



# Tower Times

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Rock Island District





# Spotlight on the District

## Denny Lundberg Chief, Engineering Division

By Mark Kane

It's not very often that a position like that of the chief of the District's Engineering Division turns over, and when it does competition is stiff, interest is high, and after the pick is made you might be surprised to learn about the person behind the title.

After weeks of close scrutiny and intense review, Denny Lundberg, previously chief of both the Design Branch of the Engineering Division and the Special Office for Navigation Improvements Branch, was chosen for the job.

In July, Lundberg stepped into the shoes previously filled by Joseph Raoul who retired earlier this year.

Lundberg has more than 25 years experience with the Corps dating back to June 1979.

Through the years, Lundberg has held numerous job titles, but his time with the Corps started with the Rock Island District and remains with the District.

The Cloquet, Minn., native said he chose a career with the Corps because of the, "Opportunity it provides to work on many diverse big projects."

After 25 years of service to the District, Lundberg said that the aspects he likes most about working for the Corps is the, "Opportunity to work with many state, federal, and non-government organizations." And the, "Opportunity to provide a valuable service to the nation."

When it comes to the specifics of his job, Lundberg says that as chief he's in charge of the program management of Engineering Division, which provides engineering and architectural analysis, designs and services for the construction,

five branches with a total workforce of approximately 150 employees," said Lundberg.

After only a handful of weeks as chief of ED, Lundberg is already settling into the job and says he enjoys it.

"I like working in a family atmosphere with so many dedicated professionals," said Lundberg.

Lundberg's educational background includes a bachelor's of science in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota, and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Iowa.

Lundberg and his wife, Valeria, live in Blue Grass, Iowa, and have two children, Jessica and Andrew.

Aside from work, Lundberg enjoys hunting, fishing, volleyball, and bicycling.

This summer, Lundberg participated in RAGBRAI XXXII, the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

Lundberg said this was his second year participating in the 520-mile, one-week bike ride, which takes bicyclists from the

Missouri River on one side of Iowa to the Mississippi River on the other.

Lundberg's advice to anyone reading this article is, "Have fun at work. Be responsible and accountable for what you do. Don't be afraid to take some calculated risks." ■



**Denny Lundberg, right, stands next to a fellow RAGBRAI participant and friend, Tom Roller, during one of their stops while bicycling across Iowa in this year's RAGBRAI.**

operations, maintenance and remediation of a wide range of water resource, infrastructure and military projects to the District's customers, partners and stakeholders.

"The Engineering Division is involved with activities that are being executed by

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District Engineer  
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August 2004

# Tower Times

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### Loves Park Project Completed, Dedicated

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Iraq Operations** Gulf Region Division

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs your help in support of Iraq reconstruction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to play a key role in defense operations as well as responding to natural disasters, both at home and abroad. Civilian employees have deployed in support of military operations throughout history. USACE civilians have been used in the past to support military operations, humanitarian relief, peace support operations, sanctions and war. USACE civilians will continue to be needed to support these types of operations in the future and must be prepared to provide support for these missions.

The Corps has an ongoing mission, one supported in Iraq and Afghanistan, to assist in rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure. There is also a similar, though smaller, mission in Afghanistan. Civilian employees are needed and are critical to the success of our missions. The Corps' objective is to ensure that qualified Army civilian employees are available in adequate numbers with skills to meet worldwide mission requirements during periods of national emergency, mobilization, war, military crisis or other contingencies.

**Available Opportunities**

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### On the Cover

Ray Gailey, chief engineer, M/V Mississippi, gives the public a tour of the engine room during the District's open house held on the Motor Vessel Mississippi, the Corps' largest towboat.

Read more about the open house on page 12.

Photo by Mark Kane.

# After More Than a Year ...

By Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer

As always, there is much going on in the Rock Island District. While I have spent a great deal of time and effort on the Navigation Study, to include two weeks of public meetings and speaking before the U.S. House of Representatives' Mississippi River Caucus, let me bring you up to date on some other topics of interest.

