



Valley Park Flood Protection System passes first test



Pat Conroy, Geotechnical Engineer with the St. Louis District, observes the rising waters of the Meramec River near the St. Louis Avenue floodgate in Valley Park on the afternoon of March 21. This event was the first test for this new system, which was dedicated in 2005.

USACE photo by George Stringham

The recently completed Valley Park Flood Protection System faced its first test and passed. Severe storms passed over southern Missouri and Illinois early in the week on March 17, dumping more than 12 inches of rain in some areas of the District. The quickly rising rivers that followed would prompt the activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

The purposes of this step was to begin the process of establishing funding requirements for follow-on activity, to bring a team to heightened readiness and preparedness and to establish necessary reporting procedures to keep everyone well informed. The Corps

of Engineers in St. Louis provides technical assistance and advice to municipal and county authorities, who in turn use their public works personnel and equipment as well as contractors to carry out actual flood fighting measures.

The District also deployed two flood fight teams into the field. One team went to Valley Park to assist that city on the Meramec River to prepare for an expected crest on Saturday, March 22. The other team was sent to the Illinois side of the Mississippi River across from Cape Girardeau to assess impacts of over-

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Commander's Perspective



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

For two and a half years I have beat the drum for safety. For anyone who thinks I may be finished – “Not so fast.” I will continue to emphasize, insist on and drive hard for safety until I leave the District this summer. Then I’ll both commend it to my successor and take that message somewhere else.

I am reenergized on my safety concerns by a disturbing survey recently reported by our District Safety Office.

In a study by a private research firm, of 1,600 adults surveyed, nearly one third don’t think anything can be done about accidents and accidental injuries. While that level of pessimism exists, the National Safety Council tells us that fully 58 percent of Americans think accidental injuries are a serious concern and 46

percent rank them at the top of their risk scale.

Half or more of people think accidental injuries are very real risks – maybe the worst risks – to their health. One third don’t think they can do anything about this threat.

I can’t speak to what people fear most, but I can assure you that the 33 percent who think they cannot help themselves are 100 percent wrong!

Safety is an attitude.

We tend to think about it most readily when we are going in harm’s way or into extreme situations. In combat, a Soldier is constantly and keenly alert to threats to himself and his foxhole family. When we are working in high places or hazardous environments we are almost invariably mindful of safety equipment, proper procedures and processes to avoid dangers.

That same attitude has to be part of your day, every day. Organizations or individuals who never seem to have a serious mishap are not just lucky. Safety has become a habit for them.

I recently commended Captain Jim Pierce and the crew of Dredge Potter for their safety achievement. And that’s exactly what it has been – something they have achieved, that they have worked for, that they have earned. They start each day by considering safety, weighing risks and then taking steps to eliminate or reduce them to the

absolute minimum.

We each need an individual safety plan. Stop right now and ask: “What am I going to do from this point forward today?” Are their risks? Am I going to climb something or work near water? Am I just going to lift a box?

Watch. Think. Pause. Act. Nobody ever tripped over something that wasn’t there when they arrived! The dangers and risks already exist, waiting for you to ignore them so they can do their worst.

To paraphrase what the sergeant used to say on the old Hill Street Blues television program at the start of each shift, “Let’s be safe out there.”

**Essayons. Hooah!
Col. Lewis F. Setliff III**

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Top ranks of Eng-Con Division retire

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

The whole northeast corner of the third floor is emptying out. Mel Baldus has departed as the Engineering and Construction Division's Chief and Mike Rector is heading out as the Division's Assistant Chief. Between them they are taking boxes of memorabilia, countless memories and about 74 years of experience in the St. Louis District.

Both fondly remember their first days following graduation from the University of Missouri at Rolla: Rector in 1969 and Baldus three years later in 1972.

"I was a Junior Engineer Trainee," Baldus recalled. "Same here," Rector chimed in. "We were called 'JETS'," they both added.

The long-gone JET program was a formal sequence of assignments to the offices employing engineers in those days: planning, construction, operations and engineering.

Young engineers spent 8-12 weeks in each area and then were sent to a construction project for 13 or more weeks.

Mel Baldus remembers his construction assignment.

"I was sent to work on the new bulk mailing facility in Hazelwood," he said. "Yes, the Corps was in the business of building Post Offices for awhile. In fact, if you look at what appears to be the newer addition on the Main Post Office over by Union Station, that was Corps work too," he said.

Baldus went from focusing on moving mail to the Soils Section in the District, in the Foundations and Materials Branch. He was sent back to the Oklahoma State University in 1976 to get a master's degree. He returned to St. Louis where he became the Foundations Section Chief in 1985 before becoming Assistant Engineering Chief in 1991.

