ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

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Col. Lewis F. Setliff III assumes command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District by accepting the Corps of Engineers Flag from Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs and Project Management Joseph P. Kellett. Outgoing District Engineer Col. C. Kevin Williams looks on at left, while Brig. Gen. Robert Crear observes in the background.

Col. Lewis F. Setliff III: 48th District Engineer

Taking a firm grasp on the red U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flag being passed from Brig. Gen. Robert A. Crear, Col. Lewis F. Setliff III assumed command of the St. Louis District, becoming the 48th St. Louis District Engineer, in ceremonies in St. Louis, Thursday, June 30, 2005.

The 10 a.m. ceremony, conducted in a downtown St. Louis hotel, was attended by more than 400 current and former District employees, commanders of the five other districts in the Mississippi Valley Division and numerous guests and people from a broad spectrum of groups with close ties to the Corps and District.

General Crear who commands the

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Commander's Perspective

COL Lewis F. Setliff III

Greetings to everyone in and associated with the St Louis District! The days have seemed to fly by for me, and it hardly seems like thirty days have past since the 30 June 2005 Change of Command ceremony - and it is time to do some reflection. When the opportunity arose to make my first contribution to the Esprit, I thought what better way is there to communicate some of my initial thoughts and impressions of the St Louis District than by writing an article to all members of the District? So, here are some thoughts:

Firstly, my wife, Lizabeth, and I want to send out a tremendous "Thank You!" for the very professional Change of Command ceremony. I know this took a lot of behind the scenes work by a lot of people to pull off so well. Lizabeth and I are extremely appreciative of everyone's effort and we formed an immediate positive impression of how this District does business.

Secondly, during my transition into the District I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of people and visit a lot of places in a short amount of time (I still have a few places to go - and offices to get to – but I'm working on it). And without fail I have been very impressed with the people in this District. We have been blessed with a team of people who pull together, are motivated, and are proud of what they do. I have seen members of this District discussing their work with high levels of both competence and passion. I cannot tell you how impressive this is. This District truly consists of great people.

Another lasting impression I have formed is the complexity and diversity of work that this District does. Initially it is a bit overwhelming for a newcomer, but I can see how the core competencies of this District not only derive themselves from "water management" but have evolved into a diverse mix of critically needed national capabilities such as the Formerly Used Defense Sites, Archeological Curation, and FUSRAP programs and much, much more. The diverse types of work that this District does, and does well, is impressive. It provides a level of versatility in which to take advantage of opportunities.

A final impression I would like to mention is that we are all working during a period of challenges. Every individual, staff section, project, division, etc. has had the opportunity to tell me what their biggest challenges are. I received honest and forthright input. But, solving the hard issues is never easy. I recognize, probably more so than ever before, the challenges before us are quite daunting. To overcome these challenges and obtain what is best for this Nation, the Corps of Engineers, and this District, we will all have to work together. You will hear me mention often that "it isn't the problem; it's what you do about it, that's important." Yes there are many challenges out there, but we'll figure out *what to do about them* in a professional and competent manner.

So in closing my initial article for the *Esprit*, I'd like to recap quite simply what it took me an entire page to spell out. And that is: My impressions of the St Louis District are that we have a professional and diverse workforce, dedicated in what they do, who should be proud of their accomplishments, and stand ready to face the challenges of the future. I eagerly look forward to learning more about what we do.

Please keep in mind that we are a nation at war and I ask all of you to remember our District colleagues who have answered the call to serve overseas in harms way. They deserve our thoughts. I look forward to the coming three years with great anticipation and I thank you all for your service.

Stay safe and…Essayons!

US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District®

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Mississippi Valley Division and its six districts, stretching from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, was the principal speaker at the traditional military ceremony.

The Change of Command ceremony is a time-honored custom, the purpose of which is to emphasize continuity of leadership and unit identity despite a change in individual authority. The actual transfer of authority and responsibility is symbolically represented by the passing of the command flag from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs and Project Management, Joseph Kellett, represented all of the civilian members in the flag exchange, symbolizing the important military-civilian partnership on which the District is built today.

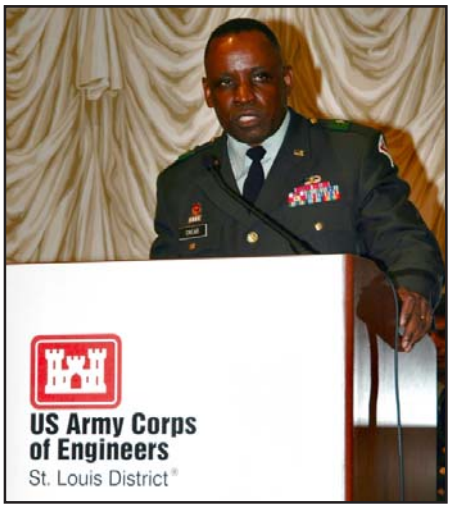
Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division commander, recognized the outgoing and new commanders in his remarks.

Focusing first on departing District Engineer, Col. C. Kevin Williams, Crear highlighted accomplishments of the District during Col. Williams' three-year tour in command. He also cited Williams for his service in the Global War on Terrorism, noting that he had been the first commander of the Central District in Iraq for six months. He called him an "agent of change, leading during war, global disasters and workload transition."

Ticking off a list of accomplishments and recognitions earned by the St. Louis District during Col. Williams' tour of duty, he spoke glowingly of the 60 District employees who have deployed for the Global War on Terrorism, 50 more who have gone to aid hurricane victims and in particular, a team gathering mass graves evidence for the trial against Saddam Hussein and members of his regime.

Asking Col. Williams to stand, Brig. Gen. Crear took the heavily-civilian-concentrated audience on a word tour of his uniform, noting the meaning of the numerous devices and ribbons, and telling them that a fellow soldier can "read" a brief biography of a service member's military history by looking at the uniform.

Recognizing the outgoing commander and his wife Debbie, the general presented them each awards: The Legion of Merit to Col. Williams and the



Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division commander was the presiding official for the St. Louis District change of command ceremony on June 30, 2005.

Brig. Gen Robert Crear congratulates Col. Kevin Williams after presenting him the Army's Legion of Merit medal on the conclusion of Williams' tour of duty as St. Louis District Commander and District Engineer. Williams' wife, Debbie, looks on as her husband receives the prestigious award recognizing his work in St. Louis and 26 years of service to the U.S. Army.

More than 400 current and former District employees, commanders of the five other Mississippi Valley Division Districts, numerous guests and others with ties to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assembled on Thursday, June 30. They came to bid farewell to outgoing commander Col. Kevin Williams and to welcome new District Engineer Col. Lewis F. Settliff III as he took over the District in a traditional change of command ceremony in a St. Louis hotel.

Commanders Award for Civilian Service to Debbie. He also presented the Silver de Fleury Award to Col. Williams. This award from the Army Engineer Association for the US Army Corps of Engineers is named for Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, a French engineer who served the American cause during the Revolutionary War.

The general then turned his attention to Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, who had just accepted command of the District.

He introduced the colonel and his wife Lizabeth to the assembled audience, noting that Col. Setliff was arriving in St. Louis from an assignment in Baghdad, Iraq, where he served as the Deputy to the Deputy Chief of Staff – Engineer of Multinational Forces-Iraq.

As the colonel's family and friends sat beaming in the audience, Brig. Gen. Crear touched on his assignments leading up to his new command, noting that this was his second tour of duty with the Corps of Engineers.

General Crear, having told Col. Setliff that he was getting "the best job a Colonel can have," noted that the colonel had held and excelled in a series of tough assignments that well-prepared him for the new job.

