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Rock Island District

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Spotlight on the District

By Mark Kane

Stuart Jackson Chief, Real Estate

For some, it doesn't take long to discuss what they enjoy about their job; it's simple, they talk about what they do and say they enjoy it. For others there are so many facets about why they enjoy their job it takes a little while longer to explain.

Stuart Jackson, the new chief of the District's Real Estate division, says he has been enjoying his job with the District since starting here in January this year for many reasons.

"While dealing, as a job with 'real estate' must seem to some to be mundane and anything but exciting, as a history major, I discovered early on that the history of land, any land, is the history of the people who settled that land and of how the growth and vitality of the surrounding communities ebbed and flowed; especially so when dealing with 'riparian' land, or land adjoining navigable water courses, and the story is told to a large degree right there in the real estate records," said Jackson. "To read through an abstract of title, or the 'old' records and maps in the Real Estate detailing the purchase of the land interests for the nine-foot channel project on the Mississippi, is to me like reading a living history of an area and its people. I find that very enjoyable. Add to that being in the position of working closely with others who also obviously enjoy the 'living history' of the land we work with, as do most realty specialists, and I couldn't think of many other jobs I'd rather have."

Jackson has been working in Real Estate since starting his career in the Corps with the St. Paul District as an attorney-advisor in Real Estate in 1998.

Prior to joining the Corps team, Jackson served in the U.S. Air Force from 1974 through 1981, and also worked in private law. He enjoyed his time in private law for specific reasons, which had an impact on

why he came to the Corps.

"(I choose the Corps) primarily because working in real estate law with the Corps would allow me to be assured of continued work with water law, riparian rights, navigation, etc.," said Jackson. "I spent a fair bit of time in a private law practice working on various aspects of hydroelectric facility projects throughout the northeastern United States and numerous gas-fired electrical co-generation facilities,



which also by nature must be by a water source, which involved all the facets and nuances of 'water law' and that pretty much set the course for what type of work I wanted to do – and in the Corps, that's a given."

Jackson's duties entail the supervision of Real Estate, which he said has a broad, complex and challenging mission, encompassing all real estate activities and actions which occur within the District.

"This entails everything from determining what type of real property interest (fee title, easement, right-of-way or permit) is needed to allow implementation of any and all District programs and projects (full-federal projects such as locks, dams and recreational projects and conces-

sions, to local sponsor projects and the military housing mission) then planning and carrying out acquisition of that real property interest and subsequent management and when necessary, disposal of such real property," said Jackson.

After touching on a number of other primary duties inside Real Estate, Jackson said there are many more details and tasks accomplished in his division.

"Our talented and dedicated group of realty specialists perform these on a daily basis, and that's not to mention the valuable and sound advice which is given daily by our 'rock' solid real estate legal eagles," said Jackson. "It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with such a fine group."

Jackson is originally a New York native and was raised in the Finger Lakes region of 'upstate' New York. He graduated high school at Clifton Springs, N.Y., and completed a two-year 'working tour' of Australia. Jackson earned his bachelor's of arts from State University of New York, Albany, N.Y., and later earned his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law.

Jackson and his wife, Anne, are house hunting for a new home in the Quad-City area. His wife is an audiologist practicing in the Twin Cities. They have two children, a son, Christopher, who is a television news producer for WTMJ in Milwaukee; and their daughter, Alaine, who is finishing up a semester as an intern in the Minnesota State Senate and about to enter her junior year at Winona State University in Minnesota, majoring in Global Studies and Sociology.

Jackson's advice to anyone reading this article is, "Don't take yourself too seriously, your work and responsibilities, yes, but not so much yourself." ■

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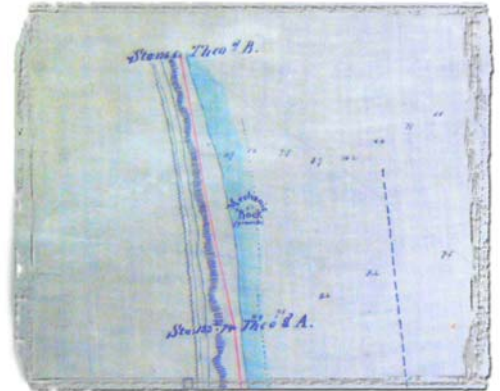
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On the Cover

Bobber the Water Safety Dog, the Corps' water safety mascot, greets the crowd at the 5th Annual Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program fundraiser on May 2 at Coralville Lake. Photo by Katie Lammers, Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program.

