



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

June/July 2017



Veterans Honored During Memorial
Day Ceremony at Coralville Lake



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

TOWER TIMES

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June/July 2017

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American flags fly across the dam at Coralville Lake for the annual Veterans Trail dedication ceremony on Memorial Day.
Photo by Samantha Heilig

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Tower Times

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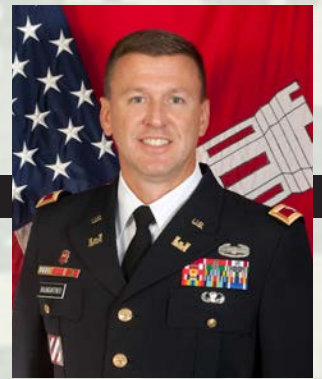
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A message from....

Colonel Craig Baumgartner, District Commander



Execute, execute: Budget upward trend continues for District

The operational pace within the Rock Island District has followed a steady incline over the last few years and that doesn't look to be changing anytime soon. The recently released FY 2018 Presidential Budget and FY 2017 Work Plan both include robust funding for the Rock Island District, which I believe is indicative of the trust and confidence in our District shared by higher echelons of our government.

With that trust bestowed upon us, it is our responsibility to ensure those valuable tax dollars are used efficiently and wisely once allocated. In collaboration with our partners, we must deliver the program and on our commitments.

Nationwide, the FY 2017 Work Plan provides \$4.62 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works program. Of that, more than \$180 million is for work within the Rock Island District. This money is provided to the District to improve and strengthen the area's water resources by providing for the operation and maintenance of Corps projects; project studies; and the continuation of navigation, recreation, ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, regulatory, emergency management, and other Corps of Engineers' projects and programs.

Breaking down the various aspects of the Work Plan funding points to many positives for the District. Funding for operations and maintenance on the Upper Mississippi River Systems and Illinois Waterway continues to lag behind forecasted needs but we did receive more than \$135 million District-wide. The Mississippi River received \$86 million for O&M while the Illinois Waterway received \$34 million. O&M funding regularly constitutes 60 to 70 percent of our annual operating budget and this year is no different. The District's Operations Division does an excellent job of using O&M funding effectively and efficiently as they all strive to keep up with the ever-increasing needs of the aging infrastructure.

Our reservoir operations in the Des Moines River Basin and the Iowa/Cedar River Basin received \$10.2 million and \$4.3 million in O&M funding respectively, which was no surprise. But, there was somewhat of a surprise in construction funding for the Des Moines River Basin. The Des Moines Recreational River and Greenbelt Program received \$9.4 million for construction. After several years in which no funding was

allocated for the Greenbelt program, this year's Work Plan provides the District the opportunity to move forward with three projects that had been awaiting construction dollars. This is great news for a program made up of federal, local and private interests all dedicated to developing ecosystem improvements and recreational opportunities in the Des Moines River Corridor.

Construction funding for the entire District saw the most significant uptick as this year's Work Plan allows for nearly \$17 million more in construction dollars compared to last year's allocation. One of the District's most successful programs, the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program received \$33 million in construction funding, the full congressionally authorized amount. This funding will enable the program to continue the critically important habitat rehabilitation projects that have restored habitat across the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, the multi-District UMRR program, led by the Rock Island District, has completed 55 projects and restored 102,000 acres of habitat. The program is recognized nationally as a benchmark in environmental restoration efforts.

Construction and O&M funding, as usual, made up the bulk of the FY 2017 Work Plan. There was \$2.3 million provided to the Illinois River Basin for a feasibility study that will help the District continue our efforts related to the interbasin control of Great Lakes-Mississippi River Aquatic Nuisance Species. Preventing the spread of aquatic nuisances like Asian Carp is vital work and I am proud of the Rock Island District's role in the much larger, multi-agency effort.

As I wrote earlier, the funding we receive is indicative of the trust the Rock Island District has earned. That trust carries over into the next fiscal year as the President's FY 2018 budget provides more than \$213 million to the Rock Island District, exceeding all District allocations since FY 2009 (the year of the American Restoration and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which pumped billions into civil works projects across the Nation).


