



Tower Times

Rock Island District's News Magazine

July-August 2012



New commander arrives

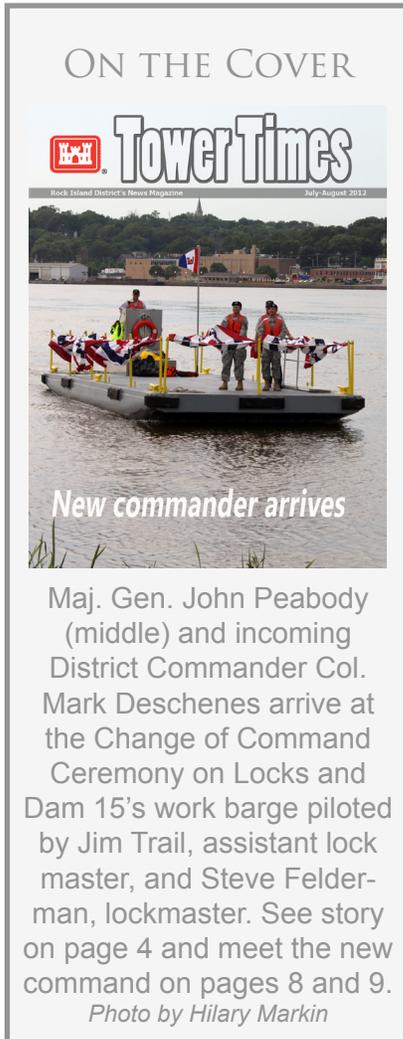


**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Rock Island District

Tower Times

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Tower Times

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A message from....

Colonel Mark Deschenes, District Commander



Looking forward to the challenges of being your commander

It's been a little more than one month and I have barely gotten my office unpacked but I already feel fully engaged as your new Commander and District Engineer. It's an honor I don't take lightly and I appreciate all of the expertise and professionalism that has been at my disposal helping me adjust and ease into my new assignment.

During my time as your commander, I plan to use the Tower Times as a tool to communicate with the workforce regarding issues and topics I believe to be important to us all. I will use this space with the purpose to effectively express my command vision and keep all Rock Island District employees informed.

Many of you probably received an e-mail from me recently that was meant as an introduction of sorts. In that message I attempted to relay some things I deem as important from both a personal and professional perspective. I will highlight and reiterate some of those thoughts here as I present my first Tower Times column.

Having only been the commander since June 29, my first pressing priority is to get to know the people of the District. I know we will share challenges and opportunities over the coming months and years. It's my job to help maintain the tradition of excellence that has been a staple at the District for years due to this professional workforce. I am privileged to be a part of your team.

You can rest assured that I don't plan any drastic shift in priorities, at least not in the near term. I have some initial thoughts on what I think is important, basically a top ten list of my priorities. Those are:

1. Value our employees and their families, our partners and our stakeholders.
2. Support the war effort and our nation's engagement with partner countries.
3. Be prepared to rapidly respond to flood or other disasters at both the District and regional levels as directed.
4. Keep the locks running as we resolve the ever increasing maintenance backlog (unsustainable current system).
5. Keep our reservoirs maintained and regularly inspect levee systems to minimize the impacts of flooding.
6. Execute and promote ecosystem restoration as a critical and primary District mission (watershed based).
7. Continue providing first-class recreational opportunities to

the American people.

8. Conduct programs and projects defined by teamwork, quality, class, sustainability -- and of course, cost.
9. Define and communicate the value the District delivers to our customers -- customer focused, regionally and nationally promoted.
10. Safety! Nothing we do is worth injury. I want our leaders and supervisors to check and re-check, train and enforce discipline.

Those 10 priorities give a pretty good snapshot of my command philosophy for the District. But those are work-related priorities and I would be remiss if I didn't mention what I feel is my top priority -- my family. I value my family above all else and I would expect nothing less from any other member of our District team. That is not to say I will give less than 100 percent in my role as commander. I expect accountability and a top-notch work ethic from everyone and I will lead by example. But, I implore all of you to not let your work life consume you and neglect your family. My wife Cindy and our three children are my main focus and I want everyone in the District to know they can put family first.

