



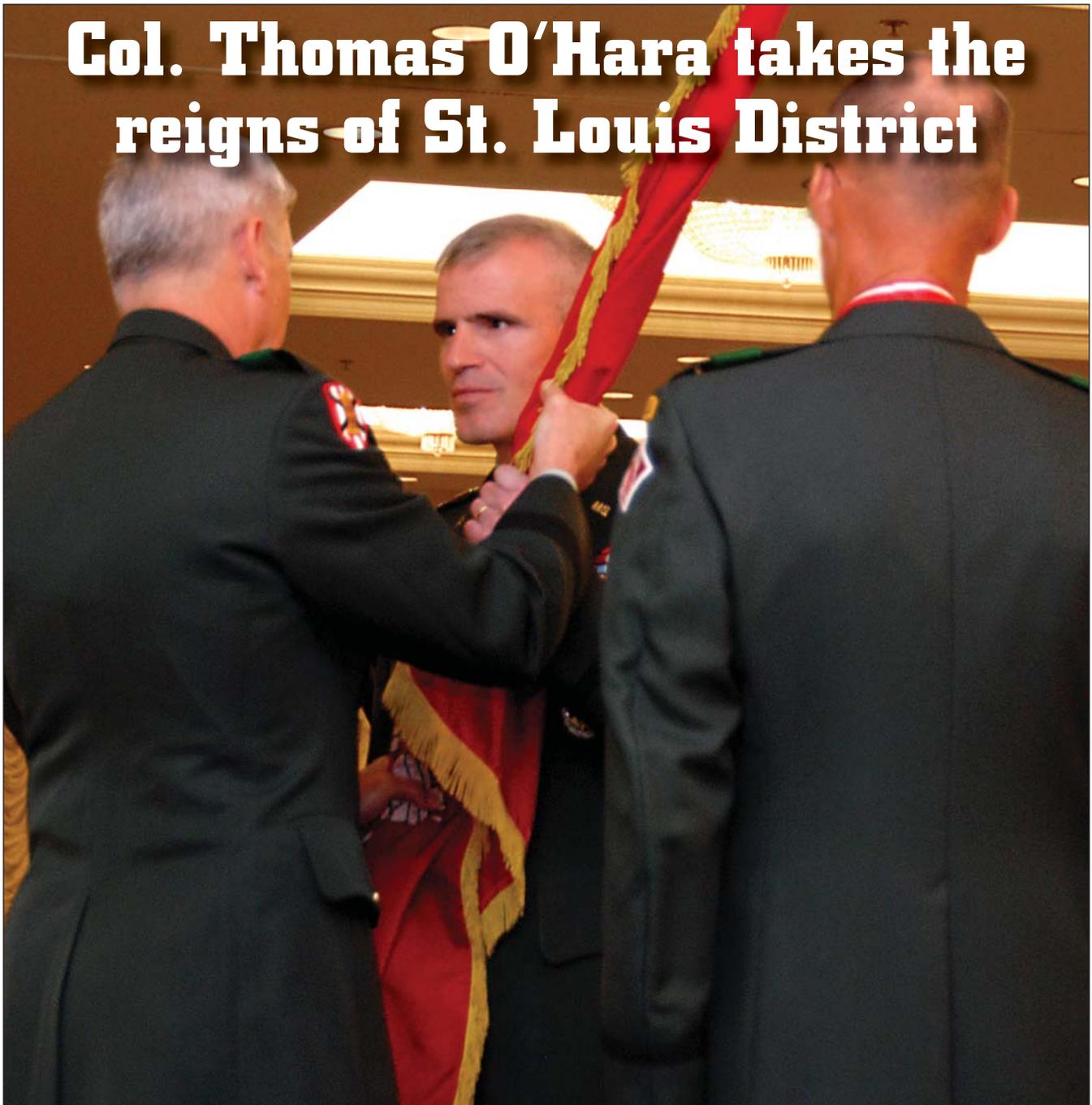
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Col. Thomas O'Hara takes the reigns of St. Louis District



Col. Thomas E. O'Hara (center) receives the command flag from Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh during St. Louis District's Change of Command ceremony at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel on July 2, 2008.

USACE photo by George Stringham

— SEE *CHANGE OF COMMAND*, PAGE 8

From the Corner Office



Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.

