



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

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## Spotlight on the District

## Linda Wiley

### Chief, Equal Employment Opportunity

**L**inda Wiley, chief, Equal Employment Opportunity, came to the District this year, but has been around the world and back gathering knowledge and many experiences.

Wiley is a military brat who, like many, has a hard time settling on where she would call her hometown. Instead of going with where she was born, Wiley said she's probably from St. Paul, Minn., a place she spent the most time.

Traveling hasn't been much of a problem for Wiley, aside from being a military brat, she also served in the active duty military.

"I was a Senior Airman in the Air Force," said Wiley. "I was stationed in Tokyo, Japan, and worked in radio relay-equipment repair." She served from 1975 through 1979.

She is the District's newest chief in EEO and comes to the position with experience for the job.

"I first became an EEO Specialist in 1997, while working for the St. Paul District," said Wiley. "Originally, I started with St. Paul as a landscape architect in their Design Branch in June of 1991. Our human resources director was looking for a way to keep a reduction in force from affecting too many people and made the offer for me to work in HR. I worked in HR as a training officer for a year-and-a-half. There was an opening in the St. Paul EEO office, and it presented a solid opportunity, so I took it."

Wiley said it was hard for her to transition to a career field that wasn't related to her education. She earned her Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University in 1988.

She worked in the St. Paul EEO office from 1997 through 2003 before packing up and moving to Schweinfurt, Germany, where she worked for the Installation Management Agency.

After completing three years in Europe working as the EEO Manager for U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt with IMA, Wiley came to the Rock Island District.

"My time was up, and the program chose me to come here," said Wiley. "It's not a bad fit. I have a lot of Corps experience, and I know the program. There's a little bit of a learning curve to know the program here, but my background will allow me to adapt quickly. Coming here has been a challenge in that I didn't know the area, but it's friendly, affordable, and a nice community. It has more history and culture than I expected. It's very different from Europe and even different from St. Paul."

Wiley summed up her job as EEO chief saying it's to manage the EEO program under the direction of the commander.

"The EEO program is a management program and is mainly about three different things," said Wiley. "It's about processing complaints, maintaining the affirmative employment program, and overcoming barriers through the Special Emphasis Program."

She said one of the most visible aspects of EEO is complaints.

"That's the reactive part of it," said Wiley. "It's a painful process. It's no fun feeling discriminated against or being accused of discrimination. We're here to process those complaints and to help people

get through it; sometimes to point out errors on either side; and to resolve issues when we can."

In regard to affirmative employment, Wiley said a lot of people think it's about quotas.

"It's really about looking as widely as possible to find the best person for the job," said Wiley.

"Talents come in different packages and I believe the government should have a work force that looks like America. We're trying to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and that the focus when hiring or developing employees is on job-related factors."

Wiley also stressed how important the SEPC is to EEO and how it should impact the District.

"The SEPC is the proactive side of EEO that promotes a workplace environment that appreciates diversity," said Wiley. "We're also focusing on careers. We need to be asking ourselves, are we developing everyone, regardless of who they are, so they can get to their career goals? So they can be the best they can be and contribute fully to our organization?"

While all this is challenging, Wiley said she enjoys her job.

"I like the satisfaction of helping people work through conflict and resolving things where both sides come to an agreement," said Wiley. "The key isn't whether we have conflict, but making sure we deal with it in as positive a way as possible."

Away from work, Wiley now calls Davenport, Iowa, home. She lives there with her husband, Jeff Nielsen. Her son, Barac, is currently going to college in St. Paul.

Wiley said her hobbies are almost too long to list.

"I sing and play the flute," said Wiley. "When I was working in St. Paul I sang for nine seasons with the Minnesota Chorale – a symphonic chorus that performs with the Minnesota Orchestra."

In addition to those talents, Wiley said she likes photography, making jewelry, ballroom dancing, and reading.

Wiley's advice to anyone reading this article is, "Listen more ... listen for understanding and try new things." ■



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# Tower Times

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### Big Money Given to Charities Through CFC



### On the Cover

Bill Ford, Operations Division, begins descending down the main lock ladder well at Locks and Dam 15 for a diving operation to assess damages to the lock's bubblets on a cold early December day. Joe Fryer, OD, tends Ford's air line while Daryl Packard, OD, watches to make sure the line doesn't get hung up on anything. See page 19 for more. Photo by Mark Kane.



# Happy Holidays!

By Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander



I have had the opportunity since the last publication of the Tower Times to visit almost every project site and facility in the Rock Island District, and I am truly impressed with what I have seen.

I appreciate the enthusiasm that I see everywhere in anticipating change, creating opportunity, discovering needs, solving problems and working with our federal, state and other partners in an effort to create something even better than what we have today.

As we go into a season that for centuries has been a time of gift-giving, I am extremely proud of the important and enduring gifts that we provide the

American people, and I know each of you are also.

The primary purpose of the Rock Island District is to partner with stakeholders in the management of the District's watersheds to meet the national and regional needs of navigation; flood damage reduction; emergency management; ecosystem restoration and regulation; recreation; water supply; land management; and national security.

Simply put, the Christmas gift that we (in coordination with our partners) are giving our nation every day are five better river basins in parts of five states. Each of

you, wherever you work, have a huge piece in this. Again, I am extremely proud of you and your work.

I also appreciate everyone's hard work in keeping each other safe. We are entering a period of the year that is more hazardous due to the weather. We owe it to each other to ensure that when each of us graduates (retires from, or departs, our current job), we have our health intact.

Brandie and I wish you the very best over the Holidays and look forward to serving with you during the New Year. 🇺🇸

## There's No Business Like Small Business

The District's mission is to support our region and the nation by providing technical services, infrastructure management, and water resource solutions. We proudly serve now, and in the future, are relevant, ready, responsive, and reliable. Our mission, and how we conduct business, is tied directly to how we help achieve the socio-economic goals of the nation.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, along with Congress, established goals to ensure the long-term sustainability of a way of life we all enjoy. Clearly, small business is big business and without small business in America, consumers' lives would be much less enjoyable, and other businesses, big and small, would not function as well.

Just think, if there were only 100 small businesses in America, 43 would help us take care of our homes, 11 would sell food and clothing, furniture, books, flowers, appliances, hardware and gas, nine would construct, remodel, landscape or repair our homes, seven would lease our apartments or sell our homes, four would provide day care to our children, three would repair our vehicles, three would cut our hair, four would sell groceries, six would construct commercial building and roads, two would manufacture goods, two would provide training, two would run our restaurants, two would be doctors, two would sell us insurance, and the rest would provide a variety of entertainment, social, medical, and legal services. This draws a very clear picture of how important small businesses are to use both personally and professionally.

