

Fall Quarterly Issue 2000

Detroit District

Soundings

US Army Corps of Engineers



Fox River Locks Transfer

—See story on page 4

Soundings

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Inside...

- Safety Bulletin7
- Corps Speaks12-13
- Kudos!13-15
- Employees of the Month16

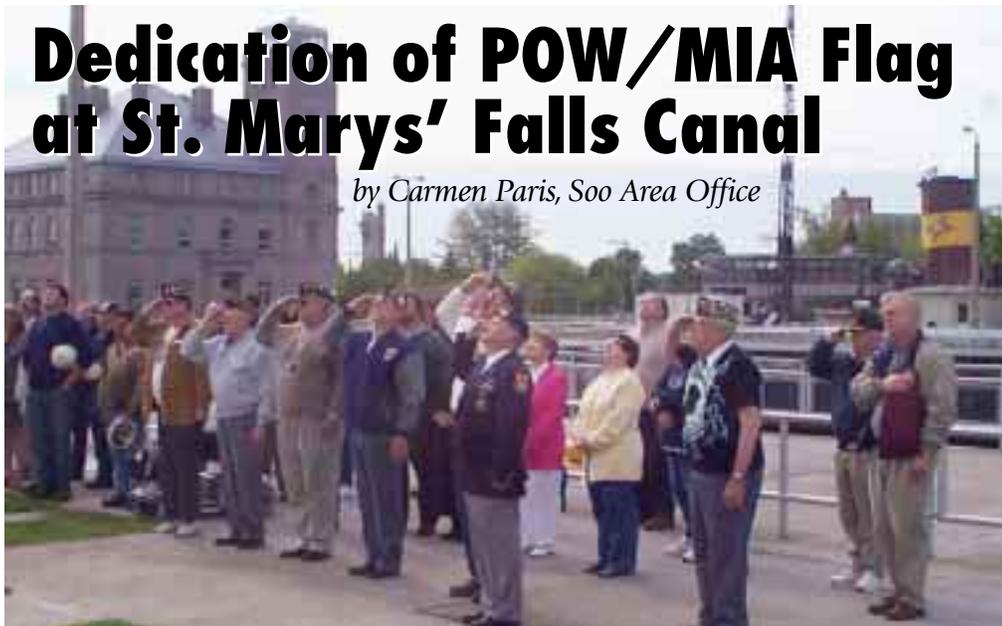
Features...

- District Hosts Listening Session5
- Engineers Day/Cook-out8
- Employees of the Year9-10
- Soo Annual Cook-out11

On the cover: Dr. Joseph Westphal, (far right) Assist. Sec. of the Army for Civil Works, signs memorandum agreement with Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson (far left), and Sec. of Wisconsin DNR, George Meyer (center).

Dedication of POW/MIA Flag at St. Marys' Falls Canal

by Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office



On Wednesday, May 24, 2000, a ceremony was held at the Soo Locks to dedicate and raise for permanent display a POW/MIA flag in memory of all veterans who were prisoners of war or are still listed as missing in action.

Several veterans were in attendance at this ceremony, including Mr. Don Smart, a World War II POW himself, who was invited to raise the POW/MIA flag. 

Peregrine falcon rescue in Detroit

by Tom Allenson, Regulatory Office

On July 14, some Corps Detroit District Regulatory Office staff met face to face with a fledgling peregrine falcon who had fallen to earth at Washington Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. Despite the interruption to a perfectly good lunch break, Pat O'Connor sounded the alarm and Judy Yerkey, the field staff for Project Peregrine Return, swooped in to rescue the bird. The falcon was taken to a rehabilitation center in Saline, Michigan for testing and observation. As of July 23rd, results of blood tests were not complete, but the bird is expected to be released within a week.

Resting on the ground in the city is very hazardous for young falcons, as they can be flushed into traffic. Last year, a young falcon was killed by a truck as it pursued a pigeon flying close to the ground. The rescued falcon has been named "CWA" for the Communications Workers of America, since he, a brother and a sister were fledged from a nest on the Ameritech Building, 30 floors above Cass Avenue. Peregrines have been fledged

at either the nearby Book Building or the Ameritech Building every year since 1992 and call the McNamara Federal Building part of their home territory. This nesting site has been the most prolific in Michigan since releases were begun in 1987 to allow the return of nesting peregrines. As you may know, peregrine falcons were extirpated from nearly all of the United States due to egg shell thinning caused by concentrated levels of the insecticide DDT in live birds, their food supply.



(Photo by Tara Solin, Regulatory Office; photo scanning by Tom Freitag, Regulatory Office.)

The peregrine falcon has been removed from the Federal Endangered Species list because of successes like Peregrine Return. Michigan has kept the peregrine on the state endangered list, however. The project is coordinated by the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources and is funded by contributions to the Natural Heritage Fund, including the "Look for the Loon" voluntary check-off on Michigan state income tax forms. For more information on wildlife programs in Michigan, visit the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us>. 

Commander's Column

by Lt. Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr.,
District Engineer

Promotion and Assumption of Command Ceremony

Every Corps employee can be proud of the fact that Lt.Gen. Robert Flowers was selected to be our 50th Chief of Engineers. While his biography is extremely impressive, his last two jobs have especially prepared him to be our new Chief. He comes from Ft. Leonard Wood, where he was the commanding General of the Maneuver Support Center and the Engi-

neer School for three years. Immediately before that, he was the Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, so he is no stranger to USACE, much less to the work that districts do, day in and day out.

Lt.Gen. Flowers has already affirmed the current Corps Vision, as well as most of the major initiatives that were put into place during the last couple of

years. Interestingly, he served on the Transition Team when the 49th Chief of Engineers took command four years ago and, as such, has already played a role in our new Corps Vision. There will be some minor changes, most notably in our strategy to "Seek Growth Opportunities." Additionally, Lt.Gen. Flowers has already helped to improve our relations between the Corps and the Army Secretariat, which



many media organizations had alleged were "strained" and in need of "fixing."

Finally, Lt.Gen. Flowers has already indicated that he is a firm believer in a "power down" philosophy. For example, the "Just Do it" card that was issued to every military and civilian employee at Ft. Leonard Wood is expected to be issued to Corps employees as well. In short, if the answer is yes to all of the following:

- 1) Is it good for my customer?
 - 2) Is it legal and ethical? and
 - 3) Is it something I am willing to be accountable for?
- Then you should "Just Do it" because you already have his permission. 



Top: Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff, United States Army, and Mrs. Flowers pin his new rank on Lt.Gen. Robert Flowers during the Oct. 23 ceremony in Conmy Hall at Fort Myer, Virginia.



