

# Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

November 2010



**Celebrating Success**  
RINOS has the end in sight as work continues



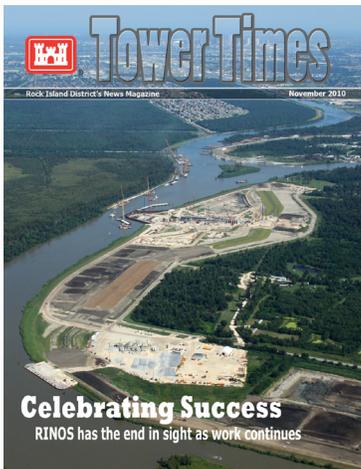
**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

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The Rock Island New Orleans Support team worked on the Gulf Coast Intracoastal Waterway Western Closure Complex, the nation's largest interior pumping station. See story on page 4, "Celebrating success." Photos courtesy of Gulf Intracoastal Contractors.

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## *Tower Times*

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*A message from....*

**Colonel Shawn McGinley, District Commander**



# Project Management goes from red to green

Setting and achieving goals is commonplace throughout most successful organizations. The Rock Island District is no different. We have multiple teams setting out to achieve goals to help our District accomplish the mission. Goals, although imperative, can be challenging. Conducting an aggressive campaign can be a very effective way to push the team to great heights but it isn't always the most prudent way of doing business and doesn't always bring about the desired results. The Project Management Division found this to be true as Fiscal Year 2009 came to a close.

At the end of FY 09, PM found themselves in a particularly difficult situation. After setting very aggressive goals, most projects were in a "red" status – meaning behind schedule. Having such a high percentage of red in the P2 metrics, which is the Corps of Engineers global project management automated information system, was a situation that needed to be rectified. I'm proud to report that the PM team did just that.

At the end FY 10, PM is almost entirely in the "green" throughout the P2 Metrics, a testimony to a lot of critical thinking and more prudent planning. In FY 10, our District achieved a high level of success in meeting P2 metrics for data quality and meeting project milestones. This success can mostly be attributed to implementing a disciplined monthly status updating process to insure every project's P2 data was current. We were able to start the year with realistic scheduling assumptions that better accounted for the uncertainties inherent in scheduling projects.

Some key strategies were critical in achieving the "green" status. First, PM developed an exact understanding of the P2 metric methodology. We traced data, such as milestones, as it moved through the system. This enabled us to develop a process to make sure all the P2 schedulers understood how the system reacts and how to enter the appropriate data into the correct field in the complicated system. We also hired two Project Control Specialists to support the Project Managers. The Project Control Specialists have the capability to analyze projects and make suggestions to the project managers for improvements.



**Meeting milestones on the District's largest project in history, Lockport Lock, contributed to Project Management's success.**

*Photo by Paul Whitmer.*

It was a tremendous effort throughout the Project Management Division. But, as you know, the Corps is going from Good to Great and although "green" status reflects good, it is not good enough. We are competing with the other Districts around the Corps of Engineers. We strive to be number one in the Mississippi Valley Division and number one throughout the Corps. This is an aggressive, yet attainable goal.

As our PM team strives to improve upon project status within the P2 metrics, it will be important to continually review our processes. More training will be the key in maintaining a steady supply of P2 Schedulers. This will allow for trained replacements within the organization as people move on to new jobs.

We are lucky to have such a talented staff of professionals delivering on projects. Your efforts continue to amaze me and I congratulate the PM team for getting our project metrics into the "green." Keep striving to go from Good to Great. We seem to be well on our way throughout the District.

Thanks for all you do and continue **BUILDING STRONG®** 

# Celebrating success

By Hilary Markin, Editor

The Rock Island New Orleans Support (RINOS) team took a moment to celebrate their accomplishments on October 21. A ceremony held at the Figge Art museum in Davenport, Iowa, honored everyone's hard work and dedication to completing the mission.

"The work is not totally done but we are definitely on the tail end of it, that is why we are celebrating this afternoon," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, director of Task Force Hope.

The RINOS team was established shortly after October 2008, when the Mississippi Valley Division, in response to the challenge of executing the greater New Orleans area Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) mission, employed a regional project delivery method to complete the nearly \$15 billion program.

The MVD Commander assigned each of the six Districts specific missions to "virtually" support part of the HSDRRS program using their leaders and areas of expertise. The Rock Island District teamed with New Orleans District to provide engineering services for the West Closure Complex, Eastern Tie-in, Western Tie-in, and Algiers projects on the West Bank and Vicinity.

The RINOS team led a regional team consisting of St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans Districts with more than 340 team members and included seven Architect Engineer (A/E) firms. The A/E firms supporting the RINOS office include BioEngineering-Arcadis, ECM-GEC, Hanson Professional Services, Pika-Malcolm Pirnie, Stanley Consultants, URS Group and Veenstra & Kimm.

Working together virtually from multiple offices, the RINOS team delivered 173 design packages, conducted 214 design



**At RINOS, a team working on the Western Tie-In discuss schedules and project milestones. Pictured from left, Dan Miller, Stanley Consultants; Michael Tarpey, RINOS; Cathy Weikel, Stanley Consultants; Matt Stewart, RINOS; Ray Lukkarinen, Stanley Consultants; and Steve Johnson, RINOS.** Photo by RINOS.

technical reviews, awarded 15 A/E contracts, nine construction contracts, and acquired real estate for 19 contracts.

The RINOS team provided the New Orleans District with project management, engineering, contracting, real estate and other support for the four HSDRRS projects totaling more than \$1.3 billion of construction.

A top Corps domestic priority, the HSDRRS incorporates 350 miles of levees and floodwalls designed to reduce the risk of flooding during a storm event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. With post-Katrina design criteria and full federal funding, the Corps is on track to provide this level of risk reduction in 2011.