See page 4 for more information about the event.

District Adopts Bobber

Corps Water Safety Mascot Makes Debut



Bobber the Water Safety Dog meets an admirer at the 5th Annual Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program fundraiser on May 2 at Coralville Lake. The event marked the first time the District used the Bobber mascot costume after purchasing it to augment its water safety program. Photo by Katie Lammers, Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program.



By Anne McCrery, Corporate Communications

Now ... for the first time, the Corps of Engineers Rock Island District proudly presents, (drum roll please) "Bobber" the Water Safety Dog.

Bobber made his District debut at the 5th Annual Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program Event on May 2, at Coralville Lake.

"Bobber, the Water Safety Dog, is a nationwide program," said Lynda Nutt, manager of the National Operations Center for Water Safety. "We have Bobber the Water Safety dog cartoons, and Bobber coloring books, so the Bobber costume was a natural extension."

The Rock Island District purchased one of these costumes in May.

"He did a fantastic job mingling, handing out stickers, and activity books,"

said Katie Lammers, a member of the Youth Empowerment Program.

Jeffery Peck, a Park Ranger at Coralville Lake, has worked with the Mayor's Youth Program for more than 10 years, and wanted Bobber to attend this event. He thought that the water safety dog would be the perfect 'person' to get the water safety message out to this audience.

Peck said that these are the young adults who are often around water, and are slowly gaining their own independence. Using figures like Bobber to inform them about water safety will help them to make the right choices when they are around water.

The Mayor's Youth Program is a curriculum that provides support and advocacy to youth ages 16-21 who face

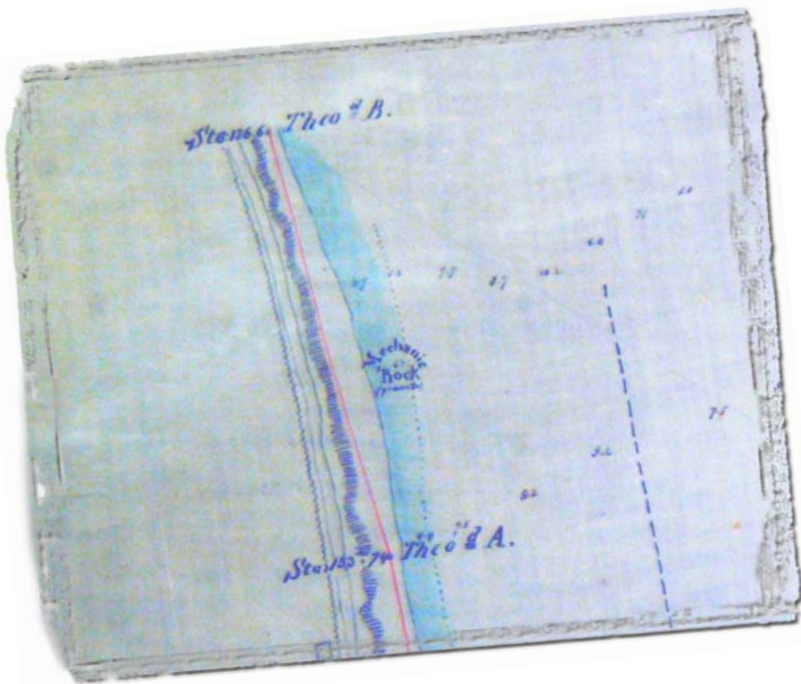
barriers to independence, as well as to their families. Part of this program involves a grant for students to focus on transportation-related employment and training. As part of the grant opportunity students get to work with the Corps on such tasks as trail maintenance and other real-life skills.

Now that Bobber has safely gotten his feet wet, he is panting to go out to another event. Rangers can request the use of the Bobber costume by contacting Corporate Communications at 309-794-5729 or cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil.

Day or night, 365 days a year, Bobber can also be seen online at www.bobber.info. This site contains popular water safety cartoons and other activities.

To learn more about the Corps' National Water Safety Program visit their website at watersafety.usace.army.mil.





Both of these photos show a piece of one of the 11 sections of maps of the Mississippi River created by G.K. Warren in 1853. Photos by Mark Kane.

