



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®

# TOWER TIMES

Rock Island District's News Magazine

April/May 2017



Mississippi River Lock & Dam 17  
Dewatered, Maintenance Performed



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

# TOWER TIMES

**Contents**

**April / May 2017**

On the Cover



Maintenance crews at Lock and Dam 17, near New Boston, Illinois, perform winter maintenance inside the dewatered lock chamber. *Photo by Samantha Heilig*

- 3 Change in Season Brings Increased Operations -**  
Col. Craig Baumgartner, District Commander
- 5 District Wins USACE Excellence in Contracting Award**
- 6 Mississippi River Lock & Dam 17 Dewatered, Enabling Maintenance, Inspections**
- 8 District Employees Participate in 2-Day Flood Fight Training Event**
- 9 Rock Island District Hosts Annual Critical Incident Stress Management Training**
- 10 Spotlight on the District - Mark Burton**
- 12 Around the District**
- 14 Safety Corner - Hand Injury Prevention**
- 15 Knowledge Now - A New Tool in USACE**
- 16 Corps Day Information**

## *Tower Times*

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*A message from....*

**Colonel Craig Baumgartner, District Commander**



## *Change in Season Brings Increased Operations*

**S**pring has arrived and with it a shift in focus begins within our District. After spending much of the winter months in a planning and maintenance phase, the warmer weather opens up a lot of activities within our primary business lines. From navigation and flood risk management, to recreation, District operations are in full swing.

The navigation season, which never officially closes in our District but mostly ceases from December to March, is underway with all 20 of our locks and dams fully operational. Several of our locks underwent critical maintenance during the winter months with Locks 15-17 on the Mississippi River closed for an extended period. Bulkhead slots were installed at Locks 15 and 16 in order to prepare for future maintenance like what was done at Lock 17, which was dewatered to perform various inspections and maintenance. This work, completed with help from a regional team that included employees from St. Paul District, was invaluable to ensuring the navigation system was ready for business in time for barge traffic to resume.

And resume it has. After a banner year in 2016, which saw near record commodities traveling through our locks on the Upper Mississippi River system, navigation is once again underway providing for a critical economic engine. Our lock crews have already faced and overcome a couple of challenges this spring including an incident at Lock and Dam 22 in early April when barges broke loose from a tow. The barges came to rest against the dam which eventually resulted in a need to close the river. Our Mississippi River Project office, in coordination with the Operations Division, did an excellent job to ensure the closure was as brief as possible. Communicating with the U.S. Coast Guard, our staffs were able get the incident under control. The response of the lock crew and our project office was outstanding and I was proud of their efforts.

Navigation is a prominent responsibility for our District but other critical missions begin ramping up with the arrival of spring and summer. Although last year we had to respond to a rare winter flood on the Illinois River, typically our flood fight activities begin to get more attention during this time of the year. Rock Island District is known across the Corps as a center of expertise when it comes to fighting floods. We are the designated National provider of flood fight

materiel, which is an Enterprise capability overseen by our Emergency Management Division and Contracting Division. This Nation-wide capability is something we can be proud of, and just as impressive is our flood fight response within our area of operation.

Flood fight teams, led by flood area engineers, stand ready to deploy to communities throughout the District boundaries to provide technical assistance and capabilities when flooding occurs. Those flood fight teams experience natural turnover and need fresh volunteers on a regular basis. This year, the Emergency Management team conducted a two-day, flood fight training seminar that included class work followed by hands-on training with flood fighting equipment and materiel. The training is excellent, leveraging our existing knowledge and expertise to pass on to the new members of the flood fight teams. More than 40 District employees took the training. That is great turn out and I see the attendance as indicative of the kind of dedication that is so prevalent throughout our team. Taking on the duties of flood fighting is essential work that is made possible by those willing to volunteer.

The current flood outlook was positive but that of course can change at a moment's notice. Our Emergency Operations Center was recently activated when heavy rainfall caused flooding concerns across the Midwest. Our District was prepared and ready to respond as needed.