Although a lot has been accomplished, the RINOS work is not complete. They are continuing to help the Corps accomplish the HSDRRS mission. 

## Good to Great - Communication and Collaboration are Essential

### T+E+A+M Attributes

A small group of people with complementary skills committed to a common purpose with shared performance goals and a common approach, holding themselves mutually accountable.



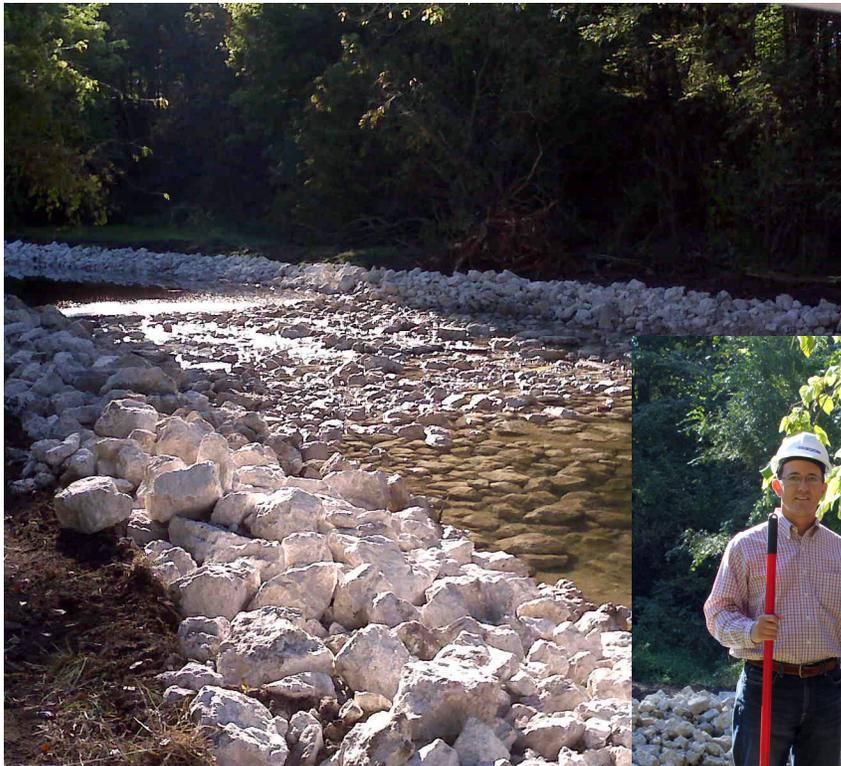
**Trust** opens doors for team innovation and communication. To build trust, be clear and direct with communication. Air concerns with the relevant parties. Be honest, discuss options and always-always-always do what you say you will do. Remain open to new ideas and suggestions. Be willing to admit you're wrong. Generously sharing credit with the team for accomplishment builds trust.

**Motivation** is force within an individual that accounts for the level of effort and persistence towards an endeavor. Motivators vary by individual; one can only provide the stimulus for people to motivate themselves. Know or find out what motivates your team's members. Competition typically hinders motivation, and can cause feelings of stress or anxiety. Feelings of belonging and acceptance create motivation. For lasting results each person still has to want to learn, grow and be motivated to be part of a team. "You can lead a horse to water ..." 

Information from Team Development Tool Kit, 2002 Leadership Development Program

## 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."**



The fish ramp helps fish swim over the low-head dam on Waubonsie Creek to reach spawning grounds from the Fox River. Photo by Hank DeHaan.

Officials broke ground at Waubonsie Creek celebrating the restoration of fish passage from the Fox River to Waubonsie Lake Dam. From left, Scott Sigwald, president, Frontier-Arrowhead; Matt Rado, representing Congressman Bill Foster; Col. Shawn McGinley, commander; Grant Casleton, Oswegoland Park District; and John Rogner, assistant director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Photo by Allen Marshall.



# Creating fish passage

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Fish and other aquatic species will once again travel from the Fox River to the Waubonsie Lake Dam via Waubonsie Creek. This seven-mile stretch of stream had five low-head dams added to it many years ago that had since become degraded and the pools had filled in with sediment.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 1 celebrating the beginning of a \$525,000 construction project. The Waubonsie Creek Restoration project restores stream connectivity providing aquatic species access to breeding, spawning and foraging habitats in a newly restored healthy ecosystem. The project was cost shared between the District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with the District's portion funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The construction project modifies three of the low-head dams with the placement of notches in the top of the dams and the construction of fish ramps. The ramps are created by placing rock material on the downstream side of the dams allowing fish to easily swim up and over. Three-hundred feet of additional rock material will be placed on the shoreline adjacent to the structures to reduce the chance of erosion occurring on the surrounding banks. The other two dams had failed and the material will be removed and the area returned to a natural state.

Another part of the project includes modifying existing riffles to further mimic the historic flows and habitats within Waubon-