After spending a year of cross

training in Project Management during 1994-95, he was named Engineering Chief in 1996. Baldus notes he also spent six months as Operations Chief before they finally chose Wally Feld.

"With several personnel changes over the years, they had cycled just about everyone through there while they were trying to settle on a new Ops Chief and I think they probably got a little desperate for awhile," Baldus related with a laugh.

Mike Rector recalled his JET days and his construction assignment working on the dam at Rend Lake. He reported that he was first assigned to what is now Civil Engineering Section, moving up through Section Head, and then to the Assistant Division Chief position.

Work paths for both of the now life-long friends first intersected at what we know today as Mark Twain Lake and Clarence Cannon Dam.

"It was called Joanna Reservoir in its first days," Rector told.

Joanna was one of two towns that were submerged when the Corps impounded the Salt River. All that remains today is the old Joanna cemetery, on a ridge next to the lake and the old Joanna Bridge, which shows distinctly on fish finders. Many people unknowingly pass within 80 feet of the town – straight down.

Both Baldus and Rector have vivid memories from their days at Joanna Reservoir, next known as the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir before Mark Twain was the name finally assigned to the lake, with Clarence Cannon



Mel Baldus (left) and Mike Rector share "war stories" and 74 St. Louis District years worth of memories one last time in Mel's office.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

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Three District lakes accepted into lifejacket program

STORY BY FRED VENTURINI, CARLYLE LAKE PARK RANGER

Lake Shelbyville, Kaskaskia Lock & Dam, and Mark Twain Lake were recently selected to participate in the BoatUS life jacket loaner program. BoatUS currently supports over 300 sites with their life jacket loaner program, including Rend Lake. Wappapello Lake has a similar life jacket loaner program, which was started with a kit from BoatUS and has continued through the lake's own Water Safety Council.

Carlyle Lake supports a life jacket loaner program, but solicits the life jackets from local businesses without the BoatUS Foundation's assistance.

The life jacket loaner program's goal, according to BoatUS, is to support water safety by helping to educate visitors about the importance of wearing the proper size life jacket, to make sure children wear their life jackets around the water, and to prevent a family from having a day at the lake ruined by not wearing a life jacket.

"We're thrilled to have the BoatUS Foundation supporting Corps of Engineers water safety efforts," said Norma Hall, a Carlyle Lake Park Ranger who helped coordinate the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam application effort for the loaner program. "Having this supply of life jackets assures that our visitors have ample opportunity to make their visit as safe as possible. The program is convenient, accessible, and best of all, free."

The BoatUS Foundation partners with Corps of Engineers projects based upon specific objectives, outlined in the National Memorandum of Understanding. Among them: increasing educational outreach, materials, publications, and educational activities; encouraging



Dawn Kovarik, Park Ranger at Rend Lake in southern Illinois, ensures a BoatUS life vest is properly fitted for her daughter, Amy. Sixty to seventy-five children annually are able to safely enjoy the facilities at the lake because of this program. Rend Lake was accepted in 2002.

USACE file photo

communication among agencies and collaboration in the conduct of domestic projects supporting water safety.

The life jacket loaner program is part of a larger partnership between BoatUS and the Corps of Engineers, with the primary goal of increasing the awareness of water safety across the entire nation. Often, grants and other programs are part of the BoatUS and Corps of Engineers relationship, but the life jacket program is the most common partnership.

"Working with BoatUS helps to get life jackets to people that need them" said Pam Doty, a Natural Resource Specialist at Lake Shelbyville. She also works on the District Water Safety Team as Assistant Chairperson and on the National Water Safety Team as the Mississippi Valley Division Representative. "The program provides all the tools needed to get a life jacket loaner program started and keep it maintained," she added. "The life jacket loan program offered by BoatUS is excellent because it not only provides the life jackets, but it offers the Corps of Engineers another avenue to educate people of all ages about the importance of wearing a

life jacket in or around the water."

When a project is selected for the life jacket program, the BoatUS Foundation will provide a free supply of life jackets to be administered at the selected projects, where visitors may borrow the jackets at no charge on a first-come, first-serve basis. The "jacket pack" contains a dozen life jackets in multiple children's sizes. Additionally, selected sites will receive signs, notebooks, and storage materials. Jackets can be checked out at project boat ramps and visitor centers.

The BoatUS Foundation and their partner sites currently loan out an estimated 50,000 total life jackets each year, a number sure to increase as more projects form partnerships with the BoatUS Foundation. They are a national 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating. The Foundation's goal is to be the leader in boating safety and environmental education and outreach, with the purpose of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of our waterways, and keeping boating a safe, accessible, and enjoyable pastime.

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remaining for the dam.

Baldus remembered working with a crew doing borings to map the area's underlying geology.