While 85 percent of Americans view small business as a positive influence on American life, the image that we have of America as a large industrial complex sometimes overshadows the valuable contributions that small businesses make. An estimated 25.5 million small businesses in America employ more than half of the country's private workforce, create three of every four new jobs, and generate a majority of innovations. Small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all employers and account for 40 percent of all technology investment in the United States. More than three million are minority owned and there are more than 9.1 million women-owned businesses and the numbers are growing every year. Clearly, small business is big business and without small business in America, consumers' lives would be much less enjoyable, and other businesses, big and small, would not function as well.

The District Small Business Goals for Fiscal Year 2007 represent significant challenges. I believe with your continued support and understanding we can meet and exceed them. The District Small Business goals are based on the total amount of dollars obligated.

This year the District projects obligating approximately \$35 million. 🇺🇸

### FY07 District Small Business Goals

Small Business:	43.43 percent, \$15.2 million
Small and Disadvantaged Small Business:	16.67 percent, \$5.8 million
HUB Zone Small Business:	9.9 percent, \$3.4 million
Women Owned Small Business:	5.76 percent, \$2 million
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business:	2 percent, \$700,000

"In total, the Corps is introducing and stockpiling three new flood-fighting products in addition to the sandbags, plastic sheeting, pumps, and technical assistance currently provided by the Corps."

- Mark Clark



Matt Martin, Logistics Management, delivers Hesco Bastion supplies to the District's new Flood-Fighting Center of Expertise located on Rock Island Arsenal, on Oct. 30.

## Flood Fighting Center Increases Corps' Abilities

Story and photo by Mark Kane

The Rock Island District has increased the Corps' flood fighting abilities and year-round readiness with the establishment of the District's new Flood-Fighting Center of Expertise located on Rock Island Arsenal.

The District has been selected to be the multi-regional distributor of innovative flood-fighting technology products for the entire Corps, and the flood-fighting center will act as a key asset, which will enable District personnel to provide the flood-fighting materials to four stockpile sites in Sacramento, Calif., Omaha, Neb., Philadelphia, Pa., and Rock Island, Ill.

"We received our first shipment of innovative flood-fighting products Sept. 21," said Mark Clark, innovative flood-fight program manager, Emergency Management. "Numerous pallets of Rapid Deployment Flood Wall were delivered to the Rock Island Arsenal from San Francisco, Calif. The materials stored at the center will be used in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan."

The RDFW is a sand filled, plastic grid

that uses horizontal and vertical tabs to create a wall. According to the manufacturer, it provides communities with an extra defense against flooding by being quick and easy to deploy, requiring less fill material, having a smaller footprint, and requiring less labor than sandbags.

"In total, the Corps is introducing and stockpiling three new flood-fighting products in addition to the sandbags, plastic sheeting, pumps, and technical assistance currently provided by the Corps," said Clark. "The other two new products that are stored at the new flood-fighting center are Hesco Bastion containers and PORTADAMs."

Hesco Bastion containers are granular filled, permeable-membrane lined wire baskets that pin together to form a continuous structure, and were delivered on Oct. 30. PORTADAMs consist of an impermeable membrane liner that is supported by a steel frame, which pins together to form a continuous structure. A shipment of PORTADAMs arrived at the flood-fighting center the Nov. 30. This shipment was the third and final shipment of flood-fighting supplies for the center.

Now, the center is fully stocked.

"During a flooding event, the Corps has the authority to provide flood-fighting products and technical assistance at the request of local sponsors like cities, towns, and levee districts," said Clark.

The District also serves as the training coordinator of the Innovative Flood-Fight Technology Products.

"Responsibilities include training of multi-regional personnel including Corps division and district personnel, state and local officials, and federal/non-federal sponsors," said Clark. "Training on how to use each product includes proper product storage, operational considerations, product setup, maintenance during operation, protection improvement, product removal, cleaning, repair, and repackaging for storage."

The concept for the operational deployment of the flood-fighting products is to maintain an initial total stockage level of approx 5,000 linear feet of the products regionally dispersed and available for regional deployment to support state and local flood fight operations within that region. 🇺🇸

# Inter-Agency Habitat Project Improves Environment



An aerial view of Mud Lake and one of the Pool 11 Islands made to create the backwater habitat.

Jeff Janvrin talks about the importance of the balance of the project and how it was created for both fisheries and waterfowl. Photo by Mark Kane.



One of a series of postcards created to recognize the Environmental Management Program. This card shows the logo created for its anniversary. As part of the 20th anniversary of the EMP, the District created a series of postcards focusing on the project as a whole, as well as some of the individual projects. Angie Freyermuth, Programs and Project Management, designed and created the postcards, which have been distributed to all the agencies involved in the EMP.



Marv Hubbell talks about the significance of the Pool 11 Islands project and how the numerous projects like it on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers have a positive impact on the river environment. Tim Yager listens in shortly before driving on to see more of the Mud Lake project during the day's media tour. Photo by Mark Kane.

### On The 'Net

[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/EMP/](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/EMP/)  
[www.umesc.usgs.gov/ltrmc.html](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/ltrmc.html)

The Mississippi River Pool 11 Islands Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, located on the Mississippi nearly seven miles upstream of Lock and Dam 11 in Dubuque, Iowa, is already making a positive impact on the environment and the wildlife impacted in its area. The project, completed this year, is a cooperative effort among the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the departments of Natural Resources in Iowa and Wisconsin. The project was created to benefit migratory waterfowl and fish by encouraging aquatic vegetation growth, providing habitat, and reducing wind fetch and sedimentation. It was completed in two stages; Sunfish Lake, stage 1, completed in 2004 and located in Grant County, Wis., and Mud Lake, stage 2, completed this year and located in Dubuque County, Iowa. Both "lakes" are actually backwaters formed by the completed Pool 11 Islands.

Backwater dredging in these areas has, and will continue, to increase diversity and fish habitat. This will improve the environment for animals, and also citizens who enjoy fishing, hunting, or visiting the river. While improving things for wildlife is one of the most visual, the positive impact of the project goes even further. "There's lot of benefits beyond fish and wildlife, there's carbon storage that's occurring on this floodplain," said Tim Yager, ecosystem biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The trees are actually capturing carbon dioxide and storing it, there's improvements in water quality that are occurring out here. This backwater is probably capturing nutrients that would otherwise end up down in the Gulf of Mexico creating a large dead zone down there ... there's all kinds of benefits to this ecosystem if you want to call it that. We tend to focus on the fish and wildlife benefits because that's what the public

enjoys." The Pool 11 Islands HREP is part of the Environmental Management Program. Under the EMP, the Corps is planning, designing and building a multitude of environmental enhancement projects that restore and create spawning and feeding habitats for fish and wildlife in backwaters and side channels of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. "From a program standpoint this represents one of many projects up and down the river that have had a total impact of around 80,000 acres of habitat that we've helped to improve as a result of many projects just like this," said Marv Hubbell, EMP manager, Programs and Project Management. "This is a great example, the latest example, of one of those program projects that are happening in both the lower part of the river, as well as the upper part of the river." "Yeah, each project in and of itself doesn't have a big picture change to the

