



Tower Times

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US Army Corps
of Engineers[®]
Rock Island District



One Step Closer

Stage Three contract awarded for project at Lockport Lock and Dam, Lockport, Ill.

Operation Bambi Bucket

Iowa Army National Guard uses Saylorville Lake for training operations



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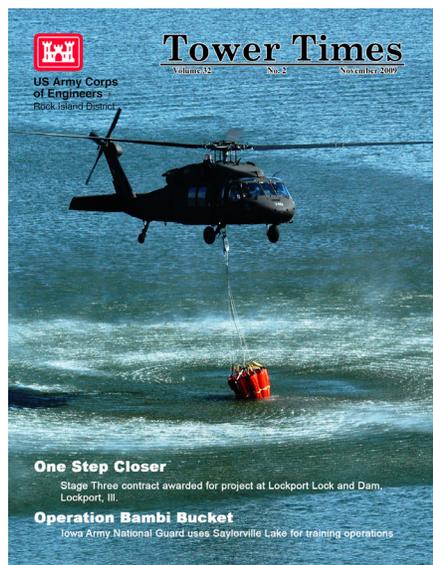
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On the Cover

The Iowa Army National Guard uses water from Saylorville Lake to stimulate a rotary unit's firefighting abilities in preparation for a deployment to Kosovo next spring. The unit collected water in the "Bambi" water bucket and released it on a target at Camp Dodge. (See story on page 5)

Photo by Tom Guillaume, Saylorville Lake



Providing Sustainable Solutions

By Col. Shawn McGinley, District Commander

Those of us in the District working at the Clock Tower Building on Arsenal Island probably noticed the large cranes and other equipment maneuvering in and around Locks and Dam 15 in late October. The crews operating that equipment were replacing the upstream miter gates in the auxiliary lock.

As I pondered the work being accomplished, I was once again amazed at the ingenuity and determination that is so prevalent throughout this District. My amazement was not based on the sheer magnitude of the project. Sure, it is impressive to watch highly trained crane operators manipulate and place the huge gates with pin-point accuracy. But, my amazement is more focused on the history of the locks and dams because the crews replacing those miter gates were accomplishing critical maintenance work to a system that dates back to the 1930s. Maintaining infrastructure of that era is tough work and our people's ability to get that job done will never cease to impress me.

Navigation is one of the primary missions of the District. One of the ways we accomplish that mission is by maintaining the nearly 600 miles of nine-foot navigation channel and the 20 locks and dams within our District. It's a big job and the crews, like the ones replacing the miter gates at Locks and Dam 15, work long hours in all kinds of weather conditions to complete the task. There are also many individuals and offices behind the scenes supporting these missions so our waterways continue to be effective.

I think the District's commitment to maintaining these aging navigation systems is a very good depiction of our efforts in support of the Corps' Campaign Plan. The Campaign Plan goals include: readying for all contingencies; engineering sustainable water resource solutions; recruiting and retaining strong teams; and, delivering effective, resilient, sustainable solutions. The latter goal is evident in everything we do with regard to lock and dam maintenance.

In the absence of a newly constructed system of locks, it is imperative that the aging locks are maintained. All along our District's waterways, crews are conducting preventive maintenance and refurbishing parts to ensure the navigation system continues to serve our customers. The men and women maintaining our locks and dams are definitely delivering effective, resilient, and sustainable solutions.

This District invests a lot of money, time and effort into maintaining our aging navigation system. But, when you consider the amount of cargo and the thousands upon thousands of boats and barges that pass through our locks on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, it's easy to see why our efforts are so critical. Navigation is essential to the nation's economy and to transportation and would not happen if not for the tireless efforts of the crews who are dedicated to maintaining our locks and dams and navigation channel.

Your hard work continues to amaze me. Continue BUILDING STRONG.



Going from Good to Great!



By Sharryn Jackson, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Have you had your U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Quality Management System (QMS) Meal this week? Hopefully they have increased your "appetite" for learning more about the USACE QMS and the website. In support of Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp's initiative for standardizing our business processes and for facilitating improvement of those processes, all USACE Divisions and Districts have been tasked to become familiar with the QMS.

Within the USACE QMS there is also a Regional QMS. The Regional QMS is comprised of the nine divisions under USACE and each division has a Regional QMS Audit Team. That team is comprised of the Division's Regional Quality Manager and one representative from each District within the Division. Those teams have been hard at work developing ways to inform and educate all employees about the QMS.