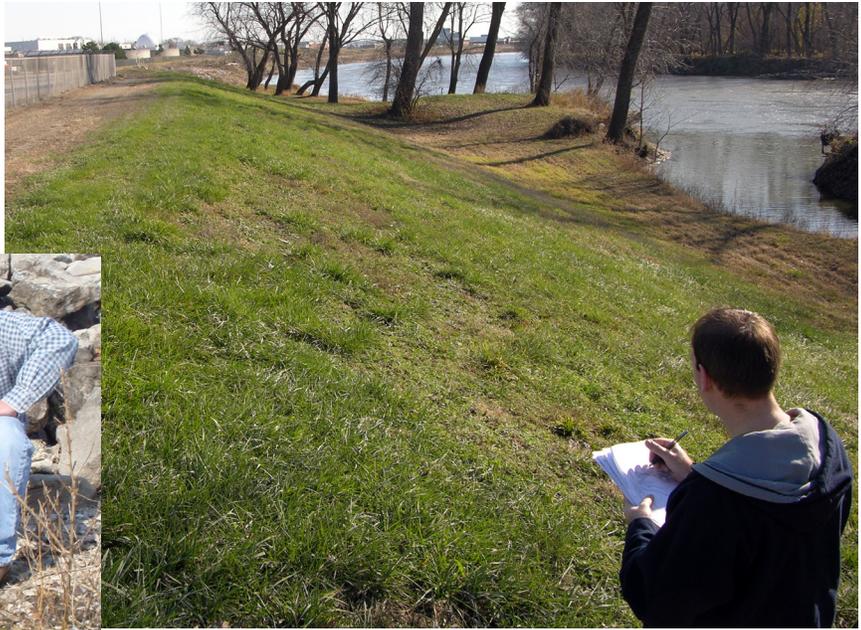
sie Creek. Design engineers designed riffle structures that the contractor will construct in various places along the seven-mile stretch. These areas will provide habitat to aquatic species that prefer riffles adding to the diversity of habitat.

"Being from the area, it was very gratifying to see this project become a reality for the communities involved," said John Ortlieb, study manager, Planning Division. "I am looking forward to coming back next spring to observe fish using the structures."

The contractor had already begun working on the project prior to the groundbreaking ceremony taking advantage of favorable working conditions. The project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

"Native species were observed the day of the ground breaking ceremony in the areas already constructed by the contractor," said Hank DeHaan, program manager. That's a positive sign that the project will have a significant impact on restoring native habitat to Waubonsie Creek.

The Waubonsie Creek Restoration project completes one piece of the Waubonsie Creek Watershed Plan that was created by the Oswegoland Park District, along with the Village of Montgomery, the Fox Valley Park District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. It is also one of sixteen critical restoration projects in the Illinois River Basin Restoration 519 Program authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. 



Above, David Robison, Des Moines Flood Team, inspects the Des Moines Levee during fall 2009. Left, Andrew Leichty, Quincy Flood Team, inspects a culvert in Keokuk, Iowa, during fall 2009 annual inspections. Photo by Flood Area Engineers.

# Levee safety – protecting lives

By Alan Tamm, Levee Safety Program Manager

Levees have changed the river, the lives and economies of communities along the Mississippi River and her tributaries. The now aging levee infrastructure that was originally constructed starting in the mid 1800s continues to show its age. As demonstrated by the 2008 Midwest Flood, flood waters stress the levee structure and in some cases can overtop the levee. Our experiences highlight that levees can provide a false sense of security and protection. Levee overstressing and overtopping may lead to catastrophic and economically devastating results. Age-related deterioration, poor maintenance, burrowing rodents, overtopping and even small imperfections can lead to levee failure and the loss of lives.

Public safety is the Corps' number one priority when it comes to levees. To reduce flood risks, improve public safety, and communicate to local levee sponsors and the public the overall condition of levee systems and recommended actions, the Corps has a renewed vigor to examine levees in light of best practices in maintenance and operations. To ensure the protection of lives, the Corps created a more comprehensive and rigorous levee inspection process under its Levee Safety Program.

In the Rock Island District there are approximately 21,000 miles of levees. Nationally, there is an estimated 100,000 miles of levees. Many of these levee systems are privately owned and operated. Approximately 100 levee systems totaling more than 750 miles are enrolled in the Corps Rehabilitation and Inspection Program within the Rock Island District's 78,000-square-mile mission area. These levee systems are enrolled in, and receive the benefits of, the Public Law 84-99 program. The PL 84-99

program, also known as the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program, provides a form of insurance for the levee infrastructure which is not covered under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood insurance programs.

The Corps has prepared and the District has distributed a Levee Owner's Manual that describes in general terms the proper operation and maintenance of levees. Specific plans were also developed for unusual features of levees that require special considerations. At times, the experts in the District reconsider the adequacy of operational practices and what maintenance should occur such that levees can be operated as safe as possible for the protected public. The District inspects the levees in the jurisdictional programs to these standards. Some levees come close to the standards the Corps has established although many do not.

Every year, the District conducts annual, Routine Inspections of the levees in the PL 84-99 program. In the past year, the District has performed 15 detailed, Periodic Inspections of levees using funds associated with the Inspection of Completed Works and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Periodic Inspections provide a more rigorous assessment than the Routine Inspection and include a more detailed and consistent evaluation of the condition of the levee system. Periodic Inspections verify proper operation and maintenance; evaluate operational adequacy, structural stability and safety of the system; and compare current design and construction criteria with those in place when the levee was built. The Corps' goal is to conduct Periodic Inspections every five years.

In FY 2010, Routine Inspections resulted in approximately 17



**Cory Haberman (top right), Emergency Management, explains how to properly inspect a levee during Levee Inspector training. This training improves the report turn-around-time and the consistency amongst the reports. This effort also improves the readiness posture of flood reduction projects.** *Photo by Hilary Markin.*

of 100 levee systems receiving an “unsatisfactory” rating making them ineligible for Rehabilitation Assistance. Fifteen Periodic Inspections were completed in FY 2010 but final ratings are still under review. In FY 2011, an additional five Periodic Inspections will take place.