river environment, but cumulatively these projects up and down the river are making a difference," said Jeff Janvrin, Mississippi River Habitat Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "You're seeing a return of waterfowl, fisheries, turtles, deer, mink, anything you want to look at, to these areas that once weren't there or increase numbers." Those kinds of accomplishments have put the focus on the Environmental Management Program, which recently passed a major milestone. "We just celebrated the 20th anniversary of the program, which is remarkable for a program to continue on for that kind of time," said Hubbell. "That was just celebrated up in LaCrosse, Wis., on Aug. 23. So hopefully we'll be able to continue on for another 20 years. But it's the partnership really between the states of Iowa, Wisconsin, the fish and wildlife service, who have been really instrumental in helping to pull all this together. It's

another example of how working cooperatively you can do these kinds of projects." The importance of that cooperation has been underscored by many individuals involved in the project. "The partnership is really the key to seeing these projects come to a successful conclusion," said Yager. "Certainly our agencies could not accomplish what we can accomplish together. From a fish and wildlife standpoint, we don't have the funding that the Corps has to accomplish these projects. The state, similarly, don't have the funding to accomplish what's needed out here, but we all share some responsibility for making sure the river is in a healthy, productive condition." "The Corps, obviously, brings the engineering, design, and program management leadership that we as partners need. The fish and wildlife service, as well as the state agencies, bring biological expertise. The challenge is to marry up what the biologists would

like to see with what the engineers can design to accomplish that. That's where the expertise of the Corps, in terms of program management, really comes in. Because they can provide that oversight that coordinates between the engineers and the biologists." Beyond coordination and expertise, the agencies involved in the project have had the challenge of making the project work in as many ways as possible with as little management as possible. "This is a balanced project, we're balancing as many species as we can in here, and if we designed it solely for fisheries we could compromise our waterfowl objective," said Janvrin. "We try to get as big of a bang for the buck as we can and that means we have to balance them." "Another nice feature about this project is that it's fairly self-managing," said Hubbell. "It doesn't take a huge amount of cost as far as maintaining it."



**Joe Nobiling, Information Management, discusses some of the history of Fort Armstrong as one of the period actors during the team building exercise held the first evening of the Senior Leaders Training Conference. Fort Armstrong was built in 1816 and was a significant part of the Army's military presence on Arsenal Island even before Illinois and Iowa had achieved statehood.**

# Senior Leadership Training Course Comes to Rock Island

Story and photo by Mark Kane

This year marked the first time the Rock Island District hosted the Mississippi Valley Division's annual Senior Leaders Training Conference. Senior leaders from six central states and each of the Division's districts came to the District for the SLTC, which took place from Nov. 7 through 9 at The Lodge Hotel and Conference Center in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, MVD commander, and more than 100 Corps team members participated in the three-day conference. The theme for this year's SLTC was Building the Bench: Developing the Team of Today and Tomorrow. Each year the conference is geared toward identifying and prioritizing regional actions aimed at improving the technical expertise of the MVD workforce.

The conference offered the MVD leadership community an opportunity to learn about MVD leadership practices, interact with experts, and connect with other members of the MVD leadership community at a variety of networking opportunities, team building events, and other social activities.

One of the highlights of the conference included a team building exercise on Rock Island Arsenal, which challenged participants to piece together information from numerous stops around the island that featured period actors who gave out the information.

Another part of the conference focused on the Corps' stakeholders where several individuals from different agencies spoke to the leaders attending the conference.

Direct interaction and communication were essentially one of the main features of the conference when everyone was broken up into small group workshops and asked to develop presentations on how the districts and the Division can do a better job building the bench and develop a team of today and tomorrow.

The conference proved to be a learning experience for everyone involved, and Crear strongly emphasized the value of the workshops and the conference.

Crear said the conference has been amazing, especially from a leadership perspective.

"Rock Island has done a great job, and we've learned a lot during the whole

experience," said Crear. What we need to do now is implement what we've learned about building the bench and integrate it at our districts and at division.

Each year aspiring employees are inducted into the Division's Emerging Leader's program during the SLTC. The following are the employees who were inducted into the Emerging Leader Class of 2006: Angela Desoto Duncan, Engineering Division, New Orleans District; Amena Henville, Engineering Division, New Orleans District; Trudy James, Contracting, Vicksburg District; Judy Ward, Programs and Project Management, Vicksburg District; Mike DeRusha, Operations Division, St. Paul District; Charles Deutsch, Operations Division, St. Louis District; Steven Hobbs, Engineering and Construction, St. Louis District; Andy Simmerman, Programs and Project Management, Memphis District; and Wayne Stogsdill, Jr., Engineering Division, Vicksburg District.

Information and photos from the conference can be accessed by Corps employees on the District's Intranet at <http://intranet.mvr.usace.army.mil/MVDSLTC/>. 📷



# NSPS Rubber Meets the Road in January

By Mark Kane

The Department of Defense announced in late July that it will implement Spiral 1.2 of the National Security Personnel System, a new civilian human resources system, for more than 66,000 employees between October and January.

In September, Lt. Gen. Carl Stroock, Chief of Engineers, informed employees that the transfer to NSPS in January will include approximately 4,400 Corps employees, approximately 65 from the Rock Island District.

NSPS is designed to deliver new, more flexible and streamlined personnel processes for recruiting, hiring, promotion, and to better prepare our workforce to meet our future missions. Merit system principles, veterans' preference, and rules against prohibited personnel practices remain unchanged. However, under NSPS, pay increases will be linked to performance.

"I know that NSPS will be a big change and you may have questions about how NSPS implementation will affect you," said Stroock. "Let me reassure you that we understand the importance of frequent communication and formal training."

The following organizations and categories of employees are scheduled to convert in January 2007:

- All Corps supervisors in General Schedule (GS/GM) positions, except those affected by the Information Management A-76 study and the Logistics High Performing Organization initiative.
- All non-bargaining unit and non-supervisory employees assigned to the Corps' Headquarters, the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Corps' Finance Center, the Transatlantic Programs Center, the 249th Engineering Battalion/Prime Power School, the Institute for Water Resources, the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, and the Southwestern Division Headquarters.

For the District, this means all GS managers and supervisors will be converted on Jan. 21. Some team leader positions will be converted later as classification determinations are made by management.

Spiral 1.3, scheduled for April, will affect all non-bargaining unit and non-supervisory employees in the Pacific Ocean Division headquarters, Japan District, Honolulu District, South Atlantic Division headquarters, Jacksonville District, and Omaha District.

Transition teams have been formed at the national, regional, and local levels of the Corps to guide us through NSPS. The transition teams are led by senior management officials and include representatives from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Resource Management, Corporate Communications, Office of Counsel, and Equal Employment Opportunity. The District's team is made up of Lt. Col. Michael Clarke, deputy commander, Rian Hancks, Office of Counsel, Ralph Werthmann, Real Estate, Gretchen Leigh, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center,

Ron Fournier, Corporate Communications, and augmented by Mari Fournier, strategic planner, and Sue Dikeman, Equal Employment Opportunity, as needed.