The MVD Regional Team met in the St. Louis District (MVS)

in July to plan the QMS audit program for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 09 and for FY 10. They also conducted an initial QMS audit of MVS to determine familiarization of MVS staff with the QMS, and to assess compliance with two selected QMS Processes as a trial-run and training for the Regional Team. At the conclusion, MVD senior leaders were out-briefed and provided an Audit Report documenting the process, findings and recommendations.

To reiterate from Col. McGinley's QMS Roll-out message, each of you are urged to learn about this USACE initiative and to begin using these processes. QMS and the Enterprise Standards are the core guidelines of how we do business throughout USACE. We must truly implement and integrate the system into what we do before we can reap its positive benefits.

Visit: <https://kme.usace.army.mil/CE/QMS/Pages/Welcome.aspx>



A bird's-eye-view of Lockport Lock, Lockport, Ill., shows the Lockport upper pool is a perched pool (38-feet above the surrounding area), it has a roughly forty-five-foot-high embankment on the right descending bank and a concrete canal wall on the left descending bank.

core wall and non-homogeneous material that had deteriorated to the point where its function as a seepage cutoff was inadequate.

Stage Two is the reconstruction of the Lockport Controlling Works which is currently in the design phase and a construction contract will be awarded this fiscal year with a completion date of 2012. The Controlling Works are approximately three miles upstream of the Lock and Dam and are used by MWRD to control the water levels in the Illinois Waterway.

Stage Three is rehabilitating the left descending Lockport Canal Wall that has been in an advanced state of deterioration for many years. The District has awarded a \$64,000,000 construction contract to Walsh Construction Company, Chicago, Ill., to place new structural precast concrete panels along the existing canal face for approximately two miles. Construction is expected to be complete in December 2011.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, passed by the U.S. House and Senate and signed by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, provided the District with \$88,861,000 for continuing the rehabilitation work. Sixty-seven percent of the ARRA funding is being used to complete Stage Three of the Lockport Lock Rehabilitation project. The remaining ARRA funds will be used to complete Stage Two.

The entire project is expected to be finished in 2012. 

ONE STEP CLOSER

By Hilary Markin, Public Affairs Specialist

The Rock Island District, in coordination with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), took another step in implementing a \$110 million multi-year program to repair the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal embankments along the three-mile upper pool approach area to Lockport Lock and to rehabilitate the Lockport Controlling Works. Lockport Lock, Lockport, Ill., is on the Illinois Waterway and is part of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which extends from the Chicago River to the Illinois Waterway.

The MWRD, through congressional action, transferred maintenance responsibilities of all pool retention structures to the Corps in the early 1980s. Due to a history of sinkholes and surface slumping, the District made significant improvements to the embankments' structural stability and erosion resistance with the addition of rock fill. A shallow cutoff trench was also constructed in the early 1990s to prevent further sinkhole development. These improvements performed satisfactorily for nearly 11 years and then sinkhole development resumed in 2001.

In 2005, the Lockport Pool Approach Dike and Walls, adjacent to Lockport Lock and Dam, were designated as a Corps Dam Safety Action Classification II, which is defined as a dam that has confirmed (unsafe) or unconfirmed (potentially unsafe) safety issues. This classification was given primarily due to seepage through the embankments that could threaten their integrity. The probability of this type of failure is small; however, the potential consequences warranted the rehabilitation project.

"This project is a very high priority with the Corps and the Administration," said Steve Russell, Project Manager, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division. "As a result, the project continues to receive the funding needed to move at a fast pace."

The rehabilitation project is being completed in stages. Stage One was rehabilitating the right descending Lockport Approach Dike by installing a 4,300-foot slurry cut-off wall. The contract was completed by Bencor Corporation of America in September at a contract cost of \$20,000,000. The original dike was constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s of a limestone, cement-



The contractor used a Hydromill to install the 4,300-foot cut-off wall on the right descending Lockport Approach Dike. The Hydromill is a three step process; first a Bentonite (clay) Slurry is introduced into the trench from the slurry plant, then the cutter (above right) cuts the material, with both wheels rotating towards the center of the machine. Between the wheels is a pump that removes the slurry with the cutting and returns it to the slurry plant where the slurry is separated and then returned to the trench. During the final step, the concrete is poured through tubes to the bottom of the trench as the slurry is removed from the top to form the cut-off wall.