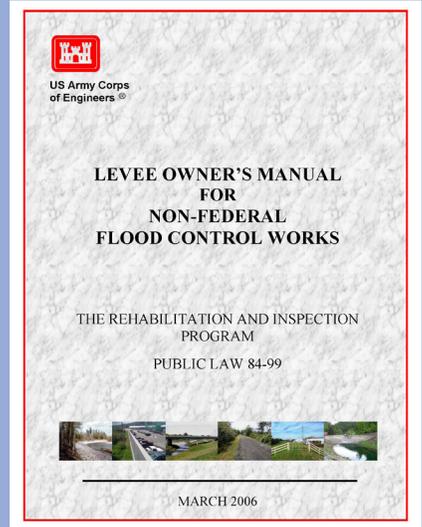
The findings of these Levee Safety Program Inspections indicate minor to major problems with most of the levees in the District inventory. Some of the issues that are being discovered are culverts that cannot be closed, flood gates that are rusted through to the extent that they look like Swiss cheese, and large animal burrows that could make the levees fail as soon as the water reaches the levee. In many locations trees now tower over the levees preventing erosion-resistant grasses from growing and creating root balls that can rip major holes in the levee. Many of these same features were found to be present in the failed levees of New Orleans.

This inventory of maintenance issues creates a map for the levee sponsors to repair and operate the levees in an acceptable safe condition. In return for the levee sponsors efforts, lives will be saved and the nation will contribute to fixing their levee if economically feasible should flood-related damages occur. Although levees may have received an unacceptable rating, this may be a temporary condition. The District has seen considerable effort on the part of the levee sponsors to correct these problems and once again return to the benefits of the federal, Public Law 84-99 program. 

## Public Law 84-99

In the Rock Island District there are approximately 100 levee systems totaling more than 750 miles that are enrolled in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program under Public Law 84-99 (PL 84-989). This program provides reimbursement for specific damages to levees that result from high-water events.

The program is a partnered solution to flood damage similar to hazard insurance for personal property. The levee sponsor enrolls in the program and provides levee maintenance to a standard level that is acceptable to the Corps. This maintenance and proper operation of the levee prevents routine damages and reduces the possibility of levee failure.



In the case of severe flood-related levee damage to a properly maintained levee, the Corps provides post-damage assistance.

Inspection ratings given to a levee system as a result of District inspections, commonly referred to as continuing eligibility inspections, are used to determine if a project is “active” in the USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program. Active levee systems are eligible for federal rehabilitation funds (authorized by PL 84-99) for damages as a result of a flood event. A levee system must maintain an Acceptable or Minimally Acceptable rating to remain active.

Districts work closely with respective project sponsors if a levee system receives an overall rating of unacceptable to explain the deficiencies and help devise a plan to correct the deficiencies.

The sponsor is placed in an inactive status until the corrections are made. The levee system remains eligible for flood fighting assistance, but not for levee damage repair assistance. The District will also notify the appropriate regional Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local emergency management agencies of the inspection results.

For more on the Levee Safety Program, visit the Web @: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/publicaffairsoffice/LSP1/LSPHome.htm>. 

# And then there were two...

By Pam Zepeda and Aimee Vermeulen, Native American Program Co-Managers

**D**uring World War II, Navajo Code Talkers served a key roll in maintaining the Allies' covert communications. There were originally 29 Navajos recruited to develop the code, which was based on an as yet unwritten language. The men were recruited by Philip Johnston, a missionary's son to the Navajo Nation, who fluently spoke their language. Johnston was a World War I veteran and knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He also knew that various Native American languages were used during World War I to encode messages.

In early 1942, Johnston met with Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel and his Marine Corps staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as code. A test under simulated battle conditions, showed the Code Talkers (CTs) could encode, transmit and decode a three-line English message in about 20 seconds; far less than the half-hour required of machines at that time.

In Tah-Tsositse (translation: small plant, code: May), the first 29 recruits received training at boot camp, then set about developing the vocabulary and dictionary, all of which had to be memorized as part of the training.

Once this was accomplished, the Nal-Deh-Hi (troop) deployed to the Pacific. The men acted primarily as messengers, relaying battle information, tactics and other pertinent information with great haste, accuracy and especially secrecy. Maj. Howard Connor, 5th Marine Ashih-Hi (Salt or Division) credited the Navajo Code Talkers with the success at Iwo Jima. During the initial two days there, the six CTs transmitted over 800 messages back and forth, night and day, effortlessly and error-free.

With the code established, hundreds more men from the Navajo nation signed up to serve as Washindon be Akalh-bi Khos (Marines). They fought for Ne-He-Mah (Our Mother/America) in all six Marine divisions, raider battalions and parachute units; and took part in assaults on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, and Iwo Jima, mostly by telephone and radio transmissions which the Japanese never translated.

Over 10 percent of the 50,000 Navajo Nation members were enlisted in the Marines, 540 in all, with about three-fourths of them serving as CTs. The others served in many other capacities aiding in the Allied victory.

Recently, one of the original 29 men died and now only two remain to share the magnificent story of how the Navajo Marines helped the United States to win the war.

Sgt. Allen Dale June, died in September (Ghaw-Jih or Half), at the age of 91. He had settled in the Southwest United States as had many of his fellow Soldiers. He continued his service, fighting in Korea, retiring after a 24-year stint as a painter at the Veteran's Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M.

June had recently met up with another revered Soldier, Cpl. Chester Nez who related how proud the Navajos were for their contribution. "It's one of the greatest parts of history that we used our own native language during World War II." He is 89 and lost both legs to diabetes. When as a boy, forced to attend a boarding school, he gladly joined the call to serve, though lying about his age (not uncommon) and failing to tell his family back home. He was particularly impressed with the uniform and was recruited along with 250 fellow Navajo. They soon developed the 382nd Platoon (Has-Clish-Nih or Mud). Lloyd Oliver is the only other Soldier of the original group.

Their initial codebook contained over 200 words, which was later expanded. Every transmission submitted by the CTs was immediately destroyed. They were shot at and jumped from one foxhole to another, alongside their fellow countrymen. They were sworn to secrecy as CTs until the mission was declassified almost two dozen years later.

Nearly 60 years after the War, the Code Talkers were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2001. Though their fanfare came decades after their valiant efforts, they are celebrated on the Navajo Nation with a holiday each year. Many of the CTs were depicted in a feature film "Windtalkers" in 2002 and will be remembered and respected well into the future.

