



Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

July 2010



Disaster Preparedness

District acquires additional flood fight supplies



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

Tower Times

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New flood-fight pumps are tested at the Mississippi River Project Office. These pumps increase the District's readiness posture. See story on page 7.

Tower Times

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It is published monthly by the Corporate Communications Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding publication. Circulation 1,500.

On the web at: www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes

A message from....

Colonel Shawn McGinley, District Commander



Emerging Leaders Critical to District's Future

Leadership is a valuable commodity within any organization. It is quite often the key to success, or failure, no matter the mission. The Mississippi Valley Division and the Rock Island District are committed to fostering and developing the future leaders within our organization and that commitment can be seen in activities like the Emerging Leader Program.

The famous football coach, Vince Lombardi, was famously quoted as saying “Leaders aren’t born, they are made.” Although it can be argued that some people have inherent skills that may make leading come more naturally, any effective leader has done the work and garnered experiences which created true leadership skills. That is why the ELP is so important to the Division and the District as we are able to take the breadth of existing talent and develop leadership from within.

The ELP is a Division-level leadership program that provides participants an opportunity to learn regional leadership skills and gain experiences. During the three-year program, participants attend and participate in regional meetings, take a series of leadership courses and complete a 120-day developmental assignment (in or outside home district).

Over the years, the ELP has evolved and continues to grow into a robust leadership program providing MVD employees valuable leadership experience. To date, more than 95 employees have emerged from the program and three percent have emerged to leadership positions at major subordinate commands and more than 75 percent of graduates are currently in senior leadership roles across MVD.

Two employees from the Rock Island District graduated from the ELP this year. Douglas Morgan, assistant lockmaster at Starved Rock Lock and Dam on the Illinois River; and Hank DeHaan, a program manager with the Program Management Division, completed the course requirements. Congratulations are in order for their hard work and commitment. They will be invaluable to the future of this District and the Division.

Also, several employees are currently enrolled and are navigating through the numerous courses and developmental assignments. Angela Freyermuth, our District’s Outreach Coordinator, and Sarah Jones from our Emergency Management team, began the program last year. Dennis Shannon from our Mississippi River Project Office enrolled this year. I commend our District employees for pursuing the opportunity provided by the ELP.

Maj. Gen. Walsh has challenged the Districts to help build the MVD bridge from Good to Great, as it relates to the Strategic Goals set forth by the Chief of Engineers. Going from Good to Great is going to take a regional focus and outstanding leadership. That leadership is going to come from the men and women like those who challenged themselves through the Emerging Leader Program. Those graduates will be instrumental in influencing the regional culture and I thank all of those who have and who will enroll. Continue **BUILDING STRONG®**.



Helping Soldiers Live in the

By Hilary Markin, Editor

When you are on active-duty in the military, every couple of years you receive a new assignment and possibly have to pick-up your family and move to a new location, state and possibly country. This hardly allows families time to get settled, buy a home, learn the ins and outs of the town and become involved in the community.

To help military families gain access to the community at an affordable price the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) contacted the Corps of Engineers in 2007 about starting a Domestic Leasing Program (DLP). Since then the Corps has been working closely with the Family Housing Office, Rock Island Arsenal Department of Public Works and Military Commands (Army, Navy, Marines) to lease 50 single-family homes.

This was the first time the Rock Island District and the RIA had participated in this program and from the onset the team has focused on providing high-quality residences for military families.

"Neither they (Rock Island Arsenal) nor us had ever done anything like this before. But in relatively short time we had all 50 leases in place," said Tim Fiscus, chief, Federal Land Support Branch, Real Estate Division.

To begin, the team developed selection criteria of properties to participate in the program including a minimum of three bedrooms, garage or carport, standard-size stove/oven, dishwasher

and the property has to meet all applicable rental property safety codes.

"We put out one news release regarding the program and had nearly 300 calls from people who wanted to lease their property," said Fiscus.

The property owners who participate in the program sign a five-year lease with the Corps of Engineers and through market analysis and negotiations the Corps negotiates the best price for the property with the homeowners. This is limited to a maximum amount that is established by Congress each year and does include utilities.

The homeowners are responsible for all the normal landlord obligations including property maintenance, providing a 24-hour contact for emergency repairs and payment of utilities, lawn care and snow removal when the property is vacant. To date, there is a list of nearly 60 properties wanting to participate in the program in the Quad City area in addition to the 50 homes already in the DLP.

For the soldiers, they have the normal tenant responsibilities including routine maintenance and upkeep of the property. For emergency maintenance and large repair items they work closely with all the partners to get issues resolved. They participate in the program in exchange for their Basic Housing Allowance and can be part of the community.

