



# St. Louis District *Esprit* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Fall 2009  
Volume 48  
Number 3

[www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)

Questions/Comments:  
CEMVS-PA@usace.army.mil

## Deployments in support of OIF / OEF shift from Iraq to Afghanistan



The picture above from Afghanistan symbolizes the ongoing dedication of MVS employees to serve our nation by supporting Overseas Contingency Operations. On the left are Kristina Weis and Joe Kellett. Kristina is a relative newcomer to Afghanistan while Joe is in his second six-month voluntary tour there. On the right are Kale Horton and Frank Johnson. Both are recent returnees from deployments.

Why do people deploy to far away Iraq and Afghanistan?

Talking to prospective deployers, from those with no previous military or overseas deployment experience, to military retirees or persons with multiple deployments under their belts, and to recent returnees, you hear recurring themes.

Non-deployers often focus on the money that comes from deployment. While nobody reports

turning it down, it is hard earned from long hours and as compensation for difficult living and working conditions.

But from those who are making or have made the commitment, you hear many of the same words: service, opportunity to make a difference, and even something they say they hope doesn't sound corny – patriotism. They all anticipate or report adventure, excitement and satisfaction. The experiences are fodder for a lifetime of memories and stories.

The St. Louis District currently counts 12 persons deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in its roles. That number has been as high as 14 in recent months and fluctuates with each deployment and return. But ask any one of them if they feel they made a significant contribution and the odds are great that you will receive a resounding “Yes!” Note the smiles in the picture.

[More deployers on page 11]

**From the Corner Office**



*Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.*

I am focusing in this Esprit on continuing of my discussion of “Keys to Success” that I started in our October town hall. I see these four areas as keys to our success as individuals, as a District, Division and Corps. They are neither mysterious nor magic. Rather, I think they are common sense. They are not separate items either, but rather, they should flow seamlessly and logically through all that we do.

- **People first and always:** Whether it is designing a complicated lock structure, providing a safe and enriching recreation visit, or making a small but significant improvement to our region and nation’s water resources, nothing is more important to success than the people who conceive it, plan or design it and then execute

it, or the people it will serve. People, people, people. This includes your MVS colleagues, our partners and stakeholders and finally, the public our work serves. If you feel a task is burdensome, stop and consider who is working with you and who will be served by your work. This provides a proper and refreshing perspective to your tasks. People are both how, and the reasons why, we do what we do.

- **Deliver what we promise:** Creating quality products or services, on schedule, at or below projected cost, that prove to be sustainable and reliable, should be our goal – our promise. It is how we will be graded at day’s end. I am not saying we will always be perfect. But delivering what we promise should be the standard we are driving towards. As we work I want us each to focus on doing what we say we will do and doing it right, on time and on cost. Remember who we are and who we serve. Do it right. Make it right. Deliver what we promise.
- **Develop collaborative solutions:** The days of the Army Corps of Engineers designing a project in a vacuum, executing it and then handing it to someone else are over, if they ever really existed. We are

simply better as a team. Sharing expertise across regional boundaries, bringing partners to the table or going to their table and being willing to consider solutions “not invented here” are keys to developing and executing the best answers to the challenges we face. While the Corps of Engineers embodies a great deal of expertise and experience, we must be ready to accept that others may have ideas that will improve a project or even push it over the top to completion. Involving all facets of teamwork also builds “buy in” and ownership, which in turn better guarantees the

— SEE CORNER OFFICE, NEXT PAGE

| In this issue:                               |       |
|--|-------|
| <i>Overseas deployment in support of OCO</i> | Cover |
| <i>From the Corner Office</i>                | 2     |
| <i>The Chief Sends</i>                       | 4     |
| <i>Kellett visit</i>                         | 5     |
| <i>Wapp feral hog update</i>                 | 6     |
| Mark Twain Lake celebration                  | 8     |
| 30... by Thirty                              | 10    |
| More OCO deployments                         | 11    |
| Batteries ARE included                       | 12    |
| Night on the Kaski                           | 13    |
| QMS  | 14    |
| Passing of Ruddle Spring                     | 15    |
| St. Louis District honors Veterans           | Back  |



ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly, by contract, in 550 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander..... Col. Thomas E. O’Hara, Jr.  
 Chief, Public Affairs ..... Alan J. Dooley  
 314-331-8002  
 Public Affairs Specialist/Editor..... George Stringham  
 314-331-8068

US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District  
 ATTN: CEMVS-PA  
 1222 Spruce Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

[www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)



CORNER OFFICE, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

best service to the public.

