





Spotlight on the District

Maj. Jay Carr Chief, Contracting Division

Story by Mark Kane

Many people remember their first day of school, their first car, or their first days at a new job when they're eagerly trying to learn about the organization that said, "You're hired."

Although active-duty military members know they're going to experience that transition many times in their military career, it doesn't make it any easier, unless you're going to the Rock Island District, said Maj. Jay Carr, the newly selected chief of the Contracting Division.

"Working with the high caliber of people here has made it very easy to transition," said Carr. "The level of professionalism has given me a large sense of pride to be here. When I go out there and see what these people do, day in and day out, it makes me proud to be a part of the Corps. In some organizations you don't feel like you're a part of them until you've been there one or two years, but I already feel like I'm a part of the District."

Carr is a 1989 graduate of Winona State University and earned his master's degree in Acquisition and Contract Management at Fort Lee, Virginia. He entered the Army in 1989 in field artillery. He was stationed in Germany; Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.; instructor for Army Reserve Officers Training Corps at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minn.; and Fort Bragg, N.C. Carr also served in operations Desert Shield and Storm, as well as a six-month tour in Kosovo at Camp Bondstell. He earned the Department of Defense Bronze

Star, and two Army Meritorious Service Medals. Carr credits most of his contracting experience to Army contingency contracting.

He is originally from Austin, Minn., and says growing up in the Midwest is part of the reason the Corps attracted him in the first place.



Maj. Jay Carr displays his catch of the day, a Jack Cravalle fish caught in December 1999, at Punta Gorda, Fla.

"As a kid watching the barges lock up and down the river, it always interested me," said Carr.

But Carr had other reasons for selecting the Corps.

"I talked with some contractors who had dealt with the Corps and they enjoyed working with the Corps, the professionalism of the organization, and the mission," said Carr. "At first I had a lot of choices as to where the Army would send me, and

this wasn't even on the radar screen, but when it came up it was a very easy decision for my wife and I to make."

Carr says his main job is to support the customer, whether that's the Operations Division or whomever, but his goals exceed his job description.

"What I'd like to do is continue to find

new and innovative ways of contracting to help our customers achieve the best value," said Carr.

"I'm learning everyday that it's a big challenge to learn how the Corps does business, but that's what I like the most, everyday is a challenge and I look forward to coming to work everyday because of that."

Carr and his wife Jill live on Rock Island Arsenal and have been married for 12 years. They have a five-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son.

His hobbies include recreational golfing and fishing.

"I don't fish for anything particular," said Carr. "Pretty much any fishin' for anything, I just love to fish."

His advice to anyone reading this article is, "It's much easier to go to work and be happy if you have a good relationship with the people you work with, and that's what I've tried to do. Don't just present the problem, present the problem and the solution, regardless of who you are in the chain." ■

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On the Cover

The Quad-Cities Gate Lifter salvages the crane involved in the death of a District employee, Richard Lair, in Aug. 26, 1986, from the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 20. See the full story on pages 6-7.



Leadership and Public Responsibility

By Col. William Bayles, district engineer

the Army mission. It uses the principles embedded in the criteria to support the continuous improvement of Army organizations. The APIC supports the implementation of Total Army Quality by providing feedback that reveals the health of an organization, identifies strengths, and pinpoints opportunities to improve management practices and programs. Additionally, it aids communication and sharing of the best management techniques, strategies, and performance practices among Army organizations, federal agencies, business, and industry.

The District adopted APIC in 1994 as the foundation of our improvement process. The Mississippi Valley Division has now adopted APIC as the improvement foundation for the Regional Business Center. As the Division adopts APIC as an operating structure, we will be hearing more about APIC and its application.

I've told you that my goal is to set up the District for success in 2010 by making us a learning organization. A learning organization invests in its people and has people who take responsibility for their personal and professional development. In such an organization, people also take responsibility to improve the business processes. Although we have made great progress, APIC gives us a framework for further improvements.

APIC address seven major topics. These are: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market knowledge, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management, and business results.

This month, I'll start by explaining the leadership criteria. This area looks at how well senior leaders guide the organization in setting directions and in reviewing the organization's performance. Senior leaders are asked how they:

- Set, communicate and deploy the organization's values and performance expectations;
- Communicate the importance of

creating value for the customer and balancing value for the customer and other stakeholders;

- Create an environment within the organization for empowerment and innovation;
- Encourage organizational and employee learning;
- Review the organization's performance to assess its "health" and its progress relative to established performance goals; and using performance review findings, along with employee feedback, to improve their leadership effectiveness.