The President's FY 2018 budget calls for a little less in construction funding with about a \$9 million drop from this year's work plan. However, the O&M funding increases nearly \$45 million to \$179 million, which will provide a

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

significant boost to the already fiscally-strained needs of our aging navigation system.

Funding is imperative to carry out the many missions within our District. Of course, it's nearly impossible to get every dollar we request, but this year's Work Plan and the President's FY 2018 budget represent a very positive outlook for the District's future. The next step after received funding is execution and we will all need to be in that frame of mind both in the short term as this fiscal year nears completion, and in the long term as future funding becomes available.

You all have my utmost trust and confidence in your ability to execute. The Rock Island District's professionalism, technical excellence, innovation and work ethic is known Corps-wide and that is why the District continues to see increased funding. We've got a busy few months ahead but I know that you will all be outstanding stewards of the American tax dollar and ensure the Rock Island District executes the funding we have been entrusted with. Thanks for all you do each and every day and **CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG!** 

Anonymous Comment Box



Click here to submit questions and comments to the District Commander

Don't forget... anyone can submit work-related questions, comments or concerns in an anonymous fashion using the comment box on the District intranet home page. Messages received via this link are completely anonymous unless contact information is provided.



August is Anti-terrorism Awareness Month

The Security Office will be looking to engage and educate the workforce to help raise awareness of Anti-Terrorism (AT) Month. Throughout the month of August you can expect to see more AT posters, brochures, games, emails and additional material being distributed in the workplace.

The U.S. Army observes Anti-terrorism Awareness Month as a way to instill a heightened security awareness in Soldiers, civilians and military communities, which all play an integral role in preventing terrorist attacks and protecting critical resources.

Security is Everybody's Responsibility.

See Something, Say Something!



Can you name where the photo to the left was taken?

If so, send your answer to katherine.i.rosario@usace.army.mil to be entered for a prize and be featured in the next issue of the Tower Times.



April/May Answer:
LaGrange Lock and Dam

Winner:
Gordon Rush

DISTRICT PERFORMS DEMOLITION WORK ON LOWER GUIDEWALL AT LOCKS AND DAM 15

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

A portion of the guidewall on the downstream side of Locks and Dam 15 was demolished in May after the District found the structure was failing due to cracks in the concrete.

The District began monitoring the guidewall in 2014, when cracks in the infrastructure were found. The guidewall has since shifted about a foot and a half.

District staff responded quickly to make a plan to remove a 120-foot section of the wall before it fell into the water on its own, which could have caused the lock to close to navigation.


“If it were to fall into the channel, this would block navigation for nearly a month as crews would need to respond to remove the broken concrete blocking access to the lock chamber,” said Aaron Dunlop, Operations Project Manager for the Rock Island District’s Mississippi River Project.

The portion of the wall that was demolished was original to the project when construction was completed in 1934. It was only expected to last 50 years, but critical maintenance has kept it operational well past its intended design life. The unscheduled maintenance did not disrupt navigation.

“We had very good coordination and very good efforts on everybody’s part. It’s been very successful,” said Mike Cox, chief of the Rock Island District’s Operations Division.

The rest of the guidewall will need to be removed and rebuilt, at a cost of about \$15 million, he said. A contract will be awarded later this year.

In 2016, 24 million tons of cargo passed through Locks and Dam 15, at an estimated cost of \$3.6 billion.


“The river traffic is a vital component of the national transportation system. The navigation system provides significant value to the nation,” Cox said. 



Mississippi River Project maintenance crews with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, demolish a portion of the lower guidewall at Locks and Dam 15 in Rock Island, Illinois. Removing the concrete will prevent the wall from falling into the river in an uncontrolled manner. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*

DISTRICT HONORS 12 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR DURING CORPS DAY

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

Twelve employees were recognized for their significant contributions to the District during the 2016 calendar year and honored with Employee of the Year awards June 16 at Corps Day. The Commander's Award for Civilian Service is the highest civilian award for federal employees supporting the Rock Island District. Each year the Incentive Awards Committee receives submissions that are reviewed by the committee and ranked and rated. Winning nominations are then sent to the commander for approval. This year two people tied for first place in both the Engineer of the Year and Professional of the Year awards. 