Let me start by telling you how proud I am to be your new commander. While many of you who have served the Corps in St. Louis for years, or even decades may, feel the commanders come and go, for me this command is an honor and an opportunity. I deeply cherish both.

Several days ago I passed the end of my first month as your commander. I must observe that this District certainly knows how to provide an exciting and auspicious start for a tour of duty. The "smooth" transition from one flood to the next has been truly remarkable!

While I have tried to get into each of your offices and work places to meet each of you, the series of emergency events has enabled me to see many of you in action, doing what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does so very well:

protecting public safety and property and effectively managing water resources. Your performance has cemented my faith and confidence in your abilities and determination to succeed, whatever the odds and challenges.

Recently I was privileged to attend the Senior Leaders Conference (SLC) in Pittsburgh. At the SLC, our Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, set the table for us in the coming years, as he delivered his mission statement and vision. If you haven't already done so, I would recommend you listen to his comments as listed on: <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=50402>.

One of the salient points the Chief made was that we must remain confident if we are to succeed. This is both internal confidence in our abilities and the confidence we must ensure we earn and keep from those we serve. We maintain the public's confidence by doing what we say we are going to do.

Bluntly put, he said we must clearly tell what we are going to do, and then we must do it. This is about execution, results and the clear message that we are both competent and determined. The grade on our report card will be determined by our deeds versus only our words.

In addition to doing what we say we are going to do, there are a couple of other things that I see as key to our success as a district. They are efficiently using the resources we are given; functioning as part

of a regional team; and getting, developing and retaining the right people to do the job. Some of my future articles will focus on these topics.

One last area that I want to emphasize in this first message is my ongoing emphasis on safety. I would ask you all to continue to stress safety in all that you do. Overall, we have been very successful this summer related to accidents, but continued performance requires continued diligence. Our safety results are critical to our well being and ability to do our job. In recent years we have reduced numbers of people, but the work load has remained the same or grown. So, each and every one of you are that much more important to achieving our mission. Each and every one of you is my responsibility too, and I take that very, very seriously. So I need you to help to continue to focus effects of safe operations.

Each day, plan your work and work your plan. If you see any inkling of danger or risk, report it to your supervisor and reassess what you are about to do. Watch each other's backs and care for each other.

Again, I am intensely proud to accept the challenges and responsibilities of command. My confidence in our success together has been reinforced during my first weeks in the corner office. Together, we're going to have a great three years.

Essayons. Hooah!
Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.



US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Louis District

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District fights 2ND flood of season



The Clarksville sign inviting people to “Touch the Mississippi” is itself touching the Mississippi on June 23, 2008. The Mississippi River at Clarksville, Mo., would eventually start to fall on June 26 after cresting at 36.7 feet, just one foot below the record 37.7 set July 29, 1993. Flood stage at Clarksville is 25 feet.

USACE photo by George Stringham

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STORY BY GEORGE STRINGHAM, PA

As the saying goes: “Water runs down hill,” and there’s been a lot of that in America’s heartland.

Torrential rains in Iowa in early June overwhelmed many major tributaries that feed into the Mississippi River. The swollen river overtopped 26 levees in the Public Law (PL) 84-99 program between Keithsburg, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo.

The St. Louis District had 60 or more employees in the field, actively involved in the flood fight and teams worked alongside levee districts and communities throughout the District’s area of responsibility.

Flood preparations took center stage June 10, when former District Commander Col. Lewis F. Setliff III activated the emergency operations center at noon, both to

increase awareness and to be better prepared to meet any emerging situations.

Immediately, Corps personnel began contacting drainage and levee districts to coordinate flood fighting activities, should they become necessary, and to ensure such items as sandbags, pumps and plastic were readily available. The river’s rising levels threatened many non-federal levees within the St. Louis District in northeast Missouri. Within a week, those concerns became a reality as the Mississippi’s waters began overtopping several agricultural levees along the Missouri side of the river.

Throughout the event, the St. Louis District distributed more than 2.16 million sandbags, 999 rolls of plastic, five eight-inch pumps, six

— SEE FLOOD, PAGE 4



12-inch pumps and averaged 60 or more personnel in the field per day, providing technical assistance to levee districts and county agencies.