I know there is a lot of work ahead as I begin my journey as your commander. I am also very aware of the dynamic team effort that is required on so many levels to achieve the missions of the District. I noted during the change of command ceremony that it is clear to me that the success of this organization extends well beyond the professionalism and technical expertise of the nearly 900 employees who work here. It really extends to all of our partners. This is a team effort and that was evident in the numbers of folks from outside the immediate organization who attended the change of command ceremony.

The key really is team work, high standards and your dedication to public service. To me, that is the essence of the Corps. I will endeavor to sustain those values as we move forward, here at the District and at the regional and national level. I am beyond proud to be your commander and I look forward to working with all of you as we continue the great tradition of excellence at the Rock Island District. Continue **BUILDING STRONG**®.



Welcoming to the District...



Passing command...

CHANGE OF *COMMAND*

Story and photos by Hilary Markin, Editor

As a storm passed just to the north, Col. Mark Deschenes, incoming Rock Island District commander and Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Mississippi Valley Division commander, boarded Locks and Dam 15's work barge. The destination – the lawn in front of Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal, where they were greeted by Col. Shawn McGinley, outgoing District commander for the Change of Command ceremony.

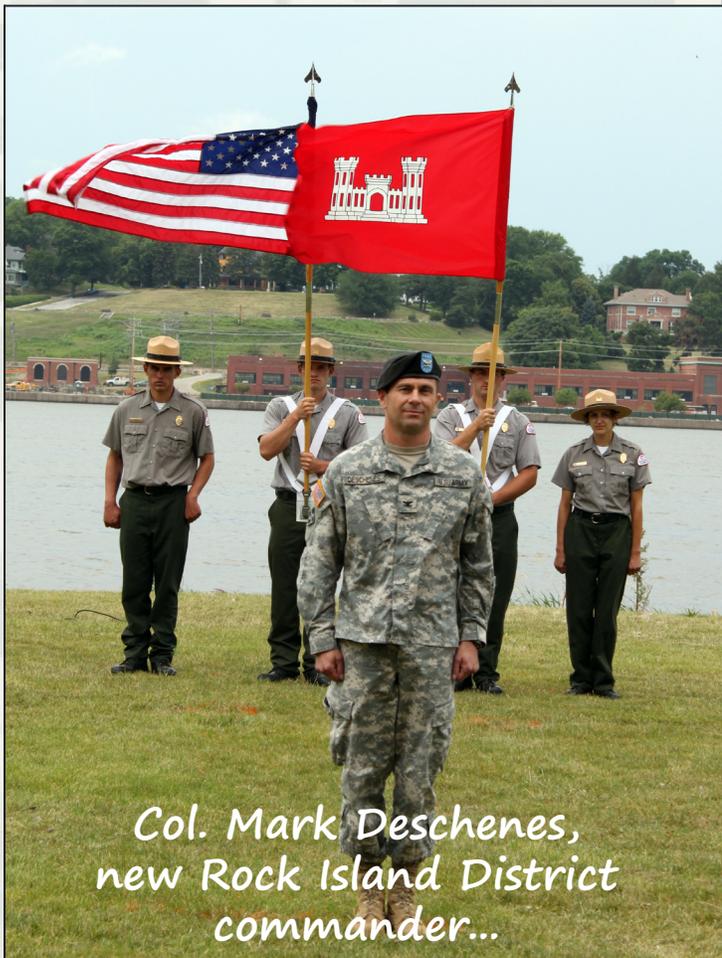
During the ceremony on June 29, Col. Deschenes became the 47th Rock Island District commander assuming command from Col. McGinley.

McGinley who commanded the District since 2009 led the District through the challenges of delivering the Cedar Rapids flood risk reduction study in 18 months, multiple high-water events both in the District and the region, as well as the District's involvement in the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. His next assignment is with the National Geospatial Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Peabody who welcomed Col. Deschenes and recognized the accomplishments of Col. McGinley.

“There is no higher honor, in my humble opinion, for a Solider, than to be given the privilege of command. It entails authority to decide in directive actions and the responsibility that comes with that authority for all the success and failures that entail from those decisions,” said Peabody.

The Rock Island District Change of Command honors a rich tradition of acknowledging a change in commanding officer of a military unit that traces back at least to Roman times. 



Col. Mark Deschenes, new Rock Island District commander...



Team members paused for a photo during training in front of a Deployable Tactical Operations System. From left is Rick Stebens, Julie Millhollin, Linda Zamarocy, Corey Hardt, Peter Corken and Jacob Cawiezell (not pictured is Jim Homann).

