

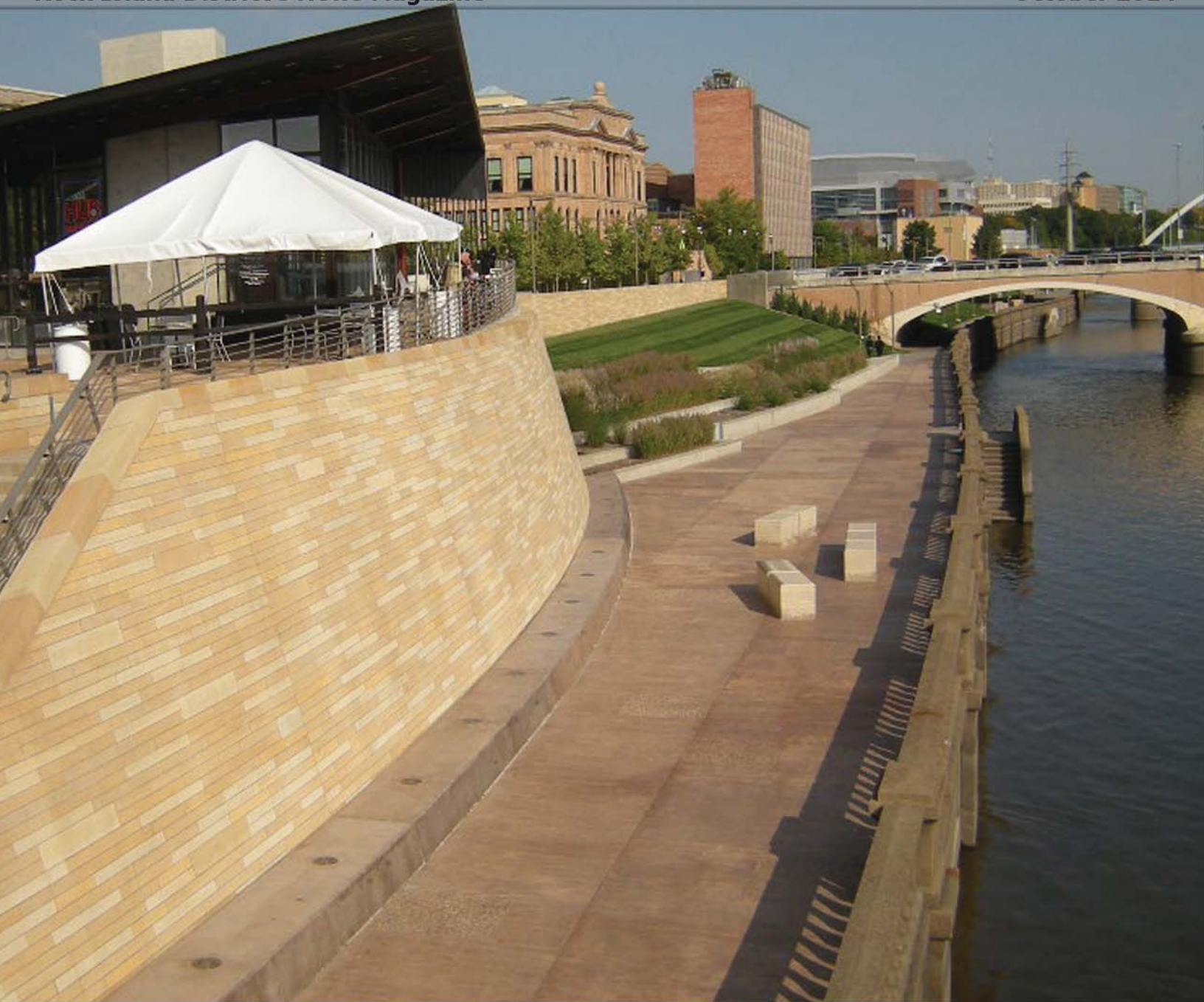


US Army Corps
of Engineers

TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

October 2014



**New and Improved
Flood Risk Management**



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

TOWER TIMES

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October 2014

On the Cover



Part recreational space and part floodwall, the redesigned Riverwalk area in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, gives a new look to flood risk management.

Photo by Duane Johnson

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Tower Times

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A message from....

Colonel Mark Deschenes, District Commander



Safety Concerns are Ever Present, Always Room to Improve

Fiscal Year 2014 came to end with many District offices working diligently to accomplish the year end close out. When a fiscal year closes, it is time for us as an organization to evaluate many statistics which drive the way we do our mission. Although much of what is evaluated involves execution of the budget, another set of statistics that catch my eye this time of year are those which appraise our efforts in safety.

Safety is often my soap box because I believe it is my primary responsibility as your commander. Nothing is higher in priority than ensuring all of our employees have a safe working environment. Our safety record has been pretty good but there is always room for improvement and we can never become complacent.

Our safety program is measured in several categories including government civilian injury rates, contractor injury rates, public recreational fatality rates and motorized equipment accidents that result in property damage.

Metrics for government civilian injury rates are based upon the severity of injuries and also consider the number of hours worked. In FY14, our District experienced nine injuries that resulted in lost time or recordable cases. The majority of these injuries were strains and sprains resulting from use of tools and overexertion. Unfortunately, common causal factors for these injuries were inadequate work planning or activity hazard analysis (AHA) reviews before the work began. Reviewing AHA's before work begins helps identify the potential hazards that may exist.

“Our District had five recordable fatalities within our recreation areas in FY14.”

Our District has done very well in keeping contractor injury rates low. No recordable injury cases were reported from our construction contractors in FY14. Work plans, well-established safety processes and oversight have helped keep these rates low. This is the benchmark we should strive for in all areas of safety.

Unfortunately that benchmark was not met with regard to public recreational fatality rates. Our District had five recordable fatalities within our recreation areas in FY14.

In two separate cases, these fatalities were the result of disabled watercraft being pulled into our dams during high water. I have tasked our District Water Safety Team members to identify our most hazardous areas so that we can focus on educating the public and updating restrictions and requirements. We must do better to protect the people who enjoy recreating within our District.

The other category of safety measurement is the motorized equipment accidents. One of the most dangerous activities for our workforce is operating motorized equipment. We have experienced nearly a dozen property damage reports of damaged vehicles and equipment due to various reasons. A majority of these mishaps are related to operator error and inadequate training. We will be more focused on proper safety training programs that help ensure our operators are properly trained and designated to operate equipment in the next year.

We can do better and we have many lessons learned from FY14 that should reinforce the need to update and review activity hazard analysis pre-work safety plans to keep our focus on potential work hazards. Everyone should have weekly safety discussions relevant to the hazards in your work area. For those interacting with the recreating public, take every opportunity to reinforce not only having proper life jackets on board their watercraft but wearing them as well. Most drowning victims never intended to enter the water.

Anyone operating equipment must make sure they are properly trained. It should be expected that a written and practical test are accomplished prior to operating motorized equipment. In order to ensure proper training, we have added a position to the Safety Office to maintain our crane safety program and a proper training program for all motorized equipment.

I believe everyone within the District is very safety conscious but it doesn't take much for an accident to happen. As much as it may seem an unattainable goal, we should be endeavoring to have zero recordable accidents or mishaps for FY15. Remaining safety conscious no matter the situation will go a long way toward accomplishing that goal.

(Continued on Page 7)

AWARD WINNING PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM

By Samantha Heilig, Editor


The Marseilles Dam Emergency Response, Illinois Waterway Project Delivery Team (PDT) was recently recognized as the Corps of Engineers 2014 Project Delivery Team of the Year for Merit. The 84-member team was nominated for this award for demonstrating tremendous dedication, innovation and resolve in dealing with repairs following a nearly catastrophic incident at the navigation dam on the Illinois River at Marseilles, Illinois.

The team, comprised of people from nearly every office in the District, engaged quickly to assess damages, plan and execute temporary repairs. The group also mitigated issues and developed plans for future repairs while maintaining prompt and effective communication with multiple agencies and stakeholders under extreme schedule constraints and high levels of public scrutiny.

In April 2013, a navigation incident during a record flow event on the Illinois Waterway resulted in seven barges impacting and damaging the dam at Marseilles, while major flooding was affecting the adjacent city of Marseilles. In just a few weeks, the PDT was able to design and execute

a plan to temporarily stabilize the dam and pool, and mitigate for the loss of dam capacity. Check out the 2013 Special Edition Tower Times for the original story on the Marseilles incident <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Portals/48/docs/CC/TowerTimes/2013/2013SpecialEditionTTWeb.pdf>

As part of the response to the incident, the PDT determined that a rock dike was needed to block the flow of water through the damaged gates. This plan was highly innovative and unique in its scale. It was designed in only a matter of days and built in less than three weeks. Once completed, this dike allowed for navigation to resume on the Illinois Waterway, and navigation will be unaffected while permanent repairs to the dam are being made.

“The great success of the Marseilles Dam Emergency Response Project, even under adverse circumstances, is the product of the highly functional PDT involved in making it happen,” said Andrew Barnes, assistant chief, Project Management Branch. “The PDT’s blend of experience, expertise, innovation and dedication was of paramount importance to the success of the project” 



The rock dike shown here was part of the innovative plan developed by the Marseilles Dam Emergency Response Project Delivery Team following a nearly catastrophic incident that occurred in 2013. Designed in only a matter of days and built in just three weeks, this dike was a major part of the team’s plan. *Photo by Allen Marshall*

T.J. O'BRIEN LOCK CLOSING FOR REPAIRS

By Allen Marshall, Public Affairs Specialist

In order to dewater the gate bays and perform critical maintenance to the infrastructure, the Rock Island District announced navigation closures at the T.J. O'Brien Lock beginning Nov. 3.

Two closures are scheduled, each lasting 47 days. The first closure, which begins Nov. 3, will run through Dec. 19. The lock will then reopen until the second closure scheduled for Jan. 19 through March 6, 2015.

T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam is one of eight lock and dam systems on the Illinois Waterway managed by the Rock Island District. Located near the entrance to Lake Michigan in Chicago, T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam has been in operation since 1960. Decades of operation create maintenance challenges which must be addressed. The dewatering and subsequent closure of the lock will enable the Rock Island District to inspect the infrastructure which hasn't been accomplished in nearly 35 years.


"While closing a lock for an extended period of time is never an ideal situation, it is necessary in order to perform critical maintenance to ensure the continued reliable operation of the lock," said Matt Coffelt, Program and Project Management Division. "The lock closures are scheduled during slower traffic periods in an effort to minimize the impact on industry as much as possible."



The T.J. O'Brien Lock in Chicago, Ill., is scheduled for repairs this winter and will be closed for navigation during two separate closures. *Rock Island District photo*

Coffelt said the major work will include the replacement of gate pintle balls, bushings and pins. Also, the gates will be sandblasted and repainted to help prolong their life.

"With aging infrastructure, performing inspections and this type of maintenance becomes increasingly important," Coffelt said.

Navigation announcements have been made to ensure frequent users of the lock are aware of the pending closures. For more information about the project and the dewatering, contact the Operations Manager for the Illinois Waterway Project, at (309) 676-4601 ext 4104. 

Training Tidbits

Did You know... the Army has two new training sites that offer a lot of information regarding training opportunities. Employees should register for these two sites at your earliest convenience as it will benefit your professional development. The two sites are: GoArmyEd located at <https://www.goarmyed.com/> and Army Career Tracker located at <https://actnow.army.mil>

Did You Know... each employee has an office training coordinator? Office coordinators play a critical role in employee development. If you are unsure of who your office coordinator is, you can use the training coordinator look-up page on the district training SharePoint site located at <https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Training%20Coordinator%20Look-up.aspx>

Just a reminder... the FY15 Leadership Development Program Level II (LDP II) class will launch in January 2015. The steering committee is shifting the program start to better align program activities and enhance the overall experience. Visit the District LDP site for detailed information and how to apply. https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Leadership_Training.aspx

More information regarding Civilian Leader Development, Competitive Professional Development and Career Program Training can be found through the following link: <http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil>. 

PELICANS FLOCK TO CORALVILLE LAKE

By Terry Escher, Natural Resource Specialist

On Sunday Sept. 7, the 4th Annual Pelican Festival was held at Coralville Lake. It was a perfect day, cool and clear with a bright blue sky and just a smattering of puffy fair-weather clouds. The best part was, there were pelicans. It was estimated that 1,500 to 2,000 American White Pelicans were out on the lake that day. The event ran from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and had around 300 people in attendance.

Visitors to the lake were not only able to get a view of the pelicans but also see exhibitor displays and participate in hands-on activities. Highlights from the day included Johnson County Soil and Water District's interactive display comparing water runoff between two samples of sod, one with a lot of vegetation and one without much vegetation. This exhibit also included a craft project where people could create their own paper pelican. Cedar County Conservation Board naturalist, Sarah Subbert, also had some activities and crafts for kids. The favorite appeared to be the tree cookie pendants with a pelican painted on them.


Other groups and organizations represented at the event included the Bur Oak Land Trust, Eastern Iowa Beekeepers Association, the Iowa Native Plant Society, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Iowa Wildlife Federation, Iowa Young Birders, The Songbird Project, Macbride Raptor Project, Prairie States Mushroom Club, Linda & Robert Scarth professional nature photographers/authors, and of course Iowa Audubon and the Iowa City Bird Club.

The Iowa City Bird Club members set up their spotting scopes and assisted visitors with viewing the pelicans on the lake as well as circling in the air. Scoop, the pelican mascot from Polk County Conservation Board, also made an appearance and was a big hit with the kids. Coralville Lake summer ranger Mike Lopez volunteered to wear the costume and did a great job interacting with the visitors. A few of the smaller kids were a bit leery of the big white bird, but a lot of kids, and

grown-ups, loved having their photo taken with Scoop.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Audubon, the Iowa City Bird Club, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Cedar Rapids Audubon Society all take part in organizing this annual event. There were five presentations scheduled throughout the day. The presentations included "The American White Pelican," by Pat Schlarbaum with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program, "The Plight of the Honeybee," "A Peregrine and Osprey Up-date," and "Chimney Swifts."

Boy Scout Troop 211 provided food for the event offering pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs, a variety of snacks and beverages.

The grand finale for the day featured a large flock of pelicans gathered overhead, slowly circling and then gradually individual birds landed on the lake. It was almost as if someone had directed them to make an entrance. 



(Left) A boy attending the Pelican Festival shows off his face painting and butterfly cage. (Below) Exhibitors at the event talk with guests and help them view the pelicans on the lake with provided spotting scopes.
Photos by Terry Escher



WHY DO WE NEED AN EXTRANET?

By Samantha Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

The internet and intranet are common tools used throughout the Rock Island District. Less common, and possibly unfamiliar to many within the workforce, is the extranet.

By definition an extranet is a secure network that can be made accessible to authorized persons outside of a company or organization for use in collaboration on a project. "An extranet has significant usage for an organization like the Corps of Engineers," said Brian Dinnon, a ProjectWise administrator for the Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology (ACE-IT) team.

According to Dinnon, projects throughout the Corps of Engineers often require exchange of information with both public and private partners such as other federal or state agencies, municipalities and contractors. Much of this information is not for public use and therefore should not be made available via the website on the internet. Email would be another way of securely transferring the data but often the files are too large and are not permitted to be sent as an email attachment.

This is where the extranet comes in to play. The extranet, also known as the DMZ, is the Corps' secure external facing network and is home to three different applications used for collaboration; Sharepoint, ArcSDE and ProjectWise.

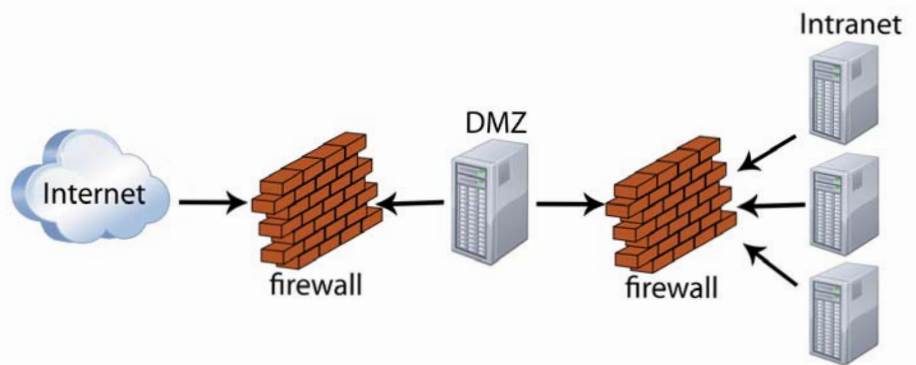
DMZ stands for the demilitarized zone which in a military sense means an area where no military operation is permitted. In the computer world, DMZ represents a secure network space that neither side owns but both sides can access and Sharepoint, ArcSDE and ProjectWise are the applications used for storing the information.


Dinnon, who provides DMZ system administration services for the Corps, said, "From a security standpoint the DMZ is a way to stay connected to outside shareholders and contractors while being protected by firewalls that limit access to the separate files."

There are many uses for the DMZ but at the Rock Island District it is commonly used to collaborate with engineering firms that are working on projects overseen by the District. One example of this would be the new hydroelectric project at Lake Red Rock. The contractor, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), has to work closely with the Corps to ensure that all aspects of the project are properly carried out. The DMZ provides a mechanism for both the Corps and MRES to communicate and transfer information in an efficient and secure way.


To gain access to the DMZ both parties must acquire an I-PASS account that gives each user a name and password for logging in. To create this account, an employee has to justify the need for access to the DMZ through their supervisory chain. A helpdesk ticket will then need to be submitted via the Enterprise Service Desk. After the request is made, a form with instructions will be sent to the person making the request and communications with Dinnon will need to be made to setup a project and or gain access to an existing project within the DMZ.

A District employee must assist an outside contractor in gaining access to the site. Once permission to the extranet has been granted, users can access the DMZ from any device connected to the internet. Users can save, retrieve and search data based on their permissions to the Sharepoint, ArcSDE or ProjectWise sites.



For more information about the extranet, or DMZ, contact Brian Dinnon in the ACE-IT office or place a helpdesk ticket through the Enterprise Service Desk by calling 1-866-562-2348 or visiting the website <https://aceit.usace.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx> on the intranet. 

Safety Concerns *(Continued from page 3)*

Finally, we are entering the fall and winter months. It is as important to me that you are safe off duty as it is when you are at work. Weather conditions will create safety challenges ranging from hazardous driving conditions to possible exposure to the elements. Think ahead and consider your own and others' safety at all times. This is a great team at the Rock Island District and we can't afford to lose a team member to an accident, especially one that is preventable by implementing safety measures in all aspects of your life. I appreciate everything you do and want you to continue to do it safely. CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG 

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

Two Decades of Flood Risk Management in Des Moines

By Tom Heinold, Assistant Chief, Operations Division

(Editors Note: Tom Heinold was the Flood Area Engineer for many years in Des Moines and has been integrally involved in many aspects of the District's efforts to improve the Flood Risk Management System in that area.)

Since the catastrophic Flood of 1993 the Rock Island District has partnered with the city of Des Moines and other agencies to make great strides toward protecting lives and property, and improving life along the Des Moines River.

In 1993, the locally constructed Birdland Park and Central Place levees were breached. In 2008, the Birdland Park levee was breached again causing significant damage to both businesses and residential communities. Since 2008, the city and the Corps cooperated to plan and construct new levee systems for these areas of Des Moines. Even though flood risk can never be completely eliminated for businesses and residences built in a floodplain, these new levee systems are now more reliable because they meet current federal design guidelines and were built to a higher elevation based on hydraulic data from the 1993 and 2008 events.

Another improvement to the system is the downtown corridor's Des Moines Riverwalk. Part recreational reconnection to the river and part floodwall, the Riverwalk replaced antiquated gatewells and levees that used large

sandbag closures across four main streets and two railroad bridges to block out the river. Now visitors to downtown Des Moines have a world-class recreational trail and a gathering space known as the Hub kiosk that also serves a flood risk management system. This new system was built to a higher elevation and uses closures that are faster and more reliable than the old design. Adam Ziegler, a civil engineer with the District's Engineering Design Branch, assisted with the Riverwalk's Hub kiosk construction.

"The purpose of including the Hub kiosk building in the design of the wall was to encourage people to use the space along the river," said Ziegler. "Looking at the building today most people probably don't even realize that it was built for flood risk management."

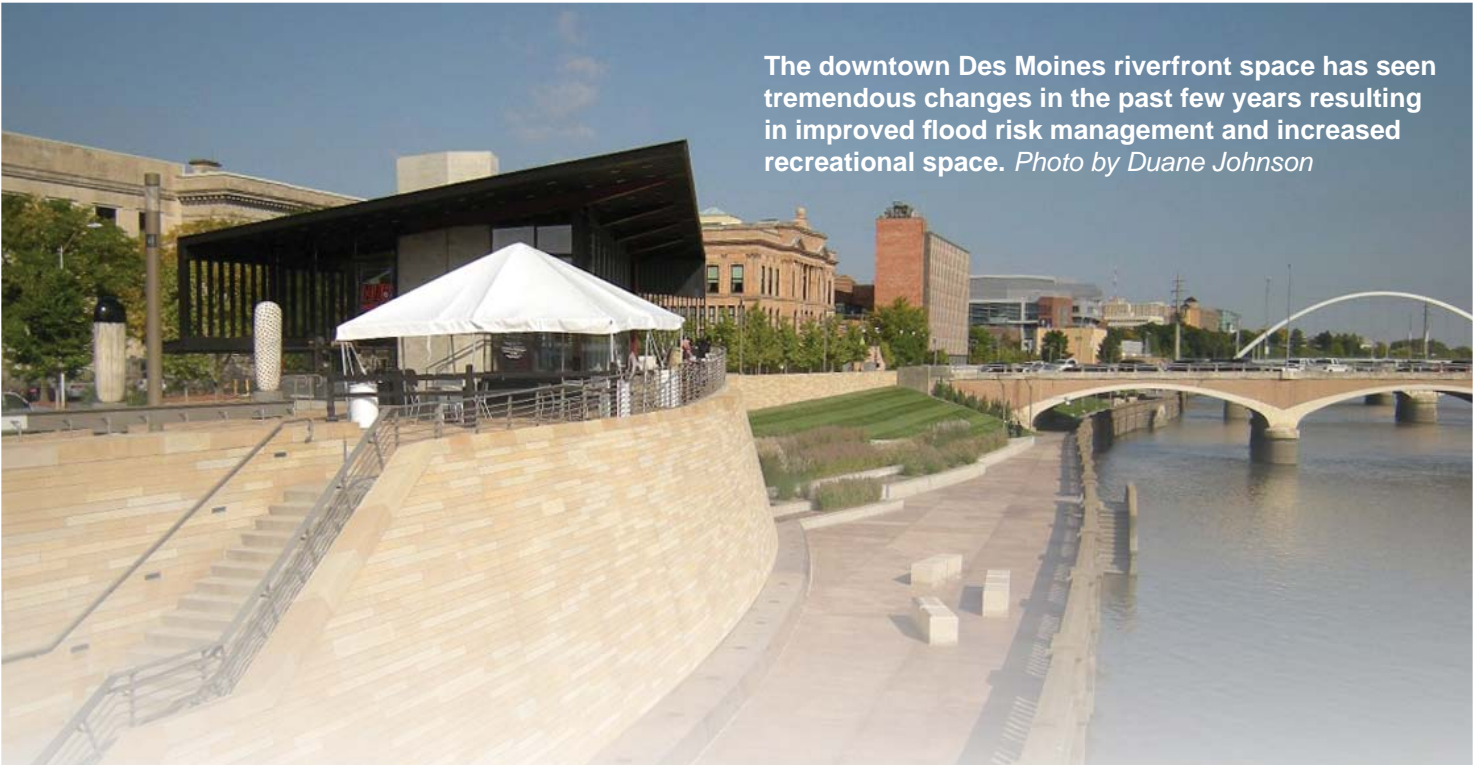
Also incorporated into this floodwall system is the Court Avenue Pump Station, a project that the city of Des Moines designed and constructed with review from the Corps of Engineers. This new pump station has been designed to prevent future damages from interior drainage issues like the ones seen during the 2008 flood when water wreaked havoc in one of the city's main business districts.

Upgraded pump stations have been in the crosshairs of both the city and Corps for many years. Modifications were recently completed on stations in the Des Moines levee system. At Jackson Basin on the south side of the Des Moines River, the ponding area nearly overflowed in 2010. This resulted in the flooding of downtown streets and basements even as large, tractor-driven pumps attempted to keep up with the inflows.

The old Des Moines floodwall used outdated gatewells and levees with sandbag closures. This system was no longer working to protect the city when the Des Moines River would flood. Rock Island District photo



The downtown Des Moines riverfront space has seen tremendous changes in the past few years resulting in improved flood risk management and increased recreational space. *Photo by Duane Johnson*



Since that time, the city of Des Moines, again with a Corps' review, constructed a new permanent pump station with plenty of capacity to comfortably outpace the high inflows that have been experienced in the past.

Pump Station 9 in the Southeast Des Moines levee has also been recently improved. This levee system was originally built by the Corps as part of the Red Rock Remedial Works Project to protect areas well upstream of the Lake Red Rock dam when flood storage reached the upper limits of the pool. In 2008, when the pump station was unable to handle the high volume of water, emergency measures had to be taken to handle the water. Now through the use of contracts and the help of the Corps' Lake Red Rock maintenance staff, Pump Station 9 is ready to tackle the next flood in a new and improved way.

The Southeast Des Moines levee system has also seen repairs to a significant scour hole in an area where the floodwall failed in 1993, and a new stoplog structure has been added to block water from crossing over the railroad tracks. The new stoplog design is more efficient than the old method of pushing dirt across the tracks with a skid-steer in wet conditions and is much easier to open back up when the water level recedes.

Perry Thostenson, Assistant Operations Manager at Lake Red Rock, is in charge of maintaining and operating the remedial works projects.

The redesigned Des Moines flood risk management system uses new gate closures built into the landscape walls and incorporates a recreational trail and a gathering space known as the Hub.

Rock Island District photo

"The City of Des Moines has been an excellent and reliable flood fight partner. Their staff has always been responsive and cooperative," said Thostenson. "This has most recently been experienced as the Corps has been working with the city in developing an action plan to operate the critical railroad closure near Four Mile Creek."

Saylorville Lake, upstream of the city on the Des Moines River, has also seen some pump station upgrades. The Big Creek Remedial Works Project, designed to protect Polk City from flooding from both Big Creek and Saylorville Lake, includes a diversion dam and spillway, and a barrier dam and pump station. During the last several high-water events, temporary pumps were needed to prevent flooding in the low-lying areas of Polk City. These pumps had to be contracted at great cost and under emergency circumstances. New upgrades and repairs to the pump station have recently been done with the goal of eliminating the need for temporary pumps except during the most extreme high-water events. *(Continued on Page 11)*





Spotlight on the District

SUE ROBINSON

PURCHASING AGENT

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

For more than six years, Diana (Sue) Robinson has been working as a purchasing agent for the Rock Island District, Contracting Division. Her main duties include handling service requests and taking care of small purchases. Before working for the Corps, she worked for a large hardware supply company handling inventory and prior to that she was busy being a stay-at-home mom raising her three children.

In her spare time, Sue likes to sew and bike and also has a hobby project, her 1948 Chevy pickup truck. With six grandchildren and one on the way she stays very busy when the family comes for a visit. Luckily entertaining guests is another one of her favorite pastimes and one she does quite often on the large property that her and her husband, Jim, own. The land they reside on, located just outside of Erie, Illinois, is not your ordinary Midwestern farm. Instead, it's a 27-acre airfield known as Erie Airpark and is home to 29 hangars that store light sport aircraft from around the area.

The Robinson's have owned the airpark for 16 years. "Some people have boats or motorcycles," said Sue. "We have airplanes!"



Sue Robinson with one of her favorite projects, a restored 1948 Chevy pink pickup truck.

Photo by Samantha Heilig

The airpark includes a classroom and pilot's lounge as well as a large workshop where planes are built and maintained. Jim oversees the public-use facility and at one time worked as a flight instructor. He no longer provides lessons, but serves as a member of the Illowa Sport Flyers club which meets monthly at the Erie Airpark classroom.

"Most of the planes that fly into our facility are designed for recreational purposes" said Robinson. "These planes



Planes gather from all over the country to take part in the annual Challenger fly-in event hosted by the Robinson's at their airpark. Photo provided by Sue Robinson

Sue and her husband, Jim, stand with their Challenger II light sport airplane at the Erie Airpark in Erie, Ill., which they have owned and operated for 16 years.
Photo by Samantha Heilig



come as a kit and are built by the owners who make each one unique.”

The type of plane that the Robinsons own and fly is called a Challenger. The kits for these ultra-light planes are made locally in Moline, Illinois, which makes it easy to get parts and materials.

The Robinson’s hosted an annual Challenger fly-in event, Sept. 19-21, where planes from all over the country gathered to celebrate. This large social event for sport flyers included nightly bonfires, tours of the airpark and tons of food.

During a tour of the workshop where the family builds their planes, Sue pushed on the side of one of the planes and said, “People don’t realize these things are mostly made out of fabric.” The fabric, called stits, is wrapped around the frame of the plane and glued before being ironed to tighten it up. “The entire plane, from nose to tail, is covered in fabric,” she said.

To learn more about Erie Airpark or the Challenger airplanes the Robinson family flies, visit their website at www.erieairpark.com or call 309-659-2721 to arrange for a tour of the facility. 


WE’VE COME A LONG WAY

(Continued from page 9)

Saylorville Lake, which has an overflow spillway used to discharge flows from the lake when it rises near the top of its flood pool, spilled over in 1993, 2008 and 2010. During the 1993 and 2008 events, northwest 78th street was washed out and closed to traffic, and the spillway experienced severe erosion. Not only did this cut off a path across the river for vehicular traffic, but the erosion also threatened to advance up the spillway to a point where it could jeopardize the stability of the spillway itself. After 1993, a set of pneumatic crest gates was installed across the spillway to reduce the amount of time that the spillway would experience scouring flows, and in 2010, repairs were made to stabilize and stop the advance of the scour at northwest 78th street. Unfortunately, these repairs had to be made during yet another flood event. The contractor was in progress on the repairs when they had to “button up” the project during the 2010 flood. Then the contractor had to clean out flood debris after the event to continue working on the spillway.

Since 2010, the Des Moines River has been relatively quiet. However, Mark Anderson, the Des Moines Flood Area Engineer since 2011, said improvement continues.

“Just because there hasn’t been a significant flood event in Des Moines in the past few years, efforts to improve the Flood Risk Management system haven’t gone dormant,” Anderson said. “The city is still planning capital improvements, looking at downtown bridge replacements, potential levee raises that will require reviews through the Corps, and examining other ways to lower flood surface profiles.”

Unfortunately, a lot of flood-fighting lessons have had to be learned during emergency situations in the Des Moines River basin over the past two decades. However, recent, more frequent flood events have allowed the Corps and the communities along the river to apply those lessons and improve in areas where the impact is felt most. The present generation of Flood Area Engineers is well-trained and although they won’t need to be as concerned with the old hot spots that have been improved, they will still stand ready to face new challenges in future flood-fight events. 

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

2014

Expect.

Employ.

Empower.

The Time is Now.


By Rachal Deahl, Equal Employment Officer

In October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by paying tribute to the accomplishments of the men and women with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming our commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all citizens.

This year's theme, "Expect. Employ. Empower.," demonstrates the importance of having high expectations for all individuals with disabilities, offering work environments open to the talents of all qualified individuals, and encouraging people with disabilities to be empowered.

During NDEAM, the Department of Defense supports the efforts in educating and raising awareness about disability and disability employment issues.

It is imperative that we recognize that incorrect assumptions create obstacles to employment success for people with disabilities and understand the benefits of a work environment inclusive of people with disabilities.

By modeling positive and inclusive attitudes and behaviors, workplace leaders can play an important role in improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities. 

SAFETY CORNER



FIRE SAFETY

Is EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

By Troy Larson, Safety Officer

Fire safety is an extremely important part of any workplace safety program. It's everyone's responsibility to help prevent fires.

Here are some fire safety tips to remember:

- Practice good worksite housekeeping habits. Do not let trash and waste material accumulate. Empty trash bins regularly. Store and dispose of oily rags in covered metal containers.
- Do not store materials or allow clutter to accumulate around exits and stairways. Fire doors should be kept closed and fire exits should always remain free and accessible.
- A common cause of workplace fires is machinery or equipment that becomes overheated. Be sure to follow operating guidelines to prevent overloading and follow manufacturer's instructions for using and maintaining equipment.
- Electrical malfunctions are also a major contributor to fires in the workplace. Electrical equipment should be inspected regularly for signs of trouble such as damaged cords or worn insulation. Never overload circuits, and never force circuit breakers to remain in the "on" position. Only qualified and authorized personnel should carry out electrical repairs and maintenance if a problem is found.
- It is important to understand the fire hazards associated with materials you work with. They may be combustible, flammable, explosive or reactive. Read labels and know where to find Safety Data Sheets for further information. Carefully follow any instructions when using materials which might pose a hazard.
- Be sure to observe any smoking restrictions. Smoke only in designated areas. Smoking in unauthorized areas such as storage rooms has resulted in serious fires. Do not empty ashtrays until smoking materials are cold.
- Observe security policies and be alert to any suspicious persons or activities. Many workplace fires have been set by arsonists; do your part to prevent these incidents.

Know what to do in case of a fire. Make sure your safety training includes the answers to these questions;

- What is your responsibility in case of a fire. Do you report the fire, fight it or evacuate the building?
- What are the proper evacuation routes used to leave each area that you work in.
- Where is the fire alarm located?
- Where are the fire extinguishers located? Do you know how to use them and on what kinds of fires?
- If available do you know how to use other fire emergency equipment such as fire blankets, hoses and sprinklers?
- What safety procedures should you carry out in case of a fire? Are you responsible for shutting down equipment or operations before you leave?
- Do you know where you and your co-workers are supposed to meet for a head count after evacuating the work area?



Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can quickly get outside.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, odorless gas that can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- Smoke and CO alarms should be installed outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms every month.
- Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years and CO detectors according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Use the change to daylight savings time as a reminder to replace batteries in your smoke and CO detectors.

Around the District

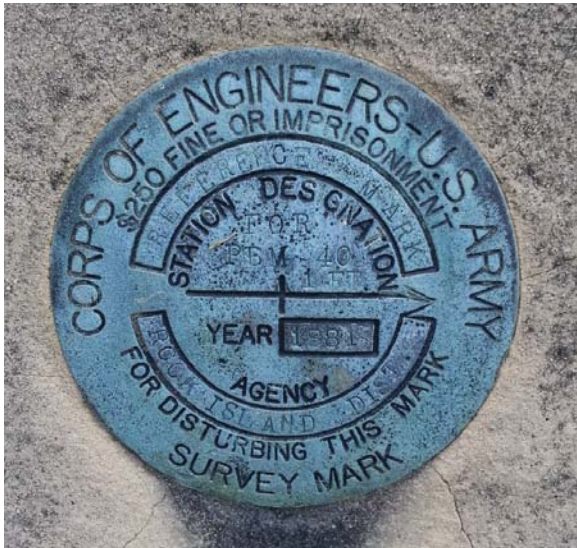
Retirements ...

Michael Zukowski, program manager for the Project Management Branch, retired September 30, after dedicating more than 16 years of service to the federal government.

Alejandro Pena, a carpenter for the Mississippi River Project, Maintenance Section, retired September 30, after dedicating more than 16 years of service to the federal government.



Can you name where this is?
If so, send your answer to samantha.a.heilig@usace.army.mil. Correct answers will result in your name being entered to receive a special prize and be recognized in the next Tower Times.



August Answer
Lake Red Rock
Overlook.

Winner
Susan Brown



Congrats ...

The Rock Island District softball team, sponsored by the Rock Island District Wellness Association, captured the regular season crown finishing with a 15-3 record in the Rock Island Arsenal softball league. The first place finish netted the team a number-one seed in the post season, double elimination tournament which took place the first two weeks of September. The team advanced to the championship game but fell short of the post season trophy losing to a team named Mandus Group. The Rock Island Arsenal softball league is held annually and usually runs June to September. 🇨🇦



(From left) Jim Bartek, Tom Mack, Cory De Long, Heather Anderson, and District Commander, Col. Mark Deschenes, made up the District's 2014 Quad City Marathon Relay Team. On Sept. 28, the team placed first in the master's coed division. This was the highest the Corps team has ever placed. Overall the team placed third out of 233 teams participating in the relay, finishing the 26.2-mile race in just 3 hours, 7 minutes and 21 seconds. 🇨🇦

Have something you would like to share?

If you have something you would like to submit for the Around the District section of the Tower Times please send it to samantha.a.heilig@usace.army.mil

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN



Lt. Col. Todd Reed, deputy commander, Rock Island District, spoke at the annual Tribute to Our Fallen ceremony in Davenport, Iowa. Photo provided by the Mississippi Valley Patriots

By Samantha Heilig, Editor


At the Tribute to Our Fallen ceremony held in Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 23, Lt. Col. Todd Reed, deputy commander of the Rock Island District, honored the sacrifices of military service members, firefighters and police officers who gave all in the line of duty. This annual gathering, hosted by several local organizations known as the Mississippi Valley Patriots, is an event that provides attendees a chance to reflect on all who have served to protect the people of this nation.

Reed, a veteran who served in Iraq, was honored to be part of the special event and humbled by the opportunity to pay tribute to these fallen heroes. During his speech, Reed recalled a memory from one of his tours of duty. He remembered meeting a soldier while walking across the desert sands of Camp Ramadi, Iraq, who had just received his end-of-tour award and was getting ready to redeploy back to the United States. He shook the man's hand and congratulated him on his award. The soldier thanked him

and responded by saying "sir, it's no big deal... I was just doing my job."


It is this type of service that the Tribute to Our Fallen event is all about.

"If we could speak to our fallen comrades today many would likely say they were just doing their jobs," said Reed. "They weren't just doing their jobs. They answered the nation's call to duty so that others could pursue life, liberty and happiness."

The ceremony is just part of a much larger celebration that includes live concerts, food, a tour of Davenport's Memorial Park, flag etiquette classes and a flag retirement ceremony. Reed said, "The best way to pay tribute to our service members is to thank them." He challenged everyone in attendance to return again next year with a friend, family member or co-worker. "These fallen service members and public servants deserve it," said Reed. "They deserve not to be forgotten." 

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Stay connected to news and happenings within the Rock Island District by following us on Facebook and Twitter. The District's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandDistrictUSACE> and on Twitter visit <https://twitter.com/USACERockIsland>.



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<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/>

 **Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** shared a link.
September 25

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will waive day use fees at its more than 2,200 USACE-operated recreation areas nationwide in recognition of National Public Lands Day on Sept. 27. On this day, fees normally charged at boat launch ramps and swimming beaches will be waived.

 **Fee-Free Day and Coupons | NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**
publiclandsday.org

National Public Lands Day is a fee-free entrance day at many federal public lands including national parks. It's a great opportunity to help a local or favorite public land near you and spend the rest of the day recreating or relaxing on the land. With free admission, feel free to bring a friend or...