Center: Newly promoted Lt.Gen. Robert Flowers accepts the command flag from General Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff, United States Army, taking command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and becoming the 50th Chief of Engineers.

Bottom: Lt.Gen. Flowers reviews the troops during following his Promotion and Assumption of Command ceremony.

(Photos by F.T. Eyre, HQUSACE.)



Detroit District transfers Fox River Locks

The Detroit District agreed to transfer the seventeen Fox River Locks, near Green Bay Wisconsin, to the citizens of Wisconsin at a ceremony in Appleton, Wisconsin recently.

The people of Wisconsin plan to restore the system for recreational boaters, tourists and history buffs. The entire area, with the Fox River as the epicenter, will eventually become the Fox River Heritage Parkway.

At the ceremony, the Governor of Wisconsin, Tommy Thompson, and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, George Meyer, sat down with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for



Dr. Joseph Westphal, a huge Green Bay Packers fan, sports the team's paraphernalia for the crowd, as John Forster, the backbone of the local partner coordination, looks on.

Civil Works, Joseph Westphal, in front of scores of citizens from the area to finalize the agreement that will transfer the locks from the federal government to the state of Wisconsin.

"This project is indicative of the role we play in building our nation," said Westphal, as he prepared to sign the agreement as the federal government representative.

"This is truly a partnership, and it would not have happened without the partnership—a partnership of the local people, state, and federal government—isn't that how it's supposed to happen?!" said Gov. Thompson.

This marks the beginning of a long awaited process and identifies the roles each agency will play in the complete restoration, reopening, and maintenance of the locks. The Corps is scheduled to contribute upwards of \$10 million plus approximately another \$5 million to match a state contribu-

tion towards the restoration process.

In the agreement, the Corps is giving up the navigation responsibility, and the state is picking up full responsibility for the locks, channels and harbors for recreational use. The Corps will continue operating the dams, which includes water regulation responsibility.

"I can tell you I have never had a group work as hard and who was as cooperative and helpful as the Corps was in these negotiations," said Meyer.

"We need to take examples like this where the project really helps the local people, where there's no longer a federal need, and apply them to other projects nationwide," said Westphal.

"The river is going to come to life and we're all going to be proud of it... We're going to look back one day and say 'It was the right thing to do,'" Thompson said.

Since 1959, when commercial navigation use of

the locks ceased, the federal government placed some locks in caretaker status because they no longer had the authority to justify paying for upkeep.

The state operated three locks since the late 1980s: Menasha, Little Kaukauna, and DePere. The other 14 were closed because they require various degrees of renovation.

"According to the project manager, it will take about ten years for the locks to actually be operational, but now that the agreement is made, the people in the Corps are committed to working with the state of Wisconsin to make sure the citizens in the Fox River area will have a recreational system that they can appreciate for years to come," Westphal said.

"The Fox River Heritage Parkway will be successful. Our actions will forever more affect our state for generations to come," said Thompson. 

Corrections

On page 4 of the *Soundings Special Edition 2000*, the caption under the photo of Lt.Col. Davis and his wife inadvertently listed Charles Uhlarik as the presenter of flowers and as Engineer/Scientist of the Year. This designation belongs to James Selegean. Also on page 4, Lt.Col. Davis received the *Meritorious Service Medal* from Brig.Gen. Griffin, not the Army Commendation Medal.

Detroit District Hosts Great Lakes Listening Session

by Joyce Hess, Executive Office

The watch-words of the modern Corps of Engineers are efficiency, effectiveness and quality. The Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division, Detroit District, joined HQUSACE—and fellow districts across the nation—in an effort to apply these principles to the future management of our water resources.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has undertaken a dialogue process to learn what the public has to say about concerns, priorities and the perceived federal government's role in water management. On behalf of the Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division, led by BG Robert Griffin, LTC Richard J. Polo, Jr., of the Detroit District, sponsored one of the national "Listening Sessions" at the Radisson O'Hare Hotel in Chicago on August 2. Stakeholders from federal, state, local and tribal governments, along with the media, environmentalists, and others with economic interests in our nation's water resources, attended the session. Each and every stakeholder, from the private boat owner to the largest shipping organizations, were welcomed and offered the opportunity to speak out on water-related issues that touch their lives—and speak out they did.

Those who could not attend this, or any of the sessions offered across

the United States, were and are encouraged to contribute their views on-line, participate in an on-line discussion, or call a toll-free number. Many across the U.S. have done so, adding to the wealth of knowledge about public concerns and priorities.

The areas used to open the Chicago Listening Session were:

● **Aging Infrastructure:** The national investment in water resources has not kept pace with our economic and social expansion. Over the last forty years, the investment in our public infrastructure (including water resources infrastructure) has been reducing relative to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). At current investment rates, our water resources infrastructure will be unable to support the greater demands of a rapidly expanding population and economy.

● **Environmental Restoration:** Even though the water resources projects built today include built-in environmental protection, the environment is still suffering from past actions. Some forests, grasslands and wetlands have been damaged during the construction of projects. Much has been done to remediate and restore these ecosystems but much still needs to be done to clean up, restore and improve the environment.

● **Emergency Response:**

Natural disasters cost the nation \$300 million a week in damages. Disasters in the form of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and tornadoes strike virtually everywhere in the nation, costing people their lives, homes, livelihoods and sense of well-being. Much has been done to prepare for and mitigate these disasters, but more can be done. Our nation's capability to respond to natural disasters is being stretched. The nation needs to maintain an effective response capability.

● **Marine Transportation System:**

Every year the nation moves more than \$1 trillion in and out of its ports and harbors. In twenty years, it is expected the commerce will double. However, we are nearly at capacity. In order to maintain our economic potential, we must improve the capability of our marine transportation system.

● **Flood Control:** Since 1950, flood control projects have prevented nearly \$500 billion in damages. Even though there are nearly 400 lakes and reservoirs and 8,500 miles of levees and dikes, less than a quarter of all communities at risk have any type of protection or insurance. Just which communities will be flooded and how bad is unknown. What is known is that more can be done to help prevent or minimize flooding impacts on communities.

● **Smart Growth:** The water infrastructure of many urbanized areas are beginning to show signs of decay. Water supply systems are crumbling, finding clean sources and protecting them from contamination is becoming harder to do. In the West, finding adequate quantities is a major problem. With a growing population, all of these areas must be addressed.

