

The Quonset Point/Davisville project is of utmost importance to the economic development of my State and the region. The development of Quonset Point has broad-based support from business leaders, government officials, and the voters of Rhode Island.

Completion of the Rhode Island Rail Development project is a crucial component to providing adequate freight access to Quonset Point/Davisville. The funding provided in this bill along with a recently passed State bond agreement will go a long way to making sure that Rhode Island and New England will have adequate access to rail.

Again, I thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SABO for their work in producing a bipartisan bill.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2203) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, it has recently come to my attention that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to restructure its Great Lakes and Ohio River Division by first severely reducing the number of employees, particularly those with decision-making authority, at its Chicago office and eventually closing it down entirely. This plan is documented in an internal Army Corps memo that I have obtained from the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 777. This plan would leave the Great Lakes region with only one office, in Cincinnati, and would obliterate the institutional memory that is so vital to Army Corps operations in this region. Losing the Chicago division office to Cincinnati will mean that the Great Lakes will most likely lose resources, funds, and priority consideration for projects in this region.

Last year, when this Congress passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997, the Army Corps was directed to reduce its divisions to no less than six and no more than eight. The Department of the Army's Office of Civil Works submitted a plan to the Congress which detailed the restructuring plan, approved by the Secretary. This plan stated that, "The Great Lakes districts of the North Central Division will be combined with the districts of the Ohio River Division to form the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Division headquarters will remain in both Chicago and Cincinnati, each with a regional deputy commander and SES."

The closure of the Chicago office would affect my State as well as the entire Great Lakes region, and I am troubled by this action on the part of the Army Corps. When the Appropriations Committee wrote the language directing the Army Corps to reduce its overall division structure, I do not believe that it was the Committee's intention that a region with

projects as important as those in the Great Lakes should suffer disproportionately. The operations directed at the Chicago office are vital to projects conducted on the Great Lakes, and its closure would impede progress on many projects that my colleagues in the Great Lakes and I consider important.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include for the RECORD two documents that are the basis for my concern. The first is a January 22, 1997, outline of the plan submitted by the Army Corps and approved by the Secretary of the Army to reorganize its division structure pursuant to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of fiscal year 1997. This plan clearly indicated that the Army Corps intended to maintain dual Division headquarters offices in both Chicago and Cincinnati, each with decision-making staff. The second document that I am submitting for the RECORD was provided by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 777 in Chicago, IL. It includes an internal Army Corps memorandum from the Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio Division regarding Division restructuring dated May 27, 1997. This memo states clearly the Army Corps' intention to severely reduce and eventually to close the Chicago Division office of the Great Lakes and Ohio Division. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to bring this matter to my colleagues' attention.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC.

Information for Members of Congress

The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of fiscal year 1997 (PL 104-206) requires that the Secretary of the Army develop a plan that reduces the number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers divisions to no less than six and no more than eight, with each division responsible for at least four district offices. The Secretary has approved such a plan; the purpose of this paper is to inform you of its provisions.

An outline of the plan is attached. The key elements of this plan are as follows:

1. The Corps will convert New England Division to district status and assign it under the North Atlantic Division.

2. The Alaska District will be transferred from the North Pacific Division to the Pacific Ocean Division (POD). POD headquarters will remain in Honolulu.

3. The Great Lakes districts of the North Central Division (NCD) will be combined with the districts of the Ohio River Division to form the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Division headquarters offices will remain in both Chicago and Cincinnati, each with a regional deputy commander and SES.

4. The districts of the North Pacific Division (less Alaska) will be combined with the districts of the Missouri River Division to form the Northwestern Division. Division headquarters offices will remain in both Portland and Omaha, each with a regional deputy commander and SES.

5. Two districts located along the Mississippi River (currently assigned to NCD) will be combined with the districts currently assigned to the Lower Mississippi Valley Division. The division will be renamed as the Mississippi Valley Division.

