Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

August-September 2011

"Wear your gear"

District promotes water safety at NASCAR event

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Rock Island District

Tower Times

Contents

August-September 2011

On the Cover

Bobber poses by the water safety truck that competed in the Camping World Truck Series NASCAR event at the Newton Speedway in Newton, Iowa on July 16.

For more information read the article on page 4.

Photo by Sam Heilig.

Tower Times
Rock Island District, Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
Email: cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil
Phone: (309) 794-5729

Commander: Col. Shawn McGinley
Deputy Commander: Capt. James C. Millman
Chief, Corporate Communications: Ron Fournier
Editor: Hilary Markin

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A message from....

Colonel Shawn McGinley, District Commander

Employees needed to support Overseas Contingency Operations

The typical day starts around 6 a.m. It may end around 10 p.m. In between those long hours, a Corps employee is performing a multitude of duties critical to our Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). And, there are no weekends. The work is around the clock, seven days a week. What I am describing is the typical day for a Corps employee who has selflessly volunteered to deploy to an area like Afghanistan. The hours are arduous and the work is hard but I think most who have experienced it would describe their time as rewarding.

My hope is that everyone within the District will, at the very least, consider the opportunity to deploy. It is the mission of each District within the Mississippi Valley Division to have 1.7 percent of its employees deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. Currently, the Rock Island District has seven employees deployed, which is slightly below that mission of 1.7 percent. I know the volunteerism attitude within our organization can help us meet and exceed that mission.

Our District has had more than 100 people deploy in support of OCO since they began nearly a decade ago. Volunteering is a big decision because it means large amounts of time away from family, friends and the American way of life.

As I write this, those employees currently deployed are: Richard Rupert, budget analyst; Brian Lane, construction control representative; Eric Aubrey, project manager; Mark Hoague - assistant chief of engineering; Celeste Iverson, program analyst; Peter Corken, construction control representative; and Aaron Dunlop from our Mississippi River Project Office, who is deployed on behalf of our Rock Island Arsenal neighbors at the Army Sustainment Command.

In addition to these employees already serving OCO, several employees have returned this year. Those who have returned this year are: Randall Braley, civil engineer; Paul Holcomb, area engineer; Ronald Silver; realty specialist; Rodney Singleton, civil engineering tech; Scott Kool, cartographer; Maung Myat, civil engineer; Mark Miller, construction control representative; Robert Lee Meyers, civil engineering tech; Matt Zager, GIS specialist; and Gordon Rush, operation and maintenance site manager.

An interesting aspect to note is that many of these folks who are currently down range and those who have returned have volunteered for multiple deployments, some as many as three tours. The sacrifices they have made to support OCO should be lauded by everyone throughout the District.

I have had the honor to serve several tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. It was hard work and it was time away from my family. But it was some of the most rewarding service I've experienced in my Army career. I know that not everyone can make the decision to deploy and it's not a decision that should be taken lightly. Your family and your home life should always be a top priority. But, if after weighing all the considerations, a deployment opportunity seems plausible, I encourage you to make the commitment and join the others who have volunteered to support OCO.

In June, Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, MVD commanding general, held a town hall for our District employees. During his presentation, he spoke about the spirit of volunteerism that is prevalent throughout the Corps of Engineers. He believes that there has never been a need to require mobility agreements for Corps employees because in his view, volunteers would fill the roles. And they have in outstanding fashion.

I know there are a lot of lock and dam operators out there who have expressed interest in deploying but do not have the skill sets needed. I am working that through MVD and Headquarters to try to set up a training program people can take prior to deploying. More to follow as this develops.

I know the spirit of volunteerism exists within our District. If you have ever thought about deploying, now is the time to act. Contact our Emergency Management folks and learn more about deployment opportunities. It is a monumental commitment but those who decide to volunteer will not regret their decision. I appreciate the sacrifices made by those who have already served and I look forward to seeing more District employees showcasing the spirit of volunteerism. Thanks for all you do and continue **BUILDING STRONG**®.

Editor's Note: *Three additional employees will be deploying to Afghanistan in August. Those employees are Robert Balamut, Gordon Rush and Andrew Barnett.*

Left, attendees at the Coca-Cola 200 stopped to learn about water safety at the District's water safety booth.

Right, Bobber the Water Safety Dog poses with driver, Caleb Roark and his truck, prior to the race. *Photos by Corps of Engineers.*

Targeting a new audience

By Leah Deeds, Saylorville Lake

Park Rangers from projects across the Rock Island District promoted water safety on July 16 at the Coca-Cola 200 presented by Hy-Vee at the NASCAR World Truck Series race in Newton, Iowa. The race in Newton was one of five races in a nation-wide effort to promote life jacket use to a target audience. The theme is: "Just like your favorite driver wears their personal protective gear we want you to wear yours when you are on the water."

Despite scorching temperatures, park rangers spoke with an estimated 500 people at a booth under the grandstands. The majority of those people were regular boaters on local waterways. Attendees stopped to spin the water safety wheel, test their water safety knowledge and win prizes. Others stopped to take a picture with a lifejacket cutout that reminded them to "Wear Your Life Jacket" and "Let the Good Times Float." Children got water safety tattoos featuring Bobber and his friends. Bobber the Water Safety Dog made many new friends during two hour-long appearances.

Bobber's picture also appeared on the 07 Chevy driven by Caleb Roark, an 18-year-old starting his second truck-series race. Park Rangers were able to make many additional contacts during Roark's autograph session at the booth. Later, Bobber joined him during driver introductions. The sold-out crowd not only saw Bobber but also the "Wear Your Gear" logo on the hood, bed, and tailgate of the truck. The 07 truck finished the race 24th completing 194 of 200 laps.

Other sponsored races are in Charlotte, N.C., Kentucky, Indianapolis and Texas. Each district sponsoring a race received booth space to promote water safety; the opportunity to make appearances with Bobber the Water Safety Dog in fan areas; and have the Bobber "Wear Your Gear" logo on the hood, bed, and tailgate of a truck.

