



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Vicksburg District

THE

# Water's

Winter 2010

# Edge

## District under new leadership



**Internal access road at ERDC will connect campuses**

**Corps of Engineers awards contract for construction of stoplog slots at Felsenthal Lock and Dam**

# THE Water's Edge

Winter 2010

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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

News magazine of the  
Vicksburg District  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

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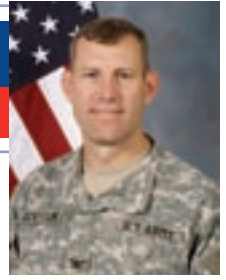
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*Col. Jeffrey R. Eckstein assumes command.*



## To teammates of the Vicksburg District...

**T**hank you to everyone with the District and the Vicksburg community. You have welcomed my family and me in the great tradition of southern hospitality. The Change of Command in December was a memorable event for us and I again am humbled to be here in this District to serve you all. Just so everyone is aware, my family will not be moving here until the summer after school and baseball season is complete.

I wish to thank our team mates who selflessly decided to deploy in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO): Darrel Johnson (CT), Charles Kirtley (OD), Jason Mothershed (OD), and Edward Claypool (RE). The deployments provide great opportunities to gain experience, execute projects and programs that receive full funding, and make an impact that is easily seen. As rewarding as your job can be here serving the people of the region, serving alongside our men and women in uniform will inspire you with confidence about our young people and the commitment of the Department of Defense (DOD). A deployment is a unique experience that I encourage you to consider.

I also want to thank everyone for his or her support to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the District's Christmas projects. For the first time in five years we met our CFC goal. The 2009 goal was \$60,000, which was exceeded by 17%, making a total of \$70,010. This grand total is due to the dedicated efforts of the CFC Committee, and other selfless District team members who generously made this happen. The benefits of the CFC support charitable agencies such as Jacob's Ladder, Haven House, Wounded Warriors, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

District team members also largely supported the District's Christmas Committee through its Angel Tree and Adopted Families projects by providing Christmas for 125 children, 25 elderly, and two families. Thank you again for your generous support in an economically challenging time.

As the new commander, I have reviewed the District Operations Plan with the supporting task and metrics. The corporate board developed a solid plan that enables the District to execute our regional mission to achieve the Corps of Engineer's vision of a Great Engineering Force. I am dedicated to continuing execution of our plan. We will continue to serve the governments, organizations, and

people of the region. We will do this through disciplined thought, people, and process as outlined in our guiding principles.

**Mission:** Deliver our known missions with disciplined thought and disciplined action. Anticipate change and adapt with integrity by saying what we are going to do then doing it.

**People:** Build the bench with a diverse world class workforce, regionally focused and interdependent to serve the nation.

**Process:** Well defined, proactive processes to deliver quality projects and products without "dropping the baton."

As the principles guide us, I see our immediate priorities to be execution of the Vicksburg Priority Engineering Response (ViPER) mission in Plaquemines Parish and supporting the greater New Orleans workload. Next is our transparent and timely execution of the stimulus funding. The oversight and reporting on these projects will continue, and will be a topic during our dialogue with congressional delegations. Third priority is to continue to hire new team members; we are currently lagging behind and need to catch up. The quicker we get people on the team, the quicker they begin to gain experience and lessen the workload on the rest of us. As I visit the District, the number and quality of our young team mates impress me. The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) are great tools to introduce people to the Corps. Additionally, there is a mix of people hired with private experience that is extremely beneficial. What a great team to join!

I ask everybody to review the Operations Plan and make sure you can see where you are contributing to achieving success in a metric under a supporting task. Then I challenge you to measure your success based on achieving that metric. We have a good plan that is achievable but it does require our disciplined thought, process, and people.

It is a tremendous honor to serve with you and I look forward to facing the challenges and opportunities of the next few years.

*Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein*

# Eckstein assumes command of Vicksburg District



*Change of Command ceremony.*

BY SHIRLEY SMITH, PAO  
PHOTOS BY ALFRED DULANEY

Colonel Jeffery R. Eckstein recently became Vicksburg's 51st District Engineer. Col. Eckstein assumed command of our 68,000 square-mile district from Col. Michael C. Wehr, who will now assist with Overseas Contingency Operations.

Col. Eckstein is a native of Inverness, Florida, and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He also earned a Master's in civil engineering from the University of Washington. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida and Virginia. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the Combined Arms Service and Staff School and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Col. Eckstein's company grade assignments include a tour in Germany where he served as a Platoon Leader and Battalion Intelligence Officer with the 54th Engineer Battalion (C) (M). At Fort Benning, Georgia, he served in the 36th Engineer Group as an Assistant Operations Officer during Desert Storm and later as a Com-

pany Commander in the 43rd Engineer Combat Battalion (H) after the war. He participated in Hurricane Andrew cleanup and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia with the battalion.

He served as a project engineer with the Seattle District, executing construction projects at Fort Lewis, Washington. His projects included new construction, barracks upgrades, and a historic renovation.

His field grade assignments include a second tour with the 36th Engineer Group serving as the Group Operations Officer and design engineer. He deployed to Nicaragua in support of Operation Fuerte Apoyo. He commanded the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) in Hawaii. He deployed with the battalion during OIF-2 and executed construction missions throughout Northern Iraq.

Col. Eckstein served as the G-7, Reconstruction Officer, for Multi-National Division North when the 25th Infantry Division deployed in support of OIF 06-08. He then served as the Chief of Staff for the 25th Infantry Division.

His previous assignment was the Senior Advisor for Infrastructure at the US Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute at Carlisle Barracks.

Col. Eckstein is married and blessed with three children.



*Col. Eckstein speaking at Change of Command ceremony at Vicksburg District.*

# Internal access road at ERDC will connect campuses

STORY BY JONATHAN BOONE, PHOTOS BY MICKEY GALLUP

For 22 years employees of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) have endured an inconvenient, time consuming commute when traveling from the Information Technology Lab (ITL) to the remainder of the ERDC Facility.

Personnel stationed at the ITL who desire to reach destinations in other areas of the ERDC facility must use the public street network including Porters Chapel Road and Wisconsin Avenue to reach the access points at Halls Ferry Road or Brazos Circle, a distance of approximately 2.75 miles. The ERDC staff felt that the overall security and efficiency of the facility would be improved by providing direct, internal access to connect all laboratories.

In 2009 the Vicksburg District was challenged to provide comprehensive construction plans and specifications, as well as construction quality assurance to make this project a reality. The controlling considerations in designing the alignment were the determination of the optimal location of the overpass structure on Wisconsin Avenue and the determination of an alignment through the ITL site that would be an asset to the future development of this facility.