"We trudged over miles and miles of land on that project," Baldus remembered. "It was pretty rugged there in those days. Outside of a couple of county roads in fact, it was virtually trackless."

Baldus remembered on one trip they managed to get a Jeep mired down to its axles in mud. As the junior member present, he was sent to find help.

"I walked down an old road we had crossed until I came to a small farm house. I walked around and found an elderly lady in the backyard garden. I told her of our situation and asked if I could use a phone. Pointing to an old DW-45 tractor, she told me that if her husband had been there he would have pulled us out.

"I told her I had been a farm boy and knew well how to drive one of those. So she invited me

to use it. I took the tin can off the exhaust stack and got it fired up," he remembered fondly.

"She found a chain, jumped on the drawbar of the tractor with me and we headed back up the trail. There were more than a few surprised looks when we pulled up noisily. We hooked the chain onto the Jeep and I pulled it out.

"We made it back before the normal end of the work day," he said.

Rector remembered working with the future lake's first Ranger, Dennis Foss, project manager today.

"We stomped all over that place, laying out roads and plotting where camp grounds would be built.

"One day we came on a crew of surveyors. They were wearing things that looked like baseball catcher's shin guards – only they went all the way around their legs. I learned that they were snake leggings to protect them from rattlesnakes. We never got those. Instead, we got snake bite kits." Rector still has his – just in case.

What has changed in three-plus decades?

Both Baldus and Rector quickly pointed to technology.

"When I started," Rector said, everything was done manually. Engineers and draftsmen drew designs on mylar in pencil. After they were approved the drawings were then inked. That was pretty permanent," he reported. Today they use computer aided design (CAD) software. Changes are easy.

Both reported that there is a lot more interaction between districts today. Years ago there was little interaction except during flood fights.

Rector told, "That was true years ago. We called Rock Island to find out how much water was headed south, but not much more."

But the Flood of 1993 altered the cooperation paradigm.

"People came from all over the country to help. And they stayed for a long time. We all saw that that was good and interaction has grown since then. Years ago we might do a job for another district and send them the results. Today we interact, trade ideas and work," Baldus said.

He cited last summer's work at the Mel Price Locks and Dam as the way of the future. "Two districts worked side by side on the two ends of the lock chamber. People brought in to do one job transitioned smoothly to other tasks led by the other district. It was a seamless effort that enabled us to compress several jobs into one lock closure," Baldus said.

"I don't want to make too many predictions and be second guessed later," Rector added. "But I believe we are going to see more, not less of this kind of interaction and cooperation. New Orleans is



Maj. Jason Taliaferro, Col. Lewis F. Setliff, Paul Clouse and Mel Baldus at the St. Louis West Point Society Golf Tournament, August 2007. Although he's filed away his slide rule, he hasn't hung up his golf shoes. Plan on seeing him at the next Corps golf outing.

courtesy photo

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St. Louis hosts Inland Waterways Conference

STORY BY NICOLE DALRYMPLE, PA

The 2008 Inland Waterways Conference was hosted in St. Louis March 3-6 at the Adams Mark Hotel. Located across the street from the St. Louis Gateway Arch and the Mississippi River, the site was a fitting one.

The conference is an annual meeting between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard and the navigation industry, which alternates between the Mississippi Valley Division area of responsibility and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division footprint.

Each organization arranged speakers covering a variety of subjects including updates from the U.S. Coast Guard on the National Maritime Center, and its Bridge Administration program.

Topics covered by the Corps of Engineers included the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, the Missouri River Bank Protection project, new technologies coming out of the Engineering and Research and Development Center, and St. Louis District's Rob



More than 240 people attended the Inland Waterways Conference, held at the former Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis. The conference is held annually, alternating between cities in the Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes and Ohio River divisions. *USACE photo by Alan Dooley*

Davinroy, provided conference attendees a submarine ride through the St. Louis Harbor using multi-beam technology.

The navigation industry sponsored a very popular Captain's Panel, participated in a panel on vessel compliance issues related to emissions, and had representatives discuss how new towing regulations are impacting the industry.

The conference's theme, "Environmental Partners for a Safe Sustainable Waterways," opened

up opportunities for environmental partners interested in the inland waterways to speak at the event. This included Dan McGuiness, director of Conservation Policy for the Audubon Society's Mississippi River Initiative; Vince Shay, program director of the Upper Mississippi River for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Mark Bergstrom, president of the American Land Conservancy (ALC).

Numerous speakers, both from industry and environmental groups, referenced the Upper Mississippi River Management Act of 1986, where the U.S. Congress recognized the Mississippi River as "a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system." Everyone expressed a desire to have a safe and sustainable, working river that is operated in an environmentally sound and protected manner.

Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, St. Louis District commander, highlighted the Corps experience at balancing the various, and sometimes vying, interests in the nation's



In demonstrating some of the new technologies St. Louis District's Applied River Engineering Center is employing, Rob Davinroy, Chief of AREC, provided conference attendees a submarine ride through the St. Louis Harbor using multi-beam technology.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

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Emergency repairs completed at Lock 25



(Above) Rock Island District's crane Hercules, holds the downstream Illinois leaf gate while repairs are made to the gate's hinge and movement mechanism. (Below) Mike Thompson (L) and Pete Coleman discuss preparations to reinsert the gudgeon pin in the Illinois leaf of the downstream miter gate at Lock 25 near Winfield, Mo. The lock was closed for emergency repairs for five days when the suspension and movement machinery for the 130-ton gate leaf deteriorated to the condition that engineers decided that the gate had to be repaired to ensure its continued safe operation.

USACE photos by Alan Dooley



Commercial traffic resumed through Lock 25 at 12:45 a.m., after a five-day stoppage, when the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers completed emergency repairs on the lock. Work was completed a day earlier than previously announced. All navigation – commercial and recreational – had to be suspended during the work.

The first vessel to lock through was the Wayne P. LaGrange, a 6,200 horse power tow boat operated by the American Commercial Barge Lines. The first tow to pass was the 6,000 horse power Bernard G, an Alter Barge Line boat pushing 15 commodity barges with four loaded barges of coal and fertilizer and eleven empty barges.

Work to repair the down stream lock gate was carried out by a combined team of experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts in Rock Island, Ill. and St. Louis, Mo. The same team recently performed similar repairs at Lock 24 at Clarksville, Mo., and last summer worked with crews from St. Paul, Memphis, Vicksburg and Louisville on a major project at the Mel Price Locks and

Dam near Alton.

In a plan coordinated with the navigation industry and U.S. Coast Guard, the lock was originally scheduled for emergency closure Friday morning. But it was closed Wednesday, March 26, at 10:42 p.m. when engineers who were monitoring the lock's condition detected further deterioration to lock gate's hinge and movement mechanism.

These critical parts suspend and allow opening and closing of the two massive steel gate leaves, or doors. Each leaf is some 35-feet high and 61-feet long, and weighs 130 tons. The lock has two gates, comprised of two gate leaves each. One pair is at the upstream end, with the other at the downstream end. The damage occurred at the downstream end.

Work proceeded around the clock, even during torrential rain that hammered the lock's area at least twice during the work.

Lock 25 was placed in service in 1939 and last year passed more than 30 million tons of commodity cargos north and south bound.

Lock 25 is one of seven similar locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers that were authorized for expansion with an added 1200-foot-long chamber in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Lock expansion is slated to cost \$1.95 billion, and is paired with an ecosystem restoration program tagged at \$1.72 billion. The work is in a combined plan called the Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP.) This program is designed both to speed river navigation by relieving bottlenecks and to provide substantial environmental benefits to the Mississippi and Illinois River basins.

March Flood wrap-up



USACE photo by George Stringham

Thursday, March, 20 - Mississippi River water reaches the Cape Girardeau floodwall.



USACE photo by Deb Davis

Thursday, March, 20 - The St. Louis Street Department start to close the Poplar Street floodgate, immediately south of the Gateway Arch.



USACE photo by George Stringham

Thursday, March, 20 - Work crews in Cape Girardeau, Mo., start to close the North Main Street floodgate.

topping of the Miller Pond Drainage District Levee on Clear Creek. That levee, which is a 50-year-level agricultural levee, was overtopped Tuesday evening.

For safety concerns, on March 20, the U.S. Coast Guard closed the Upper Mississippi River, between Chain of Rocks and the J.B. Bridge in Saint Louis to all recreational boaters. The U.S. Coast Guard press release noted, "This closure is a result of the difficulty of navigating towing vessels through the Saint Louis area and dangers to small craft due to the extreme high water and heavy debris."

Also on March 20, the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam in Modoc, Ill., ceased service in order to allow lock personnel to remove the lock's gears and motors to protect them from flood damage.

The District's southernmost lake, Wappapello Lake in Wappapello, Mo., experienced high water from the St. Francis River and other impacted tributaries. The lake, and surrounding areas, experienced a 100 year rain event for a 24 hour time period this week. At it's peak, the lake experienced an inflow of 110,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) while discharging only 10,000 cfs. As with all other Corps lakes in the District, the storage

of this rainwater has prevented destructive flooding downstream.

In Illinois, Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake worked successfully as a system, reducing flood levels on the Mississippi River south of Chester, Ill.

As a result of the storm's torrential rains, the St. Louis District's five reservoirs have seen inflows totaling 329 billion gallons, releasing only 63 billion gallons.

