



EXIT





Spotlight on the District

Story and photo by Denà McClurkin

Lorraine Jestel Internal Review Chief

Lorraine Jestel's title as chief of Internal Review usually evokes fear into the minds of supervisors, who assume she is on a mission to take over their offices.

But Jestel is not in the business of telling offices how they should do their budgets.

"Any work that I do is for the good of the District," said Jestel. "I try to improve the quality of products and services we provide. I approach everything that I do with a consultative attitude, rather than an adversarial one."

Jestel, who is an Ohio native, is a believer in teamwork. She feels her job cannot be effectively done without the help of others.

"I would like to develop a relationship with Corps employees, where I am not looked upon as a feared commodity, but rather as an asset, which provides another viewpoint to issues affecting the Corps," said Jestel. "I am new to the District, so it will take some time to understand how it operates. I depend on the people in the organization to help me learn and so far they are doing a great job."

Jestel joined the District in February after leaving her job at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service on the Arsenal.

"Even though I haven't been here long, I am really excited about this job because the Corps has a different philosophy than other Department of Defense agencies," said Jestel. "Here you are empowered to define your role so it is responsive to

issues that are important to the Corps. There is always an opportunity to learn new things and try new methods that will help the District."

The 41-year-old began her career with the government as an auditor with the U.S. Army Audit Agency on the Arsenal in 1983. In 1989, she took another position with the Operations Support Command's Internal Review Office. In the midst of OSC's reduction in force, Jestel made a move back to Army Audit in 1993.

Hard work is no problem for Jestel, who is responsible for planning and performing

administration from the University of Phoenix in Arizona.

"As an auditor, I have to learn how things work; how they tick. I usually get the big picture first and work my way down to the details."

Though Jestel is a certified public accountant, certified government auditing professional, and has many other awards, her proudest moments were the births of her three children, Harrison, Katherine, and Donald.

"My greatest accomplishment was going through labor three times," said

Jestel. "I am just amazed at what the human body can do. The whole process is a miracle."

When Jestel is done with her work at the Corps, she heads to Davenport to her other job as a mom.

"It's hard to have the balance between work and family, because you want to give your all to your career, but also have the responsibility for your family," added Jestel. "I am very grateful that my husband is a stay-at-home dad, because it allows me to pursue my career



Lorraine Jestel (right) shares a morning laugh with Angie Gilbraith, Internal Review.

all audits or special requests for assistance during the year and providing liaison services between the Corps and other auditing organizations.

While many people are just waking up, Jestel is already at work at 6:30 a.m. starting her day.

"There is so much to learn," said Jestel, who has a business administration degree from Youngstown State University in Ohio and her master's in business

as well as sharing the family responsibilities."

In her free time, she enjoys bike riding, playing the guitar at church, and renovating her old Victorian house. But most of her free time is spent with her kids.

"My kids consume my time away from work," said Jestel. "I have learned so much from those kids on how to motivate and deal with people more than I have ever learned from any class or book." ■

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District Engineer
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On the Cover

Mike Milobar, Saylorville Maintenance Crew, works on one of the group's many winter projects. Photo by Denà McClurkin, Public Affairs. See page 10 for more.

The Power of One Minute

By Col. William Bayles,
District Engineer



Photo by Justine Barati, Public Affairs.
Col. William Bayles talks to Patrick Wharry, Lockport Lockmaster, and Congresswoman Judy Biggert during the Lockport Lock Access Bridge Dedication Ceremony on March 8.

Do you have just a minute? Usually we hear this phrase when a telemarketer begins the sales pitch. But, can you really invest a minute? What if I told you the benefit might be hundreds or even thousands of minutes. Here's my sales pitch — bottom line: It only takes a minute to prevent an accident.

I'd like for you to take a moment or two to think over the hazards of the job you do for the District and think about how you meet the challenges of avoiding those hazards every day.

Are there some things you could do better or safer?

Since New Year's, we have experienced several unsafe minutes and I'm really disappointed that these have happened. Here are some examples:

- ❑ a person using a power saw without safety glasses got a splinter in his eye;
- ❑ a person using a paper shredder got their garment caught in the machine. This resulted in a finger being pulled into the shredder jaws;
- ❑ a person injured a hand when it got caught between a trailer tongue and the vehicle hitch; and
- ❑ a person fell from a ladder and sustained severe injuries to their legs and ankles.

While we have professional safety staff to investigate accidents and conduct analysis, I would like each of you to be your own safety staff for a minute each day. Ask yourself the following questions:

- ❑ **What are my risks today?** Am I subject to trips or strains? What are the hazards with the machinery I will be operating?
- ❑ **Are there any new or unfamiliar risks?** Have weather

conditions changed? Am I working in a new work area or with unfamiliar machinery?