From these, the Chicago session decided on the following priorities:

- Commercial navigation improvements.
- Flood control (flood damage reduction).
- Better national coordination with regional solutions — regional vision for the Great Lakes.
- Streamline the time it takes for project from inception to construction.
- Improved partnerships and shared decision making processes.
- Thinking beyond waterways toward watersheds (stewardship).

The Chicago meeting was well attended and productive, with approximately 60 members of the public attending. The results of the work accomplished during these Listening Sessions will be collated into a report. Results documented in the report will be compiled into a national report that will assess the current state of America's water resources and the existing needs. The national report will be provided to the public and decision-makers in order to guide discussions about future national investment choices and decisions. With participation from stakeholders at all levels, the Nation's leaders can use these results to discuss an integrated approach for solving water management challenges. After the national report has been completed and posted on the below web site, the Corps Headquarters will begin a series of focused discussions with other federal agencies and other non-government organizations to pave the way for cooperative efforts.

Opportunities to continue the dialogue and to view the results of each Listening Session are available to everyone via the internet at the Water Resources Web Site at: www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/iwr/waterchallenges.



Senator Spencer Abraham Visits Soo Locks

by Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office

On Friday, August 18, Senator Spencer Abraham, (R-MI) visited the Soo Locks, along with his wife Jane, twin daughters Betsy and Julie, and son Spencer, Jr. Also with Sen. Abraham was State Representative Scott Shackleton, (R-Sault Ste. Marie).

Following a short briefing by District Engineer LTC Richard Polo and Area Engineer Stan Jacek, the group was given a tour of the locks and saw the *Str. Charles M. Beeghly* lock down through the Poe Lock. 



The Regional Business Center Corner

by Garry Gerlach, Business Management Office, Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Did You Know...

- Mike Barton of the Buffalo District is leading a team preparing plans and specifications for Chicago District on Chicago Shoreline.
- Tom Fogarty of Chicago District is heading a group conducting an independent technical review for Buffalo District on Astabula Harbor.
- David Wong of Detroit District is assisting Louisville District in construction management at Detroit Arsenal.
- Mark Kessinger of Huntington District is leading a Corps-wide team supporting the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) in Sandusky, Ohio at the Plumbrook Facility.
- Jeff Bayers of Louisville District is part of a team assisting Nashville Dis-

trict on plans and specifications for a new miter lock gate at Kentucky Lock.

- Jim Lowe of Pittsburgh District is leading a team assisting Chicago District in design for the Little Calumet River pump station rehabilitation.

Across the Corps...

This approach is catching on across all Corps offices. We have opportunities to assist or be assisted by other districts outside our division boundaries. Jodi Stanton of Nashville District is on the team assisting Mobile District in determining the geology at Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. Boyd McClellan of Louisville District is leading a group assisting Norfolk District in topographic surveys for Fort A.P. Hill. St. Paul District is conducting an indepen-

dent technical review for Chicago District on Cady Marsh.

What does all this have to do with you?

These activities reflect the Regional Business Center (RBC) in action. What is the RBC you might ask? Is it something new? Is it a special organization? No it is simply a method of operation—a new way of doing business. It is a corporate partnership among all seven districts and the division office. This new approach to mission accomplishment promotes the effective and efficient use of all the assets within the region (Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville, and Pittsburgh Districts and the division office), as well as those outside the division in executing missions and programs for the Army and the nation. Essentially, we are trying to

bring the best available skills to bear on an issue to improve our opportunity for success and to better serve our customers.

What does it mean to you?

It means that there will be more opportunities to be involved in exciting new projects or initiatives that reach beyond your district area. It means exposure to technical challenges that you may not be able to experience in your current area of operations. Continue to watch for this corner in the future. As valued members of the RBC, we want to share our challenges and successes to better acquaint you with what the RBC can mean to you.

If you wish to contribute an idea or other information that highlights the RBC in action, please contact Garry Gerlach, 513-684-3756, CELRD-CM-B. 

Center handles civilian benefits on Web or by phone

by Barbara Filbert

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD—Civilian employees serviced by the Northeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC) will soon be able to change their benefits, such as health and life insurance, over the phone or on the Web, as the local advisory centers transfer many services to the Army Benefits Center for Civilians, or ABC-C.

The benefits center, located at Fort Riley, Kansas, began providing automated services for retirement, life insurance, health benefits, survivor benefits, and the Thrift Savings Plan on October 11 to civilian employees throughout the Northeast Region, the largest stateside CPOC.

"The ABC-C is an effort to maximize the use of technology and promote efficiency through the consolidation of resources," said Kathy Cole, chief of the center. "It uses state-of-the-art technology similar to automated systems used by banks, colleges and health insurance carriers."

The new system, which will replace the face-to-face benefits counseling now offered to civilian employees, will offer serviced employees access to personal and general information and process benefits transactions through two systems. The Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) allows customers to access the system through a touch-tone telephone; and the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS), a cus-

tomized Web application, allows customers to access the system via the Internet.

Both systems are designed to guide employees through their benefit and entitlement needs. Each of the systems has general and personal information regarding one's benefits, and allows employees to explore their options and make elections.

Personnel can access the Web application at <http://www.abc.army.mil>; and the call center with a touch-

tone telephone by calling the toll-free number 1-877-ARMY-CTR (1-877-276-9287). For TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) assistance, call the toll-free number 1-877-ARMY TDD (1-877-276-9833). Employees will need to input their social security number and personal identification number (PIN) to access both systems.

"A Point-of-Entry (POE) module to enhance the security of personal data on the Web was recently

added," Cole said. "Personnel will create a user identification and an eight character password to get into the EBIS system." Employees may use either system from any location to access information and process transactions. People needing assistance can transfer to one of the benefit counselors at Fort Riley via the telephone system. They will be able to walk employees through any troubles they may encounter. 



Safety Bulletin...

Use Good Ergonomics to Avoid Injury



Has your job been fitted to you or do you have to fit the job? In the workplace, the trend is to fit the job to the person, not the person to the job. In other words, you are provided with the tools and the work stations that reduce the stresses and strains on the musculoskeletal system. The job is ergonomically designed for you.

Ergonomics is the science of arranging the environment to fit the person. It involves looking at the work station, the tools, the motions of the work performed, the worker's physical capabilities and limitations, and environmental conditions. The idea is to design and control the factors involved, so you perform your job efficiently and safely.

The facts are staggering on workers' injuries and illnesses

caused by ergonomic stressors. Every year, about 19 million American workers are disabled by musculoskeletal injuries.

The cost of the injuries is about one hundred billion dollars. Also, over one third of all workers' compensation costs are associated with cumulative disorders (injuries caused by trauma over a period of time).