"This program supports a family healthy environment and community connection for the soldiers and their families," said Jody Rowe, realty specialist, Real Estate Division.

As the program has developed, the kinks have been ironed out and in 2009, the partners began establishing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the DLP. This document formally outlines the roles and responsibilities of the individuals and organizations participating in the DLP.

"With all the programs' complexity and during its infancy many processes were tried and now this fledgling program is on track to be a premier leasing program," said Rowe.

One of the biggest challenges the program has faced are the typical landlord issues that property management ensues. The team is hoping that the SOP will help address those issues and provide guidance to all parties involved.

The Rock Island District DLP strives to build healthy communities and families and hopes to grow with the housing needs of the Rock Island Arsenal. 

Left and below, are homes Soldiers and their families lease through the Rock Island District Domestic Leasing Program in the Quad Cities area. Photos taken by Jody Rowe, realty specialist, Real Estate Division.

Community



Making a Positive Difference

By Hilary Markin, Editor

A former Domestic Leasing Program tenant, Staff Sgt. Bessette, took an active role in the community by initiating the development of a WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) program.

On a previous assignment Staff Sgt. Bessette had been involved with the program at the school his children were attending. When his family was relocated to the Quad Cities, Staff Sgt. Bessette approached his children's school about starting the program.

The program is a father-involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering to help students be positively influenced by the committed involvement of fathers and father figures in the classroom. It brings volunteer dads (military and non-military) into the classroom to assist with a variety of tasks that may include helping in the classroom, working with small groups or even monitoring the lunch room.

This program continues to operate, despite Staff Sgt. Bessette's retirement, and the school heralds it as a model for parent participation in the classroom. On a nationwide level there are more than 1,559 programs in 38 states and New Zealand that participate in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program. 

2010 Corps Day

Awards Program

Employee of the Year

Supervisor/Manager Occupations - Thomas Mack

Professional Occupations - Marshall Plumley

Administrative /Technical Occupations - Carol Jacks

Clerical, Assistant, Technician Occupations - Mary Peschang

Trades/Crafts & Laboring Occupations - Harold Atherton

Public Contact - Sarah Jones

Community Service - Thomas Minear

Engineer of the Year

Robert Hoffman

EEO Champion

Camie Knollenberg

Rick Nickel

Donna Hardy

Leah Deeds

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Service

Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid

Gary Loss

Mississippi Valley Division Hard Hat of the Year

Paul Whitmer





All seven six-inch Godwin Diesel pumps were tested at the same time at the Mississippi River Project Office.

District Increases Readiness Posture

By Hilary Markin, Editor

As part of their responsibility to enhance the readiness posture of the District, Emergency Management Division purchased 16 new pumps to be used during high water events.

The pumps are all Godwin Diesel pumps, nine are eight-inch pumps and seven are six-inch pumps. This increases the District's supply from 28 to 44 gas or diesel powered pumps. The District also has Crisafulli pumps that operate from a power take off on a tractor.

These pumps are typically used by levee and drainage Districts during high water events but are also available to other Districts within the region during natural disasters.

"Procurement of the flood pumps could not have occurred if it weren't for the assistance of Engineering and Construction and Contracting Divisions," said Rodney Delp, chief, Emergency

Management Division. "John Behrens, our subject matter expert on pumps and flood pumping, showed dedication and diligence to the Corps in the acquisition of the flood pumps."

The Rock Island District is the Regional Flood Fight Headquarters maintaining flood fight supplies and equipment for six states, three Divisions and 10 Districts in the central United States. In addition to the pumps the District also has expedient and standard flood fight products (HESCO baskets, rapid deploying flood walls and port-a-dams, sandbags and polyethylene).

This mission supports Goal 1 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan, Ready for All Contingencies. It further supports the District's Operations Plan by maintaining a high degree of preparedness in Rock Island District for emergency response and recovery operations within the District, region and globally. 



The Quad Cities Federal Executive Association (FEA) Chapter held a luncheon in May recognizing Federal Employees of the Year. Pictured from left, Lt. Col. Jared Ware, deputy commander; Mr. Joel Himsl, garrison manager; Tom Mack; Marshall Plumley; Jeffrey Lang, keynote speaker, U.S. Attorney; Carol Jacks; Mary Peschang; Harold Atherton; Mr. Rondoe Dice, vice-president, Quad Cities FEA Chapter; and Sarah Jones.

Federal Executive Association Federal Employees of the Year

The following Rock Island District employees were selected as 2010 Federal Executive Association (FEA) Federal Employees of the Year. The Federal Executive Association's "Federal Employee of the Year" Awards Program is regarded as one of the premier honors for members of the federal workforce in the United States. The Quad Cities FEA Chapter chose the following District employees to receive this honor.