In the St. Louis area and southward, levees weren't in danger of being overtopped but were being closely monitored for previously identified seepage concerns. A few sand boils were identified and contained and temporary repairs were made to a malfunctioning 72-inch gravity drain 55 miles south-southeast of St. Louis in Illinois on the Mississippi River. Just as in the areas north of St. Louis, flood fight teams and area engineers in the metropolitan area and southward actively engaged levee districts and local communities.

Impacts on navigation

River communities were not the only ones affected by the river's floodwaters. The navigation in-

dustry and businesses that rely on the waterway for moving products also felt the pain as several locks and railroad bridges were forced to close, primarily on the Upper Mississippi River. Impacted locks were initially numbers 12-25 on the Mississippi and Kaskaskia Lock on the Kaskaskia River. By July 5, all locks on the Mississippi had reopened, followed by Kaskaskia Lock on July 9.

The locks were closed to remove and properly store electric motors and electrical components that move lock gates and culvert valves. The time necessary to bring the locks back into operation was determined by when water levels recede, whether or not there's damage and how long it takes to reinstall machinery.

Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Alton Ill., and Locks 27 in Granite City, Ill., remained open, allowing

navigation access to and from the Illinois River.

Though the Corps may close locks due to the high water, the U.S. Coast Guard decides whether the river should be closed to navigation. Throughout most of the event, the Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri rivers remained open to towboats and their tows, though restrictions were put in place to ensure safety of all on the rivers. In this case, tows were able to operate in the pools between closed locks; however, they were unable to move up and down river.

While industry traffic was moving, on June 19 the U.S. Coast Guard did close 350 miles of the Mississippi River to recreational vessels from Jefferson Barracks Bridge, just south of St. Louis, to Lock and Dam 13, near Clinton, Iowa. The same was done for

SEE FLOOD, NEXT PAGE

PL-84-99 eligible levees within the St. Louis District that were overtopped during this event

Overtopped Levees	Date Overtopped	Level of Protection	County
Pin Oaks	27 June	15 year	Lincoln
Elm Point	24 June	25 year	St. Charles
Columbia Bottoms	18 June	5 year	St. Louis
Kuhs	18 June	10 year	St. Charles
Pike Grain #3	18 June	25 year	Pike
Kissinger	17 June	30 year	Pike
Elsberry	17 June	20 year	Lincoln/Pike
Kings Lake	17 June	14 year	Lincoln
Sandy Creek	17 June	14 year	Lincoln
Foley	17 June	18 year	Lincoln
Cap au Gris	17 June	14 year	Lincoln
Brevator	17 June	14 year	Lincoln
Pike Grain #4	13 June*	25 year	Pike

**Due to the projected crest exceeding the levee height, the levee owner intentionally breached the levee to control the rate of inundation and minimize damages.*

USACE photo by Maj. Jason Tallafiero



FLOOD, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Lock closures/openings (Rock Island and St. Louis districts)

Lock #	UMR Mile	Closed	Opened
12	556.7	June 14	June 15
13	522.5	June 14	June 18
14	493.3	June 15	June 18
15	483.0	June 14	June 20
16	457.2	June 12	June 26
17	437.1	June 12	June 27
18	410.5	June 13	June 27
19	364.2	June 13	June 28
20	342.3	June 12	July 4
21	324.9	June 13	July 3
22	301.2	June 13	July 4
24	273.4	June 14	July 3
25	241.4	June 14	July 5
Kaskaskia	Kaski 0.8	June 15	July 9

USACE photo by Maj. Jason Taliaferro

the lower 24 miles of the Illinois River and the lower 21 miles of the Kaskaskia River. Over time, reaches of the Mississippi River was reopened, starting at the upper end and working southward. On July, the Coast Guard reopened all area rivers to recreational vessels.

Another critical threshold for the navigation industry is when the Mississippi River reaches 38 feet on the St. Louis gage. At that point, the U.S. Coast Guard works with industry and the Corps to assess closing all or portions of the St. Louis Harbor. The decision is based largely on the projected time water levels will remain at or above that critical level. This also addresses concerns about wave

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Left, Joe Moynihan and Matt Thurman sandbag one of the structures that houses operating equipment at Lock and Dam 25 on June 14, 2008. Both are normally assigned to Dredge Potter at the Service Base but, along with several other District members worked at other places throughout the event. Below, Allen Mehrer meets with Col. Setliff and points out the fortifications that were being constructed to protect portions of Clarksville, Mo.