The other major portion of this criteria item is public responsibility and citizenship. This centers on how the organization addresses its responsibilities to the public and how it practices good citizenship. Leaders facilitate this by:

- Translating the goals and standards for public responsibility and corporate citizenship into operational policies and procedures (anticipating the public's concern with current and future products or services and operations);
- Making legal requirements and risks factors (risks associated with your products or services and operations) an integral part of performance measurement and improvements;
- Ensuring ethical business practices in all stakeholder interactions; and identifying the organization's "key communities" and determining areas of emphasis for organizational involvement & support in these communities.

I hope that you will carefully read these criteria items and think about how you fit into this leadership and public responsibility criteria. If you are a leader – think how you communicate your team's goals and responsibilities to your team. If you are a team member – think about how well you understand your team's organizational goals and how you can bring them to fruition. 🇺🇸

Over the past few years, District employees may have heard references to "Army Performance Improvement Criteria," or "Baldrige Criteria." In many cases, you have never had anyone explain the purpose of the criteria or how we use them in the District.

I expect in the coming months that people will continue to hear these terms, so I'll explain them in a series of monthly articles. In each case, I'll explain how we apply these concepts in the District and challenge you to apply them in your job – whether you're a lock operator, park ranger, engineer, or accountant.

First, a brief explanation of the overall program. For more than a decade, the Baldrige Criteria has been a tool used by thousands of U.S. organizations to improve performance and stay abreast of ever-increasing competition.

The criteria provide a valuable framework that can help assess performance on a wide range of key business indicators: customer, product and service, operational, human resource, and financial. The criteria can help align resources; improve communication, productivity, and effectiveness; and achieve strategic goals.

The Army Performance Improvement Criteria is the government's adaptation of the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence to fit the unique nature of

Upper Mississippi River System Navigation Study Resumes

By Public Affairs



Reference: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/NavigationStudy.htm> for the latest information.

Following a five-month hiatus, the much-debated Upper Mississippi River - Illinois River Waterway System Navigation Study has been refocused and resumed.

The study will be modified to emphasize environmentally sustainable use of the river and to address concerns raised by the National Research Council in February 2001.

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, paused the study in March 2001 to consider recommendations made by the NRC and others on the economic and environmental analyses. The pause also allowed Flowers to invite Washington-level representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Transportation (Maritime Administration) to provide a broader federal perspective on the needs of the river basin and to advise the Corps on how to best address the NRC recommendations.

The Director of Civil Works, Brig. Gen. (Promotable) Robert H. Griffin, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, instructed the Mississippi Valley Division, with the concurrence of Flowers, and the acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Dominic Izzo, to resume the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study on Aug. 2.

"The Corps will develop a comprehensive plan in phases for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System to meet the nation's navigation needs, while providing for ecosystem restoration and improvements," said Col. William Bayles, commander, Rock Island District.

The commitment to the environment always has been present

in the study, although it has been focused on assessing only the environmental impacts of navigation improvements, said Bayles. The NRC and Federal Task Force made the recommendation to consider equal planning for the environment as a major planning objective, along with assessing the impacts of the existing nine-foot-channel project.

The Corps, he added, is committed to avoiding, minimizing and mitigating negative effects on the environment.

In approximately one year, the Corps will complete an interim report that will contain the scope of the comprehensive plan, as well as recommendations for continued navigation and environmental planning. The Corps' study process will continue to be collaborative, with a high degree of interagency and public participation.

"In the next 30 days, the study team will be developing an outline for the Interim Report and a new project study plan that will bring the Revised Navigation Study to completion," said Denny Lundberg, chief, Special Office for Navigation Improvements.

The Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss., will be responsible for the study and the Rock Island District will retain project management responsibilities. The course of action recommended in the final study report will be reviewed and approved by the Chief of Engineers before submittal to the Administration and Congress.

Congress has declared the upper Mississippi River to be both a nationally significant ecosystem and navigation system. "The refocused study will emphasize the nation's need to sustain both a quality ecosystem and an effective navigation system," said Brig. Gen. Ed Arnold, commander, Mississippi Valley Division. "This redirection is necessary to ensure that any recommended improvements will meet both objectives." ■

Workers look at the crane involved in Richard Lair's fatality after it was salvaged from the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 20.



The District's Darkest Day ... Never Forget

By Bob Wild, Operations Division

August 26, 1986, is a day that those who were there, and some who were not, will always remember. That was the day two fellow employees and friends were killed in separate crane related accidents in a five-hour time span. This year is the 15th anniversary of that dark day.