The employees of the year were presented their awards at Corps Day June 16 at Veterans Memorial Park in Bettendorf, Iowa. (From left) Clerical/Assistant Support of the Year, Marian R. Goetzmann; Public Contact of the Year, Anthony D. Heddlesten; Supervisor/Manager of the Year, Toby J. Hunemuller; Professional of the Year, Hugh D. Howe; Community Service Support of the Year, Roger A. Perk; District Commander Col. Craig S. Baumgartner; Technical/Administrative Support of the Year, Melissa A. Brown; Professional of the Year, Alan H. Tamm; Lock Operator of the Year, Mississippi River James M. Roling; Lock Master of the Year, J. Alan Dickerson; Trades/Crafts Work of the Year, Steven A. Mohr. Also (not shown in the photo) Engineer of the Year, Daniel Nuti; Engineer of the Year, Matthew Coffelt; and Lock Operator of the Year, Illinois River, Mark Meznarsic. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*

CORPS DAY ACTIVITIES, COMMANDER'S CUP

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

As part of this year's Corps Day event, the Rock Island District Welfare Association sponsored the first-ever Commander's Cup. A form of friendly competition among offices during Corps Day, more than 100 employees participated in the seven events (golf, disc golf, 5K fun run, bingo, cornhole, disc golf putting challenge and trivia) on June 16, at Veterans Memorial Park in Bettendorf, Iowa.



Offices were combined into four categories to compete for the most points to win the Commander's Cup: Engineering and Construction; Programs and Project Management Division and Planning Division; Operations Division; and all General and Administrative and support offices. Points were also

awarded to volunteers who helped out at Corps Day.

At the conclusion of Corps Day, District Commander Col. Craig S. Baumgartner awarded the Commander's Cup to Engineering and Construction. The trophy is a traveling trophy, which will remain with the winning group throughout the year until the next Corps Day event. 📷



District Commander Col. Craig S. Baumgartner presents Engineering and Construction chief, Roger Perk, with the first Rock Island District Commander's Cup during Corps Day. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*



More than 50 people participated in the Corps Day 5K Fun Run. Logan Grothus won the male division with a time of 20:40. Madalyn Sowar won the female division with a time of 23:10. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*



In the Corps Day Golf Competition, first place went to Jason Appel, Jake Cawiezell, Rick Nickel and Andrew Goodall. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*



District Commander Col. Craig S. Baumgartner speaks with District retirees during Corps Day about completed and ongoing projects within the District. *Photo by Katherine Rosario*



VETERANS HONORED DURING MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT CORALVILLE LAKE

By Samantha Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

In communities across the country people gather on Memorial Day to honor those who died while serving in the U.S. military. For the past 28 years the staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, along with representatives from several Johnson County, Iowa, veterans' organizations, have been coming together on Memorial Day to honor living veterans who nearly lost their lives.

The Veterans Trail Dedication Ceremony, held at Coralville Lake in Iowa City, Iowa, on May 29, is an annual event designed to honor local veterans who received a purple heart or higher award and were honorably discharged from the military.

At this year's ceremony, seven veterans, Brandon J. Burgus, Jacob E. Cannon, Keith J. Hodapp, Andrew B. Letarte, David L. Schapira, Floyd D. Smith and Bradley J. Storck, were added to the list of trail honorees. During the ceremony each veteran received a certificate of appreciation and their name was engraved in a stone that sits along the trail.

"The Veterans Trail provides a perfect opportunity to pay homage to our local heroes," said Lt. Col. Phillip Fleming, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, who presented each honoree with their certificate.

Each veteran who has been honored along the trail has a different, yet similar story of selfless service and dedication.

For honoree Floyd D. Smith, who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967, and served with the Americal Division, 1st

Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade during the Vietnam War, the Memorial Day ceremony brought back some challenging memories.

"In May 1969, after losing our point man, I started walking point," Smith said. "I hit a booby trap that wounded or killed five members of my squad and I was wounded bad enough they had to send me home."

Smith was sent to Irwin Army Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, and when he could walk again was assigned to the occupational therapy department at the hospital and was discharged later that year.

