



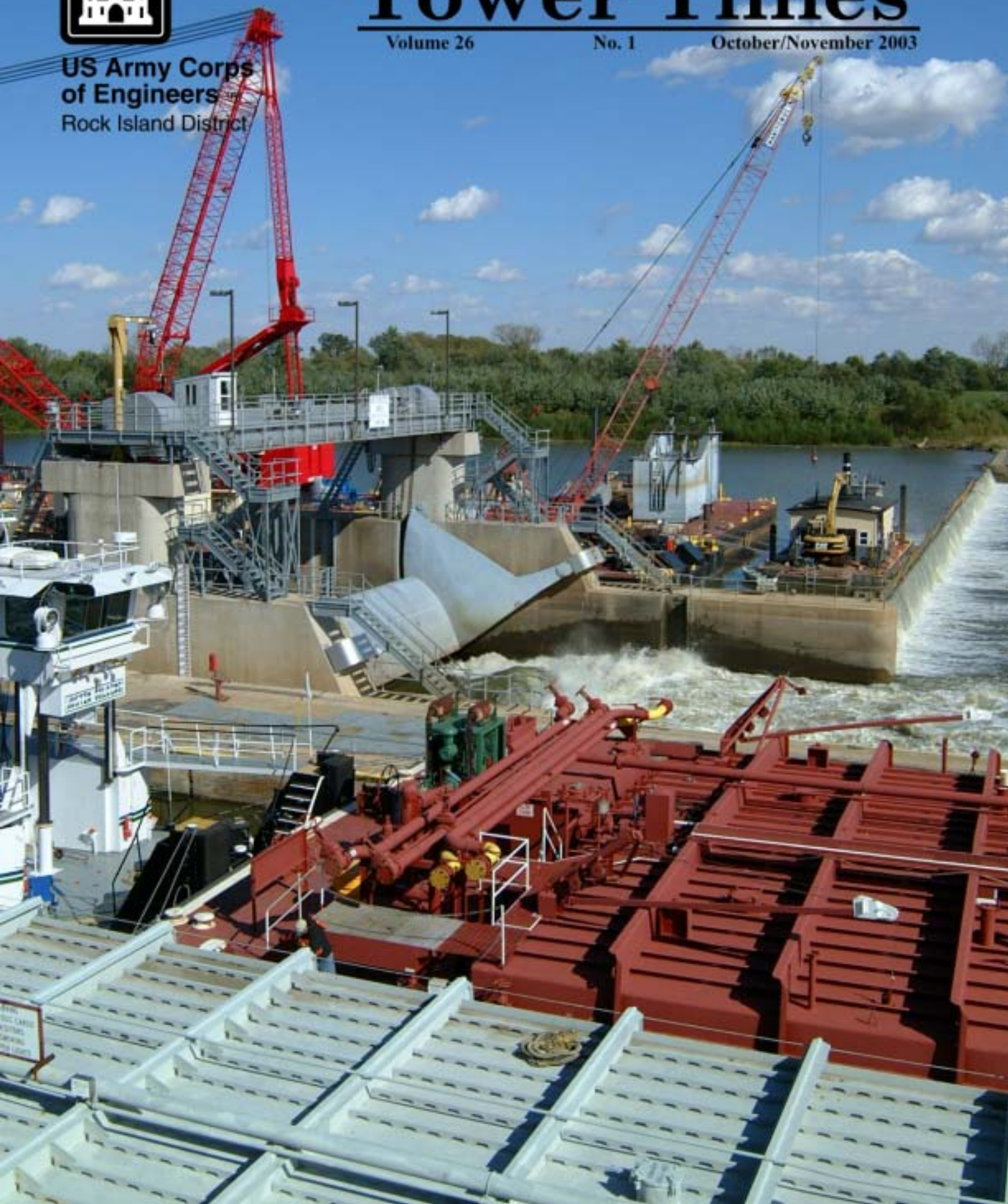
Tower Times

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District





Spotlight on the District

Jim Kelley Park Ranger, Thomson Ranger Office

Story and photo by Mark Kane

During the late '80s big hair was in, Indiana Jones and Marty McFly were bringing in box office bucks, and according to Jim Kelley, job openings for park rangers with the Corps of Engineers were plentiful.

Kelley, park ranger, Thomson Ranger Office, took one of those jobs shortly after he was graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., with a bachelor of science in forestry and outdoor recreation management. Even before he was graduated, he said he knew he wanted to be a park ranger in the Corps.

"While in college, I worked two summers with the Corps of Engineers and enjoyed the work I did, the agency, and people I worked for," said Kelley.

Kelley grew up in Kewanee, Ill., a short 47-mile jaunt from his current

residence in Port Byron, Ill., where he lives with his wife, their 2-year-old son and 5-month-old daughter, as well as the family cat, Smokey.

He says he especially likes spending time with his family and friends. As far

along the Mississippi River."

Kelley assists in the management of seven recreation areas that are operated by the Thomson Ranger Office. Look a little deeper into his job and you'll find that Kelley wears many hats that

include: coordinating and conducting interpretive programs and special events, volunteer coordinating, patrolling and assisting visitors, managing and maintenance of recreation areas, as well as administrat-ing contracts (law enforcement and service contracts).