- **Set the standard for our profession:** Whether you are an engineer or a lock operator, an environmental specialist or a human resources manager, you must aspire to set and sustain the standards for what you do. You must do so safely, with unfailing attention to each other and to our customers. You must strive for and stay at the cutting edge and be a leader. You must be the best you can be and then try to get even better. You do that by growing professionally, by first becoming a contributing team member and then by assuming increasing leadership roles.

Become the standard and benchmark by which other's measure their abilities.

As I said, this again is not a matter of four separate points. They flow from one to the next and then back to the beginning. They point to our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers motto: "Building Strong." The four points above are all directed to that goal – to Build Strong – to build the best, lasting value for America. It doesn't make any difference if you are kindling a child's first grasp of the environment or if you are leading a team executing a multi-billion dollar project. It is about building a team and doing each of our parts to ensure that this is the best team humanly possible and then as a team, meeting the public's needs.

As I have said to individuals, to groups at town halls, to new employees and to grizzled veterans, the keys to success are the choices we make. I believe that if we commit ourselves – every day – to delivering standard-setting answers, we must and will succeed.

We owe ourselves, our colleagues, our partners and the public we serve no less. You are a remarkable group of people and I know that if you set your minds to success, you will succeed. We will succeed.

Thanks for your continued service to our nation. I hope each of you has a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Happy Holidays!

*Essayons. Hooah!*  
Col. O



District Commander, Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., addresses the District during a Town Hall meeting on October 26, where he highlighted what was accomplished in FY 2009, where the District was headed for 2010, outline of the Campaign Plan and an awards ceremony.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

# THE CHIEF SENDS: Campaign Plan roles out, going from "Good-to-Great"

Teammates,

This is an important period in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as we firmly establish our Campaign Plan and accompanying implementation plans to help our organization advance to great! We are using the Campaign Plan to establish our command priorities, focus our transformation initiatives, measure and guide our progress, and adapt to the needs of the future.

I have had the privilege of talking with many of you and your local leadership during the past year to shape the specifics of the overall plan. The divisions have developed implementation plans (IPlans) to achieve our goals and objectives and many of the districts have corresponding operation plans to

achieve the actions in the IPlans.

My intent is for the Corps to be a disciplined team--disciplined people doing disciplined thinking and executing with disciplined action. We intend to meet our commitments, with and through our partners, by saying what we will do, and doing what we say.

We have set up a webpage ([www.usace.army.mil/about/campaignplan](http://www.usace.army.mil/about/campaignplan)) that provides detailed information on the Campaign Plan. The goal is that this site will help each of you determine the important role you play in our new plan. Additionally, each of your commanders will work closely with supervisors at all levels to ensure you are able to discuss -- in detail -- the specifics of where you fit into the plan.

Each of you play an important role in the success of this plan, because it is only through our combined and synchronized efforts that we will achieve our goals. All of us--from our most senior leaders to our newest employee--need to be accountable for delivering superior performance. Your performance objectives for next year should align with and support your respective plan.

I am honored to serve with you as we transform our Corps from Good to Great.

**Now, let's get 'er done!**

Best, Van

BUILDING STRONG®

**Goal 1**

**Ready for All Contingencies**

Deliver USACE support to combat, stability and disaster operations through forward deployed and reach back capabilities.

**Goal 2**

**Engineering Sustainable Water Resources Solutions**

Deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

**Goal 3**

**Building Effective Innovative Sustainable Solutions**

Deliver innovative, resilient, sustainable solutions to the Armed Forces and the Nation.

**Goal 4**

**Recruit and Retain Strong Teams**

Build and cultivate a competent, disciplined and resilient team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.



# Joe Kellett visits from Afghanistan

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

“I think we really have a chance to make a difference – to change the outcome in Afghanistan,”

St. Louis DPM Joe Kellett told a group of prospective volunteers for Afghanistan duty. Kellett, who was in the area for a rest and relaxation break from duty in the Afghan capital of Kabul, came to the District to talk to people demonstrating interest in serving in Afghanistan or Iraq and to answer their questions.

He told the group that the answer in the long-time war torn nation is not just a military one. Rather he told, helping develop the land locked nation’s infrastructure is critical to success. He described how, for example, completing operating facilities for Afghanistan National Police leads to stability in the region.