Sizing the workforce for the future

By Col. Shawn McGinley, District Commander

For the foreseeable future the federal budget looks to be confusing and somewhat hard to predict. The Corps of Engineers may not see funding numbers equivalent to prior years. Because of that possibility, fiscal responsibility will be even more imperative and every aspect of how we do business will have to be looked at with a more critical eye.

One such aspect is the way we hire employees. In order to more effectively and responsibly staff our workforce, there is a definite need to review hiring in certain areas within our organization. And because of that need, I am instituting a new level of checks and balances with regard to hiring practices.

I have added commander approval to all new hiring actions. This is not being done to add bureaucracy to our processes. Instead, I have added the requirement for commander approval to create a more intensive look at whom and why we are hiring. There are areas within the District which are over-manned based on projected workload and it is these areas that will be directly affected by this action. We won't automatically fill positions that have become vacant due to attrition. This new approval requirement will ensure we are being both fiscally responsible and yet still committed to maintaining a highly professional and capable workforce that is appropriately manned.

It is safe to say that we will be operating in a mode of caution with hiring. When a new hiring action is presented to me, I will be looking at the full-time equivalents (FTE) for FY12 and FY13. My approval will be based on ensuring we are making good decisions on replacements and whether a replacement is necessary.

There are projects that are, in some cases, overmanned by as many as three or four slots. We will continue to make smart decisions to replace those who have left us due to retirement or career changes but in some cases there may not be a need to backfill positions. Potential shortfalls will be met with a regional effort.

Much of the talk about our country's deficit and debt focuses on budget cuts. And, when talks turn to cutting budgets, employees may get concerned with the looming possibility of a reduction in force (RIF). In the meetings I attend, I hear no mention of RIFs. I feel confident that our employees can ignore any rumors about a RIF.

In summation – our workforce is strong and we will continue to hire the most professional and capable employees to guarantee we remain strong. The new commander-approval requirement as it relates to new hiring actions is by no means an attempt to stop all hiring actions but simply a tactic to double-check our processes and ensure there is a true need to fill the position. All of our business practices need to be fiscally responsible as we head into an uncertain financial period so that we remain affordable to our partners and stakeholders. We owe it to the future of our workforce to maintain a level of excellent service while being prudent in manning all of our projects and programs appropriately.

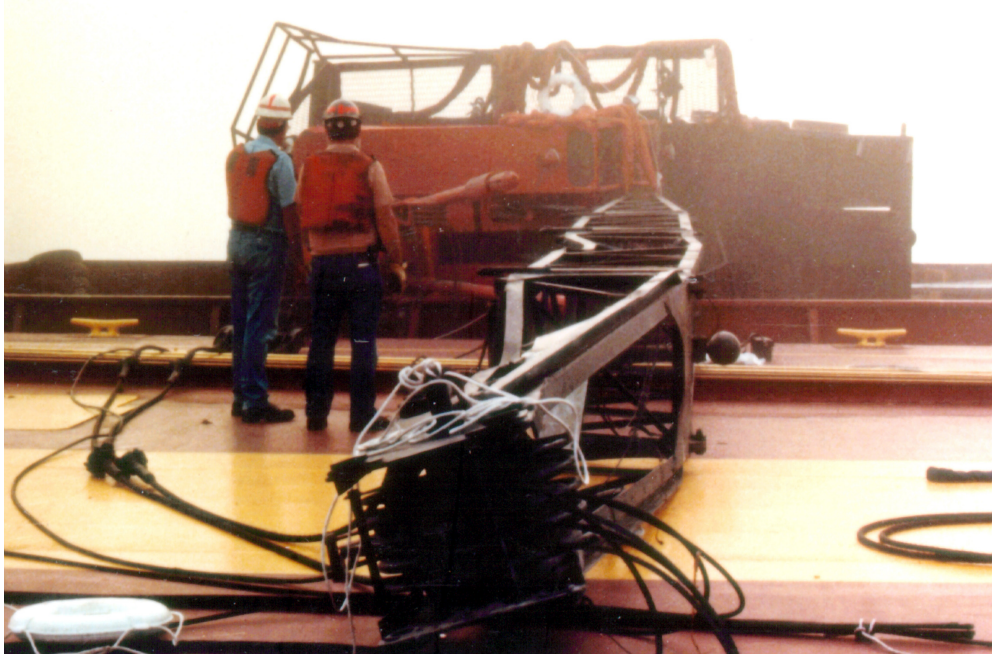
Col. Benjamin Wham II (left), commander, Afghanistan Engineer District-South (AED-S) presents Richard Rupert, budget analyst, Resource Management Office, AED-S, with a Commanders Award for Civilian Service. Sgt. Maj. Lorne R. Quebodeaux (right), AED-S, was also present for the ceremony. *Photo by Brenda Beasley.*

Rupert recognized by the Afghanistan Engineer District-South

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Richard Rupert, Engineering Construction Division, was recently recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South for his outstanding support and dedication during his deployment.

He was awarded a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptional meritorious service as a Budget Analyst, Resource Management Office. He also received a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal for participating in a NATO Operation and a Department of Defense Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal.



Workers look at the crane involved in Richard Lair's fatality after it was salvaged from the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 20.

The District's Darkest Day...Never Forget

By Bob Wild, Operations Division

Editor's note: *This article appeared in the August 2001 Tower Times commemorating the 15th anniversary of two tragic crane accidents on August 26, 1986. On the 25th anniversary we again remember the two employees who lost their lives and renew our vow to safety. The original article has been updated to reflect the 25th anniversary.*

August 26, 1986, is a day that those who were there, and some who were not, will always remember. That was the day two fellow employees and friends were killed in separate crane related accidents in a five-hour time span. This year is the 25th anniversary of that dark day.

In memoriam, there were two District boats named after the victims. The first was the survey vessel Sweatt and the second was the crew vessel Lair. Lowell Sweatt was a foreman on the Mississippi River Project Maintenance Crew and Richard Lair was a lockman at Lock and Dam 20.

Sweatt's fatality resulted from massive crushing injuries, while Lair's fatality resulted from a bridge crane being pulled off of the dam in Canton, Mo.