A member of the rotary aviation unit, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation, maneuvers a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with a full “Bambi” bucket towards a target at Camp Dodge during a training exercise at Saylorville Lake.

Aviation, used a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter equipped with a “Bambi” water bucket sling to collect water from the lake and release it on a target at Camp Dodge. The fire bucket training exercise was stimulating the unit’s firefighting abilities in preparation for deployment to Kosovo next spring.

Saylorville Lake and the Iowa Army National Guard signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2002 so the National Guard could use federal lands around Saylorville Lake for training exercises.

“We (Saylorville Lake) have been cooperating more and more every year,” said Michael Coltrain, Natural Resource Specialist, Saylorville Lake. “The Bambi bucket exercise was one of three special event permits that the Iowa Army National Guard has applied for this year.”

Saylorville Lake works closely with the Iowa Army National Guard to coordinate the special events to limit the impact to visitors and ensure that their training exercises run smoothly. 

OPERATION BAMBI BUCKET AT SAYLORVILLE LAKE

By Hilary Markin, Public Affairs Specialist

The Iowa Army National Guard used Saylorville Lake for “Operation Bambi Bucket” during a weeklong training at Camp Dodge.

The rotary aviation unit, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 147th

Mountain Bikes Descend on Farmdale Reservoir

By Susan Yager, Public Affairs Assistant

Despite wet and cool weather conditions, mountain bikers descended onto Farmdale Reservoir, east of Peoria, Ill., for the end of the year I74 Fall Festival of the I74 Homegrown Race Series.

The Peoria Area Mountain Bike Association (PAMBA) hosted the annual event to celebrate the end of racing season. Participating groups came from all over Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Missouri.

The I74 Homegrown Race Series consists of seven races across seven different trail systems along the Interstate 74 corridor during the summer months. Each race has several different categories for men, women and children to compete in.

Farmdale Reservoir has hosted the fall festival for the last 11 years on their 20-mile trail system with an excellent mix of fast open stretches, tight and twisty single tracks, and lots of vertical distance for bike climbers.

“The two day event ended with 81 competing and spectators everywhere and everyone had a great time,” said Todd Ernenputsch, park ranger, Farmdale Reservoir.

Ernenputsch also had the privilege of working at the festival and was impressed by a six-year-old that tore the trails up.

“I was privileged to ride with Will,” said Ernenputsch. “He flew over logs, where I had to stop and pick my bike up to cross. I was elated at the end of the ride!”

Farmdale Reservoir and PAMBA have established a great working relationship for many years and look forward to continuing this great partnership. 



An agile mountain biker tests his skills during a race at the annual I74 Fall Festival at Farmdale Reservoir, east of Peoria, Ill.

Park Ranger Todd Ernenputsch, Farmdale Reservoir, poses for a photograph with six-year-old Will who raced in the I74 Fall Festival.



IDENTITY THEFT AND WORKPLACE SECURITY

One of the missions within the Security and Law Enforcement Office is to protect our district employees and families from identity theft, and fraud. In the Army there is a term called SI checks. SI stands for Sensitive Items. Checks or (SI's) can include anything from your Common Access Card (CAC), key card, any paperwork with a social security number, maps and many other things that could cause a threat if the item is lost or falls into the wrong hands.

As the Corps team we all have to work together to keep one another safe and secure.

Here are some things we can all do as a team to maintain Security amongst ourselves as individuals.

- The CAC.** Never leave your CAC in your computer when you are away from your desk. The CAC should remain with you at all times throughout the workday. Do not let anyone else use your CAC for any reason. Any activity done with your CAC will be registered as you, and you will be held responsible for any unlawful activities. Place your card in your purse, pocket, or wallet as soon as you leave the building. Do not keep it around your neck on your lanyard. Keep your card in a safe place at home when not at work. Your vehicle is not a secure place. Never photo copy your CAC, the only exception is for medical coverage. If your CAC is your insurance card then you may have it photo copied. Hospitals carry a privacy act.
- The Key Card.** Your key card is a building access card, and anyone can pick your card up and gain access to anywhere in the building you would have access to. Do not let anyone into the building you do not recognize, even if they say they are an employee with the Corps. If they don't have a card, the main desk is where they need to be directed to. Do not let anyone use your key card. Again this is another item to keep on you at all times throughout the work day and placed in a secure place at home when not at work.
- Important Documents.** Following guidelines of the Private Policy Act documents with social security numbers, maps of restricted areas, bank statements, checks, or any other valuable paperwork that has important information and may seem viable for use to damage a person or property need to be locked in a secure area when not in the office. If you are leaving your office lock all important documents in your desk. Even if you lock your office door your paperwork needs to be secured within cabinets, drawers, or safes. You can never be too careful.