By way of introducing the District employees to Col. Setliff, Brig. Gen. Crear called them, "incredibly talented — well as trained, experienced, reliable, responsive and ready to face the exciting and unique challenges that the Corps and

The Honor Guard of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command in St. Louis, carries the United States and Army flags from the podium at the end of the change of command ceremony marking the handoff of command of the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on June 30.

nation faces.

The general neared the end of his remarks by reminding everyone: We are a nation at war, and certainly an Army at war. We have several hundred thousand service men and women and civilians deployed in harms way, fighting to bring about freedom and democracy. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

Thank you. God bless you and God bless America.

Then he closed with his trademark call to action, "HOOAH!"

The cake was decorated for the occasion with the Corps Castle.

Col. Lewis F. Setliff III and his wife Lizabeth share thoughts on his assumption of command of the St. Louis District with Brig. Gen. Robert Crear and his wife Reatha at Col. Setliff's post-ceremony reception.

Col. Setliff's Biographical Sketch

Colonel Lewis F. "Skip" Setliff III, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1982.

Colonel Setliff's troop assignments include assignments as a Combat Engineer Platoon Leader, Battalion Assistant S-3 and Company Executive Officer in the 12th Engineer Battalion, 8th Infantry Division in Germany. Subsequently he served as Company Commander and Battalion S-3 in the 588th Engineer Battalion, Fort Polk, Louisiana and as Brigade Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Colonel Setliff also served as the Battalion Commander of the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington. Colonel Setliff's staff assignments include an assignment as a Civil Engineer at the U.S. Army Construction Engineer Research Laboratory, Staff Engineer at NATO's LANDSOUTHEAST Headquarters in Izmir Turkey, Operations Officer in the Army's Transformation Office in DA G-3 the Pentagon, and as the Deputy to the Deputy Chief of Staff - Engineer (DCSENG) of the Multinational Force - Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq.

Carlyle Lake Manager Robert Wilkins (L) talks shop with Col. Setliff at the Kaskaskia River meeting

Colonel Setliff's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Science from the University of Florida. His military education includes attendance at the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Military Acquisition Management Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Setliff's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, the Army Service Ribbon, and three Overseas Service Ribbons. Colonel Setliff also earned the wearing of the Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Setliff is married to the former Lizabeth Ann Nash from South Bend, Ind.

St. Louis Hosts National Conference

By Nicole Dalrymple

More than 550 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers professionals from the environmental and natural resources communities met May 3-5 in St. Louis to focus on sustainability and the USACE environmental ethic.

The theme of the biennial USACE Environmental and Natural Resources Conference was "Teamwork - Coping with Change in the New Corps Environment."

Close to 150 separate sessions were held in the two-day period. They included Policy and Implementation of the Civil Works Strategic Plan for Environmental Sustainability; New Mitigation Rule Making; Environmental Stewardship Budget Evaluation; Invasive Species; The Truth about Communities of Practice; Interpretive Management Solutions; Land and Water Use Policy for Recreational Requests; International Munitions and Explosives of Concern, and others.

Mississippi Valley Commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Crear spoke from personal experience as he addressed the Corps' efforts in Iraq.

Speakers included the Mississippi Valley Division's Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, who welcomed the participants and provided an update on the Corps' mission in Iraq, and Kathy Tober, St. Louis District's Chief of Human Resources, who presented the latest information on the National Security Personnel System.

Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A Strock also addressed the conference. He stressed the need to make the USACE Environmental Operating Principles an integral part of the Corps' culture, "just as safety is today," and to go beyond the seven principles found in a brochure.

The principles, which grew out of the ENR Conference four years ago, focus on the concept of sustainability and the need to balance environmental considerations with economic and security concerns.

The Chief challenged conference participants to learn what the Environmental Operating Principles mean and to be able to discuss them with stakeholders.

He explained them as "guidelines for Corps employees and a report card for users to grade the Corps on just how well the principles are being implemented." Incorporating the principles in everything the Corps does will help the Corps become "better, faster, cheaper, safer and greener."

The environment cannot be looked at in isolation. It is imbedded in everything the Corps does, he explained. "There will be an increased emphasis on the environment and recreation and an increased rate of change."

In regards to change, the Corps' current culture is risk averse and somewhat conservative, Strock said. The Corps of Engineers is operating within a context, he went on. One of the factors is the Global War on Terrorism. Strock said the Corps will be getting more involved in deploying to failing states and assisting reconstruction efforts. Other factors are competitive sourcing, Base Realignment and Closure, resource constraints and the

Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock shared his view from the top as he discussed plans to make the Corps, "better, faster, cheaper, safer and greener."

National Security Personnel System. These challenges will 'be a source of turbidity,' he said, but they will 'make us better.'

"There is tremendous competition for resources right now," he said. "We are working in a time of limited budgets and there will continue to be competition for resources into the future."

Strock challenged the audience to maintain situational awareness. He wants the Corps to strengthen and foster strategic alliances and partnerships; listen to and understand stakeholder priorities; engage state governments for regional environmental initiatives; be a catalyst for interstate partnership on the environment; meet commitments; deliver quality products on time and on budget; create multipurpose projects as the norm; plan in a collaborative environment and leverage multidiscipline teams.

At the end of his talk, Lt. Gen. Strock presented numerous awards to attendees. Among them was Sharon Cotner, FUSRP Chief , Rachel Garren, of the District's Operations Technical and Policy Branch and Andrea Lewis, Lake Shelbyville's Operations Manager.

Cotner and Garren were recognized for their efforts in planning the conference. Lewis and the Kaskaskia Watershed Association were recognized for superior efforts in sustainable partnering. They received a 'Partners in Stewardship Award of Excellence.'

Garren said the conference would not have been such a success without the help of Kathy Niksic from the Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy.

"KKRC is a non-profit cooperating association at Shelbyville and Carlyle lakes that assisted the Corps through a Challenge Partnership agreement to coordinate the implementation of the conference," Garren said. "KKRC hired a professional event planner and assisted us in innumerable ways, many that reduced the government costs on this conference."

"This was the first time the conference had partnered with a not-for-profit organization," Andrea Lewis said. "The KKRC provided the attendee gift bags, hosted the opening ice breaker, provided break refreshments and conducted the trade show. Services the government cannot provide. Overall the conference was very professional and well done." Following the ENR Conference Operations Project Managers Seminar was held.

The St. Louis District participated in the vendor display area offering insite to the Corps' policies and plans.

"This was the first OPM Seminar and it received praise from all participants," Garren said. "All of the questions we asked participants about the seminar were answered on the evaluation forms with a good to excellent evaluation."

"It (the conference) was informative and great for networking," said Carol Ryan, interpretive services and outreach program manager for Rivers Project. She added that the conference was very important to all participants. "With minimal funds for natural resource staff to share programs and idea, conferences like this provide us with a chance to knowledge share."

"This is the only conference event when the Natural Resource Management Community of Practice get together to network and learn from each other," Ryan went on to say. "It allows us to share ideas across the Corps and receive feedback from each other on how we deal with similar issues and concerns." Creating these opportunities for knowledge sharing helps the Corps become one team that is 'relevant, ready, responsive and reliable.' The Corps is a vital part of the U.S. Army," Strock said. "We do great things."

(Portions of this article came from HQ USACE's May 17 Corps Points email.)

Lake Wappapello

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has been fortunate to have the support of many individuals who have willingly given of their time and talents through volunteer work, programs, trail maintenance, and more. Recently, the Corps was given the opportunity to share treasures from the Fansler family with the public. The Fanslers donated several animal mounts to the Corps in memory of their father, Mr. Lee Fansler, to be displayed at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center as a lasting tribute to him.