As we maintain our emergency response preparedness and keep navigation moving, we are also gearing up for the recreation season. As one of the largest providers of recreational opportunities in the Upper Mississippi Valley, many Rock Island District recreation sites have been reopening as the season has changed. Camping, boating, fishing and other water related activities will be the chosen form of recreation for millions of Americans in the coming weeks and months. Many people will choose our facilities. Whether it is boating at Lake Red Rock, or camping along the Mississippi River, our nearly 100 recreational sites will provide a refreshing, fun break from the daily grind. Natural Resource Specialists across the District will be out engaging with visitors, providing interpretive experiences and promoting water safety. The value the District provides

*(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

to the Nation through our recreational component is quite extensive.

I am always amazed at the breadth of the Rock Island District footprint. In one vein our teams help drive the national and global economies by maintaining the navigation system and that system's ability to get products to market. In another vein, the District has the expertise and capability to assist a community facing the devastation of natural disasters like flooding. And, in yet another vein, the Rock Island District is providing socio-economic enhancement in the form of recreation. These are all vastly different missions and capabilities, all falling under the Rock Island District umbrella.

But, as impressive as all that is, improvement is always possible. One way to seek out organization improvement is to complete the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey – FEVS. During the month of May, randomly selected employees will receive the FEVS via email. I implore ALL of you who receive the survey to take part and fill it out. This is the best way to understand what possible shortcomings exist and reinforce successes we seek to sustain. The FEVS is very important to me and I feel it is the primary tool to shape our District's future. This District is obviously doing great things but I ask that we embrace an opportunity to share our perspective. Although the survey is anonymous and I will have no idea who fills it out, those who do, have my sincere appreciation. Thanks for all you do each and every day and CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG! 🇺🇸



Photo by Samantha Heilig

## Lockmasters Gather for Annual Meeting

Front Row (left to right) **Lisa Wenzel**, Navigation Project Assistant; **Bob Castro**, Chief Locks and Dam Section; **Aaron Dunlop**, Mississippi Waterway Operations Manager; **Mike Cox**, Chief Operations Division; **Col. Craig Baumgartner**, District Commander; **Mark Burton**, Illinois Waterway Operations Manager; **Craig Hess**, Chief Locks and Dam Section; **Margaret Rush**, Navigation Project Assistant.

Second Row (left to right) **Nicholas Schnerre**, L/D 16; **Gary Kilburg**, L/D 11; **Jon James**, L/D 13; **Bradley Hank**, L/D 14; **David Schipper**, L/D 22; **John Mueller**, L/D 12; **Perry Jones III**, Brandon Road; **William Cross**, LaGrange; **Christopher Rush**, Starved Rock; L/D 20; **Derrick Glisan**, L/D 15.

Third Row (left to right) **Michael Bielser** L/D 18; **Matt Whitley**, Civil Engineering Technician; **Clifford Wright**, Marseilles; **James McDaniel**, L/D 21; **C.J. Brooks**, L/D Civil Engineer; **Alan Dickerson**, Lock 19; **Jeffrey Gibbs**, L/D 21; **Scott Cooper**, L/D 17; **Larry Hibler**, Dresden Island; **Michael Walsh**, Lockport; **Robert Balamut**, T.J. O'Brien; **Douglas Morgan**, Peoria.

# DISTRICT WINS USACE EXCELLENCE IN CONTRACTING AWARD

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District's contracting Division was awarded top honors by the USACE Excellence in Contracting Awards Program for fiscal year 2016.

The District competed against seven other Districts throughout the country and earned the District/Center of the Year Award for outstanding efforts in meeting contracting milestones and metrics requirements.

"A big accomplishment for us this year was our ability to meet all of our P2 milestones; where we were able to

obligate funds to contracts by the deadline," said Scott Harris, District contracting chief. He added that the ability to obligate funds on time meant the contracts were not delayed.

The contracting department doesn't just play an integral role in funding the contracts, it is also responsible for closing out the contract once the work is complete.

The District's contracting team worked hard to ensure all contracting metrics were met on time, Harris said, and that dedication showed during their recent procurement management review, an audit performed by headquarters every three years to determine the performance level of the office.