## Financial Update

While we continue to monitor our income and expenditures, I believe that our efforts to curb expenditures and generate additional income have made our Fiscal Year 04 financial situation more promising. We still may have to deal with situations caused by our inability to transfer money between appropriations (the "color of money" dilemma), but these should be relatively minor. What this may occasionally cause, however, is different levels of frugality amongst offices. As I have said before, my challenge is to balance our budget and maintain our ability to deliver products and services now and in the future. I appreciate all of your efforts to help us overcome our challenges this fiscal year. It is still too early to tell about FY05, although the House has passed our appropriations bill at a level greater than that proposed by the president's budget. Stay tuned for more information.

## A-76 Competition

In June, I provided our Information Management employees an overview of the Corps of Engineers' IM/Information Technology competition and the A-76 process. Please note that this is a competition and that we are more than a year away from any decision on whether IM will be run by a contractor or by government employees and more than two years before any changes would take place. The Corps has put together a top-notch team, aided by a contractor with a great record of winning these competitions, with the intent of winning this fair and open competition.

## Strategic Planning

In FY04, the Executive Steering Board made significant progress towards its three strategic goals. Three strategy teams completed their charters and implemented significant improvements in the District. Strategy Team 2.1 created our new District Scorecard, which now serves as a central storage site for performance metrics and is available to all District employees. Strategy Team 2.3 created two new processes: a District Decision-Making Process and a District Meeting Process; all employees should now be using these tools. Strategy Team 3.1 updated and mapped a new District staffing plan process. This new process will assist us in creating an efficient and effective staffing plan over the next several years. These significant improvements bring the District closer to achieving our vision of being the premier public engineering organization!

## Henderson County Drainage District

On May 26, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims issued a significant decision in favor of the United States and the Rock Island District in the Henderson County Drainage District No.3. Case. In this suit, 11 plaintiffs sought \$442,294,680 in damages resulting from the operation of the nine-foot navigation channels on the Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. This case was extremely important to the Corps both from a fiscal standpoint and as a matter of legal precedent. Corps personnel, and a distinguished group of private sector experts, successfully made the case for the government. This was an outstanding result and the product of a lot of hard work by a diverse team of District employees from Office of Counsel, Engineering Division and Operation Division, outside experts, and the Department of Justice.

## Summer Safety Awareness

We are now in the full swing of summer, the river is back to nearly normal condi-



tions, and people are making up for lost recreational time on our waters – all while the summer temperatures reach their peaks. The best defense for keeping ourselves and our families safe this season (or anytime for that matter) is to think about what we're doing before we do it; consider the potential outcomes, and do not accept any unreasonable risks. If you're swimming, boating, or are anywhere around the water - know your limits and become familiar with your environment. Don't underestimate the power of the river's current or how quickly tragedy can strike during any water activity. Also, remember to make a conscious effort to stay hydrated; heat-related injuries can easily be prevented.

It's hard to believe that I have been at Rock Island for more than a year now. I have had a great time and am truly honored to be able to work with such a talented and dedicated group of people. I appreciate all the outstanding work you do. We provide a great service to the nation and should be proud. 🇺🇸

# CORPS NEEDS YOUR HELP IN IRAQ, AFGANISTAN

By Mark Kane

The Corps of Engineers has proven to be an extremely valuable asset to the Global War on Terrorism, and numerous Rock Island District employees have volunteered and excelled while fulfilling rewarding duty in the Middle East.

While a steady number of Corps employees continue to volunteer for duty in support of the Corps' new Gulf Region Division and the Afghanistan Engineer District, the Corps recently established a recruiting initiative to ensure that employees are informed about the opportunities that are available and facilitate the hiring of Corps volunteers to deploy in support of GRD or AED.

This recruiting initiative has taken the form of two main efforts; one is a face-to-face forum where Headquarters employees are personally visiting select districts to present information, and the other is to provide Internet and print resources and continued open dialogue so employees know how the Corps is involved and how they can be a part of that involvement.

Currently, the Corps has approximately 500 military and civilian employees in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a continuous need for volunteers with vital skills and experience in program management, contracting, administrative support, engineering, construction, budget and auditing, human resources and logistics. To date, approximately 2,000 Corps employees have deployed in support of The Global War on Terrorism.