In memoriam, there were two District boats named after the victims. The first was the survey vessel Sweatt and the second was the crew vessel Lair. Lowell Sweatt was a foreman on the Mississippi River Project Maintenance Crew and Richard Lair was a lockman at Lock and Dam 20.

Sweatt's fatality resulted from massive crushing injuries, while Lair's fatality resulted from a bridge crane being pulled off of the dam in Canton, Mo.

The striking common denominator in the two accidents was the fact that we tend to pay less attention to things that

become common in our workplace. Because workers face the dangers of cranes everyday, there is always the possibility to forget just how tragic an error can be.

For the past 15 years, we have discussed these tragic accidents in order to prevent these errors from reoccurring.

Both fatalities devastated the District in 1986. The following year, several after-action measures were taken to reinforce crane safety procedures throughout the District. This included the production of an in depth crane-safety video, as well as a full-time crane-safety position. This was

when I came into the picture.

In 1988, my position was created, with the help of Bud Marion and Kenn Shoemaker, Operations Division. Before coming

to the Clock Tower, I was a full-time crane operator on the Mississippi River Project Maintenance Section, Structures Maintenance crew and before that I worked for the International Union of Operating

Never forget these tragic accidents and the families who they left behind.

- Bob Wild

Engineers, Local 537.

Through the years, we have made great strides in the education of crane operators, riggers and all personnel involved with

cranes, but it's important for us to remember Aug. 26, 1986, or else we'll become complacent.

Complacency in the workplace is the major cause of accidents in construction trades. This was the biggest contributor to our mishaps in 1986. Whether a government setting or private contractor the message is still the same, do not become complacent in your organization or

construction industry, as well as an additional 80,000 to 100,000 in general and maritime industries.

OSHA's analysis of crane accidents in general industry and construction identified an average of 71 fatalities each year. While OSHA lacks adequate worker exposure data to calculate the risk of death for the entire population exposed, the risk of death among crane operators alone is

significant, corresponding to a risk of more than one death per thousand workers over a working lifetime of 45 years.

We have strived to make a safer work place at the federal and private sector levels. Through the efforts of many, I believe we have made a difference in the way we conduct our everyday workplace safety. One committee that I sit on, as a representative of the Corps, is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, B30 main committee, and the B30.5 sub-committee on mobile cranes. We write the crane safety standards that are recognized throughout the industry. If followed, industry can protect their work force no matter what their job

entails.

Have you ever heard the expression: "There's always enough time and money to do the job right the second time?" It's true of human nature to learn from our experiences. But sometimes, it seems, we have to learn from our mistakes before we change the way we do things. In other words, we rely on something going wrong to tell us what our next step should be. The only problem with this approach is that "something" might cost the life of

someone, causing untold grieving to family and friends.

That's too high a price to pay for knowledge. But, more importantly, it simply isn't necessary. That's because the safe ways of working with cranes and equipment have already been established. We know how to use cranes without them becoming dangerous. That's how we come to develop regulations, standards and procedures. So, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. What we do have to do is ensure that everyone working with the equipment knows and understands what those safe ways are, knows the correct procedures, and - most importantly - uses them day in and day out. That's where training comes in to play.

I believe it is everyone's responsibility to know their job, be situationally aware, be healthy, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. Nowhere is this more important than when working with cranes. Safety is our first priority. There is nothing that we do that is so important or time critical that it is worth a human life or injury.

Since the accidents 15 years ago, workplace safety has prevailed and thanks, on the whole, to the personnel who are getting the job done ... safely.

Never forget these tragic accidents and the families who they left behind. It's up to each and every one of us to assure nothing like this ever happens again, whether now or in the future. 🇺🇸



The area Lowell Sweatt's fatality occurred on Aug. 26, 1986.

you might not like the consequences. Training and repetition are the key ingredients to a safe work environment.

More than 250,000 crane operators and a very large but undetermined number of other workers and the general public are at risk of serious and often fatal injury due to accidents involving cranes, derricks, hoists, and hoisting accessories. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, there are approximately 125,000 cranes in operation today in the

Crane Safety on the 'Net



- www.csaainc.com
- www.cranesafe.com
- craneaccidents.org
- <http://cranetalk.com>



Are Cell Phones *Hazardous*?

By Brad J. Roberts, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Cellular phone usage has increased dramatically in the last decade. Currently there are more than 100 million cell-phone users in the United States and 500 million users worldwide. Cell phones emit radio-frequency radiation just like microwave ovens, radio/television broadcasting towers, radar systems, transmitting satellite communications, and CB radios, to name a few.