Poor Ergonomics = a task or tool that exposes you to frequent:

- Repetitive motions on a machine, keyboard, packing, cutting, etc.
- Forceful exertion of your arm or hand
- Vibration
- Awkward positions or movements

Good Ergonomics = a task or tool that:

- Minimizes repetitive motions
- Alternates repetitive motions with other tasks
- Positions the work surface waist high
- Places tools and materials within 20 inches
- Uses a chair with adjustable height and back support
- Positions a computer keyboard for work with wrists straight, elbows at right angles, and arms resting at sides
- Has light, easy-grip tools that don't require extreme effort
- Grips tools so the thumb and index finger overlap slightly
- Avoids bending wrists
- Holds materials with clamps or jigs
- Carries materials with a palm-down grip
- Operates vibrating tools at the lowest efficient speed and the loosest safe grip 

Combined Engineers Day, Corps cook-out best ever!



Alexcia Caperton (left, granddaughter of Tammy Ramos, Mgmt. & Support Office for ETS) gives a cookie to Arielle Jamya Howard (niece of Clarence Kendrick, Boatyard). (Photo by Tammy Ramos)

Once again, "Engineers Day" and the annual Corps cook-out proved to be a complete success with a full day of festivities and fun in the hot, hot summer sun.

This year's event took place at Metro Beach Metro-Park with a full range of available amenities to help everyone find their favorite activity in the park, at the beach, or in the pool. In addition to what the park had to offer, the hard working cook-out committee scheduled games and events for all ages to appreciate throughout the day.

The major highlights of the day were the basketball

games, the Tug-o-War between the 6th and 7th floor participants, and the Dunk tank. With Dave Dulong as one of the dunkers, the event coordinators probably raised enough money through ticket sales to pay for most of the event.

In the middle of the day, Corps employees were joined by their families and former employees as they took a break from the activities to celebrate and award the "Employees of the Year," "Length of Service Awards," and other special recognitions.

The commander thanked all of the employees for the hard work they put forth

throughout the last few years. He highlighted some of the district's greatest successes, which include: the Hammer Award, the Five

Star Safety Award, the Contractor of the Year Award—won by Detroit District Contractor Roen Salvage, a Small and Disadvantaged Business Award, and the Soo Locks being named one of the Top Ten Civil Engineering Projects of the 20th Century... "achievements for which I am proud and grateful. Our collective pride in these achievements are bonds I will share with you for a lifetime, and I thank you for that."

He went on to thank the friends and family members that took time out of their day to celebrate and enjoy

this biggest Corps summer event. "Your presence honors the US Army Corps of Engineers, your family members, colleagues and our traditions."

Most importantly, he congratulated the award recipients for their dedication and hard work. "Each of you has consciously made the decision to strive for excellence, and, in doing so, have helped to make this organization the success it is today. We are all here to publicly recognize you and let you know the esteem in which we hold each of you." 



Above: The 7th floor beat the 6th floor in tug-o-war this year—we'll get 'em next time!



Left: A lot of pushing and shoving in this game. Is that how you play basketball?



Left: Can she do it?

Below: Yes! She did it, and Dave Kurty takes the plunge.



2000 Employees of the Year Awards



Leader of the Year
**H.T. (David)
Wong, P.E.,
C.C.E.**

Dave consistently goes beyond career field boundaries. He is a mentor, an outstanding trainer and works tirelessly to educate his staff. Under Dave's leadership, he has developed an organization that enhances and facilitates the Project Management Business Process (PMBP), resulting in improved execution metrics and decreased costs of doing business. His personal commitment is an inspiration with notable contributions that include support to the Army through an MOA with Louisville District in which we provide support at TACOM and the Walker Reserve Center. Dave genuinely cares about people and constantly strives to provide growth opportunity through the Leadership and special emphasis programs.



Operator/Maintainer
of the Year
**Larry Van
Oordt**

Larry demonstrates accomplishments beyond his normal job as a maintainer in the Grand Haven Area Office. He is invaluable to the Corps of Engineers embodying the CORPS PLUS strategy by carefully treating funds and work as if they were his own. His inspection efforts are impeccable. Larry has revolutionized effectiveness by becoming an expert in the Repair Evaluation Maintenance and Rehabilitation (REMR) program. He has sought growth opportunities by teaching himself how to use all automation assets. He has invested in people by assuming (on his own initiative) the entire maintenance workload to include all of the annual structure inspections—even during staff cuts—thus relieving workload.



Administrative
Employee of the Year
**Barbara A.
Butler**

Barb's focus is the customer—whether receiving phone calls, greeting visitors, or assisting in updating the 11,000 subscriber mailing list for the *Monthly Bulletin of Lake Levels for the Great Lakes*. She demonstrates outstanding skills, excellent work habits and approaches every task with vigor and enthusiasm. Barb is constantly striving to challenge herself. Her positive, professional attitude, in spite of her heavy workload, is one of her greatest assets. Her courtesy and sense of humor is contagious and heightens morale. She is friendly and compassionate. On a day-to-day basis, Barb is a positive reflection of the Corps' corporate values of integrity, professionalism, quality, and caring.



Technical Employee
of the Year
**James W.
Schultz**

Jim is a master at multi-disciplined, highly complex construction contracts. He is an industrious, competent team player committed to quality and safety on the job. Jim is thorough in inspections and research. He is creative—finding and adapting solutions to meet unique requirements. He epitomizes the Corps' competency in "customer care." In addition to many non-traditional duties, Jim continued to perform his main duties as the sole construction representative on multi-million dollar projects. Jim's people skills are his finest attribute. He consistently combines professionalism, sensitivity and a very positive attitude. He is always prompt, prepared, and positive in every situation. His integrity is a beacon for all.



Distinguished Civilian Employee of the Year
Peter I. Kytasty

Peter was one of the best design engineers ever to work for the Detroit District. He served from the 1950's to 1997. During his career, Peter produced a phenomenal quantity of top-notch design work as principal designer on hundreds of projects ranging from minor harbor repairs to the largest projects, including the Pointe Mouille Confined Disposal Facility. He specialized in unique design approaches to solve difficult problems. Peter was meticulous at documenting his work—some of the designs he prepared almost qualify as works of art! During his career, Peter served as a mentor to many of the District's engineers. A born teacher, he had a gift for explaining difficult technical principles and procedures.

Great Lakes &
Ohio River Division
Disaster Responder
of the Year Award—
1999

**Doretta C.
Battles**

(See Doretta's story in the
Winter '99 and Summer
'00 issues of Soundings.)

