

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

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Emergency Operations and flood recovery

The EOC. What is its purpose? Who operates it?

The mission of the EOC is to provide a consolidated command and control facility for the operation of the District during an emergency situation and to assist the District Commander in making sound and timely decisions in response to emergency requirements.

The occurrence of an emergency within the District requires implementation of appropriate emergency plans and the reaction of District elements to provide for rapid and coordinated collection of current data as the emergency situation develops.

The Chief, Readiness Branch makes a recommendation to the District Commander that the EOC be activated depending on the nature, type, and seriousness of the emergency. When activated, the physical operation of the EOC is the responsibility of the Chief, Readiness Branch. The staffing of the EOC will vary depending on the nature of the emergency. During a flood event the EOC is staffed with a variety of personnel. Clerical assistance is required to provide local citizens with the constantly updated river stage and forecast information provided by Dave Busse and the people of Water Control, and to direct the numerous incoming calls to the right person. Technical assistance is required to keep track of the distribution of sandbags, pumps and plastic sheeting. Engineering assistance is provided by the Geotechnical Branch, Civil Engineering and Electrical/Mechanical Sections. Assistance is also necessary to keep track of personnel and prepare daily situation reports. Other offices such as Contracting, Logistics and Information Management provide assistance as the need arises.

The EOC, that room with empty desks and large maps, becomes the District focal point for responding to a disaster.

More articles on Emergency Operations begin on page 6.



LTG Williams, Chief of Engineers, greets staffers in the E.O.C. during the Flood of '93.



Commander's Perspective



**LTC John R. Jones
Deputy Commander**

A "Ready" district has as its foundation competent and confident leaders. Every member of this district team is a leader in one way or another. A leader learns to fulfill their own expectations and the expectations of those they work with without compromising on timeless and self-evident principles (i.e. integrity, loyalty, trustworthiness, courtesy, thriftiness, etc.). Effective leaders usually fulfill the following expectations:

Competence: We must all "know" our business. Accomplishing the mission within established standards (time, money, regulations, etc.) is a by-product of competence. We all expect one another to be competent in our jobs. Those who are competent, confident and possess a positive mental attitude are followed. Those who are competent and possess character (a person exhibiting principle-centered leadership) builds personal trustworthiness which leads to relationships of trust and effectiveness.

Listening: Leaders effectively listen (different from hearing). Problem solvers are good listeners and have the innate ability to identify those "red flags" early on to prevent problems from spinning out of control. Leaders cultivate a sense of curiosity, possess an inquiring mind and ask the tough questions. Conflict resolution is also based on effective two-way listening skills. Remember, seek first to understand and then to be understood.

Respect: Treating each other with dignity and respect is vital to the health and welfare of the command. Being sensitive to each other's needs and concerns is important. Respect is a two-way street - a leader will be given the same level of respect that he or she shows for others. Also, loyalty to the absent is a form of respect.

Obtain feedback: Obtaining feedback for continued improvement is important. By conducting after action reviews on completed tasks/missions to obtain lessons learned will drive self and organizational betterment. Conducting a review of what was supposed to happen; establishing what happened; determining what was a success and/or what needed improvement; and lastly determining how the task should be done differently next time are all vital steps to improvement. A person or organization that is through learning is through.

Set the example: All of our actions set personal and professional examples for those we lead. Effective leaders place priceless value on principles (integrity, trustworthiness, etc.). Yes, sometimes this results in being unpopular or doing something that may be inconvenient.

One closing thought: I believe it is important in life to be happy, to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable and to be compassionate. To have made a value added difference every day is rewarding for both the organization and self. Not only are you responsible for leading your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best possible place for the next moment.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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Carlyle Lake:

Christmas trees

The Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and more than 40 volunteers, including several youth organizations, assisted with placing Christmas trees in areas at Carlyle Lake on Saturday, March 23.

All volunteers gathered at Keyesport Boat Ramp to tie, anchor and place about 1,000 Christmas trees in the lake to improve fish habitat and fishing opportunities at the lake.



Volunteers prepare to take Christmas trees to destination.

Power application

The Carlyle City Council, at its April 18th meeting, authorized funds for Barnes, Henry, Meisenheimer and Gends, Inc., of St. Louis, to complete a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application and obtain construction approval for a hydroelectric plant at Carlyle Lake. The application must be completed by May 14. The run of the river plant is expected to provide long-term stable rates for the City of Carlyle.

Coalition

On March 12, Carlyle Lake Project Manager, Robert Wilkins, and Senior Water Control Manager, Dave Busse, met with about

News Briefs

75 persons at the Carlyle VFW who were interested in forming an upstream lake coalition to work with the Corps. Thirteen people volunteered to organize the coalition. Representatives of the Okaw River Basin Coalition and the Mid-Kaskaskia River Association also attended the meeting and pledged to work with the new organization.

Dam inspection

The four gates at the Carlyle Dam were recently inspected and greased. Over a period of five days, stop logs were placed in each of the gates and lake personnel completed periodic inspections and maintenance on each.

Wappapello Lake:

JAKES Award

The Heartland Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), who's president is our own Mike McClendon, Wappapello Project Manager, received the federation's award for best JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) event of the year. The JAKES program offers hunter apprenticeship schools and opportunities for involvement in NWTf conservation efforts.

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is nearing completion. Exhibits are scheduled to be completed and installed by the end of May, and a grand opening is planned for June 15.

Topics such as water safety, natural resource management and Corps history will be interpreted in the displays. A working

model of the dam, gatehouse and emergency spillway will explain the flood control process by clearly illustrating the structures involved and demonstrating the conservation, recreation and flood pools.

A 300 gallon aquarium will educate the public about lake fish, and an interactive computer will detail individual recreation facilities, outdoor hazards and special events.

Welcome aboard

Welcome aboard to Allen Mehrer, the newest member of the Wappapello Lake staff. Allen and his wife Doris come by way of Mark Twain Lake. Allen has a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from SIU Carbondale.



