enjoyed my time with the Corps. It's been a great experience for me. Maybe I'll run into some of you somewhere down the line—I hope so."

— Jean Battle,
Regulatory Branch 

Hampton Township Honored

 On June 2nd, Hampton township and its department of public works director Terry Van Sumeren were honored for maintaining the township's advance measures flood control project in an excellent manner. The project was constructed in 1986, and every annual inspection since has revealed that the project is being exceptionally operated and maintained. The Hampton Township advance measures flood control project is the largest advance measures project in the Detroit District, comprised of over 10 miles of clay dike, clay dike with riprap, drainage pipes with flap gates and steel sheet piling. 

Michael K. O'Bryan, assistant chief, Construction-Operations Division, presented "Certificate of Recognition" plaques to William Tacey, township supervisor and Van Sumeren. Van Sumeren also received the Detroit District Commanders Coin.



Kudos! (continued)

Moore earns BBA



In June, Vernard L. Moore earned a BBA in Management with a minor in Marketing. Vernard started with the COE as a student aid working in the Office of Administration, which later became Logistics. He worked in IMO as a student mail clerk and was later promoted to the lead mail clerk when mail services were being performed in-house. He transferred to the Contracting Division as a Procurement Clerk and advanced to a Contract Specialist with Level II certification in Procurement and Contracting.



Because he has worked here for so long, he has often been referred to as one of the "Corps Babies." Vernard says, "I have learned that in time all goals can be accomplished. You can only do the best you can with what you know at the time, and when you know better, you do better! Now that I know better, I plan to continue to pursue higher grounds." 

Krishnappa promoted



Madhu Krishnappa, daughter of Mayanna G. Krishnappa, P.E., in Design Branch, was recently promoted from Employee Relations Manager to Director of Staffing and Diversity, Human Resources, for The Associated Press (AP) in New York City. Madhu joined the AP in 1997 from Standard & Poor's, where she was a senior employee relations specialist. She has also worked for Computer Sciences Corporation and the Henry Ford Health System in Michigan, according to a feature about her in AP World Magazine.



As a student, Madhu was a scholarship recipient and earned a degree with Honors from the University of Michigan in 1990, majoring in Economics. She received a Presidential (Ronald Reagan) Academic Fitness Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement before graduating from Farmington High, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Swimming, Yoga and music are her special interests, and football and basketball her favorite sports. 

Donations benefit students



Last issue, Soundings reported on the district donations to the Kennedy Center, a special education high school in Pontiac, Michigan. Following is a letter of appreciation to the Detroit District:

Dear Colonel Davis,

I am writing on behalf of myself, our principal, Betty Pfelfer and the Pontiac Schools administration, to thank you and your entire staff at the Army Corps of Engineers for making possible the generous donations of room divider panels and office furnishings, office products, paper goods, and all the great miscellaneous "imagination tickler" items that we recently received at Kennedy Center School. Many of the items are being shared with the other two high schools in Pontiac, and they will be put to good use.

The Kennedy art students have already used the light box in preparing stencils for silk screen printing. Mailing tubes will turn into "Rain Sticks" and props for stage productions this summer, and the envelopes will protect students' art work at home. The divider panels will help us to set up more quickly for art shows in which we participate at school and in various communities.

On a personal note, it is my opinion that as an artist it is my responsibility to utilize imagination in the service of conservation, recycling and preserving resources in our country and our planet. It seems to me we share many of the same goals.

Again, we are thankful to you and Mr. Yeraback, Mr. Valasquez, Ms. Hughes, Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Thompson for our exciting new "finds."

Sincerely yours in peace,

Katie Serewicz, Artist in Residence

Kennedy Center, Pontiac Public Schools 

Retirees' Corner

On August 1st, **Ward Grosnick** retired from his position as an Operator, Harbor Tugboat, from the Kewaunee Area Office after over 28 years of civilian and military service. During his time with the Corps of Engineers, he worked for the Duluth Area Office aboard the Dredge Gaillard for 7 years and then started working for the Kewaunee Area Office in September 1982. Ward's retirement plans include traveling. Everyone wishes Ward well in his retirement! 



A retirement celebration was held on June 18th for **Bill Willis**, who retired July 3rd from his position as chief of the Construction Operations Division after 31 years in the Detroit District. Many attended the ceremony, enjoying good food, reminiscing with old Corps' employees and friends, and dancing to a variety of music. Bill received many gifts as everyone said a heart-felt good-bye and good luck to a loyal, trusted Corps co-worker and friend. 



To Detroit District retirees: We need to hear from you! We're looking for information about your everyday lives and special events, but mostly, we would like to know what you're doing now.

Employees of the Month

JULY

Chris Schropp
Grand Haven Area Office



Chris is a Civil Engineer in the Construction Section. Chris is known for taking on numerous jobs—no matter how little or how big. These jobs vary from inspecting structure repair projects to filling in with our survey crew to providing quality assurance on the Fort Wayne Flood Control Project. One item Chris did was to develop several spreadsheets for the area engineer's use in showing how Grand Haven is able to execute almost half of the district's annual construction with minimal staff. Congratulations Chris! 

AUGUST

Ron Barkley
District Safety Officer



Ron has turned the Safety Office into one of the best customer service areas within the district. He always has helpful hints for both the contractors and the construction reps on-site at whatever project he is visiting. His responses are cheerful, accurate, thoughtful, and to the point. Ron understands the "why" of a regulatory requirement, often making it easier to implement. Ron is dedicated and takes care of the real needs of the organization. Congratulations and most deserving, Ron! 

SEPTEMBER

George Thibault
Grand Haven Area Office



George works on GHAO's survey crew as a Civil Engineer Technician. He is known for the value of preventive maintenance and keeping on top of things with the major survey equipment. He currently works with the survey vessel 3033, the skiffs and survey truck. Because of George's meticulous care, there has been very little downtime during the busy survey season.

Currently, George is working to reconfigure the bar-check apparatus on the 3033 so that the bar check work can be more easily accomplished by two individuals. This involves working with local merchants and equipment suppliers to fashion a one-of-a-kind apparatus. His solution may even make it possible for the apparatus to be operated with a single crew member in an emergency. 

Address Correction Requested

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, Michigan 48231-1027



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DETROIT, MI
PERMIT NO. 1284