



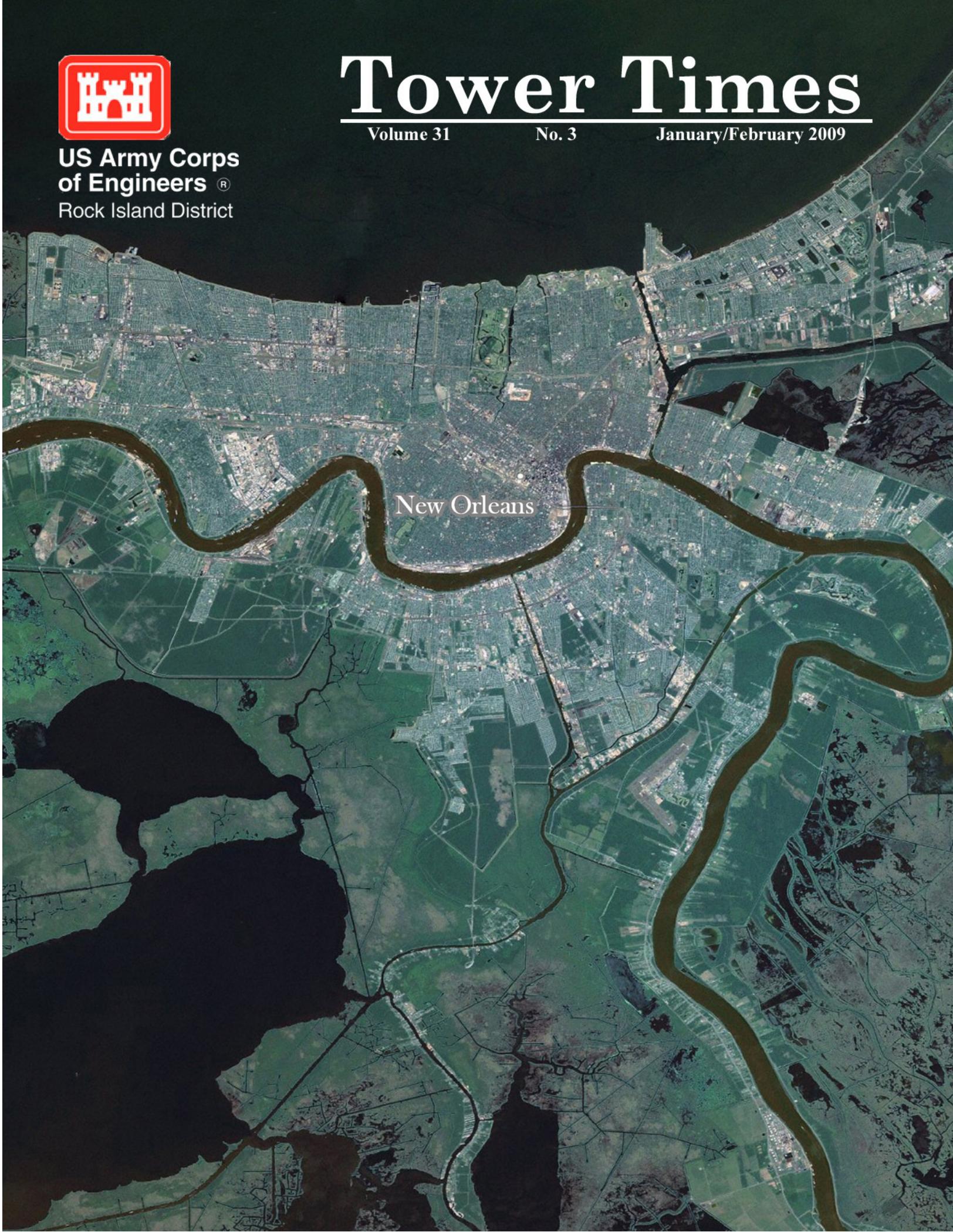
**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

Volume 31

No. 3

January/February 2009



New Orleans



# Spotlight on the District

## Amy Hess

### Chief of Equal Employment Opportunity

By Hilary Markin

There is a new face in the Corps of Engineers and Rock Island District who is no stranger to the river. Amy Hess is the new Chief of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). "I grew up on the river and know what a real river rat is," said Hess.

She graduated high school in the town of Shabbona, Ill. in Dekalb County. She has a Master's of Science Degree in Child and Family Studies and holds an Associates License in Marriage and Family Therapy from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb. She is looking forward to serving the Corps, planting roots and raising kids.