Although the ceremony brought back bad memories for Smith, he said it also provided him with an experience he never thought would happen.

"Coming home during Vietnam was a terrible thing, and the only reason I wasn't spit on was because I came home on a stretcher," Smith said. "People didn't have the respect for the military that they do today, and it's so nice to be here and see all these people celebrating those who have sacrificed for their country."

More than 400 people attended the free event, which took place at the East Overlook Picnic Area near the trailhead. After the ceremony, many attendees took time to walk along the quarter-mile, barrier-free trail, which meanders through mature oak, hickory and maple trees and was built to accommodate all types of users including those with wheelchairs.

Coralville Lake Operations Manager, Dee Goldman, said the Veterans Trail is the only trail of its kind honoring

veterans in the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers system.


It's also a trail the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers strives to keep open 365 days a year, regardless of weather. This means clearing weeds in the spring and summer, removing piles of leaves in the fall, and removing snow in the winter.

"You just never know when family members might want to come and pay respect," Goldman said. "It's important that it's accessible to them."

Another way that Coralville Lake staff honor those who are listed on the trail is by decorating the Coralville Lake dam. Each year, in preparation for the holiday weekend and ceremony, employees place 189 American flags across the 1,400-foot-long dam.

Since 1989, when the trail was first dedicated, a total of 189 veterans have been honored on the trail, Natural Resource Specialist and event organizer Justin Lind said.

"Flying the flags across the dam is just another way we, here at the lake, can show respect to all the veterans who have sacrificed for our freedom," Lind said.

For more information about the Veterans Trail, call Coralville Lake at 319-338-3543, ext. 6300, or visit <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Coralville-Lake/Recreation/Trails/Veterans-Trail/>. 



A large stone, placed during the trail's first dedication ceremony in 1989, marks the head of the Veterans Trail at Coralville Lake. Photo by Samantha Heilig



Johnson County, Iowa, veterans, (from left) Jacob E. Cannon, David L. Schapira, Andrew B. Letarte, Bradley J. Storck, Brandon J. Burgus, Floyd D. Smith, and Keith J. Hodapp stand with their certificates of appreciation after being honored at the Veterans Trail Dedication Ceremony at Coralville Lake in Iowa City, Iowa, on May 29. Photo by Samantha Heilig



Spotlight on the District

JODI BAUSMAN

CONSTRUCTION CONTROL REPRESENTATIVE

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

Jodi Bausman is all about getting the job done right. His unique job requires a steadfast knowledge of the projects at hand and excellent communication skills.

Bausman has been working in one capacity or another for the U.S. Army for more than 30 years.

As a construction control representative, Bausman works with the contractors to ensure they are in compliance with all aspects of the contract. This involves being present at the work sites and ensuring there is clear communication between the contractor and the District.

Quality assurance is a large part of his work, and in order to keep an eye on all projects, he must become familiar with all aspects of the contract. From start to finish, he becomes an expert in the planning process, contract specifications, exhibit drawings and compliance.

"I have done as many as five [projects] at one time - they are the smaller contracts," Bausman said. "It's nice to be working on one big contract and have a couple little ones going at the same time."

Currently, his largest project is the Lake Red Rock Hydroelectric Project.

"What makes this job exciting is it is one of the first projects at the Rock Island District that is not our contract, so I don't have to administer the contract like we do if it is our construction contract," he said.

The hydroelectric project falls under the Missouri River Energy Services contract, and Bausman acts as the liaison officer between the District and MRES.

"I have the responsibility to oversee dam safety, site safety, security, and coordination with OD-R [Lake Red Rock] and the District," he said.

However, Bausman didn't get his start in contracts, in fact, he started out as an ammunitions safety officer. He graduated from the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center and School as a quality assurance specialist, ammunition safety officer, in 1986. Then in 1991, the Corps asked him to start the Ordnance and Explosive Waste Program.

"With my background in the ammunition field and the District putting together the Ordnance and Explosive Waste Program to support Huntsville District, I was brought on board to be liaison officer between Huntsville District, the



Jodi Bausman, left, receives a coin from Mississippi Valley Division Commander Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr for his work on the Hydroelectric Project at Lake Red Rock. Photo by Samantha Heilig

U.S. Army Tech Center for Explosive Safety, and Rock Island District," he said.