- ❑ **What can I do to prevent a mishap that will injure me or a coworker or destroy property?** Should I reduce clutter, clear people from the work area, or get some instruction on how to use the equipment? Am I dressed properly for using the equipment? Can I change my procedures to eliminate or lessen these risks or compensate for the changes?
- ❑ **What can I do to reduce the consequences of a mishap to keep it from becoming an accident?** Should I block heavy items as I lift or lower them? Do I have and use safety gear like Personal Floatation Devices, gloves, safety shoes and eye protection appropriate to the tasks at hand?

Answering these questions will only take a minute. But your answers may prevent an injury that will cost you thousands of minutes!

Most of us will work about 480 minutes today. A minute spent to prevent an accident is a good investment.

Do you have just a minute? 🖱



[Army Safety on the 'Net](http://safety.army.mil)

<http://safety.army.mil>



Environmental Operating Principles Impact District

By Mark Kane, Public Affairs

Candice Walters, Corps Headquarters, contributed to this article

The Corps of Engineers is fine-tuning its environmental focus and putting it under the microscope.

Recently, the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, announced that every Corps employee will learn seven newly written Environmental Operating Principles that were created to keep the environment in the forefront of our minds.

“These principles illuminate the ways our missions must be integrated with natural resources laws, values and sound environmental practices,” Flowers said. “Each of you must embrace these principles and make sure that you consider them early in all your project decisions.”

The seven new Environmental Operating Principles have already been given to every Corps’ district. Supervisors are receiving training so they can train their employees on the principles and how they impact each person’s individual mission. Every District employee is supposed to complete the training prior to April 15.

“Just remember to learn the principles by tax day,” Col. William Bayles, District engineer, said.

“These principles, and the doctrine elaborating them, begins to develop the direction we must take to achieve greater synergy between environmental sustainability and execution of our civil works and military activities,” Bayles

said. “The new direction will require us, some more than others, to change our views, expectations — our mental models if you will — and our understanding of how our activities impact the natural world.”

“The Corps of Engineers’ mission must be changed to reflect the requirements of the people,” Flowers said nearly a year ago at the USACE Environmental Development Workshop. “It’s important that we establish these environmental operating principles. Our challenge is to set the example.”

Bayles said that in many cases the District is already doing a good job of operating within the guidelines of the principles. But in the cases where the District is not, he expects employees to take immediate steps to comply with the principles.

“Let no one mistake our role,” Bayles said. “We are a natural resource agency. We have responsibilities that are well known to all of us. We each have an interest in leaving an earth that is better for our children than what we have enjoyed. We in the Corps do this in many ways and not just because it is the law. We do it because it’s the right thing to do.”

The Environmental Operating Principles were created by a multi-functional Headquarters-level strategy team comprised of Robert Andersen, USACE chief counsel; Pat Rivers, head of the Military Programs

Environmental Division; and Dwight Beranek, chief of the Civil Works Engineering and Construction Division.

The team, a subgroup of the Issues Management Board, developed the principles in context with the four pillars of the Army Environmental Strategy (Into the 21st Century), the Army Environmental Campaign Plan and Operational Directive, the National Environmental Policy Act, the authorities given the Corps through the

USACE Environmental Operating Principles

1. Strive to achieve Environmental Sustainability.
2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment.
3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems.
4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law.
5. Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment.
6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base.
7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities.

Environmental Principles - continued on
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PDA's in the

Story and photos by Nick Heleg Greza, Engineering Division

A routine part of our work involves lots of travel to long-abandoned Formerly Used Defense Sites in exotic settings, such as coastal marsh areas and dusty deserts.



Tim Holland, Engineering Division, uses the PDA during an Ordnance and Explosives Search Inspection in the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation in Arizona.

We get to visit archives both nationally and locally and perform on-site surveys and inspections of FUDS sites and active sites being closed under the Base Realignment and Closure program. We are chasing down all leads to get the "real" story about these sites.

Part of our mission is to act as the site safety representatives and perform contract oversight for the Huntsville Center of Expertise and other districts in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ordnance and Explosive mission. As you can imagine, the requirement for accurate data recording and the ability to navigate to these places and perform the various field tasks could entail a suitcase full of maps and reams of paper, not to mention writing instruments.

With that in mind, our section sought a system that could be easily carried, was readily available, and could be used both in the office and in the field. A laptop computer fulfilled much of the requirement because it allowed the user to fill out data and use a Global Positioning System by using an off-the-shelf mapping program. But who wants to take a seven-pound computer, fight with cables, and be dependent on a short battery life before running to the shelter of a live 110-volt wall outlet for battery regeneration?

What we needed was something that is simple to use, will easily fit in your palm, and have a reasonably long battery life. A Personal Data Assistant easily fits that part of the requirement and adding a GPS antenna adds only ounces to the system weight. Commercial software is inexpensive, easy to use, has GPS capability, and can share data with laptop computers.