The workload at GRD and AED is increasing steadily and is expected to remain at a high level for two or more years. This creates a need to increase the current size of their staff and to sustain those levels for the near future. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage personnel with the requisite skills to volunteer for service overseas to meet upcoming peak workload.

## Why Volunteer?

Volunteering will give you the unique opportunity for a professional and personal challenge, adventure and

national service. Not to mention the opportunity to help make history, a lasting contribution, and experience a unique and distinctive culture overseas, while earning the benefits of increased compensation.

Keep in mind; employees who deploy from an existing Corps jobs will create opportunities to backfill positions they leave behind. Backfilling creates additional developmental opportunities and responsibilities for contributing offices. For more information, individuals should contact the local Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

## Methods for hiring

Employees may be placed in a temporary duty status for up to 179 days. Those who volunteer for this shorter tour may receive temporary, non-competitive promotions not to exceed 120 days.

All employees who are TDY in Iraq or Afghanistan are temporarily reassigned from their home stations. They are most often reassigned to the Transatlantic Programs Center. These employees receive the regular basic and locality pay.

For longer tours of duty, employees may require a temporary change of station (tours usually last six months to one year). Unlike TDY, employees who opt for a TCS do not receive locality pay for the period of time they are deployed. The Office of Personnel Management determines the basic pay for their position. Personnel electing this option will receive a relocation bonus of up to 10 percent of their base salary. Those who volunteer for a one-year TCS assignment will receive a relocation bonus not to exceed 25 percent of their base salary. A relocation bonus does not count against the annual limitation on premium pay.



Employees are entitled to additional compensation including danger pay, post differential, separate maintenance allowance, and premium pay.

All questions concerning the hiring procedures should be directed to the local CPAC.

Personnel interested in volunteering for deployment should access the web at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) to identify current vacancies.

All personnel should apply using the vacancy announcements found at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil).

It's easy to apply. Go to the Army Civilian Personnel online home page, at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil), click on "employment opportunities in support of the Global War on Terrorism," then "employment opportunities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

## Need more information?

There's no commitment or pressure for seeking more information and interested District employees are encouraged to contact Emergency Management to obtain a recruiting packet while supplies last. ☐

## On the 'Net

[cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot](http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot)

[www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/iraq/iraq.htm](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/iraq/iraq.htm)

[www.hq.usace.army.mil/cehr/Deployment/main.htm](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cehr/Deployment/main.htm)

# Corps Day Picnic



## From Top Left to Bottom Right

- Employees' children participate in sack races during Corps Day Picnic.
- Cindy Klebe, Muscatine Ranger Station, talks to picnic attendees about the Corps' involvement in the Shady C Recreation Area.
- One of the many young Corps Day Picnic attendants caught hiding in a sliding tube near the picnic grounds.
- Gail Clingerman receives the EEO Champion of the award from Maj. Melody Smith at the Corps Day Awards.
- A raffle ticket is drawn for a door prize, while attendees listen to find out if they have the winning number.

# LC & Awards '04

## Award Winners

### Employee of the Year

#### Professional Occupations

Thomas Lisco, Information Management

#### Technical Occupations

Donald Bawmann, Engineering Division

#### Trades and Crafts Occupations

Michael Robbins, Operations Division

### EEO Champion of the Year

Gail Clingerman, Programs and Project Management

### Pathfinders Graduate Certificates

Kenneth Cook, Julie Fisher, Mary Gambucci, Heather Gilbert, Willie Harlow, Samantha Heilig, Thomas Heinold, Sarah Jones, Kevin Marker, James McDaniel, Vanessa Peebles, Nicholas Schnerre, Jerry Skalak, Anne Werner

### Honorary Awards

The following individuals are recognized for their selfless service to our country in support of the Global War on Terrorism:

Randall Braley, Peter Corken, Paul Holcomb, Perry Hubert, Brian Lane, Ronald Plante, Thomas Reinhardt, Judy Walters - Commanders Award for Civilian Service and a Commander's Coin; Dan Foltz, Randall Walters - Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and a Commander's Coin