Bausman worked in the ordnance section until 1997, when he took a temporary position for the winter to perform the quality assurance task for construction.


"In 1998, I was hired into the Construction Branch to perform construction quality assurance oversight on our construction contracts," he said.

His favorite part about working for the District, he said, is completing challenging projects and having the outdoors as his workspace.

"I like the people I work with and challenges I face during our construction project to get them completed," he said. "I like being out in the field; working outside on the rivers, not being cramped up in an office."

Bausman lives in his hometown of Mount Carrol, Illinois, with his wife, Kathy. He has two sons, Seth, an English teacher; and Ross, a nurse.

In his spare time he likes to get outdoors and hunt, fish, hike and bicycle.

His advice to fellow District employees is, "Live life like there is no tomorrow - play hard, work hard and enjoy everything you do. Live life to your fullest. CARPE DIEM." 

VISITOR CENTER VOLUNTEER PROVIDES SUPPORT TO LOCAL YOUNG INVENTOR

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

Twelve-year-old Lauren Young spent five weeks this spring researching Locks and Dam 15 as part of a project for her science class at Sudlow Intermediate School in Davenport, Iowa.

Each student in her class was responsible for researching a body of water and coming up with a way to clean up the garbage and reduce debris that floats downstream.

The students were given a list of bodies of water and topics to research, and Young said that most of her classmates picked coral reefs and oceans. However, she decided to look in her own backyard and came up with the idea to research Locks and Dam 15 for her project.

Young didn't know much about how the lock and dam system worked until she called the Mississippi River Visitor Center and spoke with USACE volunteer Gene Sperry. Sperry gave her a video to watch to teach her about how the locks and dams along the Mississippi River support commerce and help boaters navigate the river. He also helped answer questions she had as she put together her project.

"Whenever you have a young student interested in the river and what we do here, well, I just got so excited to help her learn about the locks and dams," Sperry said.

Once the research portion of her project was complete, Young had to build a model of how she would stop pollution at Locks and Dam 15.

"I saw that there was nothing to stop the debris that floats down the river and ends up right by the dam, so I created a model that has nets on each lock door to scoop up the liter," she said.



Lauren Young, 12, displays her Locks and Dam 15 project in the Mississippi River Visitors Center on June 15. Photo by Katherine Rosario



From left to right: Jim, Logan, Lauren and Cori Young listen to USACE volunteer Gene Sperry as he takes them on a tour of Locks and Dam 15. Photo by Katherine Rosario

Her idea to collect and properly discard debris that ends up in the water involves attaching netting to the roller and miter gates, which catches the garbage so it can be lifted out of the water and properly discarded.

"The boats and fish could still go through the lock, but the garbage would get caught in the nets," Young said.

Once she presented her project to the class, it was chosen for display at the Public Works Center in Davenport, Iowa, so the public could read about her research and learn about her idea.


"The Public Works people thought my idea was pretty cool," she said.

After her project was complete, Sperry thought to ask Young if she'd ever seen Locks and Dam 15.

"She did all this research and worked very hard, but had never actually been out here to see the locks and dam," he said. "We called her family up and asked if they'd like a tour so she could see it firsthand."

Young and her family toured Locks and Dam 15 with Sperry on June 15. Outfitted with hard hats, reflective vests and protective glasses, the family saw how the lock and dam operates, including seeing the bridge turn and a barge pass through the lock.

"It was really cool to see the barge go through," Young said.

Students interested in learning more about the locks and dams are encouraged to contact the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338. 

Around the District

Retirements ...

Kent Stenmark, Chief, Programs Management Branch, retired April 29, after dedicating more than 32 years of service to the federal government.

Joni Henri, Administrative Support Assistant, retired April 29, after dedicating more than 36 years of service to the federal government.

Joseph Goin, Master Derrickboat, retired April 29, after dedicating more than 13 years of service to the federal government.

Davie Elliot, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, retired April 30, after dedicating more than 15 years of service to the federal government.

Jeffery Peck, Natural Resource Specialist - Coralville Lake, retired May 26, after dedicating 24 years of service to the federal government.