4. Security 24/7. Security is a 24/7 job and is everyone's responsibility. At 4 p.m. your security does not shut off. The post decals on your vehicles, and the CAC you wear on your lanyards make you targets. Those decals show you work or have access to a location that may have material useful to someone with ill intentions. We all need to stay vigilant, and ready to protect ourselves and each other when security is at risk.



- Vehicles.** Never leave your keys in your vehicle, the doors unlocked, or the vehicle running with nobody attending it. This not only applies to your personal vehicles but to all government vehicles as well.
- Police Your Buddies.** This is another military term. If you see one of your coworkers doing the wrong thing i.e. leaving their CAC in their computer while gone, leaving important documents unsecured when not present, or sharing information with individuals without the proper security clearance police them up. If they are absent secure the items for them. Recap with your coworker when they return.

Annual Crime rates by city

City	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Chances of becoming a Victim	
Bettendorf, Iowa	104	795	1 in 301	35
Davenport, Iowa	1,338	7,482	1 in 74	3
Des Moines, Iowa	1,082	12,183	1 in 184	7
Moline, Ill.	126	1,537	1 in 348	23
Peoria, Ill.	880	7,028	1 in 176	6
Rock Island, Ill.	207	2,196	1 in 192	9

*The bold numbers on the far right represent the crime index rating. 100 being the safest possible. If the number is 60, that means the city is safer than 60% of all other cities in the United States. Information from www.neighborhoodscout.com)

Areas in the Rock Island District may not be the most dangerous place to live, you don't hear on the news each day a shooting or murder. However, from the list above it is obvious that areas in the District do have a pretty high crime rates. The Security and Law Enforcement Office is really focusing on the mission of security and everyone having a part in it. If we all watch out for one another the road to success will pave itself in a much straighter path in all areas.

Remember: **If one person does the right thing, others will follow.** 

Trumpeter Swans Released at Coralville Lake

By Hilary Markin, Public Affairs Specialist



A memorial ceremony was held at Coralville Lake on Thursday, Oct. 15, for the late Steve Atherton, a professor at Kirkwood Community College, who had a passion for the outdoors and believed in getting his students' hands dirty.

Coralville Lake had been working with Atherton and other professors for many years, bringing their students to the area for hands-on learning experiences. They are also making a big impact on restoring areas to native vegetation.

"Steve was one who thought there was more to learning than just sitting in a classroom with a book," said John Castle, operations manager, Coralville Lake, during his remarks at the ceremony.

The ceremony is the first step to signing a long-term lease with Kirkwood Community College to use the 600-plus acres as an

Two Trumpeter Swans were released by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on the upper ends of Coralville Lake as a symbol of the wetlands Steve Atherton, a professor at Kirkwood College who recently passed away, loved. Atherton worked closely with the staff at Coralville Lake to bring his students routinely to project lands for hands-on learning experiences.

outdoor classroom and working farm. The hope is that Kirkwood will have a self-sustaining farm with the Agriculture Department farming the ground and the Environmental Science Department using the profits to purchase seed to restore the prairie remnants as well as other work.

To culminate the event, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released two Trumpeter Swans on the site. This was another one of Atherton's passions and he had worked on the Trumpeter Swan project since it began in 1995. The DNR released two additional swans on the upper end of Lake MacBride in a more secluded habitat.