Cell phones in the United States are in the 800 megahertz and 1800 to 1900 MHz frequency bands of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Periodically, we hear from the media of suspected health risks - typically with regard to cancer. Are there health risks from the RF radiation emitted from cell phones?

As the Department of the Army's proponent for RF radiation protection, the Radiofrequency or Ultrasound Program at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine has been asked this question since 1984 (the first year cell phones were introduced in the United States).

There are two basic areas of concern with regard to cell telephones - the handheld cell-phone units themselves and the towers to which the cell phones communicate. The cell phones themselves are targeted because the antenna is used close to the head. Cell-phone antenna towers are targeted because they are so visible in our communities and assumed by some people to emit high levels of RF radiation.

Why are health concerns raised? Many times when the average citizen hears the word "radiation," he/she thinks of x-radiation that is ionizing radiation that can break chemical bonds. High doses of ionizing radiation can cause cancer, birth defects, and chromosomal damage. Radiofrequency radiation does not have enough energy to cause ionization and is therefore considered "nonionizing."

High levels of RF energy absorption can cause biological effects to humans. Most effects reported in scientific literature are thermal, i.e., heating of body tissues - much in the same way that microwave ovens heat food. Of course, a

microwave oven has a power output that is 1,000 times greater than a cell phone (600 watts vs. 600 milliwatts) because the radio waves are used intentionally for heating food rather than communication.

Due to the possibility of thermal heating from RF exposure, RF personnel-exposure standards have been developed by national and international organizations and government agencies. They cover the RF portion of the electromagnetic spectrum from 3 kilohertz to 300 gigahertz, including frequencies used for cellular communications.

The RF personnel-exposure standards used by the Army and the Department of Defense (as set in DoD Instruction 6055.11) are adapted from those of the American National Standards Institute and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

That standard is a national consensus standard developed by research, government and private industry. All of these

RF exposure standards are based on scientific research of potential biological effects from RF energy absorption and incorporate at least a 10-fold safety factor to protect humans from RF levels shown to cause biological effects.

The RF radiation levels emitted by cell phones or cell-phone towers do not exceed the levels specified by the ANSI, IEEE and DoD for human exposure and are much lower than any exposure levels shown to cause adverse effects.

As research studies continue worldwide to determine if there are long-term health effects from low-level RF exposure, the Radiofrequency or Ultrasound Program will continue to monitor the latest findings and participate on DoD, national and international standardization committees. ■

Fact sheets and numerous links on cell-phone issues and other RF-radiation issues can be obtained by viewing our website at:

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/rfup/website/home.htm>



National Homeless Animals' Day

Justine Barati, Public Affairs, contributed to this article

For more information on National Homeless Animals' Day and activities occurring around the country, visit the International Society for Animal Rights website at:



<http://www.i-s-a-r.com>

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, every year, three to four million cats entering United States shelters are euthanized. As you read this article, humane society workers and animal rescuers are deep in the heart of kitten season, handling the thousands of unwanted cats being brought to already overcrowded shelters.

National Homeless Animals' Day is observed on Aug. 18. This is an opportunity to publicize dog and cat overpopulation in its overwhelming magnitude, to increase public awareness of the millions of dogs and cats killed in shelters annually for lack of homes, and to emphasize the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals.

Cats and dogs multiply fast. They first go into heat at five months of age - sometimes earlier, and they can have litters twice a year. That is why there are so many homeless animals. According to SPAY/USA, an unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to 67,000 dogs in six years. An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total 66,088 in six years.

SPAY/USA states that, "each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. - and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy, loving cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, animals, and cruel humans."

National Homeless Animals' Day is a time to urge people to act responsibly by having their companion animals spayed or neutered to help curb pet overpopulation, ultimately putting an end to the killing of healthy but homeless animals.

People who need economic assistance to spay or neuter their pets can call SPAY/USA at 1-800-248-SPAY or visit them on the

web at www.spayusa.org. They will be referred to a veterinarian or program in their area that provides affordable spay or neuter services. 🐾



Tucked away in the basement of a Rock Island Arsenal building is one of Rock Island District's most unique teams. Part of the District's Engineering Division, it's officially known as the Ordnance and Explosives Engineering Section, but it is commonly referred to as the "bomb squad."

The primary mission of the "bomb squad" is to provide ordnance and explosives cleanup support. The majority of the support is for the Army, but support is also provided to the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard Bureaus, and other Corps Districts. This explosive safety mission falls under the scope of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Sites, which is vested in the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala.