The proposed alignment of the ERDC internal access road begins at Missouri Road immediately west of the existing overpass on Porters Chapel Road. It proceeds northeasterly parallel to Porters Chapel Road and crosses under Wisconsin Avenue and continues in a northerly direction to the ITL Building. In order to maintain public traffic flow along Wisconsin after this project is complete, a three-span pre-stressed concrete beam and reinforced slab bridge was designed. The vertical alignment along Wisconsin Avenue was designed to match the existing conditions as closely as possible and provide the vertical clearance over the proposed internal access road.

The construction contract was awarded for \$1.927 million dollars to Demolition and Construction Management Services (DCMS), of Vicksburg. Notice to proceed was issued on November 16 with the required completion date of August 2010. The contractor has made great progress clearing and grubbing within the construction limits. The closure of Wisconsin Avenue is necessary to allow for work on the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge to begin.

The plans and specifications for ERDC's internal access road project were prepared using the architect-engineer services of ABMB Engineers of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The construction contract is being managed by the Vidalia



*Beginning stage of the excavation and fill operations near the Information Technology Laboratory at ERDC.*



*Clearing and grubbing progress on the ERDC main campus side of Wisconsin Avenue.*

Area Office. The project manager is Tom Shaw and the construction manager is Jonathan Boone. The design efforts were managed by E&C Design Branch personnel including Randy McAlpin and Rob Green.

## Repairs underway for flood risk reduction levees

New Orleans to Venice (NOV) is the rebuilding of the existing Mississippi River Levees and back levees from Oakville, LA (south of New Orleans) to Venice, LA on the west bank and from Phoenix to Bohemia, LA on the east bank. This includes the incorporation of non-federal levees that are located on the west bank from Oakville to St. Jude. These levees are adjacent to the West Bank and vicinity project, which is designed to withstand a 100 year or 1% storm event. The NOV is not designed for a 100-year storm event. The specific level of flood risk reduction is still being evaluated.

The disparity in the level of flood risk management between adjacent communities is a source of controversy. In Plaquemines Parish, alternatives are being evaluated to determine the amount of flood risk reduction that is possible within available funds.

NOV is an existing project that was damaged during Hurricane Katrina after which Congress appropriated funds between 2006 and 2008. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2013. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) for the non-

federal levees is scheduled for approval in November of this year, and in January 2011 for federal levees. The project delivery team is currently working to finalize design grades and levee alignments for the projects.

Many people throughout the region are working on this project including staff from the New Orleans, Vicksburg, Memphis, St. Louis, Rock Island, and St. Paul districts. There is also personnel in the Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) working on this amazing flood reduction project. This project is a part of ViPER because it deals with aspects of hurricane risk management for New Orleans.

This task is important not only to USACE, but also to citizens all over the United States. There are oil refineries in the area and major oil field supply facilities that are currently at risk. Oil refineries are a major piece of the United States energy plan and the loss of this area would hit us hard. NOV will be reducing storm risk for many communities from New Orleans to Venice, Louisiana, including, but not limited to, Oakville, Port Sulfur, and Empire.

## Corps of Engineers awards contract for construction of stoplog slots at Felsenthal Lock and Dam

The District awarded a \$4.3 million contract to OCCI, Inc., of Fulton, Missouri, to construct stoplog slots at Felsenthal Lock & Dam. Preparatory work is underway with work on site anticipated to begin in June, after river stages are suitable. Construction is expected to be complete 180 days later, by December 2010. This work was made possible by funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The work is necessary because at present there is currently no safe and expeditious way to dewater the lock chambers to make repairs in case of damage or malfunction of the gates. The present system for dewatering, known as the Poiree system, does not meet the new hydraulic steel structure criteria, nor do the stoplogs. The lack of certified lock and dam stoplogs for use in dewatering and closure of lock miter gates and dam tainter gates to make repairs or inspections increases the risk for loss of pool or lock closure. This would shut the navigation system down in the Arkansas portion of the project in the event emergency repairs are needed. Such an emergency would cause a tremendous economic loss to local industries that depend on the river for product shipment.

During the construction of the vertical slots, navigation through the lock will be closed for construction operations daily between the times of sunrise and sunset, but may include limited periodic passages if construction operations permit. Night time navigation through the lock will remain open and unobstructed to tows up to 55 feet wide. There will also be two full closures for up to 18 days each during construction of the stoplog sills. There will be at least a 14 day period of nighttime navigation through the lock between these two closures. Scheduling notices will be provided to industry prior to these planned closures.



Cofferdam put in place to remove water from the lock chamber so the work can begin.



Stoplogs in place (These photos are from completed structures at the Jonesville and Columbia Lock and Dam)



Crane lifts concrete block.

## Former chief Real Estate Division participates in strategic review (Afghanistan Real Estate mission)



*John Segrest stands in front of Transatlantic North Office*

PHOTO BY ANNETTE DUGGER

John Segrest, former chief, Real Estate Division, was selected to participate in a review of the current and projected missions for the Corps' real estate personnel located within the Afghanistan area of responsibility. Annette Dugger of Savannah District's Real Estate Division also participated in the review. The purpose of the strategic review of the Afghanistan real estate mission, requested by Corps Headquarters, was to validate the staffing and technical specialties required to assure successful mission execution. It was also required to review processes necessary to support the "surge"

of an estimate 30,000 additional troops.

Segrest's journey to Afghanistan began with completion of the documentation necessary to enter Afghanistan. It continued with a trip to the USACE Deployment Center, which is located in Winchester, Virginia, for three days of security and situational awareness briefings coupled with the issuance of uniforms and equipment required for deployment into the Afghanistan Theater. While in Winchester, Segrest and Dugger met with Scott Whiteford, the Directorate of Real Estate, USACE, who initiated the review effort, and with MG

Don Riley, Deputy Commander, USACE and Col. Mike Wehr, former Vicksburg District Commander, who transitioned to a mission in Afghanistan to discuss the crucial role that the Corps real estate team would play achieving mission success in Afghanistan.

Segrest and Dugger met with commanders, senior leaders, and real estate personnel in Afghanistan. Processes were reviewed, military orders were analyzed for impacts on the real estate mission, and missions were quantified to determine real estate resource requirements.

## Hemphill promotes to assistant chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

Patricia Hemphill was recently selected as chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.

In this position, Hemphill will serve as full assistant to the division chief. Her duties will include long-range planning, management, and supervision of the District's Program and Project Management Business Process functions, organization, and staff. Other responsibilities will include participation in execution of the annual Civil Works Program, which averages more than \$300,000,000. This includes such work as large flood control and hydroelectric dams and reservoirs; navigation locks and dams; mainline Mississippi River levees, river stabilization and structures, large drainage structures pumping plants, retention dams and reservoirs; drainage improvements and controls and inland river harbor development; water supply, navigation, drainage and public recreational, fish, wildlife and economic development purposes.