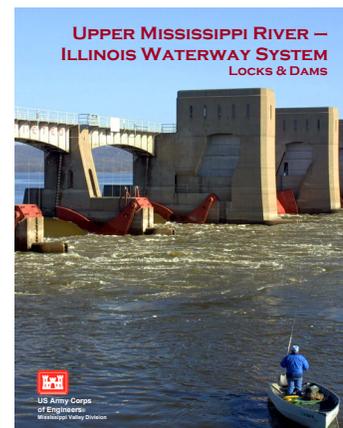
The partnership between the Corps of Engineers and Kirkwood Community College continues to grow and provide benefits. Many students have applied for temporary positions and continue to volunteer at Coralville Lake during the summer months. Coralville is currently awaiting the proposal from the college for the long-term lease that will further solidify their partnership. 



John Castle, operations manager, Coralville Lake, addresses the crowd during a ceremony announcing the potential partnership of the Corps of Engineers and Kirkwood Community College and commemorating the late Steve Atherton, a professor at Kirkwood Community College.

2009 Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Locks and Dams Books Available

Hot off the press is the updated publication featuring the locks and dams of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System. The book includes updated fact sheets for the 37 locks and 1,200 miles of navigable water in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. If you would like a copy, please stop by the Rock Island District Corporate Communications Office in the Clock Tower. You can also call 309-794-5729, or email cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil to receive a copy.





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I BUILD STRONG by “helping people whenever I can at work, in my community, and worldwide.” ~ Pam Zepeda, secretary, Engineering and Construction Division and Special Emphasis Program Committee Native American Program Co-Manager

Want to know how **YOU** can help **USACE BUILD STRONG**? visit <http://www.usace.army.mil/about/CampaignPlan/>

Rock Island District - BUILDING STRONG®

ONE DISCIPLINED TEAM - in thought, word, and action - meeting our commitments, with and through our partners, by **“SAYING WHAT WE WILL DO, AND DOING WHAT WE SAY.”**

A NEW CRANE AND BARGE IN THE FLEET

By Andrew Barnett, Structural Maintenance Unit, Mississippi River Project Office

After years of planning and construction, the Mississippi River Project Office Structures Maintenance Unit (SMU) took delivery of its newest vessel, DB-768 on Aug. 7. The new Derrick Barge and Crane will serve as the replacement for the 93-year old Kewanee Crane Barge. The Kewanee Crane Barge was originally built and served as a dredge, until it caught fire in the early 1980s and was then converted to a crane barge.

DB-768 is a culmination of proven design and input from our employees with years of marine construction experience. General Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Stover and Master Derrickboat Operator Joe Goin worked closely with both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ engineers and engineers from Basic Marine, the shipbuilder, throughout the entire process. The Derrick Barge will serve as the platform for the SMU’s LR 1280 Liebherr crane capable of lifting 300 tons. The crane will be used as the primary service crane and it will provide support to the Quad Cities Crane during gate change operations.

The barge is 150 feet long and 60 feet wide and equipped with a heated spud system. DB-768 holds approximately 25,000 gallons of fuel and 10,000 gallons of water. It is equipped with a Caterpillar 215 kilowatt generator set and a state of the art ballast system that is designed to provide stability to the barge for heavy lifts. The barge can support a day crew of eight. Some additional features of DB-768 include; two heads (one equipped with a shower), a galley, locker room, office space, and shop/storage space. 

Right, is the 93-year old Kewanee Crane Barge performing it’s last gate change along the lock wall at Locks and Dam 15 last spring. It has been replaced by the Derrick Barge and Crane below.



The Derrick Barge DB-768 made it’s debut during the gate change in October at Locks and Dam 15.





Safety Corner

Office Work May Not Seem Hazardous, But...

From the Safety and Occupational Health Office

Did you know sustained awkward positions, repetitive motions and improper lifting can cause painful injuries? Your eyes may feel dry and uncomfortable after hours spent looking at a computer screen. Hands and wrists may have a number of symptoms including swelling, numbness or loss of strength. You can also develop pain and stiffness in your shoulders, back, neck, arms, legs and feet. Not to fear, there are plenty of things you can do to avoid discomfort or even improve any current issues.

Start with a proper work area. You should be aware that the placement of your computer monitor, chair and posture are very important.

- Your monitor should be directly in front of you with a comfortable viewing area of 25-30". Your head should be able to remain level and eyes slightly relaxed as you work at a monitor. Avoid twisting your torso while working.
- Place any source documents at eye level, angled slightly upward, and at the same distance as your monitor.
- Take steps to reduce glare on your computer screen.
- Adjust your chair so that you can sit with your back comfortably straight and your head level. Use the backrest of your chair and avoid leaning forward.
- Your feet should rest flat on the floor or supported by a stable footrest. It is suggested to maintain an 80-90 degree angle at your hips.
- Keep your shoulders perpendicular yet relaxed, not stretched forward or elevated.
- Keep your upper arms and elbows to your sides, do not extend them outward.
- Your forearms, wrists and hands should be straight, not bent upward, downward, or sideways.