USACE photos by George Stringham



St. Louis Corps employee is Ms. Wheelchair USA 2008 1st Runner up

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

Ms. Romanda Walker, an employee in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public affairs office, St. Louis District, was named 1st Runner up in the 2008 Ms. Wheelchair competition held last weekend in Cuyahoga Fall, Ohio.

Walker, who has worked for the Corps for five of the last six summers, is a graduate student currently working to earn a PhD at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where she is studying bioinformatics.

This is an area of biology that uses applied mathematics, statistics, computer science, biochemistry and other disciplines to solve biological questions, usually on the molecular level. The science is based on using powerful computer capabilities to analyze relationships and alternatives that are far beyond the ability of humans to fully grasp without these aids.

The Ms. Wheelchair USA program recognizes individuals for their abilities, their work and contributions to all mankind. It is an annual event open to women 18 and older, regardless of their age or marital status.

Each candidate in the competition must present their platform – their goals and hopes for ways to contribute to society.

Romanda dubbed her platform, “Getting a New Name through Networking, Advocacy, Mentoring and Education.”

Her vision is to develop a program to help high school and college students with disabilities to achieve their educational and life goals by learning and using skills they will need to be successful. She tells, “Nine percent of college students have disabilities of one sort or



Romanda Walker, shortly after being crowned Ms. Wheelchair USA Runner-Up, August 9, 2008, at Cuyahoga Fall, Ohio (approx. 25 miles south of Cleveland).

Courtesy photo

another. Their best path for success and independence is through education, but unfortunately, the large majority of them drop out of school before they obtain a degree.”

Walker goes on to say, “The student with disabilities faces all of the challenges that any other young person faces as he or she leaves home and starts higher education – plus the challenges inherent in their disabilities.” She hopes to start a program that will help young people anticipate and develop coping mech-

anisms so they are not held back or discouraged by their disabilities. The program would target high-achieving students in high school and support them as they enter and go through their college experiences.

Ms. Walker will return to the University of Missouri this fall to continue her studies and push to develop her program to help larger numbers of students with disabilities succeed in school and life. She is a resident of Florissant, Mo., where she resides with her family.

Two District members receive excellence awards

STORY BY NICOLE DALRYMPLE, PA

The St. Louis District Army Corps of Engineers continued its tradition of having its exceptional employees recognized at the Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board's annual Excellence in Government Awards program.

At this year's banquet on May 8 **Patti O'Connor**, Human Resources Office, and **Robert O'Shea**, Lock and Dam 24, were both recognized with Individual Awards, O'Connor in the administrative category and O'Shea in the trades and crafts category.

Patti O'Connor was recognized for being a role model Human Resources Professional, who ranks among the top two nonsupervisory HR employees in the entire region for service to customers, mission accomplishment and professionalism, as rated by the regional NSPS pay panel. The District's HR Office is one of 18 in the Midwest region.

Her many accomplishments included exceptional customer care. Kathy Tober, Chief of the District's

HR Office, lauded O'Connor. "Patti is the epitome of an exceptional HR professional," Tober said. "Her job competence and customer care provides the District with the right people, in the right jobs, at the right time working productively to achieve the District's missions. I couldn't be more pleased with her recognition by the FEB."

In O'Connor's award submission, she was recognized for having a consistent fill rate close to 100 percent with an extremely low fill time, averaging 24 days, compared to the U.S. Army's goal of no more than 55 days. Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, former District Commander, stated that O'Connor is "one of the best HR professionals I have ever encountered."

For several months, O'Connor served as the only HR specialist providing staffing and classification support for the District after the other specialist retired. She was also instrumental in training and mentoring the replacement specialist.

In addition to her duties as a

staffing and classification specialist, O'Connor was instrumental in the implementation and training of the new National Security Personnel System. She not only taught classes in the District but volunteered to teach a class for the Army Audit Agency.

"Patti coordinated the complex preparations required to convert GS employees into NSPS," Tober explained. "She ensured that all converting employees' records were perfect and that all converted on schedule and accurately. Her efforts ensured that every employee converted on time and with the correct pay.