The two surviving original Code Talkers still meet and greet people, sign autographs and share stories with the public on occasion, but soon they will talk no more. They remain humble as to their service and vital contribution to World War II, but our nation will remain ever-grateful, respectful and humbled by them.

A permanent display of the Navajo Code Talkers can be seen at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. 

## The Navajo Code Talker's Dictionary

**W**hen a Navajo code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. The code talker first had to translate each Navajo word into its English equivalent. Then he used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word. Thus, the Navajo words "wol-la-chee" (ant), "be-la-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be "tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-keh-diglini (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)."

Most letters had more than one Navajo word representing them. Not all words had to be spelled out letter by letter. The developers of the original code assigned Navajo words to represent about 450 frequently used military terms that did not exist in the Navajo language. Several examples: "besh-lo" (iron fish) meant "submarine," "dah-he-tih-hi" (hummingbird) meant "fighter plane" and "debeh-li-zine" (black street) meant "squad." Navajo Code Talkers' dictionary: <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-4.htm>.

*November is Native American Indian Heritage Month*  
*Information obtained from the Naval History and Heritage Command.*

# DISTRICT COMMANDER'S AWARDS



Bob Romic, district librarian, Corporate Communications, was presented the June District Commander's Award by Col. Shawn McGinley. Romic puts the stakeholders first and is committed to providing a full-service library. One recent example was providing assistance to a member of our District's custodial staff who is attending Blackhawk College. Romic helped the individual find information that could not be provided by three other libraries, his own professor or fellow students. Romic continues to go the extra mile to help others both within the District and throughout the Corps of Engineers. He has also been instrumental in energizing the Corps electronic library providing services across USACE.



Beth Hann, financial management analyst, Resource Management, was presented the July District Commander's Award by Col. Shawn McGinley. This summer Hann deployed for hurricane duty to Texas as a member of the District's Commodities Team. In addition to deployment, she was instrumental in resolving billing issues with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and resolved several issues regarding the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) security audits. Hann also developed new procedures for fiscal law training and certification letters for accountable officials; and ensured the District was 100 percent compliant with new CEFMS procedures. Going above and beyond her regular duties, Hann is active in many of the District's support programs such as the Rock Island District Welfare Association and the Rock Island District Credit Union.



Al Frohlich, biologist, Permit Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch, Operations Division, was presented the August District Commander's Award by Col. Shawn McGinley. Frohlich organized and arranged a three-day Streambank Stabilization Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa, in support of the Engineer Research and Development Center. This successful workshop had 80 participants from USACE, as well as federal, state and local officials. The workshop enabled organizations to understand how to properly submit for Section 404 permits. This effort has helped our stakeholders move from good to great with respect to the USACE permitting process, an area routinely scrutinized.

*Photos by Hilary Markin.*

Good things are happening all over the District - please take a moment to recognize fellow employees who are making a difference and going the extra mile to Build Strong. All employees are eligible to nominate fellow employees. If you have questions regarding the criteria or format to submit nominations, please contact Anne Marie Roarty at 309-794-5436.



# Veterans Day - A celebration to honor American's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

## What does Veterans Day mean to you?

I wish to thank all past and present veterans of all branches of service for their time and honor in serving this great nation of ours. It is because of your time and sacrifice that this nation and its people remain free to do whatever we choose to do as American citizens. Without you, there would not be the freedom that we take for granted! ~Jon E. Savoia, president, AFGE Local 584

Every year I have been in the military, it has meant more and more and especially after having been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. It holds so many feelings and emotions. For those of us who have seen combat, you are never the same.

The sacrifices that individuals make when they serve are great, as are the sacrifices of their families.

For every freedom that you enjoy, say "thanks" to a veteran. That small acknowledgement has a great effect that you will never know. Veterans don't expect it and won't ask for it, but they deserve it and so do their wives, husbands, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents and especially don't forget the children.

For those who have served, or are currently serving now, I am eternally grateful.

As General Norman Schwarzkopf once said, "It doesn't take a hero to lead men into battle, it takes a hero to be one of them."

Also remember what Plato said, "Only the dead know the end of war." ~Kris Hess

I am able to read this email because of a teacher. I am FREE to read this email because of the veterans. ~Wilbur C. Knotts Jr., First Sergeant, Retired U.S. Army

I am amazed and fascinated when I think about our country's veterans. Men and women of all ages, from all walks of life, and from every race, creed, and color, willingly volunteer to serve our country and uphold its values. They fight the nation's wars, deploy at a moment's notice to provide security and assistance, and face hardships with determination, confidence, and skill. Personally, it is an honor to have served with so many veterans, as well as to honor their service on Veterans Day. ~Lt. Col. Jared Ware

To me Veterans Day is a time to reflect on where we've been and where we're going as a nation. A time to remember the sacrifices of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the liberties we have. A time to remember many of those heroes who died in far-away, lonely places while their families had to continue on without them. Veterans Day is a time to reflect, remember, pray for and honor the brave souls who allowed us to be here today and to quietly thank them for what we have. ~Steve Rumble



Frankie Galasso  
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I joined the Coast Guard as a 17 year old in 1976 for the adventure and pay. Today, I still serve as a reservist but for different reasons.

Service to our great country is my main motivation now. Over my career I was deployed at times far from home and I sometimes wondered if the separation from loved ones was worth the sacrifice but a friend of mine told me a story about his son that made my sacrifice feel rather insignificant.

About 12 years ago while on vacation in the Normandy region of France, my friend and his family visited the site of one of the most monumental battles in history, the D-Day invasion. On this site is the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial which contains the remains of nearly 9,400 Americans. My friend noticed that his 16-year-old son was standing still, looking at the headstones, crying. He asked his son what was wrong and he replied that he noticed how young the soldiers were (most not much older than him) and because of their ultimate sacrifice they had missed out on cherished moments such as Christmas mornings, seeing their kids off on that first day of school and teaching them to ride a bike.