Some people may ponder, "Why would anyone want to spend their time looking for old bombs, artillery shells, mortars, mines, grenades, missiles, and rockets?"

Many may envision a career on the "bomb squad" to mean that a person would end up requiring the use of both hands to manually count to five. It's a slim possibility, and so far, all fingers are still accounted for by all members of the Ordnance and Explosives team. Team members follow strict safety rules to minimize the hazard at OE sites.

Preparing Archive Search Reports is a key mission for the District OE team. The ASR is the written document of an in-depth records search and interviews and includes physically searching the ordnance site in question to determine whether any cleanup is required to properly dispose of any existing hazards.

It often requires the detective skills of a Sherlock Holmes to discover a key clue, whether it involves finding any existing documentation related to a site, reviewing hundreds of documents to find OE related data, interpreting photos, interviewing

witnesses, or making on-site observations. The process can be described as trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle with only half the pieces.

The District OE team has investigated hundreds of sites from Alaska to Puerto Rico and everywhere in between. Most of these sites are former military bases, camps, airfields, training areas, and ranges that, may or may not, still be under government control. Age is not a factor - sites investigated have ranged from the Revolutionary War period to bases that are still in use today. The oldest explosive munitions found so far have been from the Civil War.

George Ofslager, a quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance), commonly referred to as QASAS, performed one of his first site investigations at a former camp that is currently part of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I discovered lifeguards gathering bazooka rockets that had become washed up on a beach and stacking them around their lifeguard towers; this was an accident waiting to happen" said Ofslager.

Ofslager was able to put a stop to this practice and, through his ASR, got a high-priority cleanup to be done at the site to prevent a potential beachgoer injury or fatality.

Another big mission for the "bomb squad" is to provide safety and quality assurance oversight of contractors working on sites that are undergoing cleanup/restoration. District OE safety specialists, who are former military explosive ordnance disposal technicians, help identify recovered ordnance and ensure the contractors adhere to the safety procedures. Some of the most recent OE sites the District has supported include Massachusetts Military Reservation, Fort Ritchie, Md., as well as the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Middletown, Iowa.

An extensive amount of travel and temporary duty play a major part in the OE team's continued success. All the team members enjoy the opportunity to see different and interesting

places, but it frequently creates the additional challenges of being away from home.

It takes highly efficient, self-motivated, and well-organized individuals to complete good ASRs in a timely fashion, while still providing the manpower needed for other missions requiring field support, not to mention finding the time for training, workshops, meetings, and personal leave.

The OE section initially started in 1991 with seven individuals and has now grown to a highly technical team of more than 20 specialists. Of the original seven, only Chris Churney, a chemical engineer, is still with the team. The majority of the OE personnel have extensive ammunition training and explosive safety experience, most of it gained from previous work with the military. This knowledge, coupled with the expertise and skills of the other team members, allows for a level of professionalism in OE support and products that is virtually unmatched in the Corps of Engineers (St. Louis is the only other district with a similar mission). To date, the District has completed more than 360 ASRs and is still counting.

Despite the numerous time-consuming challenges, all of the OE team members enjoy their work and realize they are making a difference in the Army and the world. 🇺🇸

Exploring a Blast From the Past

By Eric Aubrey, Engineering Division



Nick Heleg-Greza, safety and quality assurance specialist, Ordnance and Explosives Engineering Section, checks out the condition of a Bomb Dummy Unit (BDU) 10 bomb. Heleg-Greza ensures the safety and the quality of work being performed by the contractor in compliance with the contract.

Impacting the District STUDENT AIDES

Photo and story by Dominicka Reed,
student aide, Programs and Project
Management



Maribel Salas is an office automation clerk in the Operations Division. Though some of you may know her from the Project Management Branch. She worked there for a year and a half, before transferring to the Operations Division. She has been with the Corps since March of 1998.

She has several duties that she is responsible for in the Operations

Division. Such duties include training, timekeeping, travel orders, and of course the most important thing is greeting customers.

"Maribel has a good work ethic and when she does a job, it is done right on the first try," said LuAnn Steen and Sue Clevensin, Operations Division.

When Salas is not answering telephones, she is attending class at Western Illinois University. At Western,

she is majoring in Information Management. Salas loves school and already has an Administrative Assistant degree. Although Salas' life has a lot of things going on, she still finds time for her husband, a 1-year-old son, and 5-year-old daughter.