"I choose to work for the Corps of Engineers because I want to serve the public, especially in an area where my husband and I both have family. I have always heard good things about the Corps and I want to serve the community. It's the most logical next step from military service to public service."

Hess is no stranger to public service. She is currently in the Army Reserves as a chemical officer and involved in human resources. She will be celebrating 20 years of military service in September of this year. She served a combined total of nearly four years of active duty as a mobilized Reservist in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Hess deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Sultan Airbase, in 2002 as a Security Forces Flight Commander with the Air National Guard. She has also worked in Equal Opportunity for 10 years with the Army prior to coming to the Corps.

When asked if she had any advice coming into this position, she recalled a significant event during a previous EEO assignment. Hess encountered a gentleman who challenged her way of thinking. He posed a question to her after she conducted some training with his organization. He, as a middle-aged black man, questioned her, a white woman in her late twenties, about how

she could possibly understand what he has been through. Somewhat stunned by what seemed an accusation, she was left speechless at the time. After her meeting Hess took the opportunity to reflect on her conversation and wrote the following:

*I did not march with Dr. King  
Or hear the first bells of freedom ring  
I was not part of that history  
My eyes not there for them to see*

*From a different fountain I did not drink  
Nor was I 'different' for 'them' to think  
I could not protest against the war  
Or shelter loved ones from the gore*

*I cannot say in your shoes I walked  
I did not hear when your heroes talked  
I was not there to take a beating  
Or feel the pain after verbal mistreating*

*But I am here today to take a stand  
To commit to you I understand  
I cannot take years of sorrow away  
All I can do is pave a new way*

*Laws and polices all that's entailed  
Will keep our train from being derailed  
We are as strong as our weakest link  
Put our minds together and let us think*

*What can we do to bring us together  
To strengthen the bonds that tie us forever  
What can I do to help make it right  
To give all I've got and put up a good fight*

*We have to move on and get past the hurt  
Combine our energy and put it to work  
To help those who once had no chance  
To hear the music and dance the last dance*

*Lessons learned put those to the test  
To possibly lay painful memories to rest  
This is my view, it's from my perspective  
Treat each other with dignity in turn be respected*

Amy R. Hess

Illinois State Equal Employment Manager  
June 23, 1999



Hess and her family are huge Chicago Cubs fans and enjoy seeing the games in person at Wrigley Field.

Her advice is simple: Treat each other with dignity, in turn be respected.

Away from work, Hess enjoys her family. They recently moved back to Aledo, Ill. where she lives with her husband, a fellow Army Reservist, their twin 8 year olds and 18 month old. She also has a stepson who lives in Washington State. "We enjoy the heck out of our kids and want to show them the world," Hess said regarding her family.

Her hobbies include anything on the water. She loves to swim and kayak and take the family camping.

She has always had a passion for running and recently entered the 9.11 Mile Freedom Run in Barrington, Ill., where she won first place in her category. The Freedom Run honors troops all over the world and has been called Chicagoland's most inspirational running event.

Hess has been busy learning about the Corps and the district. Her office is on the first floor of the Clock Tower and the door is always open. The EEO office is responsible for accommodating disabilities, the Affirmative Employment Program, complaint counseling, employee and management advice, recruitment of EEO groups and the Special Emphasis Program and Committee. To contact Amy Hess, her phone number 309-794-5422 and email address is [Amy.R.Hess@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amy.R.Hess@usace.army.mil).

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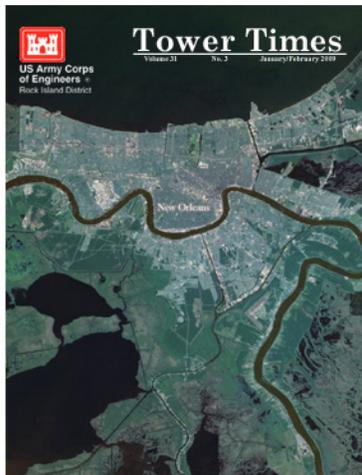
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January/February 2009

# Tower Times

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### On the Cover

The Rock Island District is supporting the New Orleans District in completing the Corps' goal of providing 100-year storm protection by 2011. For a detailed map of the project areas please see the Tower Times website.

See story on page five and six.



# The Midwest

By Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander

A few days ago one of my good friends in the Region called me a “Northerner.” It kind of took me by surprise. I have never ever thought of myself as a Northerner before. I thought about it for a while, and then decided that he just didn’t know that we generally think of ourselves in the Rock Island District area as “Midwesterners.” I checked with the U.S. Census Bureau, and they call us what we are – “Midwesterners.”