Kellett took on one question uppermost in most minds: safety. He told about security precautions and how everyone is protected by large numbers of NATO soldiers, including American and other-nation combat troops. He acknowledged that risks are higher in outlying areas away from Kabul, but noted that the great majority of onsite construction management is handled by Afghan nationals. “When you would make a site visit it would be under military protection,” Kellett said.

When asked what kind of people succeed best, Kellett answered with a single phrase: “Self-starters.” When you arrive in Kabul you will not have your hand held. It will be up to you to get the administrative details wrapped up and then to make your own arrangements to get to work,” he said.

He described living conditions as a progressive situation.



Joe Kellett, left, talks with Chris Wilson, Mike Kessler, Trisha Stavely, Luke Miers, Jim Zerega and Alina Smith during an R&R trip back to St. Louis.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

“You will start in the bunk house. That’s not the most comfortable way to go. But after just a few nights you will move to two-person quarters. Then you will work your way up to a private living situation,” he said. “You will have heat and air conditioning, TV and a computer and phone connectivity.”

Kellett weighed the relative advantages of volunteering for six and 12 month tours, noting that at the midpoint of each six months, and at the six-month point, volunteers receive paid trips home, “or just about anywhere in the world you want to go” he said. He replied to a question about how emergencies at home would be handled by telling the group, “If it became necessary you’d be on a plane en route home within 24 hours.”

The slender Kellett described a typical work schedule as being long. “We work seven days a week and about 12 hours a day,” he said. “But the hours are flexible,” he added. “I come in about 8 a.m. and work into the evening. There are others who arrive before sun up and get done

earlier in the day.

“Of course the money is good,” Kellett told people. “You can expect to make twice your salary at home and more. But that’s not the reason to decide to go. You go to make a difference. You go to have an adventure and be part of a team. If you just go for the money you are unlikely to be very happy,” he concluded.

Joe Kellett’s passion for what he is doing in Afghanistan was very evident as he told of the work ahead and fielded questions from those who may be doing it. It was also illustrated by the fact that while he initially volunteered for a six month tour, he added six more months for a year tour. Both his passion and satisfaction showed in his face and his actions.

Anyone who is interested in serving overseas with the USACE, but who didn’t have an opportunity to visit with him in August can reach Joe Kellett at his USACE global email address: [joseph.p.kellett@usace.army.mil](mailto:joseph.p.kellett@usace.army.mil) or his AKO address: [joseph.p.kellett@us.army.mil](mailto:joseph.p.kellett@us.army.mil).

# Corps and other federal and state agencies to root out feral hogs

STORY BY ERIC LEMONS, NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST, WAPPAPELLO LAKE

In 2007, Governor Jay Nixon issued an Executive Order to create a multi-agency task force to address concerns over feral hogs. Concerns began to arise in the 1990s when recreational hog hunting became popular. People began raising European wild boar to hunt on licensed shooting preserves. Some of the boars escaped and some were intentionally released onto public lands to create populations to hunt for free.

Feral hogs are destructive to native wildlife. They compete for food sources such as acorns, nuts, and fruits. Feral hogs are voracious predators, feeding on anything they can capture including eggs, fawns, frogs, salamanders, lizards, and other reptiles. Their rooting and wallowing destroy or alter wetlands, small streams, and ponds. Nationwide, it is estimated feral hogs cause \$800 million damage annually. This figure does not include losses due to disease and environmental damage, such as fens, glades, springs, and streams, which are difficult to quantify.

Feral hogs can carry 30 significant viral and bacterial diseases and 37 parasites that can affect people, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Of most concern are swine brucellosis and pseudorabies, primarily because of their potential impact on the livestock industry and human health. Swine brucellosis causes abortions in domestic hogs and can infect pets, cattle, and people. This disease is known as Undulant Fever in humans. It is a serious disease but can be treated with antibiotics.



Eric Lemons with a 150 pound boar he got at Wappapello Lake near Little Creek on February 28, 2005. It was the first one captured on Corps property at Wappapello Lake.

USACE photo courtesy of Wappapello Lake

State and federal agencies, such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Forest Service, Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources are active in the eradication of feral hogs on their properties. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Wildlife Services staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture assists private landowners with their efforts to control or eradicate hogs.