"I receive nothing less than exceptional feedback on Patti's work in the District," Tober continued. "She does a great job and we are fortunate to have her here. She really cares about her work and making sure the District is set up for success with good employees."

Robert O'Shea the Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic at Lock and Dam 24 in Clarksville, Mo., was recognized for his "tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the regional success of the Corps of Engineers navigation mission in 2007."

Danny Lunsford, lockmaster at Lock 24, highlighted O'Shea's ability to simultaneously maintain complex mechanical systems 25 years beyond their design life, while integrating new automated information systems. One component of O'Shea's recognition by the FEB is

SEE *EXCELLENCE*, PAGE 15

Patti O'Connor and her recently awarded Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board Excellence in Government Award.

USACE photo by George Stringham



CHANGE O

Command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, changed hands on Wednesday, July 2, 2008. Colonel Lewis F. Setliff III, who has commanded the District since June 30, 2005, turned over duties as District Engineer to Colonel Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., in a 10 a.m. ceremony conducted at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel at 400 South 14th Street. Brigadier General Michael J. Walsh, Commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, presided over the event.

Col. Setliff is moving on to assume duties as the Chief of Staff, 8th US Army, in Seoul, South Korea. During his career he has held a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including assignment as Deputy to the Deputy Chief of Staff – Engineer for the Multi-national Forces-Iraq in Baghdad. He also commanded Task Force Guardian, the organization responsible for restoring pre-Katrina protection to New Orleans before the 2006 hurricane season.

Col. O'Hara comes to his new assignment from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Penn. He has held a variety of field assignments, most recently commanding the 27th Engineer Battalion from May 2005 to May 2007. That command included a 13-month deployment to Afghanistan. Col. O'Hara also brings experience in the Mississippi Valley, with his previous service as the Deputy District Engineer for the St. Paul District from July 2001 to March 2005. He holds master degrees in Mathematics and Operations Research from Penn State University. He is married to the former Beth Otterson and they have two children.



USACE photo by George Stringham



(Clockwise from top, left) The U... at the beginning of the program... ley Division, and Col. Thomas O... emony. Lt. Col. Robert Bayham... Nancy Santel presents Col. O'H... Strike Eagle Brass Quintet of the... the National Anthem, The Army... ceremony. Brig. Gen. Walsh pre... Award for Public Service in reco... tributions, to both the Nation a... the Silver Order of the de Fleur... Corps of Engineers.



USACE photo by Alan Dooley



CHANGE OF COMMAND - 2008



USACE photo by Alan Dooley



USACE photo by George Stringham

U.S. Transportation Command Color Guard posts the program. Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, Commander, Mississippi River Division, visits with Col. Thomas O'Hara, incoming District Commander, during the ceremony. Col. O'Hara's wife, Beth, with a bouquet of white rose buds. The U.S. Air National Guard Band of the Central States performed "The Army Song," "Essays" and John Phillip Sousa favorites at the ceremony. Col. Setliff's wife, Lizabeth, with a Commander's Citation of her many years of service, dedication and commendation for her husband's military career. Brig. Gen. Walsh awards the Army Distinguished Service Medal to Col. Setliff for his leadership to the U.S. Army.



USACE photo by Alan Dooley



USACE photo by Alan Dooley



USACE photo by Alan Dooley

action and the increasing pressure being applied to floodwalls and levees, as well as bridge clearances throughout the harbor. That threshold was crossed on June 28, at which point the St. Louis Harbor was closed to all commercial vessels (it was already closed to recreational vessels). During that time, harbor tugs could move with no more than two barges at a time during daylight hours only. The closure was lifted on July 2 but with several restrictions in place, like the size speed and horsepower of the towboats and tows.

Public Safety

Throughout this event, public safety was the number one priority: safety of people and property.

One of the most important missions is to accurately convey information and risks citizens may need to make informed decisions. Everyone was urged to keep safety uppermost in their minds, especially during this high water event.

Throughout the event, due to the particularly hazardous circumstances, the public was urged to keep the following in mind:

- Watch the situation around you, especially if you live or work in flood-prone areas.
- Stay in touch through the media for latest updates and warnings.
- Have a “what if” plan if you live or work in a flood prone area.
- Do not wade or swim or take recreation boats into river waters.
- Rivers are especially treacherous now.
- Never – never – drive into water on roads. Retreat and take another route.