"The procurement management review done by headquarters showed that we were in the green and effectively working as a team to get the contracts taken care of," Harris said. "We also learned that we were the only District to be in the green [top ratings] among the Districts they had already reviewed."

Harris credits the award not only to his immediate team, but the District's employees as a whole.

"We have really hardworking people here and have a great support team outside of contracting," he said. "Everyone should share in this award and be proud of the work they do."

As for trying to win the top spot again next year, Harris said he and his team will keep working to be as efficient as possible as more contracts continue to come in. 



Stuart A. Hazlett (front row, center), director of contracting for USACE, visited the District's contracting office in October 2016 to review their contracting efforts.

Photo by Samantha Heilig



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

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



Nov/Dec  
Answer:  
Lockport Upper  
Gate

Winner: Tom  
Heinold

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOCK & DAM 17 DEWATERED ENABLING MAINTENANCE, INSPECTIONS

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

Lock and Dam 17, in New Boston, Illinois, closed this winter to undergo a dewatering as part of several maintenance projects performed at District locks from December to March.

Brad Heuzenga, maintenance section project engineer, said, “We only get to do a dewatering maybe every 40 years or so, and it exposes a lot of the problems that we don’t ordinarily get to look at when there is water in the chamber.”

The dewatering project allowed District engineers to inspect and repair portions of the lock that otherwise couldn’t be done with water in the chamber, explained Aaron Dunlop, Mississippi River operations manager. The project also tested the ability of the lock to be dewatered

quickly and reliably in the future.

All of the projects slated for the lock were purposely scheduled during the winter months, so as not to disrupt the heavy flow of summer river traffic.

In addition to regular maintenance of the lock chamber, crews also completed the installation of the lower bulkhead slots, which included the placement of a sill beam.

“There is also work going on at the lower end, installing sill beams, which you wouldn’t be able to do if the water was in the chamber,” Heuzenga said in February.

The sill beam provides a base against which the chamber bulkheads will sit on and seal against. This beam is lowered into the water prior to the dewatering and secured by divers. Once the lock chamber is dewatered, the beam is



During the dewatering at Lock 17, crews accessed areas of the lock not normally exposed and repaired damaged portions of the concrete wall. *Photo by Samantha Heilig*



**A hydro-demolition machine was used at Lock 17 to remove old concrete from the lock walls. Photo by Samantha Heilig**

...tied to the chamber floor with reinforced concrete.

The bubbler system, which prevents ice formation in and around the miter gates, was also repaired as part of the maintenance project.

Structures Maintenance Supervisor, Justin Carter, said, “The old concrete is just bad and really deteriorating, so we had to come in and pour new concrete and hopefully that will ensure a longer life out of the lock.”

Old, degraded concrete was removed from the lock using the hydro-demolition machine, which uses high-pressure water to blast away at the concrete, and new concrete was poured in its place.

Also new to this dewatering was the replacement of the upper embedded miter gate anchorages. The recently replaced miter gates now hang from heavy-duty anchorages.

“It’s important to dewater them [the lock chambers]. It gives us the chance to do a lot of the work and it gives our engineers the opportunity to come in and see some of the possible problems so we can schedule more maintenance in the future,” Heuzenga said. 🇨🇦