Short breaks will help to minimize the effects of sitting for hours working at the computer.

- Eye breaks: Every 15 minutes look away from the monitor and focus on something at a distance of about 20 feet for a minute or so. You can also blink for a few seconds to moisten your eye surface.
- Mini-breaks: Between bursts of typing, allow your hands to relax in a flat and straight posture for several seconds.
- Rest breaks: Take a short rest break every 30 to 60 minutes. Take a rest from your work station for a minute or two.

Make exercises the focus on different areas of the body a regular part of your daily routine but never stretch to the point of pain

and take it slow.

- Hand stretches: Make a fist, and then extend the spread of your fingers. Hold each position for several seconds and then allow your hands and fingers to relax.
- Wrist and forearm stretches: Lace your fingers and, with elbows pointed out, straighten your arms until you feel the stretch – then relax.
- Shoulder stretches: Move your arms back to bring your shoulder blades together – then, reach your arms overhead and stretch.
- Neck stretches: Slowly move your head up and down; turn your head from side to side – then, tilt your head toward each shoulder. Never force your neck to move in painful positions.
- Back stretches: Stand up, place your hands on your hips and slowly bend backwards.



If you have to lift objects, lift with your legs, keep the object close to your body and get help when needed.

- Rather than lifting an entire box of paper lift a few reams at a time.
- Keep heavier objects stored at waste high to avoid lifting from the floor.
- No matter how light or heavy and object always lift while keeping your back straight, squat and lift with your legs.
- Always ask and wait for help when lifting awkward or heavy objects.

Additional illustrations are available on the following link provided by OSHA: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/index.html>

The Safety Office is also available to discuss any ergonomic or work station concerns you may have, feel free to contact us at 309-794-5820. 

Around the District

Annual Chili Cook Off Kicks Off Combined Federal Campaign

By Aimee Vermeulen, Legal Assistant and CFC Co-Chair

The Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has started! The CFC is an annual fund-raising drive conducted by federal, postal and military employees in their workplaces each fall. Millions of dollars are raised through CFC that benefit thousands of non-profit organizations. The campaign runs until December 1st.

The Corps of Engineers kicked off the CFC on October 8th with the 13th Annual Chili Cook Off. The cook off is an annual tradition and although outside conditions forced the event indoors it did not deter people from attending. In addition to trying every kind of chili you can imagine, attendees got to vote for their favorite decorated/carved pumpkin.

Total proceeds from the event were just over \$640 which will go to charities throughout the CFC. Each chili chef anonymously provided the judges a sample of their chili for tasting. The judges then spent time sampling and deliberating on the winners. This year Jim Kohl, Lock and Dam 15, won first place with "Chili Re-Do," second place was awarded to Angie Freyermuth, Executive Office, for her "Mama Mia Chili." Third place went to JoAnn Wilgenbusch, CPAC, with "OOOHHH SSSOOO GOOD Chili."

The winner of the pumpkin decorating/carving contest was Contracting Division with their painted haunted castle pumpkin.

CFC keypersons have begun to distribute CFC pledge forms and information to fellow

employees for their chance to contribute to local, national and international charities through payroll deduction or one-time contributions. There are over 2,000 charities listed from which employees can choose.

The Corps is currently running an on-line auction to raise money for the campaign. The auction continues to bring in thousands of dollars which the Rock Island District donates.

This year's co-chairs of the CFC are Julie Townsend, Operations Division and Aimee Vermeulen, Office of Counsel. If you have any questions about CFC, please do not hesitate to call us or visit the website at www.illowacfc.org. The campaign runs until December 1st. 



The 2009 Chili chefs, judges and event organizers.

Retirements ...

Daniel Fetes, economist, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Economic & Environmental Analysis Branch, retired Oct. 30, after dedicating 36 years and eight months to the federal government.

Kenneth Ayers, engineering technician (civil), Project Support and Natural Resources Section, Illinois Waterway, Operations Division, retired Nov. 1, after dedicating 30 years and one month to the federal government.