The software we chose for the laptop can assist the onsite inspectors with pre-visualization of the site, has the ability to define the site boundary, transfer the data with a detailed map to the PDA, and most importantly it can record our entire inspection with map notes along with latitude and longitude locations back to the laptop. These notes and locations are accurately placed on the laptop maps, minimizing errors that can occur with manual data input.

he Field



The GPS antenna on our laptops also works with a PDA. The GPS receiver is a little yellow plastic device about the size of a pack of cigarettes. This is very James Bond like given the small size of the GPS receiver and the almost equally small size of a Palm Pilot. Two jacket pockets carry a satellite positioning system for much of the world. In effect, this put a portable moving map GPS solution literally in the palm of our hands.

The GPS device takes about a minute to lock on to the GPS satellite network. Once that's done, our exact position - down to the street level - is displayed on the map as we move i.e. you turn a corner, the map tracks it. Watching it gives you the eerie-cool X-Files feeling. It gets even better as the sunsets and you turn on the backlighting.

In terms of value for the money, nothing can touch this system. For the same price as other programs, you get unlimited map downloads, integration with all of their map products, the best overall map displays, wireless updates and more. With this inexpensive software, we have access to United States Geological Survey topographic maps of the entire country, plus the USGS National Elevation Dataset, and updated USGS land-use, land-cover information. In the same software we have the latest national road and trail data available on a personal computer.

Prior to going onto a site, we can customize and print large mural maps on our color printer. This program provides door-to-trail routing and is particularly helpful to our on site inspectors, providing elevation profiles so they can judge in

advance which roads will provide the best approach to the site. We can create trail routing in any wilderness area in the United States, get three-dimensional views of the areas we want to explore, study our targeted sites from several different angles, and display elevation data for any point along our off-road adventure. The Map details are amazing with the 2-D maps looking like 3-D, while retaining 2-D functionality, and the 3-D maps are really impressive. Landmark information detail is really enhanced and is easy to read.

Downloading a U.S. map to a handheld provides the information we need. The Palm-ready maps include data about points of interest, hotels, etc.

After providing you with an idea of how the system works, here is how we use it. Prior to going to a site, all the mapping data is done on the laptops to include the site layout, directions and routes are annotated, and the maps saved. Necessary documents, point of contact information and select maps are then transferred to the PDA for use in the field.

The laptop is used while traveling in our vehicle to get us into the general vicinity of the site and the GPS is disconnected from the laptop and connected to the PDA. After a very short GPS setup time, our current location is indicated on the PDA screen. We start the route tracking, which saves our inspection route to the PDA. We next mark our location, to find our way back to the vehicles, and navigate out to the target area. As we follow a predetermined path through the target area, we survey the surface for visual or magnetic indications of ordnance use,

which we mark on the PDA. The program allows us to name the marks with items that we can identify later. Upon completion of the survey and site inspection, the information is transferred to the laptop and saved with the map. The map will contain our exact route through the area and identified items with their locations.

At the end of an area survey, the GPS is disconnected from the PDA and reconnected to the laptop. In this manner, we can navigate from the present site to wherever we have to go next. This is especially important when we have to travel unfamiliar terrain in the dark.

It is like a pilot flying with instruments. 🗺️



A back view of Tim Holland's, Engineering Division, PDA backpack.

Saylorville Reservoir at 25

Story by Denà McClurkin

Photos courtesy of the Rock Island District Library

Scott Rolfes can remember when the Saylorville Reservoir was just a huge mound of dirt and an idea.

In the late '60s, the Camp Dodge native used to sneak into the Saylorville construction site.

"I never envisioned that it would be what it is now," said Rolfes, who is now a Saylorville park ranger. "I knew it was going to be here, but I could not picture how it was going to look."

Twenty-five years later, Saylorville isn't just an idea or a major construction site. It is a 26,000-acre project that provides flood control, water supply, and recreation opportunities for the Des Moines area.

But Saylorville didn't make this transformation overnight.

In the Beginning

Before the Saylorville project was even on the Corps' drawing boards, the Des Moines River was a nightmare for some people.

Major floods occurred on the river in 1851, 1903, 1935, 1938, and 1944. In 1947, a record flood on the Des Moines forced 500 people from their homes and two people drowned. And in 1954, another flood forced 1,800 people from their homes.

Following these monstrous floods, the Committee of Commerce of the U.S. Senate authorized a study for the Des Moines River in the interest of providing additional flood protection for the city of Des Moines.

After nine possible dam sites were studied in 1958, Congress authorized the Corps to construct Saylorville Lake on the Des Moines River. The main purpose of the project was to provide additional storage to supplement the flood capacity of Lake Red Rock and help reduce flood crests on the Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers.

Construction on the project officially began in July 1965.

Before Dan Crone began his career with the Corps as a Saylorville park ranger, he worked for the principal contractor that was responsible for building the dam.

"In those days, it was like the wild West," said Crone. "I worked 10 hours a day, six days out of the week at night, as a dump boss. It was my job to direct people where to put dirt on the dam."