# LOCKS PREPARE FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE

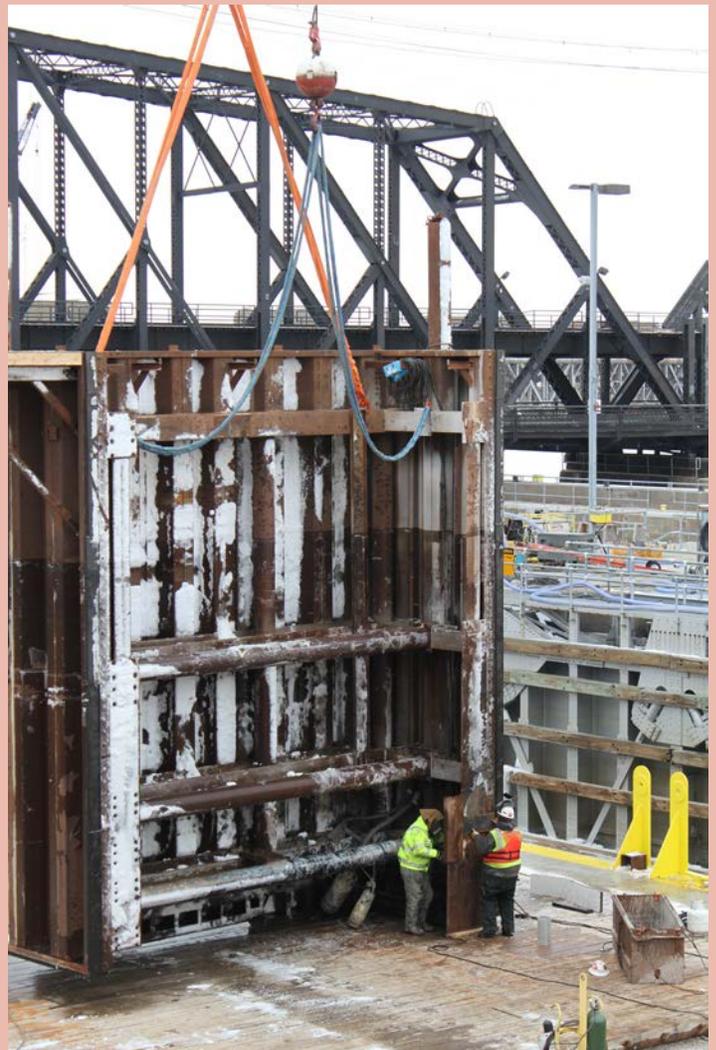
Locks and Dams 15 and 16 received bulkhead slots as part of their winter maintenance projects.

“In the past, poiree dams were used to dewater the lock,” said Adam Ziegler, project manager.

Two big advantages of the new bulkhead slots, he said, are the added safety and ease of installation compared to the previous method.

“Bulkhead slots will facilitate the dewatering of a lock chamber for future maintenance needs,” Ziegler said.

These slots have already been installed at locks up and down the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, he said, and the installation at Locks and Dams 15, 16, 18 and 22 will complete all of the locks on the Mississippi River. 🇨🇦



**Crews work to install a temporary coffer dam at Lock 15 in preparation for cutting bulkhead slots. Photo by Katherine Rosario**

# DISTRICT EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN 2-DAY FLOOD FIGHT TRAINING EVENT

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

**W**ith the snow melted and the spring rains filling up the rivers, 40 District employees attended a workshop to discuss proven flood fighting techniques and teach the newest team members.

“This training is important to train our new, entry-level engineers on the accepted practices of flood fighting,” said Rodney Delp, chief of emergency management.

When an employee signs up for the flood fight training, they sign a commitment form that they will join a flood fight team and be available to assist with the next flood, Delp said.

“Assistance would entail pairing up new trainees with seasoned assistant flood area engineers,” he said.

The first day of training was spent indoors learning about public laws, roles and responsibilities of flood fight team members and how to



**John Quick, engineering technician, explains how to properly contain a boil with sandbags during Flood Fight Training.** Photo by Katherine Rosario

appropriately communicate with media. Day two allowed participants the chance to receive hands-on training on how to most effectively fight floods under various circumstances.

“Filling a sandbag isn’t just about throwing dirt into a bag and throwing it onto a larger pile,” Delp said during the hands-on portion of the training.

Although it may seem like a simple task, Delp assured participants that understanding the proper technique could mean the difference between keeping water out or experiencing a leak in part of the sandbag levee.

John Quick, an engineering technician with the District, also taught participants what to do when they come across a boil during a flood fight.

“Creating a good seal with the sandbags is the key to containing the boil,” he said. “Once the barrier has been established you can come back and monitor the boil and adjust your bag placement.”

Employees also learned how to work the diesel pump and properly set up Hesco Bastion flood protection barriers. 