The donated mounts include a coyote, beaver, raccoons, red fox, mink, armadillo, wild turkey, and more. Plans are being made for a 30-foot mural and exhibit at the visitor center to highlight animals found at Wappapello Lake. The visitor center hours of operation are Sundays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Jeff Fansler (C) accepts a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Fansler family. Joining him for the photo are Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson Sr. (L) and Wappapello Lake Manager Gary Stilts.

Mel Price Lock Chamber's Path to Repair

A tortuous series of events that began last year on October 3 has been concluded with the 600-foot auxiliary chamber of the Melvin Price Locks being returned to service on July 1.

The story began on a Sunday morning as the chamber was being prepared to permit a group of pleasure boats to enter the chamber for a down river lockage into Pool 27.

As the boats waited above the massive concrete structure south of Alton, Ill., giant culvert valves opened to admit pool water from the Mississippi River into the auxiliary chamber, routinely used for such transits that don't require the capacity of the main 1200-foot chamber.

However, in an undetected previous incident, one of the massive strut arms on a downstream gate leaf – a waist-sized steel pipe – had suffered damage and failed to push its gate leaf to a securely mitered, or closed position.

With the one gate leaf slightly ajar, instead of the gate being a mechanically strong arch, it was an accident waiting to happen. And it didn't take long.

In an after incident report, it was told how water entering the chamber through two 12-foot square culvert valves and unable to escape fast enough through the small gap between the gate leafs, rapidly built up. Finally it caused the slightly opened leaf to begin to move. With the momentum of its 220-ton mass and absence of mechanical strength from being properly closed, one leaf clashed with the other and both were first warped and then torn as they smashed through the closed position and swung south.

The noise was reportedly akin to a train crash.

After a quick survey to ensure that nobody was injured, the ten-month sequence of action to repair the gate began.

As the sun rose into the morning sky, engineers and lock operation experts began to arrive to survey the damage, to assess measures necessary to continue safe operation of the adjacent main chamber and to plot a course to repair the leafs and return the lock to service.

Heavy lifting crane Hercules, from the Rock Island District, was the first to answer St. Louis' call for help.

Since the St. Louis District does not own a crane able to life the gates to further examine them and determine if they could even be repaired, the call went out for other regional assets. During an initial review of added measures to ensure the continued operation of the main chamber, which was now critical for continued navigation, the Corps decided to contract for a helper boat. This helper boat served as a guide to down bound tows as they approached the main chamber throughout the 9-month project.

Very soon Hercules, a heavy-lifting floating crane, arrived from regular duties on the Illinois River and the Rock Island District.

Hercules and her experienced crew lifted the first of the two, 220-ton, 57.5-foot high, 62-foot wide gate leafs and placed it gently on a barge October 17. The other gate followed the next day. The two gate leafs, each weighing only 5 tons less than the Statue of Liberty, stood silently in a vertical position on the barge as engineers swarmed over them, examining them, and measuring the warping and torn metal.

Through the coming weeks, St. Louis District experts consulted with colleagues throughout the Mississippi Valley Division, first to assess the damage and then to plot a final path to reopen the lock.

It was determined that the gate leafs could be repaired, but that they would have to be laid down flat on their smooth faces and taken to the District Service Base at the foot of Arsenal Street in St. Louis.

Due to the combination of the gate leaf's tonnage, and the distance a crane would have to reach across their width and part of a barge's beam to lay them down, it was determined that even Hercules would be incapable of performing the feat.

The call went out for the biggest and best capability in the Corps and was answered by the Great Lakes and Rivers Division's Louisville District with their massive, nearly new floating crane Henry M. Shreve.

Shreve arrived on January 2. With her crew and the St. Louis colleagues, she went to work the next day. Using her 550-ton lifting capability, extending to 350-tons at a 105-foot radius, she fought off bitter wind, intermittent showers and a dropping thermometer to lay down the first gate leaf January 3. The second leaf was successfully laid down the next day and Shreve quickly departed en route back to her Ohio River home, racing to stay ahead of the rapidly rising Mississippi as it approached flood stage in St. Louis.

The barge with the two gates, now prone and safely secured, was pushed down to St. Louis that night, arriving ahead of rising waters that could have impeded its passage under intervening bridges.

Throughout a mostly unseasonably warm winter, work went forward to repair the gates.

The traditional way to repair warped gate leafs has been to cut out bent steel and replace it with new beams and other structural pieces. This time a new method was chosen: flame, or heat straightening.

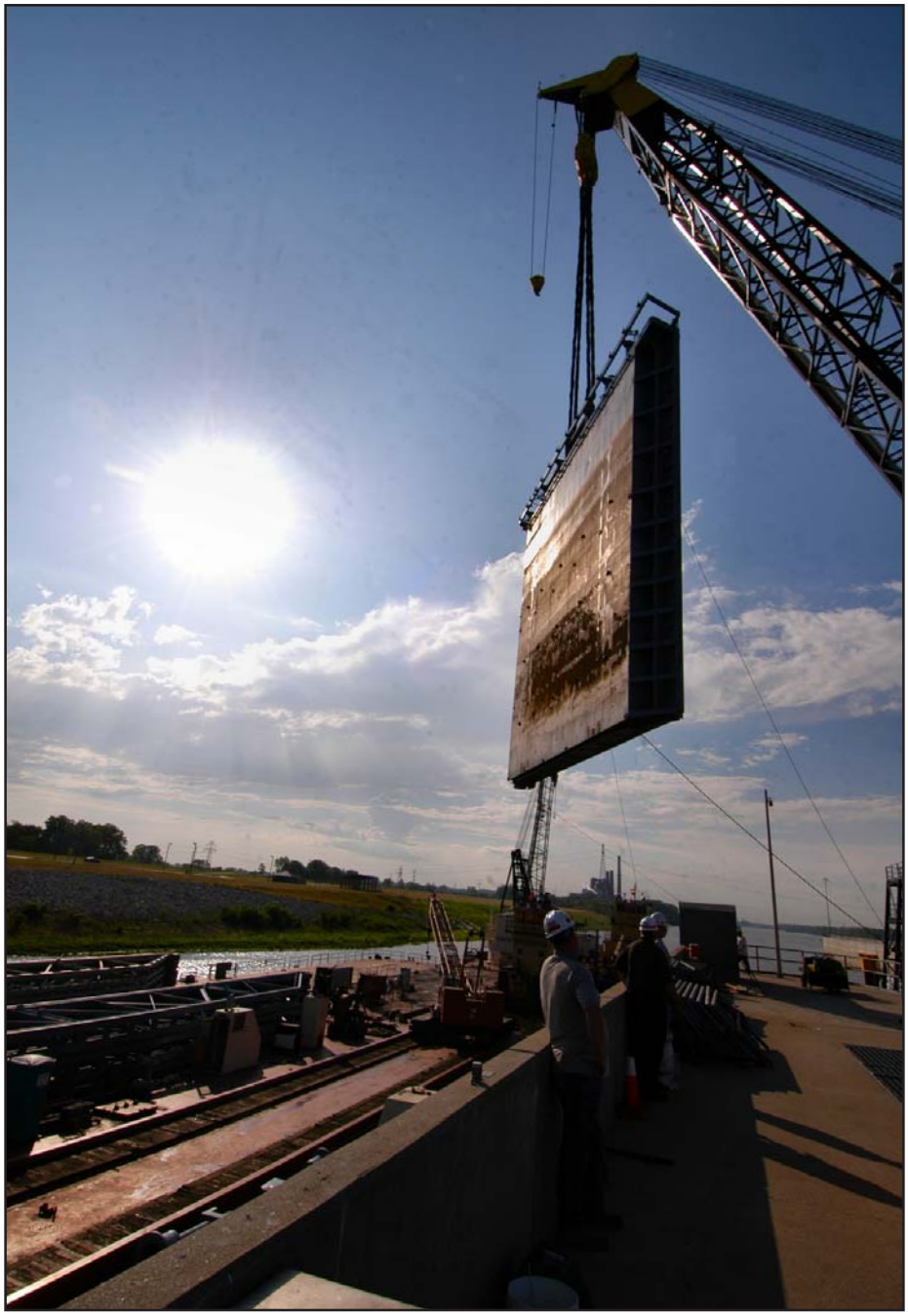
Employees of Flame-On, Inc., apply heat to bent girders to flatten the warped gate leafs of the Mel Price Auxiliary lock chamber.