### District Commander's Lapel Pin

Daniel Fetes, Programs and Project Management

Wayne Johanson, Real Estate

Kevin Landwehr, Engineering Division

Richard Mattson, Real Estate

Chad Sperry, Operations Division

### Suggester of the Year

Michael Murtha, Operations Division

### Federal Executive Association, Quad City Chapter Certificates Recipients

The following individuals were recognized for their selfless service to our country in support of the Global War on Terrorism at the Federal Executive Association annual luncheon on May 26. These individuals were presented with a certificate from the Federal Executive Association: David Bequeath, Randall Braley, Brett Call, Darryl Carattini, Mark Clark, Peter Corken, Alois Devos, Daniel Foltz, Christian Hawkinson, Mark Hoague, Paul Holcomb, Daniel Holmes, Perry Hubert, Sarah Jones, Brian Lane, Larry Melaas, Robert Lee Meyers, Nancy Pierce, Joel Peterson, Nick Peschang, Ronald Plante, Thomas Reinhardt, Richard Rupert, Steven Russell, George Sporer, Ricky Stebens, Ray Tatro, Charles Van Laarhoven, Judy Walters, Randall Walters, Ronald Williams, James Wilson

## Length of Service Awards - July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004

**40 Years** - Charles Hood Jr., James Hurt, Walter Sweet, Lagene Wassenhove

**35 Years** - Roger Cook, Leonard Ernst, Johan Gall Jr., Thomas Lisco, Darrell Michels, Lawrence Parker, Robert Simonton, Michael Smith, Sterling Vasser, David Wielosinski

**30 Years** - Benjamin Bagwell, Richard Baugh, Michael Beneventi, Floyd Collins, Steven Engelkins, Steve Felderman, Wayne Hannel, Shirley Johnson, Steven Koenig, Andrew Lubber, Garry Spencer, James Stiman, Richard Thomas

**25 Years** - Dorene Bollman, Rodney Clausen, Michael Cox, Robby Cravens, Robert Crone, Michael Cummings, Pamela Dannacher, Bernard Dolezal, Christopher Drews, Sally Duncan, Lowell Fryer, Larry Garner, Roger Harroun, Charles Hodges, Janet Hodges, Neal Johnson, Gary Kroeger, Janet Lewis, Denny Lundberg, Glen Merry, Robert Meyers, Andrew

Mueller, Donald Olson, Douglas Porter, Stephen Reeder, Matthew Rensen, Sherri Richardson-Duey, Michael Ryan, Robert Schroeder, Trudy Sholtz, Dennis Sterritt, David Vorel, Randall Walters, Robert Wild

**20 Years** - Clifford Artis, Eric Aubrey, James Bartek, David Bierl, Charlene Carmack, Thomas Codling, Lisa Cooksey, Michael Crawford, Dewayne Diestelhorst, Kevin Ewbank, Gary Gagne, Larry Folger, Kelly Gilhooly, Steven Hall, Dennis Hamilton, Donald Hocker, Carol Ann Jacks, Donna Jones, Teresa Kirkeeng, Roger Less, Jerald McAlister, Roger McElroy, James Mears, Daniel Nuti, Jonathan Perrault, Jerry Skalak, Larry Spengler, Penny St.Clair, Luaan Steen, James Strotman, Gary Swenson, Michael Tomlinson, James Trail, Robert Willhite, Keith Wilson, John Wochner, John Young

**15 Years** - Damon Barati, Floyd Bavery, Paul Beck, James Cagle, Mark Clark, William Cross, Allan Dickerson, Jeffery Dupont, Garry Elliot, Michael Enochs,

Minor Gibbs Jr., William Hainstock, Thomas Heinhold, Lester Higgins Jr., Robert Hoffman, Terry James, Brian Miller, Roger Perk, Edward Picken, Terrence Riddell, Dean Ritzmann

**10 Years** - James Aschnewitz, Andrew Barnett, Susan Brown, John Durdan, James Eisert, Joseph Fryer, Beth Hann, Nickolas Heleggreza, Darrell Hillyer, Terry Hoover, Sarah Jones, Mark Kane, William Kenney, Cynthia Rae Temple Klebe, Dana Koenig, Gene Larue, Tamara Loose, Jeff McCrery, Allan Mcluckie, John Mueller, Darrell Navratil, Robert Petersen, Kenneth Phillips Jr., William Poulter, David Proffitt, Joseph Valois