"I like the time I get to spend working at the Corps because of the friendly environment and I like the people I work with," said Salas. ■

District Provides "Scale" for Arsenal Water Tower

Photo by Mark Kane

The Rock Island Arsenal water tower is receiving a paint job this summer and Arsenal officials turned to Visual Information assets in Information Management to produce a five-foot-high mock-up of the lettering that will later be painted on the water tower.

Mike Mullinnix, Information Management, produced the letters that were held up by a contractor so Arsenal officials could decide how large the letters need to be so people could easily identify the words.

It may sound odd, but in the end the five-foot-high lettering turned out to be too small. Arsenal officials decided eight-foot-lettering is needed for most to see the letters. Thanks to Mullinnix and the District, the Arsenal didn't have to find out the letters were too small, the hard way. ■





Jared Miller, Mike Edlen, and Russel Stilwell, Illinois Waterway Structures Maintenance Unit #2, look out toward the Illinois River above Dresden Island Lock and Dam where they saved seven youths from going into the dam. Photo by Mark Kane.

Illinois Waterway and Mississippi River Maintenance Crews Prevent Disaster

By Mark Kane, Public Affairs, and Jim Wilson, chief, Mississippi River Project Maintenance Section

Whenever most people get close to "Quitin' time," it's time to unwind and start thinking about anything other than work. But lucky for seven area youths, members of Illinois Waterway Structures Maintenance Unit #2, Mike Edlen, Russel Stilwell, Jared Miller and Glen Baugh, were alert and ready for action.

"We were putting stuff away for the day and Mike said, 'There's a boat in trouble, and there's two people swimming up river,' sure enough there were two kids swimming up river, upstream from the dam," said Stilwell.

"It only took us a minute to fire up the Motor Vessel Channahon, while they were hanging onto a buoy to keep themselves and the boat from being swept downstream and into the dam," said Stilwell.

The incident took place at 5 p.m., July 9, while the unit members were working at Dresden Island Lock and Dam.

"They said the boat had overheated and they didn't have anchors or anything to help them," said Edlen.

"At first we thought they were playing, but within a minute in a half we were out there," said Stilwell. "We pulled alongside their boat, and the two boys on the buoy got back in the boat and we towed them to the upper lock wall and secured the craft

until it could be repaired."

"After your motor goes out your at the mercy of the river and Mother Nature," said Miller.

Elsewhere in the District

Ironically, 11 days prior to the Dresden Island Lock and Dam rescue, the District's oldest motor vessel, M/V Rock Island, was being used to avert a possible a disaster.

The June 28th incident took place at Lock and Dam 16 while the M/V Rock Island was being used to change out a sector gear due to a machinery failure on the river wall.

While Frank Current, Ron Wunderle, and Jim Carlson, Mississippi River Project Office, Structures Maintenance Unit, waited to assist the lock force in manually opening the lower-lock gate, trouble manifested.

Even as repairs were underway, a commercial tow had made its approach to the upper guide wall for passage. The pilot of the tow lost control of his stern and in no time the tow was draped across the outside I-wall on the upper end of Lock 16. With one barge loaded heavily down with fuel and the second with liquid fertilizer the situation became critical. The lock force hurried to close the gates

downstream of the struggling vessel.

The pilot on the commercial tow made a call to the M/V Rock Island for assistance because he could not move with the force of the current pinning his tow tightly to the wall. The M/V Rock Island, with its crew, locked up through the lock and started to assist.

For several minutes, both boats strained to free the barges, but nothing moved. As both pilots discussed the situation, ideas flew back and forth. Finally, the decision was made for the commercial boat to break his boat away from the tow and try to get on the side of the tow and push it around on the wall. The M/V Rock Island stayed with the barges while the commercial boat repositioned itself on the side of the stranded tow. As everyone watched, both vessels again pushed on the tow and finally brought the barges to rest on the lock wall.

The commercial boat prevented what could have been a major tragedy. Without the assistance of the District's oldest vessel, things could have gone that way. What could have been an emergency of epic proportion was a painless rescue thanks to the efforts of Frank Current, Ron Wunderle, Jim Carlson and the M/V Rock Island. 🇺🇸



Mike Edlen, Illinois Waterway Structures Maintenance Unit #2, walks up the M/V Channahon's ladderwell from the engine room where he heard the desperate screams of the youths that were in distress. Photo by Mark Kane.

The M/V Channahon sits peacefully at Dresden Island Lock and Dam after being used in early July to save the lives of seven youths before they were pulled through the dam. The M/V Channahon is used by the Illinois Waterway Structures Unit #2 and is currently being overhauled. The District has used the vessel since 1974. Photo by Mark Kane.





