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Rock Island District

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Spotlight on the District

John VanWatermeulen Hydrologic Technician, Water Control Section, Engineering Division

Story and photos by Patricia Ryan, Public Affairs

The Corps is home to people from all walks of life. After eight years serving in the Army, John VanWatermeulen was attending college in 1994, when he heard of a job opening for a student assistant at the Rock Island District and decided to apply. The student assistant position led to his full-time job as a hydrologic technician with the Corps.

“One of the things I really like about my job is working with the Corps team to find the best way to solve problems and achieve goals,” VanWatermeulen said. “I like using my background in computer science to troubleshoot problems in computer systems and in field equipment. It is an ongoing challenge for us to keep everything synchronized and operational.”

Born in Port Byron, Ill., VanWatermeulen has spent most of his life in the local area, with the exception of his assignments in the Army. He has two brothers, three sisters, and enjoys spending as much time as he can outdoors.

After graduating from high school, VanWatermeulen joined the Army and received training as a communications specialist working with vehicles, radios and maintaining company equipment. In 1989, he was in Panama as a part of Operation Just Cause in support of the implementation of a democratic government. In August 1990, he was deployed to Operation Desert Storm where he was assigned to military police unit that

patrolled major supply routes along the Saudi Arabia and Iraqi border. In addition, his unit was responsible for detaining Iraqi Army troops who had surrendered.

“Traveling was fun,” VanWatermeulen said. “In Saudi Arabia we patrolled roads built by engineers and spent a lot of time climbing sand dunes to set up antennas and radio towers for communications. You had to drive the Humvees straight up

computer on the status of about 180 sites at locks and dams, reservoirs, and field sites that span five states,” VanWatermeulen said. “We monitor the field sites daily to ensure they are operating correctly, so the data we collect is correct. I think it is important to have a positive attitude and enjoy the work you do, and I have fun working on computers, which is also something I do as a hobby.”

Staying in shape is important to VanWatermeulen, and many of his hobbies are sports related, which help him do that. He enjoys basketball, football, running, and outdoor activities. In spite of a severe injury to his Achilles tendon last year, which resulted in three months on crutches and one month with a walking cast, VanWatermeulen only missed five days of work.

“I think it is important to always have a positive attitude in everything you do,” he said. “In the Water Control Section, we enjoy working with people to find ways to fix what needs fixing, and find new and

improved ways to do our jobs.

“I hope that hard work, doing a good job, and dedication will lead to promotional opportunities here in the Corps,” VanWatermeulen said. “Working in a job you enjoy makes you feel great about coming to work.”

You can read further information about the mission of the Water Control Section on page 6 and 7 of this issue.



(Left photo) VanWatermeulen works with weather equipment at Locks and Dam 14 and (right photo) at District headquarters with Jim Stiman (left), Engineering Division.

the face of the huge sand dunes, or you would roll over.”

VanWatermeulen took advantage of the Montgomery GI Bill after leaving the Army, and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in electronics and an Associate of Arts Degree in computer programming. He is also in the final stages of completing an additional degree offered by Microsoft as a computer technician.

“I usually start my day by checking my

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District Engineer
Col. Duane P. Gapinski

Editor
Mark A. Kane

Chief, Public Affairs
Ron Fournier

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John VanWatermeulen (right), and Jim Stiman (left), Engineering Division, discuss wiring from one of the District's rain gages in the Water Control Section's trailer at the District's headquarters.

See page 2, as well as 6 and 7 for more. Photo by Patricia Ryan, Public Affairs.



2004 Corps Day Picnic Back Cover

DISTRICT FACES NEW CHALLENGES

By Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer

The last week of April I attended the Engineer Force (ENFORCE) Senior Leaders Conference at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. This year's focus was "Forging Our Future-Shaping Engineers for Joint and Multinational Operations." Engineer commanders from all across the Army attended. We had an opportunity to receive some institutional updates and were provided excellent opportunities for informational exchanges pertinent both to the Corps and the entire Army Engineer Force. It was quite clear that the rapid pace of change we are experiencing in the Corps is not unique, and is occurring in the Army as a whole.

There is a lot going on within the District and I would like to take this opportunity to give you the latest updates on the cost-saving measures, the Navigation Study, P2 deployment, and our support to the Global War on Terrorism.