Through all his duties and exposure to the Corps, Kelley said the things he likes most about working for this agency is simply, "The professionalism of the Corps and its employees," said Kelley.

In addition to spending time with his family and friends, Kelley's hobbies include skiing (downhill and cross country), hiking, camping, bicycling, softball,

and traveling. Not a big surprise given the fact he enjoys being outdoors so much.

His advice to anyone reading this article is, "Enjoy the simple pleasures in life."

Kelley had one more bit of advice for anyone that wants a flavor of his surroundings, or many like it right here in our own District.

"If you have not had a chance to visit one of the Corps' river recreation areas, please come and check them out, you will be impressed," said Kelley. 🇺🇸



Kelley gives an honorary park ranger sticker to his daughter during one of her visits to her father's place of work at the Thomson Ranger Office.

as what he likes about his job, Kelley said, "The variety of job duties and the chance to work in an outdoor setting

"Spotlight Someone You Know"

The next District Spotlight employee could be working right beside you, and the only way you'll see that person here is if you let me know it.

If you know someone who you feel is doing a

good job, setting a good example, or is a pleasure to work around, maybe it's time the District knew it.

Ready to tell the rest of the District, then e-mail me at:

Mark.A.Kane@usace.army.mil



Tower Times
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District Engineer
Col. Duane P. Gapinski

Editor
Mark A. Kane

Chief, Public Affairs
Ron Fournier

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On the Cover

A tow pushes its barges through LaGrange Lock and Dam during a warm afternoon in early October. The Illinois Waterway's crane, the Hercules, can be seen in the background during maintenance work at the lock. Illinois Waterway Structures Maintenance Unit 1 used the crane to set a dewatering bulkhead. Later, divers sealed the bulkhead so the lock could be pumped dry, new wickets installed, and wicket anchorage repaired.

Photo by Mark Kane.



District Participates In Charity Campaign 12-13

USACE 2012 and Us

By Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer

On Oct. 2, I, along with the other 40 district engineers, had the opportunity to discuss USACE 2012 with the Chief of Engineers. It was the most important meeting that I have attended during my short tenure. We had the opportunity to give the Chief feedback on USACE 2012 and clear up uncertainties. It was a fascinating meeting during which the Chief relayed his intent and cleared up issues that were not effectively conveyed in the USACE 2012 Final Report.

As you may have noticed, I have been silent on USACE 2012. Many in the Corps workforce have a limited understanding of how USACE 2012 will impact us. Until recently, the only person that seemed to be discussing it with the workforce was the Chief of Engineers. Probably because many of us, especially yours truly, were confused. Hopefully, I can clear up that confusion and describe how this is going to affect us all.

The objectives of USACE 2012 are to maintain our competency and reduce our overhead so that we can achieve the goal of delivering timely, effective services at the lowest possible cost to our customers.

The two main messages the Chief gets from our customers and stakeholders are: our processes are daunting and slow, and there is no consistency within the Corps.

What we need is common processes, common enablers, and a more effective way for the headquarters (both Division and USACE) to facilitate the districts' success.

The success of the Corps rests with the districts and the ability to deliver valuable services, whether it is the operation and maintenance of the navigation channel, the construction of a project, or emergency response operations. Therefore, everything the Corps does must support that success. USACE 2012 provides the framework for the national and regional (division) headquarters.

The guiding principle will be interdependence. There will be no full-service organizations within USACE. In other words, it's no longer about organizations, blocks and wiring diagrams, it's about teams.

While it would take too much space to detail the changes at Division and HQUSACE, suffice to say that USACE 2012 implements the project management business process at those levels. Division and HQUSACE will operate along project delivery team lines, that is, instead of stovepipes (for example, Engineering, Construction, etc.), these headquarters will be organized around multifunctional teams. At Division, for instance, there will be two major teams – a team that focuses on support functions and regional business, and a team that focuses on program execution. "A Team of Teams," as the Chief likes to say, that results in a more synchronized approach by HQUSACE and Division to resolve District issues.

For most of us, this will have a minor effect on where we work. How we work will continue to evolve, as we continue to implement PMBP and all that it entails with respect to project delivery, so that we can continue to improve the services we provide.

What will change is that certain support functions will be

consolidated at the Division level. The Division must determine which of those support functions are to be consolidated. It does not follow that those functions that are consolidated will be executed at the Division level. It could very well be done at the District level. For example, if the Mississippi Valley Division determines that it should regionalize any of the support functions, e.g. contracting, logistics, public affairs, etc., the Rock Island District could become the provider of that support function to the entire Division. MVD must determine what support functions to consolidate and how to execute that consolidation by Nov. 1. Rock Island District leadership will be personally involved in that project delivery team. I will report on what the implementation plan is as soon as possible.

Another major effect will be increased delegated authority for project execution. A Partnering Agreement will replace the Project Cooperation Agreement. This Partnering Agreement will be negotiated and executed by the District. This should greatly reduce the project delivery time, as of now, there will be no need for higher headquarters review of the agreement.

USACE 2012 also implements the concept of communities of practice. A community of practice is comprised of individuals who practice and share an interest in a functional area or business line. Communities of practice facilitate the maintenance and advancement of our technical expertise. Think of it as the implementation of knowledge management. Communities of practice will move us further from traditional stovepipes.