The striking common denominator in the two accidents was the fact that we tend to pay less attention to things that become common in our workplace. Because workers face dangers everyday, there is always the possibility to forget just how tragic an error can be.

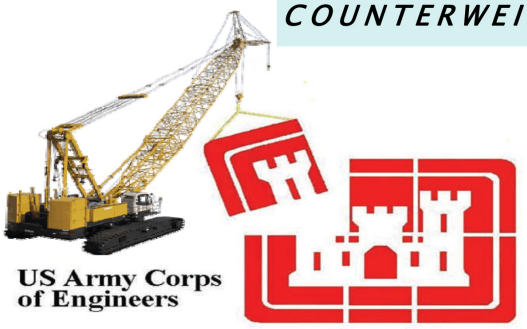
For the past 25 years, we have discussed these tragic accidents to prevent these errors from reoccurring.

Both fatalities devastated the District in 1986. The following year, several after-action measures were taken to reinforce crane safety procedures throughout the District. This included the production of an in depth crane-safety video, as well as a full-time crane-safety position. This was when I came into the picture.

In 1988, my position was created, with the help of Bud Marion and Kenn Shoemaker, Operations Division. Before coming to the Clock Tower, I was a full-time crane operator on the Mississippi River Project Maintenance Section, Structures Maintenance crew and before that I worked for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 537.

Through the years, we have made great strides in the education of crane operators, riggers and all personnel involved with cranes, but it's important for us to remember Aug. 26, 1986, or else we'll become complacent.

Complacency in the workplace is the major cause of accidents in construction trades. This was the biggest contributor to our mishaps in 1986. Whether a government setting or private contractor, the message is still the same, do not become complacent in your organization or you might not like the consequences. Training and repetition are the key ingredients to a safe work



For more information on safety with the Corps of Engineers visit www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/High-HazardWorkingGroups.aspx and read the latest COUNTERWEIGHT at www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Documents/COUNTERWEIGHT-Edition-3.pdf.

The area Lowell Sweatt's fatality occurred on Aug. 26, 1986.

environment.

A Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries study found a total of 632 crane-related construction worker fatalities involving 610 crane incidents from 1992-2006. Of those crane-related deaths, 157 were caused by overhead power line electrocutions; 132 were associated with workers being struck by crane loads; 125 involved being struck by cranes, crane booms/jobs or other crane parts; 89 involved crane collapses; 56 involved falls and 30 deaths involved being caught in or between crane parts. Of the 610 incidents, 13 involved floating or barge crane incidents and 12 overhead crane incidents.

In 2008, there were 88 construction worker crane-related incidents resulting in 54 deaths and 100 injuries. The most common incident was crane collapse.

We have strived to make a safer work place at the federal and private sector levels. Through the efforts of many, I believe we have made a difference in the way we conduct our everyday workplace safety. One committee that I sit on, as a representative of the Corps, is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, B30 main committee, and the B30.5 sub-committee on mobile cranes. We write the crane safety standards that are recognized throughout the industry. If followed, industry can protect their work force no matter what their job entails.

Have you ever heard the expression: "There's always enough time and money to do the job right the second time?" It's true of human nature to learn from our experiences. But sometimes, it seems, we have to learn from our mistakes before we change the way we do things. In other words, we rely on something going wrong to tell us what our next step should be. The only problem with this approach is that "something" might cost the life of someone, causing untold grieving to family and friends.

That's too high a price to pay for knowledge. But, more importantly, it simply isn't necessary. That's because the safe ways of working with cranes and equipment have already been established. We know how to use cranes without them becoming dangerous. That's how we come to develop regulations, standards and procedures. So, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. What we have to do is ensure that everyone working with the equipment knows and understands what those safe ways are, knows the correct procedures, and - most importantly - uses them day in and day out. That's where training comes in to play.

I believe it is everyone's responsibility to know their job, be situationally aware, be healthy, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. Nowhere is this more important than when working with cranes. Safety is our first priority. There is nothing that we do that is so important or time critical that it is worth a human life or injury.

Since the accidents 25 years ago, workplace safety has prevailed and thanks, on the whole, to the personnel who are getting the job done … safely.

Never forget these tragic accidents and the families who they left behind. It's up to each and every one of us to assure nothing like this ever happens again, whether now or in the future.

OSHA QUICK CARD™

Protect Yourself

Crane Safety

Fatalities and serious injuries can occur if cranes are not inspected and used properly. Many fatalities can occur when the crane boom, load line or load contacts power lines and shorts electricity to ground. Other incidents happen when workers are struck by the load, are caught inside the swing radius or fail to assemble/ disassemble the crane properly.

- Cranes are to be operated only by qualified and trained personnel.
- A designated competent person must inspect the crane and all crane controls before use.
- Be sure the crane is on a firm/stable surface and level.
- During assembly/disassembly do not unlock or remove pins unless sections are blocked and secure (stable).
- Fully extend outriggers and barricade accessible areas inside the crane's swing radius.
- Watch for overhead electric power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot safe working clearance from the lines.
- Inspect all rigging prior to use; do not wrap hoist lines around the load.
- Be sure to use the correct load chart for the crane's current configuration and setup, the load weight and lift path.
- Do not exceed the load chart capacity while making lifts.
- Raise load a few inches, hold, verify capacity/balance, and test brake system before delivering load.
- Do not move loads over workers.
- Be sure to follow signals and manufacturer instructions while operating cranes.

Information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, www.osha.gov.

Mapping the Upper Mississippi

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Managing the floodplain ecosystem of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) requires the development and use of a wide range of tools, expertise, coordination and cooperation of a number of agencies and individuals. Success is not in the hands of just one individual, district or agency – it is achieved through the combined effort of all who have a vested interest in maintaining a viable river ecosystem that exists in concert with commercial uses of the river.