Cost-Saving Measures

Over the past few months I have been sending out e-mails to keep you informed of the measures we are taking to address the funding shortfalls in Fiscal Year 2004 and posture ourselves to deal with funding issues that could be similar or worse in Fiscal Year 2005. As a result of the hard work and efforts of the Financial Alternative Strategy task force, we will focus on continuing to refine our income and expenditure numbers as we determine potential solutions. To date, here are the measures we have taken:

- Maj. Melody Smith and I are the approval authorities on all vacancies until further notice;
- We have released all of our FedSource contractors
- We will have a Corps Day awards ceremony during duty hours, but the picnic will be on a weekend; see the back page for more about the picnic;
- All remodeling projects, with the exception of the water damage repairs, are permanently postponed;
- We have additionally identified facilities maintenance projects that we can postpone into future fiscal years;
- We will suspend all team awards until we have a better determination of our

financial future; I plan to revisit the team awards in August and will have the opportunity to review options for non-monetary awards by then;

- We will cancel all level 2 and 3 training; the levels reference a method of coding in the training database (District Automated Training Management Program) and correspond to training that is important and beneficial. However, there are no plans to cancel mandatory, level 0, and critical, level 1, training at this time;
- We will actively pursue Voluntary Early Retirement Act and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay initiatives and have sent our requests for allocations to the Division;
- We have reviewed the number of student aides and made adjustments where practicable;
- We have canvassed the District for volunteers who are interested in leave without pay and working part time; this is strictly voluntary and we have had some individuals express interest in both LWOP and working part time.

We are making progress, but we have more work to do and plan to continue these efforts into FY05. I urge your continued support in being good stewards.

Navigation Study

The Navigation Study continues to make progress; the study team has completed work on the draft feasibility study report and has sent it off to the printer. It is scheduled for release to the public in early May and may already be out by the time you read this. The draft report contains tentative recommendations for \$5.3 billion in ecosystem restoration and \$2.3 billion of navigation improvements. Navigation improvements include small-scale measures, as well as construction of 12 1,200-foot locks at those sites with the longest delays. The recommendations are based on potential traffic scenarios considering world market demand for grain from the Midwest. The report also recommends \$5.3 billion in environmental restoration work over the next 50 years. The Corps is strongly recommending both

components of the recommendations be jointly implemented. We are waiting to see if there will be funds in the FY05 appropriation bill to begin design work on the recommended projects. Public meetings in June will allow for input on the draft report and recommendations. The Chief of Engineers report to Congress is scheduled for November.

Recent media reports have questioned the Corps' recommendations. The "rest of the story" is that, in addition to using five different scenarios to anticipate the future demands on our locks, we have used the best economic models available. Although the Corps is pursuing improved economic models, they will never be perfect and improved models are several years away. Meanwhile, Congress has told us repeatedly that they want our recommendation as soon as possible. We propose to implement small-scale measures such as mooring cells and switchboats immediately, and will monitor the effectiveness of these measures before we begin any construction of larger locks. An adaptive approach will allow us to adjust construction schedules accordingly. Similarly, we will be monitoring the success of any environmental restoration work and adjusting our approach as deemed appropriate. One of the good news stories that seem to escape many is the collaborative approach that has been used to develop all these recommended



measures. We have been working closely with representatives from the states, several federal agencies (both Washington and regional offices), and numerous non-governmental agencies representing a wide variety of interests.

Ultimately, Congress makes the final decision when it decides what gets authorized initially, how often the Corps needs to report back, and any additional authorizations. Irrespective of the final outcome, I am extremely proud of the work done by the entire study team in laying out an objective analysis of the options available. The decisions are not easy considering the complexity and magnitude of the analysis and the significance of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers to many who depend on them for recreation, water supply, commerce, and as a significant environmental resource. The study team has provided a high standard on how to do team work regionally.

P2

The District is finally training employees on how P2 (the tool or software that will enable the Corps to change its culture and to implement the Project Management Business Process) will be implemented within the District. We have been hearing about P2 for years as we implemented the Project Management Business

Process. The end result will be worth it when we have a system that will allow us to more effectively manage our work. At present the deployment has been delayed two weeks so that some bugs can be worked out. The good news is that we will have the benefit of these improvements in the software, as well as learning from those districts that are already deploying it. There are sure to be other bumps in the road ahead, but we will work through them.