"You just had this overwhelming good feeling knowing you were working on this huge project," added Crone.

John Sederwall, Saylorville Lake, agrees. He has worked at Saylorville since 1965.

"It was an adventure back in those days," said Sederwall, who worked as an instrument man on the survey project. "I was just happy to be part of it."

Troubled Waters

Though Sederwall and Crone can remember all the good times, S.K. Nanda, Engineering Division, remembers some of the less glamorous moments.

"As with all projects, there were some people who had problems with it," said Nanda. "There were some people that didn't want to part with their property and then there was a group of people who were on a mission to save Ledges Park, which was being affected by the Saylorville Project."

Ledges State Park, which is situated in and near the upper middle portion of the Saylorville Lake, is one of Iowa's largest and most picturesque parks. When Saylorville Lake Project is operating it would flood some of the low-lying parklands. Some local citizens were outraged by this and organized to fight the project.

"The group brought two lawsuits against the Corps," said Thomas Crane, District Counsel at the time. "The first lawsuit

TIMELINE



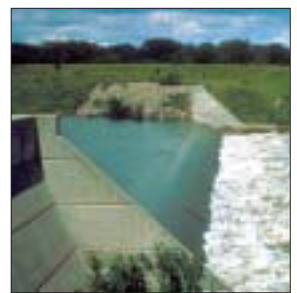
1965



1970



1974



PRESENT



claimed that the government did not prepare an adequate Environmental Impact Statement.”

“So we went back and amended and expanded our Environmental Impact Statement,” added Crane. “So that lawsuit didn’t really affect construction of the project.”

According to Crane, the second lawsuit was entirely different and even caught the attention of the media.

“When this group of concerned citizens allied with the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, they filed a second lawsuit against the government in 1972,” said Crane.

“This lawsuit requested an injunction to stop bid openings for the project. If successful, this lawsuit would have delayed construction of the project.”

A settlement was reached in 1973, when the Corps agreed to pay for a vegetative management plan in Ledges State Park and

to relocate some of the facilities that were located in the low-lying park areas. In addition, the government agreed to purchase more land for a corridor below Saylorville Dam to permit an increased outflow from the dam from 8,000 cubic feet

per second to 12,000 cfs. This would help by reducing the duration of flooding in Ledges State Park.

“We changed the whole plan to protect this park,” said Nanda. “And this was a good thing because we found a balance.” Crane agreed and said, “We were able to work together and it resulted in a win-win situation for everyone.”

“As with all projects, there were some people who had problems with it. There were some people that didn’t want to part with their property and then there was a group of people, who were on a mission to save Ledges Park, which was being affected by the Saylorville Project.”

- S.K. Nanda

Better Days Ahead

Though Saylorville’s original mission was flood protection, today it fulfills a multipurpose role. The project provides a minimum downstream river flow for water supply and water quality during drought periods. In addition, it is home to area

woodlands, wetlands, and prairie habitats, and is a major source of recreational opportunities.

“Since we [the Corps] are not in the business of building dams anymore, we are now environmental stewards,” said Nanda.

With more than one million visitors a year from across the nation, Saylorville Lake has earned a reputation as being one of the best recreational areas in the state.

“When we first opened up Cherry Glenn, one of our first campground areas, traffic was so backed up that we had to get the sheriff to help us out and direct traffic,” said Sederwall. “Everyone wanted to be the first to stay in the new campground.”

When Rolfes reflects on all the strides the reservoir has made over the years, he is amazed. He hopes that the reservoir doesn’t lose the very essence that makes it unique.

“We have a lot of development going on around the reservoir,” said Rolfes. “In fact, 20 years from now, people won’t have the same experience as they do now, because before they get to the park they will have to drive through lanes and lanes of subdivisions and housing complexes. My biggest fear is seeing the park decline in its wildlife quality and take up the characteristics of big city parks.”

On the Net
www.mvr.usace.army.mil/saylor/

Holding Things Together The Saylorville Maintenance Crew

Story and photos by Denà McClurkin

There isn't a job too big for the six-man maintenance crew at Saylorville Reservoir. Whether it's plumbing, electrical maintenance, carpentry, or painting, the men say they can do it all and have a track record to back it up.

"We keep things going around here," said John Sederwall, maintenance supervisor. "During the recreational season, we work four 10-hour days. And we try to stagger the shifts so we can offer 10-hour-day coverage daily."

When they aren't maintaining the grounds and repairing things during the recreation season, the crew has their share of projects to work on during the winter months. They do everything from rebuilding picnic tables and benches to painting.

"One project that we completed was upgrading one of our shower buildings for handicap individuals that need assistance," said Sederwall.

Though most of the men are specialized in certain areas like plumbing or carpentry, they all come together to help each other on projects.

"I remember one winter, we found a water leak," said Sederwall. "It had leaked more than six million gallons of water. We all came together

and helped fix the problem. In just a couple days, everything was back to normal."