6. One district will be transferred from the Southwestern Division to the South Pacific Division.

A briefing on the components of this plan will be provided, if desired. Please contact the Director of Civil Works, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (202) 761-0108 to request such a briefing.

Furnished by: Office, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DIVISION RESTRUCTURING PLAN, Jan. 22, 1997

Current alignment	Final configuration
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Alabama.	No change.
Transatlantic Programs Center, Winchester, VA.	No change.
Transatlantic Programs Center (Europe).	No change.
South Atlantic Division. Mobile, Jacksonville, Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington.	No change.
North Pacific Division. Alaska, Portland, Seattle, Walla Walla.	North Pacific and Missouri River divisions combined to form the Northwestern Division. Alaska District transferred to POD. Division HQ offices retained in Omaha and Portland, each with regional deputy commander and SES.
Missouri River Division. Omaha, Kansas City.	Omaha, Portland, Seattle, Kansas City, Walla Walla.
Pacific Ocean Division. Honolulu, Far East (Korea), Japan.	Pacific Ocean Division. Honolulu, Far East (Korea), Japan, Alaska.
New England Division	Division functions eliminated; renamed New England District (office remains in Waltham). Assigned to North Atlantic Division.
North Atlantic Division. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk.	North Atlantic Division: New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, New England.
Southwestern Division. Little Rock, Albuquerque, Fort Worth, Galveston, Tulsa.	Southwestern Division: Albuquerque District transferred to South Pacific Division. Little Rock, Fort Worth, Galveston, Tulsa.
South Pacific Division. San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles.	South Pacific Division: San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Albuquerque.
North Central Division. Chicago, St. Paul, Rock Island, Detroit, Buffalo.	Ohio River and North Central divisions combined to form the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. St. Paul and Rock Island districts transferred to Mississippi Valley Division. Division HQ offices retained in Chicago and Cincinnati, each regional deputy commander and SES.
Ohio River Division. Louisville, Huntington, Pittsburgh, Nashville.	Louisville, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Nashville, Buffalo, Huntington, Detroit.
Lower Mississippi Valley Division. Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, St. Louis.	Mississippi Valley Division: Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, St. Louis, Rock Island, St. Paul.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS,

Chicago, IL, July 21, 1997.

MS. ROCHELLE STURTEVANT,
Great Lakes Task Force, Office of Senator J. Glenn, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. STURTEVANT: The employees of the former North Central Division are extremely grateful for the support provided by Senator Glenn and the other representatives within the Great Lakes Region. We are remiss in not passing that sentiment on sooner. We waited because many feared what General Ballard outlined was not what would occur. Unfortunately, this appears to be the case.

I want to share with you some correspondence with significant implications for any continued presence, let alone a full service, functional and decision making Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago.

The first is a memo from the Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Joe Ballard, dated 27 May 1997, which approved the Chicago Division Office as the Great Lakes Regional Office under the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD). It includes a request that the LRD Commander personally contact LTG Ballard on designation of functional chiefs (where the functional chiefs, i.e., Planning, Engineers, Construction who will

have most decision-making authority, will be located). Note that the Chief made at least two of the decisions himself.

The second item is Permanent Orders No. 29-1, from the Headquarters Chief of Staff, dated 10 June 1997, which directs that LRD will INITIALLY maintain two Division Regional Headquarters, one of which is Chicago (emphases added). Note that the Great Lakes Regional Office has its own Unit Identification Code (UICs) while the Ohio River Regional Headquarters has the same UICs as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Office. That identifies that the Ohio River Regional Headquarters and the Division Office are one and the same.

The third item is a memo from Colonel Jansen, the Acting Commander of LRD, dated 23 June 1997. This memo formalizes his decision designating the division POC's. Thirteen of the functional chiefs are Cincinnati employees. Only two are Chicago employees, Mr. Dwight Beranek and Mr. Mike Lee. Mr. Beranek is an SES and could be transferred on short notice. Mr. Lee is the contract administrator and does not make decisions approving studies or projects. We question the legality of creating a new division office and staffing it non-competitively, with the only apparent qualification being the state of residency.

