



**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON**

20 November 2007

Van,

We are entering a period of challenge and transition for Corps Civil Works as we work to implement the many requirements of the new Water Resources Development Act. I have great confidence that in spite of many obstacles and controversies the Corps will add one more chapter to its heroic record of service to the Nation. Thank you for your inspiration and your leadership.

I have just returned from a visit to the Gulf Region Division area in Iraq, and I am once again impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the people there. We all owe them and their families a profound debt of gratitude for their service and accomplishments. Please convey to them and to all our colleagues at the Corps of Engineers my deepest appreciation for all that they do and my best wishes for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)