I encourage everyone to read the recently released document. I spoke about USACE 2012 during my brown bag lunch held at the Clock Tower Building on Oct. 7 and will continue to seek out opportunities to speak to you about it.

We are going to implement USACE 2012. Our job is make sure that we do so in a manner that allows us to deliver our projects quicker and at the best value to our customers. This implementation can be an ordeal or it can be an adventure. The difference will be in our attitude. I plan on it being an adventure ... I invite you to join me in that adventure.

One Corps, team of teams, operating virtually, and a learning organization. ■

USACE 2012 on the 'Net

www.hq.usace.army.mil/stakeholders



Take Your Last Puff

By Marcie Birk, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Are you a tobacco user? Are you tired of wasting money on cigarettes? Are you worried about what cigarette smoke is doing to your children? Are you ready to quit? Then the Great American Smokeout is for you! On Nov. 20, you, and thousands of other Americans can say, "So long, tobacco road" and "Hello, healthier life" during the nation's biggest freedom-from-tobacco event.

Each year, more than 400,000 Americans die from cigarette smoking. In fact, one in every five deaths in the United States is related to smoking. Smoking tobacco causes chronic lung disease, heart disease, and stroke, as well as cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth, and bladder.

Smokeless tobacco, along with being more addictive than smoking, causes cancer of the gums, mouth, and throat.

These long-term risks of tobacco use are deadly serious. But did you know that tobacco damages your health from the very beginning? For example, the nicotine in tobacco reduces blood flow to the muscles, therefore, increasing the risk for injuries and slowing the healing of muscle tears. This has a definite impact on fitness. Nicotine also lowers the level of testosterone in the blood and can lead to impotence for men. Tobacco reduces night

vision, which can be a serious problem for soldiers in the field.

If you want to quit using tobacco, ask your health-care provider to recommend a local tobacco-cessation program. Most installations have these programs, and studies have shown that participation in a structured program significantly improves the chance for success.

Do you live close to the Rock Island Arsenal? The Arsenal offers smoking cessation classes, an ongoing program every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. To enroll, call 309-782-4357.

If you can't get into a program right away, use the following four

cigarette butts in and around your yard. Ask your friends and family not to smoke in your house, in your car, or around you for at least three weeks.

Step Three: Avoid situations that lead to tobacco use. Think about those times that you use tobacco. Is it during break time at work? While driving? When talking on the phone? At a restaurant? Avoid those places or situations for a few months. Of course, there are some places you can't avoid, such as driving your car. In those situations, substitute a new, enjoyable behavior for smoking. For example, instead of lighting up when driving, have a lollipop. When talking on the phone, keep your hands busy by doodling on a piece of paper. During break time, take a walk around the building, bring in a favorite magazine to read, or listen to the radio.

Step Four: Take care of yourself. Enjoy your meals. Sharper taste and smell will be early noticeable benefits of your freedom from tobacco. Drink plenty of water to flush the nicotine from your body. Use deep breathing and relaxation exercises to help you

through stressful times. Call a friend when you need a pep talk. Calculate how much money you're saving and buy something fun!

The Great American Smokeout on Nov. 20 is a great time to quit tobacco and begin to enjoy all the benefits of saying, "So long, tobacco road." For more information about tobacco cessation, visit <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Population/TobaccoCessation.aspx>.



simple steps to get started.

Step One: Pick a quit date. The Great American Smokeout is a great day to quit. Mark Nov. 20 on your calendar. Write a list of reasons you want to quit using tobacco and get yourself ready to break free from tobacco addiction.

Step Two: Establish your tobacco-free zone. Throw away all cigarettes, matches, lighters, and chew. Clean and deodorize your house, car and clothing. Get rid of the ashtrays in your house and pick up

Did You Know?

In Illinois ...

- More than 34 percent of all high school students smoke.
- Each year, more than 34,800 teenagers and kids under 18 become regular smokers.
- 47.4 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by kids each year.

In Iowa ...

- 18.1 percent of all high school boys use smokeless tobacco.
- 4,600 people die each year in Iowa from smoking.
- On average, 231,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoking in their homes each year.

Information gathered from www.tobaccofreeqc.org

Program Hooks Kids on A

Story and photos by Scott Strotman, Operations Division



A cold breezy morning didn't stop more than 50 children with disabilities, and more than a dozen volunteers, from enjoying a great day of fishing and fun at an event co-sponsored by the Corps of Engineers and Catch A Special Thrill for Kids.

Sunset Park in Rock Island, Ill., was a busy place on Saturday morning, Oct. 4, as volunteers arrived as early as 6 a.m. to begin setting up for the event.

As each child checked in, they were provided a rod and reel, a tackle box full of fishing goodies, and a C.A.S.T. t-shirt and hat, all compliments of C.A.S.T. Of course, it's a little tough to fish when you're holding a fishing rod and tackle box in one hand, and a reel in the other. While most participants were able to put everything together, Bill Gretten, Operations Division, provided a short lesson on how to assemble a rod and reel and how to rig a line. With that accomplished, it was time to pick up some fishing worms and head for the water.