Brian Miller, Lock and Dam Operator, Lock and Dam 12, retired May 31, after dedicating 27 years of service to the federal government.

Harold Schweiger, Civil Engineering Technician, retired June 1, after dedicating more than 34 years of service to the federal government.

Matthew Rensen, Engineering Equipment Operator, retired June 30, after dedicating more than 38 years of service to the federal government.

Sympathy ...

Joe Vann, 63, of New Boston, Illinois, passed away June 29.

Vann started work for the Rock Island District as an Unexploded Ordnance Safety Specialist in 1998 before retiring in 2011. Vann also served his country as a member of the U.S. Army from 1973 -1980, and a U.S. Navy civilian from 1980-1998.



Congratulations...

Congratulations to Jennifer Hooks, daughter of Jacqueline and Daniel Hooks who works as an equipment mechanic at Lockport Lock & Dam. Jennifer received the Geraldine K. Morris Nursing Award on behalf of the Army Engineer Spouses' Club on May 21. She will use this award toward her nursing degree at Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois.



For more information about the scholarships offered through the Army Engineer Spouses' Club visit, <http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/army-engineer-memorial-awards-aema.html>

February Employee of the Month...

Congratulations to Bonnie Tanamor Employee of the Month

Bonnie Tanamor conducted extensive research to compile the Real Estate Cost Estimate for the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)-Brandon Road Planning Study. Because direct access to the land and interviews with the land owner were not possible, Tanamor started the complex process of looking back at historical records to confirm the high probability of significant environmental contamination, which otherwise wouldn't have been noted in the study. Tanamor researched appraisal literature on the appropriate methodology and standards for valuation of contaminated sites. This is a very specialized and complex branch of appraisal analysis that many appraisal practitioners avoid. The environmental issues and associated significant real estate risks and costs in the report successfully informed the planning teams of the information needed to support the final opinion of the land's value.



Auditor's Corner - Government Travel Card Use


By Michael Roarty, Chief, Internal Review



As the District's auditor, I conduct a yearly review of all Government Travel Cards (GTC). Any use of the GTC outside official travel dates may constitute a misuse of the GTC. Depending on the severity of the misuse, disciplinary action can range from an official reprimand, leave

without pay, or dismissal from government service. Here are some simple tips to avoid misuse of the GTC:

1. If you use your card by mistake when not on travel, ask the merchant to void the transaction. If that can't be done, let your supervisor and Ann Marie Roarty (RM GTC coordinator) at ext. 5436 know the next business day.
2. If you are renting a car in conjunction with official government travel and decide to use annual leave either before your official travel starts or after your official travel ends, you can't have charges on your GTC for that rental car for any time not on official travel. You can't put those charges on the card and then separate the charges and only put official charges on the travel settlement voucher and reimburse the GTC for the balance owed. This also applies to hotel charges when you combine annual leave with official travel. Any charges to rental cars and hotel rooms must not appear on the GTC for the time you are not on official travel. That is abuse of the GTC and may lead to disciplinary charges.
3. It is mandatory that all rental car and hotel reservations be made through SatoTravel. SatoTravel will automatically reserve a compact car per government regulations. If a larger car is needed, then justification needs to be on the travel orders when they are submitted to SatoTravel.
4. If you have a credit balance on your GTC after the settlement voucher was processed do not liquidate that credit balance by taking out a cash advance for the amount. That is considered abuse of the GTC and may lead to disciplinary action. If you have a credit on your GTC call the number provided on the card or visit the website and request either an electronic transfer of the amount to your bank account or a check be issued.
5. If you need a replacement GTC the travel card vendor will charge a fee which will be on the cardholder's initial billing statement. There is an additional fee for an emergency/expedited delivery of a replacement GTC, which is reimbursable and must be claimed on a travel voucher in order to be reimbursed. If the scheduled travel does not occur, cardholders may claim reimbursement for the expedited delivery fee on an Optional Form (OF) 1164.
6. Rules concerning Cash Advances: Travelers may use their GTC at ATMs to obtain cash needed to pay for "out-of-pocket" travel related expenses. Valid "out-of-pocket" travel related expenses are those that can't be charged on the travel card. ATM advances will not be obtained more than three working days before the scheduled departure date of any official travel. You may not get cash advances that exceed the authorized travel meals and incidentals (M&IE) per diem for the trip. Example: \$35 M&IE per diem x 5 days = \$175. That \$175 is the total authorized amount of ATM withdrawals for the whole trip. If you were to take \$300 cash withdrawal for that same trip, that would be considered an abuse of the card. ATM fees associated with official government travel are not separately reimbursable, and instead are included in the incidental expense portion of the applicable locality per diem rate.
7. In cases where the cardholder is required to pay for registration fees in advance of travel, use of the GTC is acceptable in accordance with individual component policy and in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations. While it is acceptable to use the GTC for registration fees, the primary method of payment should remain the government purchase card (GPC).