Investing In Our People

Around the District

Office of Counsel Member Earns Kimbel Award

Rian Hancks, Office of Counsel, was awarded the Corps of Engineers' Joseph W. Kimbel Award at the Chief Counsel's Worldwide Legal Services Conference award banquet at West Point, N.Y. on July 27. The award is one of the three most prestigious awards that the Chief Counsel bestows upon members of the legal services community.

The Kimbel Award recognizes the Corps of Engineers' attorney who has demonstrated the highest potential for future legal achievement.

Hancks received the award for his exemplary performance during a period from July 1, 1999, when he began a term as Acting District Counsel, to the present. He excelled in every phase of legal acumen, leadership and scholarship. Extraordinary challenges for even seasoned heads of legal offices arose throughout 1999 and 2000. Hancks advised the District on numerous matters that were critical to the accomplishment of the mission, to include critical issues arising from the Upper Mississippi - Illinois Waterway Navigation Study.

The award is named for "Judge" Joseph W. Kimbel, whose illustrious career in the Office of the Chief of Engineers spanned 43 years. As the head of a highly specialized group of legal experts, "Judge" Kimbel demonstrated the highest degree of ability to counsel and advise the Chief of Engineers on the various laws, rules and regulations governing the complex phases of the Civil Works Program.

Divers at Lake Red Rock Set Bulkhead

Lake Red Rock tailwater fishing was disrupted on Aug. 9, when outflow from it's dam was reduced to 300 cubic feet-per-second to allow divers to set the bulkhead for repair of Sluice Gate #13.

The divers reported having to guide the bulkhead the last few inches to assure proper contact with the sill. Once in place, the seal was excellent.

"Water-foul" problems at Sandpiper Beach

Two consecutive bacteria tests by Iowa State University at Saylorville Lake's Sandpiper Beach have indicated levels of 600 plus and 500 plus organisms per milliliter, well above the standard of 200 organisms per milliliter for "primary contact."

Accordingly, the project has posted notices at the beach and entrance road advising the public of existing conditions and advising against swimming. Bathers are being referred to the Oak Grove beach where bacteria levels remain well within the published standard.

An additional water sample was scheduled to be taken on August 14. It appears that a congregation of approximately 100 geese on and near the affected beach is the likely cause of the high bacteria level.

Muscatine Rangers Support Duck-Blind Drawing

Muscatine rangers provided support to the yearly Mississippi River Pool 16 Duck-Blind Drawing managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The bulk of the Muscatine ranger staff provided support for the event, which drew 425 vehicles and an estimated crowd of 1,300 attendees. The ILDNR Conservation Police, the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department, and the Illinois State Patrol provided additional support.

The event was without incident thanks to the planning and coordination efforts of the Muscatine ranger staff.

The Muscatine ranger staff, summer rangers, contractors, and volunteers continue to get recreational sites back into shape after the flood, performing the detail work that provides an atmosphere conducive to customer satisfaction.

Recent Retirements ...

Bobbie D. Embry, Operations Division, Lockport Lock, is a lock and dam operator, and will retire Aug. 31, after serving 19 years and four months with the federal government.

Sympathy ...

Charles "Dean" Andrews, 66, of Marseilles, Ill., and Jensen Beach, Fla., passed away July 7, at his home in Marseilles, Ill.

He was employed by the District for 33 years and retired as Marseilles lock master in 1989.

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Sidewalks repaired.
- ✓ Damaged concrete in the quoin end of number four gate removed.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ Aluminum brackets for signs installed.
- ✓ Bushing in the wheel on number one valve slack-cable switch replaced.

Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.

- ✓ Flood debris in lock gate pits and valves cleaned.
- ✓ Flood-protection equipment stored.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Government boat ramp designed and started excavation.
- ✓ Meteorological environmental transmission station installed.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Mule rail repaired.
- ✓ Machinery number one, two, three, and four painted.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Water pigs in fuel tank changed.
- ✓ Seals in number four gate-motor coupling replaced.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Entire lock site cleaned.
- ✓ Sprinkler lines repaired and sprinkler heads replaced.

Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.

- ✓ Handrail replaced.
- ✓ Throttle linkage replaced.
- ✓ Cat switch on bridge crane replaced.
- ✓ Lawn sprinkler repaired.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Handrails and fencing at observation deck painted.
- ✓ Entrance signs cleaned and painted.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Gate and valve pits power washed.
- ✓ Metal racking for flood-related items fabricated.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Valves on I-wall installed.
- ✓ New rheostat in welder installed.
- ✓ Basement floor painted.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ New hub for coupling from speed reducer to brake on number four valve installed.
- ✓ Water room cleaned and painted.