Rend Lake:

Safety training

A Hunter Safety training course held at the Visitor Center, April 5 and 6, attracted a capacity crowd of 35. Sections of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) course were taught by Rend Lake Park Rangers. The course is required training for anyone born after January 1, 1980, before obtaining their first hunting license in Illinois.

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Service Base Open House

by Marge Robbins, CO-TO

The weather was rainy, cold and stormy, but that didn't deter current District employees, retirees and their family members and friends from attending the Service Base Open House held on Saturday, March 23. More than a hundred hearty visitors enjoyed the opportunity to tour the various facilities and "put the names to the faces" of the individuals responsible

Many visitors were disappointed that the historic Dredge POTTER was unavailable for tours. This sixty-plus year old vessel is the last operating steam plant in the entire nation-wide Corps of Engineers fleet of dredges. The POTTER is still undergoing much-needed repair in drydock at the Memphis District Ensley Engineer Yard. She and her crew will probably remain at Ensley an additional 4-6 weeks in order to complete all the nec-

essary repairs.

Overcoming that disappointment, though, was their opportunity to tour the newly-commissioned M/V PATH-FINDER which was manned by Howard Fields,

Captain David C.L. O'Connell and crewmembers Rob Maue and Aaron Kaplas demonstrated many of the features of the M/V BLANKINSHIP. They explained the methods used aboard the BLANKINSHIP to routinely collect soundings, point velocities, bed material samples, velocity measurements and depth integrated suspended sediment samples. The vessel's hydrologic data collection system consists of software written by SLD personnel.

Many guests appreciated the chance to finally see the much-publicized M/V SIMPSON. This 42'-long, state-of-the-art survey vessel is equipped with channel sweep capability. Captain Carl Okenfuss and ED-HG Geodesist Joe Burnett presented all the unique capabilities and features of the vessel to many interested visitors who had previously only read about them.

An added bonus for holding the open house that particular weekend was the availability of the Memphis District's M/V MISSISSIPPI. Today's MISSISSIPPI is the 5th U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vessel to bear that proud name. This 3-year old flagship of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) was in St. Louis to conduct the

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Assistant Engineer Paul York explains M/V Mississippi engineroom operations to Ray McCollum, ED-HG, Patti Fisher, ED-HG and others.

for the maintenance and operation of the District's floating plant. SLD retirees were well-represented and thrilled to reacquaint themselves with current District personnel.

Matt Struckel, Chief, Physical Support Section, welcomed guests to the modern James J. Dorsey Administration Building. His commanding view of the river from his second floor office was the envy of everyone who toils in the windowless cubicle society of the District Office. The welding facilities and machine shop were shown by Joe McElligott, Shop Foreman. Visitors were amazed at the equipment and capabilities of these facilities. Office dwellers gained a new appreciation for the dexterity required to safely operate such a massive array of machinery.

Deckhand Leader. This state-of-the-art vessel is equipped with the latest electronic positioning equipment and is a most impressive replacement for the previous like-named channel patrol/towboat which served the St. Louis District for thirty years. Although bigger and better than her predecessor, this magnificent new vessel was still dwarfed by the huge cranebarge SEWELL and towering lock replacement gates which her skillful crew often transport to the locks for installation and repair work.



Rosa Johnson, HR-T, and friend and Barb Scott, HR, and husband prepare to board the M/V Blankenship.



Congressionally-mandated annual MRC inspection and public hearing trip all the way to below New Orleans. Marge Robins, Technical Operations Section, acted as St. Louis District host for those who wished to inspect this extraordinary vessel. Many crewmembers assisted in conducting



Retiree Joe Bisher (center) and pals in front of M/V Pathfinder.

tours. Special appreciation goes to Captain John Dugger and Chief Engineer Ray Gailey for allowing SLD people to visit the M/V MISSISSIPPI.

Paul Clouse, ED-HG, gave numerous demonstrations of the River Engineering and Environmental Geographic Information System (REEGIS) on the computer he had set up on the M/V MISSISSIPPI. This comprehensive database was developed in technical support of all river engineering and environmental applications within LMVD. Ken Kruchowski, Public Affairs, was on-hand to assist media representatives. Rachel Garren, Technical Operations Section, guided a writer/photographer from Professional Mariner magazine through all the vessels. He devoted particular photographic attention to the M/V PATHFINDER.

If you were among the robust individuals who braved the weather to participate in the open house, I hope it was enjoyable. Several of you have already expressed your appreciation for the opportunity to attend. Con-Ops personnel considered it a pleasure to host this open house and look forward to the possibility of planning similar events in the future.

News Briefs (cont.) Wild workshop

Rend Lake hosted a Project Wild workshop at the Visitor Center in April. Teachers and other youth leaders attended the one-day workshop led by IDNR facilitator Valerie Keener. The 27 workshop participants had the opportunity to explore some of the many educational opportunities available at the lake.

White pelicans

A flock of about 20 white pelicans has been spotted many times in early April near Ward Branch at Rend Lake.

Resort expansion

Construction has begun on a major expansion of the Rend Lake Resort at the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. Plans are to add 48 rooms, more than doubling the current lodging capacity of the resort. An 80 foot by 100 foot banquet center is also being added to the resort as part of the expansion.

Dam safety

Jim Brown and several of his colleagues from the Engineering Division conducted a dam safety training for lake employees in early April. The training covered a variety of things that will help lake employees know what to look for when doing routine inspections of the dam.

Driving range

The Rend lake Conservancy District opened a new lighted golf driving range this spring near the entrance of the Gun Creek Campground.

Reservations

During the first two days of the campsite reservation program at Rend Lake, 358 reservations were made. This amounted to one reservation per every 2.7 minutes that reservations were being taken.

Mark Twain Lake:

Volunteers

Marie and Delbert Schindler of Hannibal, Missouri, volunteered their time and efforts to restoring and planting flowers at the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center. They are working toward their designations as "Master Gardeners."