The last item is a May 7 e-mail memo from General Jeo Ballard to General Albert Genetti in response to my May 2 e-mail message. Note that one month after implementation, the Chief of Engineers already identifies that the two regional office concept "would not last forever."

Despite what we have been told, it appears that all future decisions will be stacked against the Chicago office. The decision making for the LRD will be controlled from Cincinnati, and our ability to influence decisions on Great Lakes projects and funding diminished. The number of Great Lakes Regional Office employees will be reduced to 20-25. It is questionable if we can be effective as such a small staff, and it is probable that the Chicago Division office will ultimately close. The new LRD Commander, General Van Winkle, assumes command this week. He could reverse or at least postpone the decision made by Colonel Jansen.

We believe that the whole dual Regional Office concept was simply a sham to allow the Chief of Engineers to transfer half of our workload, and slash our budget allotment. It also allowed time to drive employees out of our office with cash incentives to retire or take early retirements. These actions were taken before any consideration was given to what mission this office would accomplish or what competencies would be required. Our staff is being used to reduce the impact to Ohio employees caused by the loss of Ohio's military workload. By the time the truth becomes obvious to others, the destruction of this office's capability to function will be destroyed to the point that it will be irreversible. Of course, the true intentions are more obvious to those of us that see the continual indications of betrayal.

For several years, the Great Lakes Region has fought to keep this office open. Congress has rejected earlier plans prepared by General Williams and his deputy, General Genetti, as well as others. Congressional representatives were duped into acceptance of a plan that had no facts to substantiate it other than "trust me" we'll do what's right. At our Townhall meeting, General Ballard proudly proclaimed that he had no Corps experience. He was briefed on this issue by General Williams and other HQUSACE staff members that had long supported our closure. He made his decision in about one month. General Genetti is currently General Ballard's Deputy and is still available to

continue to influence decisions. General Genetti is also a former Ohio River Division Commander and an excellent conduit to Colonel Jansen his former deputy. General Van Winkle also has no Corps experience and was briefed by his predecessor Colonel Jansen. The deck was stacked from the start.

We are looking to Senator Glenn, the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force and Great Lakes Commission for counsel on how we should proceed. Perhaps the Corps should be asked to brief certain Representatives or staff, perhaps slowing down the process while we collectively develop language to be added to the next COE appropriations. The language could note that the intention of Congress is to preserve a functional, full service, decision making Corps Division-level presence in Chicago to service the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your time.

DUANE A. KOWALSKI,
President.

CECG, 27 May 1997.

Memorandum for Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

Subject: Division restructuring.

1. Reference:

a. Public Law 104-206.

b. HQUSACE CECG memo dated 31 March 1997; Division Restructuring Implementation Guidance.

c. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Implementation Plan for Division Restructuring, dated 2 May 1997.

2. This headquarters has completed its review of the restructuring plan submitted in reference 1c. Your plan is approved for execution consistent with the comments which follow.

3. General comments for all division commanders:

a. The pace of change. Each commander has presented a timeline which aggressively implements the new organizational structure. I appreciate the work that went into developing your plans and commend all of you for the personal support you are investing to ensure the plan becomes a reality. However, I want to emphasize that there is no need to rush into this restructuring. It is my intent that the pace of transition to this new structure be deliberate and measured. I want you to ensure we are properly taking care of our people who may be impacted by these changes as well as keep interested parties informed of our progress. So pace yourself to do this right; it is more important that we do this smart rather than fast.

b. Resourcing. I also want to make it clear that I expect real savings in General Expenses (GE) funding, GE full time equivalent (FTE) staffing, and Operations and Maintenance, Army (OMA) funding to emerge from this restructuring. Some commanders have asked for staff increases. I am willing to consider modest increases in specific situations where individual division staff workload has truly been increased. But these increases will be made in a zero-sum environment, achieved through cross leveling throughout the Corps. There will be no net increase in overall Corps staffing levels. You need to understand and plan for the fact that division staffs will likely decrease in size even more over the next few years. Further guidance is provided in paragraph 4 below.