There is No Shortcut to Safety!



USACE photo by Alan Dooley



USACE photo by George Stringham



USACE photo by Stephanie Koch



USACE photo by George Stringham



USACE photo by Alan Dooley 5.



6. USACE photo by Jason Farmer



USACE photo by George Stringham 7.



8. USACE photo by George Stringham



USACE photo by George Stringham 9.



10. USACE photo by George Stringham

1. Deanne Strauser and Mark Alvey review the construction of temporary dike around a malfunctioning gravity drain that runs through the Prairie du Rocher Levee; 2. A sandbag weighing 2,500 pounds is lifted into place at Lock and Dam 25 on June 14, 2008; 3. Francis Clover and Peggy O'Bryan review Lock and Dam 24 from the waterside on June 23; 4. Kaskaskia Lock and Dam on June 28; 5. Maj. Jason Taliaferro briefs Assistant Secretary of the Army, Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr. and others at the District's Emergency Operations Center on June 25; 6. With the help of the Missouri National Guard, Travis Tutka, Chris Coe and Alan Edmonson counter a sandboil on the Pin Oak levee; 7. Daniel Bobeen (left) and Mathew Long prepare one the sandbags that was being used to barricade buildings and equipment at Lock and Dam 25; 8. Danny Lunsford watches Richard "Bucket" Hagan uses a skid-steer to build some of the flood protection at Lock and Dam 24; 9. Lt. Gen VanAntwerp meets with Danny Lunsford and others at Lock and Dam 24 on June 23; 10. (Left to Right) Doug Reilly, James Roland, and Mike Hanks fill sandbags at Lock and Dam 24 on June 14.

National Society of Black Engineers Youth Camp Visits Melvin Price Locks and Dam

STORY BY JOHN BOECKMANN, EC-HE

On Tuesday, June 24, the National Great Rivers Museum and Melvin Price Locks and Dam hosted a group of middle school students taking part in a youth camp organized by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Florissant Valley Community College. The camp was a week-long experience for the students, who were using part of their summer vacation to find out if engineering might fit into their future career plans.

The group took time to explore the museum, watched a video about the 'Mighty Miss', and then followed a tour led by Museum employee, Janet Mifflin. They were also accompanied by John Boeckmann of the Hydraulics Branch, who answered questions along the way from an engineer's perspective. Boeckmann provided explanations for why the boat traffic was so scarce (other nearby locks were out of operation due to high water), and how operational decisions are made on a



Middle school students participating in a youth camp organized by the National Society of Black Engineers and Florissant Valley Community College visited the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Ill., on June 24.

USACE photo courtesy of the National Great Rivers Museum

daily basis for the locks and dam.

The 12 students on the tour ranged from 8th to 10th grade, and many had not yet begun to consider which college they would attend. However, some of the group's members seemed to be intrigued by the

work of the Corps, and by the lock and dam itself, including photos and accounts of its construction. Many eyes gaped widely at the astonishing photos of construction vehicles operating on the dry river bed behind the large cofferdams.

June Jeffries of Project Management organized the tour with NSBE representative, Ron Moore. Although her overnight shifts in Water Control during the ongoing flood event kept her from participating with the tour, Jeffries was glad to hear that the visit was a success, stating that, "This type of effort is important to help raise awareness and possibly help fill the pipeline of new employees down the road someday."

Janet Mifflin of the National Great Rivers Museum speaks to the NSBE group at the Locks and Dam.

USACE photo courtesy of the National Great Rivers Museum



District, friends, stakeholders say farewell to Col. Setliff at National Great Rivers Museum

USACE photos by Alan Dooley



More than 120 people were in attendance for Col. Lewis F. Setliff's farewell reception outside the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Ill., on July 1.



Col. Setliff sports his new "do," just in time for his transfer.