Step Back in Time to 1853

A Detailed Glimpse of the Mississippi is Rediscovered

By John Fitzgerald, District archivist, Corporate Communications

In 1853, almost 155 years ago, a young Army officer named Gouverneur Kimball (G.K.) Warren walked the banks of the Mississippi River from Keokuk, Iowa, to Nauvoo, Ill. He and the rest of his party were tasked with completing a third major survey of the Des Moines Rapids in order to improve navigation.

Congress approved additional work based on the survey, but the Civil War interrupted them before anything significant could be accomplished. Even though the survey faded into obscurity, the fruits of Warren's survey were not all lost. Miraculously, all 11 sheets of original drawings of the survey have survived and are in good condition as they were found in the Rock Island District's Clock Tower Building.

The drawings offer a one-of-a-kind snapshot of roughly 11 miles of the Mississippi River before any significant improvements were done. No other copies are known to exist.

The scale of the drawings is an incredible 32 inches equal to a mile. To put it into perspective, if all eleven drawings were laid down on the ground in sequence they would stretch out more than 40 feet!

The details include homesteads, farms, breweries, log mills, and ferry landings along the banks, as well as layouts of the towns of Nashville and Montrose in Iowa and Nauvoo in Illinois. The channel where steamboats ran is clearly marked and includes

references to natural aids to navigation such as Mechanic's Rock. Archeologist Ron Deiss, Programs and Project Management, believes this is the oldest known map or drawing showing the famous navigation point listed by that name.

Although the primary purpose and use of the drawings ended well over a hundred years ago, their importance and secondary uses today have only grown. The maps provide a unique and detailed view of the river at the time.

Historians, genealogists and others will find the drawings an incredible source of local history. They are also of importance to a variety of disciplines within the scientific community, since they provide another valuable source to compare and contrast how the Mississippi River has changed over time.

Unfortunately, it is unknown what happened to similar drawings of Warren's work on the Rock Island Rapids of that same year. I believe interest in those would be even greater.

Whatever happened to G.K. Warren? Unlike his survey, he will always be remembered in American history.

As chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac, he became famous for recognizing the importance of a hill known as Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. After the war, he continued to be involved in improvement projects on the Mississippi, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic coast. Although he died in 1882, his tangible legacy still remains. ■



Bob Riebe (left), Perry Hubert (right), and Col. Robert Sinkler, speak with Iowa Governor Chet Culver (center) during the governor's tour of the sandbag levee in downtown Davenport on April 29.



Flood Area Engineers Impact District

By Mark Kane

Nearly every spring a concern arises in the Midwest for residents who live anywhere close to a river ... flooding. That concern mounts as the rivers rise and calls begin to come into districts throughout the Corps of Engineers asking about various questions related to flooding.

While the questions are being answered, the Corps is doing a lot more than boning up on flood information. Each district's Emergency Management division is coordinating and preparing for high water dispatching a Flood Area Engineers to the area of concern.

While the title of Flood Area Engineer might sound like a job that is only filled by engineers, that is not the reality. The fact is that a District employee can become a flood area engineer if they have an interest in getting involved in the mission.

"We administer the Inspection of Completed Works Program," said Rodney Delp, Emergency Management. "Emergency Management employs the Flood

Area Engineer cadre to inspect approximately 120 levee systems annually. Additionally, during flood events, the FAE network is used in responding to disasters and providing technical assistance."

Delp said the District's Flood Area Engineers are very important to the Emergency Management mission, so much so that the District's lead Flood Area Engineers have a special consideration.

"During disaster response and recovery, our customers consider the lead Flood Area Engineers as the 'Door to the Corps,'" said Delp.

That consideration is especially

important in the Rock Island District, because we are a regional distribution center for innovative flood fight products, which were replenished this spring with more than 1 million sandbags, almost 100

pumps, 1,000 feet each of rapidly deploying flood walls and Portadams and 2,500 rolls of plastic sheeting. In fact, the District provided the Little Rock District with

"I like to help people. You know there's a pretty high level of satisfaction when we advise someone to do something, they do it, and it works."

- Bob Riebe

252,000 sandbags in 18 shipping containers during a high water event in their district in early April.

Inside the District's own boundaries, technical assistance is needed in remote



A bundle of Corps' sandbags stand-by for possible use beside a pile of sand and within a stone's throw of Modern Woodmen Park, the home of the Quad-Cities River Bandits. The ball field stands within the shadow of the Centennial Bridge, a prominent landmark of the Quad-City area.