c. Information management. The alignment of our automated information systems (AIS) within the new organizational structure is the most complex aspect of this restructuring. We have identified 36 separate, Corps-wide systems that require changes. Many of these are interconnected, sharing data with external Department of Army systems and other Corps systems. Converting

these systems to the new EROC, UIC, and office symbols will be time consuming and will directly impact your execution timelines. I have appointed a taskforce to determine the best way to accomplish this. This task force will publish a detailed conversion schedule by mid-June. Other AIS issues:

(1) The CEAP cap and billing algorithm will remain as currently structured for the remainder of FY97. The FY98 guidance will align billing with the new Division structure. CEAP circuit relocations and upgrades will be based on individual requirements of impacted Divisions.

(2) For distress transferring from one division to another, the transfer of FY97 AIS data and other electronic records will be made to the gaining division. For divisions giving up districts, plans must be developed to archive prior year AIS data and electronic records at the current location (to include the regional Omaha and Chicago offices). These plans will be submitted along with the plan for records management as requested in CEIM-IR memo, dated 4 April 1997, subject: Division Restructuring Implementation—Records Management Impact.

(3) POC for information management issues is Ms. Cathy Sheridan, CEIM-L, (202) 761-0468.

d. FY99 Civil Works Operations and Maintenance roll-up. AIS systems will not be converted to the new structure in time to meet the FY99 Civil Works O&M Budget submittal suspense of 20 June. Consequently, districts who now report to a new division headquarters will prepare their submittals in coordination with that new division. Submittals will be made, however, according to the old MSC structure. District and MSC offices are currently engaged in putting their budget submittals into the O&M Automated Budget System (ABS). The budget will be arranged according to the new MSC organizational structure by HQUSACE after the division budget submittals have been received.

4. Resourcing:

a. Operations and Maintenance, Army (OMA): Fiscal Year 1997 OMA funds for division office staffing were distributed to the MSCs at the beginning of the fiscal year. There are no funds remaining in the headquarters for that purpose, nor were any additional OMA funds appropriated specifically for MSC restructuring. Further, Fiscal Year 1998 budget guidance issued earlier this year depicts a 20 percent overall reduction in funding compared with Fiscal Year 1997. Every effort must be made to constrain operating costs within current budgetary guidance. Any requirements over and above the current budgetary guidance must be accommodated through the Unfinanced Requirement (UFR) process through Resource Management channels.

b. General Expenses (GE): Fiscal Year 1998 GE funding and staffing guidance has been developed based on headquarters review of division restructuring plans, the President's Budget request of \$148 million, and projected outyear funding levels. This FY 98 funding guidance as well as a five-year resourcing plan will be provided under separate cover.

c. Restructuring Costs (\$000): Restructuring implementation costs totaling \$2.6 million Civil (GE) and \$1 million Military (OMA) were submitted. In some cases, requests for funds duplicated or referred to requirements identified in the joint GE/OMA Mid-Year Review. In other cases, requirements were not clearly related to the restructuring effort, and will require further review and coordination with your staff to determine the appropriate source and level funding needed as events unfold. The amounts shown for FY 97 will be allocated shortly, any additional requirements for FY 97 and FY 98 will require further justification incrementally as funds

are needed, such as the actual number and cost of approved VERA/VSIPs, prior to allocation of funds. However, to the extent funds are available, valid restructuring and related costs will be funded. Additional requests should be presented to the Directorate of Resource Management. ATTN: CERM-B, for review and coordination.

d. LRD specific GE and OMA staffing and restructuring funding guidance:

	FY 97		FY 98	
	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
Requested GE	N/A	209	145	650
Approved GE	.....	1160	121	1650
Requested other civil	N/A	.....	20	.....
Approved other civil	.....	.....	TBD	.....