Hemphill previously served as strategic planner and program manager for the District's continuous improvement programs, and was responsible for developing goals, objectives, vision and values, and for achieving alignment with the senior leadership

and the district workforce. She managed the Leadership Development Program.

She earned a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University, completed the Army Management Staff College Program of Sustaining Base Leadership Management, and Harvard University's Executive Education Program. She is a registered professional engineer in the State of Mississippi.

Hemphill, a Vicksburg native, is the daughter of the late Peter and Rosielee Kent Williams of Vicksburg. She is married to G. A. Hemphill.



Patricia Hemphill

## Life in Vicksburg works like a magnet

BY LEEANN RIGGS

I've been told that Vicksburg is like a magnet, and I think it's true. My parents moved here in the 70's, and afterwards my brother and I were born. In 1982, we moved to Alaska. Eight years later, that ol' Vicksburg magnet pulled us back to the South. So is the story of my life.

I left home to attend college, and after graduating from college, I returned to Vicksburg. In 2006, my husband, Scotty, and I moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where I worked for a private engineering consulting firm. After three years and a baby, I was ready to come home... again. The fact that my parents lived here greatly influenced my desire to move back. I wanted my two-year-old son to grow up around his grandparents, and I wanted to work for the Corps of Engineers. Vicksburg was the most likely place for this to happen.

My husband finally agreed that if I got a job with the Corps, then we could move home. I interviewed with several offices in the building and was shocked and excited when one week later I was offered a position in Project Management. In June 2008, my husband left for three months of chaplain training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and

my son and I packed some clothes and moved into my parents' house for the summer.

I began work on June 8th, and I absolutely love it. I'm one of the project managers on the ViPER Team, specifically working on flood protection for



LeeAnn Riggs with husband, Branan, and son, Josiah.

Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. I've had the opportunity to make several trips to New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish. I've attended public meetings, viewed floodwalls and pump stations, and walked on levees. I've also participated in Alternative Design Reviews to determine levee alignments for the parish.

Already, the Corps has given me many opportunities to see first hand the impact we are making for the communities in the parish. Outside of the Plaquemines Parish project, I've already attended several training sessions, have more scheduled for the spring, and am coordinating the district orientation for the District Commander, Col Jeffrey R. Eckstein. I appreciate that the Corps values its employees enough to take the time to teach us skills and prepare us for careers rather than just jobs.

In September, my husband returned from Ft. Jackson, and we moved into my brother's house in Clinton. We are still getting settled. Scotty started work at the Veteran's Benefits Administration at the beginning of January. We are still trying to sell our house in Birmingham, find a house here, and find a church home here. I am very thankful that I have family here to help; it's made the transition much easier. The challenges of finding a daycare center and figuring out temporary living arrangements were much easier with my family here, especially since Scotty was doing his military training.

For now, it looks like this Vicksburg magnet has got a pretty good hold on us, which is fine with me.



# Long awaited opportunity for employment with the Corps becomes reality

BY BROOKE SOUTHERLAND,  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

I had given up on finding a job with the federal government – then, during the summer of 2008 I was finally called in for an interview with the District Resource Management Office. I was very surprised by the invitation because the last federal job I had applied for was at the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in 2007. With my layman’s knowledge of the Corps of Engineers I was not aware that the District and ERDC were under the same umbrella, so I wasn’t even sure how my resume had gotten to the District. Not one to look a gift horse in the mouth, however, I decided to ignore this detail and accept the interview. At the time, I was happily employed with the Vicksburg Warren School District, but knew it was always a good idea to accept an opportunity when it presents itself.

By the time the District was able to offer me a job, I was back under contract with the school district for another school year. I really enjoyed teaching and had a hard time deciding if I wanted to work in accounting again. After weeks of consulting with friends and family the consensus was that I would be foolish to turn down a job with the Corps. In Vicksburg, government jobs are considered the cream of the crop and are very sought after, so in the fall of 2008 I accepted the offer but was unable to start until the school year ended in June 2009.

My first days at work were over-

whelming. My references were all frantically calling me because they had received questionnaires about me from Uncle Sam. I assured them that it would be OK to fill them out. I went through several layers of security and had to swear my allegiance to the United States and the Army. I waited for what seemed like ages to have access to the computer so that I could get started. My first thought was “Lord, what have I gotten myself into?” His answer was something pretty great.

My experiences at the District have been wonderful. The people I work with are good mentors. They keep me challenged without allowing me to become overwhelmed. As an intern, I have had the opportunity to sit with all of the people in my department to get an understanding of what they do. I have received copious amounts of training here and in New Orleans. My supervisors have granted me many opportunities to leave the office and go into the field to see hands on what we do here. I have attended many public relations events that have solidified to me the importance of the Corps now and in history.

I had the opportunity to serve as my office’s Combined Federal Campaign coordinator. I was amazed at the generosity of my immediate co-



*Brooke Southerland with husband Branan and daughter Natalie.*

workers and the District as a whole. I also was able to serve on the Christmas Committee which again reinforced my belief that I work with a thoughtful, caring group of individuals.

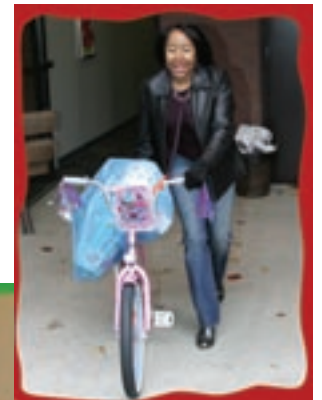
I look forward to learning as much as I can in my time at the Corps. I know that after six months the only thing I know for sure is how little I know about all of the missions we undertake. I am enjoying meeting great people whom I never would have met without working here. I hope to be an ambassador for our District by letting the people of Vicksburg know the importance of the work that the Corps does on local, state, and national levels, all of the cool things we do here, as well as the opportunities available at the Corps.

CHANGE OF COMMAND



# Christmas Projects, Kickoff Ceremony, and Delivery of Gifts

PHOTOS BY ALFRED DULANEY



# Life vests mandatory at Mississippi Corps lakes

BY RAY SCOTT, B.A.S.S. FOUNDER

A boating accident can happen in the blink of an eye: A weather front moves in unexpectedly; winds blow and waves crash into the side of a boat. Someone is knocked off-balance and they fall overboard...often with their life jacket stored safely under their seat.

Don't kid yourself—it can happen to you.