Mike "Sparkie" Milobar, agrees and thinks the camaraderie is the most important aspect of their job.

"Since we do not have a large staff, we have to cover each other's back," said Milobar, who is an electrician. "And it is a good system that we have, because whoever is the expert on the problem takes the lead and the rest of us just follow."

Though the crewmembers have had their share of emergency maintenance moments together, they have also survived natural disasters with each other.

"It was the summer of 1998 when a mega cyclone tornado came through," said John Greif. "I was out with the dump truck cleaning up after storm damage. I was just moments away from the thing and was desperately trying to make it back to the maintenance building. When I got to the building, there were three guys cramped in a backhoe. I hopped in and weathered through the tornado with them."

The camaraderie doesn't just stop with the maintenance crewmembers. The maintenance crew also has good working relationships with the rangers and all the administrators.

"We all eat lunch with each other every day," said Milobar. "There is no invisible line between us. We all get along. Besides the rangers have some of the best stories about the public."

Greif agrees and said, "We are all a big family out here. We all need each other in one way or form." ■



Mike Milobar, Saylorville Maintenance Crew, takes a look at the electrical wires near the kitchen closet. Above in the top left photo, John Greif works moves equipment around the maintenance garage.

Tom Gambucci, Engineering Division, removes debris entangled in levee bedding at Locks and Dam 14 as part of the District's involvement in the Adopt-a-Mississippi River Mile.

Photo by Mark Kane, Public Affairs



Environmental Principles - continued from page 5

Water Resources Development Acts, and the more than 70 environmental statutes with which the Corps complies.

"Much of what these principles reflect is what we have been doing in the environmental arena or should be doing currently," said Andersen.

One of the principles establishes a goal of trying to achieve environmental sustainability, which is defined as meeting the needs of the present without


compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

"Whether it's construction, environmental restoration, operating a water resource project or permitting; we're going to perform work in a manner that enhances environmental sustainability," said Andersen.

Other principles reiterate "our responsibility under the law to ensure that decisions are made with consideration to the environment," he said. "They talk about the what and the how part of the equation of

striving to achieve environmental sustainability.

"We want to integrate these principles into the Project Management Business Process. Once they become part of our everyday life, environmental considerations and issues will be at the forefront of everyone's thoughts as decisions are made," said Andersen.

The USACE Environmental Operating Principles and Implementation Guidance doctrine can be found in the District Microsoft Outlook public "Training" folder. 

Take Action with E-mail

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

Have you ever wanted to contact citizens directly when you had breaking news or needed to provide them with important information? Now you can.

The Public Affairs Office has initiated a new e-mail mailing-list initiative. As an offshoot of the Strategic Communications program, we are collecting the e-mail addresses of citizens interested in Corps' mission areas.

These e-mail mailing-lists will give us the ability to provide key messages concerning various Corps missions, programs and projects directly to the public. The program will provide an opportunity to proactively tell our side of an issue by directly e-mailing individuals interested in Corps topics.




A direct sign-up button is located on the District's Internet homepage and we are providing sign-up materials at community events.

In order to make these e-mail mailing lists effective, we need your help.

If you have information the public needs to know, please contact Public Affairs. We can then send your message out to the people on the appropriate e-mail list.

It is also important for every Corps employee to tell people about these e-mail mailing lists. Word-of-mouth is one of the best ways to let people know about this program. If you are speaking in front of a large group and would like handouts or more information about the program, please contact the Public Affairs Office.

The Public Affairs Office can be reached by phone at 309-794-5900 or by e-mail at CEMVR-PA@usace.army.mil 

ASSURING EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

BY LARRY BARNETT, DISTRICT COUNSEL

On May 1 of each year, the legal profession celebrates law day. The Law Day 2002 theme is "Celebrate Your Freedom - Assuring Equal Justice for All."

Why is the law important?

The stability of American society depends in large part on our nation's commitment to the rule of law. The rule of law means that all members of our society are subject to the same set of laws and that these laws are enforced consistently without regard to a person's position in society. Not every dispute needs to be resolved in court, but we should know when and how the law can protect our interests and preserve our rights.

When should I use a lawyer?

A person's need for a lawyer depends upon the circumstances and complexities of a particular issue. Most agree, however, that a lawyer's help is needed when a person encounters major events or changes in his or her life. These include:

- being involved in an accident,
- experiencing a change in family status, such as divorce, adoption, or death,
- being arrested for a crime, and
- experiencing a significant change for better or worse, in a person's financial status.

The four most common reasons people use a lawyer are:

- real estate transactions,
- drawing up a will,
- as a party to a lawsuit, and divorce or speculation from an individual's spouse

Indigent Defense Programs

The Fifth Amendment states, "No person shall ...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

The Sixth Amendment states, "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right ...to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

The 14th Amendment states, "No state shall ...deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Constitution requires Federal and State governments to provide representation to those accused of crimes and unable to afford counsel. Public defender programs and court appointed attorneys at public expense fulfill this need.