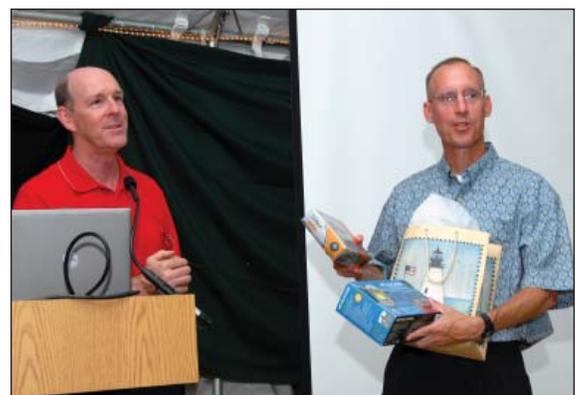
Jake Scanlon and Maj. Jason Taliaferro present Col. Setliff with a sandbag that was signed by many of those involved in June's flood fight efforts



Lt. Col. Robert Bayham, Deputy District Commander with a copy of the map that has come to represent the St. Louis District, a copy of Lt. Robert E. Lee's survey of the St. Louis Harbor from October 1837.



Col. Setliff celebrates one last time with the front office staff.



Joe Kellet presents Col. Setliff with a box of golf balls and a hand-held GPS. Inside joke?

Wearing two hats - Park Ranger and Pastor

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

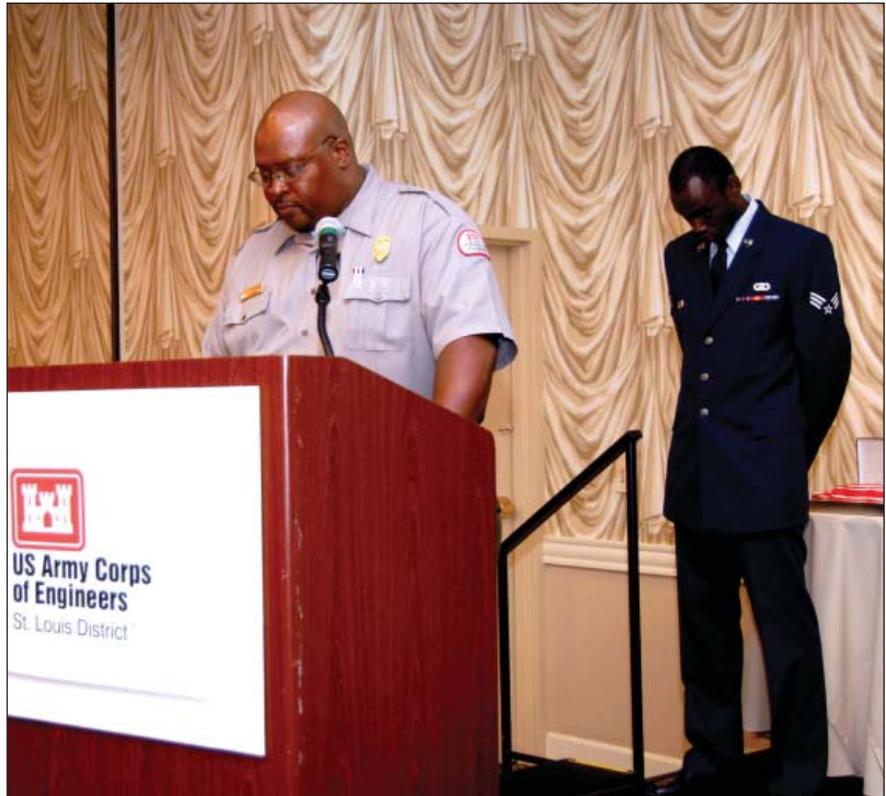
Park Ranger extraordinaire and pastor: both titles describe Andrew Jefferson at the St. Louis District's Wappapello Lake in southeastern Missouri.

Jefferson, who received this year's USACE Hiram M. Chittendon Award for Interpretive Excellence at the 2008 Senior Leader's Conference in Pittsburgh, calls his opportunity to deliver the invocation and benediction at the District's Change of Command in St. Louis, July 2, "... one of the highlights of my career in the Corps."

Andrew Jefferson's no amateur at either of his chosen professions. In addition to completing more than 24 years as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, he has also been the pastor of the 84-year old Morning Star Baptist Church in Brosely, Mo., for 12 years.

A native of East St. Louis, Ill., Andrew Jefferson felt an early calling to his future ministry. At age 13, he became a deacon of the Galilee Central Baptist Church there. He subsequently taught Sunday school there and served as the church's Sunday school superintendent as well. He received his calling into the ministry and license in 1989. He was ordained in 1996.