I still shudder when I think about a tournament incident on Beaver Lake. If Bass Pro Shop founders Johnny Morris and his partner Bob Craddock of Kentucky hadn't been wearing life vests on that cold and stormy April day when their boat capsized and sank, they wouldn't have survived. It was as simple as that.

So, wearing a life jacket spells the difference between life and death. And yet, life vests remain “stowed beneath the seat.”

When I founded B.A.S.S. and the B.A.S.S. Tournament Trail back in 1968 I wanted to make bass fishing a recognized and respected sport. One of my first and obvious concerns was to ensure that my tournament competitors returned home safely after a day of fishing. I sweated bullets every competition. That is why the mandatory use of life jackets has always been a B.A.S.S. tournament rule. The vest must be on and fastened whenever the big engine is running. Beyond that I always encouraged anglers to keep them on at all times, something made a whole lot easier with the intro-



duction of the compact inflatable style personal floatation device.

Looking back at our safety record over the years, I am extremely proud of our decision and the example we have set. I have always said the next step should be mandatory use of life jackets for all boaters at all times. So, it shouldn't be a surprise to B.A.S.S. members when I tell you that I fully support the three-year mandatory life jacket pilot program at all Mississippi Corps lakes.

Just as B.A.S.S. is the world's largest bass fishing organization with more than half a million members, the Corps with its 456 water-resource projects and more than 385 million visitors per year, is the nation's largest provider of water-based recreation. B.A.S.S. is a world-class organization that has made safety a foundational cornerstone. The same holds true for the Corps, another world-class organization. But, when you are dealing with millions of visitors at Corps lakes and the water-based recreational activities like boating, fishing, and skiing, safety is a tremendous responsibility.

The Corps provided me some stunning statistics: between 1998 and 2007, there were 1,641 accidental and unintentional

water-related deaths at Corps projects alone, and 92% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. Why is that? The Corps is well known for its very aggressive water safety education program. Most states require boaters to have U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets readily accessible for everyone on board. So why are so many lives being lost? The problem is state laws fall short of requiring adults to actually wear the life jackets that are mandatory to be on board in their boats.

For almost three decades, the Corps' water safety programs and campaigns have educated boaters and water enthusiasts about the importance of wearing life jackets and how life jackets save lives. Unfortunately, their programs and campaigns have not caused a significant increase in life jacket wear rates among adults. So in 2008, the Corps initiated a three-year test program at their lakes in Mississippi. This study, which is taking place at Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada, and Sardis lakes, will measure the effectiveness of regulation and enforcement to increase life jacket usage by adult boaters. They believe, as I do, that these rules are going to save lives.

When I met with Corps representatives from the Vicksburg District, where the pilot program is taking place, I was proud to learn that they patterned their rules after B.A.S.S. tournament rules. They have taken a bold step in requiring boaters to wear life jackets. But

*Continued on page 17*

## Social media: Why can't we “Tweet?”

BY BUCKY WALL, PAO

### Introduction

Social media sites are an exceptional way to effectively communicate with the public, and they are the darling of the internet. When I say social media, I am referring to Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Yahoo Groups, etc.

If you want a clear cut example of the power of Facebook, talk to your teenager, because more than likely they are networked to more than two

or three hundred friends online. Our youth are able to receive live updates to their cell device on the recent posts, activities and whereabouts of people in their network. Up to the minute pictures and video can be posted to these websites from any where in the world (with cell coverage).

On the flip side of the coin, social media sites are also an opportunity for groups in conflict with the U.S. to gain information that may be used to harm us.

### General Opinion

Quote from ‘The Army Guidelines for Social Media Use’:

“Army Leadership recognizes the use of official collaborative tools can greatly enhance mission effectiveness...”

However, just because a social media page is hosted on a server outside of the Army's control, in the eyes of the Army, it is just another webpage and subject to all of the normal policies

*Continued on page 18*

## Remote control camera beneficial in inspections at Corps dams

BY: LAWLAN RICHTER AND WALTER MATTINGLY, OD  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT

Project Resources Management Branch, Operations Division, has been inspecting pipes in levees for more than 12 years. Utilizing a camera mounted on a tractor with a control system, Andrew Tomlinson, electrical engineer, and Walter Mattingly, mechanical engineer technician with Operations Division, have been inspecting various Corps pipes not only in the Vicksburg District, but also at the Little Rock, Memphis, and St. Louis districts.

Recent changes in the accreditation requirements for levees include video recording of pipe in levees to verify conditions. The camera makes this task easy to complete in a short time.



Tractor mounted camera used in situations with gumbo mud.

Not only do Drew and Walter inspect pipes; other inspections include toe drains at dams in Arkansas, Illinois, and Mississippi.

The work includes lock gates, drainage on the face of dams, and pumping plant discharge pipes. A video is recorded from the camera, copied onto a DVD and provided to the customer for evaluation and justification for repairs when necessary.

Capabilities of the camera include inspecting pipes from 6 inches to 7+ feet in diameter. Having several different size tractors and camera choices, and an assortment of different wheels for the different applications, including submerged pipes down to 50 feet deep, they have no problem with most pipes.

Pipes used by the Corps with these type projects are typically flat and straight, which makes this equipment perfect for inspection. Originally developed for sewer applications, the system works great for the District's needs. The remote control camera is a useful tool for the Corps to help guarantee the safety of the public living and working near the levees and other structures.



Andrew Tomlinson and Co-Op student Lance Gullet controlling the actions of the tractor and camera with monitor above the pipe during toe drain inspection at Shelbyville Dam for the St. Louis District.

## Emerging Leaders participate in R5 Conference at District

BY JOHN WIBURN, PHOTO BY ALFRED DULANEY

The Mississippi Valley Division Emerging Leaders (EL) participated in the Division R5 Conference held at District Headquarters building. The event marked the first opportunity that the Emerging Leaders have had to meet since the Senior Leaders Training Conference last summer. This was also the official induction of the 2010 EL class members and their first chance to see the senior staff in action.

For the Emerging Leaders, the visit to the District was two fold: The trip included a District site visit followed by participation in R5 discussions. After new Emerging Leaders had been inducted by Brigadier General Michael J. Walsh, they were given a tour of the Vicksburg District where they visited recent Corps project sites in the Natchez area including tours of the Emerald Mounds, the Windsor Ruins, the Veterans Cemetery, and the bluff at Fort Rosalie.

The 2-day conference agenda featured BG Walsh along with senior MVD leadership staff, who discussed IPLAN details along with other Regional Management Board discussions.

Senior leaders were busy condensing a 3-4 day meeting into a 2-day event in which Division senior leader staff were given multiple Division IPLAN Actions, and were tasked to propose sets of metrics for each action. Each metric identifies ways of making Division goals measurable. This allows senior staff to

track progress and ensure that we are meeting our goals for the fiscal year. There were many other discussions throughout the event such as three year program lay-downs, budget discussions, lessons learned, workload management discussions,

Regional Management Board course of actions, status briefings, and many other strategic planning topics.