People are usually proud of who they are, whether a Midwesterner or a Southerner, or a Westerner, etc. I decided that I wasn’t going to let anyone call me a Northerner again, primarily because I am a Midwesterner, and I didn’t really want someone else to incorrectly define who I was.

Rock Island District employees, of course are proud to be part of the Great Mississippi Valley Division family, and the Regional team. And, we enjoy primarily serving in what the U.S. Geological Survey calls the Upper Mississippi River Basin. But, most of us still see ourselves as Midwesterners.

I consulted several Midwest experts and agree with them. Midwesterners have what many would consider a good value system - an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay, hard work, honesty, modesty, lack of pretension, your word is your bond, always lend a helping hand, never stand by and tolerate injustice or suffering, your name/reputation/character is your most prized possession. Midwesterners have an aversion to shiny objects and flashy ways (consumerism, political spin, fast talkers, etc.). Midwesterners are grateful for the simple things, good food, health, the love of family, shelter, friends and community. Midwesterners pull together when needed, yet giving each other space to live independently.

Some people that live outside the Midwest might think that Midwesterners are generally God-fearing and church-going, but whether or not that is really true - Midwesterners generally live in a way that demonstrates the values taught in almost every church in the world: love thy neighbor as thyself, thou shalt not steal, etc., etc.

Being a Midwesterner is in stark contrast to the value of every man for himself, the law of the jungle, and the survival of the fittest that may be the prominent value system in other parts of the World.

The Midwestern leaders that I admire (many of whom will read this) exhibit a solid, quiet integrity. They are not flashy. They have a work ethic second-to-none, and recognize the value



The Midwest as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

of putting a shoulder to the wheel for the long haul.

Midwesterners treat other people’s money conservatively, especially the taxpayer’s; and they treat customers with respect.

Midwesterners generally value a strong corporate culture, believe in a systems approach to solving problems, and support and encourage team work.

“Midwestern Values” equate to success when operating in the Rock Island District, which is right in the heart of the Midwest. Our leaders in the Rock Island District have a quiet, self-effacing, but firm presence. People instinctively sense that Rock Island District employees are men and women of strong core values who can be counted upon through thick or thin to do his or her best.

Now, Southerners, Westerners, and others in our Nation all have great values that ensure they succeed in the part of the country that they live in. But, in the Midwest, Midwestern values generally ensure success in accomplishing our mission to serve the People of our Nation in our area, which does include parts of five Midwestern States.

Now, many of you are wondering where I am going with this. I just wanted to say that as our District workload continues to increase, and as we take on more and more of the Regional work to enable New Orleans District to deliver the Greater New Orleans Area Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System by 2011, we need to stay true to our Midwestern values. As we work with others in the Nation and the Region, we will find that characteristics valued in the Midwest, are valued elsewhere also, and are generally regarded as core American Values.

Our Midwestern Values are definitely worth holding on to, and they should always be something that defines our District. ■

# A New Shade of Green

By Hilary Markin

The Rock Island District has been selected as one of four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers test sites for alternative fuel vehicles. We are also becoming more environmentally responsible by replacing the district's fleet with hybrid and multi-fuel (E85) capable vehicles.

The district currently has four hybrids in the fleet and has another one on order. The General Services Administration has been overwhelmed with the high demand of hybrids in the last six months and they are behind in the inventory.

These vehicles are designed to increase fuel economy and have lower emissions than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles. Hybrid vehicles are particularly efficient for city traffic where there are frequent stops, coasting and idling periods. In addition noise emissions are reduced, particularly at idling and low operating speeds.

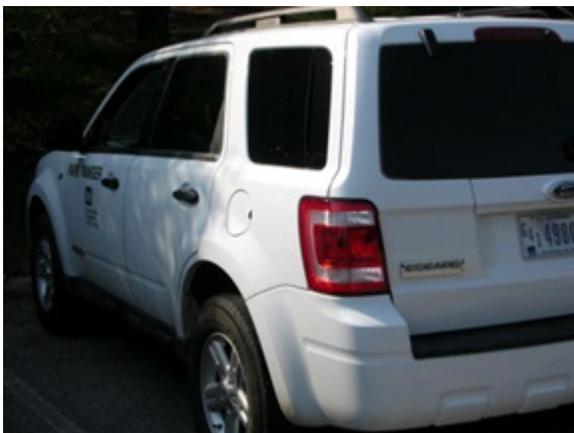
Lake Red Rock has two of the hybrid vehicles that are used for patrolling government lands.