**Accrued Sick Leave: 3000 Hours** - James Hurt, Gary Loss; **2000 Hours** - Michael Bevelheimer, John Castle, Roger Cook, Mark Hoague, John Holt, Neal Johnson, Andrew Lubber, Denny Lundberg, John Meilleur, Gergory Patridge, Ronald Plante, John Roodhouse, John Sederwall, Lagene Wassenhove, Earl Wood



(From Left) Congressman Don Manzullo, former Loves Park Mayor Joe Sinkawic, current Loves Park Mayor Darryl Lindberg and Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer, cut the ribbon Aug. 2, during a ceremony celebrating completion of the Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project. Photo by Roger Less, Engineering Division.

(Below) A scenic view of the South Lake portion of the Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project. Photo by Kevin Holden, Engineering Division.



# Loves Park Project Completed, Dedicated

By Mark Kane

The end of the 12-year Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project was highlighted Aug. 2 during its dedication ceremony, which brought many of the agencies and people together who made the project a reality for the City of Loves Park.

The project was a part of a joint effort between the City of Loves Park and the Rock Island District to protect industrial and residential areas from recurrent flooding.

The ribbon cutting at the dedication ceremony marked the official completion of the project and featured remarks by Congressman Don Manzullo; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, the mayor of Loves Park; Col. Duane Gapinski, district engineer, and officials from the City of Loves Park.

"Partnerships are vital to the completion of projects such as this one," said

Gapinski. "They prove to communities and taxpayers that we are making the most of our combined resources."

"I congratulate the City of Loves Park and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their hard work over the last several years to solve this problem," said Manzullo.

"Now that this project is completed, residents of Loves Park will no longer have to worry every time it rains. In addition, they will save a lot of money in flood insurance premiums that will no longer be necessary."

The project promises to keep homes and businesses dry even during the heaviest storms. More than 400 property owners along Loves Park Creek will be able to drop costly flood insurance, most likely within a year.

The private marketplace has added shops, restaurants and strip malls to Loves

Park's booming East Riverside Boulevard corridor, far from the Rock River. While the older commercial areas have not flooded for years, that stigma -- among other problems -- kept developers away. Now, at least one obstacle has been removed.

The Loves Park Creek Flood Protection Project consists of approximately 18,000 lineal-feet of improved channels and 236 acre-feet of storm water runoff flood storage in the Windsor Lake system.

The overall project cost including all planning, design, construction contracts, rights-of-way, and road and utility relocations was approximately \$30 million. The project was cost-shared between the federal government (75 percent) and the City of Loves Park (25 percent, which includes state funding).

Isaac Guerrero, Rockford Register Star, contributed to this article. 📧



# Tower Times Survey

## ... It's a Wrap



Statement	Results shown in Percentages (%)				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<b>General Questions Regarding the Tower Times</b>					
1. I believe the Tower Times is a reliable source of District news.	2	4	14	60	20
2. The Tower Times offers a balanced amount of information in news and information from a wide range of the District.	3	7	19	59	12
3. The Tower Times features the right amount of Clock Tower Dishing information and news.	2	6	22	59	12
4. The Tower Times features the right amount of information and news from field sites.	5	22	34	40	9
5. I like the current look and design of the Tower Times.	2	4	13	59	23
6. I think the Tower Times is a professional magazine.	3	5	18	54	20
7. I like the current balance of coverage of employee accomplishments in photos and articles about employees.	2	14	17	51	16

On the 'Net at:  
<http://intranet.mvr.usace.army.mil/surveys/towertimes/towertimesurveyresults.cfm>

### By Mark Kane

The Tower Times Survey is complete and the results are available for anyone to see on the District's Intranet. The information gathered from the survey respondents has already impacted the content of the publication and will continue to be used to improve the Tower Times to meet the needs of District employees.