Concerning his career with the Corps of Engineers, Andrew noted that he came to work officially in March 1984. "I applied to take part in the stay in school program in December 1983, while I was at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, but my paper work



Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson from Wappapello Lake in southeastern Missouri, delivered the invocation and benediction at the District's Change of Command on July 2 at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

and a freeze on student hires collided. But I wanted the experience and to show what I could offer, so I volunteered to work several hours each week until I was able to be hired four months later."

Over the past decade and more, Andrew Jefferson has excelled at sharing both the natural world and his faith with lake visitors and his church family. "I've married so many people including some at Eagle Point on Wappapello Lake, that our Lake Manager Gary Stilts, has kidded me about building a wedding chapel on the site."

Twenty-four years after his

acceptance as a Corps employee and 19 years after his calling to the ministry, Andrew Jefferson stood solemnly behind the podium at the District's Change of Command.

As he bowed his head and drew a deep breath to start, both of his callings came together within sight of his birth place and the path that has given his life purpose and meaning. "I was honored. I was humbled for both of the opportunities I have been given. I am indeed thankful," he said afterward. He and his wife Lou Retta are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter.

Return next month to read about flooding at Mark Twain Lake and on the Salt River in northeast Missouri

EXCELLENCE, FROM PAGE 7

his ability to flawlessly maintain the old, while being a proponent of innovation to benefit internal and external stakeholders.

“Lock 24’s first day of operation was March 12, 1940,” said Lunsford. “Bob was instrumental in the major rehabilitation at Lock 24, and his experience here was leveraged for other work in the District.”

Pulling from his 20 years of work experience at Lock 24, O’Shea became a valued project delivery team member in 2007 at Lock and Dam 25 in Winfield, Mo., and Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Alton, Ill.



When Lock 25’s electrician was incapacitated, O’Shea stepped forward to serve as a regional electrician for both Lock 24 and 25. The double duty required a lot of sacrifices, including personal time, to keep both facilities operating around the clock. In fact, during this time, both locks had a chamber availability rate of 99 percent, exceeding the goal of no less than 95 percent.

The main gate repair at Melvin Price Locks and Dam in 2007 also utilized O’Shea’s expertise. The regional effort involved team members from six districts and two divisions.

The time-sensitive repair was scheduled for 60 days but an aggressive schedule, including 24 hour operations, got the lock reopened 8 days ahead of schedule. “Bob never hesitated to make the 90 minute drive at all hours of day to assist in making the repair a success,” Lunsford said.

O’Shea “epitomizes the essence of a true professional and public servant” the FEB nomination package states. “His efforts in 2007 are unsurpassed in that he assumed responsibility and succeeded on diverse projects in varying roles. His ‘get the job done right the first time attitude’ is unsurpassed and reflective of an employee who represents the navigation mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the St. Louis District.”

“This is a great recognition for Bob,” Lunsford said. “We have always known how fortunate we are to have him on the team at the lock but it’s great to see him getting recognized on a larger scale for the important work he does here and elsewhere in the District.”

June 14, 2008, Bob O’Shea (left) and others prepare equipment at Lock and Dam 24 in anticipation of the Mississippi’s rising stages.

USACE photo by George Stringham

Congratulations to the 2009 LDP class



Lena Bennett
Chris Coe
Shelia DeVeydt
Natalie Drew
Jason Farmer
Jennifer Godfrey

Mary Anne Heitmeyer
Amy Henke
Shelly Huels
Jon Schulte
George Stringham
Matt Thurman

“Please join me in congratulating these outstanding candidates as they embark on this new leadership opportunity. I hope many of you will consider applying for the program and strongly encourage you to do so in the future. I truly believe our most important resource is our people and investing in their development is an investment in the future of this great organization.”

COL 0

Corps flag flies high for outgoing District Commander

One of the departing gifts presented to Col. Lewis F. Setliff III following the Change of Command ceremony was the Corps of Engineers flag, which flew above the Robert A. Young Federal Building the morning of July 2. Here, Malcom Chouinard (right) of General Services Administration and RAY Building Security Officer Chuck Tolbert, recover the Corps flag just prior to the ceremony.

USACE photo by George Stringham



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