Poster contest

In March, more than 600 seventh and eighth grade students from area schools learned about the Boating Under the Influence - Drugs and Alcohol water safety contest. Park Rangers visited the classrooms, presented a water safety program and explained the details of the contest. The winning poster will be made into a billboard that includes the artist's name, age and school. The billboard is then displayed at four locations along major highways in the lake area.

Plant maintenance

The replacement of an intake gate and annual maintenance for unit one at the Clarence Cannon Power Plant was completed in April. Work was accomplished during a scheduled outage and finished ahead of schedule.

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Levee facts

The number of levee systems under the jurisdiction of the St. Louis District increased with the addition of the Missouri River levees in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties. We now inspect 39 Federal systems and 43 non-Federal systems. These systems consist of 713 miles of levee protecting approximately 570,000 acres of urban and agricultural

land. In addition there are 67 pump stations that are inspected annually. The eight flood response teams consist of 85 employees. Con-Ops, (65%) Engineering Division, (20%) are the largest participants with the remaining from Project Management, Planning Division, Real Estate and Office of Counsel.

Communications

by Steve Johnson, IM-I

Communications, in time of disaster, is one of the most valuable tools necessary for response and recovery. If we cannot communicate between the Emergency Operations Center, our people in the field and higher headquarters, we are severely handicapped and unable to activate/reach our resources.

The St. Louis District has several means of communicating in the event of disruption to normal communications. We maintain an emergency "High Frequency" system which consists of stationary and portable radios, antennas and generators. A 1000 watt high frequency transmitter is located in Summerfield, Illinois, and is remotely controlled from the telecommunications office. In addition, a 500 watt high frequency transceiver is located at Locks 27 in Granite City, Illinois. This system is also portable. Two self-contained "suitcase" radios are included in the arsenal of high frequency radio equipment the St. Louis District has at its disposal. These 100 watt radios may be powered by a car battery or an a/c source. To increase their range

we have two trailer mounted crank-up antennas with gas powered generators should the need arise for mobile communications.

The District participates in several communication exercises throughout the year to insure a high degree of operational readiness is maintained in the event of an emergency. Every Wednesday the district checks into the division radio net and transmits a data message to Vicksburg, MS. We also participate in Corps wide "No Notice Alert Exercises". These generally occur three to four times a year and test our ability to establish communications with other Corps sites using emergency radios and procedures.

We continue to maintain and exercise this equipment to ensure that a communication infrastructure is available should a major disaster occur.

Workin' in the EOC

by Ida Morris, ED-H

Working in the EOC can be very stressful, especially in events like the Great Flood of 1993. During that event, the whole St. Louis District was in danger. Phones rang constantly every day. Calls were from our Congressional/state/city offices, the media, companies, the public, military commanders and personnel, and Corps of Engineers' employees. People would call and ask us anything from "What is the river stage" to "Should I buy flood insurance. Should I move out of my home or business?" By the end of the work day (12 hours) we were all drained. At times a feeling of depression would set in. We all wanted to help as much as possible, but when you know people are losing their homes and businesses, (including co-workers and family members), it is very hard to separate personal feelings.

One person was in charge of sandbags and one was in charge of pumps and hose; so those individuals were constantly taking

(Continued on the next page)



Jeff Stamper, Illinois River Sector Engineer (left center), discussing seepage with local interests and Col Suermann.



Trials of a flood fighter

by Susan Janota-Summers, CO-F

calls from Federal/state/city officials, companies, the people in charge of disbursing sandbags, Corps employees, private individuals, etc. Sometimes they had people on three or four phone lines waiting to speak to them. The paperwork had to be kept up-to-date to assure the stock was always available. People in LM and CT worked closely with these individuals.

Everyone anxiously awaited the river stages from Water Control. The board got updated several times a day. There is a television set that is on the weather channel. We got so sick of seeing "green" on the weather maps. Green means rain, and when you see green every day, you get sick of it!

The daily staff meetings are very interesting. People from all offices come in to discuss where the "hot spots" are and reports are given for all areas. When the phones weren't quite so busy, we got to listen in on the meetings. It also helped when answering telephone questions.

The permanent EOC personnel were there whenever anything of a questionable nature came up. Their expertise helped hold the operation together. They remained calm during the most crucial situations and never seemed to "lose it."

The work is tiring, but very self-gratifying. After everything calms down and gets back to normal (if there is such a thing after a disaster), it is comforting to know that we - the employees of the St. Louis District - had a part in making it all a little easier for everyone.

I learned many valuable lessons during the Flood of '93. But one lesson, or rather illustration, stands out among the rest. Is there a person among us who has not attended a class or training session where you performed this exercise? Everyone sits in a circle and the first person whispers a message to the next. Everyone is told to repeat the same message to the person next to them, until it gets to the last one. The last person compares the message they received with the one that was sent by the first person -- and guess what! It seems that there is very little similarity between them.

Well, let me tell you. This message was no better illustrated than on one fine night along the Mighty Mississippi River in the Wood River Levee and Drainage District.

It was late in the evening and I spotted several sandboils along the base of a section of levee. I reported this to the folks in the EOC and the levee district as well. I told the people at the levee district that a couple of hundred sandbags and a half dozen "sandbaggers" could easily handle the situation before it got away from us. Thinking back perhaps I should not have used the term "before it gets away from us."

Well-l-l, they seized the moment. My couple of hundred sandbags quickly became 500 plus. And those half dozen sandbaggers -- yup, twenty-five. Now you may say to yourself, heck that's not so bad. But oh no it didn't stop there. All of this was reported to the National Guard. (Please keep in mind that we had also agreed to keep this "low key" given the high visibility of the area.) Now the National Guard is

ready to come to the rescue. They hear the story and they interpret it just a little differently. When they show up they have not six, not twenty-five sandbaggers, oh no, they show up with four large troop transports and two 18-wheeled, flatbed trucks filled with sandbags.

