***Front Cover**: (May 2009) Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill. An 80-ton auxiliary lock miter gate is steadied into position by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers heavy gate lifter, Quad Cities. The Districts' Mississippi River Structural Maintenance Unit from the Mississippi River Project, Pleasant Valley, Iowa, replaced both sets of miter gates to open the lock on May 22. The lock had been closed to river traffic for nearly six years (since August 2003) due to miter gate structural deficiencies and insufficient repair funding.*

The Mississippi River Structural Maintenance Unit provides highly skilled maintenance and repair of Mississippi River locks and dams and river training structures. Although a Rock Island District asset, the team regularly travels the entire stretch of the Mississippi from Minneapolis to New Orleans to assist other Corps Districts with their river infrastructure maintenance and repair needs.

Photo by Aaron Dunlap, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Operations Division