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

Speakers Bureau

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

Joe Raoul and **Mark Hoague**, both from Engineering Division, discussed their careers as engineers to middle- and high-school students who are part of The Promise Project. They spoke to more than 30 students at Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa. Raoul spoke with the students on June 25 and Hoague spoke on June 27.

On July 12, **Karen Hagerty**, from Programs and Project Management Division, participated in the monthly Partners of Scott County Watersheds meeting at the Davenport Public Works office in Davenport, Iowa. Paul Loete, from Missman, Stanley and Associates, gave a talk about the Scott County watersheds and factors that influence water quantity and quality. The PSCW's new website will feature a brief write-up written by Hagerty discussing the Duck Creek-Fairmount Park Section 206 Wetland Restoration.

Junior Achievement has begun recruitment efforts for the fall semester. Junior Achievement volunteers visit local classrooms to help students understand economic issues and the role of the Corps in the nation. If you are interested in being a Junior Achievement volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact Justine Barati.

The Speakers Bureau, the Explorer Program, the Adopt-A-School program, and Junior Achievement are 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. 📧

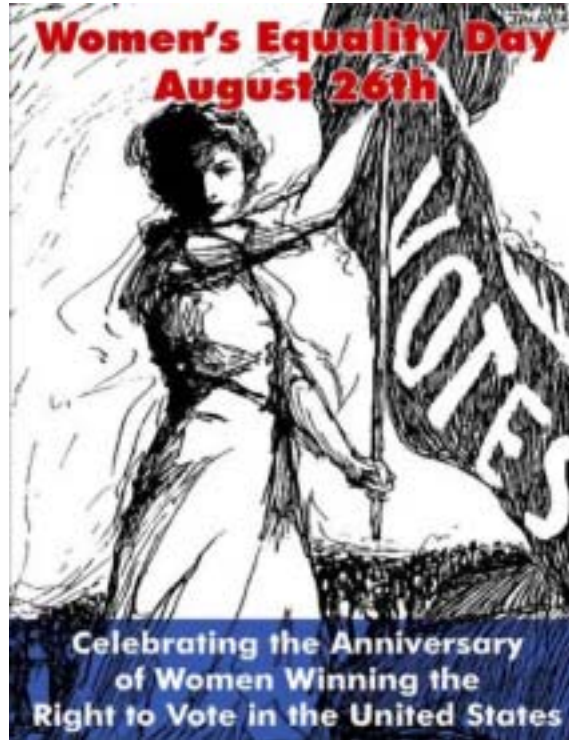
CPAC Member Receives the Army Superior Civilian Service Award

Virginia DeMarce, District Civilian Personnel Advisory Center team leader, received the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award from Col. William Bayles on July 25.

DeMarce received the award for her superior civilian service in the implementation of human resource regionalization within the District. She developed programs that combine the Department of Defense regionalization plan and the Corps of Engineers directives and mission, while continuing to maintain a focus on the real needs of line managers in performance of human resource responsibilities. 📧



District Women's Equality Day



Luncheon

August 29 at 11:30 a.m.

The Special Emphasis Program Committee accepted nominations for the Equal Employment Opportunity Champion of the Year Award, and has selected a winner. The award will be presented at the District Women's Equality Day Luncheon, which is scheduled for Aug. 29, at the Thunder Bay Grill in Davenport, Iowa, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Tickets are required to attend the event and can be purchased for \$13 per ticket before Aug. 24 from: **Sally Aidala**, 5628, Annex; **Sue Brown**, 5874, Annex; **Charlene Cole**, 5570, 2nd floor Clock Tower; **Nancy Vanderlest**, 5529, 2nd floor Clock Tower; and **Aimee Vermeulen**, 5311, 1st floor Clock Tower.

The speaker will be Barb

Barb Arland-Fye

Arland-Fye, reporter, Quad-City Times. She is a reporter and assistant editor covering religion, ethics and the Mississippi River. She previously worked as regional editor and covered a variety of beats. She is a 1980 graduate of Illinois State University. A native of St. Paul, Minn., she is married and has two children. Arland-Fye is the past president of the Autism Society of the Quad-Cities, a board member of the Center for Active Seniors Inc., and serves in lay positions at Our Lady of the River Catholic Church in LeClaire, Iowa.

Women's Equality Day is observed across the nation on Aug. 26th. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. The Special Emphasis Committee is commemorating Women's Equality Day with a luncheon. 📍