Are we done yet? Heck no. It's nighttime, you've got to have lighting don't you? Two emergency vehicles, with lights that could flood Busch stadium set up along the roadside, pointing down to the sandboils. Now that's low keyed isn't it? Are we done yet? Not on your life!

With all that equipment and people running along the high-



Col. Suermann inspecting flood fighting efforts in Meredosia, Ill.

way and down on the levee, a concerned citizen stopped to help out. This helpful pyromaniac, with safety on his mind, ignited over 100 flares, and set them out on the highway. I don't remember much beyond that. I do remember the arrival of folks from the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Highway Patrol and some guy in a helicopter. I also remember muttering "It was such a simple request, where did I go wrong."

Of course this was not my only memory from the '93 flood, but every time I think about it I smile, shake my head and say "It seemed like such a simple request."



Other roles in the EOC

by Rober Hayes, CO-TO

During the '93 Flood, I was asked to help answer phones in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which had just opened. A few of us took calls, most of which were from people with homes or businesses within the flood plain inquiring about crest predictions. After a day or two of handling phone calls, Emmett and Jake were looking for someone to fill in for Ben Venturella who was about to begin working evenings as the E.O.C. moved to 24-hour operation. Because I was familiar with the programs which Ben used to compute flood costs, I got the nod, and have been in the E.O.C. for each successive flood.

My role in the E.O.C. is two-fold and relates to computing costs associated with fighting floods (salaries, vehicle costs, & per-diem) and composing the daily situation reports. This begins with preparing files for the day, collecting reports from the

area engineers, and beginning to calculate daily costs associated with flood fight efforts. This data is used in each day's Situation Report.

Early in the morning during flood events, upon arriving at the E.O.C., it is evident that an emergency is underway. Several people are on the phone, other phone lines are ringing, conversations are on-going, the fax machine is rolling out reports from flood areas, and the "board", along the north wall of the E.O.C. is being updated with current river stages and crest predictions. Activity usually continues to escalate well into the morning.

Around 10 a.m., on most days, depending on current flood developments, the Commander's Briefing is held. The east end of the E.O.C. fills with people representing Divisions and teams performing an important flood fight role. During these meetings, the Colonel is briefed on recent flood events and assignments are made, or, following discussion,

courses of action are chosen.

Because the cafeteria is not in operation on weekends, Saturday and Sunday lunches can be a challenge. Often, E.O.C. staffers take turns picking up orders from a fast food restaurant. Occasionally pizzas are delivered. A few people bring their lunch with them. When the Burger King boat broke loose from its moorings near the Gateway Arch and slammed into the Poplar Street Bridge during the Flood of 93, lunch times were a little easier. For a while there, we could get a Whopper and fries while coming across the bridge.

Of course, the most important work during floods is performed in the field, where the water meets the levee, so to speak. Most of our roles in the E.O.C. and elsewhere in the District office are in support of the efforts of our dedicated people who work long, hard hours along the swollen river corridors of our District. Anyone wondering if a diverse mixture of people can pull together to accomplish a difficult and complex mission need look no further than a St. Louis District flood fight team.

Levee slides difficult to repair

by James Hill, Project Manager, Flood Recovery Task Force

Since the record floods of 1993 and 1995, I'm sure everyone in the District has become keenly aware of the damages that were sustained by the levees and other flood control infrastructure in the St. Louis District. The majority of the 1995 flood damage repairs being conducted by the Flood Recovery Task Force are levee breaks, wave wash and levee berm scour. However there is yet another type of flood induced damage that some levees experience that requires a unique repair procedure and equipment. I am talking about "levee slide repairs."

Most of the engineers and construction staff in the District are intimately aware of slides and their causes and repairs. However, prior to my assignment as a project manager on the 1995 Flood Recovery Task Force, I knew little about them. How about you? What is a levee slide?

A levee slide occurs when an earthen section of a levee structure fractures, and separates from the levee slope. It then "slides" by gravitational pull down the slope thereby reducing the mass and stability of the levee and its flood control capability. Levees constructed of highly plastic soils (a.k.a. "fat clays" or "gumbo") are very susceptible to sliding due to continuous cycles of

swelling and shrinking. This ultimately leads to severe drying and cracking resulting in a loss of soil strength within the levee embankment. When the right conditions occur, like a flood, the levee sections will slide.

Degognia Fountain Bluff, Grand Tower and Preston Drainage and Levee Districts, the three districts for which I am assigned repair responsibility, are separate but interconnected levee districts in southwestern Illinois. All three have reaches that are very susceptible to slide development. Currently an emergency repair construction contract is underway at these levees to repair 17 slides

(Continued on next page)



Slides (continued)

ranging in length from 50 to 300 feet long.

These federal levees were built in the 1950's using heavy fat clay materials naturally occurring in the area with 1 vertical on 3 horizontal side slopes, 20 foot wide levee crowns and a height of 25 feet. These levees performed very well against the worst two floods in history. The only 1995 flood damages at these three levees that required repairs were slides. This is a chronic problem on certain reaches of these levees where high plastic clays were used during their initial construction. Levees built out of these "fat clays" today would have much flatter slopes, no steeper than 1 vertical on 4 horizontal to hold the soils in place.

In recent years it has been determined that levee slides caused by high plastic clays can be effectively repaired by altering the soil chemistry using a hydrated lime chemical treatment. Rather than bore you with details I will just say that this hydrated lime stabilization method requires specialized construction equipment and entails treating the soil excavated from the slide with a specified mixture of good ol' water and hy-



Slide repair at Degognia Fountain Bluff Levee District.

drated lime powder. The next phase involves replacing the treated soil back into the levee section following stringent procedural methods and environmental conditions. And finally, placing a layer of untreated topsoil on the levee slope surface and seeding it. If procedures and conditions are not strictly met, the chances for a permanent fix cannot be guaranteed.

Fortunately for the St. Louis District, we have a successful track record for permanent slide repairs because of the meticulous efforts of our experts in the Geotechnical Branch and our Construction Quality Assurance Representatives in the field.