Combined Commodities Team participates in earthquake exercise

Management cell deploys to test commodities distribution and tracking

By Corey Hardt, Emergency Management Division

The Rock Island District (MVR) Combined Commodities Team deployed to Tacoma, Wash., June 11 – 15, to participate in the Evergreen Earthquake Exercise. The exercise was an interagency event held by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Washington State Emergency Management Division, and the Corps. The purpose of the exercise was to test unified response efforts to an earthquake event impacting the Puget Sound and surrounding areas. The Corp’s involvement in the exercise was to provide partial (only Power and Commodities) Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 (Public Works and Engineering) support to the impacted area. The Corp’s ESF #3 teams that participated in the exercise were two Power teams from Honolulu and Walla Walla Districts and four Combined Commodities teams from Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle, and MVR.

Part of the exercise was to test the Corp’s ability to track and deliver disaster relief to seven cities establishing Points of Distribution (POD) where life-sustaining supplies are dispersed. The team was to ensure that each type of POD received the necessary quantities of commodities at each site. Five MVR employees and one Chicago District employee deployed to make up the MVR Combined Commodities Management Cell and one additional MVR employee deployed to participate as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the exercise. Each team member performed their responsibilities to ensure the overall success of the mission, all of which was rated by the exercise controllers.

“Overall, I thought the exercise went well,” said Quality Assurance Supervisor Jim Homann. “The exercise allowed me to have a better understanding of my role in providing critical services to disaster stricken areas.”

The MVR Combined Commodities Team is responsible for

distribution and tracking of life-sustaining commodities, such as ice and water, to devastated areas, following a natural or man-made disaster. The team has deployed in response to multiple hurricanes within the past decade, most notably Hurricane Katrina, and has been on alert several times within the past three years. In addition, the team deploys to any disaster, within MVD’s area of responsibility, where there is a need for commodities.

As a result of the ever-changing and expanding responsibilities of Combined Commodities response, the team is always looking for new members. If you have questions or are interested in joining the MVR Combined Commodities Team, please contact Emergency Management at (309) 794-5208. 



Soldiers gain experience; Coralville Lake stretches their resources

By Hilary Markin, Editor

As budgets become tight the District looks for creative solutions. Coralville Lake found one way to stretch their budget and resources by forming a new partnership. In 2009, they received a call from the 411th Engineer Company of the Army Reserves in Iowa City, Iowa, looking for a project that allowed Soldiers to receive hands-on construction work.

“Since we are the Army Reserves it made better sense to work with another federal agency that has the same problems that we do with getting funding for working on construction projects,” said Sergeant First Class Jesse Boland, platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, 411th Engineer Company.

Janet Lewis, natural resources specialist, Coralville Lake, works with the 411th to coordinate schedules, timelines and projects.

“We are excited,” said Lewis about the partnership. “We had been talking back and forth for a while and it finally worked out to align our schedules and projects.”

The unit provides all of the equipment and manpower to complete the projects. In return, the Soldiers get valuable construction experience for both their Army mission and civilian life. For Coralville, it means construction projects that would not have gotten completed are done at a fraction of the cost.

“It’s a win-win situation,” said Lewis. “We basically pay for the raw materials and they provide the rest. They gain valuable



Soldiers from the 411th Engineer Company of the Army Reserves remove brush to begin development of a new trail near Sugar Bottom Campground at Coralville Lake.

experience and skills all the while providing service to the nation in a bit of a different way.”

The work started last summer with the unit undertaking two big projects at Coralville Lake. They conducted and completed horizontal construction operations at Mehaffey Boat Ramp moving material from the Coralville Lake spillway to the ramp to develop additional parking spaces. In addition, the Soldiers began removing the rotten railroad tie borders from campsites at Sugar Bottom Campground.

This summer the unit cleared a small area of brush and trees and began the development of a new trail at Sugar Bottom Recreation Area. When complete, the trail will provide safe access for visitors to explore the prairies, woodlands and other recreation areas without having to enter busy roadways.