Coach/Manager/Executive - Thomas Mack
Technical/Professional - Marshall Plumley
Clerical/Administrative - Mary Peschang

Trades/Crafts - Harold Atherton
Public Contact - Sarah Jones
Community Service Award - Thomas Minear 

SAFETY CORNER

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

The Midwest has a number of severe weather hazards that can affect our District. Seasonal threats include thunderstorms, tornados, floods, damaging winds, hail and lightening. Severe weather has the potential to cause extensive property damage as well as injury or death. Becoming familiar with the signs of severe weather can help you stay safe. It is also important to be aware of terms used to describe thunderstorm threat levels.

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Severe thunderstorms are possible. Watch the sky; listen to the radio or television for weather information. Be prepared to take shelter.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Severe thunderstorms are occurring. Take shelter and turn on a battery operated radio or television to receive warnings and severe weather statements.
- **Tornado Watch:** Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been reported/ spotted, or National Weather Service meteorologists have determined that one is about to form in the next several minutes. Go to a predetermined shelter immediately. Sirens will typically sound at this threat level
- **Flood/Flash Flood Watch:** Conditions are favorable for flooding in the next day or two. Flash floods occur very quickly, usually as a result of heavy rainfall in a short period of time. Be alert.
- **Flood Warning:** Flooding is expected to threaten life and property a few hours after the onset of heavy rain, ice jams, reservoir releases or snowmelt. Flood warnings may be in effect for days or even weeks depending on weather and soil conditions, land topography and river size.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** Rapidly rising water which poses an immediate threat to life and property within a few hours due to small stream or urban flooding and dam or levee failures. Quickly move to higher ground or stay away from flooded areas - especially in vehicles.

What to Include in your Emergency Kit: You should always have an emergency ready during Severe Weather.

- Water - one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food - nonperishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery - powered or hand crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

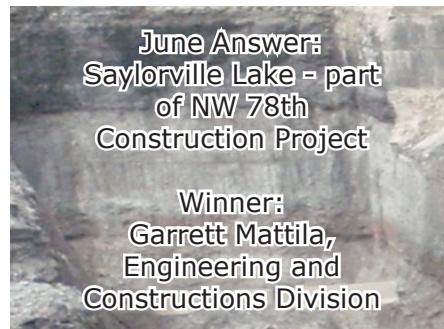
Severe Weather Checklist: Knowledge about your community's safety plans and how to react in a Serve Weather situation will put you one step closer to Staying Safe.

- I know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in my community.
- I have a family disaster plan and have practiced it.
- I have an emergency preparedness kit.
- At least one member of my household is trained in first aid and CPR/AED.
- I have taken action to help my community prepare.

For more information on family preparedness please visit The American Red Cross at www.redcross.org. 



Can you name where this photo was taken? If so, send your answer to Hilary.R.Markin@usace.army.mil. The first correct answer will receive a special prize and be recognized in the next Tower Times.



June Answer:
Saylorville Lake - part
of NW 78th
Construction Project

Winner:
Garrett Mattila,
Engineering and
Constructions Division



2010 Rock Island District Leadership Development Program participants. First row from left, Julie Millhollin, Hilary Markin, Alaena Ensey and Beth Hann. Second row from left, Scott Perrilles, Todd Ernenputsch, Leo Keller and Matt Schneider. Third row from left, Lisa Perrault, Jim Homann, Matt Traver and Steve Rumble.

Building Our Bench

By Sara Paxson, Professional Development Specialist

The 2010 Rock Island District Leadership Development Program (LDP) participants are well on their way to further developing themselves as individuals and leaders of the Rock Island District.

The program kicked off in May with an orientation meeting allowing the participants to get to know one another and learn about the expectations for the year. The contractor administering the program is Robert (Bob) Walsh of Evans and Associates Consulting Corporation. The company has conducted LDP's for the Detroit, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville and New Orleans Districts and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

The Rock Island District LDP class of 2010 is Alaena Ensey, Todd Ernenputsch, Beth Hann, Jim Homann, Leo Keller, Hilary Markin, Julie Millhollin, Lisa Perrault, Scott Perrilles, Steve Rumble, Matt Schneider and Matt Traver.

The participants will be meeting monthly throughout the year building their skills as leaders, listening to guest speakers, reading relevant reference materials, working on presentation skills and on team projects.