Wade Visitor Center opens

The newly remodeled Floyd R. Wade Memorial Visitor Center located at Locks 27 in Granite City, Illinois, has reopened. The Center features an interactive touch screen exhibit, interesting displays and a mini theater which shows "Opening the Waterways." The Visitor Center will be staffed by volunteers and open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through September.

The Visitor Center was closed in May 1995 while the electrical equipment at Locks 27 was being updated. During the rehabilitation, the original lock controls were replaced with computer operated equipment, electrical cabling was replaced and emergency power generators added.

The area is a favorite location for the public to view river traffic, lock operations and to learn more about the Corps of Engineers. For more information about the Visitor Center and volunteer opportunities contact the Rivers Project Office, P.O. box 337, West Alton, MO 63386 or telephone (314) 533-6585 or (618) 462-8005.

News Briefs (cont.)

Lake Shelbyville:

Gift certificates

Gift certificates for camping at Lake Shelbyville are now available. They can be purchased at the project office from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They can be used in any of the six Corps operated campgrounds at the lake and are valid through the end of the next camping season.

Christmas trees

Christmas trees, 770 of them, were placed in the lake near Wolf Creek State Park on February 24. Several volunteers helped load and haul the trees in boats to the designated areas. Lunch was provided by American Angling Association. Berkely-Trilene and the Charlie Brewer Slider Company provided incentive awards for the volunteers.

Raptor awareness

A Raptor Awareness program will be presented by the World Bird Sanctuary at the Coon Creek Amphitheater at 2 p.m. on May 11. This program, featuring birds in their natural environment, will help visitors understand the relationship between birds, their environment and humans.

State presentation

The Prairie State Primer will be presented by John Lynn at the Visitor Center at 4 p.m. on May 25. This is a slide presentation with personal narration by John Lynn. It is a unique opportunity, through colorful photographs and entertaining stories to tour the overall features, plants and animals and heritage of Illinois.

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Did you know ?

by Brenda Hamell, HR-R

Since the time of the Civil War, veterans of the Armed Forces have been given some degree of preference in appointments to federal jobs. Recognizing that sacrifices are made by those serving in the Armed Forces, Congress enacted laws to prevent veterans seeking federal employment from being penalized because of the time spent in military service.

By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over nonveterans both in federal hiring practices and in retention during reductions in force (RIF). Among competing employees, the order of separation is determined by type of appointment, veterans' preference, length of service and performance ratings. However, certain employees who retired from military service are not eligible for preference for job retention purposes.

Preference does not have as its goal the placement of a veteran in every vacant federal job; this would be incompatible with the merit principle of public employment. Nor does it apply to promotions or other in-service actions. However, preference does provide a uniform method by which spe-

cial consideration is given to qualified veterans seeking federal employment.

Preference applies in hiring from civil service examinations, for most excepted service jobs, and when agencies make temporary appointments or use direct hire and delegated examining authorities from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

General requirements for preference

- * An honorable or general discharge is necessary.
- * Military retirees at the rank of major, lieutenant commander, or higher are **not** eligible for preference unless they are disabled veterans.
- * Guard and Reserve active duty for training purposes does **not** qualify for preference.

* When applying for federal jobs eligible veterans should claim preference on their application or resume. Applicants claiming 10-point preference must complete form SF-15, Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference.

Types of preference

Five points are added to the passing examination score of a veteran who served:

- * During the period December 7, 1941, to July 1, 1955; or
- * For more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; or
- * In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized, including Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia and Haiti. Medal holders who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered on active duty on or after October 14, 1982, must have served continuously for 24 months or the full period called or ordered to active duty. The service requirement does not apply to veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities, or to veterans sepa-

rated for disability in the line of duty, or for hardship.

Ten points are added to the passing examination score of:

- * A veteran who served at any time and who (1) has a present service-connected disability or (2) is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension from the military or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Individuals who received a Purple Heart qualify as disabled veterans.
- * An unmarried spouse of certain deceased veterans, a spouse of a veteran unable to work because of a service-connected disability, and a mother of a veteran who died in service or who is permanently and totally disabled.

Preference in examination

Veterans meeting the criteria for preference and who are found eligible (achieve a score of 70 or higher) either by a written examination or an evaluation of their experience and education are eligible to have 5 or 10 points added to their numerical ratings depending on the nature of their preference.

For scientific and professional positions in grade GS-9 or higher, names of all eligibles are listed in order of ratings, augmented by veteran preference, if any.

For all other positions, the names of 10-point preference eligibles who have a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more are placed ahead of the names of all other eligibles on a given register. The names of other 10-point preference eligibles, 5-point preference eligibles and non-veterans are listed in order of their numerical ratings.

Entitlement to veterans' preference does not guarantee a job.



District co-op students part of winning team

Three SCEP (co-op) employees, Lance Engle and Brent Guttmann, Construction Branch, and Renee Conrad, Geotechnical Branch, and six other civil engineering students from SIUE (Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville) competed in the Mid-Continent Regional Steel Bridge Contest held March 23, at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The event was sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Institute of Steel Construction.

The competition requires students to design and fabricate an all steel bridge. This year's scenario describes a bridge to span eighteen feet, carry a distributed load of twenty-five hundred pounds with a maximum vertical deflection of two inches, and to resist a one hundred pound horizontal load deflecting less than one inch. There are restrictions on connections and member characteristics. For instance, the maximum length of any member may not exceed five and one half feet.

Each bridge is scored on construction speed, weight, vertical deflection, efficiency (a combination of deflection and weight), economy (a combination of weight and construction speed), and aesthetics. SIUE had a 68 pound

bridge and 3 minutes 4 seconds assembly time. This resulted in the team winning weight, efficiency, and economy categories, as well as First Place overall.

Other schools that participated in this year's competition were Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC), Washington University (Wash U), University of Missouri at Rolla (UMR), University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC), Kansas University



The bridge assembled and doing the job.