"Rangers have mentioned that visitors will often wave them down while they are patrolling through an area to ask about the hybrid vehicles. Since the hybrids typically run off of battery power at slow speeds and are not making any engine noise, it spikes visitor's curiosity about what kind of vehicle it is. It's another good way for Park Rangers to have positive interaction with the public," said Josh Conrad, natural resource specialist at Lake Red Rock.

The Rock Island District currently has 30 vehicles that are multi-fuel (E85) capable. Ninety percent of those vehicles have been acquired in the last two years.

One of the advantages of driving a multi-fuel vehicle is you can choose from several different fuels, depending on what's available and/or more affordable. These vehicles will also be compatible with the fuels presently used and those of the future.

Currently, there are a limited number of refueling stations that offer E85 fuel. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition has a



This Ford Escape Hybrid is one of Lake Red Rock's patrol vehicles that draws attention to itself because it's so quiet.

place on their website to assist customers in finding stations with E85 fuel at [www.e85refueling.com](http://www.e85refueling.com).

The vehicles in the district's fleet are replaced when they meet their life cycle of six years, 64,000 miles, or mission requirements change.

"On a yearly basis we usually have about 10 percent that meet the life cycle turnover which is about 17 vehicles. Of those 17 vehicles the majority will be replaced with multi-fuel (E85) capable vehicles," said Daniel Simon, transportation tech in Logistics Management.

The Rock Island District is striving to be a leader in going green by replacing government vehicles with hybrid and multi-fuel (E85) capable ones. As advances in technology occur the district will be prepared with multi-fuel capable vehicles that benefit the environment and the economy. 🇺🇸

## Are you doing your part?

Follow these tips for driving more efficiently to help increase your gas mileage.

- ✓ **Drive Sensibly** - Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and 5 percent around town. 
- ✓ **Observe the Speed Limit** - Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour (mph). Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$.24 per gallon for gas.
- ✓ **Remove Excess Weight** - Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle.
- ✓ **Avoid Excessive Idling** - Idling gets 0 miles per gallon.
- ✓ **Use Cruise Control** - Using cruise control at highway speeds helps you maintain speed and in most cases will save gas.
- ✓ **Use Overdrive Gears** - When using overdrive your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduce engine wear.

[www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)

2009



Damage caused by Hurricane Katrina was assessed by Corps employees in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Rock Island New Orleans Support team has been assigned the Eastern Tie-In that will close the hurricane risk reduction system on the west bank protecting this area.

# SUPPORTING THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

By Hilary Markin

**O**n August, 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall at Buras, Louisiana, in Plaquemines Parish about one hour south of New Orleans. Katrina was moving with Category 5 strength less than 12 hours prior to landfall. The storm generated a 28-foot storm surge and 55-foot waves.

The damage caused by the storm was unprecedented. Approximately eighty percent of New Orleans was flooded to depths exceeding 15 feet in many areas. Surge and waves caused 50 major levee breaches in the regional Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). Thirty-four of the city's 71 pumping stations were damaged and 169 of the system's 350 miles of protective structures were compromised. Also contributing to the flooding was heavy rainfall; 14 inches in a 24-hour period. More than 1,500 lives were lost. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Katrina is the costliest disaster ever to occur in the United States.

The Corps of Engineers is committed to repairing and rebuilding the levees and floodwalls of the HSDRRS. The goal for this system is to reduce the risk from a storm event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. With post-Katrina

design criteria and full federal funding from Congress, the Corps is on track to provide this risk reduction in hurricane season 2011.

A tremendous amount of work must be completed in a short time frame. Hurricane Gustav, which hit Louisiana in 2008, further heightened the urgency to complete the HSDRRS, with many people calling for 2010 delivery.

When an analysis showed more resources were needed to focus on the HSDRRS to meet the 2011 goal, Corps leaders developed a path forward that leverages all Mississippi Valley Division resources; including the continued support from the Northwest Division and Chicago District.

To help reach the completion date, the Rock Island District has established a new office, the Rock Island New Orleans Support Branch (RINOS), which includes elements of the Programs and Project Management Division and a new branch under the Engineering and Construction Division. "Completion of the HSDRRS is the Corps' top domestic priority," said Col. Robert Sinkler, District Commander. "The 2011 completion date will not be extended and we are ready to do our part to ensure that deadline is met or exceeded."