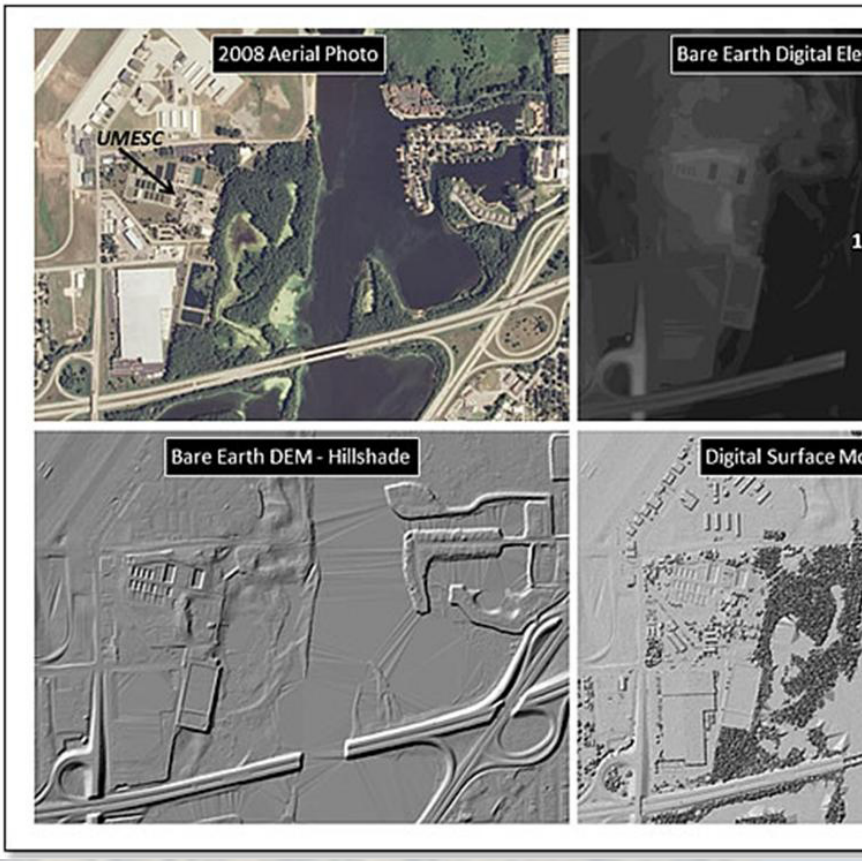
One of the major programs that has focused on restoration of the UMRS has been the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Environmental Management Program (UMRR-EMP), authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 it includes the navigable portions of the UMRS in three Corps districts. It is the single most important effort committed to ensuring the viability and vitality of the diverse and significant fish and wildlife resources since establishment of the National Wildlife Refuges on the Upper Mississippi River.

This systemic program has two major components that provide a well-balanced combination of monitoring, research and habitat restoration activities. Habitat restoration is achieved through the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project component (UMRR-EMP-HREP) and monitoring, research, and systemic data collection are accomplished through the Long Term Resource Monitoring component (UMRR-EMP-LTRM).

"The program helped pioneer large river ecosystem restoration and monitoring efforts in the United States," said Marvin Hubbell, regional manager, UMRR-EMP. "Two keys to the success of the program have been the ability to integrate large scale ecosystem restoration efforts with scientific monitoring and research efforts and to coordinate that integration with a strong five-state and five-federal agency partnership."

According to Hubbell, one of the ways that science is integrated into the ecosystem restoration efforts is through the collection and serving of systemic data sets such as Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) and bathymetry. LiDAR captures the topography of the surface above the water and bathymetry captures the topography below the surface of the water.

The UMRR-EMP has been collecting LiDAR data for the entire Upper Mississippi stretching from Minneapolis, Minn., to Cairo, Ill., and the Illinois River from Lake Michigan to the confluence with the Mississippi. LiDAR is a rapidly maturing technology that provides extremely accurate elevation information across large areal extents. The use of LiDAR is recommended as the most accurate and cost effective means of gathering systemic elevation data for the UMRS. This technology uses airplane-mounted laser sensors and Global Positioning System (GPS) units to generate surface point data consisting of latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates and elevations.

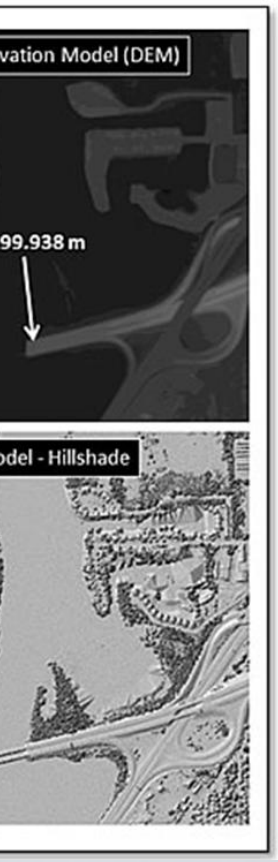


The top left photo demonstrates the amount of detail seen in an aer Upper Mississippi Environmental Sciences Center in LaCrosse, Wis photos are samples of products that can be produced using the nev

"The collection of these two systemic data sets (LiDAR and bathymetry) will be used extensively in both program components and by other programs to reduce cost and time. It will increase the accuracy of project planning, design and aid in the development of tools that will help model the complex natural processes shaping the UMRS," said Hubbell.

In 2007, the Corps partnered with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to collect Federal Emergency Management Agency-grade, bluff-to-bluff LiDAR for Navigation Pools 8-24 of the UMRS. In 2008, plans were completed for the collection of the remaining LiDAR which was a high priority to the UMRR-EMP Partnership. In 2009, American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funds allowed the remaining areas of the UMRS floodplain to be contracted. To accomplish this, Karen Hagerty, the project manager of the LTRM component of UMRR-EMP, reached out to each of the five states within the Upper Mississippi River System and the United States Geologic Survey's (USGS), Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC). In addition, she worked with the USGS's Geospatial Data Liaisons to coordinate data collection efforts, avoid duplication, coordinate data processing expertise, thereby minimizing costs.

River System flood plain



ial photo of the
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w LiDAR data.

The UMRR-EMP-LTRM data collection project was designed to create bare earth models of the floodplain to show features such as small ridges and swales of the historic river channel. The contract specified that collection occur during low water conditions when foliage and snow coverage were at a minimum. This however, proved to be difficult due to prolonged high water levels and above normal snow accumulation but is being accomplished as conditions allow.