Bob Riebe, EM, fields a question from a reporter with WQAD TV8 out of Moline, Ill., about the high water in downtown Davenport, Iowa, seen in the background.

locations where the area population isn't very high, or could be needed in areas such as Davenport, Iowa, which is the largest city in the greater Quad-City area. Wherever the event unfolds, it is not out of the ordinary for a FAE to communicate and coordinate with high-level interests such as the local mayor or even the state governor.

On April 29, FAEs Perry Hubert, Engineering and Construction, and Bob Riebe, EM, joined Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander, in downtown Davenport to speak with Quad-City area residents, business interests, and media, as well as the Davenport mayor and the governor of Iowa.

Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba and Iowa Governor Chet Culver toured a sandbag levee on the east end of River Drive in Davenport and spoke directly with Sinkler, Hubert and Riebe. Both the mayor and the governor consider the Corps an integral part of flood discussions and insisted that Sinkler stand

beside them while they answered questions from the media. However, even before the mayor and governor arrived, Riebe, the lead FAE for the Quad-City area, was fielding questions related to the flood from WQAD TV8 out of Moline, Ill.

Riebe says he has been a FAE since 1969 and a lead FAE since 1992. While being a FAE is something an employee does in addition to their regular duties, Riebe said he gets a lot from it.

"I like to help people," said Riebe. "You know there's a pretty high level of satisfaction when we advise someone to do something, they do it, and it works. Seeing people staying dry and not suffering, that's what it's all about. As long as they don't get hurt, and they don't lose everything ... there's a lot of satisfaction in that."

When asked why he has continued to do it after all these years, Riebe replied, "Because we have the ability to make a bad situation better."

In regard to telling interested employees what it takes to be a FAE, Riebe has a short list of criteria.

"You don't have to be an engineer," said Riebe. "All you need to be is intelligent, willing to learn, able to adapt, and you can't be afraid to be cold, get wet or get dirty. Other than that, you do need to be able to communicate and talk to people succinctly without getting them excited. We build a lot of relationships with communities, and you have to be able to communicate."

During this year's flood events Riebe said he personally took 18 employees out with him who were interested in what a FAE does.

In an email sent to District employees in mid-April, Delp stated that if this seems like something you might be interested in, he encourages you to submit an application through the Rock Island District Intranet Emergency Management web site at: <http://intranet.mvr.usace.army.mil/intranet/emfaeteam/default.cfm>.

Documenting the District's History Through its Employees

By Ron Deiss, Programs and Project Management

No major rehabilitation or restoration had occurred on the Clock Tower Building between its construction in 1867 and the early years of 20th century. During World War I the building was to be razed and in 1931 it was hit by lightning and caught on fire. Remodeling was necessary when the Rock Island District began to occupy the lower floors in 1931 to monitor the construction of Locks and Dam 15. The entire staff of the District officially moved into the historic building in 1935 and for the next few years partitioned the open floors for offices and drafting rooms.

Various minor remodeling efforts occurred through the years. In the 1980s, inspections of the Clock Tower Building revealed exterior deterioration of the stone through weathering and water damage. For more than a century, the building has supported the Army's endeavors and housed its staff, becoming one of the Upper Mississippi River's most recognizable landmarks.

In the mid 1990s, interior-remodeling and exterior restoration was proposed and in 1995 the District's Facilities Planning Board was formed to plan and implement the major work effort. The board focused on upgrading the interior workplace, which occurred between 1995 and 2000. The exterior restoration of the Clock Tower Building took place between 2000 and 2001 on the attic windows, stone walls, clock face, and roof, including repairs to the fire escapes, downspouts, and drainage moat. Corps employees were concerned with the interior remodeling, which changed the workplace environment. The most obvious results are the cubicles, partitions, and modular cabinets we use today.

Our local constituency, the public, and state and national preservation staff were concerned with the preservation of the Clock Tower Building and architectural treatment to maintain its historic significance. The Clock Tower Building was listed as a contributing structure to the National Register of Historic Places listed Rock Island Arsenal Historic District in September 1969 and in July 1989 was determined as contributing to the National Historic Landmark status of the Arsenal's Old Stone Shops. To mitigate the effects of the remodeling efforts, the District proposed preservation alternative and interpretive plans, which were accepted by the State Historic Preservation Officer in Springfield, Ill.