"New Orleans is a top regional priority and we are commit-

ted to providing New Orleans support in our characteristically exceptional manner,” noted Sinkler. “We are dedicated to providing our regional customers with the same outstanding service that we continue to provide to customers in the Rock Island District. We are hiring more engineers, contractors and other personnel to ensure this new mission can be accomplished in addition to our current flood recovery efforts.”

The RINOS Team has been assigned four specific projects to help the New Orleans District meet their goal. The RINOS “Supporting Project Manager” is Michael Tarpey. According to Tarpey, “This is an enormous undertaking. I am privileged to be a part of this effort to help complete the HSDRRS in the greater New Orleans area.”

The largest project is the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex, which is the keystone risk reduction project being constructed on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The project, as proposed, would consist of a 20,000 cubic feet per second storm water drainage pump station, which would be the nation’s largest interior pumping complex. It also would include one or more navigable floodgates, floodwalls, and earthen levees to be constructed. The cost estimate for this project is more than \$500 million. This project is also adjacent to an Environmental

evacuation route, making construction sequencing extremely important so that any evacuations would not be impeded during construction. The cost estimate for this project is more than \$100 million.

The third project is the Eastern Tie-In, which is an important part of the West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) system. The “tie-in” connects the WBV risk reduction system to the Mississippi River Levee system in Plaquemines Parish, thereby closing the hurricane risk reduction system on the west bank. The project consists of levees, floodwalls, and a navigable closure structure, which will require modification to maintain the existing hurricane evacuation route. The cost estimate for the Eastern Tie-In is more than \$100 million.

The final project that the RINOS team is assigned is the Algiers Canal. The project consists of levee improvements, pump station fronting protection, and gates. The cost estimate for this project is less than \$100 million.

Barb Lester has been assigned as the Engineering Projects Lead. Barb and her team of engineers had only about a month to transition engineering responsibility for the four projects from New Orleans District to the Rock Island District. This coordination required tremendous effort by all to familiarize themselves with existing work conditions and project challenges, and to coordinate the transfer of responsibilities to the Rock Island District. Lester and her team have been busy establishing intermixed engineer teams using resources from other districts and architect/engineer contractors. When describing how these teams will accomplish the work, Lester emphasized that, “the success of this effort hinges on how well we are able to team with other districts and the private sector to produce the quality engineering products necessary to meet the 2011 goal.”

The RINOS Team has established an office on the Rock Island Arsenal in building 68. They expect to hire up to 45 government employees and contractors to assist in the completion of the four projects.

Tom Hodgini was recently assigned to fill the newly established position of Assistant Deputy Project Manager for New Orleans Support. Hodgini explains that, “We’re making great strides in building our team both within Rock Island District and throughout the Mississippi Valley Division. We’ll be adding contractors to assist with tasks such as project scheduling, quality assurance, and liaison with the New Orleans District. Although we have a relatively small staff, they will be executing a huge program of national significance. Everybody has been working diligently to get our office up and running and to transition responsibilities from the New Orleans District.”

These four projects will reduce the risk from storm surge for residents and businesses on the west bank of the Mississippi River in the greater New Orleans area. The Rock Island District is looking forward to the opportunity to provide our professional and technical expertise to the region in reaching the Corps’ goal of establishing the HSDRRS by 2011. 🏠



**The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) has developed a West Closure Complex physical model. Michael Tarpey (middle) and Col. Robert Sinkler (right) discuss the project features and the model’s purpose with Randy McCollum (left), ERDC Principle Investigator for this model.**

Protection Agency wetland area of national significance, Bayou aux Carpes 404 (c), and construction impacts on this area must be kept to within a 100-ft footprint.

The second project is the Western Tie-In, which ties the western-most portion of the west bank system to the Mississippi River Levees in St. Charles Parish, by way of the Davis Pond Diversion. This project consists of a levee, a four-lane highway crossing, a navigable closure structure, and miscellaneous floodwalls and gates. The highway crossing is a hurricane

# Special Thanks to Volunteers

This is the first of a series of articles highlighting some of the Rock Island District's dedicated volunteers. Volunteers are extremely valuable to our organization and we can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication to the Corps of Engineers.



**Don and Marilyn Van Baale are dedicated volunteers regularly staffing the Visitor Center at Lake Red Rock.**



## **Don and Marilyn Van Baale – Red Rock Visitor Center Volunteers**

**By Tracy Spry, Natural Resource Specialist at Lake Red Rock**

Imagine that it's a sunny Saturday in June and you're at Lake Red Rock for the first time searching for a campsite. You stop by the Red Rock Visitor Center for directions and are greeted with smiles and a warm welcome from Don and Marilyn Van Baale, Visitor Center volunteers. They quickly get to work and help you find a site.