(Awards continue on next page)

Employees of the Year (continued)



Student of the Year
Allan Frappier

Allan improves efficiency at every turn. He is proactive and competent with all tasks—challenging and fun or difficult and annoying—which he tackles with equal positive attitude and energy. He exhibits an outstanding personality and remarkable maturity, projecting confidence and clear goals. Allan is a “key” employee with many current duties at a more difficult and responsible level than traditionally assigned to students. His work products; construction cost estimates, submittal processing, and contact administration are exceptional and essential. As an engineering student, Allan has a positive professional goal. He never shies away from an assignment and commits himself 100% to gather all he can from the experiences accorded to him.



Engineer/Scientist of the Year
James P. Selegan

Jim distinguishes himself by going well beyond the work assigned. He has taken the role of lead coastal engineer to new heights, providing best solutions to the district’s design projects. He is “hands on” in understanding each harbor and/or local conditions that affect project design. Due to exceptional management skills, Jim’s work on the Great Lakes Sediment Transport Modeling Program has brought a significant share of the work effort to the district. His innovative thinking, ability to get the job done, and respect by his peers is exemplary. Jim’s work efforts, professionalism, innovation, dedication and knowledge have provided the Detroit District with an outstanding coastal engineering leader.

Team of the Year
Saginaw River Clean-up project team

We congratulate William Rito, Team Leader (A-E Mgmt Sect); Kerry Williams (Civil Design Sect); Pam Horner (Environmental Br); Gary Segrest (Office Counsel); Wanda Carter-Davis (Contracting Divn); Joe Kimmel (Cost & Gen Engr Sect); Chris Dowhan-Bailey (Office Counsel); Dave Bowman (Environmental Br); Paul Baxter (Environmental Br); Paul Allerding (Environmental Br); Flo Bissell (Environmental Br); Suren Suhktankar (Const Mgmt Sect); Dick Smit (Detroit AO); Henry Peterson (Cost & Gen Engr Sect); Jim Galloway (Environmental Br); Pat Olk (Civil Design Sect); Don Holly (Tech Support Sect); and Ron Erickson (Civil Design Sect).

As a result of legal negotiations between the US Government and General Motors, the Corps was tasked with assisting in the clean up of portions of the Saginaw River. The team was formed to conduct engineering analysis, design, and environmental documentation and to prepare plans and specifications leading to environ-



Jeff Weiser accepts on behalf of the team.

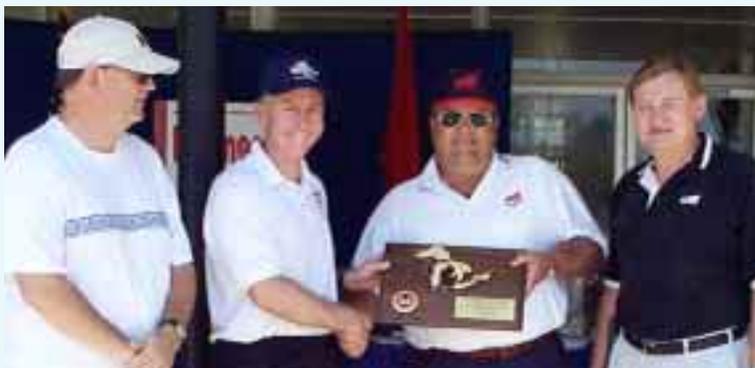
mental dredging in the Saginaw River in support of the US F&W Service and the State of Michigan. This project is of the largest “Civil Works Support for Others” dredging projects ever undertaken by the Corps. The team demonstrated flexibility and patience working on a non-traditional project with a large number of partners. They toiled in the face of setbacks to positively influence the outcome. This, in turn, inspired a solid reputation and future projects for the district. The Team invested in people, creating a corporate culture that supports customer service, integrity, quality and caring.

They delivered the project on time and within budget. The team managed resources, solved problems and ensured customer commitments were met while assuring customers and stakeholders were kept in the communication process throughout each phase of the project completion.

Detroit District Safety Award Winners

At this year’s Detroit District cook-out on June 23 at Metro Beach, Lt. Col. Robert Davis made presentations to the Area Engineer winners of the FY 1999 Safety Awards.

Congratulations to the winners and all the other excellent candidates.



Contractor Safety Award — **E.S. Wagner** (Two E.S. Wagner representatives on right accept the award. Looking on at far left is Ron Barkley from the district’s Safety Office.)



Safety Professional of the Year — (tie) **Darrel “Red” Pederson** and **James Bumford** (pictured), both from Kewaunee Area Office

Soo Area Office holds annual cook-out

by Carmen Paris, Soo Area Office

The Soo Area Office held its annual cook-out on Friday, July 21 at Sherman Park in Sault Ste. Marie, located just above the locks on the upper St. Marys River. A total of 143 people were in attendance at the event, which included employees and their families.

As in previous years, personnel from the Facilities Management Branch performed an outstanding job of setting up from start to finish, which included cooking up delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. Festivities at this year's cook-out included—in addition to the ever popular egg toss—a dunk tank. Various branch chiefs and assistants were all too glad to volunteer as “dunkees,” much to the delight of their individual employees. 



Above: A view of a ship in the background at the Park.



Left: All the trimmings.



Above: Bob Deuman taking his turn in the dunk tank.



Left: Trudi Britz ready to take her turn at a toss.

Corps Speaks...

On April 26 and 27, **Pat Klever** of the Grand Haven Area Office attended a Cruise Michigan! Conference in Bay City, MI to facilitate the dissemination of data on Corps' projects in harbors throughout Michigan. Pat also provided the Cruise Michigan! Association with copies of the Corps' Pier Safety video and provided other USACE information materials to all conference attendees.

Pat also spoke on April 27 at a public meeting concerning environmental dredging proposed for the eventual cleanup of contaminants in Tannery Bay, White Lake, MI. The meeting was sponsored by the Muskegon Conservation District and the Muskegon and White Lake Public Advisory Committees.

At the April meeting of the Zee-land, MI, Rotary Club, Pat made a presentation on the current low lake levels and their impacts and made available copies of the Corps' Pier Safety video and other USACE information materials.

On May 16, **Dave Schweiger**, H&H, made a presentation on lake levels to 40 members of the Mt. Clemens Power Squadron in Mt. Clemens.

On May 17, **Carl Woodruff**, H&H, made a presentation on the Great Lakes to the Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club in Traverse City, Michigan. The meeting was attended by about 40 members and guests.

On May 20, **Roger Gauthier**, H&H, made a presentation on lake levels to a homeowners group on Drummond Island.