¹ Costs for ADP upgrades, new equipment purchases in FY 97 totaling \$149K and \$500K for VERA/VSIPs in FY 98 need further review and justification prior to funding. FY 97 amount excludes \$97.3K requested for HR VSIP/VERA actions, which are to be funded as part of the Mid-Year Review.

e. The lead for coordinating FY98 FTE allocations to districts being transferred to a new division is the commander of the gaining division in coordination with the commander of the losing division. Responsibility for reallocation transfers to the gaining commander.

f. POC for resourcing issues is Mr. Bronel Jerrell, CERM-B, (202) 761-1104.

5. Division specific issues.

a. Dam safety: The plans do not discuss the activities required for the transfer of division level Dam Safety responsibilities. Since dam safety is an important function a detailed dam safety transfer plan should be developed at the earliest possible date and a copy of the plan furnished to the HQUSACE Dam Safety Officer for information. The detailed plan should address the 11 dams in the former North Central Division that are being transferred to this division. A portion of the plan should also address the 60 dams in the St. Paul and Rock Island Districts that are being transferred from the former North Central Division to the Mississippi Valley Division. CECW-EP is available to assist as required. POC is Mr. Charles Pearre, (202) 761-4531, or Mr. Robert Bank, (202) 761-1660.

b. Functional office chiefs. We have discussed the issue of how and when to designate chiefs for your various functional areas. Request you contact me personally to review your plans for operating as one staff located in two locations.

c. The Director of Resource Management will coordinate and integrate the timing and structure of EROC code changes to reflect the future division. Our short term policy will be to retain separate EROC codes for each of the regional headquarters. Our long term policy will be to move toward one EROC code per commander for division headquarters. The AIS team will recommend a time line which will coordinate and integrate these changes with all of the other interrelated AIS systems.

6. POC, this headquarters, MG Russ Fuhrman, (202) 761-0099 or COL Rick Mogren, (202) 761-0108.

JOE N. BALLARD,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, USA,
Commanding.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, June 10, 1997.

Permanent Orders No. 29-1

Restructure within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Following organization/unit action directed:

1. Action: Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) LTCs; CEW072AA and CEW2SMAA. restructure will initially maintain two Division Regional Headquarters:

Great Lakes Regional Headquarters (located in Chicago). UICs; CEW02208 and CEW2SM08 and, Ohio River Regional Headquarters (located in Cincinnati, UIC, CEW072AA and CEW2SMAA.

Assigned to: Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2. Action: Northwestern Division (NWD) UICs; CEW071AA and CEW2SJAA restructure will initially maintain two Division Regional Headquarters: North Pacific Regional Headquarters (located in Portland), UICs; CEW071AA and CEW2SJAA and, Missouri River Regional Headquarters (located in Omaha), UICs; CEW07107 and CEW2SJ08. Assigned to: Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mission: Not Applicable

Effective Date: 2 June 1997

Military Structure Strength: NA

Military Authorized Strength: NA

Civilian Structure Strength: NA

Civilian Authorized Strength: NA

Accounting Classification: as provided by separate directive.

Authority: Public Law 104-206 and SECARMY approval of Division Restructuring Plan.

Special Instructions: EROCs and UICs will remain as assigned in the initial implementation guidance until conversion to one EROC and UIC for the division.

Format: 740

For the Commander.

OTIS WILLIAMS,
Colonel Corps of Engineers,
Chief of Staff.

JUNE 23, 1997.

Memorandum for Record.

Subject: Commander's action on VSIP/VERA for CELRD regional offices, June 1997.

1. The following records the Division Commander's decisions and guidance related to granting of VSIP and VERA to employees of the division regional offices in Chicago and Cincinnati, and related matters as made in a meeting with key staff on 12 June 1997.