On the morning of Saturday, 22 March, the Meramec River at the Valley Park gage crested this morning at 37.8 feet, more than two feet below the earlier forecasted crest of 40 feet. The levee is built to withstand a 100 year flood event and the crest would be approximately an 80 year flood event.



USACE photo by Stephanie Koch

Kaskaskia Lock and Dam was closed for several days due to the high water



USACE photo by George Stringham

Briefs were held daily in Emergency Operations

Flood Facts

580,000 sandbags issued

502,000 sq/ft of plastic issued

4 flood fight teams deployed



photo courtesy of Wappapello Lake Project Office

On March 19, at an elevation of 376.51 feet, Wappapello Lake was discharging at a rate of 8,000 CFS. By comparison, the lake's average discharge for the same day in 2007 was 580 CFS.

River and reservoir crests for this event

Gage	Reading	Time	Date
Mississippi River			
Hannibal	16.06	5:00PM	23-Mar-08
L&D 22	14.91	12:00PM	23-Mar-08
Louisiana	14.79	3:00AM	19-Mar-08
L&D 24	25.23	2:00PM	19-Mar-08
L&D 25	26.14	6:00AM	20-Mar-08
Grafton	20.55	5:00PM	20-Mar-08
Mel Price	24.44	10:00PM	20-Mar-08
St. Louis	30.79	3:00AM	21-Mar-08
Chester	34.79	1:00PM	23-Mar-08
Cape	41.04	1:00AM	24-Mar-08
Thebes	40.37	11:00AM	24-Mar-08
Thpsn Landing	50.17	12:00AM	25-Mar-08
Birds Point	50.91	7:00PM	25-Mar-08
Illinois River			
Peoria	16.2	5:00AM	22-Mar-08
Beardstown	16.48	9:00AM	24-Mar-08
Meredosia	433.12	6:00AM	22-Mar-08
Florence	31.26	8:00PM	21-Mar-08
Ohio River			
Cairo	53.89	7:00PM	25-Mar-08
Missouri River			
Herman	25.67	3:00AM	20-Mar-08
Washington	22.6		20-Mar-08
St. Charles	27.47	8:00AM	20-Mar-08
Cuivre River			
Troy	24.02	9:00AM	19-Mar-08
Meramec River			
Sullivan	31.69	3:00AM	20-Mar-08
Union	25.89	7:00AM	21-Mar-08
Pacific	28.55	10:00PM	21-Mar-08
Eureka	39.78	9:00PM	21-Mar-08
Byrnesville	27.57	2:00PM	20-Mar-08
Valley Park	37.83	7:00AM	22-Mar-08
Arnold	39.32	4:00PM	22-Mar-08
Kaskaskia River			
Vandalia	26.47	7:00PM	20-Mar-08
Red Bud	384.19	8:00AM	23-Mar-08
Big Muddy River			
Murphysboro	37.19	9:00PM	22-Mar-08
Plumfield	29.86	7:00PM	21-Mar-08
St. Louis District Reservoirs			
Carlyle	454.40	5:00PM	05-Apr-08
Mark Twain	614.50	3:00PM	21-Mar-08
Rend	412.11	1:00AM	21-Mar-08
Shelbyville	603.53	3:00PM	04-Apr-08
Wappapello	387.09	7:00AM	21-Mar-08

— SEE FLOOD FIGHT, PAGE 14

District shows off at St. Louis Science Center

STORY BY NICOLE DALRYMPLE, PA

The 2008 National Engineers Week was celebrated around the United States February 17-23. In an e-mail commemorating the week, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, wrote, “this week is all about you” and expressed his gratitude for the people of the Army Corps of Engineers.

“Engineers are often the unsung heroes of the Nation. You’re behind the scenes, and if you do your jobs well, no one notices; if you don’t, everyone notices,” he wrote. “We are in a most interesting time, with the largest military construction program since World War II;

reconstruction in Iraq, Afghanistan, and New Orleans; and critical infrastructure around the Nation in desperate need of repair. As the Army’s engineers, both Soldiers and Civilians, you are playing an integral role in shaping the future of this country, and of nations around the world.”

For the fifth consecutive year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District participated in the Engineers Week event held at the St. Louis Science Center February 23-24.

Almost 13,500 people visited the Science Center over the weekend. Attendance was greatly increased

due to extended hours and the approaching conclusion of the enormously popular Body Worlds 3 exhibit that was in its final weeks.

Fourteen district employees representing Engineering & Construction and Operations Divisions and Project Management volunteered to take time out of their weekend to promote engineering and scientific professions and educate the public about the Army Corps of Engineers.

An estimated one thousand young people and adults gathered around the District’s functioning lock and dam model, which

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Lt. Col. Robert Bayham, center, St. Louis’ Deputy District Engineer, and Mike Feldmann, Assistant Chief, Engineering and Construction Division, speak with a visitor at the Corps’ display during the St. Louis Science Center’s National Engineers Week event. Nearly 13,500 people visited the Science Center during the two-day event, February 23-24.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

What pool am I in???