Leigh said all District supervisors and managers who supervise civilians have attended NSPS classroom training on NSPS Human Resources Elements and Performance Management for Supervisors.

It is important for supervisors to understand, implement, and meet the major objectives of NSPS. Those objectives are:

- Increase flexibility in hiring and assignment to reshape the workforce to meet changing mission requirements.
- Increase flexibility in pay; create a pay structure that supports latitude to adjust work assignments and organizational structures.
- Improve civilian performance by establishing a pay for performance system; salary and retention based on contribution to mission, not seniority.
- Provide a responsive discipline, grievance, and appeal process.
- Allow for effective and efficient management-union collaboration.
- Manage to funded workload.
- Increase managerial and employee accountability.

Employees will be given new performance plans linking the District's organizational mission and strategic goals with individual objectives. They will also be converted to pay bands that replace the General Schedule. Employees will not lose pay upon conversion to NSPS and most will receive an initial adjustment in pay to account for time already earned toward their next within grade increase.

DoD currently proposes conversion of the remainder of the non-bargaining unit workforce in October 2007.

"An implementation plan and updates will be provided as DoD publishes additional information," said Stroock.

"We're getting new and more information everyday on the implementation procedures and guidelines. This is an ever moving train," said Leigh. "Patience from supervisors and employees is needed during this time as we're all learning this system together."

In the meantime, employees are encouraged to visit the NSPS website at [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101/nsps/index.htm](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101/nsps/index.htm) to take the NSPS 101 web based training. Within this program is a conversion calculator that will provide employees a snapshot of what their compensation will be upon conversion into NSPS.

The Department of the Army website also provides general information and the guidance on the Army NSPS training programs and schedules at [www.cpol.army.mil/library/general/NSPS/](http://www.cpol.army.mil/library/general/NSPS/).



# American Bald Eagle Watch 2007 Winter Schedule

## Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days Quad City Conservation Alliance Exposition Center, Jan. 6-7

- Live eagle and bird of prey programs by the World Bird Sanctuary
- Wildlife art show and sale
- Environmental Fair
- Special attractions – Clyde Peeling’s Reptiles and Gen Ebert Mammals of Wisconsin
- Hours – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 6 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 7
- Admission - \$4 for adults, \$1 for children six-15, free for five and under
- For more information, call the Mississippi River Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338 or Arlynn Hartwig at (309) 788-2543

## Clinton Bald Eagle Watch Jan. 6

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Live bird programs and storytelling at Clinton Community College from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Exhibits open for viewing at Clinton Community College from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Free bus service from the college to the outdoor viewing area
- For more information call (217) 228-0890



## Mississippi River Visitor Center Jan. 13 – Feb. 18 (Weekends Only)

- Combination eagle watches and Clock Tower tours.
- Hours are 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Reservations required. Group size is limited. Call (309) 794-5338

## Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch Riverview Center, Jan. 13

- Outdoor viewing from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverside Park at Lock and Dam 16
- Live eagle programs at 9:30 and 11 a.m. at Riverside Park
- For more information call (563) 263-7913

## Dubuque Bald Eagle Days Jan. 13

- Outdoor viewing south of Lock and Dam 11 at A.Y. McDonald Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Live eagle programs by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.
- Indoor exhibits from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Grand River Center - Port of Dubuque
- For more information call (563) 556-4372



## Keokuk Bald Eagle Days Jan. 20-21

- Indoor programs and environmental fair at River City Mall in Keokuk, Iowa
- Live eagle programs on Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Outdoor viewing along the riverfront
- For more information call (800) 383-1219

## LeClaire Bald Eagle Watch Jan. 27 – 28

- Outdoor viewing at Locks and Dam 14, Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Jan. 28 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Indoor programs (at Mississippi Valley Welcome Center) Jan. 27 at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m.; Jan. 28 at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.
- For more information call (563) 322-3911 x120

## Quincy Bald Eagle Watch Jan. 28

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- For more information call (217) 228-0890

## Illinois Waterway Visitor Center Bald Eagle Watch Weekend, Ottawa, Ill. Jan. 27 - 28

- Activities will take place between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day.
- There will be live eagles and raptors programs at noon, 2, and 4 p.m., presented by the Illinois Raptor Center.
- Rudy Vallejo, Kickapoo Eagle Dancer, will be presenting Native American dances honoring bald eagles both days
- Face painting is available from 10 a.m. - 4:40 p.m.
- Suet feeder making will be ongoing each day
- Illinois Audubon members will be on hand with their high-powered scopes to allow visitors to view the eagles feeding below the dam, flying across the face of the river bluffs, and perching in the trees of the Plum Island Eagle Sanctuary
- All the activities are free of charge and food will be available both days
- For more information call (815) 667-4054



## Bald Eagle Days Pella Community Center & Lake Red Rock Feb. 9-10

- On Feb. 9, area school children are invited to attend the programs and on Feb. 10, the programs are open to the public
- Indoor presentations with live eagles and other birds of prey. Programs given on the hour at the Pella Community Center; Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Admission is free – no reservations needed for the general public day
- Outdoor viewing is available in the wild at the feeding area below the Red Rock Dam. Follow the signs from the Community Center (please bring your binoculars)
- The Red Rock Visitor Center, located on the south end of the Red Rock Dam, will also be open to provide additional information about the programs and lake area
- The sponsors this year are the Corps, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Marion County Conservation Board, Vermeer Manufacturing, Red Rock Lake Association, Pella Chamber of Commerce, Pella Comfort Inn and Suites, and the City of Pella
- For more information call at (641) 828-7522 or (641) 628-8690

## Saylorville Lake Bald Eagle Watch Feb. 25, 12 - 4 p.m.

- Begin at Saylorville Lake visitor center for eagle film, orientation, and to pick up your driving tour map and passport
- Follow the tour route to both indoor and outdoor viewing stops around Saylorville Lake filling your passport along the way
- Stops will include eagle viewing through spotting scopes along the Des Moines River and Saylorville Lake
- Attend a live eagle presentation at Jester Park Lodge at 1, 2, or 3 p.m.
- Those who fill their passports will be entered into a drawing for eagle-watching prizes
- For more information call 515-276-4656, ext. 6509



# Emergency Management Hosts Course, Receives Great Reviews

The Rock Island District's Emergency Management Division was in full gear Nov. 27 through Dec. 1, while the Division played host to its first Corps Proponent-Sponsored Engineer Corps Training course in Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.

The PROSPECT course included lectures, case studies, discussions and exercises to train participants in the Corps' emergency responsibilities involving all-hazard natural disaster preparedness, advance measures; emergency operations (flood and post-flood response); rehabilitation of flood control works threatened or destroyed by flood; protection or repair of federally authorized shore protection works threatened or damaged by coastal storm; and provision of emergency water supplies needed as a result of drought or contaminated sources.

The week-long course took place mainly at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Rock Island, Ill. However, one of the main parts of the course was a field trip that was taken to one of the District's local levee districts.