New and current Emerging Leaders were granted many opportunities to meet with one another and discuss the future of the Emerging Leaders Program while sharing new ideas and concerns about the program. On day two of the agenda, Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to meet LTC Gregory Raimondo, Deputy Commander of the Vicksburg District, who

briefed the Emerging Leaders Vicksburg District, on "What is unique about the Vicksburg District." The briefing offered overwhelming insight on the various challenges of the District, as well as a broad spectrum of missions accomplished by the District throughout the region.

As for my personal experience at the conference, it was a pleasurable one. As a new inductee, I was able to meet some great people from both the Emerging Leaders Program and the Division senior staff. I was able to make connections with my own District's Plans and gained a better understanding of how the Division functions as a whole.



Brian Crawford with Emerging Leaders leads a discussion at the conference.

Continued on page 15

# DeGray Lake's mobility impaired hunt

## Soggy hunt presents challenges and new experiences

BY DERICK WALKER, DEGRAY LAKE  
PHOTO BY JEFFREY LOCKWOOD

It was October 26th, my first day of work at a new lake. I had worked the last 4 years with the Little Rock District at Millwood Lake, and prior to that I worked at Lake Ouachita in the SCEP program for two years. I was glad to be back home around family and friends in Hot Springs. Now, I get to assist with a deer hunt the first morning at work, how cool!

This was a new experience for me, because I had never dealt with the Disabled Sportsmen of Arkansas. While I was at Millwood Lake I had been conducting youth deer hunts, so now I was eager to see how the mobility impaired deer hunts were organized. We faced several challenges throughout the next few days, including good ole Mother Nature.

The first day was scheduled to be an afternoon hunt only. The two participants met with the Corps employees at the visitor center to have lunch, discuss the hunt and get details and safety information to be presented by natural resources specialist Jeffery Lockwood. And then, the rain began! We were divided into two groups and had two Corps employees guiding each participant to his hunting area. All blinds had been pre-built and placed in known locations of heavy deer

activity.

A minor detail that was not taken into consideration was the monsoon of rains that the hunters endured while in their blinds on the first and second days. Over the 3-day hunt, a total of 3+ inches of rain soaked the hunters and us. We had



Billy Fryar, hunter in the "ground blind," are assisted by, left to right, Derick Walker, Shannon Herrin, and Luke Nivens

to deliver more plywood to one hunter in his blind, because his wheelchair was bogging down in the mud. That was challenge number one. The second challenge was the transportation of the hunters to and from these blinds in the already saturated grounds due to record rains throughout the year. Not only are you working to take extra measures to transport wheelchair

bound individuals out into the woods, but navigating through mud holes in our vehicles and ATV's seemed to be an obstacle as well. Also, knee boots were a must when walking into the stand locations and hip waders would have been preferred in most of the areas.

At the end of the 3-day hunt, a total of 17 deer were observed and one "big" doe was harvested by Billy Fryar on the last day after the rain stopped. His phone call to Jeffery was "Come get me...this hunt is over!" He did not give any details over the phone, but he wanted us to wait and see it for ourselves.

What makes these hunts so rewarding is knowing that if we did not help them, the physically challenged hunters might not be able to experience hunting in the great outdoors to its fullest. A simple thank you and handshake from Billy Fryar and Phillips at the end of the hunt makes all the preparations and obstacles we battled worth it and shows their genuine appreciation. These individuals may only have a few opportunities to hunt throughout the year, because they have to make extraordinary arrangements when they go out into the woods while most of us don't have to do so.

## Scout earns Eagle Scout honor by conserving bats at Sardis Lake

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHEA STATEN, SARDIS LAKE

A Scout decided to earn his Eagle Scout honor through supporting bat conservation efforts at Sardis Lake. Tim Newcamp of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 41 out of Hernando, coordinated the construction and placement of two 14-chamber bat houses with the help of his fellow scouts and rangers at Sardis Lake.

The bat houses are designed to have a capacity for approximately 600 bats each, and with proper site selection and placement, the houses might be used as maternity roosts.

Unfortunately, the importance of bats has gone unnoticed by many. Often times bat roosts are destroyed simply because they are viewed as a nuisance, and people seldom consider the consequences of destroying bat habitat or roosts. Bats are far more beneficial than most people think. They play a significant role in maintaining a healthy environment by consum-

ing a vast number of insects that are harmful to humans and agricultural crops. For example, a single little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) can consume a thousand or more mosquito-sized insects in an hour.

By working cooperatively with surrounding communities, there is potential to educate hundreds of people about the importance of bat conservation on Corps land and within their own communities. Many of the Corps lakes have model terrain for bat habitat, so success with these artificial roosts can open doors to educate others on the importance of bats.

Sardis Lake and other District personnel extend their gratitude to Newcamp and all of the other volunteers who contributed to this important effort. Bat conservation is needed now more than ever due to alarming declines in habitat and bat populations, so hopefully with careful monitoring, the new Sardis Lake bat houses will prove to be a success.



Newcamp, third from left, and fellow scouts stand beneath bat house.

# Sardis Lake conducts bald eagle survey

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: CODY SCRUGGS AND  
HOUSTON HARTLEY, SARDIS



An Eagle perches in a tree overlooking the lower Sardis Lake.

The Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey was recently held at Sardis Lake. Approximately 48 volunteers assisted in this year's survey, the largest turnout they've had in a long time. The volunteers counted five bald eagles, four mature adults and one juvenile. Volunteers also were afforded the opportunity to see local falconer Rick Jameson who showed the group his Red Tail Hawk and American Kestrel.

Bird watchers who were unable to attend this year's event are still encouraged to come and view these majestic birds. The eagles can be seen early morning around the lake as they hunt for their morning meals. Occasionally the eagles can be seen around mid-day perched high in trees basking in the warm sun. This helps regulate the eagle's body temperature which should ideally stay around 102°. If you would be interested in any more information, please contact the Sardis Lake Field Office at (662) 563-4531.



Rick and Andrea Jameson show the crowd a Red Tail Hawk and an American kestrel.

## Eagle survey at Lake Ouachita yields high count

PHOTOS BY DAVE PENNINGTON AND  
DAN VALOVICH

On January 6, the Lake Ouachita natural resources management staff, park rangers and volunteers braved the frigid temperatures to conduct the annual American Bald Eagle Survey. Each year adult and juvenile eagles migrate to the warmer open water of Lake Ouachita when the northern lakes and rivers begin to freeze and food becomes scarce. Eagles are a common site on Lake Ouachita during the months of November through February, or early March (depending on the weather). Lake Ouachita also hosts a small resident population of American Bald Eagles.