2. Decisions on VSIP and VERA.

a. The effective date for all approved NLT 3 October 1997 unless otherwise indicated. Extension of effective dates for those approved for VERA to 3 October 1997 is made under the delegation of this authority.

b. HQUSACE, CEHR-E memorandum, 5 April 1995 subject: DOD Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA).

b. Specific actions.

(1) Great Lakes Regional Office, Chicago.

AITLAND, Esther: VSIP approved. Effective date not later than 3 January 1998, earlier if possible. Mr. Beranek to attempt to negotiate earlier date. Aitland's position is to be abolished.

BOCHANTIN, Bernard: VSIP and VERA approved. Bochantin's position is to be abolished.

CAVINESS, Marie: VSIP approved. Caviness's position is to be abolished.

CHIN, Bing: VSIP approved. Effective date not later than 3 January 1998, or earlier on Mr. Beranek's decision. Chin's position is to be abolished.

GILLILAND, Betty: VSIP approved. Mr. Beranek to determine position to be abolished from within GL DETS. Surplus HR employee is not to be placed in GL DETS or elsewhere in GL Regional Office as a result of this VSIP; need to get total numbers down, not moved around internally. See additional guidance below.

HADINYAK, Julie: VSIP approved. Haidinyak's position is to be abolished.

KANDL, Gregory: VSIP and VERA approved. Kandl's position is to be abolished.

KOWALKOWSKI, Lorraine: VSIP approved. Kowalkowski's position is to be abolished.

Subject: Commander's action on VSIP/VERA for CELRD Regional Offices, 1998.

LATORUNEY, Paul: VSIP approved. Latourney's position is to be abolished.

LEINTZ, Barbara: VSIP and VERA approved. Leintz's position is to be abolished.

LEONARD, Donald: VSIP approved. Mr. Beranek to make recommendation to division commander on how to structure Chicago office for future end-state structure. However, the Chief of DETS Engineering Division will be in OR Regional Office, Mr. Beranek will be the division Director of Engineering and Technical Services.

LISUZZO, Gactano: VSIP and VERA approved. Lisuzzo's position is to be abolished.

METZ, Anada: VSIP and VERA approved. Metz's position is to be abolished.

MUELLER, Jewell: VSIP approved. Mueller's position is to be abolished.

OKONSKI, Jerome: VSIP approved. Effective date not later than 3 January 1998. Okonski's position is to be abolished. Director of Program Management to make recommendation of division commander on future end-state structure. Director of Program Management will be in OR Regional Office and will be director for division.

ORDONEZ, Jose: VSIP approved. Ordonez's position is to be abolished.

PRITCHARD, Barry: VSIP approved. Pritchard's position is to be abolished. Mr. Steiner will be the Planning Division Chief for the division.

SMITH, Robert: VSIP approved. Smith's position is to be abolished.

SORENSEN, Rosa: VSIP and VERA approved. Sorenson's position is to be abolished.

WESTALL, William: VSIP approved. Westall's position is to be abolished.

(2) Ohio River Regional Office, Cincinnati.

EBERHARDT, Berry Mae: VSIP approved. Eberhardt's position is to be abolished.

EMMERICH, John: VSIP approved. Emmerich's position is to be abolished.

GOLLADAY, Walter: VSIP and VERA approved. IM staff (between two offices, to be reduced by one.)

GREGORY, Phyllis: Disapproved. Key position as CEFMS coordinator, cannot afford to lose her expertise at this critical time.

HUGENBERG, Thomas: VSIP and VERA approved. Effective date not later than 21 November 1997. Hugenberg's position is to be abolished.

JAMES, Jackie: Disapproved. Chief of Audit position will be in end-state structure in all likelihood. As both Chief Auditors have applied, under DOD policy the one with the senior Service Computation Date must be approved first. Therefore VSIP and VERA were approved for Mr. Batburney and disapproved for Mr. James.

PERRY, Norman: VSIP approved. Mr. Mello's position is to be abolished and be reassigned to Mr. Perry's position. Effective date to be not later than 3 January 1998.