Legal Services to the Poor

Except for cases involving actual loss of liberty (i.e., commitment to a mental hospital), the Supreme Court has not recognized a constitutional right to a lawyer in civil (non-criminal) cases.

Beginning in 1965 with the Office of Legal Services, and continuing to this day through the Legal Services Corporation, federal funding has supported the provision of some legal services to the poor. It is estimated that around 2,400 offices in the country (with about 4,800 lawyers and 2,000 paralegals) are supported by the Legal Services Corporation. In addition, states, nonprofit organizations, and individual lawyers and law firms provide legal assistance to the poor. About 130,000 lawyers take some *pro bono* or reduced-fee cases each year.

Adequate funding of public defender offices, assigned counsel programs and legal aid offices is a continuing problem. Solutions continue to be debated to assure equal justice for all. 🗑️

On the Net

www.lawday.org



THE CORPS: PREPARED TO SERVE THE NATION

Thursday, June 13

Arsenal Island, Memorial Field

Corps Day 2002

Mark your calendars!

There will be food, drinks, games, prizes, awards and more!



Ask the Vet: Identification Microchips

By Spc. Sheila Hamlett,
Veterinary Services, Fort Knox, Ky.

Every year more than 10 million cats and dogs become lost. Some sneak out through a hole in the fence or squeeze past their owners while the groceries are being brought inside. Some become frightened and try to hide. Others are stolen. However an animal can become lost and it can be a traumatic experience for those who consider their pet to be a member of the family.

Only 50 percent of dogs and 25 percent of cats are wearing collars when they arrive at a shelter. Even fewer have identification tags. This is why so many good cats and dogs have to be put to death. The animal is found, but the owner is lost.

There is a way to permanently identify your pet so that it can be returned to you. It is called the microchip.

The microchip is as small as a grain of rice and is placed under the skin between the shoulder blades. It is not a big brother-type tracking device. Your pet cannot be followed via satellite. Each microchip has a unique code, that is registered with the chip's company. The code corresponds to the pet owner's information and is stored in a database. When a lost animal comes into a shelter, it is scanned with a hand-held scanner, like groceries at the checkout lane.

If the animal carries a microchip, the code will appear on the monitor. The code can then be reported to the company and the pet and owner will soon be reunited. Most microchips can be read nationwide and some can be read worldwide.

"We suggest for people to bring their pet in as a young as possible," said Gina Hart of the North Brady Animal Hospital, in Davenport, Iowa.

According to Hart, the procedure is becoming popular in the Quad-City area.

"We do the procedure at least 25 to 30 times out of the year," said Hart. "And we are only one of 30 animal hospitals here in the area that do the procedure."

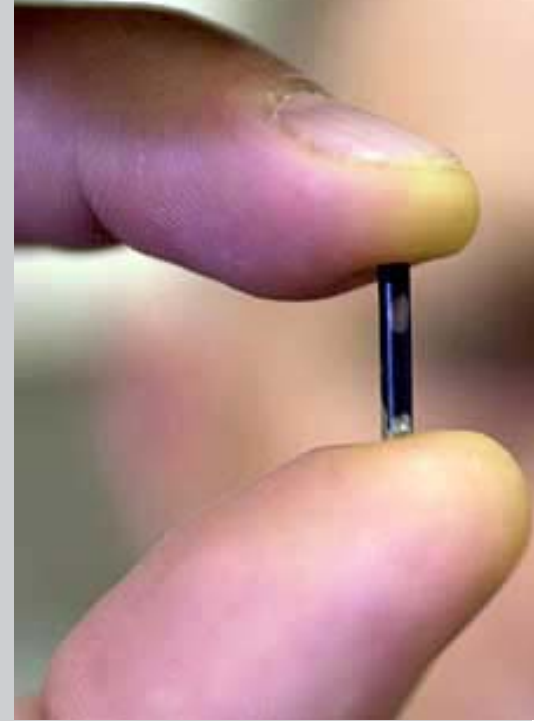
Hart added the procedure could cost between \$34 and \$40 depending on the brand that is used. However, local shelter may offer a discounted rate during vaccination clinics.

Working for the government can mean moving around frequently. If you plan on taking your pet with you, it is important to know the regulations of the area where you are moving.

Many European countries, including Germany, require certain breeds to be microchipped. Hawaii and Guam have made microchipping mandatory for all pets. Problems with strays and with soldiers abandoning pets have forced some military installations to make it mandatory for all pets kept on post to be microchipped.

These regulations ensure that pets are returned to their owners. With the cost of handling millions of stray animals in the United States approaching \$1 billion, this is a simple way to help cut the cost.

This does not mean animals without microchips will be immediately put to death. Attempts are first made to find them a new home. Having pets microchipped



The microchip is as small as a grain of rice and is placed under the skin between the shoulder blades.

means more time can be spent on finding homes for true strays. It also means your pet will not be put to death or adopted to a new family, because the microchip will help to locate you.