Next fall I am going to visit that same cemetery with my friend and I too will probably shed a tear for those fallen and for the many thousands of others who have given all! ~Scott Pettis



Veterans Day is especially important to me. It honors those before us who sacrificed their time and lives to protect and defend our country. I am a veteran and very proud to have served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era. I wasn't in a combat zone but I held up the combat support services and ensured that our Soldiers and their families were taken care of. My father was also a veteran of the Navy and Korean War. I am proud to have a day to think about and remember the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard who have done and continue to do so much for this country. There are a lot of us vets out there, let's make sure they realize how much we appreciate them. ~Jackie Young

People who think enough of this great American system and society to knowingly risk everything to defend it. ~Randall Kinney

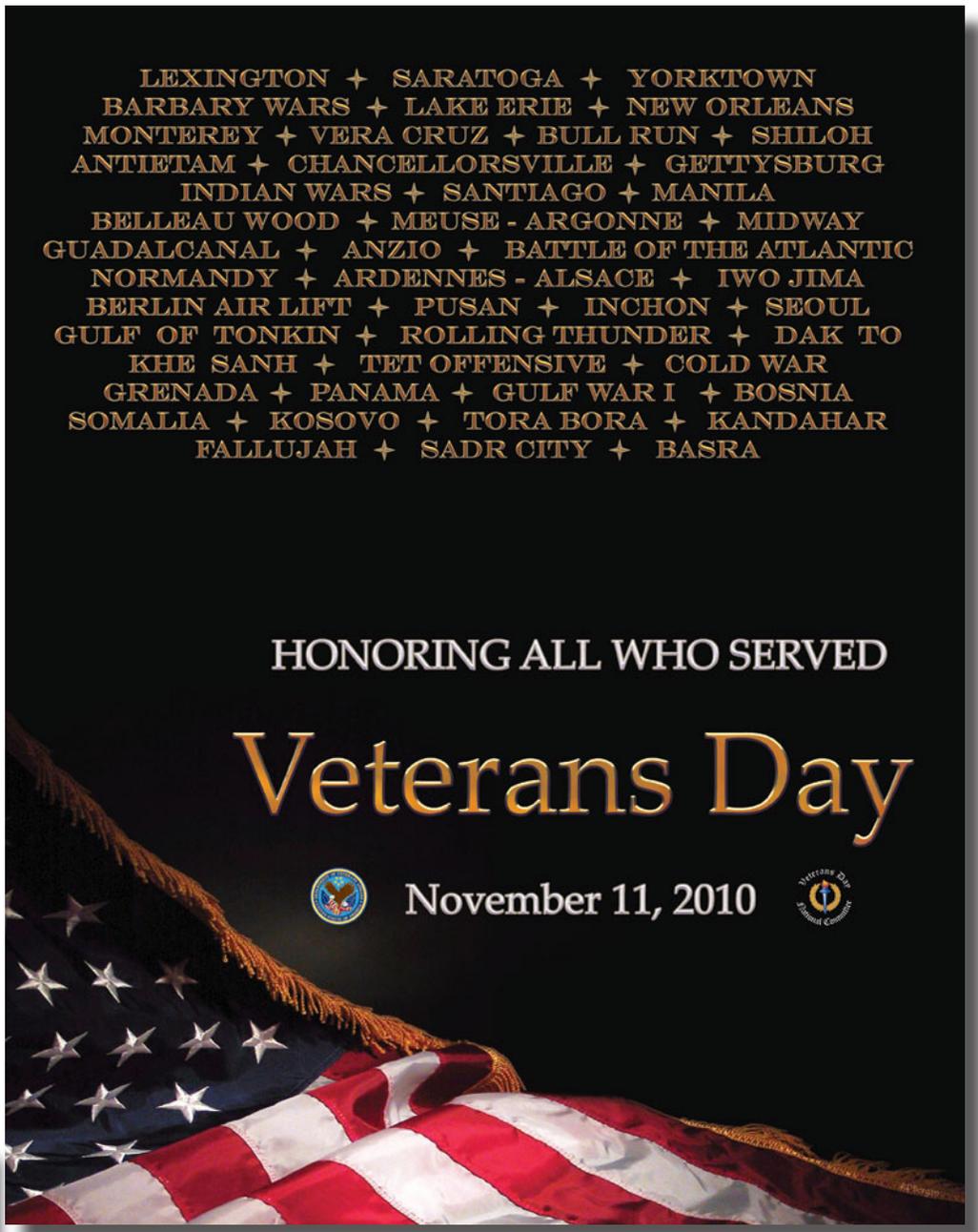
LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN  
BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS  
MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH  
ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG  
INDIAN WARS + SANTIAGO + MANILA  
BELLEAU WOOD + MEUSE - ARGONNE + MIDWAY  
GUADALCANAL + ANZIO + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
NORMANDY + ARDENNES - ALSACE + IWO JIMA  
BERLIN AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHON + SEOUL  
GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO  
KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR  
GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA  
SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR  
FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# Veterans Day



November 11, 2010



Each Veteran's Day I think of the service of my father and all the other veterans that have served our country. Dad served approximately a year in the Korean War before being discharged because of war-related injuries. He received two purple hearts, a bronze star, and numerous other medals for his service. Dad suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after returning home which affected both him and my family for a number of years. Dad ended up passing away at a Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital.