"Data collection has been challenging. During the last sampling season, we juggled lingering high water and frequent snowfalls, resulting in weekly status updates with the contractor. In spite of all the coordination, only about 50 percent of the remaining area was flown," said Hagerty.

The UMRR-EMP has developed a great relationship with the Iowa DNR which is processing all of the LiDAR data for the entire Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. They have been taking the raw data and processing it into usable geodatabases, containing hillshade and digital elevation models. UMESC is providing additional processing and serving of the LiDAR data on the LTRM web site housed at UMESC.

"The partnerships that have been developed through this process have been numerous and rewarding for all involved," said Hagerty.

Another related task has been to complete the systemic bathymetry data collection for the UMRS. The process started in 1989 with funding to the UMRR-EMP LTRM component but was not completed. With the support of the ARRA, the data collection for the entire system has been completed.

The combination of LiDAR and bathymetry data for the UMRS floodplain creates a seamless elevation data layer that can be used for flow, inundation, and run-off model building; habitat restoration project design and evaluations; floodplain forest height and density information; connectivity analyses; and seamless 3-D model generations by pool or reach, to name a few. This process is just beginning and will not be completed for the entire UMRS for a few years.

"The large dataset will be useful for future planning and restoration efforts but also flood risk management. There are also research components with lots of applications. We are really just scratching the surface," said Hagerty.

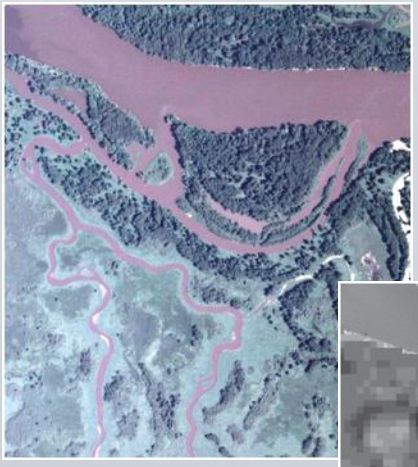
Both data collection efforts have been in the works for many years and data acquisition plans sat on the shelf waiting for funding to arrive.

"The ARRA funds provided the missing piece in acquiring the additional datasets needed to create one continuous layer of data," said Hagerty.

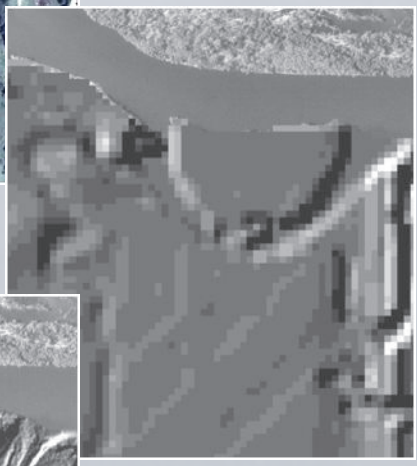
UMRR-EMP LTRM collects one additional type of systemic data; land cover/land use (LC/LU). This data is derived from systemic aerial photography collected once every decade, with collection efforts occurring in 1989, 2000, and 2010-2011. Land cover data consists of maps of vegetation and developed lands. Mapping the vegetation provides information on food availability, nesting/spawning habitat and shelter for fish and wildlife. Land cover data also provides insight into human effects within the floodplain. LiDAR data will also assist in the development of LC/LU products by informing botanists and GIS specialists about floodplain vegetation's slope, aspect and elevation above the water table.

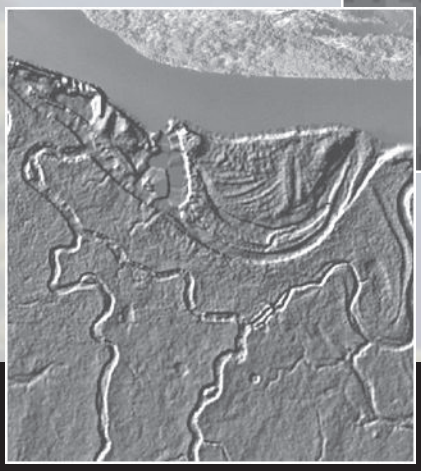
Together, these datasets provide an unprecedented amount of data for the UMRS floodplain ecosystem and will help set the stage for future projects, assist researchers in the quest to find answers and help agencies preserve and protect the resources on the Upper Mississippi River System.

This information and more is available at the UMESC-hosted UMRR-EMP LTRM web site at http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/ltrmp.html.



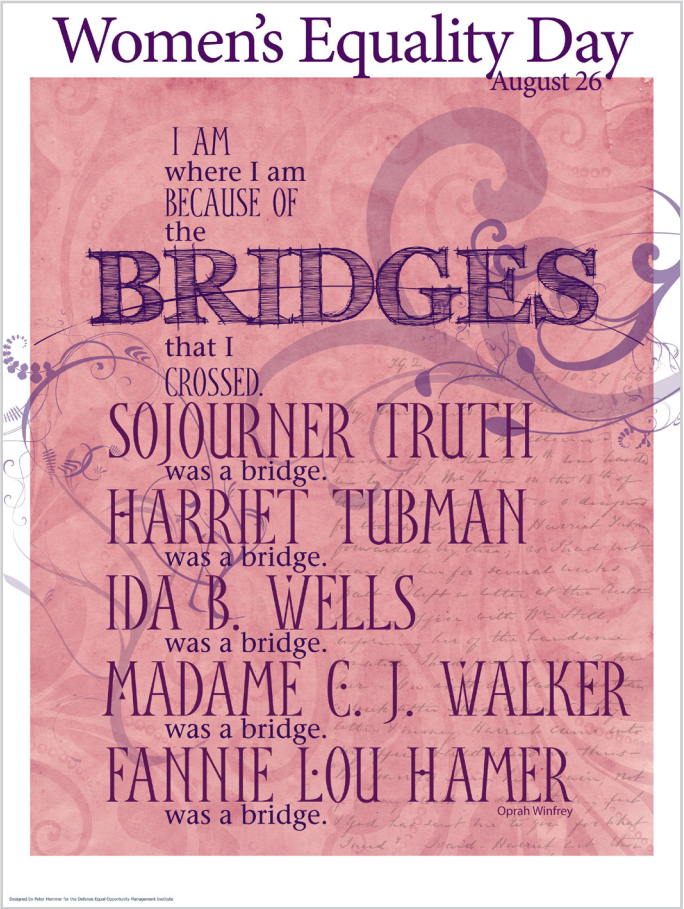
Left is an aerial photo of a section of the Upper Mississippi River. Below is an example of a digital elevation model using the previous data available (30 meter resolution).