Water safety was a special concern, as it always is with the Corps of Engineers, and John Punkiewicz, Operations Division, provided a quick safety briefing. Personal floatation devices became the rule of the day for anyone who wished to take advantage of the many courtesy docks in the area. Thanks to the generous

support provided by the Rock Island Arsenal's Moral, Welfare and Recreation center, there were plenty of life jackets to go around, and for a time, John had his hands full fitting PFDs on those who needed help.

If you are one of those who think you have to catch fish in order to have fun fishing, maybe you need to take a lesson from one of these kids. While only a few fish were caught, just the thrill of being there and the excitement of "I think I got one," were enough to keep them happy. And when the fishing did get "boring," there were always rocks to throw or worms to play with. And that's exactly what happened when two young boys decided the cup the worms came in didn't make a very good home. It wasn't long before the mission of digging a new home in the shoreline overshadowed the idea of catching a special thrill.

Meanwhile, some of the volunteers were busy with food preparations. If all the fishing goodies and the beautiful morning were not enough to put a smile on the many faces, the picnic lunch of hot dogs, beans, chips, and pop made for a perfect culmination of the morning's activities. Participants lined up at about 11:30 a.m. for some great dogs and to share fishing stories.

Before they left, each child received

special recognition for participating in the program. Every participant was photographed and awarded a plaque with their instantly developed picture inserted into a Plexiglas pocket.

Although C.A.S.T. is a non-profit organization that formed in 1993, this is the first time they've teamed up with the Corps of Engineers in the Quad-City area. The idea was to give kids with disabilities an introduction to the outdoors and fishing. This is one sport where you don't have to be a Michael Jordan to be successful. John Punkiewicz was the primary coordinator of the event and for him he said, "It was a great opportunity for all of us to see what kids with disabilities are able to do and even excel at."

Volunteers from the Corps and local fishing and conservation clubs, along with donations of food and bait, added to the success of the program.

"Local organization support and the partnerships with federal agencies such as the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation are what have made events such as this a success throughout the country," said Jeff Owens, Northern Regional Director of C.A.S.T.

Visit C.A.S.T.'s website at www.castforkids.org, if you want to learn more. ■

Fishing



Background: Two C.A.S.T. participants patiently await any sign of a small nibble from a hungry fish.

Above: John Punkiewicz, Operations Division, shows a participant the proper method of wearing a personal floatation device.

Left: Two young fisherman participating in C.A.S.T. show how much they like their worms ... so much so that they decided to give them a new home in the ground rather than using them as fish bait.

The Vanguards of Trans-Mississippi West: Zebulon Pike's Expedition of the Upper Mississippi River

By Ron Deiss, Historical Archeologist, Programs and Project Management

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson made one of history's most famous land deals. Jefferson had authorized the "Louisiana Purchase" from France for the then tidy sum of 15 million dollars. This new territory nearly doubled the size of the United States and contained nearly 500 million acres of western lands known as the Louisiana Territory. This territory presently includes the 15 states of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The nearly 800,000 square miles encompassed by the Louisiana Purchase, spread from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, fell rightly into Jefferson's philosophical wake of the, "March of Democracy," and transitioned "Manifest Destiny" from a conceptual phenomenon into a political, cultural and geographic reality.

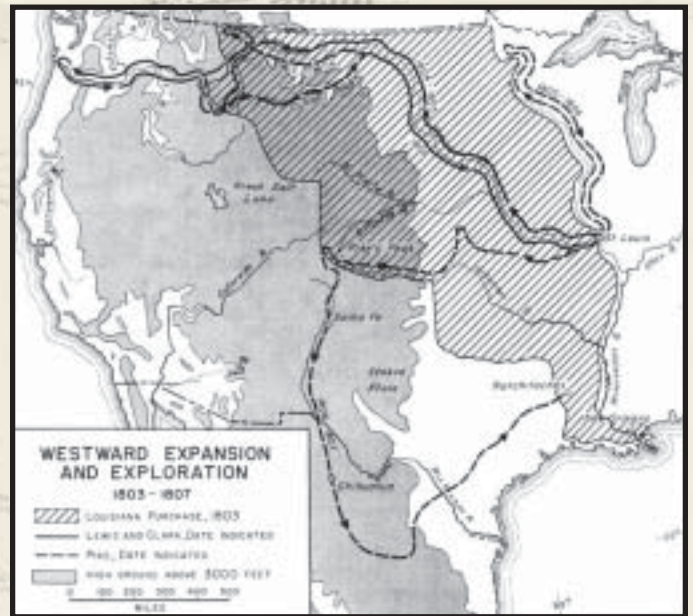
To explore these lands, Jefferson directed the very capable captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and their entourage, to search for the source of the Missouri River and explore its inhabitants, minerals and other natural resources the fledgling nation had just acquired. The team was also instructed to take notes and make maps of the area. Lewis and Clark left on their exploration in May 1804. On July 30, 1805, Maj. Zebulon Pike, then 27-years of age, was ordered by Gen. Wilkinson to describe the river and discover its true source.

Under Gen. Wilkinson's orders, Pike, with twenty Army regulars, left St. Louis in August 1805 and preceded upstream toward the source of the Upper Mississippi River. During the fall and winter of 1805-'06, Pike, and his attaché, would encounter brutally cold weather, icy river conditions, stretch their endurance, and be thrust into predicaments and situations both dangerous and unknown. The men were always on the brink of exhaustion resulting from the fast pace and adverse conditions. Pike was directed to take notes on the resources of the region, map and note discoveries during his exploration, and investigate the extensive territorial fur trade between the British and indigenous tribes.