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents expressed that the publication should have more articles and information on field-site employees, and (if it saves money) the publication should only be available online, versus being printed and distributed to all employees and retirees.

The publication will strive to feature more articles and information about employees in the field. To make this happen, employees are highly encouraged to submit content for inclusion in the Tower Times. Anyone can submit information, and while receiving completed articles is great, an employee can also submit information in any form, and if possible please submit photos as well. Digital photos are the easiest to submit and the higher the resolution the better. Hard copy photos are fine as well and will be scanned in and returned to employees. To submit information to the publication e-mail the editor at [mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil](mailto:mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil) or by phone at 309-794-5730.

Making the Tower Times available as an online publication only is currently being explored. Cutting down the distribution doesn't affect the overall expense very much, as most of the expense is in print setup fees, etc. The St. Paul District has already made this decision and knowing that 61 percent of survey respondents are neutral or in agreement with making the Tower Times available strictly as an online publication, makes a 'Net-only publication a real possibility. The upcoming Fiscal Year 2005 budget, and other funding requirements, will also weigh heavily into the decision to turn the Tower Times into an online-only publication.

A majority of survey respondents also pointed out that they would like to see the return of award listings such as quality step-increases, performance awards, special-act awards, and on-the-spot cash awards. While this information might serve to publicly recognize our employees' accomplishments, the resources to retrieve the information on a consistent basis are no longer readily available to Public Affairs. Additionally, some

people do not want their name in association with an incentive-based award publicized in the Tower Times, which is seen outside the District. Those are the main reasons incentive-based awards are not automatically listed in the Tower Times. However, personal achievements such as Army civilian achievement medals, or other noteworthy job-related or community achievements, can be submitted for inclusion in the publication.

Some of the other information gathered through survey respondents' answers include: 84 percent read the Tower Times; 92 percent say they personally receive the Tower Times; 85 percent want the name of the publication to stay the same; 88 percent say they want a monthly or bi-monthly publication; 73 percent like the current "magazine" format; and almost 50 percent say they read most of the publication.

Due to these responses, the overall look and frequency of the publication will remain consistent with recent issues.

A combined 63 percent of respondents said they dislike the "Speaker's Bureau" and "Notes From The Mississippi" sections of the Tower Times, therefore both sections have been discontinued.

While more than 190 employees filled out the survey, many respondents took the extra step and provided comments in addition to the multiple choice answers.

A sampling of survey respondents' comments include: "There are a lot of neat things happening out at, and on our, locks and dams, have the sites share more of what they are doing ..." "It doesn't tell all that is accomplished in the field." "I hope this doesn't appear too biased, but there is more to the Rock Island District than just that Clock Tower. Without the maintenance, reservoirs and dams (we) wouldn't need that Clock Tower other than as a timepiece ..." "Make it available through Internet only, it is a waste of money to actually print these on the nice paper." "I used to read it until it went online. I do read the online version. You could save a lot of paper and money by not sending printed copies." "In the interest of saving paper, I would be just as happy to view it online, if that was the only way it was issued." "It is a very professional looking publication. Keep up the good work."

The Public Affairs staff thanks all those who participated in the survey, which will continue to enable us to meet the needs of our readership ... the employees of the Rock Island District.



# Investing In Our People

## Around the District

### Carattini Earns Army Superior Civilian Service Award

**Darryl Carattini**, Programs and Project Management, received the Army's Superior Civilian Service Award for his exceptionally meritorious service from September 2003 to February 2004 while serving as program manager for the Corps' Iraq Reconstruction Office and U.S. Agency for International Development Support Office in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Carattini earned the award for his professional skill, expertise, initiative, resourcefulness, and innovation in delivering mission-critical management in a wartime operation.

### Eichenberger Receives Appreciation Gift

**Dean Eichenberger**, Lock and Dam 22, spoke to the Woman's Club at the Hannibal Free Public Library on March 23. The topic was Workin' on the River.



A film depicting the progression of work in order to use the Upper Mississippi River for commercial navigation was shown. Questions were taken after the film.

Jean Kinsman, president of the Woman's Club, presented Eichenberger with a book of quotations by Mark Twain as a gift of appreciation for speaking at the March meeting.