BY KATHY TOBER, CPAC DIRECTOR

Many who have converted from the General Schedule (GS) to a National Security Personnel System (NSPS) pay schedule may wonder who else will be in their pay pools when end-of-year pay pool panels meet. This issue gained more visibility recently when 164 more St. Louis District employees began to transition into NSPS, joining the smaller supervisor's group.

At this time, the pay pool structure for 2008 (which positions are in which pools) is being finalized by HQMVD. But we now have a glimpse of what it will look like. BG Walsh, MVD Commander, has keen interest in the pay pool structures and has decided that all pay pools within MVD and MVD Districts will be regional except for the one existing pool in each district for supervisors. The anticipated 12 regional pools are listed in the table on the right.

We believe the regional pools will be divided up between Districts within MVD to administer and that most of the pay pool panel members will be branch chiefs or District Division Deputies (e.g. Geotech Branch Chief, Deputy E&C Chief, etc.) We believe the pay pool managers will be Division Chiefs from various Districts. We expect to receive final guidance very soon.

Be assured that District leadership is staying fully involved in this issue and will inform everyone if there are any changes or we receive more information.



Anticipated 12 regional pools:

1. Supervisors at MVD and those at Districts that are senior rated by BG Walsh.
2. Small Office pool which includes Real Estate and Resource Management employees.
3. Engineering (all other than below) pool.
4. Design Branch employee pool.
5. Geotech Branch employee pool.
6. H&H Branch employee pool.
7. Construction Branch employee pool.
8. Operations Division Pool (other than those in the two below).
9. Regulatory employee pool.
10. Operations Division Natural Resources employee pool.
11. Environmental and Economics employee pool from PPPMD employees.
12. Project Mgmt, Planning and Program Management employee pool.



Stephanie Koch's winning photograph from 2006.

2008 Water Safety Photo Contest

The USACE Water Safety Photo Contest, open to all Corps employees, this year welcomes entries in nine categories. Submissions should depict the promotion of water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase water-based recreation facilities. All uniformed employees shown in the photos should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. Photos will be judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and category.

Categories:

1. Commercial Boating
2. Hunters and Anglers
3. Water Sports
4. Corps employees and (5) volunteers in action around water
6. Scenic Water Scenes
7. Environmental Stewardship at Corps water resources projects
8. Boat Accidents/Water-based Recreation Mishaps occurring at a Corps project
9. Flora/Fauna

Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2008

For a complete listing of rules and how to enter:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/WaterSafety.html>



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another, larger example,” he said.

MVD’s role has changed too, they agreed. “Division used to do more detailed design reviews,” Rector said. “Now they are more involved in QA’ing our processes,” he added.

Baldus said one result of the increased sharing of work is a smoothing of personnel gains and losses.

“We used to hire heavily to do a big job and then when the work was completed, start losing people in large numbers. Work sharing is smoothing those ups and downs.”

And what hasn’t changed?

Looking at each other, Baldus and Rector said almost simultaneously, “Meetings. If someone came back from 35 years ago and walked into a meeting they’d feel right at home. And mandatory training,” they both added, laughing.

But both agree quickly that the people are the same.

“This is a great place to work,” Baldus and Rector agreed. “I

see it continuing that way too,” Baldus added. Both said that new people are just as dedicated, smart and hard working as they have ever been. Both cited lifelong professional and personal relationships they have formed as part of the St. Louis District family as definite plusses as well.

“We used to have more people and there were more organized recreational activities. Today people live scattered over a wider area and have a lot of other things going on,” Baldus said, adding “We had four softball teams at one time in a St. Louis Federal League.” There was also a bowling league and volleyball league to occupy the winter and today’s golf league got its start in the 1960s.

Next?

Mel Baldus reported that he’s looking forward to a different pace of life. “My wife Kathy has two more years to go before retiring as a teacher,” he said. “We want to camp. I’m sure going to play more golf. I’m one of six kids. My

folks are still with us and we’re all around St. Louis. We have three kids and six grandchildren, with two more on the way. They’re all around St. Louis and I certainly intend to spend more time with all of them,” he added.

Looking ahead, Baldus also talked about charity work and coaching kids. “I like being busy and like being around kids,” he said. But he wasn’t any more specific than that.

Rector reported he has a lot of catching up to do. He’s an avid skier and biker, who just last year pedaled from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh. “My wife Diane and I want to do things versus lying on a beach somewhere,” he said.

“What I’m not going to do is keep getting up at 5 a.m.” he affirmed.