Left is the same area using the new LiDAR data collected with a two meter resolution.

Equal Employment Opportunity News



In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."

The date commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. The 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was introduced to Congress in 1878. Forty-one years later, it was passed by both houses of Congress on June 4, 1919, and was sent to the states for ratification. The observance of Women's Equality Day marks women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

Interesting facts:

- Of the total labor force, 46.5 percent in the United States are women. This number is expected to reach 47 percent in the year 2016. Sixty six million women were employed in the United States—74 percent of employed women worked on a full-time jobs, while 26 percent worked on a part-time basis. Of the 122 million women age 16 years and over in the United States, 72 million, or 59.2 percent, were labor force participants.
- In 2010, 35 percent of the Department of Defense civilian force were women.

2011 Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. It begins on the anniversary of independence, Sept. 15 for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

The theme for 2011 is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories... One American Spirit." In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 by Congress to a month long celebration. We celebrate the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race.

Diversity Day 2011

"Branches of Diversity"

Wednesday, Sept. 21

11 a.m. - Ceremony with guest speaker, Mr. Alfred Ramirez, Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, followed by the Diversity Tree Planting and Ribbon Dedication.

Ceremony will take place on the South Lawn of the Clock Tower Building followed by an Open House in the ABC Conference Room.

Presented by the Special Emphasis Program Committee and Equal Employment Opportunity Office

For more information please contact: Rachal Deahl 309-794-5471

SECURITY OFFICE

August is Antiterrorism Awareness Month

One of the Security and Law Enforcement (SL) office's top priorities is antiterrorism - doing everything possible to prevent acts of terrorism from occurring at our projects. The threat of a terrorist incident or event happening is ever constant.

The Department of the Army (DA) has designated August as Antiterrorism Awareness Month. This month commemorates the first annual Army-wide Antiterrorism Awareness Month establishing a period of time for both service members and civilians to focus on raising awareness for antiterrorism (AT). It was created to instill and sustain heightened awareness and vigilance to prevent and protect our communities and critical resources from acts of terrorism.

During the month, leaders, Soldiers, civilian employees and family members should work to better understand key AT concepts, principles, roles, responsibilities and suspicious activity reporting procedures.

The focus of DA is to provide training to employees and family members, plan for events and ensure people take into account the risks and then mitigate those risks, and finally, conduct vulnerability assessments to ensure key facilities and personnel are properly protected.

Additionally, this campaign should be a time to strengthen relationships with local civilian emergency response agencies, such as police, fire and medical emergency response agencies, to hone responses to acts of terrorism and other dangerous events.

A few of the themes we will be using during the month will be: basic AT training, education and awareness for Soldiers, civilian employees and family members; directorate-level AT roles and responsibilities; enhancing AT preparedness through emergency response planning and active shooter emergency response procedures.

The DA has four levels of training for personnel. Level I training is a yearly mandatory training that every employee must complete on-line or in person by someone who is level II qualified. Level I training gives employees scenarios of terrorist events and what people have done to prevent or become susceptible, what should they do if they find themselves in certain situations, and more importantly how to prevent themselves from being a victim of a terrorist. It can be located at https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/ or through the link for all the required Security Awareness Training at https://intranet.mvr.usace.army.mil/Intranet/training/.

Level II through level IV is advanced training for employees, Soldiers and officers who are appointed to a battalion level or higher.

The focus on AT tends to waver for many people, depending on the news. When employees hear that a terrorist event has occurred at another installation, especially one that is geographically close, they remind themselves of the importance of vigilance to deter similar events from happening where they are. When a period of time has passed without a similar story, their vigilance lags.

In July of last year, Gallup published the results of a USA Today Gallup poll showing Americans' collective worry about terrorism. The poll showed the lowest recorded level of worry (34 percent) since August 2004. The response was down sharply from the all-time high of 59 percent recorded in October 2001, just after the Sept. 11 attacks. The poll found 30 percent of responders said they are not too worried about being a victim of terrorism and 34 percent said they are not at all worried.

It is imperative that we all stay vigilant at all times. At any time, any one of us may encounter an individual or activity that could be terrorism related - we must each take responsibility for being alert to those threats and responding appropriately.

Over the past few months, several incidents of potential attacks at American military bases were reported through national media. Fortunately, those threats were dealt with quickly, usually because of the observations and quick response by security personnel and other individuals. As recently as July 27, an active duty soldier was apprehended for attempting to purchase or had purchased six pounds of smokeless black powder and had a triggering device in a backpack.

Terrorism has a few similarities to a criminal treat. We can protect ourselves and stop terrorism by identifying and reporting someone trying to break into a project or facility, taking notes or recording something they should not have, or suspicious people who should not be anywhere on a facility.

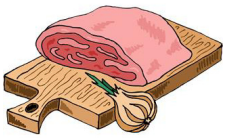
The most important factor we can remember is to report suspicious or unusual activities to local law enforcement and SL personnel immediately. Let the professionals respond, investigate and determine the seriousness of the situation.

While the likelihood of a terrorist attack in the Midwest maybe small, it does not mean someone is not trying or thinking about it. It is always better to be ready and make ourselves less of a target.

Rock Island District Security and Law Enforcement
Kyle Retzlaff (309) 794-5820 or Mike Lorah (309) 794-5747
CAC Appointments (309) 794-5333 - Request for services email: cemvrsl@usace.army.mil

Food-borne Pathogens

Thousands of types of bacteria are naturally present in our environment, the ones that cause disease are called pathogens. When certain pathogens enter the food supply, they can cause food borne illness. Most cases of food borne illness can be prevented with proper cooking or processing of food to destroy pathogens. Cross-contamination with any of the following could cause a food borne illness.