Prior to Pike's exploration of the Upper Mississippi River, knowledge of the "Purchase" was primarily based upon the accounts of French and British traders. Places, names, and landmarks, (some to this day) often retained their Spanish, French, Indian or English names or derivations. Little was known of the topography, resources and inhabitants.

Copper ore was known as being mined, but it's source remained elusive. Lead ore, a highly sought mineral used for ammunition, was mined near present-day Galena, Ill., and

Dubuque, Iowa. The natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River seemed endless. The area provided: maple syrup, rice, wild game, wood, and most importantly trade in furs. Furs were in demand in the east and Europe and were acquired by exchange with the Native Americans then inhabiting the area, this trade was dominated by Europeans and their trade goods.



Zebulon M. Pike

Photo courtesy of Old Colorado City Historical Center.

The Expedition Begins— Up the Mississippi

On Aug. 9, 1805, Maj. Pike's expedition left St. Louis and headed up the Mississippi River with one sergeant, two corporals, 17 privates, and several dogs. Their mode of travel was a keelboat constructed of planks. The crude vessel measured 70 feet in length and held provisions for four months, as well as items brought as trade goods and presents. Upon completion of the expedition, Pike returned to St. Louis on April 30, 1806, and began to prepare a written account of his adventures and trials. The expedition, which lasted eight months-22 days was encapsulated in his report. That report contained: Pike's daily comments on the distance traveled; encampments made; encounters with settlers, traders and Native Americans along the way; and was replete with descriptions of animals, activities, and trading enterprises experienced by the corps. Pike sought to discover the source of the Upper Mississippi River, entered into treaties, extracted the nuances of trading activities, and produced an accurate map of the river and his travels upon and near it. This information was eventually published as a report and has come down to us as an invaluable window into the lives of 19th Century America and those tasked with its exploration.

Success at the Headwaters— Exploring the Source

Summary

On Jan. 31, 1806, Pike identified Leach Lake to be the source of the Mississippi River, in north-central Minnesota near the town of Walker. The following day, Pike and his men reconnoitered and came upon the trading post of High McGillis. McGillis was a Scotsman employed by the Northwest Company in the fur trade under British occupation. Pike and the expedition spent a few days at the McGillis's trading post and in mapping the area and noting other of the Northwest Companies Trading activities in the Louisiana Territory. He also met with many of the major chiefs of the Chippewa.

Pike's choice for the primary source of the Mississippi was determined to be Leach Lake and Cass Lake as the upper source, however, in 1832, it was determined that in actuality Lake Itasca, a small lake, which entered into Cass Lake, was the true source. Even today, a controversy surrounds the opinion that Lake Itasca is the source of the Mississippi River, since the much smaller Elk Lake and Nicollet Creek, which drain into Lake Itasca, have in the past been claimed as the true sources of the Mississippi. Although all of these theories have enjoyed many proponents, Pike's identification of the source was based on his view that drainage had the highest water flows, a judgment made during mid-winter when snow and ice covered the region.



Mouth of the Wyanconda River, Mo. One of Pike's campsites.

Mission Accomplished— Down the Mississippi

On Feb. 18, 1806, Pike, his soldiers, interpreter, and a few Chippewa, began the trek southward toward St. Louis. On noon, April 30, Pike and his entire entourage brought their barges into St. Louis, safe and sound. Pike assembled a map from his field maps and notes taken from his journal were submitted to Washington at a time when any little information regarding the newly acquired territory was eagerly sought after. It has been said by some historians that Pike's expedition does not compare to that completed by the iconic Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the source of the Missouri River. Pike's expedition however was no less important as it was carried out in an area in transition, and as a military expedition to assess conditions, reconnoiter, and protect the economic interests of a "fawn nation" still recovering from war and seeking tenuous footings on soil hard won by blood and sweat and whose claim upon it was still precarious.

Within a decade of Pike's expedition, military forts were constructed at, or near, the locations recommended or described in Pike's journal. These fortifications became known as, Fort Madison (at the head of the Des Moines River Rapids), Fort Edward (at the foot of the Des Moines River Rapids) Fort Armstrong (at the foot of the Rock River Rapids), Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien, Wis.), and Fort Snelling (Falls of St. Anthony). These forts were constructed to control the Native Americans as well as their trade and conflict, prohibit foreign intrusions into rich fur trading lands, protect settlers, and keep the river open for commerce. Control of the fur trade, and other important resources, identified this area of political importance as the next area to be settled by Euro-Americans. In the next few decades, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin would achieve statehood, having the necessary population and resources needed to form a government.

Pike's mission accomplished many things, including the first treaty executed with the Native Americans in the newly acquired territory. His notes and map explorations documented the potential wealth of the region, made note of appropriate locations for military outposts and fur trading centers, and provided a clearer picture of the new lands. The expedition-provided data and recommendations were designed to protect the interests of the federal government from the established interests of the British-owned and operated Northwest Company, and serve as an ambassador of, and for, the new nation. Pike's interesting and current observations of the Upper Mississippi River prepared the way for nationalization, political oversight, settlement, and statehood. [↗](#)



Okee-Makee-Quid, Chippewa - painted by James Otto Lewis

November is Native American Heritage Month.
On Nov. 18, a Lunch and Learn will feature members of the Quad-Cities' Urban Indian Tribal Organization.