Most veterinary clinics offer microchipping services. The chip is inserted with a needle, much like a vaccination. It only takes a few seconds and most pets have little or no discomfort. There may be tenderness and slight swelling over the area for a few days, just like with vaccinations. It is safe for puppies and kittens and the chip is made from biocompatible materials.

Pets are members of the family. Should they become lost, help keep them from becoming one of the millions of animals put to death in America's shelters by having them microchipped. Make an appointment with your veterinarian today. Your pet's life could depend on it.

April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. The month long observance is geared toward educating the public about reporting animal abuse. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and numerous local humane organizations celebrate Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month each April.

For more information visit the ASPCA online at www.asPCA.com.



Investing In Our People

Around the District

District Commander's Award

Chris Rentz, Information Management, was awarded the District Commander's Award for February 2002, by Col. William Bayles, District engineer.



He earned the award for providing invaluable service in the design and creation of the Intranet Project Management website. This website is used to manage the District's monthly Project Review Board documents and serves as an historical database. These documents, which range from financial data to status reports, pertain to the significant projects and programs within the District. Through Rentz's efforts this information is now available to all District employees.

In addition to designing the website, Rentz also wrote a complete set of instructions on how employees, no matter what their skill level, could access this information. He also provided the Project Management with a concise user's manual, that outlines procedures on how to post new documents, delete files and update current posted documents.

Muscatine River Cleanup

Muscatine rangers are celebrating Earth Day by coordinating a river and park cleanup on April 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Under the theme, "River Rubbish Rendez-

vous," the cleanup will take place at Andalusia Slough Recreation Area. The park is located two miles west of Andalusia, Illinois, along Illinois Highway 92.

Volunteers will also have a chance to learn about the things they can do to improve the environment. Lunch will be provided, courtesy of area business donations. For more information contact Jim Homann, Muscatine Ranger Station, at 563-263-7913.

District Eagle Watches Reach Goal

The final tally of Rock Island District sponsored eagle watches has been completed. There were events held at Dubuque, Iowa, Clinton, Iowa, LeClaire, Iowa, the Quad Cities, Muscatine, Keokuk, Iowa, and Quincy, Ill. A total of 29,658 participants the eagle watches. All the project events exceeded their goals for participation, despite unusual security restrictions.

Quincy Rangers Aim for 2002 River Expo

The Quincy rangers continue to make contacts with area organizations, to include the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Illinois DNR and the Audubon Society in developing a "River Expo" for next winter. The exposition will highlight environmental issues on the Mississippi River. The rangers recently wrote a letter and grant request to the McKnight Foundation for possible support funding.

Sympathy ...

Francis W. Collins, 77, a resident of Rosewood Care Center, Moline, formerly of Milan, died, March 7, at the center.



Collins worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He was a World War II Army Air

Forces veteran and retired as a major from the Air Force Reserves.

William H. Breitenstein, 70, Orion, Ill., died Feb. 2, at Forest Hill Health and Rehab Center, East Moline.



Breitenstein was a truck driver for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, last working in 1987.

Breitenstein was an Army veteran serving in the Korean War. He enjoyed metal detecting and just spending time at home.

Ethel T. O'Kane, 98, Weehawken, N.J., passed away Monday, March 4, at her daughter's home.

Ethel Tynan was born Nov. 30, 1903, in Shepherd, Mich.

O'Kane had been employed by the Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Rock Island District.

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Entrance gates to the lock chamber area repaired and painted.
- ✓ Cabinet door refaced.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Construction of the lockman's shelter completed.
- ✓ Lock wall safety blocks painted.

Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.

- ✓ Maintenance building painting completed.
- ✓ Sump pump installed.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Small boat lines spliced.
- ✓ Dam tainter-gate grating project completed.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Crane physicals completed.
- ✓ Welding room organized.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Widening of the upper-lock gate walkways completed.
- ✓ Steering cable and assembly on the pontoon motor repaired.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Twelve synthetic gate timbers on #2 miter gate installed.
- ✓ Desk for lockman's computer built.

Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.

- ✓ Eight gate timbers installed.
- ✓ New lines on lock safety blocks installed.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Lower pocket rollers on the service gate replaced.
- ✓ Selsyn gage on the guard gate repaired.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Cushman scooters repaired, sanded and serviced.
- ✓ Jib cranes inspected and tested.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Cable on upper and lower tow haulage units oiled.
- ✓ Dam raised to under flow.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Safety blocks on dam installed.
- ✓ Dam pier house arranged.

*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

Speakers Bureau

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

Karen Hagerty, Programs and Project Management, and Mark Clark, Engineering Division, attended the Partners of Scott County Watershed's monthly meeting in Davenport, Iowa, on Feb. 20. Hagerty gave a brief update on the status of the Duck Creek - Fairmount Park Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration project. The Watershed Partners group, along with the city of Davenport, are considering a spring burn of the site for control of invasive reed canary grass in the wetter portions of the site and for benefits to the upland prairie component. Wade Williams, University of Northern Iowa, provided a historical upland prairie species list from Scott County to the group, especially useful for the prairie restoration component of the 206 project.