More than 45 course participants gathered in a bus and traveled to the Village of Andalusia Flood Protection Project in Andalusia, Ill. The project is a non-federal flood control project, which is part of the District's rehabilitation and inspection program managed by Emergency Management.

The field trip included an actual inspection of the project's levee and featured the use of a Geographic Information System Automated Inspection Tool. Kevin Carlock, Operations Division, demonstrated the program to the course participants.

While the site of a government truck driving on a levee and being closely followed by 45 people might have looked peculiar to anyone watching, what was actually taking place was a hands-on demonstration of the GIS inspection tool by Carlock. While the truck drove across the levee inch-by-inch, Carlock showed off the software and abilities of the program via a large flat-screen monitor mounted in the back of the truck. As the truck moved forward, so did the small pink triangle on the screen across satellite imagery of the levee. In real time, the inspection proceeded and when the pink triangle was next to a previously inspected deficiency the system would beep. At that point, Carlock said and indicated how easy it was to find the deficiency.

"The software even provides a dated photo of that specific area," said Carlock. "Now we only need to compare the photo to the current condition of the area and input whether the deficiency has been resolved."

Carlock is one of the proponents of the program and as part of a research and development initiative, funded by Headquarters through Engineer Research and Development Center - Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, helped to build and create it with Chris Alevey, Paul Deatruck, Louisville District, Emergency Management.

During the inspection, course participants were able to get a first-hand view of the areas, while the deficiencies were either determined to be resolved or not resolved. There were even some new deficiencies discovered and put into the system.

Many of the course participants said the knowledge gained from the field exercise was valuable and praised the District for a job well done.



**Kevin Carlock, Operations Division, demonstrates the Geographic Information System Automated Inspection Tool to course participants and shows them how it's used by the District to find previously documented levee deficiencies.**

"I think it's great," said Laura Rowland, Memphis District, Operations Division. "I've been looking forward to this (the inspection field trip). 'I think you guys did a great job.'"

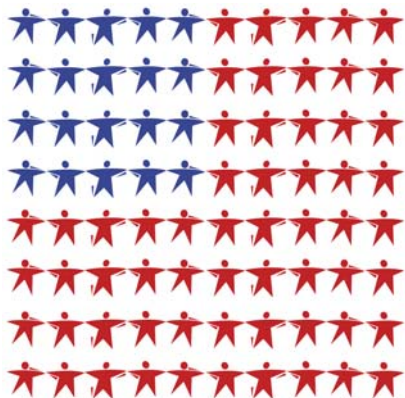
"I saw a lot of things that you can't see sitting in the office," said Greg Williams, Vicksburg District, Engineering Division. "This is really useful for when you get out on a levee because now you know what to look for and what can cause a deficiency ... what's unacceptable. It's been a good class to familiarize yourself with the regs and things that have to do with flood fighting."

Win Hargis, Little Rock District, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory, was specifically impressed with the inspection tool.

"I think the training was good, especially the GIS tool," said Hargis. "When you're out on a levee and you have the reports you're trying to remember where you saw this, and where you saw that ... it's good stuff that they're coming up with."

Course participants came from numerous different Corps districts and included people from many leadership levels as well. Lt. Col. Dave Pedersen, Jr., deputy commander, Norfolk District, was one of the highest ranking participants attending the course, but that didn't mean the information was any more or less valuable for him.

"The course overall has been very beneficial," said Pedersen. "In our district's Emergency Management the issue is what we say we can do, can we do it, and how can we get the money for it, it's always an issue. I know we have a levee inspection program, and our chief inspector is here with me, but I've never participated in one, so getting out into the field and seeing how it's actually done and what to look for is really beneficial." ■



# Big Money Given to Charities Through CFC

By Mark Kane

Rock Island District employees gave more money per donor than any other agency participating in this year's Illowa Combined Federal Campaign with numbers reaching a per donor average donation of \$325, which comes out to be more than \$12.50 per pay period. Pretty significant considering the Illowa CFC exceeded its goal and raised more than \$600,000 for this year's campaign.

"Every One of Us Can Be the Miracle" is the theme for the 2006 Illowa Bi-State campaign, an annual fund drive that covers federal and postal employees on Arsenal Island and in a 12-county region of western Illinois and eastern Iowa. The area reaches many District sites including the Clock Tower Complex and Locks and Dams 13 through 19.

The mission of the CFC is to support and promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

For the 10th year, the District has raised money for charities through the CFC by participation in its Chili Cook-off; and believe it or not, this is already the fifth year the Corps has used the Internet and an online auction to raise money for CFC.

While the date on the calendar read Oct. 11, the weather outside felt more like mid- to late-November on the day of the District's annual Chili Cook-off.

This year, the contest was held indoors across from the Clock Tower Building at Navy Operational Support Center Rock Island away from the elements, where the chili couldn't get too chilly.

The District's annual Chili Cook-off,

once again drew a large crowd of chili connoisseurs and costumed chili masters and raised \$731.31 for the United Way of the Quad Cities through the CFC.

Judges for the cook-off included Dan Burich, WQAD TV8, Danielle Howe, WLLR FM 107.3, and Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander.

The winners for best chili were: First Place – JoAnn Wilgenbusch, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, "Mmmm, Mmmm Good Chili;" Second Place – Leslie Robinson, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Rock Island Arsenal, "B.R.A.C. (Bubba Robinson's Astounding Chili);" and Third Place – Jim Kohl, Locks and Dam 15, "Of Course It's Hot Chili."

The winners for best costume were: First Place – Brian Tuftee, Office of Counsel, "Willy Wonka's Chili Extravaganza."

This year's People's Choice Award was awarded to Shelley Pagliarello, Operations Division, "Chili Italiano."

The First Place winner of the best chili award, JoAnn Wilgenbusch, will have her name added to the traveling 'Best Tasting Chili' pot.

In addition, the District once again played host to an online auction to raise funds for the CFC, which raised more than \$5,710. The results can be found on the Internet at: [www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/CFC/default.cfm](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/CFC/default.cfm).

Officially, the campaign is still going on, but the numbers are close to being final. With contributions and donations creeping toward \$50,000, the District has already exceeded last year's numbers by more than \$2,700.

Aimee Vermeulen, Office of Counsel,

and Joe Nobiling, Information Management, were the co-chairs of this year's District CFC.

Vermeulen said it's great to see the District continue to support the CFC through donations and fundraisers. She emphasized how much thanks goes out to those individuals who chaired each event and all the key people who's efforts contributed to a successful campaign.

"I would like to thank Jody Schmitz for her outstanding work on the Chili Cook-off and also George Hardison for his dedication to the most successful online auction yet," said Vermeulen. "Our campaign would not be nearly as successful without their continual help."