(KU), Kansas State University (KSU), and Oklahoma State University (OSU). OSU won construction speed. Although their bridge held the minimum weight of five hundred pounds, it failed under heavier loads. UMR won deflection, aesthetics, and Second Place overall. KU's bridge passed, ranking Third in the judging. The other bridges were disqualified due to excess vertical deflection.

SIUE and UMR are both invited to attend the National competition May 24-25, in Buffalo, New York.

Quote of the month

Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another and of strength to be derived by unity.

Vince Lombardi

RESDRO: What does it mean

by LTC Les Kampen

RESDRO is more than just another annoying acronym. It stands for Reservists in Support of Disaster Operations. In order to understand what they do and how they fit in to the big picture, take a look at how an emergency develops from emergency response to recovery.

Assistance at the time of an emergency comes from many organizations at the federal, state and local levels.

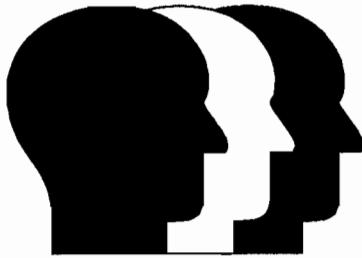
Initial response comes from first responders who live in or near the affected area. These first responders come from law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians. Because these organizations have mobility and communications capability as well as diverse specialty duties, they are invaluable to the impacted area. Their first aid training, fire suppression and population control capabilities as well as their Incident Command System (ICS) training help as the next wave of emergency responders move in to assist. Usually, the next to assist are the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, providing food, clothing, shelter and preliminary damage assessment.

If damage is severe and/or wide spread, mobility and communications are affected or cut off. In many disasters the only communication from the affected area to the outside world is initially provided by amateur radio. Communications with outside help augment local response capability by involving state agencies.

As soon as a disaster declara-
(Continued on page 13)



Unassembled pieces of the bridge.



EEO matters

By Jean Stephens, EEO Officer

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. During May we celebrate the contributions of those of Asian-Pacific descent to the history and culture of the United States. We thought it appropriate to use this column to honor three outstanding people of Asian-Pacific descent, Elaine L. Chao, Norman Yoshio Mineta and Lieutenant General Allen Kenji Ono.

Elaine L. Chao, Deputy Secretary-Designate United States Department of Transportation, was nominated by President George Bush in 1989 for the number two post at the U.S. Department of Transportation. She had formerly served as chairman of the



federal Maritime Commission. Prior to that, Chao had been Deputy Administrator of the Maritime Administration for the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. Before that post, she was Vice President for Syndications of Bank America Capital Markets Group. From

1983-1984, she was a White House Fellow with the Office of Policy Development and Senior Lending Officer in the European Banking Division for Citibank, N.A.

Miss Chao was born March 26, 1953 in Taipei, Taiwan. Miss Chao graduated from Mount Holyoke College (A.B., 1975) and Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration (M.B.A. 1979).

Representative Norman Yoshio Mineta, (D-Calif.) was born in San Jose, California on November 12, 1931. He attended



the public schools in San Jose. He graduated with a degree in business administration from the University of California in 1953. Between 1953 and 1956, he served in the U.S. Army. He is the owner/agent of the Mineta Insurance Agency. Representative Mineta has over a quarter of a century of public service and social and civil rights activism including service as a San Jose Human Relations Commissioner, San Jose councilman; member of the Japanese-American Citizens

League and San Jose Chamber of Commerce; vice mayor, mayor and member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian. In 1974, he was elected to the 94th Congress and reelected to each succeeding Congress. He is chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the standing Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Lieutenant General Allen Kenji Ono was born on December 31, 1933 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has a BA degree in Government from the University of Hawaii and a master's degree in communications from Shippensburg State College.



From 1955 to 1956 he was a student, Infantry Officers Basic Course, United States Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. During the 1960's and 1970's he served in Korea, Hawaii, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Pentagon. As a lieutenant colonel he was Deputy Secretary of the Joint Staff, United States Southern Command, Quarry Heights, in the Panama Canal Zone.

By the late 1980's General Ono was the commanding General, United States Army Recruiting Command, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Since June, 1987 he has been Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, United States Army, at the Pentagon.



Coming Events at the lakes

Carlyle Lake

- May 10-12 Keyesport Settler Days
- June 15 Kaskaskia Duck Race
- June 29 Firworks Spectacular/Armed Forces Day
- Sept. 21 Conservation Day
- Oct. 18-19 Haunted Trail
- Dec. 6 Visitor Center Lighting (Christmas Town USA)

Lake Shelbyville

- May 11 Raptor Awareness
- May 25 A visit with the Lincolns
- June 1-2 National Trails Weekend
- June 8 Fishing Tournament for Kids
- June 15 6th Annual Craft Show
- June 21-22 Fire Prevention Weekend
- July 4 Fireworks Extravaganza
- July 5-6 Aqua-fest
- July 13 Dog-O-Rama
- July 20-21 Lithia Springs Chautauqua Living History Tours
- Aug. 9-10 Environmental Awareness Week-end
- Aug. 17 Okaw Indian Festival
- Sept. 21 National Hunting & Fishing Week-end
- Oct. 3 Eco-Meet
- Oct. 26 Lithia Trail of Terror
- Nov. 22-24 Deer Hunt for People with Disabilities

Rend Lake

- May 17-18 Festival of Arts and Crafts
- TBA Boat Races

- Aug. 3 Summer Beach Blast '96
- Sept. 14 Rend Lake Cleanup
- Oct. 5-6 Pioneer Life Festival
- TBA Children's Arts Festival

Wappapello Lake

- May 18-19 Silver Bullet National Drag Boat Race
- June 9 6th Annual Disabled Persons Fishing Day
- July 6-7 Waterfest '96
- Sept. 28-29 5th Annual Old Greenville Days
- Nov. 23 4th Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour (through Dec. 22)