Global War on Terrorism

The District has done a great job supporting the Global War on Terrorism with volunteers from all disciplines. During FY04, the District has deployed 19 volunteers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and 32 volunteers since the start of the effort. I appreciate your dedication and willingness to serve. If you have any interest in volunteering, let Mark Clark in Emergency Management know. Speak to someone who has gone overseas and you will find out how rewarding this work can be.

I really appreciate your patience and understanding as we tackle these tough issues; the list seems to grow every day. We can face these challenges head on ... together! 🇺🇸

North American Safe Boating Campaign Kicks Off

By John Punkiewicz, Operations Division

Every year towards the end of May marks the kickoff of the Safe Boating Campaign, a campaign designed as a season-long campaign of boating and water safety awareness and education.

As an outdoor recreation planner I have been involved with boating and water safety since I started with the Corps in the late 80s. With the Corps being the nations largest provider of outdoor and water based recreation, it is providing that recreation on only two percent of the nations federal lands -- a lot of highly concentrated water-based activities.

Our rangers are involved daily in education, and the enforcement of, the rules and regulations governing our water resource projects. Education through our interpretive programs is a primary problem-solving tool for our operations managers and their staffs with enforcement being secondary.

A well-educated customer, participating in boating and swimming activities, will

hopefully be safer and more alert to the dangers that go along with enjoyment of the activities they are participating in. Campaigns such as Safe Boating can be used as an additional tool in our ranger's toolbox of strategies, ideas and partnerships.

For more information on the campaign go to www.safeboatingcampaign.com, and be sure to check out the sponsor links.

Did You Know?

- Did you know in the Rock Island District we have rangers that are dedicated to boat patrol activities?
- Did you know our rangers do hundreds of water and boating safety programs each year in schools, at beaches, to fishing and hunting groups, at safety fairs, and to the general public.
- Did you know you could take an eight-hour state boating certification class taught by our rangers, and by completing such a class and passing

the exam you may be eligible for a discount on your boat insurance? Did you also know children under the age of 18 cannot operate a boat by themselves, unless they attend and pass an above mentioned eight-hour state class?

- Did you know the District has a water-safety information located in our Outlook Public Folders under "Recreation and Natural Resource Management," while the Corps has its own water safety website? Corps web site: <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>
- Did you know that in order to operate a boat, if you're a federal employee, you need to attend and pass a three-day class, which includes a day of classroom lessons, and two days of intensive on water operations?
- Did you know that the week of May 22 through the 28 is the official kick off of the "North America National Safe Boating Campaign" for the 2004 season? 🇺🇸

Rollin' on the River

How the Corps and Key Partners Keep Barge Traffic Moving

Scott Pettis, a forecaster in the Water Control Section, discusses data from a field site to ensure the proper settings are achieved to maintain the navigation depths on the river.

Daily forecasting provides coordination between data coming in from the field gages, to the decisions made regarding the exact daily settings at the locks and dams, as well as the reservoirs.



Story and photos by Patricia Ryan, Public Affairs

As spring arrives on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, the sight of barge traffic ferrying up and down the river loaded with goods is one we learn to take for granted.

The Corps is a major player in the multi-faceted and intricate process of keeping barge traffic moving on the waterways through coordination, partnership and teamwork.

"The staff of the Water Control Section is available 24/7 to help ensure navigation on the waterways is as efficient as possible and compatible with the daily conditions of the rivers," said Jim Stiman, chief, Water Control Section. "Coordination and teamwork play key roles in the success of this mission. The major players we coordinate with are Rock Island District Operations Division staff located at each lock and dam project, the St. Paul District and St. Louis District water control sections; the U.S. Geological Survey, whose major role is data collection; the National Weather Service,

charged with disseminating weather and river forecasts to the public; and the U.S. Coast Guard, responsible for marking the channel."

The Rock Island Water Control Section coordinates water management activities at the District's 12 locks and dams on the Mississippi River, eight locks and dams on the Illinois River, as well as the three flood control reservoirs - Coralville, Red Rock and Saylorville. A major responsibility of the Water Control Section is monitoring water levels, streamflow, and precipitation and weather data on rivers and streams throughout the District. This data provides the Water Control Section and project staff much of the information necessary to make operational decisions at the projects. However, this is just part of the story. The rest of the story is how the data is received, evaluated and disseminated to the rest of the team to ensure a nine-foot channel for commercial navigation. This may not sound complicated, but a look at what it takes to get the

job done reveals it is anything, but simple.