Key people in this year's campaign included Melany Bazare, Joyce Byrd, David Dierickx, Donna Hardy, John Roodhouse, James Trail, and Michael Valle, Operations Division; Bonnie Bernat, Diana Buck, Toby Hunemuller, Julie Fisher, Lynnann Smith, and Keith Wilson, Engineering and Construction; Karen Hagerty and Jodi Staebell, Programs and Project Management; Aimee Vermeulen, Office of Counsel, Joe Nobiling, Information Management; Annette Bealer, Resource Management; Breanna VanDeWostine, Real Estate; and Angie Gilbraith, Internal Review.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

Online information regarding the Illowa Bi-State CFC can be found at [www.illowacfc.org](http://www.illowacfc.org).

# Safety Now

By Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander, Mississippi Valley Division

Safety is one of my top priorities in the valley, and I am concerned about our safety record here in the Mississippi Valley Division ... especially over the past year. Therefore, I have directed my staff to initiate a new safety awareness campaign so that we in the Valley can again become a leader in Corps safety efforts.

During Fiscal Year 2005, the Division experienced a spike with both our government and contractor accidents and injuries. Nearly 100 of our employees lost workdays due to on-the-job-injuries. That is a tremendous loss of manpower and an unnecessary hardship on individual lives and their families. Along the same line, more than 20 of our contractors lost work because of workplace injury.

This was not an acceptable way of doing business, and I'm proud to say that you reversed that trend this past year. Government lost-time accidents were reduced nearly 50 percent and contractor lost-time accidents dropped by more than 80 percent. This is a fantastic turnaround, and it wouldn't have been possible without all of you -- commanders, supervisors, office workers, and all of our employees -- thinking about safety and bringing safety to work with you.

We want to keep safety at work, and we have formed a committee called the Safety Now Advocate Group. It's composed of representatives from each of our districts and Ray Newman from the New Orleans District is leading this group of talented Valley people. I have charged this group with implementing an initiative we are calling Safety Now ... not yesterday, not tomorrow, but now. The group will be continually working to keep safety in our forefront with the following three major initiatives:

First ... a safety award program to provide recognition to those advancing the Safety Now program and making real

contributions to reduce and even eliminate accidents.

Second ... an annual Safety Now banquet to recognize our safety movers and shakers.

And third ... is the Safety Now Action Chat ... or SNAC. This is the unique feature of our program that will localize our initiatives and bring us the constant awareness we must have.

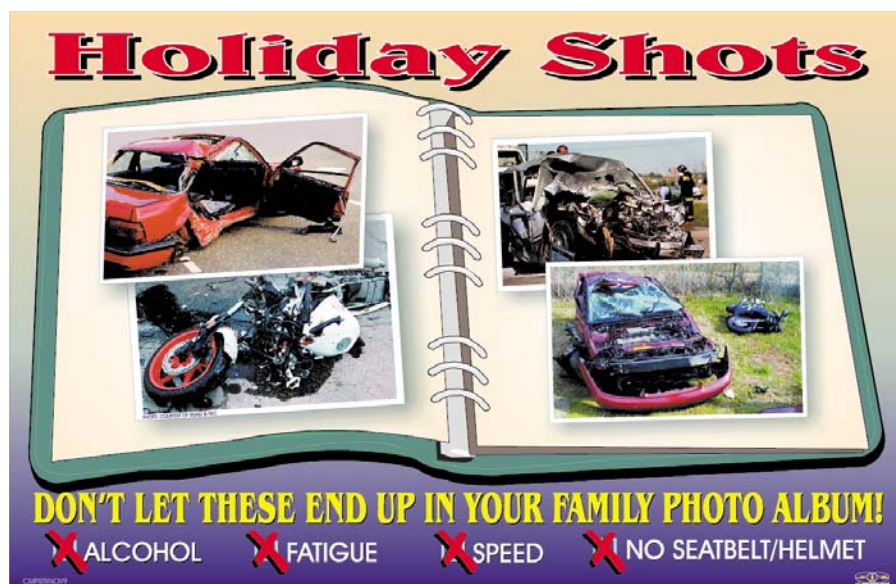
These meetings will be somewhat similar to the weekly toolbox safety meetings ... required by our Safety and Health Requirements Manual ... our green book ... EM 385-1-1. The Safety Now Action Chat does not replace these meetings, but extends this concept to all our people, not just those on projects and not just contractors.

We use the word chat for these meetings because they are intended to be small, informal group discussions of a common safety topic. Discussions might include an activity hazard analysis, a near-miss injury, new safety equipment, proper lifting techniques, or any number of topics that result in action being taken to improve safety practices.

As the acronym SNAC indicates, these meetings will be short ... 10 to 15 minutes long ... like a snack. They will occur regularly, but be concise and to the point. At least for the first month of this new program, I ask that everyone in the entire Division participate in these group chats ... in small groups ... and simultaneously at 1 p.m. each Friday. Consider the power of that -- the entire Division's 5,000-plus employees, all concentrating concurrently on improving our safety record on an actionable, grass roots level. Hooah!

Nov. 3 served as the first SNAC for us. It was one of the first of many SNACs to come and the beginning of many initiatives of the Safety Now program that will lead us to the top of the Corps in safety performance. Given our great people ... I have no doubt we can accomplish this goal.

Thank you for listening -- safety now! Hooah! 🇺🇸





# WINTER DRIVING, BE PREPARED

By Beth Army, Safety Office

**W**inter is the most difficult driving season. Not only do you have snow and ice to deal with, but there are fewer hours of daylight as well.

- Before winter arrives, make sure your vehicle is in good condition.
- If you must drive, clear the ice and snow from your vehicle, all windows and windshield wipers.
- Plan your route
  - Be familiar with the maps/directions to avoid confusion.
  - Check the weather reports and adjust starting time.
  - Let others know your plans.
- Always fill the gasoline tank before entering open country, even for a short distance, and stop to fill-up long before the tank begins to run low. Keeping the gas tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble.
- A cell phone can be very useful to you or another stranded motorist in case of an emergency. Remember, pull off the road and stop when talking on the cell phone.

## Ice

Expect icy conditions any time the outside air temperature reaches 40 degrees or lower. Although water freezes at 32 degrees, road surface can freeze when the air temperature drops to 40 degrees or less. An important place to watch for this condition is on bridges. Bridge surfaces are exposed to the wind, and cool off faster than the rest of the road. You should also prepare for icy conditions when traveling on roads through shaded areas. When the sun cannot dry it, a cold wind can freeze a wet road.

To avoid skids, brake carefully and gently on snow or ice. Squeeze your brakes in slow, steady strokes. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes do not pump the brakes, apply a steady pressure. Allow the wheels to keep rolling. If they start to lock up, ease off the brake pedal. As you slow down, you may also want to shift into a lower gear.

## Snow Plows

With the plows and sanders out on the roadway, motorists are advised to be aware of a few safety tips when they encounter the snow and ice control operations.