Ladies of the Illinois Waterway Labor Workforce

By Susan Yager, Illinois Waterway Project Office



Pauline Zitzke

When it comes to maintenance work, and "get-your-hands-dirty" labor, which gender usually comes to mind? Men!

Most of the time, however, that's not true when it comes to a certain group of District women on the Illinois Waterway.

The total years of experience among the women working in maintenance-related jobs on the Illinois Waterway exceeds 78 years, which is amazing given the fact there's only four of them.

Pauline Zitzke, Trudy Sholtz, Judy Gooch, and Lisa Perrault, each of whom work on different units and at different site locations, provide services in various ways.

Judy Gooch



Pauline Zitzke, a lock and dam operator at Dresden Island Lock and Dam, started working for the Corps in August 1968. The Chicago District asked Pauline to spend one day at the lock after she applied for the position to see if she would like it or not. After one day she was hooked, but it still took nearly two years before she actually started working for the Corps. Zitzke first began working at Brandon Road Lock and Dam, and in July 1992, she transferred to Dresden Island where she continued to work until recently. Both industry and lock personnel alike can't say enough good things about Zitzke.

"She is always eager to take on any type of task," said Jeff Blazekovich, lockmaster, Dresden Island Lock and Dam. "River pilots, along with their crews, respect and value her friendship and thoughtfulness through the genuine interest she has for their family and home life. Frequently corre-

The total years of experience among the women working in maintenance related jobs on the Illinois Waterway exceeds 78 years.

sponding with cards and letters."

Zetzke retired Sept. 2, after investing almost half of her life with the Corps.

"She will be

greatly missed, not only as a co-worker, but as a friend," said Blazekovich.

I asked her what she planned on doing now that she'll have a lot of free time.

"Just do some traveling, maybe up the Upper Peninsula or maybe visit Tennessee," said Zitzke. "Just continue to enjoy life with my husband Rich."

Good Luck!

Trudy Sholtz, even though her job title is motor vehicle operator, is a jack-of-all-trades. She started her government service in the military reserves. After

investing 11 years with the reserves, she started working for the Corps at the Illinois Waterway Project Office in Peoria, Ill., where she has already accumulated 13 years of service.

Dave Washington, her supervisor, said, "Trudy is a tremendous asset to my unit. I can always depend on her to get the job done. Her willingness to keep property inventory, or stepping in to conduct safety meetings for me, makes her a true team player."

Sholtz is a mother of a high-school graduate, a wife of 21 years, and is working on getting her signing certificate. Her kindness and true interest in her associates is especially apparent through her involvement with a local club called



Lisa Perrault

within a few months, she began working at a permanent position as a lock and dam operator at Dresden Island Lock and Dam.

Gooch is married, has three grown children, and is very

excited about the new position as assistant lockmaster. She is a survivor of cancer. A little challenge is never a problem for Gooch. Congratulations.

only been with the Corps. She is a survivor of cancer. A little challenge is never a problem for Gooch. Congratulations. Lisa Perrault also had military duty before she was hired in a temporary position with the Corps. She worked her way up to a full-time employee position, and earned her promotion to a Wage Grade 8 position as a lock and dam repairer after just seven years.

Although traveling with Illinois Waterway Structures Maintenance Unit 2 is challenging, Russell Stillwell, Perrault's supervisor, respectively sums it up with two comments.

"Having a woman around means talk is much cleaner," said Stillwell. "It's like having your mother around telling you when you are wrong or doing something wrong."

Perrault is a mother of two grade-school children and has a husband who also works for the Corps ... Perrault keeps busy.

the Happy Face Club. Annual dues collected by Sholtz enable her to provide cards, money or flowers for members and their family when needed.

The "angel in disguise" could be a new job title for her.

Judy Gooch is one lady for the books ... history in the making! Gooch spent 12.5 years at Lockport Lock and Dam as a lock and dam operator and recently departed the site after working as head lock and dam operator. She recently transferred to Dresden Island Lock and is currently the assistant lockmaster, making her the first and only female assistant lockmaster ever to hold the position on the Illinois or Mississippi Rivers.

Gooch originally started working for the Corps in the Chicago District as a part-time secretary in Operations, and

excited about the new position as assistant lockmaster.

"When I selected Judy, I was sure that she would do a great job," said Blazekovich. "She was a proven head lock and dam operator and very highly thought of by her teammates. She is a self-starter, and has many innovative ideas on how to manage people. She is concerned for others well-being, and she's made the transition to work leader very easily."

Gooch's accomplishments have not

"It hasn't been easy proving you can do the same work as the men in the unit, but I'll continue working my way up to retirement," said Perrault.

All of the women said that family just isn't an "at home unity," they have made friends and found a family commitment within the Army Corps of Engineers. If you have to work, they couldn't think of a better place to do just that.

You know, from my point of view, I have to agree! 🙌



Trudy Sholtz



Paula Sands, host of Paula Sands Live on KWQC TV6 in the Quad Cities, interviews the winner of this year's Best Chili Award, Tracy Morgan, Information Management, regarding her feelings about winning. Lee Matteredly, Information Management, center, and Morgan shared the Third Place award for best costume in the cook off.