If you are on temporary duty and have questions and or issues with the GTC please contact either Ann Marie Roarty or your supervisor. The golden rule when applied to the GTC is "when in doubt, don't." 

Definitions:

Misuse: Using the card for authorized transactions but to excess (e.g. ATM withdrawals above per diem limit, high meal charges)

Abuse: Using the card for unauthorized transactions (e.g. not on orders, personal use)

Fraud: Intentional misuse of the card to the persons benefit

SAFETY CORNER

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTS NEW SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

By Troy Larson, Chief of Safety and Occupational Health

The Rock Island District is implementing a new Safety Occupational Health Management System (SOHMS) in accordance with Department of Defense, Army and USACE guidance to better manage safety risks for all employees, contractors and visitors.

Our District will be following the Corps of Engineers safety management system, known as CE-SOHMS, that is modeled after the Army's safety management system. CE-SOHMS encourages all employees, supervisors and managers to take a proactive approach to workplace safety.

The system integrates safety processes throughout the USACE Business Model, which begins small with basic safety information programs and goals, and matures throughout implementation of the program and reshapes our safety culture over a period of time; usually four to five years.

The benefits to this new system includes an increase in mission readiness, an engaged workforce, prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses, reduced costs (in injuries and property loss) and enhanced USACE public safety.

Systems like this are designed to change the way we think about safety. That is, we should not feel we have to do safety, or safety is just another requirement we have to take care of. Rather, we as a team will incorporate safety processes in all lines of effort. After four or five years, everyone will expect risk management to be part of the way we conduct business, and know that risk management and being safe is about continuous improvement.

We are moving to a safety management system that actively engages our leaders and co-workers to continuously evaluate risks and the safety of our work activities and surroundings, while suggesting improvements for the betterment of everyone at the District.

CE-SOHMS is not a sprint to the finish line, it is a system designed to take time to evaluate our gaps in current safety programs and improve and reevaluate several times until we have reshaped our risk culture.

Over several years, the District will be evaluated and coached by the DOD Safety Management Center of Excellence (DOD-SMCX). The process begins with a Stage I assessment by a DOD-SMCX team that evaluates and



District senior leaders meet with representatives from the DOD Safety Management Center for Excellence to learn about implementation of the new safety management system. *Photo by Samantha Heilig*


reviews our current safety plans, processes and integration throughout the District.

CE-SOHMS is way more than a safety inspection; there will be evaluation of the integration of safety processes and risk management within many District offices. Once gaps are identified in Stage I, the District will be re-evaluated in one year on our progress of filling identified gaps and improvements with safety policies and performance. Two years later we will be evaluated again on our implementation of the new management system and measuring the effectiveness of the system.

There are seven core elements to CE-SOHMS:

- Management leadership
- Worker participation
- Hazard identification and assessment
- Hazard prevention and control
- Education and training
- Program evaluation and improvement
- Coordination and communication on multi-employer work sites

This new type of management system also empowers employees to find and suggest fixes to hazards before fellow co-workers are harmed. Actively engaging in continuous safety improvement moves the District's safety and occupational health standards toward a world-class program.

We are looking forward to the new system increasing our productivity, enhancing overall mission operations, and providing our employees with a safer working environment. 