- Remember that the road in front of the plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind the plow. Department of Transportation plows will typically travel at about 25 mph and there is always the temptation to try and pass them. It is difficult for the operator to see vehicles behind the plow until they pull into the adjacent lane to pass and the driver also may have limited visibility due to the blowing snow from the plow blade. It's a good idea to remain well behind the plow until you reach your destination.
- When trucks are putting sand down on the road, motorists should keep several car-lengths behind at all times. The spreading system is designed to spray the sand into both lanes.
- On many two-lane state highways, drivers may encounter plows with their blades extending slightly into the opposite lane. This is necessary to clear the centerline for safety purposes. Motorists should move to the right portion of their lane to allow the oncoming plow to pass by.
- In severe conditions, motorists may not see the rear lights and flashing beacons on the plow until the very last moment. There have been incidents where motorists have collided with the back of snowplows or sanders when they failed to see the equipment in front of them. Drivers need to slow down during severe weather conditions for their own safety, the safety of the maintenance personnel and other drivers. Remember the plows will travel only as fast as conditions allow.

Motorists are reminded that there are many miles of roads and highways to maintain and, under average conditions, some sections of roadway may only receive attention once or twice per day. Drivers need to be alert for changing surface conditions and reduce their speed during the winter months. ■

# District Team Works Together for Success

By Mike Roarty, chief, Internal Review



**P**ricewaterhouseCoopers and the Department of Defense Inspector General visited the District Sept. 11 through 15 as part of their Corps-wide audit of the USACE Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The audit is being done as part of an ongoing effort in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990. The CFO Act requires that the financial statements be audited in accordance with applicable generally-accepted government auditing standards by the agency's inspector general or independent external auditor.

The ultimate goal of the Corps and the CFO Act is to have an independent external auditor issue an unqualified opinion of the USACE Financial Statements.

PWC and DODIG auditors' main focus during their visit to the District was "existence testing" of our floating assets, along with internal-control testing of

Resource Management and Real Estate functions.

Inside the Clock Tower, the auditors visited RM, Contracting, RE, Logistics Management, Programs and Project Management, and the Office of Counsel. Outside the Clock Tower, the audit team visited Locks and Dams 14 through 18 along with Oquawka and River Mile 608 on the Mississippi, and Peoria, Starved Rock and Joliet on the Illinois Waterway.

The Internal Review chief said results of the auditors visit were outstanding. This District was truly "One team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable"

Individual Corps personnel on the locks and dams who should be singled out for unselfishly contributing their time to helping the auditors find and verify the existence of our floating assets, which cover hundreds of miles on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers were Larry Collins, Jim Wilson, Mike Zerbonia, Mike

Beneventi, Dana Crawford, Jeff Wamsley, Rex Johnsen and Dave Armentrout.

Individuals inside the Clock Tower who contributed their time and expertise were Frank Monfeli, Jon Fleischman, and Tom Mack on construction in process projects; Tim Olsen from RM; and Karen Grizzle for RE who worked extensively with the auditors all week to ensure that all internal control testing went smoothly.

But it wasn't just those employees who made this a success; it was truly a team effort. Many offices had to be involved in order for this audit to proceed smoothly and efficiently. The security office for access, LM for work stations, Information Management for Internet, phone and printer needs, and the Internal Review office for all liaison functions and coordination.

I believe that the entire District was responsible for showing ourselves in the best light possible to these outside auditors from PWC and DODIG. 🇺🇸

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## Congressional Visits Impact District

By Justine Barati, Public Affairs

**O**n Sept. 18, Col. Robert Sinkler, Gary Loss, and Ron Fournier flew to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong visit to Congress. The purpose of the trip was to inform and educate the Rock Island District's Congressional Delegation about the important work the District is doing to serve the nation.

Throughout the week, they visited with seven Senators and 18 Congressman. These are one-on-one meetings in the offices of Congressmen or their staff representatives to educate them about the important work Corps employees are doing to support the public within their Congressional district.

By providing members of Congress with a better understanding of the Corps' mission and responsibilities, the District makes it easier for them to make informed decisions about how the Corps should be funded each fiscal year.

The meetings are also an opportunity for the District staff to receive valuable feedback about the Corps' strengths and weaknesses within each Congressional district. This helps senior leaders set goals for improvements to District processes.

In preparation for the meetings, members of the District staff updated fact sheets about each of the District's

projects and programs. These fact sheets are located on the Intranet and are viewable by Congress. Fact sheets are an important tool used in updating Congress about the status of Corps activities.

Congressional visits are coordinated through the Public Affairs Office and are conducted twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

A lunch and learn about the congressional visits was conducted Sept. 28. The lunch and learn was supported by the District Communications Team. For more information about the DCT go to <https://intranet.mvr.usace.army.mil/mt/DCT/>. 🇺🇸



## Around the District

### District Commander's Award

**Marsha Dolan**, Programs and Project Management, received the September Commander's Award.

Dolan earned the award for developing an Educators' River Tour as one of the activities onboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi. Dolan was also a member of the Low Water Inspection Trip Planning Team. In addition to the many tasks those duties required, she prepared for, coordinated, and executed this new endeavor to educate the educators in less than two months and in an exceptional manner.

**Marlyn Schafer**, Operations Division, received the August Commander's Award.

Schafer earned the award for coordinating 34 regional permit actions for environmental improvements in the Spoon River in Illinois. The actions were submitted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in furtherance of the Lt. Governor's initiative to clean-up the Illinois basin. Schafer's actions were extremely timely and conducted at the same time he managed a case load of individual permits (more than 60 total permit actions).

**Mike Schulte**, Student Career Experience Program, Operations Division, received the July Commander's Award.

Schulte earned the award performing high-quality customer service, emergency repairs to the lock equipment, filling in on shift work for employee's taking annual leave, and for raising the bar when it comes to getting work done at his lock site.

**Marvin Morris**, Operations Division, received the June Commander's Award.

Morris earned the award for being responsible for and coordinating numerous important and sensitive projects

during the period of June 15 through July 31. Morris was the primary management staff person responsible for the Tenacity Lane access project, coordinating the work of the maintenance staff, handling delicate relationships with affected landowners, and providing support to the Operations Manager in dealing with both District office elements and Congressional interests.

### Resource Management Recovers \$87,000

When the District converted accounting programs from the Corps of Engineers Management Information System to the current Corps of Engineers Financial Management System, a project with the City of Hannibal for flood protection resulted in a balance due from the city of more than \$85,000.

Since the main portion of the multi-million dollar project was completed it became very difficult to carry it over to the new accounting system.

The check was placed in Special Deposits until CEFMS updates could be coordinated with the Systems Development Center in Huntsville, Ala., and the Finance Center in Millington, Tenn.

Employees in the Finance and Accounting Branch, Resource Management, succeeded in resolving this longstanding issue that dates back to Fiscal Year 1996 and remained as a suspended deposit since 2002.

Mary Bartemeyer and Mike Tomlinson, RM, earned a lot of the credit for ensuring it was finally resolved.