On June 29, **Trudi Britz**, Chief—Construction Branch, briefed and conducted a tour for Lake Superior State University Upward Bound students.

On June 29, **Richard Gutleber** of the Marquette Regulatory Field Office participated with the Marquette Interagency Conservation Center in hosting several Upward Bound student groups. These Upward Bound students are gifted high school students from a five-state region, in Marquette for the

summer taking college levels courses at Northern Michigan University. The students were introduced to the Corps' Regulatory Program with Richard giving demonstrations of the field methodology used in wetland delineations, data gathering, and jurisdictional determinations. Although the students were very interested in the "field" aspect of the program, they were less enchanted by the amount of

office work required to support the field findings and the importance of good writing skills—a topic echoed by the teachers and mentors in attendance. Additionally, a number of topics were discussed, ranging from the effect lake levels have on the ecosystem, wetland benefits, to tracking projects and the effects these activities cause.

St. Louis River Quest 2000

by Thom Holden and Kevin Gange, Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center

What do you call a three-day event where you talk to hundreds of school children aboard a 91-foot boat in a whirlwind tour of the harbor? Answer: St. Louis River Quest. Created in 1993, St. Louis River Quest is an educational program sponsored by the Duluth Area Office of the Corps of Engineers, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, and about 40 other public and private agencies and groups concerned with the use and preservation of the St. Louis River estuary. River Quest gives 6th-grade students hands-on lessons in water quality, soil conservation, pollution prevention, maritime commerce, boating safety, fish habitat, and a variety of other related topics.

For the uninitiated, being a presenter at the 8th Annual St. Louis River Quest was both an exhilarating and exhausting experience. During the three-day period of May 17-19, over 800 students from area schools moved among 10 learning stations on the Vista Star excursion boat during a 2-1/2 hour tour of Duluth-

Superior Harbor. The students were divided into small groups of about a dozen and spent about 10 minutes at each station. River Quest 2000 had students and their teachers and parents from school systems in Duluth and Proctor, Minnesota, and Superior and Maple, Wisconsin.

This year, the Corps of Engineers' learning station focused on Great Lakes water levels with a problem for students to solve: "How do you measure the level of a lake that is always moving?" Students learned how stilling wells are used in measuring water levels at gauging stations around the lake, and how they provide accurate readings regardless of wind and weather conditions. Simultaneous readings from several stations

are then averaged to determine the current level or height above sea level.

Presenters used PowerPoint slides, an old portable water level gauge driven by a hand-wound clockworks from the Museum collection, and a demonstrational model of a lake and stilling well to teach students the finer points of measuring the daily fluctuations in water levels. In past years, the program featured maintaining the Twin Ports shipping channels and how the shape of the harbor has changed since the harbor was first surveyed in 1861.

Presentations were made by **Al Klein**, Duluth Area Engineer, and **Thom Holden** and **Kevin Gange** of the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center. An extra special "thanks" is due to **Adam Fox**, **Ray Zomparelli**, and **Nanette Noorbakhsh** of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch in the Detroit District Office for providing excellent graphics, background materials, and help with the stilling well model, along with **Jack Mulek** of the Duluth Area Office for setting up the computer equipment on the boat. **H&H**



Visitor Center educator Kevin Gange discusses Great Lakes water levels with a group of 6th-grade students above an excursion vessel in Duluth-Superior Harbor. (Ken Newhams photo.)

Kudos!

Landscaping in Canal Park, Duluth

by Thom Holden, Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center



Pause to Pose: Prospective "green thumbs" of the Helping Hands of Youth program paused from their work in the flower beds alongside the Duluth Area Office just long enough to pose. They have been a great help in keeping Canal Park looking great. (Corps of Engineers photo.)

 Flower care and landscaping chores in and around Canal Park in Duluth have gotten an especially welcome hand this year. The Helping Hands of Youth (HHOY) program provided dozens of young volunteers to work alongside some seasoned

"green thumbs" to learn to care for the many varieties of annuals planted in the park.

Participants in HHOY come from troubled backgrounds, and this has given them a positive opportunity to focus their energy. The project has not only improved the summertime appearance of the Canal

Park District, but it has also cut down on the amount of vandalism and disruptive behavior in the area.

The local program is funded through donations. Lake Superior Marine Muse-

um Association, the citizens cooperating group working with the Corps' Duluth Visitor Center and Duluth Area Office, contributed \$500 toward this season's work.



Corps Speaks (continued)

Joe Kimmel, Cost Estimating, presented over twenty small business contractors with an exceptional seminar on June 29 entitled "Cost Estimating." This seminar was sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA), Assistant Director Conrad Valle. The SBA and the contractors were quite amazed with the briefing Joe presented to the contractors. **Sharon Lawrence** also provided information regarding contract terms and conditions.

conducted a briefing and tour for Lake Superior State University Summer Institute students.

On June 30, **R. Lane**, Asst Area Engineer, and Kevin Sprague, Chief—Lock Operations Branch, conducted live interviews with television crews from Grand Rapids, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

On July 21, the Area Engineer and Assistant Area Engineer conducted a briefing and tour for Governor Engler's Washington DC representative Debbie Marshall, MDOT representative Larry Carnes, and Great Lakes Commission representative Steve Thorpe.

John Love, H&H, made a water levels presentation to the Boyne City Rotary Club on August 14. There were about 30-35 members in attendance.

On July 11, **Edward Hallquist**, Chief—St. Marys River Branch,

Les Weigum spoke at Birmingham Middle School on September 28. Les has spoken to this middle school for the past 5 years. 

Soo welcomes new employees

 Originally from Corfu, NY, **John H. Overfield** graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1982. He entered government service in March 1985 and became employed at Fort Drum, NY. He then transferred to Germany in 1987 and worked at various locations: Reinberg, Heibronn, Nuernberg and Grafenwoehr. John returned to the U.S. in May 2000 to accept his current position as Assistant Area Engineer for Facilities Management at the Soo Area Office. As A/AE Facilities Management, he is responsible for the hydroelectric plant, St. Marys River, buildings and equipment maintenance, and providing engineer technical support for all Area Office elements.



Originally from Westland, MI, **Ray M. Lane** started work for the government in 1975 at the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base near Marquette, MI. He worked for the Air Force for five years, then started with the Corps of Engineers at the former Wurtsmith AFB in Oscoda, MI, working on the Air Launch

Cruise Missile program. Ray worked on various large construction programs for the Corps at Wurtsmith AFB, K.I. Sawyer AFB, F.E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY, Milwaukee, WI, Madison, WI, Minneapolis, MN, and other locations. He accepted the position as Assistant Area Engineer at the Soo Area Office in February 2000.