Years ago I had the opportunity during my final semester of college to do an internship at the local VA psychiatric hospital. During this time I worked with numerous groups of veterans and many of them shared their life experiences with me. What a great bunch of people! We are forever indebted to our veterans because of their service to our country. No one can ever take our freedoms for granted. America is great because of them. ~Joe Laird



# Engineer *Safety* Gram

Engineering the Edge for Safety *Excellence*



## *Are You A Defensive Driver?*

Defensive driving involves removing the element of surprise from driving hazards. Having preventable accidents or even close calls means you are not paying enough attention to the traffic and conditions around you. You know other drivers and pedestrians are going to make mistakes and you know some driving conditions will be less than ideal. As a driver, it is your job to anticipate, observe, and avoid these hazards.

If you are often surprised by actions of others on the road and by changes in road conditions, you are not driving defensively.



***Try this quiz to determine if you are being surprised at the last second by hazards which you should be anticipating ahead of time:***

- ◆ Do you frequently have to slam on your brakes because a vehicle stopped in front of you?
- ◆ Do you often get cut off by other drivers?
- ◆ Do you get stuck in the wrong lane at intersections?
- ◆ Are you distracted by things other than the traffic pattern; such as people on the sidewalk?
- ◆ Are you frequently surprised when children or pets dart out in front of your vehicle?
- ◆ Do you find yourself in the middle of an intersection on an amber light because a green light changed unexpectedly?
- ◆ Are you surprised by other drivers running red lights or making unsafe lane changes?
- ◆ Have you ever attempted a left turn in front of an oncoming vehicle because its signal indicated it was going to turn left also - but it did not?
- ◆ Have you ever nearly struck a bicycle or small vehicle hovering in the blind spot beside the rear of your vehicle?
- ◆ Have you had to swerve around a car door as a driver exits a parked vehicle?
- ◆ Have you ever gone into a skid on an unexpected slippery road surface?
- ◆ Do you ever skip your safety belt for short trips with lots of stops?
- ◆ Do you ever express your temper or other bad mood in the way you drive?
- ◆ Do you ever drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs?

Answering yes to any of the above questions is a clue you are not always driving defensively.

***Defensive driving means being prepared to drive as safely as possible, trying to anticipate and avoid all hazards. You can't do much to change other drivers or pedestrians, nor can you do much about road and weather conditions. What you can do is stay alert and plan well ahead of time how to avoid these hazards. A good defensive driver is rarely taken by surprise!***



# A new and improved Visitor Center

By Leah Deeds, Saylorville Lake

Showing new displays, exhibits and a 30-seat theater the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center is open to the public again. After being closed for five months, a ribbon-cutting was held on Oct. 17 to celebrate the completion of long over-due updates.

The Visitor Center was built in the 1980s and served as an open door to the Saylorville Lake project. Then, it served dual purposes as an information center for visitors as well as offices for staff and even a garage for vehicles. It evolved over the years to include static displays about the history and natural history of the area as well as some of the wildlife commonly seen.

An effort to update the Visitor Center was started in 2007 when Saylorville Lake was awarded the 2006 Natural Resource Project of the Year. The monetary portion of the award was used to write an Interpretive Prospectus. Display concepts and designs were developed, but funding was not available to move the exhibit update forward. When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was passed, funds were provided for projects that could be executed and completed quickly. In the Rock Island District, Saylorville staff quickly dusted off the plans and put together a contract for exhibit design, fabrication and installation.

The scope of work was finalized and the contract awarded in July 2009. When additional ARRA funds became available, the contract was modified to include a remodel of the theater room, stairway exhibits, exterior exhibits, information desk, and an updated security system. The contract was awarded to Bayshore Contractors, LLC, an 8(A) contractor from Grand Rapids, Mich. Exhibit designs were developed by Exhibit Design Associates from Estes Park, Colo. - the same company that wrote the Interpretive Prospectus. Much of the remodeling work was done by local contractors. Total cost for the remodel was \$707,000.

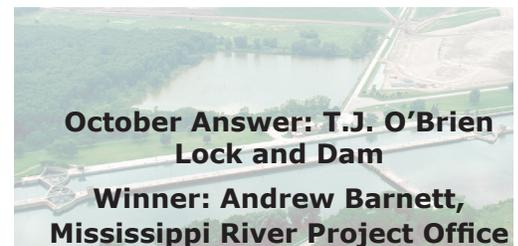
The upgrades include a mixture of modern technology to help tell the history of Saylorville Lake, the Rock Island District



The ribbon was officially cut by Col. Shawn McGinley and Jeff Rose, operations manager, Oct. 17, celebrating the reopening of the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center. Also in the photo is Leah Deeds, interpretive services and outreach program coordinator, who oversaw the contract. Photo by Kelli Phillips.

and the Corps of Engineers. The center also features displays showcasing the different plants and animals you may find in the different ecosystems throughout central Iowa. The lower level takes a step back in history more than 350 million years ago to the fossils found in the Saylorville Lake gorge, carved out from waters flowing over the spillway. In the adjacent theater room, four videos are available for visitors to select, sit back and enjoy, as they learn more about Saylorville Lake and its missions.

The Visitor Center re-opened after the ribbon cutting and closed for the season on Oct. 31. It will reopen on weekends in January and will be open seven-days a week beginning in April. For more information or for a special tour please contact Saylorville Lake at 515-276-4656. 



**October Answer: T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam**

**Winner: Andrew Barnett, Mississippi River Project Office**

Thomas J. (T.J.) O'Brien Lock and Dam is 326.0 miles above the confluence of the Illionis River with the Mississippi River. It is in the southeastern portion of Chicago and is the entrance to Lake Michigan from the Calumet River.

**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.**

# Around the District



## Retirements ...

**Jim Kohl**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 15, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Sept. 30, after dedicating 35 years to the federal government.

**Dennis Koenig**, lock and dam equipment mechanic, Lock and Dam 20, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Sept. 25, after dedicating 20 years and six months to the federal government.