Bartemeyer never let it die as an issue and Tomlinson had to pursue the issue through many different individuals at the

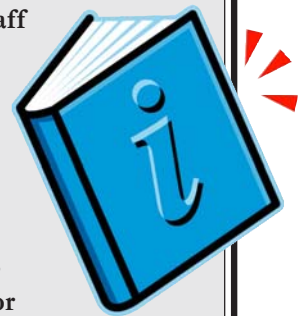
Finance Center. Both Bartemeyer and Tomlinson received an On-The-Spot Cash Award for their diligence and work, which resulted in the District recovering the \$87,000.

### Need some help finding a book, an article or obscure report?

The USACE Technical Library, located on the lower level of the Clock Tower Building, has a trained Library staff with a professional librarian available for your research.

The Library staff conducts searches and obtains interlibrary loans of articles, reports and other pertinent material for your informational needs.

Their website - [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Library](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Library) - offers an example to some of the many services provided. Call the District Library at 309-794-5884 for more details.



## Retirements ...

**David Washington Jr.**, general maintenance supervisor, Maintenance Support Unit, Maintenance Section, Illinois Waterway Project Office, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 40 years and two months to the federal government.

**Robert Simonton**, civil engineering technician, General Engineering Section, Design Branch, Engineering and Construction, will retire Jan. 2, after dedicating 38 years, three months, and 23 days to the federal government.

**Jimmie Wells**, maintenance worker, Lake Red Rock Project Office, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 2, after dedicating 41 years, 11 months, and 20 days to the federal government.

**James Metz**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 16, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 15 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**Douglas Robinson**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 11, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating eight years and 11 months to the federal government.

**James Wilson**, chief, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 31, after dedicating 24 years and three months to the federal government.

**Rodney Jones**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 17, Operations Division, will retire Dec. 22, after dedicating 13 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**John Wochner**, painter, Structures Maintenance Unit, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Nov. 30, after dedicating 23 years and three months to the federal government.

**Everette Patterson**, maintenance worker, Natural Resource Management Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Sept. 30, after dedicating 19 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**Larry Jones**, civilian executive assistant, Executive Office, retired Sept. 30, after dedicating 29 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**Patrick McFarland**, lock and dam repairer, Structures Maintenance Unit, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Sept. 30, after dedicating 24 years and 9.5 months to the federal government.

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## Sympathy ...



Loren Carey, 70, of Moline, Ill., Dec. 11, at Trinity Medical Center, West, Rock Island, Ill.

Carey was chief of the Drafting and Illustrating section, Design Branch,

Engineering Division, until 1986 when Information Management was created. He then became the chief of the Audio/Visual Reproduction Section, IM.

He served on active duty in the U.S. Army.



Rex Craver, 90, of rural Montezuma, Iowa, formerly of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Nov. 15, in St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids, from complications of a heart attack.

Craver worked with the District as an electrical engineer in the Communications department. He worked with the District for 10 years and retired in 1980.

Craver served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater of World War II as a radar specialist with the Signal Corps.



Donald Kraus, 74, of Stonehill Care Center, Dubuque, Iowa, formerly of Clinton, Iowa, died Oct. 19.

Kraus served more than 30 years in government service in the Army, Air Force, Army Reserves and with the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers, where he served for many years as a lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam 11 and 13. He retired on June 26, 1992.



Ronald Bauer, 71, of Burt, Iowa, died Oct. 15, at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit, Mason City, Iowa.

Bauer was a civil accounting technician in the Finance and Accounting department and retired in 1998 with 18 years of service.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War from 1954 to 1957.



James Egan, 86, of Milan, Ill., died Oct. 15, at Trinity Pathway Hospice at Terrace Park, Bettendorf, Iowa.

Egan was a mechanical engineer with the District and retired in 1979.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.



Jimmie Hoover, 54, of Davenport, Iowa, died Sept. 19, at his home.

Hoover worked for the District as a lockman, diver, and crane operator, and retired in 2000 due to failing

health.

He served in the U.S. Army in 1st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, in both Vietnam and Indochina during the Vietnam War.



Robert "Bob" Falls, 80, of Thomson, Ill., died Aug. 13, at his home.

Falls worked as a towboat operator for the District and retired in June of 1986.

He served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Islands, Japan, and China, during World War II.

## NOTE

Please send achievements, births, and obituaries for this page to the editor at: [mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil](mailto: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](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm)



## Cold Temps Won't Stop Divers

Story and photos by Mark Kane

Although the water temperature of the Mississippi River at Locks and Dam 15 was just above freezing at 36 degrees with the air temperature below 30 degrees, the job of repairing the bubblers in the main lock had to take place.

While there wasn't ice forming in the water, the temperature was far below anything most people would recreate in when it comes to having fun in the water. On Dec. 4 and 5, employees from the Mississippi Project Maintenance Unit and divers from Lock and Dam 11 and 17, were at Lock 15 to bring the bubblers on line.

Steve Felderman, lockmaster at Locks and Dam 15, said the bubblers at the locks are used to keep the water in the lock moving and reduce the amount of ice that can form.

The first day Bill Ford, Operations Division, was the diver who, after clearing out silt and debris from the bubbler pipes, was able to find the problem.

"There's a crack in an elbow of the pipe," said Ford. "We'll have to fix it using a rubber patch."

Ford and Daryl Packard, Operations Division, both suited up as divers and spent several hours the next day on Dec. 5, putting a temporary rubber patch on the crack using c-clamps.

Felderman said the fix is working well and the bubblers are operational.

"They did a great job," said Felderman. "Not only did they fix the crack, but they cleaned out the pipe that had a lot of silt in it." 🗣️



Daryl Packard, left, and Bill Ford, right, don their diving gear in preparation for a dive operation on Dec. 4. Joe Fryer, middle, also a diver, watches and listens as all three go through verbal pre-dive safety procedures.



Bill Ford descends into the main lock chamber's cold water at Locks and Dam 15.



# Make History in New Orleans Make a Difference for America

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**Join the Corps in rebuilding the Big Easy**

photos courtesy of USACE and the Louisiana Department of Tourism

## Join the Corps in the Big Easy

By Leo Skinner,  
New Orleans Public Affairs

**M**ake History in New Orleans -- Make a Difference for America is the catch phrase being used in a campaign, which kicked off this fall to encourage our employees to check out Corps job opportunities in New Orleans.

In one of the largest public works projects in American history, the Corps is restoring, repairing and improving the hurricane protection system of southeast Louisiana noted commander and Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock. In encouraging staff to come to New Orleans he said, "I can't promise you fame or glory, but I can guarantee you the satisfaction of being part of something bigger than yourself -- of truly making a difference."

And while helping to rebuild New Orleans, potential employees will have the opportunity for promotion and eligibility for higher-level positions throughout the Corps, and return rights for the position they left.

Interested employees should call (504) 862-2800, visit [www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil), [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil), or [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). You also need to speak with your supervisor about your interest and coordinate your deployment with your supervisor and Emergency Management. 🇺🇸

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