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL LEVELS

By Sara Paxson, District Training Coordinator

The Rock Island District is kicking off its latest Leadership Development Program Level 2 (LDP2) class in July with 15 participants including employees from Rock Island, St. Paul and Chicago Districts. Employees who were selected for participation include Rebecca Briesmoore, Dominic Castanza, Felix Castro, Elizabeth Dennison, Benjamin Ferrell, Wendy Frohlich, Kathryn Herzog, Brad Houzenga, Mark Jacobson, Brian McMillen, Heather Rentz, Margaret Rush, Maren Stofflet, Michelle Dojutrek and Jason Zylka.

"I'm very excited for the opportunity to participate in LDP 2," said contract specialist, Elizabeth Dennison. "I have heard great things about the program and can't wait to get started."

The class will kick off with an orientation session that covers program goals, requirements and components. In August, the group will meet again for three days at an off-site interactive workshop to learn about themselves and each other using a variety of exercises, assessments and hands-on activities.

Illinois Waterway lock and dam navigation plant assistant, Margaret Rush, said she's very excited about the program and can't wait to get to know more people in the organization and learn to be a better leader for her peers.

"It's a pleasure and honor to be participating in the 2017 LDP2 class," said Rush.

This year's program is being facilitated by Cathy Schade and Irene Loftus from Priority Executive Development. Their robust program focuses on key leadership topics and allowing participants to expand their knowledge and skill sets. The overall program goal is for each participant to graduate with enhanced personal and professional leadership skills and be prepared for taking their career to the next level.

A newly-developed Training and Development Oversight Committee is taking the lead on this year's program management. The new committee includes leadership staff from the Executive Office, Programs and Project Management, Engineering and Construction, Operations and Equal Employment Opportunity. It was developed to be a broad-based representation of the District that could assist in making training decisions that would be accepted by all functional areas.


In addition to the LDP2 program, the Rock Island District offers a Leadership Development Program Level 1 (LDP1) that is open to all permanent employees. This program is a self-paced learning program that is done completely online. The next LDP1 class is tentatively

scheduled to launch in August, a formal announcement should be coming soon.

Many who graduate from LDP1 choose to move onto LDP2 such as project engineer, Ben Ferrell, who is participating in the 2017 LDP2 class.

"LDP1 was a valuable and enjoyable experience that helped me to understand and cultivate my personal leadership style through private study and mentoring," Ferrell said. "While I look forward to continuing to develop my leadership skills, I'm most excited about adding the collaborative, group-focused approach that LDP2 offers."

The program continues to evolve and is a key element of the District's comprehensive employee development program and supports the USACE Campaign Plan, Mississippi Valley Division's Implementation Plan and Rock Island District's Operations Plan. Additional information regarding these plans can be found at: <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/mvd/mvr/Pages/Operations-Plan.aspx>.


To learn more about the District's leadership development programs visit the District SharePoint Training Site at: https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Leadership_Training.aspx. 

Training Tidbits

By Sara Paxson, District Training Officer

Leadership Development Program Level 1 (LDP1)

is scheduled to launch soon. Be on the lookout for additional information or visit the Leadership Development Training page at: https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Leadership_Training.aspx to learn more.

The new training management system, **Total Employee Development (TED)** is well underway. The pilot is going so well it looks as if it might become a new enterprise-wide system for training. Currently the system is being used to complete mandatory training, build FY18 Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and identify training needs. To access TED, visit: https://ted.csd.disa.mil/ted/TED_Main.cfm. If you are a new TED user and are unsure how to access the system or if you are in need of additional assistance with the system, please contact your office training coordinator. 

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RETIREE'S CORNER



Rock Island District retirees gather at the 2017 Corps Day at Veteran's Memorial Park in Bettendorf, Iowa, on June 16 for coffee and a presentation from District Commander Col. Craig S. Baumgartner.
Photo by Katherine Rosario

RSVP Now

The Annual Rock Island District Retirees' Luncheon will be Sept. 8, at the Quad City Botanical Center, at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 per person, including tax and gratuities. Reservations and advance payment are required. Checks should be made out to Dudley Hanson and mailed to 3812 North Thornwood Avenue, Davenport, Iowa 52806-5250. Deadline for reservations and payment is Sept. 1. 