Mark Twain Lake

- May 18 An American Celebration
- June 8 Kids Fishing Day
- June 23 Mark Twain Lake Waterfest
- July 5-7 Mark Twain Lake Rodeo
- July 13-14 Primitive Artifact Weekend
- July 26-28 4th Annual Oral and Moral Storytelling Conference/Festival, Retreat and Book Fair
- Aug. 10-11 16th Annual Salt River Folklife Festival
- Sept. 14 An Adventure in Astronomy
- Sept. 20 Environmental Education Fair
- Oct. 5-6 Missouri Mule Days

Rivers Project Office

- June 10-16 National Fishing Week
- July 22-Aug. 2 Careers in Science
- Sept. 21-22 Big River Days

RESDRO (Continued)

tion is made, the federal response starts. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) is established near the affected area and a Cognitive Federal Agency (CFA) is appointed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is usually the CFA. FEMA assigned the responsibility for the Federal Response Plan, Emergency Support Function #3 (ESF 3), Public Works and Engineering, to the Department of Defense (DoD), which designated the HQ USACE as the lead agency. As part of the response and recovery effort, USACE can mobilize volunteer Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) which are reserve

soldiers with critical skills for disaster relief operations. The RESDRO program is made up of these IMAs. When activated, they augment the work force of USACE.

In recent times the RESDRO program has been used to assist in the following emergency recovery operations: August 1992 - Hurricane Andrew, September 1992 - Hurricane Iniki, March 1993 - Lake Ontario Flood/Storms, Summer 1993 - Mid-West Flood.

The RESDRO program has proven to be an effective tool to assist with response and recovery operations for USACE.

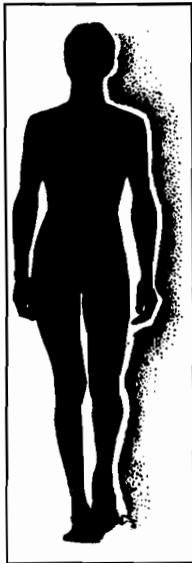


To your health



May is Stroke Awareness Month

Stroke: The preventable catastrophe



Stroke is one of the nation's most devastating health problems. The lives of its victims are changed forever, and the cost of lost wages and medical care is astronomical.

How can you personally avoid being paralyzed and/or unable to speak because of a stroke? Fortunately, four out of five strokes

are preventable, though few people realize this important fact. Here are some steps you can take now:

* Control your blood pressure. Have it checked periodically. High blood pressure (hypertension) can start early in life. If you are diagnosed as having high blood pressure, follow your doctor's instructions and take your medication faithfully.

* Check your blood sugar. Type II, the most common form of diabetes, usually begins in mid-life. By maintaining appropriate body weight and exercising, however, even those with a family history of diabetes can avoid this disease or control it with their doctor's instructions. Those who take medication to control blood sugar should follow their doctor's instructions exactly.

* Take medication for irregular heart rhythms. If atrial fibrillation is diagnosed by your doctor, new blood-thinning medicines are available that will greatly reduce your risk of having a stroke.

* No smoking, and limit your drinking of alcoholic beverages.

* Keep blood cholesterol within medically approved limits. In the U.S. this means under 200 mg/dl. In Canada, which measures in millimoles, it is 5.2 mmol/L.

* Avoid obesity; exercise regularly.

The warning signs of stroke

One survey indicates that nine out of ten people do not know the

warning signs of stroke. The TIA (transient ischemic attack) is an important indicator of trouble. It is an episode that typically lasts only a few minutes and causes various symptoms depending on which part of the brain is affected:

1. Weakness or numbness in an arm, leg or on one side of the body.
2. Impairment of speech.
3. Loss of vision or double vision.
4. Vertigo, loss of balance, or loss of memory.

With proper evaluation, the cause of these symptoms can be identified and treated. Sometimes treatment is as simple as taking aspirin or a blood thinning tablet. For severe blockage of a carotid artery, surgical removal of the blockage may be necessary.

If you should ever experience any of the advance warning symptoms, get to a hospital immediately. Prevention of a stroke is far better than treatment after it occurs.



May is National Arthritis Month

Outwitting the number one crippler

Arthritis is a general name for more than 100 kinds of disorders affecting the joints of the human body. About 17 percent of women have some type of arthritis, and 12.5 percent of men suffer its effects.

By far the most common type reported by both sexes is osteoarthritis (OA). It affects the cartilage that cushions the tips of bones.

As we age, the cartilage becomes roughened, chipped or flakes away. The result is restricted movement of the joints. It usually begins at about age 40, but symptoms may not be evident until 20 or 30 years later, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

It's this 20-year period during which we can work to prevent or decrease problems later in life. Here

are two things everyone can do:

1. Avoid carrying around too many pounds. Overweight raises the risk of OA by as much as 20 percent, especially in the knees and hips. The loss of as little as 10 pounds can help significantly.

2. Try not to abuse your joints. Some sports, like tennis, subject the

(Continued on next page)





Retiree Review

by the Retiree Correspondent

There were 33 in attendance at our monthly luncheon on April 18th. We were happy to welcome Carol Zapp, Lois Bockhorst's sister. come again, Carol. You're more than welcome.

Laurel Nelson went to a ball game instead of the luncheon. We missed you, Laurel, but know you enjoyed the game. See you next month.

Elsie and John Kalafatish were absent. Elsie's mother came down with a bad case of the flu. Hope she has recovered by now.

Mike Cullen's wife had heart surgery last week - out patient. She's doing nicely, Mike said. Speedy recovery, Naomi. By the way, they are having a house built at Center City, Florida. Beautiful spot. Know they will enjoy it. Will miss you terribly. They will close on August 15. So sorry to lose them, but they will love it. Congratulations.

Bob Lutz was present. He announced that he made an eagle (480 yards) on the golf course. Congratulations, Bob.

Bob Maxwell was our earliest retiree present - '72. Doesn't seem it has been that long.

So glad to see the Lew Scheurmanns back, the Jim Bakers, Elmer Huizengas, Bob Lutzs. Let's hope a long list to report next month.