Lt. Col. Jared Ware, deputy commander and champion for LDP, revealed the first team project at the Initial Retreat in June. The LDP team will be taking a look at the Student Cooperation Program Policy in regards to the Fiscal Year 2011 Human Capital Plan. They will be assessing the current program, considering the schools involved with the program and how the District recruits and retains the participants. The team will be presenting their

findings to the Executive Steering Committee in September.

"This project is realistic and allows the team members to use their leadership skills to look at a policy within the District and offer suggestions for the program. It is just one in a series of projects that LDP participants will be involved with revolving around the Human Capital Plan and helping the District go from Good to Great," said Lt. Col. Ware.

Each of the LDP participants have also chosen mentors to guide them throughout the year and help them further develop their skills as leaders. They will also be assisting the mentees in setting goals throughout the year and reaching those milestones.

"The mentors are there to help guide the participants through the process, offer honest feedback and share experiences they have had," said Bob Walsh, contractor.

The current program is classified as Level II LDP and the committee is planning to launch an LDP I program in fiscal year 2011. The Rock Island District Leadership Development Program continues to undergo changes as the program moves from Good to Great. The program will assist the District as it continues to "build our bench" of educated, competent and experienced professionals.

LDP supports Goal 4 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan, Recruiting and Retaining Strong Teams. It further supports the Rock Island Districts Operations Plan to strengthen competencies by supporting leadership and development at all levels.

Around the District



Retirements ...

Ivan Tuthill, welder leader, Structures Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project, Operations Division, retired June 30, after dedicating 30 years and 21 days to the federal government.

Carl Lehman, engineering equipment operator, Project Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Section, Illinois Waterway Project, Operations Division, retired June 30, after dedicating 28 years to the federal government.

Michael Barndollar, engineering technician (civil), Cost Engineering & Specifications Section, Technical Services Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, retired June 30, after dedicating 27 years and three and one half months to the federal government.

Andrew Luber, engineering technician (civil), Project Support & Natural Resources Section, Illinois Waterway Project, Operations Division, retired July 3, after dedicating 36 years and nine months to the federal government.

Dorene Bollman, supervisory outdoor recreation planner, Rock Island Environmental & Economics Branch, Regional Planning & Environmental Division, North, retired July 3, after dedicating 31 years and six months to the federal government.

Congrats ...



S.K. Nanda, chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch, was inducted to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, College of Engineering, University of Iowa, on June 12 at a ceremonial reception in Iowa City, Iowa. *Pictured are Dr. Barry Butler, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa and S.K. Nanda.*

Sympathy ...



Elmer Steinke, 93, of Moline, Ill., died July 3, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Moline. Steinke worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Clock Tower for many years before retiring.

Emerging Leaders

The Rock Island District Emerging Leaders, **Angie Freyermuth**, **Sarah Jones** and **Dennis Shannon**, helped showcase the Campaign Plan at the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Senior Leader's Conference with My Plans. The My Plans are designed to showcase how individual employees fit into the Corps Campaign Plan.

"Everyone helps the Corps Build Strong and it takes the whole Corps to do it," said Joni Nichols, chief, Business Management Division, Mississippi Valley Division. "My Plan brings the Corps Campaign Plan, MVD Implementation Plan and Rock Island

District's Operations Plan down to the individual level."

The Corps Campaign Plan provides a strategic vision to make the Corps of Engineers a great organization. Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp's intent is for the Corps to be ONE DISCIPLINED TEAM - in thought word, and action - and to meet our commitments, with and through our partners, by "SAYING WHAT WE WILL DO, AND DOING WHAT WE SAY."

If you haven't reviewed the Corps Campaign Plan please visit www.usace.army.mil/about/CampaignPlan/.



Spotlight on the District

Ivan Tuthill

Retired Weld Leader, Structural Maintenance Unit
Mississippi River Project Office

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

There aren't many people who can say they worked in the same office/unit for 28 years. But for Ivan Tuthill, he can.

He started with the Rock Island District as a welder on the Mississippi River Structural Maintenance Unit (SMU) in April 1982. He was promoted to Weld Leader in 1993, the position he retained throughout the rest of his career.

Tuthill spent his entire career on the decks of the Structures Maintenance fleet helping maintain the District's Locks and Dams. During his 28 years with the SMU he saw lots of changes from the way the Corps does business to how the work is divided and crews are formed.