District Participates In Charity Campaign

Story and photos by Public Affairs

The 2003 Combined Federal Campaign kicked off on Rock Island Arsenal Sept. 10, as District employees joined Arsenal personnel in the Illowa Bi-State CFC's Workplace Olympics, which served as the opening event for the 2003 campaign.

"What Makes America Great" is the theme for the 2003 Illowa Bi-State CFC 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 that include the Clock Tower, Locks and Dams 13 through 19, LaGrange Lock and Dam, as well as LeClaire Base employees.

The workplace olympics featured several games that challenged participants, which included three teams from the Corps. The District employees were:

Dan Holmes, Construction Division; Rodney Delp, Emergency Management; Jeanne Elliott and Beth Hann, Information Management; Gaylord Helms, Michael Johnson, Bob Nelson, and Mary Strassburger, Logistics Management; Steve Johnson and Tracy Street, Programs and Project Management; and Heather Gilbert and Ralph Werthmann, Real Estate.

Gilbert coordinated the Corps' involvement, while Joe Nobiling, Information Management, shared his personal involvement with charity organizations regarding the fire that took his family's home last year.

Nobiling volunteered this year to be the Corps' first loaned executive to the Illowa Bi-State CFC, a position that takes a considerable amount of time, coordination and commitment, but makes a huge impact

on the success of the overall campaign.

The District's annual Chili Cook Off once again drew a large crowd of chili connoisseurs and costumed chili masters.

The winners for best chili were: First Place – Tracy Morgan, Information Management, "White Rabbit Chili," Second Place - Jerry Skalak, Programs and Project Management, "Ann Maxwell's White Chili Extraordinaire," and Third Place - Leslie Robinson and Tom Harp, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, "Double Dog Dare Ya."

The winners for best costume were: First Place – Leslie Robinson and Tom Harp, DFAS, "Double Dog Dare Ya," Second Place - Paul Holcomb, Construction Division, "Sumo Chili," and Third Place - Tracy Morgan and Lee Matteredly, Information Management, "White Rabbit Chili."



Heather Gilbert, Real Estate, stacks several hats on top of Tracy Street, Programs and Project Management, as part of one of the games during the Illowa Bi-State CFC Workplace Olympics held Sept. 10, at the Rock Island Arsenal.



This year, for the first time, the contest featured a People's Choice Award, which was awarded to Leslie Robinson and Tom Harp, DFAS, "Double Dog Dare Ya."

The First Place winner of the best chili award, Tracy Morgan, will have her name added to the traveling "Best Tasting Chili" pot. This is the second consecutive year Morgan has earned the award.

This year, the District will once again play host to both an online and live auction to raise funds for the CFC. The online auction will take place Nov. 3 through 7, while the live auction will take place at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Rock Island Nov. 6, at 11:30 a.m., across the street from the Clock Tower Building.

The online auction can be found on the Internet at: <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/CFC/default.cfm>,

and will be available for bidding from Nov. 3 through Nov. 7.

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.

The District's goal for this year's Illowa Bi-State CFC has been set at \$52,000 and 50 percent participation. As of Oct. 30, the District had raised more than \$43,000, and had almost 40 percent participation of the District employees that can contribute to the Illowa Bi-State CFC.

Last year, the final tally came to more than \$49,500, just under the District's goal.

"The most important thing for people to realize is that every single dollar helps and has an impact," said Mark Kane, District CFC co-chair. "In addition to

letting District employees know about the CFC, we're also trying to dispel any misperceptions that may exist regarding it. I think everyone should at least take a look at the CFC catalog, know what their choices are, and give one of them their consideration. If you haven't taken a look through the catalog, you may be surprised at what charities are listed."

Stephen Russell, Programs and Project Management, is also a co-chair for the District CFC this year and will be the main co-chair next year.

Online information regarding the Illowa Bi-State CFC can be found at www.illowacfc.org. Additionally, a CFC District map has been created that details the eight campaigns located within the Rock Island District's boundaries and can be accessed at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/cfc/mvrcfcmmap03.pdf.



Investing In Our People

Around the District

Kowalczyk, McAfee Earn Garcia Award

Joe Raoul, chief, Engineering Division, presented the Garcia Award to **Paul Kowalczyk** and **Robert McAfee**, Engineering Division, making them the 2003 Garcia of the Year award winners.

The runners-up this year were Brooke DeLaCruz and Kristy Keemle, Engineering Division.

The Garcia Award is given annually to one or more Engineering Division employees. It was created by Raoul, who got his inspiration for the award from the "Bring a Message to Garcia" story that originated during the Spanish American war.

A soldier named Garcia was lost somewhere in the mountains of South America. The outcome of the war was contingent upon the successful delivery of a message to Garcia.

An Army general approached a soldier and handed him an envelope, which contained the message, and asked the soldier to deliver the message to Garcia. Without asking who or where Garcia was located, or questioning why he was picked, the soldier managed to get the necessary information about Garcia's whereabouts and delivered the message ... the war was won.

Raoul heard that story 36 years ago from the first division commander he met when he started working for the Corps. In a town hall meeting, Gen. Ernest Graves told the Garcia story. Raoul has tried to inspire his coworkers with that attitude wherever he has held positions of leadership.