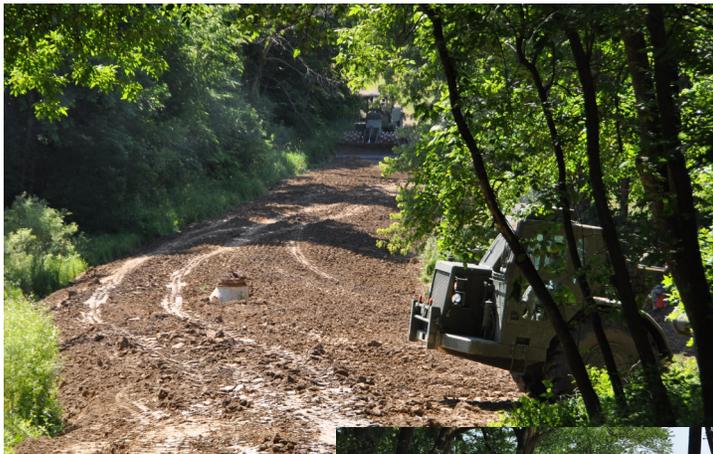
During the projects, Soldiers camped at Coralville Lake allowing easy access to the work sites.

“It is a real pleasure to work with the unit. The Soldiers are professional, hardworking and devoted to safety,” said Lewis.

To date the Soldiers have provided 4,598 volunteer hours and counting to complete the projects and improve recreation areas at Coralville Lake.

“This one (partnership) is extremely beneficial to us. The Soldiers completed projects which we do not have the manpower or the funds to do,” said Lewis. “When you include, equipment, fuel and labor, this summer’s work by the 411th has an estimated value of more than \$153,000.”

The 411th Engineer Company (Horizontal) mobilizes and deploys to the theater of operations to provide command and control of engineering missions that involve repair, maintenance, construction of air and ground lines of communications, force protection and limited clearing operations in the support of higher headquarter battalions.



Above, Soldiers from the 411th maneuver their construction equipment to move dirt and rock for the new trail. Right, the nearly completed trail at Sugar Bottom Recreation Area. Photos by Janet Lewis





Fifteen common fish species of the Mississippi River now cover the walls of the Mississippi River Visitor Center near Locks and Dam 15. The fish were created by the Benton FFA Chapter in Benton, Penn., for the display. Photo by Hilary Markin

New display added to Visitor Center

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Fish now adorn the walls of the Mississippi River Visitor Center located on Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Ill., near Locks and Dam 15.

The fish were built by members of the Benton FFA (also known as Future Farmers of America) Chapter in Benton, Penn., as part of a partnership with the Visitor Center.

The partnership was formed as a way for students to use the skills they were learning in the classroom and apply them to a real-life project. Part of the FFA program is agricultural education where students take classes to help prepare them for successful careers in areas such as global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources.

The students researched the 15 most common fish species in the Mississippi River for the project. They learned about their anatomy, feeding habits and habitat. They then started making plans for the display and building the fish.

“As they were building, I would quiz them on each species to ensure they had all the fins and features,” said Doug McCracken, chapter advisor.

During shop class, students used scrap pieces of lumber to carve the fish sometimes having to combine two pieces together to get the right dimensions. They then sanded the bodies, carved out their fins, mouth and other features particular to each species, before gluing them together.

The finishing touch was paint. They researched the various coloring of each fish and used different techniques to make them look authentic.

The finished product was delivered to the Visitor Center by McCracken and his wife Nancy in June. With the help of the Visitor Center staff the fish were mounted to driftwood and hung on the walls of the Center. A plaque accompanies each species with identification information.



Peter Russo, Benton FFA Chapter member, sands the body of a fish that he is creating for the display at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. Photo by Doug McCracken

“It was a great project, something the students will be proud of for a long time,” said McCracken, who is the brother of LouAnn McCracken, natural resources specialist, Mississippi River Project.

Now, as visitors go up stairs to the main exhibit space they can view the fish and read a short story about where they came from.

McCracken plans on bringing some of the students who worked on the project to the Visitor Center this fall to see the display in person. 