The Flame-On company from Snohomish, Wash., won a contract to make the warped gates – one 22 inches out of plane and the other some 16 inches – flat again. Through repeated application of specific amounts of heat in a carefully determined pattern and sequence, the gate leafs were rapidly brought back within predetermined specifications. Throughout several more weeks torn metal was cut away and replaced and a new method of applying tensioning rods was developed and implemented.

In the past, the x-shaped cross braces on the leafs have been secured by adjustable tensioning rods on both ends on the top and bottom of each gate. However, adjusting the bottom rods has required the lock chamber to be dewatered to expose them for this work. The tensioning rods are essential for final fine adjustment of the shape and strength of the gates to permit them to operate without warping or twisting.

The new system combining a single point attachment at the bottom permits tensioning the leafs from only the top, saving many man hours and a great deal of money necessary to drain all the water from the chamber.

Both the flame straightening and eliminating bottom tensioning rods promise to reduce future costs for these kind of repairs.



The giant floating Crane Henry M. Shreve, from Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Louisville District makes light work of lifting the first of two 220-ton gate leafs into the Mel Price Auxiliary Chamber on June 7, 2005.

By early June both leafs were ready to reinstall and Henry M. Shreve and her crew arrived from Louisville. The planned one-day operation to pick the gates up and stand them in the "toaster rack" on Shreve's gate carrying barge took two days when winds above allowable safety limits intervened, but the delicate operation was completed in two days and Shreve and her precious cargo headed up stream, through Locks 27 to the Mel Price facility.

On June 8, after a day lost to high winds again, the Illinois gate leaf – the one closest to the Illinois shore – was lifted into place. The Missouri gate leaf

– closest to the Missouri side of the river, went in the next day under the watchful eye of several newspaper photographers and the local NBC-TV affiliate.

During the following days, Shreve remained on station to support the weight of the huge leafs while final machine work was carried out and the new strut arms were connected. Finally she and her crew were released to return home.

Before the lock could be reported as ready to lock vessels, several more days of adjustments and exercising the long-unused machinery were required, but on July 1 the chamber and its downstream gate – likened in a local newspaper to a 440-ton Swiss watch — was declared repaired. The helper boat was dispatched and the job was done.

A preexisting nagging hydraulic pressure problem remains on the upstream gate operating equipment, an issue totally unrelated to the October accident, which damaged the downstream gate. A culvert filling valve will require work as well. But the bottom line is: the lock chamber is operational.

A look back at the whole incident and follow-on work demonstrates that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a learning organization, flexible enough to incorporate new ideas and methods such as the new way of straightening warped gates and the new method of tensioning them.

A review of the incident also shows an organization moving toward the 2012 Corps vision that employ virtual assets and people that can be brought to bear regionally, putting the best equipment and personnel on the job to solve problems. In this case, personnel and equipment from four Districts (St. Louis, Rock Island, Louisville and for the final installation of the gate, New Orleans) and two Divisions (The Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes and River Divisions) descended as needed, on St. Louis' problem and completed the mission. It seems to work.

Inches are all that remain as the repaired gate is lowered into final position.

National Security Personnel System (NSPS): Where Are We Now?

USACE 2012, P2, PMBP and Groove: these are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tools that are driving changes in the way we do business.

A bigger change is inbound, not just for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or even the Army, but for the entire Department of Defense. It is the National Security Personnel System: the NSPS.

The NSPS is an effort to modernize the 50-year-old personnel system, which is considered inadequate and incapable of managing today's diverse DOD civilian workforce. Some of the old system's inadequacies are sluggish and cumbersome hiring processes, outdated pay and performance management systems, rigid, inflexible rules that hinder ability to meet mission needs, as well as confusing and inefficient disciplinary and appeals procedures.

The NSPS proposal offers new rules and processes for pay and classification, performance management, hiring, reduction in force, disciplinary and appeal procedures and labor-management relations.

DOD currently has 31 different personnel systems, Kathy Tober, St. Louis District's Chief of Human Resources, told a group of several hundred at the 2005 Environment and Natural Resources Conference. The diverging systems support the four military branches as well as specialized installations and laboratories that fall under the Department of Defense.

Permission to merge the systems was granted by the U.S. Congress in November of 2003. The new system is expected to look very similar to what the Department of Homeland Security is establishing.

During the initial phase of development over 50 town halls and 100 focus groups were held to hear from those who would be affected. "It was better to hear from the people who would live and work with the system," Tober explained. When the draft regulations were published in February 2005, 58,000 comments were received from individuals, labor unions, supervisors and others during the 30-day comment period. Final regulations have still not been published.

The GS and GM employees in the St. Louis District, along with those throughout all of the Mississippi Valley Division, are part of what's called Spiral 1.1 – the first organizations to deploy NSPS. Two other Corps divisions are in Spiral 1.1: the South Pacific and Southwest Divisions. This will impact approximately 8,025 employees, including 3,605 in MVD.

Implementation plans recently changed. Tober notified District

employees May 26 that "DOD is working with the Office of Personnel Management to adjust the proposed NSPS regulations as a result of the public comments and the "meet and confer" process with employee representatives."

Under the current planning schedule, the division will convert from GS grades to pay bands until January/February 2006. "So, clearly, the January 2006 GS across-the-board general increase will still be granted to GS employees," Tober said.

Training will be given to everyone who will be impacted before implementation. This will most likely occur in late 2005 during a 30-60 day period immediately before converting to pay banding. The length of training is still unknown, but supervisors should plan on at least two days and employees will likely receive a full day of training.

Supervisors will be rated on how well they implement and administer the new system. "This will be a big change," Tober said. "We're moving from an entitlement and longevity culture to a performance culture."

Employees will progress and be compensated based on their performance and contribution to the organization. The system's cornerstone is pay for performance. "Under the new system we have more options," Tober said. "It's an opportunity to really reward people who are performing exceptionally well."

Under NSPS, the overall amount of money that would have been used for the annual January pay adjustment, within grade increases, quality step increases, performance awards and similar payments, will be paid out under a different method based on employees' performance ratings and contribution to the organization. The new system is to be as close as possible to "cost neutral." The law requires the amount of money allocated for civilian compensation for organizations under NSPS not be less than the amount that would have been allocated under the current system. On-the-spot and special achievement award processes will remain separate.

Everyone's yearly evaluations will have to be done at the same time and will dictate how many shares of a "pay pool" people will get, in the form of annual pay increases and/or cash bonuses.