And one other thing: “When my son moved out, I sort of commandeered his closet. I put my skiing and biking clothes in there. I keep my suits, dress shirts, slacks and ties in the closet in our bedroom,” Mike said.

“I think I’ll swap ‘em,” he concluded.

Mike Rector prepares for a helicopter flight over New Orleans and surrounding areas in October 2005 to look at some of the damaged hurricane protection system. Rector was deployed to New Orleans in support of Task Force Guardian, which was responsible for the rebuilding of the region’s system.

USACE photo by George Stringham



Creating partnerships through our expertise



Mary Miles (center), river engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District's Applied River Engineering Center, explains how micromodels are used there to replicate the mechanics of a river or stream in a model the size of a normal table top, to a delegation from Colombia. The South American group, called Cormagdalena, which is responsible for maintaining the Magdalena River in Colombia, visited New Orleans and St. Louis to learn how to maintain river channels without dredging. The purpose of the visit also included developing a partnership with the Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy to advance the conservation and sustainable development of the Magdalena River.

USACE photo by George Stringham

Info about U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

MISSION

The mission of CID is to conduct and control all Army investigations of serious (felony) crimes as necessary for effective Army law enforcement. The economic crime program is concerned with protecting vital Army assets and ensuring the Army's capability to perform its combat role is not impeded by criminal acts.

DEFINITION

Economic crime is generally defined as a "Loss to the Government due to the subversion of a system from within by persons acting with a criminal intent."

WHY INVESTIGATE ECONOMIC CRIME?

Monetary recoupment gained as a result of a successful economic crime investigation can result in more Army dollars being available for equipment, facilities and manpower.

EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC CRIME

- Bribery/Gratuities
- False Claims
- Supply Diversion
- Conflict of Interest
- Product Substitution
- Antitrust Violations

ELEMENTS OF ECONOMIC CRIME

- Intent to commit a wrongful act or to achieve a purpose inconsistent with regulations or law. Disguise of purpose or intent, wherein the offender tries to make the act appear legitimate.
- Reliance on ignorance or carelessness on the part of the victim or responsible/accountable person.
- Acquiescence by the victim, whereby the offender induces the victim to undertake an act through the employment of a disguise.

HOW DO I REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY?

- Contact your local Office of Legal Counsel.
- Contact the St Louis Fraud Resident Agency

ST LOUIS FRAUD RESIDENT AGENCY

Major Procurement Fraud Unit
 United States Army Criminal
 Investigation Command
 Fairview Heights, IL
 Telephone (618) 293-2000

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Agent-in-Charge | Don Riffe | (618) 293-2002 |
| Special Agent | Jack Latham | (618) 293-2005 |
| Special Agent | Evan Carpenter | (618) 293-2004 |



Valley Park



(Above) Roland Murdock and Emily Navin take piezometer readings at one of the 11 stations along the 3.2 mile long Valley Park Levee on Friday, March 21, 2008.

USACE photo by George Stringham



USACE photo by George Stringham



USACE photo by Bruce Douglas

The Meramec River crested at Valley Park on the morning of Saturday, March 22 at 37.8 feet (top). On the following Monday, Valley Park street crews began the process of cleaning up. The flood of record was recorded December 6, 1982 at 41.0 feet.

USACE photo by George Stringham

Remembering 1982



(Above) Looking East on St. Louis Avenue. (Top right) Looking South on Hwy 141, the arrow is pointing at the Hwy 141 bridge over the Meramec River. (Right) Hwy 141 underwater at Interstate 44.

courtesy photos





The scheduled entertainment for the awards dinner was unable to attend due to winter weather. As a result, Col. Al Bleakley, Deputy Commander for Mississippi Valley Division, entertained the crowd with his rendition of *Old Man River*.

USACE photo by George Stringham

water resources during his welcoming remarks. He said it is ultimately “all about the river” and encouraged conference attendees to find ways to work together for the river’s benefit.

Many other speakers noted the tremendous natural resource found in the Mississippi River and the need to protect it. Vince Shay, TNC, said the Mississippi River is “critically important to fresh water ecology” and that we all have a “shared interest” in preserving and protecting the river.

Mark Bergstrom, of ALC, said his organization is committed to preserving the nation’s outdoor and natural heritage for future generations. “We need to make smart choices over the next 20 years or we won’t have a natural heritage to pass on,” Bergstrom pointed out. He emphasized everyone’s shared values and desire for a “healthy, safe and sustainable river.”

Keynote speakers included Rear Admiral Joel R. Whitehead, commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District; Michael Ensich, Chief of Operations and Regulatory at Headquarters USACE; Royce Wilken, president of the American River Transportation Company, and Mike Borgstrom, president of the Passenger Vessel Association. Guest speakers for the conference’s two luncheons were Rear Admiral James A. Watson, Director of Prevention Policy for USCG HQ, and Chad Pregracke, president of Living Lands and Waters.