Meet the

Colonel Mark Deschenes Commander

Col. Mark Deschenes, assumed duties as the District Commander of the Rock Island District on June 29. He was born in Wurzburg, Germany, and raised in New York. He graduated with highest distinction with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, where he was commissioned. He holds an advanced degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri and earned a master's degree in military studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His previous assignment was serving as Director of the Directorate for Counter Improvised Devices, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Other assignments include platoon leader in Germany; Company Executive Officer during combat operations in Somalia (Operation Restore Hope); Battalion Construction Officer in Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy); Company Commander in the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York; Observer Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center; Battalion Operations Officer, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea; Brigade Operations Officer, 555 Engineer Brigade, 4th Infantry Division during combat operations in Tikrit, Iraq; Aide to the Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during response and recovery operations for Hurricane Katrina; Battalion Commander, 864th Engineer Battalion during combat operations in Afghanistan; and Deputy Brigade Commander and Acting Brigade Commander, 555 Engineer Brigade at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Throughout his career, Deschenes has worked at all levels and has become a firm believer in being a servant leader.

"I believe in supporting the organization from the bottom-up, supplying them with the resources and trusting the job will get done without doing frequent check-ups," said Deschenes.



Col. Mark Deschenes and wife Cindy are welcomed to the Rock Island District and the Mississippi Valley Division by Al Lee, regional business director for MVD.

His main focus is his family. Deschenes and his wife, Cindy, have three children, Megan, Kaitlin and Ryan.

Together, they enjoy the outdoors running, biking, camping, skiing and the like.

"My wife and I enjoy riding road bikes and do some camping," said Deschenes.

They also enjoy seeing different parts of the country during vacations, something he has enjoyed since he was a child.

"As a kid, we would load up in our three-toned Volkswagen bus for a two-week vacation every summer. We traveled to places like the Grand Canyon and Smokey Mountains, pitched our tents and explored the national parks."

Just recently he and his family enjoyed down-hill skiing in Whistler, British Columbia. They also visited the Big Island in Hawaii, snorkeling and visiting places like Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

At work his focus thus far has been on the nearly 900 employees.

"I have been focusing on getting to know the people of the District and am looking forward to visiting the project sites to see them first hand and meet the people who work there." 

Command

Lieutenant Colonel Todd Reed Deputy Commander

Lt. Col. Todd Reed assumed duties as the deputy commander of the Rock Island District on May 21.

He was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, and raised in Southshore, Ky. He received his commission in the Army Corps of Engineers from Morehead State University, in Morehead, Ky., graduating as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Reed attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Ga.; and upon graduation became the Platoon Leader for Delta Company of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment and was later reassigned as the Company Executive Officer. He attended the Signal Officer Basic Course and was assigned as a Platoon Leader within the 121st Signal Battalion at Fort Riley, Ks., later becoming the Battalion's Maintenance Officer.

He later served for 12 years in the Army Reserves for the 478th Engineer Battalion, Fort Thomas, Ky., serving as a Battalion Signal Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Operation Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. During this time he deployed twice to Iraq, first during the initial invasion in 2003 and then again in 2007-2008 during the troop surge. Upon redeploying, Reed served as a Logistics Officer for the 926th Engineer Brigade, Montgomery, Al.

Following his return from Iraq in 2008, Reed surprised his children by dressing as a secret Santa.

"It was great. My wife was the only one in on it and they were so surprised," said Reed.

The local newspaper published a story on the surprise, which can be found hanging in Reed's office.

In 2010, Reed served with the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Ks., and deployed as an Advisor in support of Operation New Dawn for the 17th Iraqi Army Division, Mahmudiyah, Iraq.

"I have been in every major city in Iraq with the exception of Basrah and Mosul," said Reed. "It was unique seeing so much of



Lt. Col. Todd Reed with his wife Kristy, daughter Madison and son Rylan following graduation from Ranger School.

the country."

In addition to his military career, Reed has more than 15 years of business management experience working in the manufacturing, transportation, and logistics industries for various Fortune 500 companies in Corporate America.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. He also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Quality Management from Southwestern College, Winfield, Ks. In addition, Reed received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co.

Reed and his wife, Kristy, have two children, Madison and Rylan. They enjoy spending time together and in the outdoors hunting, fishing and golfing.

His passion is service.

"I like serving people and contributing to the good of humanity," said Reed. "I chose to come to Rock Island because I had heard that it was an outstanding District with professional people. In my short time here, I have witnessed this throughout the District and I look forward to continuing to meet all the employees and visiting all of the field sites." 

2012 Senior Leaders Conference

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Seniors leaders from throughout the Mississippi Valley Division met in Rock Island, Ill., June 26-28 for the MVD Senior Leaders Conference (SLC). The conference was organized by the Rock Island District Emerging Leaders with support from others in the Division.