Stiman said that the coordination process is a daily routine, as Corps water-control personnel receive information from roughly 180 gages located on District rivers and streams. Every hour the information recorded at the gages is transmitted to the District office via the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-East. The data collection effort involves teamwork and partnering fostered through a cooperative agreement between the Corps and the USGS. The USGS assists Corps staff by helping maintain gages and by taking stream-flow measurements so that river flow can be correlated with water levels, an extremely important piece of information for water managers.

In addition to information from the gages, the Water Control Section considers upstream-flow forecasts provided by the St. Paul District and tributary-flow forecasts from the NWS. Upon analyzing all of this information, flow and stage



Much of the information gathered by the District's Water Control Section is available to the public at www.RiverGages.com, a web site and world wide web address the section helped create.



Elsewhere in the Water Control Section, Tom Nock, hydrologic engineer, checks field data as he prepares to coordinate the daily readings to provide forecasts to the locks and dams and reservoirs.

forecasts are generated for each lock and dam. These forecasts are then used to compute gate settings at the locks and dams in order to maintain pools within specified limits, guaranteeing a nine-foot navigation channel.

“Operations Division staff at the projects physically make the gate settings,” said Stiman. “Also, flow forecasts for Lock and Dam 22 on the Mississippi River and La Grange Lock and Dam on the Illinois Waterway are provided to the St. Louis District for use in their daily operations.”

Downstream of Mel Price Lock and Dam in the St. Louis District, the last lock and dam on the Upper Mississippi River, maintaining the navigation channel can be especially challenging. During droughts, load restrictions are sometimes put into effect, so that barges don't run aground due to a lack of water, since there are no navigation dams to ensure adequate channel depth. That is an unusual situation; however, it illustrates the

importance of constant coordination and communication to achieve the goal of keeping the barges moving on the rivers, even in low-water conditions.

The NWS is charged with issuing river forecasts to the public and is another partner involved in the water management process.

“The NWS provides tributary forecasts to the Corps used in the project operation decision process,” said Stiman. “While these forecasts provide important information for operating the navigation dams, they are especially critical for operating the District flood control reservoirs.”

Once operation decisions are finalized, the Corps transmits this operational information back to the NWS so that it can be incorporated in the final NWS river forecasts that are disseminated to the public.

The U.S. Coast Guard is the regulatory arm of the process. They are responsible for setting the buoys that mark the channel, so it is vital they receive a

continuous flow of accurate data to ensure the correct position of the channel markers. They are also the ones who must respond to any emergency on the river so accurate daily information assists by providing a means for them to anticipate problems before they occur.

Just as past technology used on radios and telephones to transmit river data, today it relies on satellites. As new methods and technology emerge to improve communication the coordination process adapts. However, consistent reliable communication, coordination and teamwork continue to be the basis for the success achieved by the Corps and our partners, working together to keep the barge traffic rolling on the river, keeping this vital link in America's transportation system up and running. 📡



On the 'Net

www.RiverGages.com

The Rock Island District Corps of Engineers may be characterized as a web of participation. Change the participation and you change the organization.

Today the District's web of participation is being challenged to change at every level, most importantly at the leadership level. One of the District's greatest leadership challenges is to find ways to address the deepest kinds of problems we face. To answer this challenge, the District will require leaders who are able to transform their organizations through evolutionary and revolutionary means. They will need to be transformational servant leaders.

There is a significant and fundamental difference between a transactional or traditional leader and a transformational or servant leader.



Transformational Servant Leadership - The District's New Challenge

By Doug Davis, Deputy for Small Business

The transformational or servant leader meets the needs of the organization through the personal growth of followers. They understand how to, and go beyond individual interest to generate greater community and internal connectivity. They transcend the use of external rewards, and create internal motivation within their followers by shaping and elevating the values and goals of the organization.

In his acclaimed book, *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*, Robert K. Greenleaf says, "A new moral principle is emerging which holds that the only authority deserving one's allegiance is that which is freely and knowingly granted by the led to the leader in response to, and in proportion to, the clearly evident servant nature of the leader. To the extent that this principle prevails in the future, the only truly viable institutions will be those that are predominantly servant-led.