The Historic Corridor was one of the more important features of the plan. The development and implementation of a "corridor of preservation and interpretation" was possibly the first of its kind in the nation. This plan includes restoring the stairway, as a path from the basement through the highest floor of the tower, and lining it with pictures, displays, artifacts, and interpretive signs. The corridor frames are hung with images of the District's long and varied efforts and projects in support of

the nation's military and civil works. The integrity and age of the Clock Tower Building, reflected in the preservation of the stairway, mirrors the significance and historic impact of the Corps of Engineers throughout the upper Midwest and along its rivers. Recognizing that the District's most important resource is its workers, the Historic Corridor was planned to include displays which employees could relate to on a personal level.

In 1998, the District made two boxed frame displays of Corps-related donations and hung them prominently in the Clock Tower Building's entryway. The shadow boxes hold many cherished artifacts, mementoes, and other items that document the human side of the workplace and individual achievements of Corps employees. These are a visual time capsule of events, projects, lives, and livelihoods.

Under the original concept the display was to be upgraded every five years or so, to reflect changes in personnel, missions, history, and major events. The older shadow boxes were to be retired to the Clock Tower Building tower and the new shadow boxes replacements hung in the same location in the vestibule. These shadow boxes remain as one of the more popular displays within the Historic Corridor and visitors have always commented positively about them, finding them an interesting

reflection of our military and employee experience, which are uniquely a part of the Corps of Engineers and the Rock Island District.

As part of the renewed interest in the Historic Corridor, and to foster employee pride and involvement, two new shadow boxes are being proposed. To complete this project and help us help ourselves, we need donations of past and present, small objects, relative to Corps projects, employment, social events, and history. Much has happened, many new projects, new missions, the Gulf War, and the Louisiana hurricanes among others events. Items desired for donation can include all types, kinds, and ages of award pins, coins, or tokens, retirement and identification badges or tags, and just about anything associated with the Corps' working and social environment.

Larger items maybe used in other larger

exhibits with the Historic Corridor.

Donated items will become the permanent property of the Corps for its Historic Corridor exhibits. These donations and shadowbox displays imparts pride of our accomplishments and ties as a Corps family. A list of donators and their donated item(s) will be matted within the frame for documentation to recognize the contributors. Donated items can be brought to Corporate Communications or sent to Corporate Communications, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004. Anonymous items are accepted, but it would be appreciated if you would identify the object(s) and provide your name so that your contributions will be recognized by further generations. ■



Recently donated items include a deck of Iraqi playing cards, an Iraqi billfold, a District golf ball, and a Gulf Region Division patch and badge.



Polar Plunge Takes Place in Freezing Spring Temps

Story by Mark Kane, photos by Rick Knoke, Coralville Lake

Coralville Lake held their 2nd Annual Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics at their West Overlook Beach area on March 29.

In the above photos, participants

briskly waded through the freezing water at Coralville Lake.

Rick Knoke, Coralville Lake, reported that 153 people made the plunge this year into the water in temperatures that made

last years temps seem mild.

This year's event organizers had to keep clearing ice away from the plunge participants. A chilly fact given that the first day of spring was March 20. ❄️

Illinois Waterway Rangers Continue EcoMeet Tradition

Story by Mark Kane, photo by Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

More than 30 years ago Corps of Engineers park rangers started what is now known as an EcoMeet, and since then, it has become an annual event throughout Illinois and the United States.

This year, the 14th Annual LaSalle County EcoMeet took place at Catlin Park on April 30.

"The competition was extremely tight this year," said Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center. "Several students and schools were tied for honors. Four high school teams and nine junior high teams were entered in this year's competition."

Ewbank said the EcoMeet is a competitive event designed to educate students about our natural environment.

"Each student is tested on two individual topics and one team topic," said Ewbank. "The individual competitions include a written knowledge test and identification of specimens."

In LaSalle County, dedicated environmental educators from the Corps, the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District have brought this program to LaSalle County for 14 years. The Illinois State Museum was a new participant this year, providing specimens for identification. 🌿



LaSalle County students identify specimens as part of the 14th Annual LaSalle County EcoMeet. Photo by Kevin Ewbank.



Investing In Our People

Around the District

District Commander's Award

Vicki Kohl, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, received the March Commander's Award.

Kohl earned the award for her work with District employees at LaGrange Lock and Dam.

Specifically, she assisted the lockmaster with hiring a new work leader, and found the answers to day-to-day questions about everything from health care to retirement to job opportunities. The employees at the site feel she is always courteous and patient and say they have a great deal of respect for her.

Johnny Dyer, Operations Division, received the February Commander's Award.