**District employees train on the various methods of filling and laying sandbags during Flood Fight Training.** Photo by Katherine Rosario



**John Behrens, deputy director, Inland Navigation Design Center, demonstrates how to operate the flood pump during Flood Fight Training.** Photo by Katherine Rosario

# ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT HOSTS ANNUAL CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

By Katherine Rosario, Editor

**S**tress is part of everyday life. Stress can be harnessed to make a positive change or stress can hamper productivity. How stress is managed and the tools used to manage it are important in achieving positive outcomes both in work and family settings.

Corpswide, employees encounter different types and levels of stress on a daily basis - from boating accidents at the locks and dams, to flood fights that affect peoples' homes and livelihood. So to help people handle the unique stressors of their jobs, an all-volunteer group of Corps employees created the Critical Incident Stress Management program.

More than 15 years later, the CISM program has grown to include more

than 60 peer supporters from various Corps offices throughout the country, who volunteer their time to guide other employees through stress-coping techniques.

"We all know what happens at work affects the home life," said Kevin Ewbank, one of the District's peer supporters. "This is true in any business or career field, and when you add in the extra stress experienced by Corps employees in our varied business lines, the impact on personal lives can increase exponentially."

Employees experiencing a specific stressful event are paired up with a peer supporter who can empathize with their situation, often because they work in the same field and have encountered a similar situation.

"One very important part of CISM is selecting and using the most appropriate crisis intervention tactic to best respond to the needs of the situation at hand," Ewbank said.

John Wuebker, the national deployment manager for CISM, explained that empathy is key when volunteering to deploy to a work site that has significant stress.

"The coping skills we can provide help get employees back to maximum production levels," Wuebker said.

In 2016, the CISM team had more than 1,760 interactions with employees, which included more than 200 one-on-one support encounters.

"We are here to provide support to the commanders and the managers of the Corps to help get their employees

in the right frame of mind after a stressful event occurs," Wuebker said.

This year's CISM training focused on the importance of helping Corps employees handle the high stress levels that accompany working out in the field during an emergency response.

"With the large focus on pre-education, this team is equipping the entire Corps team to become more resilient and cope with disasters worldwide," Ewbank said.

Tom Janisko,

*(continued on page 11)*



**More than 40 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees from throughout the country participated in a weeklong training program that teaches them coping techniques to use during stressful work events, such as a flood fight. Photo by Katherine Rosario**



# Spotlight on the District

## MARK BURTON

### ILLINOIS WATERWAY OPERATIONS PROJECT MANAGER

By Samantha Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

**A**lthough Mark Burton is the new Operations Project Manager for the Illinois Waterway, he is no stranger to the Corps mission. Mark recently retired as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant Colonel and joined the Rock Island District in January.

“It is a natural fit for my career to cross over from the military USACE to the civilian USACE,” he said. “The mission, work, language and culture of excellence makes USACE (whether military or civilian) the best choice!”

Originally from Columbus, Indiana, Mark graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in 1989, and was commissioned as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Officer right out of college. He also earned his Master’s in Arts from Norwich University in 2013.

He served in the military from October 2001 to January 2017, and was stationed in Hawaii, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Germany, Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, Puerto Rico, Ft. Devens, Massachusetts and Ft Knox, Kentucky.

“I am highly motivated by serving our nation,” he said. “The freedoms and liberties we have are worth protecting.”

He previously served with the U.S. Army 84th Training Command, Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and has a background that includes facility construction and operations, facilities assessor, both facilities and command inspectors general, military construction project officer, facilities construction contract management engineer, and numerous other duties during his career in the Army.

“Serving in USACE is a dedication and duty I humbly take with the upmost sincerity,” he said. “Serving our country is my core value as a soldier, civilian employee and as an American!”

Burton’s experience also includes work management system manager for Indiana Department of Transportation, where he implemented a statewide conversion of their maintenance management system. He also served as a park manager and an operations manager early in his career.

The best part about his job, he said, is working alongside positive people.

“The staff are professional, competent, and most of all- courteous! People are the foundation for any endeavor. USACE has a strong foundation of professionalism and trust because of all of the great people in the organization,”



**Mark Burton swapped out his Army uniform for a suit and tie this January when he joined the District as the new Operations Manager for the Illinois Waterway Project.**

*Photo by Samantha Heilig*

Burton said, adding that this is a quality he has witnessed throughout his USACE career.