Don and Marilyn have volunteered at the lake since 1999. Since that time, they have logged over 8,000 hours of their time staffing the Visitor Center and assisting with light maintenance tasks.

Residents of the nearby town of Monroe, Iowa, Don and Marilyn are avid campers and wildlife lovers. They spend many hours throughout the year visiting the parks and watching deer, eagles and other animals. When they learned of the opportunity, they jumped at the chance to volunteer in the Red Rock Visitor Center.

Every summer weekend, you'll find the Van Baales in the Visitor Center greeting and helping visitors. They answer questions as seasoned professionals who know the lake and their jobs well. They are generous with their time too. They donate many hours above and beyond their work schedule to help when requested. Don frequently tells Red Rock Park Rangers, "If you need us, just let us know." During early and later seasons of the

year before/after the camping season, they drive from their home in Monroe, Iowa to assist in the center during Bald Eagle Days, school programs and other activities.

Don and Marilyn received the Marion County "Star Volunteer" award in 2001, and were honored as recipients of the Take Pride in America Presidential Award in 2006. The Corps also honors them each year during the annual volunteer recognition picnic in August, which is sponsored by the Red Rock Lake Association.

The Van Baales have agreed to return for the 2009 recreation season and the Corps is glad to welcome them back! Thank you Don and Marilyn for your hard work!

In 2008, Lake Red Rock enlisted help from over 300 volunteers who donated over 11,000 hours performing such tasks as greeting and assisting campers, mowing park areas, staffing the Visitor Center, cleaning park buildings, picking up litter, checking and maintaining nest boxes, helping out with special events and assisting with many other tasks. Most volunteer positions are filled annually to help provide a quality experience to lake visitors.

If there is a volunteer you would like to recognize, please contact Hilary Markin at [Hilary.R.Markin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Hilary.R.Markin@usace.army.mil). 📧



# Going from Good to Great!



There is a star icon on your desktop linking you to the new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Quality Management System (QMS). If you don't have the new icon, don't wait for it – visit <https://kme.usace.army.mil/CE/QMS/Pages/Welcome.aspx>.

The USACE QMS Vision: is to execute the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission through standard business processes that increase efficiency, effectiveness, and product quality; are championed by the Communities of Practice (COPs); and improved through Lean Six Sigma so that USACE Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) can respond virtually and seamlessly in support of the Nation's Civil Works priorities and the Armed Forces' call for expeditionary technical teams in real-time, anywhere across the globe with minimal onsite training.

Yolanda Arthur, a technical quality

manager for division, described the USACE QMS as “the home to the USACE Standard Processes that sets a standard that will simplify and unify Corps procedures. It sets the conditions for success, by allowing anyone from any district in the Corps to deploy, go on training, transfer, or serve on temporary developmental assignments anywhere else in the Corps and use the same paperwork and business practices. No longer will the first few days or weeks of a deployment require “relearning” that district's standards.”

This is for EVERYONE. It is a tool that establishes a standardized, structured approach to accomplishing work. There are approximately 125 documents on the system and more to come. If you are involved in PDTs or Independent Technical Review teams there are several processes related to this area. The processes are broken down by COPs or you can search

by key words. The Regional QMS will be embedded within the USACE QMS and is under development. Processes that are currently being used in the region that are not on the USACE QMS will be stored here.

“For the Mississippi Valley Division to be a part of an expeditionary technical team that can go anywhere across the globe with minimal onsite training, we must adapt to using these standard processes, help improve these processes and suggest new processes for the system,” stated Arthur.

If you have processes that you are using that you think should be included on the system contact Mari Fournier, she is the districts' point of contact.

Stay tuned for more information. Everyone will be attending a web seminar in the upcoming months to help become familiar with system. 📺



## SAFETY CORNER



### Snow Shovel and Snow Blower Safety

By Jennifer Hutchison, Safety Office

The snowfall around the Rock Island District is a beautiful sight to some but a chore for most. Most likely the majority of us will have to do some shoveling or snow removal at some point. Help protect yourself and others by reading these snow shoveling and snow blowing safety tips.