STRACHN, Donna: VSIP and VERA approved. Effective date to be not later than 3 January 1998. Strachn's position is to be abolished and duties to be combined with Executive Liaison position, to include supervision over Public Affairs Specialists in both regional offices.

SUPPLE, Mary: VSIP approved. Ms. Rosario's position in Resource Management is to be abolished. Messrs. Basham, Gibson, and White to decide how duties being performed by Ms. McAlister, Rosario and Supple to be combined into remaining positions in the trade directorates.

TOWNSEND, John: VSIP and VERA approved. Townsend's position is to be abolished.

3. Other commander's decisions guidance:
a. As the above actions are effected, the remaining staff principles will be designated as

the division staff officer for both regions and all seven districts. This includes the following directors/office chiefs: (RM action to officially designate)

Programs Management—Mr. Michael White (pending assignment/selection of an SES to the position).

Engineering and Technical Services—Mr. Dwight Beranek; Planning Division—Mr. Daniel Steiner, Engineering Division—To be recruited with duty location in Ohio River Regional Office, Cincinnati, Real Estate Division—Mr. Dominick Lijoi.

Audit—Mr. Jackie James.

Contracting—Mr. Michael Lee (Chicago).

Division Counsel (approved by the Chief of Engineers)—Mr. Terry Kelley.

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer—Ms. Juleana Frierson.

Human Resources—Mr. William St. John.

Information Management—Mr. Walter Golladay.

Logistics Management—Mr. Gary Thomson.

Provost Marshal/Inspector General—MAJ Joanne Dewberry.

Public Affairs—Ms. Donna Strachn (until retirement, then combined as indicated above).

Resource Management (as approved by the Chief of Engineers)—Mr. Paul Gibson.

c. I previously made the decision to abolish all Human Resources (HR) positions in the former NCD operating HR office and conduct a Reduction in Force (RIF); HR employees in

that office will be afforded bump and retreat rights under RIF to occupied positions only. All positions in the Great Lakes Regional Office which are not presently permanently encumbered by an employee will be officially abolished along with those indicated above.

d. Mr. Michael Loesch from GL Regional Office is to be offered the position in OR DETS, Construction-Operations Division vice Sherm Gee.

e. Mr. Timothy Monteen is to be offered a management directed reassignment to the OR DETS, Construction-Operations position vice Dave Patuson.

ALEXANDER R. JANSEN,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Commanding.

—

GENERAL BALLARD: I am writing regarding a problem that has developed during the writing of the Corps' division restructuring plans. The problem is the perception that Regional Offices in Chicago and Omaha are subservient to their co-regional office.

The perception is caused by a general lack of information or communication to the divisions, and HQUSACE staff. The staff in Cincinnati has not had a Town Hall meeting to explain the dual regional office concept or the transition plan. One staff member was reported as saying something to the effect of "We have 90 new employees and don't know what to do with them". The transition teams have worked together to prepare a plan that should be acceptable to all.

However our sense of well being falters when we hear statements that are opposite of what we heard from you. What is even worse, is receiving correspondence from HQUSACE that does not exhibit the intent of the restructuring plan. One such example was the 31 Mar 1997 memo on Restructuring Implementation Instructions which identified Office Symbols, EROC's and UIC's for Corps offices. There was no organizational element identified as the Ohio River Regional Office. We understand that those concerns were heard, understood and being acted upon.

The worst example of HQUSACE insensitivity to this issue is the Corps' Home Page on the Internet. Again, there is a Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago. But, no mention of a Regional Office in Cincinnati, only the Great Lakes Ohio River Division Office.

We have taken you at your word and hope that these are only errors of ignorance, and that the Home Page has not been corrected due to other IM efforts required to implement your restructuring plan. Perhaps a few words to the HQUSACE Chief of Information Management would clarify the perception the Home Page gives to all that see it, and identify it as a high priority item.

Thank you for your assistance.

DUANE A. KOWALSKI,

President,
Local 777, IFPTE.