Those employees who are capped out in their pay band, similar to being a step 10, will not qualify for an increase in their annual rate of pay. But they would be submitted for a cash bonus to compensate them for their "shares."

DOD is developing a process that will allow employees to request reconsideration of their annual rating. Because of the importance of the performance rating process and its impact on pay, DOD will ensure that every employee has equal opportunity to seek appropriate redress from a higher authority.

The locality based component of pay will be called a "local market supplement." This will be paid in addition to an employee's basic pay. Under NSPS, the supplement will not only be based on geographical location but also on occupational factors so that it will not necessarily apply to all positions in a given location.

Implementation of the NSPS labor relations system will not eliminate unions or bargaining units. The system will not change Equal Employment Opportunities, the Merit System Principles, whistleblower protections, rules against prohibited personnel practices, Veterans preference, anti-discrimination laws, benefits such as retirement, health and life insurance, allowances and travel/subsistence expenses, training and leave and work schedules.

The system will bring many changes. When Reductions in Force take place performance will become a deciding factor before longevity. There will no longer be career conditional tenure. There will just be career and temporary.

Probably the biggest change will eliminate grades and steps. Everyone will be in a pay band instead of a grade. Initial conversion into a band will be at the employee's existing rate of pay plus an amount equal to the percentage of any step increase (within grade increase) that the employee has already earned.

"If someone has spent two years in a three-year wait toward their next step, upon conversion, they will receive an increase in annual rate of pay equal to two-thirds of a step," Tober explained. No one will receive a pay decrease upon conversion to a pay band. "Many things will need to be redefined," Tober added, pointing out that GS levels are interwoven into so many processes, procedures and regulations.

The system is designed to provide DOD many benefits, including the ability to better pay high performers. The current GS system creates many restrictions in hiring and promoting people. "It's important that people keep an open mind," Tober said. "For decades there have been rules and restrictions that were not well liked. We will now have some options so that we can compete with the private sector for recruiting and retaining talented employees and appropriately recognize people for the work that they do. We need to see this as a positive step. Change is not always bad."

Tober recommends that District employees read and learn about the system. Find out what it's all about. She also recommends that they participate in brown bag luncheons and other opportunities. An implementation team will be formed in the District to help navigate the conversion.

Project Cooperation Agreement between St. Louis District and City of Alton

Alton Mayor Donald Sandidge (L) and District Engineer Col. Lewis F. Setliff III seal the cooperation agreement with a hand shake as Congressmen Jerry Costellos looks on approvingly.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Alton, Ill., inked an agreement to share costs of developing a downtown riverfront recreation complex there, Tuesday, July 5. The agreement is part of the project to replace Locks 26 in Alton with the Melvin Price Locks and Dam about two miles south of the old lock and dam site.

It was originally authorized in conjunction with construction of the Melvin Price facility, but for years no cost-sharing partner stepped forward.

Now, through close work between the city and the District, and with final legislation being put in place by Congressman Jerry Costello (D-Ill 12th District), work will go forward on recreation facilities that are projected to serve 150,000 visitors annually when they are completed.

The cost shared recreation complex, to be located alongside the remaining land wall of the old Locks 26 and on the adjacent Alton Commons will connect the old dam site and Marina areas and incorporate the Lincoln-Douglas Square and Russell Commons Park. It will include features to enhance the visitor experience to this area; such as, additional parking, roads, picnic areas, a pedestrian bridge over the highway, pedestrian walkways along the river, and a boat ramp. An open air entertainment amphitheater is included in Alton's overall riverfront plan but this will be constructed completely without federal contribution.

Alton Mayor Donald Sandidge (L) signs for the city as Project Manager Brian Kleber and Congressman Jerry Costell look on.

The cost-shared portion of the project is slated to be $11,252,000, with the federal government covering half of that, or $5,626,000.

Alton Mayor Donald Sandidge spoke and signed for the city at the proceedings conducted in City Council Chambers. He noted the presence of many city council members and remembered several backers who had not lived to see the project come together. Sandidge thanked the Corps of Engineers for standing with the city to carry the project forward.

District Engineer Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, signed for the Corps and told how the project would help citizens and visitors rediscover the Mississippi River and to make use of facilities from the new National Great Rivers Museum at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam Visitors Center and elsewhere the National Scenic Byway skirting the river through Alton.

Col. Setliff told the assembled group that he had only minutes before completed a tour of the riverfront area and how excited he was to take this next step in bringing long time plans closer to completion.

Soon-to-retire project manager Brian Kleber discussed the steps to date in the project and Jack Jacoby, long time Alton project coordinator and backer, reminisced about some key events and people important in the history of the work.

Finally, Congressman Costello, though not a signatory to the agreement, a key legislator in making it possible, stood to speak. He praised the close cooperation between the Corps and the city and closed by committing himself to continued support of economic development in the region as well as of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work to sustain navigation and keep the area safe from flooding.

The ceremony drew heavy, positive press coverage and a number of interested citizens.

While in the Alton area, Col. Setliff visited the Mel Price Locks and Dam where he was briefed on repairs to auxiliary chamber gate leafs by Brian Kleber (L) and Steve Dierker (R).

"Old Man Wappapello Lake?"

In many ways lakes are like people, as they age they change. This may be due to a naturally occurring progression or due to some change in "lifestyle" or circumstances. This is in essence what is happening to Wappapello Lake in the St. Louis District's southern region.

According to Natural Resources Specialist James Gracey, in the 1970s the operating procedures for managing the lake's discharges and water level were altered. Then there was a series of high water episodes – floods. For that and a number of other possible reasons, Wappapello Lake's once luxurious population of aquatic, or water plants, has diminished greatly during the past three decades.

"Wappapello's 75 years old," Gracey says. "So there have been some natural changes that if left unchecked, are inevitable in the evolution of a manmade lake. But other changes may be brought about by alterations in managing the level of the lake and thus, the depth of water in shallow areas where we usually see plant growth. Also, we have had some significant high water periods in recent years and they often introduce a lot of sediment into the lake. This clouds the water and makes it harder for water plants to get the light they need to flourish," according to Gracey.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been joined by the Wappapello Bass Masters Club to seek ways to stop and then reverse the loss of shallow water aquatic plants in the lake.

Gracey said, "Aquatic plants help keep the water clear, control temperatures, supply food and offer hiding areas for fish and other lake residents. They also are essential parts of ecosystem diversity that has been dramatically reduced in the Wappapello Lake reservoir in recent decades," he pointed out.

In their joint effort, the Corps and Bass Masters Club members are experimenting with ways to restore and reintroduce aquatic plant life at Wappapello.

During recent cooperative efforts, people from both organizations have planted numerous plants in the Otter Creek area.

Aquatic plant life restoration gets underway at Lake Wappapello with the reintroduction of native species. Some of the foreground plants are being protected from being eaten by wildlife with the wire mesh cages.

James Gracey said that they are focusing on native species of plants that were present in large numbers decades ago. "We planted species that grow well under water, what we call submergent species, including eel grass and big leaf pond weed in some deeper areas." These plants can grow well in up to three feet of water if it is clear enough.

In the shallower areas, 12 to 18 inches deep, they planted spatterdock, arrow leaf, bur reed, square stem, plantain, and spike rush.

"We're not sure what role animals that eat these plants have played in their disappearance," Gracey told. "So we have protected some with four-foot square mesh cages. Others of the same species were planted without protection." "This way we can study whether different species need protection until they take hold or not," he noted.

The Wappapello Lake Corps-Bass Masters team is soliciting help from others who may want to help in this effort or with other ways of sustaining fish and wildlife habitat at the lake project. They may contact the lake project office at (573) 222-8562 to find out how they may contribute.