Past Garcia Award winners include (in chronological order): Rich Rupert, 1999; Denny Lundberg, 2000; Kevin Landwehr, 2001; and Carol Morris; 2002. 📧

Commander's Brown Bag Lunch

Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer, conducted his first brown bag lunch discussion at the Clock Tower Building in October and is planning to conduct additional discussions throughout the District.



Gapinski initiated and designed the discussion forum to provide an informal atmosphere, so he can learn more about District employees and vice versa. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions from almost any subject that pertains to the District.

The first brown bag lunch mainly focused on USACE 2012, but future discussion could cover many other subjects.

Gapinski said he wants to hold some of the future discussions at field sites throughout the District and looks forward to talking to as many people as he can using this forum. 📧

Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Barb and John Lester**, Construction Division, on the birth of a baby boy, Alex Michael, Oct. 2. He weighed 8 pounds and 6 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Sympathy ...



Charles Primm, 72, of Bloomington, Ill., died Sept. 21, at Heritage Manor, Normal, Ill.

Primm worked with the District at the Savanna Army Depot, and with the Kansas City District.

He also served in the Army during the Korean War.

Recent Retirements ...

Ralph Montrone, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 18, Operations Division, retired Nov. 1, after dedicating 30 years and one month to the federal government.

Terry Stieger, chief, Emergency Management Division, retired Nov. 1, after dedicating 41 years and two months to the federal government.



Paul Miller, 71, of Apache Junction, Iowa, died Aug. 15, at his home in Arizona.

Miller retired from the District as the lockmaster at Lock and Dam 13. He served in the Korean War and was an active member the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Notes from the Mississippi*

Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa

- ✓ Upper guide-wall walkway plank replaced.
- ✓ Oil changed in dam tainter-gate gearboxes.

Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa

- ✓ New Central control-station wall-mounted heater installed.
- ✓ Bull noses pressure washed and painted.

Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.

- ✓ Lock equipment winterized.
- ✓ Dam storage yard cleaned.
- ✓ Outboard motor reinstalled.

Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa

- ✓ Oil on auxiliary lock filtered.
- ✓ Landscaping completed.
- ✓ Window screens replaced.

Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.

- ✓ Roller-gate chains replaced.
- ✓ New power transformer installed.
- ✓ Yard maintenance completed.

Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa

- ✓ Mowers and decks cleaned and greased.
- ✓ Bathroom door cleaned and painted.
- ✓ Electric grease gun repaired.

Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.

- ✓ Fittings on bulkheads replaced.
- ✓ Lock machinery serviced.
- ✓ Tires on scooters replaced.

Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.

- ✓ Two tainter-gate brake stators repaired.
- ✓ Central control-station power washed.

Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa

- ✓ Hoists and handrails painted.
- ✓ New cable guards built and installed.

Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.

- ✓ Upper storage roof completed.
- ✓ Gregory ditch rocking completed.
- ✓ Crane alternator repaired.

Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.

- ✓ Ergo building cleaned.
- ✓ Bridge crane cleaned.
- ✓ Rust converter painted.

Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.

- ✓ Installed new lighting on lower tow-haulage unit.
- ✓ All auxiliary miter-gate bays cleaned.

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

Speakers Bureau

By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

On Sept. 8, **Jim Ross**, Programs and Project Management, spoke with more than 75 members of the Clinton Rotary Club about the photographs of Henry Bosse at their monthly meeting held in Clinton, Iowa.

Dean Cerny, **Engineering Division**, spoke with more than 25 engineers about flood improvements made in Des Moines, Iowa, since 1993 at the Iowa Engineers Society's monthly meeting held in Des Moines, on Sept. 16.

The lock rehabilitation program was the topic of discussion when Roger Less, **Engineering Division**, spoke with more than 30 engineers from the American Society of Civil Engineers at their monthly meeting held in Davenport, Iowa, on Sept. 18.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the

importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities can learn more by visiting our website at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm or by contacting Justine Barati at ext. 5204. 📧



Have you checked out the District's Intranet yet?

This valuable new resource, dubbed "Rocky," features internal information that cannot be accessed anywhere else.

To access Rocky, go to the District's homepage at www.mvr.usace.army.mil and click on District Intranet in the upper left-hand corner. 📧

November is ...

National American Indian Heritage Month



Strengthening the Spirit
of Our Nation

USACE 2012 and Us

USACE 2012 is the way the Corps will be organized in the years to come. This will enable us to operate in cross-functional teams and allow us to capitalize on the expertise that is available across the organization. USACE 2012 uses the Regional Business Center as the main operating unit to support the delivery of our services and products through the districts.

Through the Regional Business Center, we will focus more directly on actual mission execution without the burden of managing support activities.

For more in-depth information, the entire USACE 2012 plan is available at www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders.

What will be different in our day-to-day operations when we do this?

More:

- Working within teams
- Robust solutions
- Products that represent both the federal government interest and the needs of the partner or customer
- Challenging work
- Information from across the organization through our new data systems
- Access to lessons learned and experts

Less:

- Stovepipe data calls
- Waiting for higher authority to make a decision or respond
- Solutions that only reflect a limited range of understanding of the problem



DISTRICTS

Aligning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Success in the 21st Century!