"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

The transformational servant leader accomplishes organizational goals by empowering people, engaging them in powerful conversations for change, modifying attitudes and behaviors, developing shared vision, generating acceptance of change, and shifting mental models towards nonlinear systems thinking to solve day-to-day challenges.

The transformational servant leader encourages the development and use of new techniques, tools, methods, aspirations, beliefs, and guiding principles that foster and guide the organization towards organizational sea change. Transformational servant leaders do this by articulating ideas and concepts to give

greater meaning to the thoughts and emotions being experienced in the wake of the change and by building trustful relationships and safe environments for interaction and experimentation.

"It is not what you do with people that is important, it is what you do for them."

The transformational servant leader looks for the life-giving forces, and the moments of joy and satisfaction that live inside their organizations and find ways to harness those energies to fuel more generative and challenging propositions for the future. They help their people realize that they may be limited and constrained by an inability to see larger and more expansive realities and they guide them towards adopting new techniques

and methods, and shift them away from traditional deficit-minded "what's broken" approach towards a more productive, appreciative, inclusive "what's possible" mode of operating.

The District's new challenge is to identify, leverage, and develop transformational servant leaders. Leaders that are able and willing to create increased cohesion, improve communication channels, expand boundaries, inspire innovation, and encourage risk taking while demonstrating human compassion and "fire-in-the-belly" drive for excellence.

"There is no exercise better for the human heart than reaching out and lifting others up."

The new challenge will require leaders at every level who:

- Challenge the "status quo" by seeking out and testing new ideas;
- Solicit and experiment with fresh perspectives for solving problems;
- Listen from an unattached, nonjudgmental, open communications position;
- Exhibit genuine empathy, compassion and spirit of community;
- Model, mentor and reward preferred collaborative behavior.

In his acclaimed book *The Dance of Change*, Peter Senge suggests that what is needed is healthy leadership ecology, an interdependent human-community commensurate in diversity and robustness to the challenges of profound change. He says, "Organizations must enter a new domain of leadership development when we stop thinking about preparing a few people for 'the top' and start nurturing the potential for leaders at all levels to participate in the shaping of new realities.

"Where appreciation is alive and people are connected in discovery, hope grows and organizational capacity is enriched." 🏡

Sorting Out the Fats

By 1st Lt. Amy J. Baker, Nutrition Clinic, Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Thousands of Americans are diagnosed each year with elevated cholesterol levels, which are a major risk for heart disease. Nutrition information is so confusing these days, and many people don't know what to believe. Trans fats, saturated fats, hydrogenated oils ... what do all these terms mean? And how can we read labels and choose healthier foods to help lower bad cholesterol and overall risk for heart disease? What do we look for?

I like to separate fats into two major classifications: heart-healthy (unsaturated fats) and unhealthy (saturated/trans fats):

Heart-healthy fats include oils, avocados, olives, peanut butter, nuts and seeds, and the fat found in vegetable foods like wheat germ and soy. The best fats to cook with are olive and canola oil, which are high in monounsaturated fats. These types of fat do not tend to raise bad cholesterol levels, and can even lower them when substituted in place of unhealthy fats.

Unhealthy fats include saturated fats and hydrogenated oils/trans-fatty acids. These are typically solid at room temperature. Saturated fats include fatty cuts of meat, full-fat dairy products, cream, butter, lard, coconut and tropical oils.

Hydrogenated or trans fats are made by taking a vegetable oil and chemically altering its structure to make margarine and shortening. These are found abundantly in processed foods such as crackers, chips, cookies, snack cakes, commercially baked goods and fried foods. When reading food labels, check the ingredient list for the words "partially hydrogenated." These fats tend to act in the same manner as saturated fats, which elevate bad cholesterol levels.

Do you notice all the foods that claim to be "cholesterol-free?" Well, it's not really the cholesterol that we eat that raises our cholesterol levels, but rather the type of fat. Cholesterol is found only in animal products, such as meats, dairy,

seafood, and egg yolks. Many "cholesterol-free" claims are found on packaged food such as crackers, nuts and other snack items, which do not contain cholesterol in the first place. But many of these products do contain hydrogenated oils ... check the label.