### Hawkinson Earns Commander's Award for Civilian Service

**Christian Hawkinson**, Engineering Division, received the Army's Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his outstanding performance as a project engineer and quality assurance representative while serving the Corps' Gulf Region Division Central District in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from February to June 23 for the first "added power" to be generated at the Qudas Power Plant in East Baghdad, Iraq.



### Hancks, Team, Earn Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

**Rian Hancks**, Office of Counsel, received the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his exemplary service in support of the District and the United States during the trial and preceding preparation period in the Henderson County Drainage District Number 3 versus the United States litigation.



Hancks, in turn, nominated the team of employees that augmented his efforts that resulted, on May 26, in the Court holding for the United States on all claims, which awarded the plaintiff zero dollars, vice the \$442,000,000 worth of "damages" sought.

**Kevin Landwehr** and **Don Bawmann**, Engineering Division; **Mike Cox**, Operations Division; **Richard Mattson**, Real Estate; and **Rodney Delp**, Emergency Management, also received the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for their part in the team's efforts.

### Recent Retirements ...

**Steven Hampton**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 20, Operations Division, will retire Sept. 2, after dedicating 30 years and five months to the federal government.

### Sympathy ...



**George Banks**, 77, of Elwood, Ill., died Aug. 3, at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center.

Banks retired from the District in 1987 at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, where he worked as an lock and dam equipment mechanic. He had also worked at the Joliet Project Office as an electrician in the Electrical and Electronic Maintenance Section. Banks worked for the Corps for more than 35 years.

He was a WWII veteran.



**Lowell "Henry" Fryer**, 58, of rural Canton, Mo., died July 27, at his home.

Fryer worked with the District as the Assistant Lockmaster at LaGrange Lock and Dam. During his career with the District, Fryer worked on the Projects Maintenance Crew, at Lock and Dam 22, and at Lock and Dam 20.

He was a decorated Vietnam Army veteran.



**Jerald "Jerry" Bledsoe**, 67, of Silvis, Ill., died July 21, at Trinity Medical Center-West Campus, Rock Island, Ill.

He retired from the District as a hydrological technician.

# District Holds Open House On Corps Largest Towboat

Story and photo by Mark Kane



Bill Gretten (right), Mississippi River Operations Manager, holds a demonstration for a group of onlookers on how a tow locks through one of the Corps' locks on the river during the M/V Mississippi Open House in Davenport, Iowa.

The District held an open house for the public onboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi to learn more about the Corps of Engineers' role on the river and to tour the Corps' largest towboat.

The open house took place Aug. 9, at Oneida Landing in Davenport, Iowa.

The public had the opportunity to see numerous displays focusing on the Corps' mission of providing for navigation, flood protection, environmental restoration, emergency response, and to operate facilities and lands for the public good.

The M/V Mississippi is one of the largest towboats ever built in the United States, it is 52-feet tall, and weighs 2,600 tons. The vessel is 241 feet long and holds 80,235 gallons of fuel. It visits the Upper Mississippi River once a year as a part of the Mississippi River Commission's annual Low-Water Inspection trip, held Aug. 16 through Aug. 27 this year.

The low-water trip featured seven public meetings in selected towns along the river, to allow Commission members the opportunity to meet with local residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues.

The M/V Mississippi's homeport is Memphis, Tenn. 🇺🇸



## On the 'Net

[www.mvd.usace.army.mil/MRC/history.htm](http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/MRC/history.htm)

[www.mvm.usace.army.mil/navigation/revetment/motor\\_vessel\\_mississippi.htm](http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/navigation/revetment/motor_vessel_mississippi.htm)

## Retiree Luncheon Sept. 8

By Barbara Morgan, District retiree

The annual retiree's luncheon is being held at Hickory Garden Family Restaurant, located at 3311 Hickory Grove Road, Davenport, Iowa. PLEASE note the change in the location from the past few years.

The luncheon will be held the first Wednesday after Labor Day, Sept. 8, with a social hour at noon and the luncheon at 1 p.m.

The menu for the buffet luncheon consists of chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls and butter, and

beverages. Cost is \$10 per person, and includes gratuities.