Ray has five children and recently celebrated the new arrival of a grandson. 

(Kudos continues on next page)

Kudos! (continued)

Baby Boy Bouwhuis

 Brian and Mary Bouwhuis had their first child on August at 7:00 PM. Benjamin Adin was 7 lbs., 12 ozs. and 19" long. Everyone is doing fine. 

Caperton retires

 Tammy Caperton retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves, 927 ARG, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, on July 17. She retired at the grade of Master Sergeant after over 20 years of service. 

Corps Family Wins 60% of DEFCU Top Scholarships

 Scott Weigum (son of Les), Jeanette Godbey (daughter of Don), and Todd Weiser (son of Jeff) each received one of this year's five \$1,000 college scholarships awarded by the Detroit Federal Employees Credit Union. The awards were based upon an essay contest that asked each of the 50 finalists, "How will electronic commerce impact financial services at DFECU, society and your life?" Five \$100 scholarships were also awarded. The awards were

presented at the 10th Annual Scholarship Dinner held on June 16. Congratulations to the winners!! 

Ensemble has "Spark"

 Diane Kroll, Detroit CPAC, belongs to a folk music ensemble which performed at the Home County Folk Festival in London, Ontario July 22 and 23. The ensemble, known as Szikra, or "Spark," plays a traditional Hungarian folk instrument, the citera (zither). The zither has enjoyed a renewed popularity in Hungary, but is rare in North America. Szikra has per-

formed at various folk festivals and events in Windsor and Flint, as well as locally. Diane's daughter, Margaret, is also a member of the group. 



Diane Kroll (top right) and her Hungarian ensemble. Diane's daughter, Margaret (top left), and sister, Linda (bottom right), are also members of the group.

Olk Receives Eagle Scout Award



 Greg Olk, 15, son of Pat (Design Branch) and Maggie Olk, received Scouting's highest award, the Eagle Scout rank award, at a Court of Honor ceremony held on June 3. Olk is a member of Troop 1111 in Dearborn, which is sponsored by Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He is the 132nd Eagle Scout from



Troop 1111 since its founding in 1950.

The Eagle rank award is earned by approximately 2% of young men who are in the Scouting program. In order to earn the Eagle rank award, a Scout is required to plan, organize and lead a service project that benefits a community, church or school. Through his interest in animals, Greg became aware that the Dearborn Animal Shelter was interested in develop-

ing a web site for an on-line pet adoption program. Due to the increasing numbers of unwanted animals, the shelter felt that the internet would be a great way to link people with pets that are available for adoption.

What the shelter needed was a digital camera that could quickly and easily download pictures of the pets onto the web site. Greg chose to plan and carry out a can and bottle recycling drive in order to assist the shelter in raising funds for the camera. Utilizing manpower from Scouts and adult leaders from Troop 1111, Greg raised over \$700. With help from the City of Dearborn in the form of matching funds, the Animal Shelter was able to obtain a top-of-the-line digital camera. Within two weeks after implementation of the on-line photos, a family from Kansas saw an older dog that they wanted and subsequently drove 900 miles to

Dearborn in order to adopt their new pet.

Greg's project is an example of how Scouting is entering the new millennium by using internet technology, and at the same time continuing to demonstrate environmental responsibility. In successfully carrying out the project, Greg learned skills in the areas of leadership, communications, outdoorsmanship and working with others.

Greg is a sophomore at Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights, where he is a member of the Quiz Bowl team as well as the varsity swim team. Greg's parents, Pat and Maggie are both adult leaders with Troop 1111. His brother Steve received the Eagle award in 1995 and is presently an assistant Scoutmaster with the Troop. Greg's uncle, Joe Kubinski, is Chief of Civil Design in Engineering and Construction Division. 

(Kudos continues on next page)

Kudos! (continued)



Wedding in the park

 Over a dozen weddings are conducted each year near the fountain in the Soo Locks Park. Dan Smart and Mary Givens were married by Probate Judge Lowell Ulrich on June 23. Dan is the son of Larry Smart, Soo Area Office Lock Operations employee. Dan and Mary are Michigan Department of Corrections employees and reside in Newberry, Michigan. 

Corps Ace

 Roger Gauthier, Chief, Watershed Hydrology Branch, shot a hole-in-one on the 8th hole at the Rogell Golf Course in Redford, MI during the Corps weekly league meet on Monday, August 14. The hole was a par 3; he hit a 9-iron that landed about 30 yards in front of the pin and rolled into the cup. This appears to be the first hole-in-one scored during league play for the Corps of Engineers since the league started playing regularly in the mid-1960s.

Says Roger, "I'm embarrassed somewhat, but awfully pleased as well." 

New gift shop gives Corps discount

 John Silagy's daughter, Jodie Heikkinen, and son-in-law, Sven, recently opened a gift, home decor and antique shop in the Soo, called "La Galerie Gifts." It is located at the top of the hill at 1420 Ashmun. Jodie, who has been attending Lake Superior State University for the last two years, majoring in Elementary Education, has always wanted to open up her own business. Jodie told her dad in the spring-time that the right opportunity came along at just the right time. Not only will Jodie be pushed to the limit with continuing school and the new business, she and her husband are expecting their second child, John's 7th grandchild! Come in and browse and mention that you are a Corps employee and a discount will be guaranteed. By the way, Sven, who works for Continental Teves (formerly ITT Automotive) in Brimley, worked at the Soo Area Office during his last year of college—so lots of Corps friendships were made. 



John Silagy and daughter, Jodie Heikkinen



Lt. Col. Robert Davis presents Robert Deroche with the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service Award given by Brig. Gen. Robert Griffin. Bob served as the first review officer for the Division under the new regulatory appeals process.