The theme for the conference was “Delivering Value for the Nation” as the regions leaders discussed the alignment and strategic direction of the Division.

“The character of the agency has changed,” said Maj. Gen. John Peabody, commanding general of the Mississippi Valley Division, during opening remarks. “Today, there is more money across the Corps in Operations and Maintenance versus Construction. Our main focus has changed. We’ve got to change. We need to ensure every single dollar we get is spent the most efficient way possible so we get the best bang for our buck.”

Throughout the conference, leaders broke out into small work groups working on the strategic direction of six topics: Continuous Process Improvement, Project Management Business Process and Automated Information Systems, Regional Interdependence, MVD Regional Infrastructure Strategy, Communicating Value when Engaging Stakeholders, and IPLAN Management System.

Continuing on the theme of the changing Corps, leaders heard from a panel of presenters on Civil Works Transformation initiatives.



Tab Brown, chief, Planning and Policy Division at USACE Headquarters and the MVD Regional Integration Team leader addresses attendees at the MVD Senior Leaders Conference about the need for change.

Photo by Hilary Markin

Tab Brown, chief, Planning and Policy Division, USACE Headquarters and the MVD Regional Integration Team leader, addressed attendees about the need for change.

“There is not enough money. The things we are used to aren’t happening anymore,” said Brown. “In the past we funded too many projects, we sometimes try too hard to justify projects that can’t be justified.”

Brown and others on the panel echoed that we have to make smart decisions about what we do and how we do it.

“We have to do a better job educating the public of our value to the nation,” said Eddie Belk, director of programs for MVD. “A critical component is our partners. We need to pull them in and let them help us with what is most important.”

Leaders built on this momentum during the group breakouts developing the way ahead on some of the Division’s key issues.

“I think some of the action items identified already align with the priorities that are shaking out,” said Al Lee, regional business director for MVD following the group brief-backs. “We are carving out time at the CSR (Command Strategic Review) in July to discuss the issues from the SLC and look at them again to see if they align with our priorities.”

Near the end of the conference 15 MVD Emerging Leaders graduated from the program.

Maj. Gen. Peabody’s final remarks energized leaders to embrace change and find more efficient ways of doing business. “Leaders need to understand what’s going on, why it’s going on and what can be done to do it better.” 



Col. Christopher Hall, St. Louis District commander, and a fellow senior leader work to build a tow boat from recyclable materials during a mixer at the Senior Leaders Conference. *Photo by Angie Freyermuth*



At the conclusion of the Senior Leaders Conference in Rock Island, 15 Mississippi Valley Division Emerging Leaders graduated from the program. Maj. Gen. John Peabody (center), MVD commanding general, congratulated the graduates including (front row from left) David Dyer, MVN; Haden (Cole) Smith, MVM; Dennis Shannon, MVR; Ramona Warren, MVK; Maj. Gen. John Peabody, commanding general; Victoria Ellis MVD; Angela Freyermuth, MVR; Corrine Hodapp, MVP; Mincer Minor, MVK; (back row from left) Shawn Sullivan, MVS; Brad Perkl, MVP; Sara Jones, MVR; and Allen Mehrer, MVS. Not pictured is Courtney Chapman-Elzey, MVN; Cindy Mathes, MVK; John Wilburn, MVK. Photo by Hilary Markin

Emerging Leaders graduate

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Developing leaders is part of Goal 4 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Corp’s Campaign Plan towards Making the Corps Great. The goal states that the “Corps will build and cultivate a competent, disciplined, and resilient team equipped to deliver high-quality solutions.”

From what once was a three-year program to what is now a two-year program, three Rock Island District employees are graduates of the Mississippi Valley Division Emerging Leader Program: Angie Freyermuth, outreach specialist, Executive Office (three years); Sarah Jones, emergency management specialist, Emergency Management (three years); and Dennis Shannon, chief of locks and dams, Mississippi River Project, Operations Division (two years).

“It was a great experience,” says Freyermuth. “We got a chance to see how the Corps operates both regionally and nation-

ally. We also worked on regional projects one being the Emerging Leader program and transforming it to fit the needs of our changing workforce.”