All Department of Army personnel will:

- Comply with safety and occupational rules, regulations, and standards.
- Use and maintain protective clothing and equipment provided for their protection.
- Report any unsafe and unhealthful working conditions and accidents to their immediate supervisor.

(AR 385-10, Chapter 2-4.)

Bolivians Visit the St. Louis District

By Nancy Tokraks, Engineering Division

On June 6, the St. Louis District's Readiness Branch hosted visitors from the Bolivian Civil Defense Ministry. The group included the Vice Minister of Civil Defense, the director and two technical directors of reconstruction, as well as the coordinator of the National System of Geographic Information.

The visit was in conjunction with the Bolivian government's participation in the State Partnership Program, a federal program that partners U.S. states with foreign countries. The program, operated by the National Guard Bureau of International Affairs, enables an exchange of ideas and expertise between the U.S. and other nations.

Bolivia's partner is Mississippi and since Vicksburg is home of our Division headquarters, the St. Louis District was invited to take part in the visit.

The visitors arrived the morning of June 6 after what had to be an unsettling night of long distance phone calls and worrying. Just the night before, Bolivia's president had offered to resign. Nonetheless, everyone appeared to be in high spirits, eager to see St. Louis and learn about our flood control projects.

Col. Kevin Williams, former District Engineer, welcomed the group and gave a presentation on the District's primary missions with a focus on flood control projects. Admiral Adolfo Guillen Tejada, Vice Minister of Civil Defense, presented Col. Williams with a commemorative plaque marking the momentous event. A similar memento, presented to Lt. Col. Greg Raimondo, Deputy District Engineer, is on display in the front office. Both items were made partly of tin, one of Bolivia's greatest mineral resources.

Dr. Orlando Sanjines Vargas, coordinator of the ministry's National System of Geographic Information shared some of the Civil Defense Ministry's concerns about flood control and land slides.

Uncontrolled building, underground rivers, steep mountainous terrain, and extreme temperatures are some of the challenges Bolivians face. Bolivia is a landlocked country, approximately the size of California and Texas combined. The nation's population is about nine million, concentrated in the cities.

Richard Wagoner (L) and Pat Conroy escorted Bolivian Civil Defense Ministery personnel on a tour of the new flood damage reduction levee at Valley Park, Mo.

The capital, La Paz, has a population of almost two million, and is located in a valley with steep slopes. This exacerbates construction problems because the terrain forces people to build houses on unsafe hillsides making them potential victims of landslides and flooding.

The Bolivians realize that lasting solutions involve long-term strategies and were excited to have the opportunity to exchange ideas with their U.S. counterparts.

Once the presentations were complete the group continued discussions during lunch at Soulard's, a great local restaurant that offers a variety of dishes. The visitors were eager to try different foods, anything besides steak. Apparently steak is plentiful, tender and cheap in Bolivia.

Interesting conversation flowed, heavily accented all around with Bolivians speaking English, folks from Mississippi speaking Spanish and a few from St. Louis trying a word or two of something we thought was Spanish. Lt. Col. Raimondo was a hit at lunch, with his Italian name, beans and rice entrée, typical food for poorly paid workers, and stories about serving in Colombia.

After lunch the visitors were taken to the Mill Creek Pump Station. There Tom Broaders, from the Metropolitan Sewer District, was a gracious host and tour guide. The enormous capacity of the pumps garnered many amazed looks from the audience. At this stop, overlooking the Mississippi River, Lt. Col. Raimondo presented the guests with Commander's coins.

The day-long visit concluded at the Valley Park Flood Control Project. There Lenn Martin, from Construction Branch's Central Area Office, and Pat Conroy, from Engineering's Geotech Branch, shared information about the project during an informative site tour. The Bolivians, intrigued with the size and scope of the project, asked numerous questions. Lenn and Pat explained the project, down to the details of the barriers on the far side of the river intended to keep the cars from driving off the edge.

When farewells were exchanged at the airport, all agreed it had been a successful visit. The Bolivians said that they had learned from our projects, and we had a chance to view things from a different perspective. Hopefully future visits and exchanges will continue and perhaps will offer a chance to work with Missouri's partner nation – Panama.

Additional information about the State Partnership Program is available at their website http://www.ngb-ia.org/public/spd.cfm/spi/overview

Website Developed for Dardenne Creek Watershed Study

By John Boeckmann

An extensive new web page has been added to the St. Louis District website to document the Dardenne Creek Watershed Study. For about the past year and a half, the St. Louis District has participated in a cooperative effort with the Great Rivers Greenway District on a detailed hydraulic study of Dardenne Creek in St. Charles County. Funding for the study has been provided by a 50-50 cost share agreement through the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program.

The main goals of the study are to complete a flood flow analysis and to calculate water surface profiles for Dardenne Creek and its tributaries. The flood analysis will estimate how much rainfall over the basin ends up as runoff in the creeks themselves. The water surface profile calculation determines flood stages all along the creeks, for various statistical frequencies, such as the "100-year storm."

As the study progressed, the team decided that a website would be a great way to allow average citizens access to information about the study and how it will affect future planning in St. Charles County. John Boeckmann of the Hydraulics Branch developed the website to update and inform interested parties and the general public on the progress of the study. He was assisted by fellow hydraulic engineer, Andy Richter.

Some facts about the project area:

Dardenne Creek begins as a small stream in Eastern Warren County, Mo. It flows generally to the east, through St. Charles County, accumulating runoff from over 20 tributaries as it turns to the north and deposits into the Mississippi River near Kampville, Mo. The watershed area drained by this stream system is over 150 square miles.

According to an estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau, over 300,000 people lived in St. Charles County as of 2003. Considering that almost 30 percent of the area of St. Charles County is drained by Dardenne Creek and its tributaries, the results of this hydraulic study will affect many county residents, whether or not they realize it.

Dardenne Creek I-70: Dardenne Creek flows beneath one of the busiest interstates in the region, I-70. A large-scale flood could potentially close down the interstate, a familiar circumstance to many during the Great Flood of 1993.

Therefore, an informative website was determined to be the most easily accessible way to share information about the study. Local county and city governments plan to publish links to the study's web page to give it more visibility.

Dardenne Creek flooded: Dardenne Creek, which flows east through St. Charles County, Mo., accumulates stormwater runoff from over 20 tributaries, draining over 150 square miles. Flooding in January caused a walkway near Mexico Road to disappear. The Dardenne Creek Watershed Study's main goals are to complete a flood flow analysis and to calculate water surface profiles for the creek and its tributaries.

Project background information:

The Dardenne Creek Watershed Study began in April 2004. It is a three-year, $600,000 effort, with a scheduled completion date of September 2006. Though the study itself has only been underway for about 15 months, planning efforts for the study have been ongoing for about 4 or 5 years.

From a hydraulics standpoint, a comprehensive, basin-wide study of a large watershed is a much more meaningful and useful planning tool than a small localized study. However, the sheer size and number of communities affected is usually the main obstacle to getting a study of this magnitude accomplished.

For several years, St. Louis District personnel had meetings with local county and city officials to find a sponsor and a federal program that would fit the type of study that was desired. The key Corps people doing this legwork were Dennis Fenske of Project Management, Dennis Stephens of the Hydraulics Branch, and Mark Alvey of the Geotechnical Branch.