With temperatures in the 30s and snow in the forecast, the Lake Ouachita staff was pleasantly surprised by the number of eagles



Park rangers Josh Gormley and Jacob Huey point to an American Bald Eagle soaring near Lake Ouachita.

spotted. This year, 55 adult eagles and 34 juvenile eagles were reported, for a total of 89 eagles! This is the highest number of eagles counted on Lake Ouachita in the past five years. An abundant food supply and forested areas around the shoreline provide excellent habitat for these birds. Many visitors come to Lake Ouachita during the winter months to catch a glimpse of these majestic birds.

Even though the American Bald Eagle has been removed from the Endangered Species list, it is still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. As one of the rangers participating in the event was quoted saying, "It is always exciting to see such a beautiful bird flying across the lake."

### Continued from page 13—R5-Conference

What I gained the most by attending the conference was a whole new set of talented, diverse, humorous, and trustworthy friends from within the EL Program. Having been my first and only EL activity, I can say that I am excited about being a part of this program. I can also say with enthusiasm that I am ready to go to work as an Emerging Leader.

To say the least, Emerging Leaders both new and current were very grateful to have attended the R5 conference for the first time since the conception of the EL program. The program allows for future division leaders to see and understand

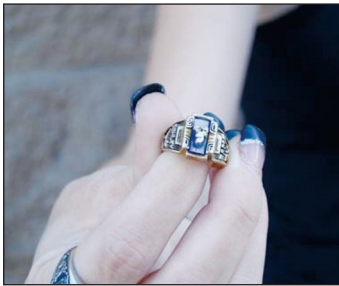
the Division Plans and to make valuable connections to the correlation of each Districts Plans. It also allows Emerging Leaders opportunities to engage in conversation as well as networking opportunities with Division Senior Leader Staff. To become an Emerging Leader, one must first complete the District's leadership program and undergo a rigorous application process to make sure all applicants are qualified. For more information on becoming an Emerging Leader, please contact Terry Smith at MVD, phone: 601-634-5840; email: terry.s.smith@usace.army.mil.

## Park ranger goes above and beyond to reunite class ring with owner

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AMY SHULTZ, PARK RANGER  
LAKE OUACHITA

It's amazing what you can find on the beaches of Lake Ouachita! One sunny day in September, a camper walking along the campground swim beach at the Brady Mountain Recreation Area found a class ring in the sand. The ring was a 2006 class ring from Lakeside High School. The camper gave the ring to park ranger Willie Hooks, who was on patrol in the Brady Mountain Campground that afternoon. "Mr. Hooks," a former Math teacher, vowed to return the ring to its rightful owner.

Hooks took the ring home, cleaned it up, and called his son-in-law, who just happens to be the current Superintendent at Lakeside High School. In looking closer at the ring, Hooks thought the name inscribed inside the ring was "Luttrell," passing this name on to his son-in-law, who went back through the Class of 2006 graduating class roster, but could not find anyone by that name who graduated in 2006, so they decided the name must be something else. Hooks' daughter, Cindy, decided to use facebook to try and track down the owner. After searching, she found an Ashley Luttrell who graduated from Lakeside in 2006. She

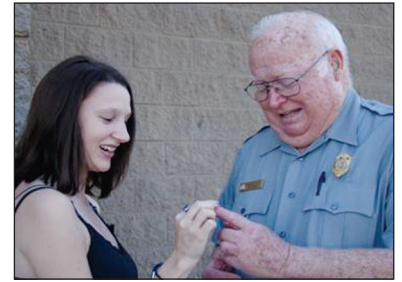


The ring of the 2006 Lakeside High School class.

made contact with her on facebook and discovered that she had lost her class ring two years ago.

Ashley stated that in the summer of 2007, she spent the weekend with some friends at the Brady Mountain Campground. They were playing around at the swim beach on inner tubes when she felt her ring slipping off her finger. She tried to push it back up, but it was too late, the ring slipped off her finger and into the water. She yelled "everybody stop!" The group began searching for the ring all around the area where she thought she had lost it but their search was of no avail. Ashley said she gave up hope that her ring would ever be found, so she was shocked when she received the facebook message. Ashley said the ring meant a lot to her and was surprised that it was not damaged in any way. She stated, "It looks just as it did before I lost it!"

Park ranger Willie Hooks is just one example of the outstanding employees who take great pride in their work. Through his continued contacts with members of the public, he sets the example for others to follow and continues to teach new park rangers the true meaning of customer service and the rewards of being a public servant.



Luttrell and Hooks admire the class ring.

## Partnerships, siblings and professors—keys to the past, present and future

Henderson State University and DeGray Lake personnel recently conducted groundbreaking ceremonies for the Simonson Biological Field Station on the Northwest Shore of DeGray Lake. The work was first scheduled to begin in early 2009, but several unforeseen delays pushed the project back by more than a year. If construction goes as planned, the building will be completed by spring of 2010. Dr. Engman, chair of Henderson State University's Biology Department, stated, "It will bring a unique facility to this state."



Col Eugene Simonson (Ret)

Construction on the 7,000 square-foot cabin will start within the next few months. The amenities will be a laboratory/classroom, a dedicated research lab, a library research room, kitchen, great room and living accommodations for 14 students and two faculty members.

This facility and

partnership could only be possible through the generosity of the late Dr. Della Sue Simonson and COL (ret) Eugene Simonson, 1951 graduates of Henderson State University. They wished to honor three former professors at Henderson State University who had tremendous impacts on their lives: Dr. Adelpia Basford, Elizabeth Brinkley, and Dr. Philip Horton. Their combined personal efforts along with Dr. Horton's son's generous donation generated \$525,000.00 for the construction project. Approximately \$100,000.00 in private donations was collected as well, which will fully equip the station.

The facilities will be a first rate facility for research and study by Henderson State University biologists and/or groups looking for a unique science based experience, including Boy and Girl Scouts and 4-H school groups.

It will also support undergraduate and faculty research. The field station will allow access to a multi-use project with a significant reservoir and vast watershed. Multiple investigations at the field station should support each other and assist in



Pictured at Groundbreaking ceremony are left to right, Bobby Jones (VP for finance and administration), Dr. James Engman, Gene Higginbotham (Deputy District Director for Representative Mike Ross), Charles Dunn (President Emeritus, HSU), Dr. Charles Welch (President, HSU), Col Simonson, James Spell, Jody Dvorak, John Conell (architect), and Allen Murray (contractor).

long term studies and data collection.

A majority of the 104 acres will be unaltered during construction, and some of the area will require long term forestry management to increase the diverse flora and fauna.