Along with his wife and three boys, Mark has settled in Peoria, Illinois. He enjoys hiking, boating and camping as well as bragging about his boys.

“My oldest son is a freshman at West Point,” he said.

The best advice he can give to other Corps employees is that working for the government is a humbling and sacred trust.

“Millions of American citizens are depending on us,” he said. 🇺🇸

(continued from page 9)

USACE command surgeon, said the peer supporters are superb listeners who have volunteered their time to listen to their peers who are experiencing a stressful event.

“The peer-to-peer support that this team provides is the key to helping their fellow coworkers feel less burdened by stressful events,” he said. “The goal here is to reduce the suffering and pain that Corps employees may experience when faced with a stressful situation, such as a fatal accident at their worksite or a stressful flood fight.”

Cynthia Bethany, CISM’s licensed clinical social worker, has been on the team since its inception in 2000, and sees firsthand how peer-to-peer support works.

“You have a whole room full of people who care about their fellow employees and volunteer their own time and put themselves in stressful situations so they can help others,” she said.

While the peer supporters are busy helping lessen the emotional burden of other employees, her job is to teach the CISM volunteers how to take care of themselves, she said.

“These volunteers are highly trained on how to come into a stressful environment and support their fellow Corps coworkers and care for these people until they can stand on their own, and that can be emotionally

taxing on them,” she said. “My job is to give them practical coping techniques so they can also take care of themselves.”

CISM National Program Manager, Beverly Noel-Chavez, joined the team in 2002 after her boss recommended her for the position. Although originally unsure about the program, she quickly recognized its importance.

“My first day on the job as a Corps employee, during the first four hours of my shift, I experienced a traumatic event,” she said. “I recognized that it impacted me, but was told that it was just part of the job as a park ranger and to work through it.”

She said she worked to find ways to deal with the stress that accompanied her job, but wished she had the support to know that what she was feeling was ok.

“This program helps people work through the stressors that occur during a traumatic event and lets them know that they aren’t alone,” she said.

CISM Planning Manager, Mike Wade, recognized the importance of peer support and volunteers his time on the senior leadership team.

“In order for the Corps to function well during an emergency response, we need our employees to handle stress well and be able to bounce back quickly,” he said. “People are our most valuable asset and the CISM program is an extension of our most valuable



**Mark Roderick (right), presents Kevin Ewbank (left), the Mark Roderick Excellence in Peer Support Award during the annual CISM training April 6 at Rock Island District. The award is presented to the peer support volunteer who goes above and beyond in assisting employees during times of need.**

*Photo by Katherine Rosario*

asset.”

For questions about CISM or for information on how to deal with stress, contact the Rock Island District CISM Subject Matter Expert at (515) 276-4656 ext. 6516. 

**F  
E  
V  
S**

## Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey

*Empowering Employees. Inspiring Change.*

**THE 2017 FEDERAL EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT SURVEY (FEVS) WILL BE SENT OUT SOON. THOSE OF YOU WHO RECEIVE THE SURVEY ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. KEEP IN MIND THAT YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.**

**THE FEVS IS A CRITICAL TOOL IN IDENTIFYING WHAT WE, AS A DISTRICT, ARE DOING WELL AND AREAS THAT ARE PRESENTING CHALLENGES. YOUR INPUT COUNTS TOWARD SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT AS WE ENDEAVOR TOWARD CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ON ALL FRONTS.**

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND KNOW THAT YOUR INPUT WILL BE HEARD AND VALUED, AS WELL AS DRIVE FUTURE ACTION. THE HIGHER THE PARTICIPATION, THE MORE ACCURATE OUR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS.**

# Around the District

## Congratulations...



Congratulations to **Chris Hawes** and his wife, Rachel, on the birth of a baby girl on Jan. 16. Elowen Jean weighed in at 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.



Congratulations to **Katie Rosario** and her husband, Gil, on the birth of a baby girl on Jan. 18. Sara Felicity weighed in at 5 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 inches long.