Dyer earned the award for his dedication, commitment, and flexibility during the six months he acted in the position of Crane Operator Supervisor at the Mississippi River Project Office.

Dyer, in spite of constant short notice suspenses and increased workload requiring the prioritization and juggling of multiple tasks, worked seamlessly together with other unit supervisors and senior Operations Division staff to ensure that deadlines were met and the proper procedures were followed.

Specifically, he oversaw and coordinated repairs on the upper miter gates at Lock and Dam 11, which required attention to personnel schedules, consistent overtime, and weekend work. His actions directly contributed to the smooth successful continuation of maintenance activities on the Mississippi River.

Retirees Mark Your Calendar

The retirees program portion of Corps Day will begin at 8 a.m. in the Clock Tower Building's A, B & C Conference Rooms. Remarks by Col. Robert Sinkler will be given at 8:30 a.m. Retirees are invited to join employees at Rock Island Arsenal's Memorial Field at 9:30 a.m.

The retiree's luncheon this year will be held Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Quad-City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, Ill. Social hour will begin at noon, and the luncheon will start at 1 p.m. The price this year is \$15 per person, which includes admission to the center's patio and sun garden. More information about the luncheon will be made available later.

Any retirees who have a new e-mail address since last year, or those who wish to add their e-mail address to the list, please e-mail Sandy Dixon at dixons3jss@aol.com or Barbara Morgan at morgan-ent@msn.com.

Retirements ...

Gregory Weist, information technology specialist, Customer Assistance Branch, Information Management, retired June 3, after dedicating 35 years and six months to the federal government.

David Armentrout, crane operator supervisor, Project Maintenance Unit, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired June 1, after dedicating 36 years, one month, and 20 days to the federal government.

Jack Merten, hydrologic technician, Water Control Section, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Engineering and Construction, retired May 31, after dedicating 26 years, one month, and 13 days to the federal government.

Roberta Carson, information technology specialist, Information Requirement and Planning Branch, Information Management, retired May 2, after dedicating 32 years and 11 months to the federal government.

Gary Huston, visual information specialist, Information Requirement and Planning Branch, Information Management, retired May 2, after dedicating 31 years to the federal government.

Alfonso Lopez, information technology specialist, Customer Assistance Branch, Information Management, retired May 2, after dedicating 30 years and eight months to the federal government.

Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Al and Wendy Frohlich**, Operations Division, on the birth of a baby girl, Rachel Ann, May 1. She was 9 pounds, 4 ounces and 20 inches long.



Congratulations to **Jim and Wendy Kelley**, Operations Division, on the birth of a baby boy, Michael Corbett, April 14. He was 8 pounds, 9.6 ounces and was 20 inches long.

NOTE

Please send achievements, births, and obituaries for this page to the editor at: mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil.

Without your input, we may not receive the information that enables us to inform the District.

SUPPORT, SACRIFICE FOR CORPS

Thanks to our employees who are deployed or have completed duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who are deployed or have completed duty in support of Natural Disaster Relief Operations

Thank You For Serving!



A listing of all the current District employees who are, or have been, involved in supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Natural Disaster Relief Operations can be seen on the District's Internet at:



www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm



Cong. Phil Hare Visits District, CAVE

Story and photos by Mark Kane

Cong. Phil Hare (D-17, Ill.) visited the Rock Island District May 16 and spoke with a number of District employees. He also spent time learning about the technology behind a tool the District is using to better visualize designs called CAVE Automatic Virtual Environment.

The technology is being used to see possible inconsistencies or incompatibilities before construction begins on seven new locks on the Upper Mississippi River System.

CAVE is a room-sized advanced visualization solution that combines high-resolution, stereoscopic projection and 3-D computer graphics to create the illusion of a complete sense of presence in a virtual environment. The CAVE was the first virtual reality technology in the world to allow multiple users to fully immerse themselves in the same virtual environment at the same time.

Today, more CAVEs are installed in visualization



facilities around the world than any other spatially immersive display system.

The CAVE facility used by the District and visited by Hare belongs to the Research, Development, and Engineering Command - Armament, Research, Development & Engineering Center, located on Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Pictured is Hare greeting Mike Tarpey shortly after meeting Marshall Plumley (center), both of Programs and Project Management. Inset photo shows Hare, center, experiencing the CAVE Automatic Virtual Environment. ■

Never Give Safety a Day Off



26 May – 1 Sept 2008



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