A special announcement was previously sent out to District retirees in regard to this year's golf tournament, which will be held the morning of the event. If you are interested you should have already contacted Dick Feischman at (563) 391-2585, or have e-mailed him at [whitey@netexpress.net](mailto:whitey@netexpress.net).

All retirees and their spouses or guests are cordially invited to attend. It is a lot of fun, so we hope to see everyone there.

Reservations are necessary, so please call Bonnie Donelson at (563) 381-3143 or Barbara Morgan at (309) 798-2990 or Jan Krahl at (309) 787-1915 or Nancy Berg at (309) 788-9851. You can also email Barbara at [morgan-ent@msn.com](mailto:morgan-ent@msn.com). Checks for the luncheon should be mailed to Bonnie Donelson at 6355 132nd Street, Blue Grass, Iowa 52726. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling as soon as possible.

Since not everyone has e-mail or receives the Tower Times, please spread the word to other retirees. 🇺🇸

# Q.C. Water Safety Awareness Event

at the bay next to the Mississippi River Visitor Center  
on Rock Island Arsenal Island

**Saturday, August 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Please join the District, and other Quad-City agencies, for the area's first organized Water Safety Awareness Event, which will feature booths, displays, demonstrations, and lots of information geared toward increasing water-safety awareness to all who enjoy our local waterways.

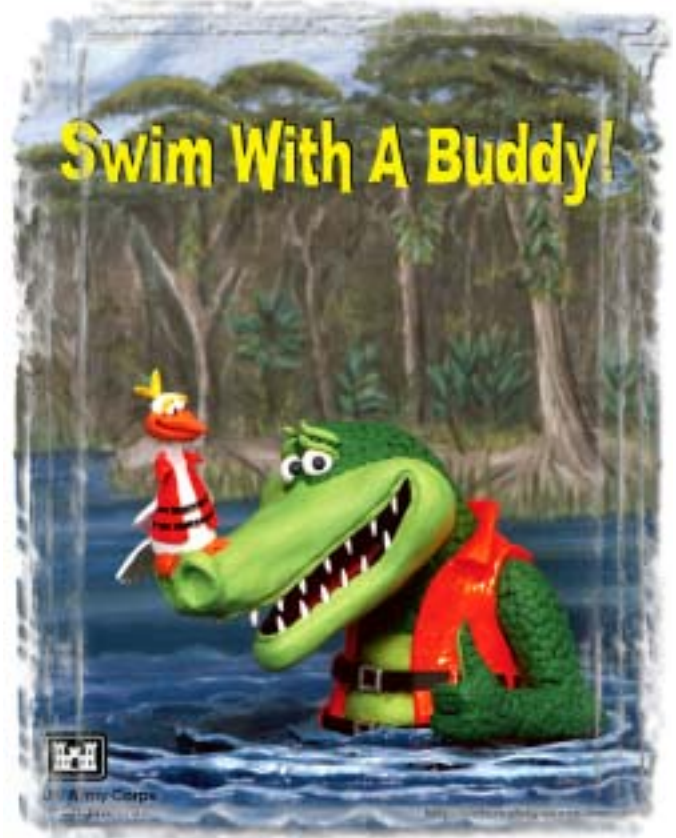
The Water Safety Awareness Event is the first of what is planned to be an annual water safety fair, benefiting the Quad City communities by providing not only information, but also hands-on demonstrations. This aspect of the event will teach life-saving methods and skills that could save the life of a loved one, and emphasizes the fact that water safety must be practiced year-round.

Families are encouraged to join in on this fun and educational event.

Many local agencies who respond to emergencies will be on hand to teach people what to do if they get into trouble on the water.

"All too often we hear of accidents resulting in drowning, and nobody thinks it will ever happen to them," said Corps training officer John Punkiewicz. "A basic knowledge of what to do in the first seconds and minutes of an emergency can make the difference of life and death."

Emergency responders including the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, local police and fire departments, Department of Natural Resources, and the YMCA will be joining the Corps for the event. In addition, there will be contests, fun events for the kids, and refreshments available. ■



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