- Raw egg products
- Raw meat
- Poultry
- Seafood products
- Other contaminated surfaces/objects (knifes, cutting boards)
- From food handlers with poor personal hygiene

How to Prevent Food Borne Illness at Home

Shopping

- While at the store select non-perishables first then select refrigerator items just before you check out.
- Never choose meat or poultry in packaging that is torn or leaking.
- Do not buy food past sell-by, use-by, or other expiration dates.

Storage

- Always refrigerate perishable food within two hours (one hour if temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Your refrigerator should be at 40 degrees or below and the freezer at zero or below.
- Cook or freeze fresh poultry, fish, ground meats, and variety meats within two days; other beef, veal, lamb, or pork, within three to five days.
- Perishable food such as meat and poultry should be wrapped securely.
- To maintain quality when freezing meat and poultry in its original package, wrap the package again with foil or plastic wrap that is recommended for the freezer.
- High-acid canned food such as tomatoes can be stored unopened for 12-18 months. Low-acid canned food such as meat, poultry, fish, and most vegetables will keep two to five years-if the unopened can remains in good condition.

Thawing

- *Refrigerator:* The refrigerator allows slow, safe thawing. Make sure thawing meat and poultry juices do not drip onto other food.
- *Cold Water:* For faster thawing, place food in a leak-proof plastic bag. Submerge in cold tap water. Change the water every 30 minutes. Cook immediately after thawing.
- *Microwave:* Cook meat and poultry immediately after microwave thawing.

Preparation

- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Keep raw meat, poultry, fish, and their juices away from other food.
- Wash cutting board, knife, and counter tops with hot, soapy water.
- Marinate meat and poultry in a covered dish in the refrigerator.
- Sanitize cutting boards by using a solution of one tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach in one gallon of water.
- Cook food to the recommended safe minimum internal temperature. Check temperatures with a food thermometer.

Product	Type	Internal Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)
Beef & Veal	Ground	160
	Steak and roasts medium	160
	Steak and roasts medium rare	145
Chicken & Turkey	Breasts	165
	Ground, stuffing, and casseroles	165
	Whole bird, legs, thighs, and wings	165
Eggs	Any type	160
Fish & Shellfish	Any type	145
Lamb	Ground	160
	Steak and roasts medium	160
	Steaks and roasts medium rare	145
Leftovers	Any type	165
Pork	Chops, fresh (raw) ham, ground, ribs, and roasts	160
	Fully cooked ham (to reheat)	140

In Case of Suspected Food Borne Illness

Seek treatment as necessary, if symptoms persist or are severe such as excessive nausea and vomiting, or high temperature, call your doctor.

Information from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture; www.fsis.usda.gov.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mississippi River Project

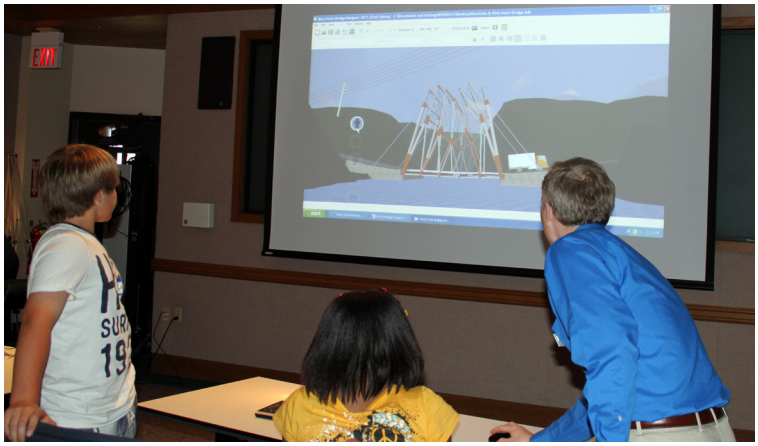
On July 7, approximately 12 members of the National Research Council were given a brief tour of Locks and Dam 15. The group was provided information on the basics of navigation, lock and dam operations, infrastructure issues, and operations and maintenance challenges. The tour resulted in good interaction, lots of questions and a better understanding of typical lock and dam issues on the Mississippi River.

Coralville Lake

A project completed by the 411th Engineer Company provided them with valuable experience and the Coralville Project with free work. The 411th hauled base material removed during the entrance road construction to the Mehaffey Boat ramp for parking expansion. They placed, compacted and fully prepared the site for paving. They were very happy with the opportunity for real world experience and will be working on more projects at Coralville Lake in the future.

Ordnance and Explosives Engineering Section

Nick Heleg-Greza, an Ordnance and Explosives Safety (UXO) Specialist from the Rock Island District has been supporting Louisville District since July 11, providing ordnance and explosives safety support at the former proof test range at Rock Island Arsenal. The former test range, located on the east end of Rock Island Arsenal near the Moline gate, was used to proof test gun carriages produced by the Arsenal with inert rounds from approximately 1904 to 1990. The UXO Safety Specialist performed safety oversight for ordnance avoidance during soil excavation and munitions debris separation operations by contractor personnel. To date, over 30, 55-gal barrels of munitions debris have been removed from the former test range. On July 26, contractor personnel explosively perforated several complete rounds to determine whether or not the rounds contained high explosives.

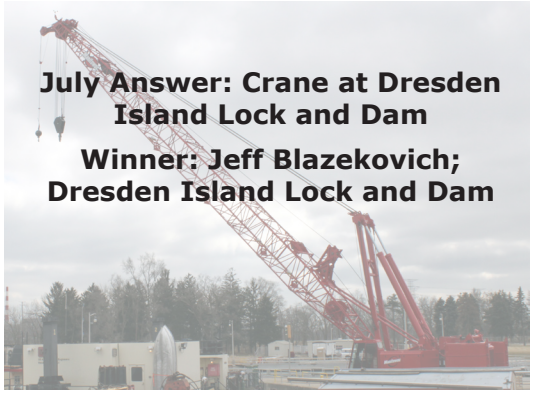


Eric Johnson (right), Engineering and Construction Division, helps Project Lead the Way participants test their unique heart-shaped bridge during a friendly competition to see who could build the most innovative bridge and the cheapest most effective bridge.