Frank Monfeli, Programs and Project Management; Mattie Martin, Operations Division; Debra VanOpdorp, Real Estate Division; and Rick Nickel, Engineering Division, assisted with mock interviews for juniors and seniors at United Township High School in East Moline, Ill., on Feb. 27. The volunteers filled out evaluation sheets after the interviews to provide students with tips on improving their interview techniques.

Cliff Artis, Engineering Division, assisted in judging the work of eighth graders as part of the Invent Iowa Science Fair for Bettendorf, Iowa, on March 2.

Non-traditional careers for women was the topic of discussion when Nicole McVay, Engineering Division, spoke about her job

with more than 50 students at Coyne Center Elementary in Milan, Ill., on March 5.

On March 13, Don Bardole, Mississippi River Visitor Center, discussed how the locks and dams work with more than 80 members of the Harvester Bass Club in East Moline, Ill.

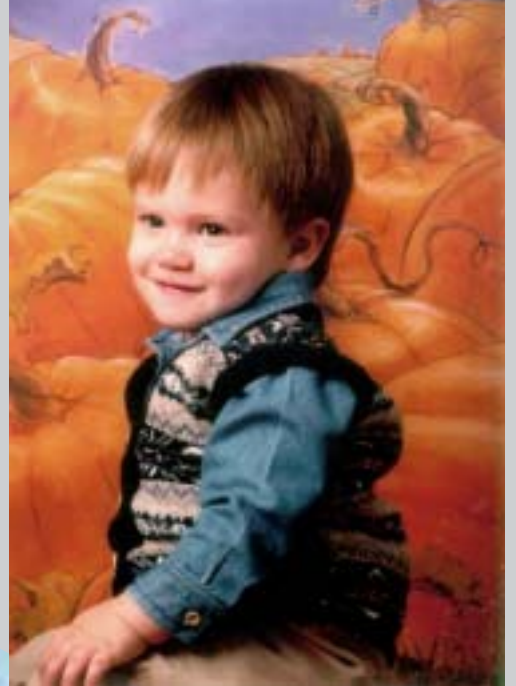
Steve Johnson, Programs and Project Management, spoke with dozens of students at a career fair at Morrison High School in Erie, Ill., on March 14. The focus of his discussion was his career in earth sciences.

More than 50 students from Moline schools met Kraig McPeck, Programs and Project Management, when he discussed how the river encouraged development of the Quad-City area. The speech was given at a student event at the Mark of the Quad Cities in Moline, Ill., on March 21.

Water safety was the topic of discussion when John Punkiewicz, Operations Division, spoke with more than 50 members of the Quad-City Bass Club at their monthly meeting in Davenport, Iowa, on March 25.

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 should contact Justine Barati. 📧

Be a Part of Your Magazine



Every issue of the Tower Times belongs to you. In order to better tell the District's stories, we need you. You are closer, familiar with the facts, and can provide a perspective we can't. Whether it is an article or a photo about your job, experiences or adventures, we want it.

If writing and taking photos is not your niche, we still want to hear your story ideas and suggestions.

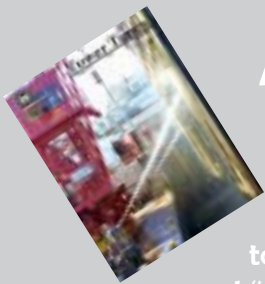
Send all your submissions and direct all questions to Mark Kane at 309-794-5730 or

Mark.A.Kane@usace.army.mil

Just follow these guidelines and you could be published.

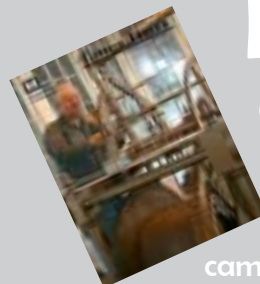


The top photo is not compressed. Aim to take pictures like these. The bottom photo is a compressed picture that was taken with low resolution settings. These types of photos are usually taken when trying to get as many photos as possible on a digital camera. These photos cannot be used in the Tower Times.



Articles

- Ø Keep all stories short, direct and easy to read.
- Ø Write with a conversational tone. It is okay to use words like "I" and "we."
- Ø Type all stories using in Microsoft Word.
- Ø Keep most sentences under 25 words.
- Ø Spell out all acronyms, divisions and branches.



Photos

- Ø Try to get good close-up, medium and long shots.
- Ø Take digital photos at the highest resolution your digital camera will allow. Preferred settings are 5x7 at 300 dpi (dots per inch).
- Ø Do not download an image shot at low resolution and attempt to "beef up" the image using a software program, it's better to send it "as is."
- Ø Download the images you shoot and save them without manipulating the photo.