When reading the nutrition facts label, the first thing to look at is the serving size, because many foods contain two, two-and-a-half, or four servings per container.

You want saturated fat to make up no more than 10 percent of your calories, so choose foods with as little saturated fat as possible. Check the ingredient list and try to limit foods that contain the word "hydrogenated." Try to choose foods lower in total fat as well.

Fiber, the soluble kind in particular, can help to lower cholesterol levels. To increase your fiber intake, choose whole grain breads with two to three grams of fiber per slice, cereals with more than three grams of fiber per serving, whole-wheat pasta, brown rice, and other whole grains. Good sources of soluble fiber include oats, apples, pears, citrus fruits, peas, carrots, green beans, barley, beans, and nuts.

So must we avoid saturated and hydrogenated fats at all costs? Do we need to eat perfect all the time? No, that would be impossible. Rather, try to choose healthier foods, with lower amounts of the unhealthy fats less often.

Save high-fat meats and desserts for special occasions and watch the portion size. Aim to eat more plant-based, less-processed foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds. Choose fish and white-meat poultry more often than red meats. Use low-fat dairy products, and whenever possible, use an oil when cooking instead of a hard fat like butter, margarine,



shortening or lard.

A person with high cholesterol levels can likely lower them by following these healthy eating principles, along with exercise, weight management and a healthy lifestyle. And someone without high cholesterol can also benefit from these tips by helping to prevent high cholesterol levels in the first place.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease and strokes account for 44 to 45 percent of the major causes of death in Illinois and Iowa, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attribute more than 220,000 deaths in Iowa and Illinois to heart disease between 1991 and 1995 for people aged 35 years and older. ■



On the 'Net

www.cdc.gov/cvh/maps/cvdatlas/factsheets

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/giscvh/>



Around the District

District Commander's Award

Sharryn Jackson, Programs and Project Management, received the January Commander's Award.

Jackson earned the award for her contributions and assistance in processing and completion of the annual Inspection of Completed Works fall 2003 levee inspection reports for Emergency Management.

Thomas Dumoulin, Engineering Division, received the February Commander's Award.

Dumoulin earned the award for providing ongoing support to numerous team members and projects both within, and outside of, the Geotechnical Branch. Specifically, he assisted in the preparation of the District 2003 Annual Instrumentation Survey, the Red Rock Multi-Purpose Trail Segment 4B Project, the District Dam Safety Program, the Lake Odessa Habitat Restoration Project, the Pekin Lake Southern Unit Critical Restoration Project, and the Lockport Rehabilitation Evaluation Report.

Duty to Country

"I promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country ..."

At the beginning of every Cub Scout meeting across the country Cub Scouts recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Cub Scout Law, and the Law of the Pack. Then scout leaders like **Scott Strotman**, Operations Division, initiate activities designed to build character, to build self-esteem, and to develop a deep respect and appreciation for the United States of America.



Last year, Memorial Day gave Strotman an opportunity to provide his Cub Scouts with a hands-on opportunity to serve their country. Each Memorial Day the Rock Island National Cemetery has numerous people place small American flags next to the headstone of each and every grave, this amounts to approximately 20,000 flags.

Memorial Day will soon be upon us again, and the cemetery will be in need of volunteers to set out flags. Strotman will be back with his scouts on May 27. Anyone can volunteer, so if you have the time please consider helping. The process of setting out flags will begin about 2 p.m. and will last until the last flag is placed. An alternate date of May 28 has been scheduled in the event of inclement weather on the 27. You can contact the cemetery at **782-2094** if you have any questions.



Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Kara and Frank Mitvalsky**, Engineering Division, on the birth of a baby boy, Noah Marshall, April 14. He weighed 9 pounds and 9 ounces and was 19½ inches long.



Congratulations to **Jim and Carrie Homann**, Muscatine Ranger Office, on the birth of a baby boy, Adam Dale, Jan. 26. He weighed 7 pounds and 15 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Recent Retirements ...

Williadean Ineichen, contract specialist, Contracting Branch A, Contracting Division, will retire May 11, after dedicating 30 years to the federal government.

Robert Smolka, lockmaster, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, retired May 3, after dedicating 34 years, two months, and 21 days to the federal government.