Finally, in late 2003, the Great Rivers

Greenway stepped up and agreed to take part in the cost-share under the PAS program. The final piece of the puzzle was to involve local sponsors, not just for financial support, but for their experience and support in data gathering as well. This local sponsorship was comprised of St. Charles County and the cities of St. Charles, St. Peters, O'Fallon, Cottleville and Dardenne Prairie.

Study progress, so far:

In the 2004 Fiscal Year, the main tasks undertaken were data gathering, map acquisition, and field inspection. Due to the large area covered by the study, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) played a key role in categorizing and compiling mapping and hydrologic data.

A key need for the hydrologic study was an accurate and up to date Digital Terrain Model (DTM). The DTM is used to develop the topography that helps to delineate watershed boundaries and calculate travel time of runoff through the basin. This DTM was developed in a contract with Sanborn Mapping Co. Two cross-section survey contracts have also been completed by Woolpert Engineering, LLC. These ground surveys will be used to determine creek geometry for the hydraulic models.

Other efforts for the project to this point have focused on coordinating with local representatives, gathering GIS and water data, and processing GIS data for input into the hydraulic models. In the 14 months remaining for the study, the flood analysis and water surface profiles models will be calibrated and run for both existing and future conditions.

The sponsor and local communities will play a key role in determining what type of development will be assumed for the future conditions modeling. It is for this reason that the Great Rivers Greenway (GRG) is involved as the main project sponsor. The GRG seeks to develop a recreational corridor along streams called a "greenway" to promote stream quality and minimize the financial impacts of future floods.

Contents of Web Site:

The main purpose for developing the website was to allow members of the general public to browse through a description of the project, and download pertinent project data if they desired. The website is organized into six main areas that are described here:

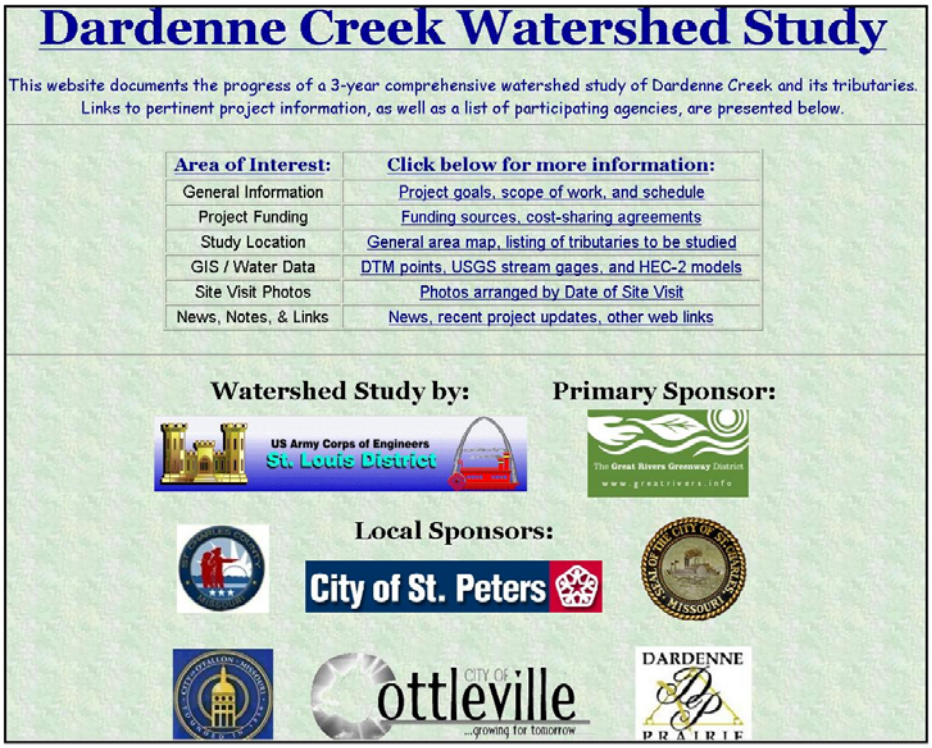
- General Info: Description of project goals, project scope of work, and schedule.
- Project Funding: Explanation of funding program, and cost-sharing agreements.
- Study Location: A general area map and list of tributaries to be included in the study.
- GIS/Water Data: Digital terrain model, creek cross sections, previous hydraulic models, and water data from flood events.
- Site Visit Photos: Ground and aerial photos from site visits, arranged by date of visit.
- News, Notes, & Links: News, project updates, and external web links of interest.

Documentation for the Flood of January 2005 is probably the best example of the useful data presented on the Dardenne Creek website. Four straight days of significant rainfall in the first week of this year combined with an already saturated ground surface caused a significant flood event along Dardenne Creek.

The United States Geological Survey keeps stage and discharge data at two gages on the creek, at Old Town St. Peters and in O'Fallon at Highway K. These records were added to the Dardenne Creek website, along with photos and descriptions that were taken just after the peak of the flood had passed. High water marks viewed in these photos along with stage and discharge measurements will be essential tools for calibrating the new hydraulic models.

The Dardenne Creek Watershed Study website can be found at www.mvs.usace.army.mil/dardennecreek.

Check back in the coming months for updates as the study progresses. Feedback and suggestions for the site are certainly encouraged. Contact John Boeckmann at 314-331-8801.



The opening page of the Dardenne Creek Watershed Study website is designed to help visitors obtain information in an intuitive manner. Visit it at http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/dardennecreek

More than 350 stakeholders gathered under a tent in Evansville, Ill., to learn more about the Kaskaski River.

Kaskaskia River Watershed Showcased

The 5th Annual Showcasing of the Kaskaskia River Watershed was conducted in Evansville, Ill., Friday, July 15. This year's showcasing focused on the lowermost stretch of the river, and was hosted by the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI)

The LKSI is part of the Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA), which represents all interests from the river's northernmost point, through two St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes at Shelbyville and Carlyle to the river's confluence with the Mississippi River. The Kaskaskia River is the longest river wholly located within the state of Illinois.

More than 350 people came to Evansville to learn more about the river and its impacts on its entire watershed. They represented a broad spectrum of people from business owners to local government officials to individual citizens.

The importance and impact of the KWA and its member organizations was demonstrated by the arrival of Congressman Jerry Costello, who came to speak to the crowd and stayed to mingle with them afterwards.

Several groups, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, set up informational displays for people arriving early with the first official event of the day being a breakfast served under a huge tent.

New St. Louis District Engineer Col. Lewis F. Setliff III told the assembled audience about the military principle of Unity of Effort and how it applies to the Kaskaskia River Watershed.

Presentations by KWA and LKSI officials followed. New St. Louis District Commander Col. Lewis Setliff III spoke next, introducing the audience to the concept of military "Unity of Effort" and pledging his continued involvement with and support of combined efforts throughout the watershed. Col. Setliff noted to the audience how highly their efforts at partnering throughout the watershed are regarded, from the Corps of Engineers to the halls of Congress.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Water Resource Director Gary Clark; Evansville Mayor Red Becker, and Erica Ott, representing Illinois Lt. Governor Quinn also brought their messages to the audience. Mayor Becker was especially proud of his city's new growth including a restaurant, full-service boat dock and other recreation and gathering place amenities on the river.

Rend Lake Park Ranger Tim Bischoff assumes the personna of Frenchman Geirge Drouillard, who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expition of discovery into the lands of the Louisanna Purchase.

Finally, Rend Lake Ranger Tim Bischoff, garbed in authentic early-eighteenth century clothing, enthralled the crowd with his portrayal of George Drouillard, French trapper and hunter who was a key element of the Lewis and Clark exploration of the then-new

Louisiana Purchase territory that started in the area in 1803.