## Employee of the Month...

### Congratulations to Mr. Timothy Koehn January Employee of the Month

In addition to his regular duties as Assistant Lockmaster in Dubuque, Iowa, Mr. Koehn also serves as a Collateral Duty Safety Officer for Lock and Dam 11. Mr. Koehn was recognized as January's employee of the month for the outstanding safety procedures he instituted at Lock and Dam 11 starting in December. As a result of his efforts to update site-specific safety plans, the site has greatly improved its emergency response capabilities. He coordinated with local emergency response teams (police and fire) and provided them with scenarios they might encounter during an emergency at Lock 11. Mr. Koehn also planned and coordinated CPR training and hosted training to test rescue plans and procedures with employees. Furthermore, Mr. Koehn took the initiative to work with staff to ensure guard rails on the chamber were rebuilt to the regulation height for safety.



## Retirements ...

**Patrick Flaherty**, Assistant Master, Towboat, Mississippi River Project, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 31 years of service to the federal government.

**Herbert Boisso**, Lock and Dam Operator, Marseilles LD, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 31 years of service to the federal government.

**Thomas Minear**, Attorney-Adviser, Office of Counsel, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 30 years of service to the federal government.

**Ronald Plante**, Military History Program Specialist, Military Munitions Support Section, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 33 years of service to the federal government.

**Michael Malone**, Master Tender, Mississippi River Project Office, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 35 years of service to the federal government.

**Thomas Kirkeeng**, Civil Engineer, Hydraulics Section, retired Dec. 31, 2016, after dedicating more than 31 years of service to the federal government.

**Sally Duncan**, Chief, Contracting Division, retired Jan. 3, after dedicating more than 37 years of service to the federal government.

**Michael Zerbonia**, Supervisory General Engineer, Operations Manager, Illinois Waterway, retired Jan. 3, after dedicating more than 32 years of service to the federal government.

**Herbert Wendt**, Lock and Dam Operator, Marseilles LD, retired Jan. 6, after dedicating more than 33 years of service to the federal government.

**Gregory Holsinger**, Lock and Dam Operator, Marseilles LD, retired Jan. 6, after dedicating more than 11 years of service to the federal government.

**Randy Griggs**, Lock and Dam Operator, LaGrange LD, retired Jan. 31, after dedicating 20 years of service to the federal government.

**Dean Daib**, Carpenter, Saylorville Lake, retired Jan. 31, after dedicating more than 19 years of service to the federal government.

**Thomas Gerlich**, Lock Operator, LD 11, retired March 1, after dedicating 35 years of service to the federal government.

**Keith Bloomer**, Lock and Dam Operator, LD 14, retired March 31, after dedicating more than 26 years of service to the federal government.

**John Stiffey**, Lock and Dam Operator, LD 20, retired March 31, after dedicating more than 30 years of service to the federal government.

**Robert Gullion**, Maintenance worker, Lake Red Rock, retired March 31, after dedicating more than 20 years of service to the federal government.

**James Hipschen**, Lock and Dam Equipment Mechanic, LD 19, retired March 31, after dedicating more than 29 years of service to the federal government.

**David McIlrath**, Maintenance Worker, Coralville Lake, retired March 31, after dedicating more than 35 years of service to the federal government.

## Sympathy ...



**Patrick McFarland, 75**, of Lowden, Iowa, passed away Dec. 25, 2016.

McFarland worked for the Rock Island District as a Lock and Dam Repairer for Structures Maintenance before retiring in 2006.



**Daniel Callahan, 82**, of Montgomery, Illinois, passed away March 27.

Callahan worked at the Rock Island District for 18 years prior to his retirement in 1989. In 1971, at age 36, Callahan became the youngest employee to achieve the status of Lock Master. He also served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1959.



**Donald F. "Grizz" Whitmore, 90**, of Davenport, Iowa, passed away Feb. 8.

Whitmore worked for the Rock Island District as the chief of warehousing before his retirement. Whitmore also served his country as a member of the U.S. Army during WWII and was stationed in Japan.



**John Wilken, 79**, of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, passed away April 2.

Wilken worked in both the Rock Island and Baltimore districts before his retirement from the Corps. Wilken also served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy.