Engineering and Construction Division

On July 12, Engineering and Construction Division hosted 25 Davenport middle school students for the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering Summer Camp. PLTW is a national program providing a curriculum of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to participating schools. The summer camp is a five-day event sponsored by the Davenport Community School District. Each camp day is hosted by a local business, with the intent of introducing students to the various fields of engineering. EC personnel presented activities in surveying, geotechnical engineering, and bridge span design. Feedback from the school district indicated the Corps' camp day was a great success.

WHERE'S THIS?



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

Sympathy ...

Ronald Wunderle, 62, of Cambridge, Ill., died July 30, at Trinity Rock Island.

Ron served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He also served his country as a civil servant. His military service and civil service spanned a total of 38 years. Ron worked for NAVSAS in Norfolk, Va., and then for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Rock Island until retiring in 2010.

Lane Mathena, of Nixa, Mo., passed away July 19.

He began his 30 year career with the Corps at the Snye River Drainage District in Hull, Ill. He then transferred to the construction division and moved to Dubuque, Iowa, to work on the building of the flood wall along the Mississippi River. He was chief of construction on flood control projects at Marshalltown and Clinton, Iowa, as well as Canton, Mo. He served on a temporary duty assignment for the Department of Energy in Carlsbad, New Mexico, for the Department of Defense in Savannah, Ga., as well as several emergency operations for the Corps before retiring in 1991.

He also served in the U.S. Air Force from May 1955 to February 1959.

Upcoming Events ...

LDP applications due - Aug. 19
Women's Equality Day - Aug. 26
Annual Retirees' Luncheon - Sept. 7
Diversity Day - Sept. 21
Hispanic Heritage Month - Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

Retirements ...

Carol Rothert, human resources specialist (employee and labor relations), Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, retired July 30, after dedicating 26 years, two months and 17 days to the federal government.

Lonn McGuire, biologist, Rock Island Environmental and Economics Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Division - North, retired July 31, after dedicating 21 years, seven months and 26 days to the federal government.

Stanley Daniels, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 12, Mississippi River Project, Operations Division, retired July 31, after dedicating 29 years and five months to the federal government.

Level II Leadership Development Program applications due Aug. 19

The FY 2012 Leadership Development Program is seeking motivated individuals who are interested in developing and enhancing their personal and professional supervisory and leadership skills.

The target audience for Level II is employees who are full-time permanent, have career status, a minimum of two years of federal service, possess a current TAPES rating of "Highly Successful (Level 2)" or above or NSPS "Level 2 Valued Performer" or above. Participants also must have clearly demonstrated potential for making substantial and significant long-term contributions to the Corps.

For more information contact Sara Paxson, sara.r.paxson@usace.army.mil or 309-794-5635.

NOTE

Please send achievements, births and obituaries for this page to the editor at: Hilary.R.Markin@usace.army.mil.

Without your input, we may not receive the information that enables us to inform the District.

Spotlight on the District

Capt. Ross Fenwick

Central Area Office, Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division

Col. Shawn McGinley, district commander, congratulates the newly promoted Capt. Ross Fenwick at his promotion ceremony. Also participating in the ceremony was Becca Gall, Fenwick's girlfriend.

A promotion ceremony for one of Rock Island District's newest employees took place on July 1 in front of the Mississippi River Visitor Center, marking a big moment in an Army career – being promoted to Captain.

The newly promoted captain is Capt. Ross Fenwick whose first day with the Rock Island District was June 20, after being accepted into the Technical Engineer Occupational Development Program. A program designed to help Corps of Engineers captains hone their engineering skills and obtain professional engineering and project management experience.

His original assignment was in Greenwood, Miss., but prior to his scheduled arrival it was changed to the Rock Island District. He is working at the Central Area Office, Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division for the District. Since starting he has been performing quality assurance for a project at Lock and Dam 18.

"I am learning a lot," said Fenwick. "My degree in physics gives me a general background but there is a lot more to learn."

He is assigned to the Rock Island District for two years and hopes to learn a lot about the civil works mission as well as obtain engineering certifications.

Fenwick grew up in Charlottesville, Va. He attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., and graduated with a degree in physics. While in college Fenwick joined the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Immediately following graduation he was commissioned as an officer into the Army.

He completed officer training (Basic Officer Leadership Courses) in November 2008 and received his first assignment to the 19th Engineer Battalion in Fort Knox, Ky. He was stationed at Fort Knox for two and one-half years during which he deployed to Afghanistan as a platoon leader from 2009-2010 and was promoted to first lieutenant during this time.

"After I got back from Afghanistan I worked mainly in construction management for the battalion," said Fenwick. "The Fort Knox DPW (Deputy Director of Public Works) told me later that I had helped get us more projects in six months than we had gotten in the five years prior that my unit had been at Fort Knox."

Following his time with the District, Fenwick will be attending the Captain's Career Course in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. This is a year-long program that trains captains for their future roles in the Army which are assigned following completion.

Fenwick and his girlfriend Becca live with their dog Ares in downtown Davenport within walking distance of work as well as the many attractions and festivals happening in the downtown area. When not busy at work, he enjoys reading and relaxing. He is also looking forward to the cooler months and hopes to visit area hiking trails.

Fenwick's parents remain in Charlottesville and his brother Austin is stationed at Fort Knox, where he is a captain in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

When asked about advice he shared his family motto which he has a tattoo of "Audentes Fortuna Iuvat," a Latin phrase meaning "fortune favors the bold."

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND
CLOCK TOWER BLDG. - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004

A unique visitor stopped at Saylorville Lake in late July, a piping plover. Piping plovers are a federally endangered shorebird but are regular migrants seen at reservoirs in Iowa. High water is offering limited temporary habitat as they prefer sandy gravelly shorelines.
Photo by Scott Rolfes.