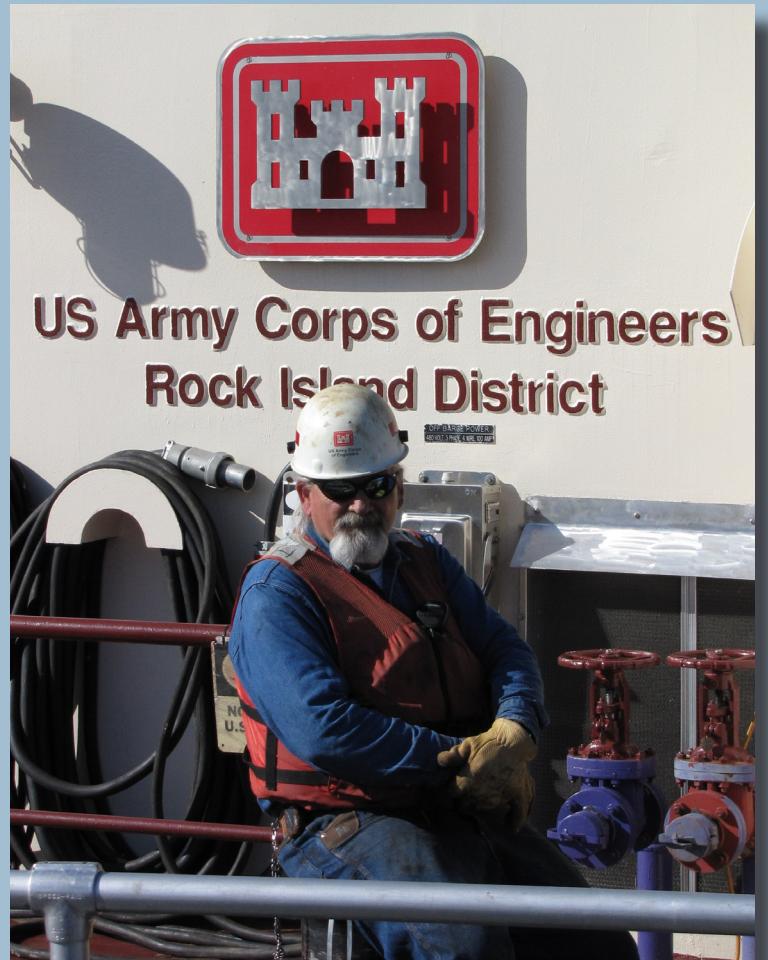
Over the years, Tuthill worked on many different projects, provided support to other districts and deployed during natural disasters. He saw the entire river from St. Paul, Minn., to New Orleans.

During the Flood of 1993 he helped sandbag at Locks and Dam 17 and hauled sandbags to Des Moines, Iowa, to assist with the flood-fight efforts there. Following Hurricane Katrina he deployed to New Orleans performing tasks that ranged from building fences to operating heavy equipment. During the flood of 2008, Tuthill helped dispatch pumps to Lock and Dam sites that were underwater and helped distribute sandbags to surrounding communities.

Tuthill also had an opportunity to provide regional support to other Corps districts. He served the Memphis District as a weld inspector at Ensley Engineer Yard, the Corps of Engineers largest dry dock on the Mississippi River. He supervised painting and repairs to the Quad Cities Crane and the SG-3 spare gate barge performed by the shipyard.

During the early 1980s Ivan supported the St. Paul District by performing gate change operations on numerous lock and dam sites. Tuthill served as a crew member on the steam powered Hercules, the Districts heavy lift crane that was replaced by the Quad Cities Crane in 1986.

The work that Tuthill did for the last 28 years has been extremely dangerous but also very rewarding - knowing that the work he did kept the locks and dams in good working condition. When asked what he will miss the most his reply was his coworkers. He has established many friendships during his time with the Corps. Tuthill's leadership, work ethic and loyalty will be missed



by every employee of the SMU.

During his free time Tuthill enjoys spending time with his family and riding motorcycles. He has a collection of Harley Davidson Motorcycles that keep him busy. During retirement, Tuthill plans to travel and restore hot rods. His last day of service was June 30, 2010.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004



WATERWAY WATCH

©John Herron/Eagle Stock Images

AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO
877-24 WATCH

**FOR IMMEDIATE DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY CALL 911
OR THE U.S. COAST GUARD ON MARINE CHANNEL 16**

LOOK FOR AND REPORT:

- Suspicious waterfront loitering
- Forceable access
- Persons photographing, taping or sketching
- Boaters seeming to be forcibly controlled
- Liquids being poured into reservoirs or lakes
- Apparently dangerous loads and/or cargoes
- Items that appear to be weapons or explosives
- Boats loitering under bridges or by locks or dams
- Diving operations near any critical infrastructure
- Boats or divers in naval protection zones
- Note appearance, size, coloring of individuals
- Note type of boat, car, registration, etc.
- If diving is involved, note color of equipment

REPORT WHAT YOU SEE TO 1-877-24-WATCH



For More Information Visit
www.AmericasWaterwayWatch.com