This partnering effort between Henderson State University and the Vicksburg District ensures sound environmental operating principles for present and future generations.



# Big Buck escapes injury at Grenada Lake

BY LEAH MORING  
PHOTOS BY ANDY TUCKER

Just like any good hunting story, it gets bigger and better with age! Grenada Lake has its own “Big Buck” story. Here it goes... nothin’ but the truth.

A fall nip was in the air on this October morning when Lake Manager Don Gober was out for a leisure drive at the lake. While approaching the Emergency Spillway and South Abutment Day Use Area, he noticed quite a bit of commotion. Seconds later, another Grenada Lake employee, who was also out enjoying a day at the lake, motioned for Gober to stop.

Both looked out at the lake, and whoa... a big buck with one heck of a rack! This monster buck was swimming out in Grenada Lake! At first, it seemed a boat was chasing the buck out into the lake. Being a dedicated employee and devoted outdoorsman, Gober knew he needed to do something. Avid boater Andy Tucker, out for one last weekend on the water, also spotted the big buck.

The story goes that two dogs chased the big buck and spooked him into the water. Tucker noticed the deer swimming farther and farther out into the lake—with the dogs in hot pursuit. Using his boat, Tucker steered the buck back toward land. By now, Gober realized what was happening and quickly joined in the action.

Gober knew the big buck would have to cross the road, so he called the Visitor Center and asked for park rangers. The rangers assisted with blocking Highway 333 which is the main road in front of the Visitor Center.

By this time, bystanders started to accumulate to watch the action until the buck made it back to land. Totally exhausted, the deer still had to climb the steep rip rap bank to safety. Trudging ever so slowly up the bank, the buck finally made it to the road. The rangers had stopped traffic and the deer was able to cross without further incidents.

With his feet on solid ground, the buck picked up his head with stateliness, and entered the retreat of his habitat. The mighty buck lives and breathes to enjoy another day at the diverse and rich surroundings of Grenada Lake!

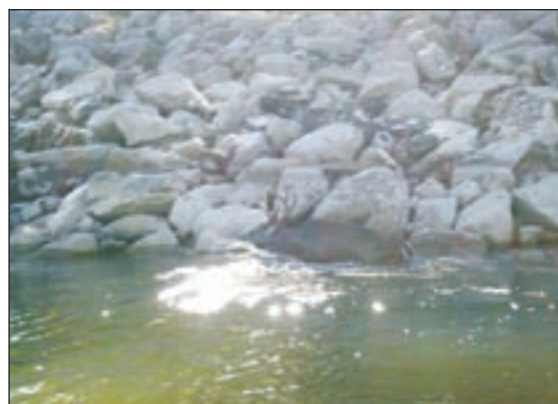
*In case you were wondering, the dogs were also rescued.*



*Buck in middle of Grenada Lake.*



*Buck nears shoreline of Grenada Lake.*



*"Whew- Finally! Now to get up the hill and across the highway..."*

*Continued from page 12—Life vests*

whenever there is change, there is always opposition. Some of you may remember the uproar caused by automobile seat belt use. Today it is common sense and commonplace.

Now, the Corps needs the support of a

topnotch organization like B.A.S.S. with a membership that realizes the importance of personal safety and proudly dons their life jackets anytime they are on the water. It is my hope that BASS members will lead the way like they have in so many

other worthwhile endeavors.

After all, the most important part of a day spent fishing the lakes and rivers of our great nation is going home safely to our families at the end of the day.

# Comparable flood stages on the Big Muddy

BY SHIRLEY J. SMITH  
PHOTO BY ALFRED DULANEY

As the story goes, The Big Muddy is very unpredictable, and the river stages at Vicksburg, past and present, are evidence of this. With the January 1 stage being only 1.8 feet less this year than it was on this date in 1973, the question might be... "More flooding?" If one looks back at recorded stages, the answer could be "Maybe not."

With the average stage for the beginning of January usually being around 18.0 feet, this year it was 35.4. At the beginning of the historic and disastrous flood of 1927, on January 1, the stage was 38.7, only 3.3 feet more than this year, and at that time the stage peaked at the all-time high of 56.2 during the month of May.

In the case of the 1927 flood, the unprecedented rainfall began over the whole basin in late summer of 1926, and didn't lessen until the summer of 1927. The flooding began at Memphis in the fall of 1926 and it was late August 1927 before the last of the flood waters flowed into the Gulf below New Orleans.

The flood of 1973 to date is the most severe since the 1927 flood, when the strain of record high volume flow nearly caused failure of the Old River Control Structure. The stage on January 1, 1973, was 37.2 feet and peaked at 51.6 in May. The timely actions of the Corps prevented that failure and improved the structure to its present day full function.

However, the 1973 flood was the highest since 1937 when the river peaked at 53.2 feet on February 21.

High water in January does not always mean a flood is on its



The high water marks on the wall at Vicksburg's city front show the levels reached during past floods.

way. On January 1, 2005, the stage was 31.0 and rose to 44.5 on January 30, which was the peak for the year. There was no flooding that year after the peak at the Vicksburg gauge.

On the other hand, January 2008 went the other way. The year started with the Vicksburg gauge reading 25 feet. Yet, in April of that year it peaked at 51 feet, just 6 tenths of a foot shy of the 1973 flood.

The highest stage for January 1 of record is 43.6, occurring in 1920, and peaked at 50.9 in April.

If one looks at comparable stages of flooding along the Mississippi, what is predicted for this year? It could go either way. The District is already preparing....just in case.

*Continued from page 12-Social Media*

and procedures.

The regulations state that all Corps webpages will contain the official disclaimers, waivers and informational links required. It must use all official logos and graphics and it must have a document retention system in place for Freedom of Information ACT (FOIA) requests.

## Authorization, not yet

Do you want to own an official Corps social media page? Right now the answer is no, but there is indication that they will be available in the next year. It is an excellent way to directly communicate the Corps message to the public without interpretation, spin or filter by any media source.

## Do's and don'ts (mostly don'ts)

Security risk assessments have to be done concerning the context of your page, and of course there is a comprehensive list supplied by the Army on

items of information that are strictly prohibited.

The Army Corporate Information Office is developing a list of "Safe to Use" providers. The providers of these sites are money making businesses, and to favor one over the other is not an acceptable practice.

Any type of user tracking or "tracking cookies" is against Army regulations and this is a potential stumbling block in way of securing government-approved providers. Most providers use some sort of user tracking device for marketing purposes, to either sell the end product or for their own benefit.

Here is something you probably haven't realized yet; any official communications with persons under 18 is strictly prohibited by the regulations. How are we going to keep teens off of a Facebook page?