Jeske academic honors

 Congratulations to Crystal A. Jeske, daughter of Patricia Jeske, Management Support Office, for good work in third grade at O.W. Holmes Elementary School! Following are the honors and awards she received for the 1999-2000 school year:



- Highest Achieving Student Award of O.W. Holmes Elementary School 1999-2000 (trophy).
- Science Award 2nd Place at O.W. HOLMES Elementary School Science Fair (silver medal).
- Perfect Attendance during the 1st and 2nd semester of the 1999-2000 school year (certificate award).
- Outstanding Academic Achievement — Subject: Social Studies Award (certificate award).
- Outstanding Scholarship during the 4th marking period of the 1999-2000 school year (certificate award). On her fourth report card, she had 10 A's and 2 B's. Her final annual card average was 3.909. (All A's and one B).
- Certificate for participation in the 1st Ever Talent Show on June 22 (sang "Beautiful Dreamer").
- Project SEED Certificate of Achievement — studied Algebra with Project SEED, Spring 1999-2000 semester.
- Metropolitan Achievement Tests in April 2000: Total Reading, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Concepts and Problem Solving — above average Science, Total Mathematics — between average & above average Procedures — average 

Peacemaker Achievement

 Dion Satchel, son of Yvonne Toney of Programs Management Branch, received a "Certificate of Achievement" for a student presentation of the "Peaceful Student Program" at Waldo Ralph Emerson School in Detroit. The certificate is for Peacemaker — Conflict Mediation Services for Conflict Resolution Training. Dion is in the 6th grade. 

Employees of the Month

JUNE

Michelle Booker Detroit Area Office



Michelle has been very productive and made significant contributions towards enhancement of Detroit Area Office operations in several key areas. In just a short time, she has become an invaluable Area Office asset. She demonstrates great teamwork with a willing attitude.

Recently, during a co-workers's temporary absence, Michelle took on added responsibilities and successfully executed critical work that was essential to maintaining office operations. Michelle also provides occasional requested support to other district elements with manpower shortages and high profile work.

Michelle, well deserved congratulations on a job well done! 

JULY

Les Weigum Engineering & Planning Division

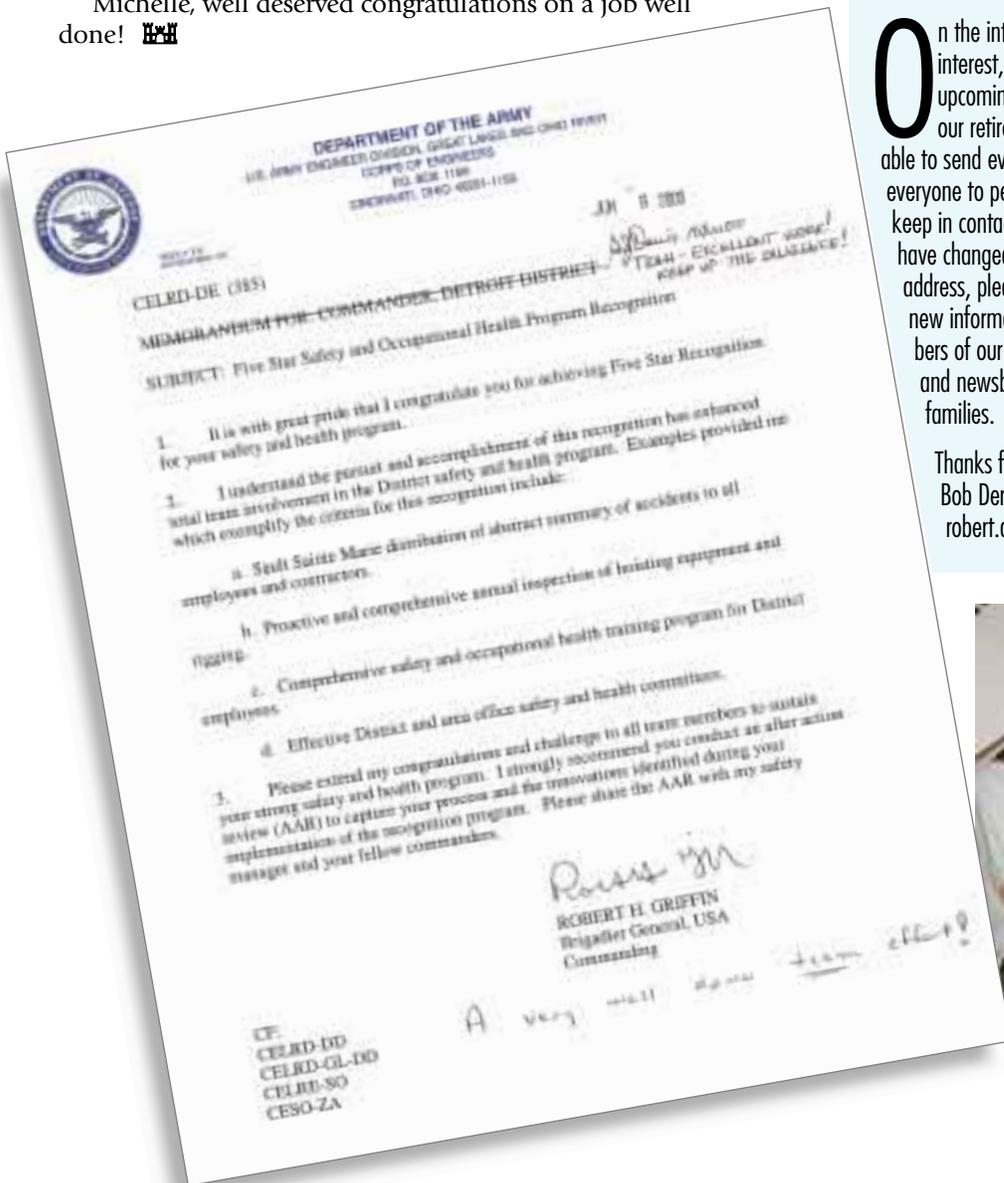


During Asian-Pacific month, Les went above and beyond his normal duties and provided the entire district with informative, personal and interesting known and unknown facts about the Far East. His colorful use of adverbs and adjectives called to mind scenes and feelings that had you visually there with him. The 30-day tour to one part of the world, that many of us will otherwise never see, was an experience that opened our eyes and minds to the treasures that await us should we dare. Thank you, Les, and congratulations on a job well done! 

Updating Retiree List

On the interest of including all of our Corps family in mailings of interest, i.e., retiree newsletters, District picnic invitations, upcoming holiday get-togethers, etc., we are trying to update our retiree mailing list. Because of the Privacy Act, I am not able to send everyone our current list of retirees and their addresses for everyone to peruse for accuracy. Therefore, I am asking that if you keep in contact with any retirees and/or know that their addresses have changed in the last 5-10 years, and you have their new address, please reply to me (and only me) in a message with this new information. Also, I would like a list of those deceased members of our Corps family so as not to continue sending invitations and newsbits to their address, only to cause some anguish to their families.

Thanks for your help,
Bob Deroche, 313-226-6813, e-mail:
robert.d.deroche@re02.usace.army.mil 



Brig. Gen. Robert Griffin presents Lt. Col. Polo with the Five Star Safety award.