Mary Briece was our April Birthday person. Congratulations, Mary, and many more.

The Golf Tournament was to start 4/19. Hope our "boys" were the winners. The Division Golf Tournament will be in Memphis on June 19, 20 and 21.

It was announced that there will be a Change of Command shortly. Col. Suermann will be leaving July 25.

Elmer and Estelle Huizenga have bought a

condo in Cape Girardeau and will be moving soon. Estelle said Elmer wants to be near his daughter.

Elmer told some chicken stories, but I couldn't write fast enough to repeat them.

Jim Baker, Mike Cullen and Marie Puricelli were the lucky winners of the Pot 'O Gold. Congratulations.

When I got home from the luncheon there was a letter from our "old friend" Dan Courtney. Dan said his first day with the Corps was October 10, 1929, not 1932, as a Boatman. That designation covered a multitude of jobs. He was hired and went to work on the Dredge Fort Gage as radio operator/clerk/steward at \$100 a month net. Capt. Perry, the chief operator at the Service Base said, "Twenty-four hours a day belongs to the government, the rest of the time is yours." Dan Thought he was joking, but found out very soon that he was not. So much for those "good ole days??" So nice to hear from Dan. It has been a long time since we worked together. I have many pleasant memories of those days.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 3rd Thursday of May, May 16 - at the Salad Bowl about 11. Come join in the "gossip," repartee and great socialization. Only one thing wrong. Not enough of you good people attend. Come remedy that.

Condolences

Mr. Raymond Kiel, former Shift Chief at Lock and Dam 24, who retired in 1988, passed away on Saturday, March 16th.

Mr. Clint Turner, Property Officer in Finance, who retired in 1972, passed away. He was 82.

Arthritis (continued)

knees to stress. Some jobs and hobbies put unusual stress on the hands. Manicurists, for example, often get arthritis in their thumb joints.

While some sports are hard on joint cartilage, exercise in general is not. Two studies reported in the Journal of Rheumatology show no increase in wear and tear of the knee from greater physical activity.

Some forms of exercise are beneficial. At the University of Buffalo, New York, people with OA went on an ex-

ercise program that included weight lifting, isometrics and stationary bicycling. After three months 90 percent had less pain and 85 percent improved muscle strength around the knee. Almost all performed daily activities with less pain.

For the majority of people with OA, taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as aspirin and ibuprofen will help. A more potent NSAID called naprosyn is now available without prescription.

Corps to tackle shoreline erosion

Twenty-five years of wind, rain and high water levels have taken their toll on the shores of Lake Shelbyville. Shoreline erosion poses a challenge for Corps personnel. As more shoreline is stripped away, certain campsites and other recreation areas become vulnerable to damage from high water. Steps must be taken to protect existing facilities.

Phase one of the shoreline erosion plan began March 12 with a site visit for interested contractors. Corps personnel and contractors discussed the details of the job and the sequence of the work to be done. Shoreline protection is planned for the Dam West, Dam East, Lithia Springs and Lone Point Recreation Areas, and portions of the Eagle Creek State Park. Work will consist of the placement of rip rap at selected locations to prevent further damage.

Within the next 30 years, 60 per-

cent of the campsites at Bo Wood Campground will become unusable because of shoreline erosion. Phase two of the plan includes moving camping and picnic facilities to another area in the Bo Wood Recreation Area.

Coon Creek is the largest and most used campground at the lake with roads running ridges to turnaround points of land extending into the lake. Phase three of the plan includes protecting these roads with rip rap.

Phase four includes relocating endangered facilities in Whitley Creek and Opossum Creek Recreation Areas and Okaw Bluff Group Camp. Minor shoreline protection will be done in Wilborn Creek Recreation Area and Wolf Creek State Park to ensure continued use of the beaches, boat ramps and parking areas.

Savings Bonds

by Cathy Mueller, ED-CE

If you currently purchase Savings Bonds, you are already a winner. In June, those of you who do not get Savings Bonds will get the opportunity to join the ranks of the winners list. And current purchasers will have the chance to increase their winnings through additional allotments.

New subscribers and allotment increasers will have the chance to win a \$50 Savings Bond courtesy of the Civilian Activities Council during the campaign. Watch your e-mail for important information concerning Savings Bonds.

Lookofsky wins Chittenden Award

Lake Shelbyville Park Ranger Al Lookofsky was recently honored with the St. Louis District's Hiram M. Chittenden Award. This award is given for Excellence in Interpretation, recognizing outstanding efforts in interpretation by members of the Corps of Engineers natural resources management team. Al received his award at the recent Project Manager's Meeting Banquet. He will now compete for the National Hiram M. Chittenden Award which will be announced later this year.

The award is named for Hiram M. Chittenden (1858-1917), a graduate of West Point and officer of the Corps of Engineers. As an engineer, he served on the Missouri River Commission, built the tourist roads in Yellowstone National Park and

surveyed the boundaries of Yosemite and Mount Rainier National Parks. Chittenden was an important historian of the American West. His interpretation of the importance and grandeur of Yellowstone was important in the development of the National Park ideal in the decades just prior to the formation of the National Park Service.

News Briefs (cont.)

Cruitt winner

Leanne Cruitt, Park Ranger at Lake Shelbyville, recently won a writing contest while attending the National Association Interpreter's Region V Workshop at Fremont, Nebraska. The contest was to recognize interpreters who develop excellence in written communication skills. Each inter-

Change of Command

Everyone is invited to attend the St. Louis District's change of command ceremonies. Col. Tom Suermann will pass the flag to Col. Tom Hodgini at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 25th, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Union Station, Grand Ballroom F.

A farewell luncheon will be held for Col. Suermann at the Royal Orleans on Monday, July 22nd.

Details will be forthcoming at a later date.

preter had to submit a story, fiction or non-fiction, about their worst experience as an interpreter. Leanne won a cash prize which she donated to the NAI scholarship fund.