## Sympathy ...



**Wayne E. "Termite" Beck**, 67, of Davenport, Iowa, died Oct. 17, at Genesis Medical Center-West Central Park Campus in Davenport. Beck was a heavy equipment operator for the Corps of Engineers until he retired in 1999.

He served as a Corporal in the United States Marines Corps.

## CFC Chili Cook-Off Results

1. Tampa Bay Chili (Coast Guard) - Tim Ross
2. Bourbon Street Chili (COE) - Matt Zehr
3. Texas BBQ Brisket Chili (Navy) - Leo Rincon

People Choice Award went to:

Texas BBQ Brisket Chili (Navy) - Leo Rincon



Photos by Hilary Markin.



Employees from the Rock Island District participated for the fifth year in the 14th annual Quad-Cities Marathon in September. Team members (from left), Heather Anderson, Jim Bartek, Corey Delong, Rodney Delp and Tom Mack, took second place in the Corporate Division.



# Spotlight on the District

## Jacqueline Young

### Chief of Equal Employment Opportunity

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Not many can say they have worked in multiple states and countries around the world. The new Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) chief is one. Having traveled around the world she is once again back home in the Midwest.

Jacqueline Young was born and raised in Kansas City, Mo., before joining the Army in 1974. Her Army career took her to Korea before coming back to the states for discharge in 1977, when her career in government was just beginning.

Young's first position was in Washington, D.C., working for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as an assistant secretary of education developing policies. This department was later separated into the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

"This was my first position and I have been with the government every since," said Young.

From that position she held various positions around the Army from Kentucky to Hawaii to Missouri. When she was working for the Defense Contract Audit Agency in Independence, Mo., she volunteered to be an EEO counselor as part of her collateral duty.

"That is how I got interested in EEO," said Young.

During this time she went back to school and obtained her master's degree in Public Affairs-Nonprofit Organization and Management from Park University, Parkville, Mo. She also has a bachelor's degree in Social Psychology from the same university.

She began her career in EEO as a Department of Army Intern in Ft. McCoy, Wisc. After her internship was complete, Young severed as an EEO specialist at the U.S. Army Garrison in Ft. Stewart, Ga., before taking her career abroad.

In 2003, Young traveled to Germany to be an EEO specialist at the 284th Base Support Battalion in Giessen, Germany. From there she began working her way up and became the EEO manager at the U.S. Army Garrison-Benelux in Chievres, Belgium.

Her next career step was to Japan as the EEO manager for the U.S. Army-Japan in Camp Zama, Japan.

"I loved Japan," said Young. "There were wonderful people there and of all the places I have been, it really stands out."

She also served as an EEO specialist at HQ IMCOM-Europe EEO Office in Heidelberg, Germany, where she became exposed to the Corps of Engineers.

"I used to help the Corps' Europe District EEO office with projects," said Young. Little did she know one day she would be working for the Corps.

Family ties brought her back to the states and she left the



Center, Jacqueline Young, poses with her mother-in-law (left) and neighbor (right) while visiting family in Egypt.

Army for a position with Veterans Affairs in Sheridan, Wyo. She moved even closer home taking a position with the U.S. Census Bureau in her hometown of Kansas City, Mo.

"And the rest is history," said Young about her career thus far. She is excited to be back working for the Department of Defense.

"This is a great place to be," said Young. "The EEO program gets so much support from the command and everyone is very nice and friendly."

She is starting to settle in to the Quad City area and is looking forward to unpacking boxes in a few weeks when she moves into her home.

Much of her family is back in Kansas City, including her two daughters and four grandchildren. She enjoys traveling home on weekends to spend time with them. Young is also married and her husband is from Egypt.

In her free time she enjoys making crafts, crocheting and knitting. Young also loves to catfish and has a goal set to learn how to fly fish. She recently added a little Chihuahua puppy to her family named Coco Bean who keeps her busy.

Wherever her career has taken her, Young has always sought to help out the community. She taught English while overseas, volunteered at domestic violence shelters, mentored teen moms and the list goes on. She enjoys volunteering in the local communities and putting her skills to good use.

When asked about advice she shared this "Treat others as you want to be treated - the Golden Rule is all important," said Young. "It's your federal career - take charge of it." 



The Floatzilla 2010 safety team was presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. From left, Jon Schultz, Benjamin Vandermyde, Lou Ann McCracken, Sam Heilig, John Knoble, MESC Scott Pettis, MK1 Jacob McLellan, BM2 Matthew Carey, MST 2 Tim Ross, Lt. Christine Brown.

## Safety team recognized

By Hilary Markin, Editor

The Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation to the Floatzilla 2010 Safety Team. The safety team was comprised of members from the Marine Safety Detachment Quad Cities, the four local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas and the Corps of Engineers. This multi-agency team ensured the safety of the more than 3,000 people participating in the First Annual Floatzilla in Rock Island, Ill.

The safety team had their work cut out for them as part of the event included locking through Locks and Dam 15 and crossing the main navigation channel. They also escorted two commercial towing vessels through the event area maintaining the participants safety and allowing the event to go on as scheduled. The team was put into action during a few rescue incidents including an overturned canoe and kayak along with dewatering a personal watercraft. The team communicated effectively throughout the entire event thanks to the communications hub established by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Floatzilla 2010 brought more than 1,000 canoes and kayaks to the Quad City area to attempt to break the Guinness World Record



Left, Corps of Engineers Water Patrol escorts Floatzilla participants out of the lock chamber at Lock and Dam 15. Above, participants hold on as they lock through. (Photos by Kayla Trail.)

for the largest flotilla of kayaks and canoes (current record is 1,104 vessels). Although the record was not broken (955 captured in the official photo) the event was a huge success. Event organizers are already starting to plan next year's event.

Event participants came from 17 different states and several foreign countries bringing awareness to the Upper Mississippi River Basin as a paddling destination. 