The MVD Emerging Leader Program allows employees to broaden their professional horizons through training, mentoring, shadowing of senior leaders, developmental assignments, self-evaluation, and active participation in the program. The program offers opportunities for individuals to develop their regional perspective and to gain insight on effective leadership traits, leadership opportunities, the Army Leadership Doctrine, and the Corps of Engineers Vision and Mission.

If you would like more information on the MVD Emerging Leader Program please contact Beth Bernauer, Resource Management, who is currently in the program. 



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

**June Answer - 4th Floor of Clock Tower, golf practice net in 1935
Winner - John Punkiewicz, Operations Division**

Sharing best practices

By Hilary Markin, Editor

Visitors from India recently visited the Rock Island District to learn more about levee management best practices and the levee inspection tool. They included two Water Resource Consultants from the World Bank and four Water Resource Department officials from the Government of the State of Bihar, India.

District subject matter experts provided technical presentations regarding levee design, management and the Corps' inspection program. They also took a field trip to see levees first hand including the ongoing Mad Creek Flood Risk Management Project.

"It was nice for them to see a project under construction," said Tom Mack, chief, Geotechnical Branch, Engineering and Construction Division. "We provided them a lot of information that they can hopefully take back with them and make improvements to their levees and the management of them."

This visit was a follow-up to a visit last fall when two Rock Island District employees traveled to India for a workshop organized by the World Bank in Patna, Bihar.

"They were really pleased with what they learned during their visit," said Alan Tamm, levee safety program manager. "They are planning to pursue a Memorandum of Agreement between the World Bank and Corps for additional support in regards to levee safety." 



Corey Haberman, left, talks with Ajit Samaiyar and Mohammad Sohail about the levee inspection process the District uses. *Photo by Tom Mack*

Women's Equality Day - August 26

By Aimee Vermeulen, Federal Women's Program Manager

In 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities.

The summer of 2012 also marks the 40th anniversary of Title IX. Title IX provides females with equal opportunities in athletics. It says that, "No person in the United State shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This year, for the first time, women outnumber men on the U.S. Olympic Team. The roster includes 269 women and 261 men.

Some past famous women Olympians include Babe Didrikson, 1932 track and field; Wilma Rudolph, 1960 track and field; Joan

Benoit, 1984 marathoner; Mary Lou Retton, 1984 gymnast; Florence Griffith-Joyner, 1988 track and field; Steffi Graf, 1988 tennis player; Lindsay Davenport, 1996 tennis player; Venus and Serena Williams, 2000 tennis players; USA's 2004 women's softball team; Hanna Teter, 2006 snowboarder; Dara Torres, 2008 swimmer; USA's 2008 women's basketball team; Natalie Coughlin, 2004 and 2008 swimmer; and Lindsey Vonn, 2010 downhill skier.

Since the passage of Title IX the availability of sports for women have increased dramatically. The growth created in women's sports at the high school and college levels has also trickled down to the community and youth organizations. 



Did you know...

Woman first took part in the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900, four years after the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens.

SAFETY CORNER

Clutter causes accidents

What does housekeeping have to do with safety? Lots! A clean and orderly workplace is essential to avoid falls, fires and many other kinds of accidents and injuries.

Consider your daily routine and think of ways to keep your workspace tidy as you go. It may take some time to get accustomed to a new habit, but once you start keeping your workspace neat and organized, you will likely find you work better and faster, and feel better about your space.

Clutter and disorder contribute to many workplace accidents. To help prevent them, use this checklist to find and eliminate the hazards of poor workplace housekeeping:

- Floors are free of water, mud, ice, grease, trash and waste materials.
- Traffic routes and defined walkways must remain clear. Keep them free of tripping hazards such as electrical cables, hoses and stored materials.
- Exits and stairways are well marked. They are kept clear at all times and are not used for storage.
- Fire extinguishers are kept charged according to a regular schedule. They are located where they will be easily accessible in case of a fire. They are not obstructed by stored materials.
- Trash cans are located where they are needed, and are emptied regularly.
- Oily rags are disposed of in covered metal cans.
- Lighting is adequate for safety. Burned-out lights are replaced promptly.
- Supplies and materials are stored safely. They are stacked so they cannot fall.
- Any potentially hazardous materials are safely stored in the correct kinds of containers. They are correctly labeled and accompanied by Material Safety Data Sheets. Storage arrangements take into account the requirements of temperature, ventilation and humidity for various materials. Potentially incompatible materials are separated.
- Flammable and combustible materials are stored away from sources of ignition.
- Machinery is kept clean, free of oil, grease and dust. Equipment is maintained properly to prevent fires and accidents.
- Tools are cleaned and put away right after they are used. There are designated places for tools.
- Work stations are left clean at the end of the shift.
- Surfaces and equipment are checked over regularly for hazards such as protruding nails and rough surfaces. These could cause accidents such as eye injuries, cuts and bruises.
- Stools and chairs are placed so they are not tripping hazards. They are kept in good repair. When chairs or stools are damaged, they are removed from service so they cannot be used accidentally.
- Drawers and cabinet doors are kept closed to prevent tripping accidents. Filing cabinets are filled from the bottom up to prevent them from tipping over.
- Any smoking is confined to certain designated areas. Ashtrays are available and are used.
- Lunch areas are kept clean and free of trash. Washrooms are also kept clean and dry.
- Everyone takes responsibility for jobsite housekeeping. All employees know how to report safety hazards so they will be corrected.



Remember, a safe workplace depends on each and every employee taking responsibility for good housekeeping—to prevent fires, falls and other accidents. 

Around the District

Sympathy ...



Luella Voelkers, 77, passed away June 19 at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center in Davenport, Iowa.

Voelkers retired from the Rock Island District in 1982 after 30 years of employment.

Upcoming Events ...

Annual Retirees' Luncheon – Sept. 5

The annual retirees' luncheon will be Wednesday, Sept. 5, at the Quad City Botanical Center, starting at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 per person, including tax and gratuities. Checks should be made out to Sandy Dixon and mailed to 8109 9th Street W., Rock Island, IL 61201-7733. Deadline for reservations and payment is Aug. 27.

America's Great Watershed Initiative Summit

America's Great Watershed Initiative Summit will be Sept. 26-27 in St. Louis. The Summit will be an interactive forum for leaders from throughout the Mississippi watershed. It will examine collaborative ways to address geographic, institutional and issue-based barriers to maximizing the potential of the watershed. Register and learn more at <http://agwi.org>.

Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Craig Blazekovich**, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Illinois Waterway, and his wife, Juanita, on the birth of a baby boy, John Richard, on June 22. He was seven pounds five ounces and 20 inches long. Proud grandfather is **Jeff Blazekovich**, lockmaster, Dresden Island Lock and Dam, Illinois Waterway.



Congratulations to **Brian Blakeway**, Dubuque Ranger Station, Mississippi River Project, and his wife, Jenna, on the birth of a baby boy, Charlie, on June 25. He was seven pounds 11 ounces.



Congratulations to **Capt. Josh Wolf**, Program & Project Management Division, and his wife, Monique, on the birth of a baby girl, Marilyn Rose, on June 27. She was eight pounds 14 ounces and 20 and one half inches long.



Congratulations to **Scott Pettis**, Water Control, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, on his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard following 36 years of service. Pettis is joined by his wife Susan and sons Mike and Tom.

Support & Sacrifice for Corps

Thanks to our employees who are deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District - North (AEN) and the Afghanistan Engineer District - South (AES)!



Eric Aubrey, AEN



Andrew Barnett, AEN



Randall Braley, AEN



Chris DePooter, AEN



Mark Hoague, AEN



Celeste Iverson, AEN



Lisa Kantor, AEN



Brian Lane, AEN



Mark Miller, AEN



Kurt Reppe, AEN



Gordon Rush, AEN



Richard Rupert, AES

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



Leadership Development Program (LDP) - Level 2 participants traveled to St. Louis for their Mid-Year Retreat. During the retreat they met with the St. Louis LDP-Level 2 participants for a networking session, lunch and a field trip to the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association. Pictured above, (front row from left) Brant Jones, Eric Hackbarth, Jason Appel, Andy Leichty, Bryon Ray, Nathan Gorham, (second row from left) Mary Markos, Ashley Clifford, Kat McCain, Patrice Hadley, Jimmy Thompson, Andrew Goodall, Laurie Kotecki, Sherri Lewis, (back row from left) John Osterhage, Jose Lopez, Rob Schiffer, Matt Cosby, David Reynolds, Matt Stewart and Charlie Bishop.