# SAFETY CORNER

## HERE IT COMES

### Hand Injury Prevention

#DYK 12 percent of all on-the-job injuries involve the hands and fingers, according to the National Safety Council? Injuries to the fingers and thumb rank as the third most frequently injured body parts.

#### Usual causes of hand injuries include:

- Indiscipline
- Inattentiveness
- Shortcutting safety procedures

#### Always remember to:

- Wear the proper PPE
- Be aware of your surroundings — watch for pinch points and rotating or moving surfaces
- Remove jewelry and any clothing that could get caught in machinery
- Pay attention to the details and don't get complacent

## READY ...OR NOT?

**Ready ... or Not** is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead — both the known and unknown. #ArmySafety

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcomes of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has the tools to keep you and your Soldiers safe, both on and off duty. Visit us online at <https://safety.army.mil>.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



<https://safety.army.mil>



## Knowledge NOW!!! A New Tool for Everyone in USACE

<https://kn.usace.army.mil>

By Danny Thurmond, Knowledge Management Representative

**K**nowledge NOW!! is a place for ALL of USACE to “Collect, Pull, Push and Connect” information and knowledge.

It is a “YouTube-like” website where we can all find “how to” videos on simple and complex topics. Curious about how to do something that you think should be simple? How to do timekeeping? You may just find a helpful video in Knowledge Now if you just take a look.

Knowledge Now is already populated with a multitude of short videos on many topics. And if you can't find something you know would be helpful to others you can easily contribute your own helpful videos. See your District Knowledge Management Representative if you have questions.

Many USACE employees are already taking advantage of what they can find in Knowledge Now.

MVD Emerging Leaders are filming a series of videos that will serve as their annual Class Project and will eventually be added to the USACE KN site. The topics of their videos will include ProjectWise, Storyboard, CEFMS, SharePoint, and Career Program."

"Knowledge Now" supports keyword searches and includes functions for uploading work-related videos, attaching documents, and connecting people to additional information through web links. The site is CAC-enabled and internal to USACE.

Employees can create screen capture videos with Microsoft

PowerPoint. ACE-IT has approved two video software packages for video editing: SnagIt and Camtasia. Video files must be smaller than 50 MB and must be formatted as an .MP4. Most videos are less than 10 minutes and either provide an overview or detailed "how to" instructions for a specific topic.

By collaborating together across the entire Corps to share our collective knowledge and information, we will accelerate the pace of learning; reduce errors and unnecessary rework; and increase our readiness and adaptability."

For more information, the point of contact is Danny Thurmond, MVD KMR.

Test Drive Knowledge Now..... NOW! 

## Training Tidbits

By Sara Paxson, District Training Officer

**New Management Training System:** Rock Island District launched a pilot of a new training management system in March 2017. For the remainder of FY17 we will be utilizing the Total Employee Development (TED) training management system. Currently, we are utilizing the system to complete our mandated training and bypassing ALMS to do so. During the month of May, the District will launch another phase of the system and start developing FY18 Individual Development Plans to submit our PROSPECT training needs survey to the USACE Learning Center (ULC). TED link: [https://ted.csd.disa.mil/ted/TED\\_Main.cfm](https://ted.csd.disa.mil/ted/TED_Main.cfm). If you are a new TED user and unsure of how to access the system, please contact your office training coordinator for further assistance.

**Leadership Development Program** Level 1 (LDP1) and Level 2 (LDP2) are both scheduled to launch in FY17. Be on the lookout for additional information on both of these worthwhile leadership development opportunities or you can find information on the Leadership Development Training page within the District Training SharePoint site: [https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Leadership\\_Training.aspx](https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Leadership_Training.aspx).

**Training Questions?** Do you have questions about training opportunities? Are you looking for assistance with accessing a training course? Your office training coordinator can assist you directly with all your training needs. If you are unsure of who your office training coordinator is you can look it up on the office training coordinator SharePoint Site: <https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/MVR/trng/SitePages/Training%20Coordinator%20Look-up.aspx>. 

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

# **Corps Day 2017**



**Friday, June 16  
Veterans Memorial Park  
Bettendorf, Iowa**



*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.*