#### Snow Shovel Safety

- ❖ **Shovel fresh snow.** Freshly fallen snow is generally easier to shovel than wet, packed-down snow.
- ❖ **Push the snow as you shovel.** It is easier on your back than lifting the snow out of the way.
- ❖ **Don't pick up too much at once.** Use a light shovel (e.g. aluminum). Use a small shovel or fill it ¼ or ½ the amount of a large load.
- ❖ **Lift with your legs bent, not your back.** Keeping your back straight, bending and “squatting” into the movement will help keep your spine upright and less stressed. Let your arms and legs do the work for you.
- ❖ **Take it slow!** Shoveling can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically; so pace yourself. It is beneficial to stretch out and warm up before taking on the task.
- ❖ **Do not work to the point of exhaustion.** If you run out of breath, take a break. If you feel tightness in your

chest, stop immediately. Individuals over the age of 40, or those who are relatively inactive, should be especially careful. \* If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel without a doctor's permission.

- ❖ **Avoid shoveling after eating.**
- ❖ **Dress warm.** Remember your nose, ears, hands and feet need extra attention during cold weather conditions. Wearing a turtleneck, sweater, cap, scarf, face protection, mittens, wool socks, and water proof boots will help to keep your body insulated and warm.

#### Snow Blower Safety

- ❖ **Inexperience causes accidents.** Review the operator's manual before using the snow blower.
- ❖ **Accidents occur most often when the discharge chute clogs with wet, heavy snow.** You can't see the blades due to the snow covered blades. If you use your hand or a stick to remove the clog, the blades could strike the stick or your hand. In either case, injury can occur.
- ❖ **Stop the engine!** Before attempting to clean foreign objects or snow from the equipment, stop the snow blower engine.
- ❖ **NEVER insert your hand in the discharge chute or to clear it while the engine is running.** 📺



# Around the District

## Lockmaster at Lock & Dam 11 Receives Award



Jim Piper received an award from Lieutenant Colonel Michael Clarke for his participation in the Operation & Maintenance of Navigation Locks and Dams High Performing Organization development team. Piper along with other team members from the Inland Navigation Divisions and Districts provided a wide spectrum of experience and expertise to the team.

They examined every aspect of our navigation mission and searched for innovative ways to improve the way the Corps manages this critical part of the nation's transportation system.

## Retirements ...

**Dan Crone**, natural resources specialist, Saylorville Lake, Operations Division, retired Feb. 3, after dedicating 30 years and one month to the federal government.

**Harry Bottorff**, community planner, Project Management Branch, Programs and Project Management Division, retired Jan. 31, after dedicating 23 years and four months to the federal government.

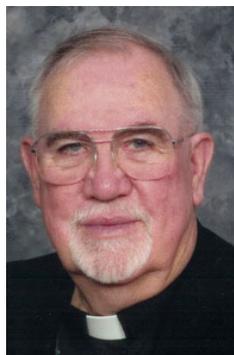
## Congrats ...



and 20.5 inches long.

Congratulations to James and Dawn Sager, Operations Division, on the birth of a baby boy, Zander James, November 30. He was 7 pounds, 4.4 ounces

## Sympathy ...



**Reverend Frank Mack**, 82, of Keithsburg, Ill., died Dec. 20, at Mercer County Hospital in Aledo.

Mack worked for the Corps of Engineers for 35 years before retiring in 1981.

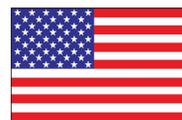
He served with the U.S. Navy Corpsman attached to the Marine Corps during World War II.



**Wayne Louck**, 85, of New Boston, Ill., died Dec. 30, at Mercer County Hospital Hospice in Aledo.

Louck was a shifthead lock and dam operator at Lock and Dam 17 for 32 years. He retired in 1985 after a total of 40 years of government service.

He served his country for eight years in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.



**Irene Eiche**, 91, of Rock Island, Ill., died Jan. 12, at Silver Cross Nursing Center in Rock Island.

Eiche worked for the Corp of Engineers as a recruitment and placement specialist for the personnel office. She retired in 1972 after 30 years of govern-



**Henry "Hank" Pfister**, 78, of Rochester, Minn., died Jan. 12, at Seasons Hospice in Rochester.

Pfister served as the chief of Operations Division for the Rock Island District. He retired in 1987 after 30 1/2 years.

## Upcoming Events ...

**Saylorville Lake Bald Eagle Watch**  
February 22 from 12 - 4 p.m.  
Saylorville Lake Visitor Center



**Red Rock Eagle Watch**  
March 7 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Central College

## NOTE

Please send achievements, births, and obituaries for this page to the editor at: [hilary.r.markin@usace.army.mil](mailto:hilary.r.markin@usace.army.mil).