Next year’s conference will be hosted by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division in Nashville, Tenn.

ENGINEERS WEEK, FROM PAGE 10

illustrates how locks and dams operate. The model, which cycles water, is a draw for kids and their parents and gives District employees a chance to discuss the lock and dam system, the navigation channel, low water and the benefits of moving bulk commodities by barge.

Onlookers were told how the lock chamber serves as a type of elevator, where instead of using steel cables or hydraulics to move cars up and down, the Corps uses the river itself to raise and lower river traffic. They were also told how the dams serve as a type of staircase, ensuring there’s enough water depth to provide a safe and dependable navigation channel.

District employees also explained the benefits of moving commodities on the river, and how just one standard hopper barge carries the equivalent of 58 large semis, or 15 jumbo hopper train cars. In the St. Louis District last year over 193 million tons of cargo traversed our five lock and dam sites.

Various printed materials were available for the public at the District’s booth. Brochures and other booklets highlighted the Corps of Engineers, the St.

Louis District and our missions, such as recreation, water safety, and environmental restoration.

The Science Center event is organized and sponsored by Ameren.

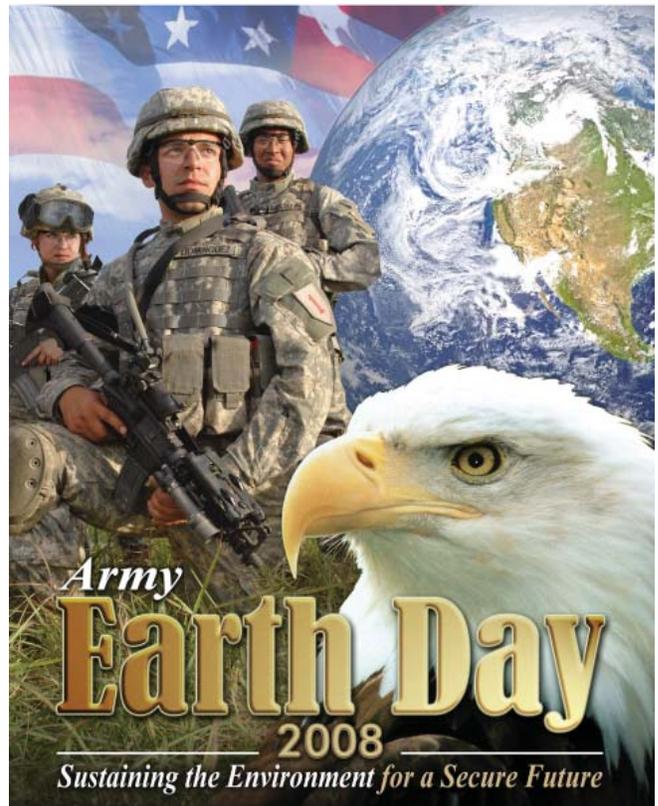
The University of Missouri at Columbia and its Science and Technology school in Rolla had a strong showing with teams and exhibits representing a wide array of engineering specialties to include robotics; chemical, ceramic and nuclear engineering; solar cars; steel bridges; human powered vehicles; and solar energy.

Other participants included the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Gateway Biomedical Society, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, St. Louis Community College, and Southern Illinois University.

Participants telling the Corps story at the Science Center in 2008 were Rich Astrack (PM), Lt. Col. Robert Bayham (DD), John Boeckmann (EC), Nicole Dalrymple (PA), Alan Dooley (PA), Lance Engle (OD), Mike Feldmann (EC), Amy Henke (OD), Kale Horton (OD), Brandon Lewis (EC), Katy Manar (OD), Darren Mulford (EC), Col. Lewis F. Setliff (DE), and Julie Ziino (DX).

St. Louis District Celebrates Earth Day 2008

<p>Carlyle Lake April 25</p>	<p>Environmental and safety professionals present programs on topics including, Birds of Prey, Nocturnal Animals, Forest Fire Prevention, and much more. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Carlyle Lake Project Office at (618) 594-2484.</p>
<p>Rend Lake May 1-2</p>	<p>Shows starring eagles, hawks and vultures, live snakes, recycling events and more make for a great day in the outdoor classroom. Pre-registration is required. Call the Rend Lake Project Office at 618-724-2493.</p>
<p>Mark Twain Lake April 22</p>	<p>A Mark Twain Lake park ranger is presenting Earth Day programs to Center Elementary School and New London Elementary School.</p>
<p>Wappapello Lake April 23-24</p>	<p>Presentations by: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation Forester's and Fishery Biologist, University of Missouri Specialist, COE Park Rangers and Natural Resources Specialist, USDA staff and local experts from the public.</p>



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