Galen Wanderscheid, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 11, retired May 3, after dedicating 35 years, 11 months, and 17 days to the federal government.

Sandra Dixon, engineering technician, Specifications Section, Design Branch, Engineering Division, retired May 1, after dedicating 30 years, one month, and 27 days to the federal government.

Nancy Holling, writer-editor, Programs Management Branch, Programs and Project Management, retired May 1, after dedicating 33 years and four months to the federal government.



Sympathy ...



Patricia McFate, 70, of Rock Island, Ill. and Mission, Texas, died April 23.

McFate retired from the District as chief procurement officer in September 1994.

Beginning with this issue of the Tower Times, Notes from the Mississippi will no longer be featured due to employee feedback. However, articles and information about lock and dam employees and their accomplishments will continue to be featured in the publication.

Speakers Bureau

By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

On March 24, **Brad Thompson**, Programs and Project Management, spoke about the Corps and water restoration with more than 25 students at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill.

Jim Stiman, Engineering Division, spoke about current water levels with more than 25 members of the Propeller Club on Mar. 25, in Davenport, Iowa.

A Prophetstown High School student interested in lock maintenance visited the LeClaire Base for a job-shadow event on April 1.

On April 2, two Moline High School students interested in biology job-shadowed **Clint Beckert**, Engineering Division, and **Steve Johnson**, Programs and Project Management.

More than 25 students toured the hydrology section when they visited **Jim Stiman**, Engineering Division, on April 14.

Darryl Carattini, Programs and Project Management, spoke about his deployment to Iraq with more than 30 members of the Pleasant View Baptist Church Community

Bible Study on April 15, in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The Corps involvement in restoring Clear Lake was the topic of discussion when **Camie Knollenberg**, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 100 residents of the Clear Lake area on April 16, in Clear Lake, Iowa.

On April 22, **Steve Johnson**, Programs and Project Management, and **Heather Schwar**, Engineering Division, participated in the Bettendorf High School's Career Fair, which more than 1,320 high school students visited in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Ron Deiss, Programs and Project Management, spoke about the history of the Mississippi River with more than 30 members at the Izaak Walton Convention on April 24, in Annawan, Ill.

The Corps' Environmental Analysis Program was the topic of discussion when **Charlene Carmack**, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 25 geography and environmental studies majors at the University of Iowa on April 27, in Iowa City, Iowa.

On April 28, **Mike Cox**, Operations Division; **Steve Johnson**, Programs and Project Management; and **Tom Gambucci**, Engineering Division, participated in the Erie High School Career Awareness Day in Erie, Ill.

A Rockridge High School student interested in civil engineering participated in a job-shadow event with **Tom Heinold**, Engineering Division, on May 6.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities can learn more by visiting our website at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm or by contacting Justine Barati at ext. 5204. 📧

Seeking All Those Interested in Doing Something to Keep Our River Clean

By Public Affairs

Through the Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile Program, the Rock Island District has adopted river miles 493-495, located at Locks and Dam 14 in Iowa. We hope you and your family will join us in our annual cleanup of these miles. The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, 8 a.m., at Locks and Dam 14 in Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

In the interest of safety, it is important that participants wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, gloves, sunscreen, and bug spray. Participants also need to have an up-to-date tetanus shot. 📧



Armed Forces Day May 15, 2004



www.defenselink.mil/afd



2004 Corps Day Picnic

July 31 at 11 a.m.

The District is formally inviting all employees to the 2004 Corps Day Picnic.



In year's past, the District coordinated its summer employee picnic to correspond with the District's annual award ceremony, but this year the festivities are taking to the field.

This summer's picnic will take place near Fairport, Iowa, at the District's Shady Creek Recreation Area.

Shady Creek is easily accessible off Highway 22, 1 mile east of Fairport, Iowa. The recreation area is 10 miles east of Muscatine, Iowa, and 20 miles west of Davenport, Iowa.

Retirees are also invited to join the festivities to meet, greet and catch up with their former co-workers.

For more information about the Shady Creek Recreation Area, as well as campsite reservation information, go to www.ReserveUSA.com.

For further information about the picnic refer to the 2004 Corps Day on "Rocky" (the Intranet), while District retirees can contact Justine Barati at 309-794-5730 or e-mail at justine.a.barati@usace.army.mil.