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# SUPPORT, SACRIFICE FOR CORPS

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

*Thank You For Serving!*



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



[www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm)

## Lock and Dam 14 Receives “Patriotic Employer Award”

By Hilary Markin

Lock and Dam 14 received the “Patriotic Employer Award” on January 12 during a ceremony held at the lock. The award was presented to Dennis Shannon, chief of the Lock and Dam Section of the Mississippi River Project Office and Roger Harroun, lockmaster, by the Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

They were presented a certificate and patriot pin by Harry Cockrell, chairman of Area 9 Iowa ESGR. Cockrell said the award is presented to employers who go “above and beyond” in supporting employees who serve in the Guard and Reserves. “This recognizes deserving employers whose support and goodwill are critically important to retaining the highly skilled and qualified members of our Guard and Reserves,” said Cockrell.

Cpl. Eddie Sanchez, a member of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion headquartered in Dallas, nominated Lock and Dam 14. Sanchez is also a lock operator and was home on a short leave from Al Kut, Iraq for the presentation of the award. “They’ve been pretty helpful from the time I got activated as far as the other guys covering my shift,” he said. “They’ve been helping my wife out with anything she needs.”

Harroun praised Sanchez, even though the award went to Harroun. “He’s the one who really needs the award,” Harroun said.

“Eddie’s definitely a team player, and I think that’s one of the reasons he put us in for this award, so he could show the guys his appreciation for all they do in accepting his Reserve obligations. Eddie’s a talented professional and a good individual,” said Harroun.

Harroun said he juggles schedules to cover Sanchez’s shift when he’s gone. “He’s pretty experienced, so it makes it challenging to cover that aspect of it.”

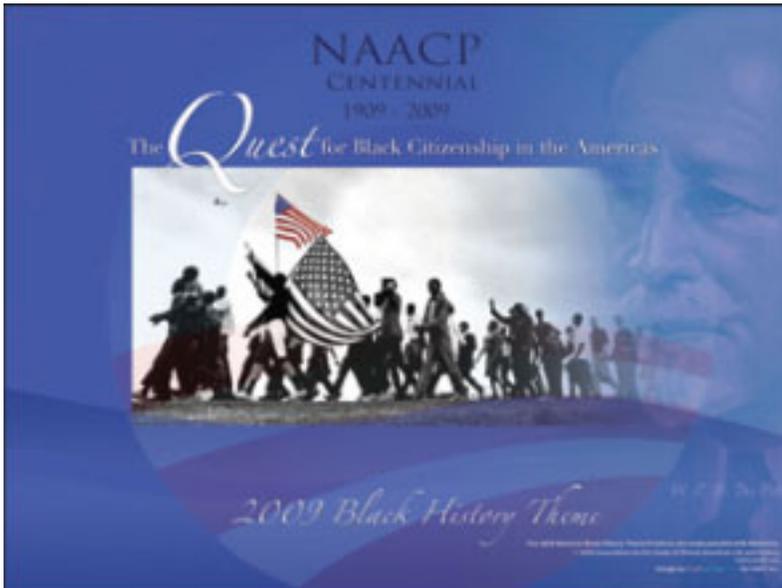
*David Heitz, Bettendorf News, contributed to this article.*



Left, Harry Cockrell, chairman of Area 9 Iowa ESGR is presenting the staff of Lock and Dam 14 with the Patriotic Employer Award. Top, Eddie Sanchez and his family, are pictured with Roger Harroun (left) and Dennis Shannon (right) after receiving their awards for their support of Sanchez while on active military duty.

# February is Black History

*2009 Theme: The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas*



A century ago, an interracial group of Americans joined together and formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Two generations after emancipation, a tide of racism had betrayed the promise of first-class citizenship. In the South, whites had stripped Blacks of the right to vote and constructed a society based on racial segregation. In the North, African Americans confronted myriad forms of discrimination that thwarted their aspirations. The Supreme Court turned a blind eye to the denigration of American citizenship taking place across the land and in the government itself.

The story of the NAACP is the story of struggle to create and maintain equal citizenship for all Americans. Through exposing the horrors of lynching, keeping the issue of equality before the courts, and organizing branches throughout the country, the NAACP drew a national following and inspired others to form organizations for racial change. The NAACP's work gave hope not only to blacks in the North, but to men and women in the South like Rosa Parks and Medgar Evers.

The centennial of the NAACP is an occasion to highlight the problem of race and citizenship in American history, from the experiences of free Blacks in a land of slavery to the political aspirations of African Americans today. The centennial also provides an opportunity to explore the history of other nation's in the Americas, where former slaves also sought the fruits of citizenship. 🇺🇸

*Association for the Study of African American Life and History*

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