Records management will also be a hurdle to overcome because all "official" communications with the public

has to be documented and retained under the FOIA.

Section 508 rules that make web pages accessible for our physically challenged customers will also apply to any "official" page. Normally this requires an exact duplicate of the page or site being created without any formatting or images. These text only pages are easier for the Section 508 software to interpret and repeat to the user, either audibly or in brail.

Moderation of the users and comments will be an ongoing issue. First amendment rights to free speech are a serious matter and removing someone's comments or even their access to the site could be viewed as a violation of the person's civil liberties.

These hugely popular pages are slowly changing the way society communicates, and as we all know, communications is the single most difficult task anyone can undertake.

# Sometimes the river wins

BY ANDY METTS

PHOTOS BY ANDY METTS AND BILLY STOKES

Generations of river men have headed out in the late summer and fall each year to place the concrete mats that keep the Mighty Mississippi from chewing up its banks. River levels are lowest then, resulting in slower currents that make for easier placement of the mats in the deep water of the river bends. Mat has been laid in the fall for so many years that we begin to think it would always be possible; maybe even easy.

The fall of 2009 started out pretty much like any other. River levels were on the high side of normal, but nothing to cause alarm. Work started on July 27 at Hickman, Kentucky and moved from one job site to another, working our way south. The plan was to continue hopscotching down the river until we finished at Buras, Louisiana, in early December, and we made it as far as Goldbottom Bend near Port Gibson. Local rains had made the river banks muddy, but we're used to working in difficult conditions.

Then Ole Man River decided to show us who's da boss. Unseasonable rains across the Mid-West caused the Mississippi to rise day after day. Along with higher water levels came swift currents and huge drifts of logs and brush that dislodged from the river banks upstream. By mid-October, the river reached levels seldom seen in the fall of the year, and continued to rise two feet or more each day.

The drift accumulated in huge rafts on the upstream side of our barges. The cables that held the barges in place against the swift current strained to the breaking point, and the winches that tug on the cables refused to pull the extra load. Shift foreman Joe Stampley is in charge of the sinking operation, and has been laying mat on the river banks since 1965. He's laid mat in high water conditions several times, but on October 14th, he decided that conditions were just too dangerous to continue in the swift currents at Goldbottom. He told us, "If y'all want to keep sinking mat here, you'll have to find somebody else to do it." When that much experience speaks, managers listen. We stopped operations



*The maintenance crew uses parts from used cable reels to build a makeshift bridge to the quarter-boats.*



*Two bulldozers free track hoe that got stuck on the river bank.*



*The bank crew struggles to pull cables on the flooded river bank.*

while we contemplated our next move.

As the river nears the Gulf of Mexico, it widens and slows. The rain that causes a 10-foot rise at Vicksburg may cause only a five-foot rise at New Orleans. We reasoned that the slower currents close to the Gulf of Mexico would allow us to continue working until the river levels upstream subsided. We asked management personnel at the New Orleans District if their work could be done ahead of schedule.

A lot of activities depend on the Mat Sinking operations to proceed as planned. The Bank Grading crew from Memphis District has to clear trees and prepare the banks to receive the mat. Corps liaisons from New Orleans District have to

schedule our arrival with towing companies and arrange to clear parked barges out of the way, or move anchored ships. Loading docks may have to stop operations while we work. A sudden change in the order of work throws the whole system into disorder. Our counterparts in Memphis and New Orleans Districts were very cooperative and resourceful in making ready for our arrival.

We left the next day for the 36-hour trip to New Orleans. We got there just ahead of the wall of water that had chased us off the last job site. The river continued to rise. According to Wayland Hill, in the Vicksburg District's water control section, the water levels at Vicksburg surpassed the record set in the fall of 1926 before the Great Flood of 1927. Then it rained some more. The stage at Vicksburg kept climbing until it was ten feet over the previous record for that date. Down in New Orleans, the river crept out of its banks and up against the levees. The water on the flat shelf between top bank and the levee got about three feet deep. That's too shallow to float barges, but almost too deep for wading.

Nothing about the mat sinking process is easy in these conditions. The quarter-boat crew had to build a bridge just to get from the quarters to dry land. Bulldozers and other heavy equipment were constantly stuck and had to pull each other out. The crew that pulls the cables to tie the mat to the anchors had to wade in waist-deep water to do so. The working conditions were about the most difficult and unpleasant that anyone on the crew could remember, but they soldiered on.

Finally, on November 8th, we completed the jobsite at Buras, Louisiana, about 80 river miles below New Orleans. We had about a month's worth of work scheduled at other job sites, but the water was too high and too swift to even attempt them. Our hard-working crew had already sunk 200,000 squares or 459 acres of mat, but their safety comes first. With no other options, we headed home with Hurricane Ida in our rear-view mirror.

Sometimes the river wins.

**District Field Offices & Services**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District**  
**4155 E. Clay Street**  
**Vicksburg, MS 39183**  
**www.mvk.usace.army.mil**  
**email: cemvk-pa@army.us.mil.**

Lake Ouachita	(501) 767-2101
Lake Greeson	(870) 285-2151
DeGray Lake	(870) 246-5501
Sardis Lake	(662) 563-4531
Arkabutla Lake	(662) 562-6261
Enid Lake	(662) 563-4571
Grenada Lake	(662) 226-5911
Bayou Bodcau	(318) 322-6391
JBW Waterway	(318) 322-6391
Ouachita-Black Rivers	(318) 322-6391
Golden Age Passports	(601) 631-5287
Aerial Photography	(601) 631-5709
Corps Wetland Permits	(601) 631-5289
<i>Apply, ask questions, or report violations</i>	
Contracting & Bids	(601) 631-7706
<i>Vendors, status of bids, specs</i>	
Community Support	(601) 631-5223
<i>Tours, speakers, volunteers</i>	
Historical Questions & Research	(601) 634-7023
<i>Mississippi River History Center</i>	
Real Estate Issues	(601) 631-5220
<i>Corps impacts to your property</i>	
Employment Questions	(601) 631-5859
<i>Vacancies, status, qualifications</i>	
Historical Photographs	(601) 631-5021
Environmental	(601) 631-5410

**Other Vicksburg Engineer/  
Federal Organizations:**

- Mississippi Valley Division  
(601) 634-5760
- Engineer Research & Development  
Center  
(601) 634-2504
- 412th Engineer Command  
(601) 636-1686
- 168th Engineer Group  
(601) 313-5290
- Vicksburg National Military Park  
(601) 636-0583
- U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Kickapoo  
(601) 636-8304
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
(601) 629-6607
- U. S. Army Recruiter  
(601) 638-1203

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 Vicksburg District C/PAO  
 4155 Clay Street  
 Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

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