After lunch, attendees broke into four groups to explore parts of the LKSI area. These groups visited:

• The Dynergy Electrical Generating Plant at Baldwin and the nearby Baldwin Wildlife area operated by the IDNR

• The new IDNR World Shooting and Recreational Complex at Sparta, Ill.

• Fort de Chartes, the Fort Kaskaskia Historical Site and the Pierre Menard Home

• A pontoon boat journey on the Kaskaskia River

Congressman Jerry Costello urged the stakeholders of the Kaskaskia Watershed to continue their hard work to help the valley prosper and pledged his continuing support in return.

Shortly after the tours returned to the Evansville waterfront, Congressman Costello arrived. Following a low-altitude flyover by a vintage WWII Army Air Corps training aircraft and a demonstration by wakeborders on the river, the congressman addressed the audience.

He told them how impressed he and his fellow elected officials representing the entire watershed were with its progress and pledged his firm ongoing support to sustain and improve the economics and quality of life for the watershed and its citizens. Praising past efforts, he urged everyone to continue to emphasize cooperation and speaking with one voice as the best way to a bright future.

As evening descended on the river at Evansville, the assembled crowd slowly melted away. But for many, their first visit to the revitalized village on the Kaskaskia won't be their last. Yet one more reason to be optimistic about the watershed's future has been showcased.

One of the tours took Kaskaski Watershed Association stakeholders to an economic crown jewel of the valley, the Dynergy Electric Generating Plant at Baldwin, Ill., where they saw the tubines that pump more than 1800 mega-watts of electricity into the region's power grid.

Retiree's Corner

Wally and Kathy Feld recently returned from Italy. It seems that Kathy had some surgery recently, but it didn't interfere with their trip. Wally told the group that they enjoyed the Italian lifestyle. They had their fill of eating and drinking (of wine) there and liked it so well they may go back again.

Wally also mentioned that Mike Cullen's "son" (Cepicki) was recently called up by the Washington Nationals. It should make Mike a real baseball fan with the Nationals, Cardinals and the Florida teams to root for. Wally also mentioned that the St. Louis is gaining another retired District Engineer, Colonel Kevin Williams. Good luck to the Colonel in his new career.

Dennis Gould reported that his oldest grandson, Steve Murphy, was recently drafted by the Texas Rangers. (WOW! Two potential major leaguers with connections to our retirees.)

Don Wampler mentioned that Joe Strinni, formerly of the Human Resources (Personnel) Office, recently passed away. Don also said that he had a GREAT neighbor, who works for the CORPS, but never really knew what he did. The recent Esprit article about Dennis Seibel told him. Don said that Dennis has shoveled snow off his drive way many times, but not recently. Of course, Don also told that Dennis started with the CORPS after he had retired.

Joe Bisher said that he was having trouble with his garden. The squirrels and rabbits are getting his tomatoes and cucumbers. He asked for advice from the retiree-farmers in attendance. Don Wampler said that he doesn't have any of those problems and challenged Joe to see who can grow the biggest tomato. (If you remember, last year Joe has some "upside down" tomatos, that were rather large.)

Joe also reported that he recently called Ruddle Spring, a retired riverboad Captain and former Master of the Pathfinder. (Ruddle is a member of the Nanogenerian Club.) Joe said it was rather comical, since both he and Ruddle have hearing problems and they each understood something different than what the other was saying.

Lew Scheuermann said that Jim Baker and his wife were in town for a family reunion. They visited briefly before the Baker's had to be on their way. (You know how retirees must stick to schedules.) Lew also said that Estelle Huizenga mentioned that her grandson was in the service and was recently stationed in Northern Germany.

Laurel Nelson said that she was recently on a "Quality Control" outing to Grant's Farm with friends and met Dee Ebert there. Dee was a secretary in the Front Office when she retired. Laurel mentioned that she was also having a family reunion in a few weeks to celebrate her 88th birthday. (WOW!! CONGRATULATIONS) Some of the retirees mentioned that Laurel was one person that could keep the Chief of Real Estate, Elmer Huizenga, in check. That was a monumental job in itself.

Bill Thomure said that he was absent from the golf league recently because of some "minor" surgery, but everything is better now. He hopes to get back "in the swing" shortly.

Many of the regulars that attend the monthly luncheons indicated that they would be missing some future luncheons due to vacations, babysitting and just retiree schedules.

We wish every one a safe and happy summer and hope to see you soon: third Thursday, at the Salad Bowl at about 11:00am.

FLASHBACK 1970

From INFO BULLETIN June, 1970:

1Lt Frank Green was nominated by the District for the first annual Military Men of the Year Award for the Greater St. Louis Area

Mr. Clarence Tillema, Real Estate Officer at the Cannon RE office was decorated for meritorious service by MG A.P. Rollins, the Division Engineer.

MG Rollins inspected the construction progress at Shelbyville, which was 80% complete.

Don Chrismore, Charlie Dees and Nick Simon talked to the students at the EEO School in Marion, Ill about the District's construction program.

The Corps' birthday party was held at Granite City Army Depot and a good turnout was had.

George Postol of the Foundations and Materials Branch was congratulated for being awarded a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from UM at Rolla.

All facilities at Carlyle were reopened after a period of high water.

New employees to the District were:

William Cauble .... Procurement Officer
Harold Dalhaus .. Reservoir Ranger
Karl Tilken ..... Reservoir Ranger
Carolyn Murphy .... Card Punch Operator
Thomas Wolff ..... JET
James Folkl ..... Electrical Engineer

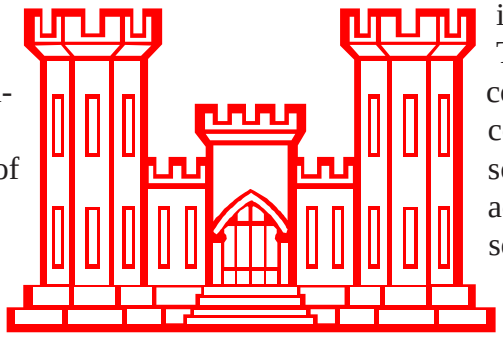
CO-OP students:

Robert Barkau ..... ED-SS
James Brown ..... ED-H
Steven Dierker ..... ED-SS
Paul Koenig ..... ED-DG
Richard Nolan ..... AC
John Rhodus ..... ED-DE
Paul Schmidt ..... OD-P

Change of Command Traditions

The Change of Command Ceremony is deeply rooted in the military tradition. Some of its aspects date back to the Roman Legions when the baton of command was presented to a newly designated commander. The ceremony itself symbolizes, in graphic form, passing the responsibilities of command and maintaining an unbroken succession of command for a particular unit.

During the chain of command, the senior enlisted soldier presents the colors to the outgoing commander to symbolize the function of entrusted leadership each commander has; responsibility for the soldiers of the unit. The outgoing commander the "surrenders" the unit colors to the senior officer. In this action, the outgoing commander publicly relinquishes his command of the unit to a senior officer. The senior officer, in the name of the higher headquarters, receives the colors and passes them to the incoming commander. By taking the unit colors, the incoming commander signifies his willingness to accept responsibility of the unit, its missions, and its soldiers. The incoming commander then passes the unit colors to the senior enlisted soldier to symbolically state his acceptance and reliance on the soldiers of the command.



The flag used in the Change of Command Ceremony represents a portion of the unit's history. The flag itself can be traced to the legion standards carried by the Romans as well as standards carried by armies throughout military history. The flag represents the history of the unit itself and caries the battle streamers won by the unit in combat. Where and when possible, the flag is one actually carried by the unit into combat.

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