Correction: Cynthia Archer, program analyst, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Program Management Branch, retired May 1, after dedicating 34 years and two months to the federal government.



There were four entries in the decorated/carved pumpkin contest. The painted castle won first place by popular vote.



Spotlight on the District

Tilford Flowers

Security Specialist
Security and Law Enforcement

By Hilary Markin, Public Affairs Specialist

When an opportunity presents itself do you take it? Tilford Flowers does. He has traveled the world and been to at least 40 of the 50 states.

His adventures began when he was young and only grew as he got older and joined the Army in 1977. He was a detachment first sergeant in Holland and was in charge of security/force protection and anti-terrorism for European seaports. He oversaw the transporting of military equipment into and out of Europe for Desert Shield, Bosnia and other campaigns around the world. He also worked on assignments as an undercover narcotics officer and infiltrated a military unit and personal security details for the Secretary of Defense, Chief of Staff of the Army and others. He was stationed in Japan, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and many bases in the United States before retiring in December 1998.

After retiring from the Army, Flowers went to work for corporate America as a security manager for Target Stores and Starbucks Coffee Company throughout the United States. “I worked to protect the brand, company name, budgets, and relationships,” said Flowers. “It was all about money, and who you knew, very different than working for the military, but still very cool.”

He also went back to school and got his master’s degree in Homeland Security from the American Military University in West Virginia in May 2009. After graduation he began looking for jobs related to his master’s program and applied for the security specialist here in Rock Island. He got the job, moved to the Midwest from Los Angeles, and started with the District in July.

“I like all the cool people, resources, landscape, locks and dams, fresh air and quality of life,” said Flowers about working for the Corps.

His job entails coordinating the anti-terrorism, force protection, personal/physical security and law enforcement programs for the district.

“I like being a part of building the security department from the ground up, developing new programs and policies and communicating basic tactics to employees to keep them secure and safe,” said Flowers.

During his free time he enjoys traveling – when he retires he



I BUILD STRONG by “ensuring the appropriate security training, tactics, awareness and program tools are available across the entire security platform; physical, anti-terrorism, force protection, personnel, law enforcement etc are maintained in support of the Corps Mission, Strategic Vision, Four Goals, Priorities and tenets.”

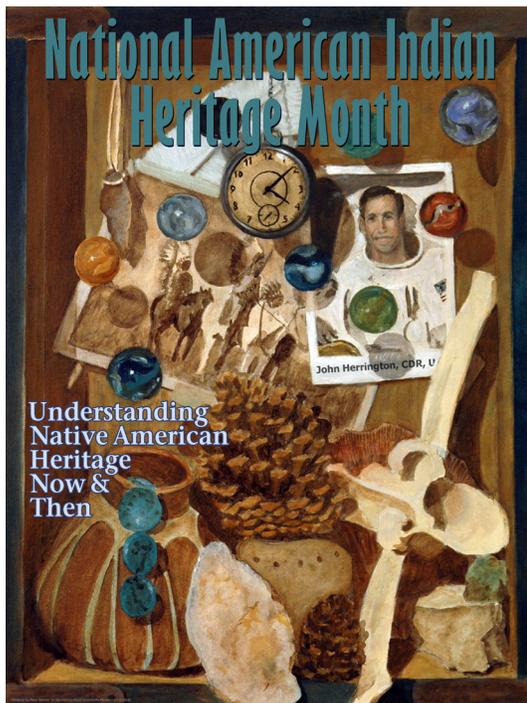
Photo taken while visiting the Grand Canyon.

and his wife plan to use military hops (flights) and travel around the world.

“The more I see the more I want to see everything,” said Flowers.

One of the places he wants to go is the Maldive Islands off the coast of India. He is an advanced open water recreational diver and one of the best dives he has been on to date was a 100-foot dive to the Yukon, a Canadian destroyer, off the coast of San Diego.

His advice to others is “Do today what others will not, so tomorrow you can do what others can not.” Someone shared this advice with him long ago and it has stayed with him, and he has carried it out traveling the world, taking opportunities all the while relaxing and having a good time. 



What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kan., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916, by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919.

Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

Theme for this year's heritage month is "Celebrating Tribal Nations: America's Great Partners." 

~Information courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior