



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

July 2015



**Rock Island District
Welcomes New Commmander**



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

TOWER TIMES

Contents

July 2015

On the Cover



Col. Craig S. Baumgartner accepts the command flag from Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr, commander, Mississippi Valley Division, officially taking command of the Rock Island District during a change of command ceremony held June 5. Mike Cox, chief, Operations Division (left) and Col. Mark Deschenes, outgoing District commander (back) also participated in the ceremony.

Photo by Samantha Heilig

- 3 Rock Island District Welcomes New Commander, Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner**
- 4 National Flood Fight Materiel Center Supports Areas in Need**
- 5 USACE Leadership Visits District for Overview of Programs and Projects**
- 6 Inland Navigation Design Center Taking Shape for Infrastructure Needs**
- 8 Spotlight on the District - Andrew Brown**
- 9 Safety Corner - Working Safe in the Summer Sun**
- 10 Around the District**
- 11 Life Jacket Loaner Stations Give Visitors a Choice for Water Safety**
- 12 Corps Day 2015**

Tower Times

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Rock Island District Welcomes New Commander, Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Col. Craig S. Baumgartner became the 48th Rock Island District commander during a change of command ceremony held on Arsenal Island at Historic Quarters One on June 5. He assumed command from Col. Mark J. Deschenes who served in the position since June 29, 2012. Mississippi Valley Division commander, Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr, was the reviewing officer for the ceremony.

Baumgartner, an Army officer with 22 years of service, arrived at the Rock Island District after serving as the Command Engineer of the U.S. Army Cyber Command and Second Army.

The ceremony, held outdoors along the banks of the Mississippi River, started with the arrival of the official party by Corps workbarge followed by the presentation of flowers to incoming and outgoing commanders' families.


After the official party entrance, the colors were presented by the Army Sustainment Command's Color Guard and an invocation was given by Chaplain (Maj.) Terry Jarvis, also from Army Sustainment Command. Operations Division chief, Michael Cox, joined the official party for the passing of the command flag. Cox, representing the District's workforce, began the transfer of command by taking the flag from the Color Guard and passed it to the outgoing commander, Col. Deschenes. Deschenes then released his authority over the District by passing the flag to Division commander, Maj. Gen. Wehr.



Col. Craig S. Baumgartner speaks to employees and ceremony guests after taking command of the Rock Island District at the change of command held June 5.
Photo by Samantha Heilig

The incoming commander, Col. Baumgartner, then received the command flag from Wehr as a symbol of accepting responsibility and authority over the Rock Island District. To complete the transfer of command, Baumgartner passed the flag back to Cox to solidify the bond between the Corps' Army leadership and the civilian workforce.

Following the ceremony, guests welcomed Col.

Baumgartner and his wife to the District at a reception inside Historic Quarters One. Guests also bid farewell to Col. Deschenes who was headed to Kabul, Afghanistan, for this next assignment. 

Incoming District Commander, Col. Craig S. Baumgartner (left) arrives by Corps workbarge for the change of command ceremony with Mississippi Valley Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr (front) and outgoing District Commander, Col. Mark Deschenes (right). Also pictured is lock and dam operator Justin Dodge who assisted with landing the boat for the ceremony.

Photo by Samantha Heilig



NATIONAL FLOOD FIGHT MATERIEL CENTER SUPPORTS AREAS IN NEED



By Samantha Heilig, Editor

For many years the Rock Island District has served the Midwest as a Regional Flood Fight Center (RFFC) providing emergency procurement, deployment, tracking, and redeployment of flood fight materiel. In addition to being a regional center, the District has also been designated as the National Flood Fight Materiel Center (NFFMC) which provides the same services to the continental United States.

The NFFMC maintains a vast inventory of flood fight supplies, equipment and Expedient Flood Fight Products such as HESCO barriers to supplement nationwide flood response operations. Individual Districts use emergency management flood plans to identify a baseline inventory of flood fight materiel needed for their location. During a flood fight event, if a District exhausts their inventory, the NFFMC will provide support, using existing inventory and contracting support to include emergency procurement if necessary. The goal of the NFFMC is to ensure that an ample supply of flood fight materiel is available throughout the duration of any flood event.

Recently the NFFMC assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division (SWD) with emergency materiel needs in the Forth Worth District (SWF) due to extensive flooding. During an operational update conference call with USACE headquarters, SWD reported that SWF was experiencing major flooding and resources were going to be spread thin. Emergency Management Specialist, Sarah Jones, who serves as the NFFMC program manager, contacted Forth Worth District's Emergency Management office and informed them of the capabilities of the NFFMC.

"One major benefit of having the NFFMC provide assistance during a flood fight event is that the District requesting assistance has very little involvement in getting the materiel where it needs to be once the request is made,"


Pallets of HESCO barriers used for temporary flood wall construction were delivered to Texas by the Rock Island District's National Flood Fight Materiel Center in support of emergency response efforts in the Fort Worth District. Forth Worth District Photo

said Jones. "We take care of all the funding, contracting and logistical needs to ensure the materiel is delivered to the area of need."

On May 23, the NFFMC fulfilled their initial request to SWF for 1,600 airlift drop capable sandbags which are large sandbags that can be lifted and dropped into place using a helicopter. A little more than a week later they supplied an additional 10,200 linear feet of HESCO barriers to continue support to SWF. These collapsible wire mesh containers lined with heavy-duty fabric are filled with sand to create temporary walls or dikes during flood events. In addition to supporting materiel needs in SWF, the NFFMC also provided restocking support to Tulsa and Galveston Districts to replenish their sandbag inventory.

In addition to offering sandbags and HESCO barriers, the NFFMC also has the ability to supply polyethylene sheeting used for wrapping temporary barriers, flood pumps and other expedient flood fight products such as portadam and rapid deployment floodwall.

"The National Flood Fight Materiel Center provides a cost effective way for Districts across the country to manage challenges during a flood fight event," said Jones. "Our Emergency Management leads the program but support for the NFFMC in the Rock Island District also includes Contracting, Logistics and Operations."

For more about the Rock Island District's Emergency Management mission and the NFFMC visit <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/About/Offices/EmergencyManagement.aspx> 

USACE LEADERSHIP VISITS DISTRICT FOR OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS


By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Recently the Rock Island District hosted Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for a two-day visit. While in the District Lt. Gen. Bostick attended briefings at the District headquarters office and had a luncheon meeting with the District's Leadership Development Program participants to discuss the importance of leadership in the organization and to get feedback from the participants about the quality of leadership training offered by the Corps.

He also hosted a Town Hall for all District employees to learn about the Corps' perspective from the national level. An internal link to the Town Hall video can be found at <http://1.usa.gov/1GZqLtu>.

In addition to meeting with members of the District, Bostick attended a joint meeting of the Quad City Chamber

of Commerce, the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and the Rock Island Post of the Society of American Military Engineers where he briefed partners of the Quad Cities community on Corps programs and projects occurring regionally, nationally and globally. After which he networked with a variety of partners, listening to their river-related challenges and support for various Corps of Engineers programs and projects.

On day two of his visit he toured field sites along the Illinois Waterway and had an opportunity to visit Brandon Road Lock and Dam where Project Manager, Andrew Leichty, discussed the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Brandon Road Study which focuses on controlling the upstream transfer of aquatic nuisance species. 



During their visit to the Rock Island District, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (right) and Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, Mississippi Valley Division Commander (left) visited the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and were briefed by Project Manager, Andrew Leichty on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road Study.

Photo by Samantha Heilig

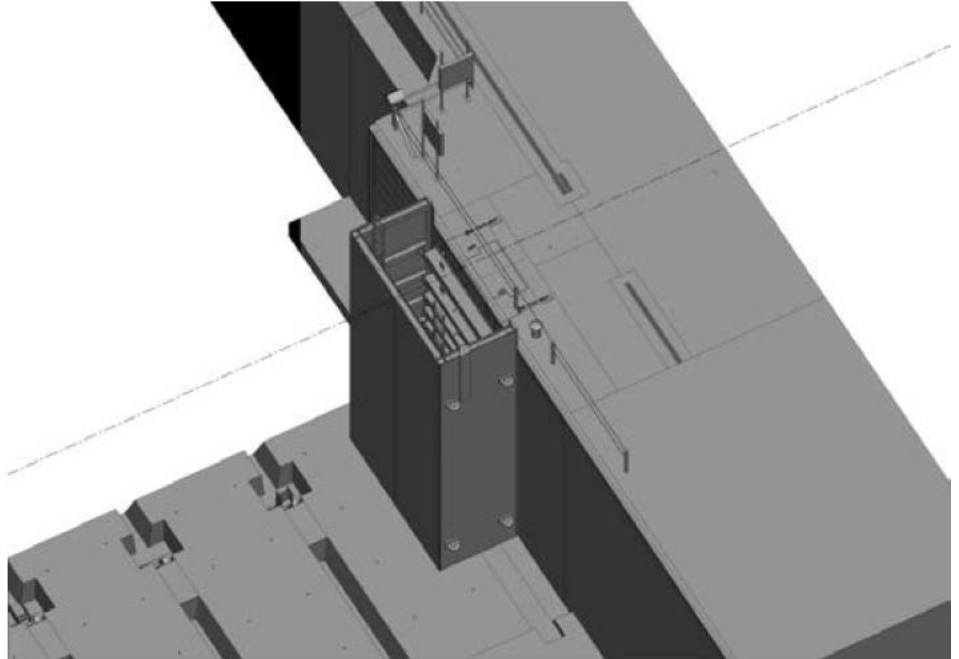
INLAND NAVIGATION DESIGN CENTER TAKING SHAPE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

By Andrew Goodall, Civil Engineer

On Jan. 15, 2013, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, endorsed the creation of an Inland Navigation Design Center Mandatory Center of Expertise (INDC). The purpose of the new organization was to use in-house technical expertise in both the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) to deliver inland navigation projects. Expert resources from across the Corps could then be engaged if the workload demanded or specialization in specific areas was needed.

Since 2013, the Rock Island and Pittsburgh Districts have been working together to create the INDC and had the initial task of establishing an engineering regulation that outlined the official roles and responsibilities of the Center. It was determined that the INDC would design, provide review services and give general technical advice for navigation structures throughout the Corps of Engineers. Examples of navigation projects the INDC would assist with include agency technical reviews, miter gate inspections and designs, bulkhead recess design plans, major lock rehabilitation reports, risk assessments and value engineering studies.

The layout of the national Center includes geographic locations in both Mississippi Valley Division and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division with the Rock Island District taking the lead and additional offices located in the Pittsburgh District. The mission of the INDC is to provide engineering, design and review services for studies, new locks, new navigation dams, major rehabilitation of inland navigation locks and dams, and significant inland navigation lock and dam operations and maintenance projects. The overall goals of the INDC are to develop,



3D models like this of Pittsburgh District's Emsworth Locks and Dam bulkhead recesses are used as a tool to help the Inland Navigation Design Center (INDC) provide real-time data and information to their customers. The INDC is a virtual organization that exists in multiple locations and 3D models allow engineers to demonstrate exactly how their project designs will operate. 3D model designed by structural engineers, Brent Anderson and Josh Cackley and modeled by engineering technician Mike Lindsey.

maintain and strengthen technical competency and provide quality products and services.


Recently, significant changes to the Corps' navigation infrastructure program has given the INDC a reason to move towards a more permanent organization. Funding for navigation projects around the country will soon become more readily available to the INDC when the Ohio River Olmsted Locks and Dam project is completed. In the near future an increase in waterway users' tax could also generate an additional \$70 million in available funding. In addition to these new funding sources, a new 20-year Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2015 that will provide a risk-based prioritized list of navigation infrastructure projects that the INDC will be looking to work on. The CIS should serve as the INDC's workload for the next 20 years.

Projects the INDC has already provided design support for include the Charleroi and Kentucky Locks

and the Brandon Road Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Project. During their work they also partner with other Corps of Engineers organizations including the Risk Management Center, the Engineering Research and Development Center, the Dam Safety Modification Mandatory Center of Expertise and the Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation. During the past two years the program has grown from \$400,000 in FY13 to more than \$2 million in FY15.

In addition to becoming a new center of expertise, the INDC was also designated as the lead for the new Inland Navigation Design Community of Practice (INDCoP). The INDCoP will be used as a network for drawing virtual resources, obtaining and conveying lessons learned and best practices, and overall support for inland navigation design responsibilities. A collaboration site has been established on the internal USACE Technical Excellence Network at <https://apps.usace.army.mil/sites/TEN/IND/Pages/default.aspx> for members of the INDCoP.

The INDC is led by Director, Denny Lundberg, the

previous chief of Rock Island District's Engineering and Construction Division. A Deputy Director, Andy Harkness, former chief of the Eastern Division Risk Management Center is located in Pittsburgh District. Lundberg and Harkness were recently detailed to the INDC director positions to work full-time on the standup of the center. After permanent orders are established later this year, the director and deputy director positions will be advertised and competitively selected. Additional staff currently working for the INDC includes Fred Joers from the Rock Island District, Jeff Stamper from St. Louis District, Paul Surace from Pittsburgh District, and Larry Dalton from Louisville District, all who serve as technical managers. Additional staff may be added depending on future workload. 

This 3D model of Rock Island District's Brandon Road Lock in Chicago, Illinois, developed by the INDC, is used during online webinars to illustrate operations and maintenance needs to Corps staff who have never seen the facility first-hand. 3D model created by civil engineer, Kirk Sunderman.



Spotlight on the District



ANDREW BROWN STUDENT TRAINEE LOCK AND DAM OPERATOR STARVED ROCK LOCK AND DAM

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Locking boats at Starved Rock Lock and Dam located just south of Utica, Illinois, is something Student Trainee Lock and Dam Operator, Andrew Brown, has become very familiar with since starting his job with the Rock Island District in September 2014.

As a student trainee, Brown's primary job is to lock towboats, barges and recreational craft up and down the river on the Illinois Waterway. He also learns about all the factors that go into the maintenance and upkeep of the lock and dam facility and assists with repair projects as needed throughout the year.

Working for the Corps of Engineers was something Brown had been interested in for quite some time. When he learned about the Pathways student employment program that would allow him to work and maintain his goal of furthering his education he was very excited. He found out there was a Pathways position available at the lock and dam in his hometown of Utica, and he jumped at the opportunity.

Brown, a student at Illinois Valley Community College, receives most of his training for the lock and dam operator position while on the job but in doing so also gains experience and knowledge that is helping him to complete an industrial maintenance certificate from the college which he hopes to have finished by May 2016.

"The thing I like best about working for the Corps is that all the guys who have been working for the lock for so many years help me to learn new things every day," said Brown. "I really enjoy coming to work because I like the people I work with and I like what I do."


In addition to his job with the Corps, Brown also takes pride in his work as a volunteer firefighter for the village of Utica. Recently he had the chance to demonstrate his dedication to the job when called to a fire in a second story apartment building. While responding to the call, Brown and fellow firefighter Robbyn Travis found an unresponsive man inside the burning structure. They pulled him to safety where he was airlifted to a burn unit in Rockford, Illinois.



Student Trainee Lock and Dam Operator, Andrew Brown, not only serves the nation by working at Starved Rock Lock and Dam on the Illinois Waterway but also serves his community by working as a volunteer firefighter. *Photo by Steve Stout, courtesy of the Ottawa Daily Times*

"I like being a volunteer firefighter because I get to help people in need," said Brown. "I really enjoy being able to help in emergency situations."

Outside of attending school, locking boats and fighting fires, Brown says he doesn't have a lot of time for recreational hobbies. When he does get a moment of free time he likes spending time outdoors, going fishing and riding four-wheelers. He and his wife Michelle also have two children, a five-year old and a one-year old, with a third on the way.

"I'm really happy where I am," said Brown. "The Corps has become like a family to me and I really hope to be working here for many years to come." 

SAFETY CORNER

WORKING SAFE IN THE SUMMER SUN

By Jim Trail, Safety Specialist

The hot summer sun puts a whole new light on the workplace. Some people love the heat, while others can't wait for the dog days of summer to give way to more pleasant fall-like conditions. Regardless of your personal opinion on hot weather, everyone must take precautions to know and avoid heat illness.

To better prepare yourself for working safely in the heat you will need to learn the signs and symptoms of heat related illness.

Look for these warning signs:

- **Heat Cramps** - Heat cramps affect muscles such as those in the arms, legs and the abdomen. Cramps may occur after working, when a person takes a short break. Heat cramps are a signal that the body has lost too much salt through sweating.
- **Heat Exhaustion** - Heat exhaustion is a serious condition that needs immediate attention. It may have any or all of these symptoms: A feeling of exhaustion, nausea, dizziness, pale and clammy skin, quick pulse and low blood pressure. Heat exhaustion is a warning that the mechanism that controls heat for the body becomes seriously overtaxed. Heat stroke may follow if heat exhaustion is not treated.
- **Heat Stroke** - Heat stroke is a serious matter and can be fatal. It occurs when the body's heat control mechanism shuts down. Perspiration stops and the body temperature increases. The heart pounds and the skin will become flushed and hot. This condition is a medical emergency and must be treated immediately.



These tips will keep you safe in the workplace and at home:

- Let the water flow. People often wait until they are thirsty to drink water but if you are doing physically demanding work and become dehydrated, you can't catch up and are at risk for potentially fatal heat illness. Employees need to be encouraged to drink water continuously on hot days.
- Take frequent rest breaks when working in hot conditions. These breaks can consist of moving to a cooler area or switching to lighter work for a while.
- Acclimate to working in hot conditions. You cannot go from working in comfortable temperatures to working full tilt in a heat wave. Allow them frequent rest breaks in the shade and save extra-demanding physical jobs for cooler parts of the day.
- Wear hats and dress in light-colored, lightweight, loose clothing. Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 and reapply if sweating it off. Workers who are overweight or have medical conditions should ask their doctors about additional precautions to take while working in hot conditions, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Don't stop taking medication unless your doctor says you should. Take extra care to stay cool and ask your doctor or pharmacist for any special heat advice.
- Ventilate. Ensure that indoor areas are kept well ventilated and that fans or air conditioners are operating.
- Watch each other for signs of heat illness. Mild cases can be treated by moving the person to a cool area and supplying water to drink. Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition that calls for immediate medical help.

Prevention is the best way of keeping yourself from being overcome by these types of heat illnesses.

For more information on managing heat related illness visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>

Around the District

Retirements ...

Wayne Granzow, a lock operator at Lockport Lock and Dam on the Illinois Waterway, retired April 30, after dedicating more than 24 years of service to the federal government.

Dean Cerny, a project engineer for the Engineering and Construction Division, retired April 30, after dedicating more than 37 years of service to the federal government.

Roger Less, chief Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, retired April 30, after dedicating more than 30 years of service to the federal government.

Joe Grant, a lock operator for Lock and Dam 21 on the Mississippi River, retired April 30, after dedicating more than 18 years of service to the federal government.

Larry Reeve, lockmaster for Lock and Dam 20 on the Mississippi River, retired May 2, after dedicating more than 37 years of service to the federal government.

Jerry Skalak, a program manager with the Program Management Division, retired May 30, after dedicating more than 31 years of service to the federal government.

Thomas Dumoulin, a geologist for the Geotechnical Branch, retired May 31, after dedicating more than 35 years of service to the federal government.

Donald Harris, a lock operator at Lockport Lock and Dam on the Illinois Waterway, retired May 31, after dedicating more than 33 years of service to the federal government.

Trudy Sholtz, a motor vehicle operator for the Illinois Waterway Project Office, retired May 31, after dedicating more than 33 years of service to the federal government.

Kim Schaecher, human resource specialist for the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) retired June 3, after dedicating more than 37 years of service to the federal government.

Congratulations ...



Congratulations to **Anthony Heddlesten** and his wife, Kyla, on the birth of a baby boy on April 25. Charles James (CJ) Heddlesten weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Sympathy ...



Ernest Byrd, 91, of Ankeny, Iowa, passed away June 5.

Byrd was previously employed by the Rock Island District as the lockmaster at Lock and Dam 12 in Bellevue, Iowa, and retired after 27 years of service. Byrd also served three years in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on two different ships during WWII.



Don Erickson, 80, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away June 22.

Erickson was previously employed by the Rock Island District as a motor vehicle operator for the Maintenance Support Unit at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. He had more than 32 years of federal service when he retired in 2000. Erickson also served his country in the U.S. Air Force.

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



If you are a current or former federal employee you may have been affected by the recent Office of Personnel Management cybersecurity data breach.

Visit www.opm.gov to stay informed of available options for identity theft monitoring.

LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS GIVE VISITORS A CHOICE FOR WATER SAFETY

By Samantha Heilig, Editor

Volunteer Education Host, Lorraine Beland, stands with Bobber the Water Safety Dog at one of the life jacket loaner stations found in the Rock Island District at Lake Red Rock. These loaner stations offer visitors the option to borrow personal flotation devices (PFDs) from the Corps at no charge for use while boating or swimming at the lake. Once a visitor is finished using the device they can simply return it to the station.

Each recreation project throughout the District maintains their own loaner station PFD supply. Multiple sizes are made available at the stations to encourage all ages to be safe on the water. Inspections are also done on a regular basis to make sure the PFDs are safe for continued use.

These stations found throughout the District are just one of the many ways to keep people informed about the importance of water safety on Corps-managed lakes and rivers.

Photo by Tracy Spry



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.

May Answer:

The old Moline Lock on upper end of Arsenal Island

Winner: Lou Ann McCracken



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND
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ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004



Join in the Fun at
Corps Day 2015

Thursday, July 23 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Memorial Field, Rock Island Arsenal

FUN Bags tournament, kids
games, bingo and lip sync contest.



Schedule of Events

10 a.m. - Retiree Gathering

10:30 a.m. - Award Ceremony & Retiree Recognition

11:30 a.m. - Lunch

1:15 p.m. - Bags Tournament Begins

1 - 2 p.m. - Bingo

1 - 3 p.m. - Kids Games

2 p.m. - Raffle Drawing

2 p.m. - Lip Sync Contest



RECOGNITION

An award ceremony and retiree
recognition will honor team
members for their great
contributions to the District.

FOOD Hamburgers, brats, hotdogs,
veggie burgers, chips, fruit, veggies,
cookies and drinks.

*Corps Day is brought to you by the Rock Island District Welfare Association and the Corps Day Committee.
Fundraisers are held throughout the year to fund the event. Additional donations are always welcome.*