Trapping and snaring are the most common and effective methods for catching hogs. Aerial gunning has also proven to be very effective under the right circumstances. APHIS Wildlife Services have used this method extensively in Kansas and the Missouri Department of Conservation has successfully used this technique to a lesser degree. Bay dogs are effective for removing small pockets or hogs or hogs that are "trap shy". Baiting and shooting

as hogs come to feed is also effective and is enhanced when night vision equipment is employed by state and federal employees. A pig that betrays others, known as a Judas Pig, has also proven effective. This involves placing a radio transmitter on a small female and releasing her back to the wild. She then joins with other hogs and eradication efforts are focused on the whole group.

State and federal agencies tried to incorporate hunters to control and possibly eradicate feral hogs. This approach did not work and may have exacerbated the problem by creating a heightened interest in hog hunting. The majority of hogs killed by hunters are taken incidental while hunting other species such as deer.

Eradication of feral hogs may be difficult due to the reproductive cycle of this species. Research indicates a minimum of 70% of a feral hog

— SEE *FERAL HOGS*, NEXT PAGE

*FERAL HOGS, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*

population must be removed annually to keep it from growing. To further complicate the problem, sows are sexually mature at approximately 60 pounds (less than one year old). They can produce two litters per year with an average litter size of six piglets.

The Governor's task force was divided into four subcommittees to focus their expertise to the directives of the Executive Order. The subcommittees are Public and Private Land, Statutes and Regulations, Voluntary Disease Testing, and Outreach and Education. Each subcommittee was asked to arrive at the best approach to deal with each issue, including estimating financial needs.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to establish a working relationship among state and federal agencies who agree to support the concepts and goals set in Executive Order 07-26.

The intentional release of swine is a major contributing factor in the spread of feral hog populations across Missouri. The complexity of issues regarding feral hogs is considerable and solutions are challenging due to the fact that hogs are usually owned by someone. When free ranging they are NOT considered wildlife so they



Feral Hogs photographed in the wild (not at Wappapello Lake).

Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture

are not regulated under the Missouri Department of Conservation's Wildlife Code. Recommendations have been made to strengthen the law under one state statute for such offenses as illegal releases and profiting from such releases.

Disease testing is accomplished through test kits distributed to private landowners who call to identify a feral hog problem. The specimens are sent to the Missouri Department of Agriculture Diagnostic Laboratory in Jefferson City for analysis.

Education and outreach needs have been addressed through the development of a color brochure, a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation

to be used by natural resources managers, and tailored state and federal websites. Programs are ongoing at state fairs, visitor centers, and various media outlets.

Currently, a subgroup of the task force is working on development of a fully coordinated pilot effort for feral hog eradication. The goals of this group are to select a geographical landowner and, since feral hogs are populated in isolated areas, eradicate them from the selected area. This effort will be instrumental in developing a plan of action for eradication. With effective education and outreach, the public is likely to be supportive.

#### **Participating agencies:**

- United States Department of Agriculture
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection/Wildlife Services
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- United States Army Corps of Engineers  
(St. Louis, Little Rock and Kansas City Districts)
- United States Forest Service (Mark Twain National Forest)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service (Ozark National Scenic Riverways)
- Fort Leonard Wood (Natural Resources Branch)

# Mark Twain Lake ce

Mark Twain Lake celebrated twice Saturday, September 12. The lake is getting a new visitor center and celebrated 25 years of service to the region and the nation.

First in late morning more than 100 people from across the region and as far away as Maryland gathered to mark a new beginning for the multi-purpose lake project by breaking ground for the new M. W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center. The center, illustrated by large architect's drawings will go up on the site of a previous facility, the shell of which was undergoing demolition in the background. The original visitor center, by the same name, had to be closed in 2004 when structural deterioration was assessed, making it unsafe for visitors.

The new \$4.5 million facility is being built with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). In his remarks, St. Louis District Commander Col. Thomas O'Hara told the audience that without the ARRA funds it was extremely unlikely that we would have seen funding to build this center for years.

He also noted that the design-build process using existing contracts from the Huntsville, Ala. Engineering Center was the only way this work could have been accomplished under the time constraints of the ARRA. "More than 85 percent of the materials and labor to design and build this facility are being obtained locally," he noted. "We could not have done this any other way," he concluded.

"We are carrying out the intent of the ARRA with this project," Col. O'Hara told the audience that ranged from babies to people who had lived in the region all their lives, and some who had worked on the original building. "We are putting Americans to work and we are building lasting value for the nation," he emphasized.

The new facility will continue to portray the history and natural resources of the 55,000 acre project. Its design was influenced heavily by local partners who have been working to make the replacement center a reality, and it will include a multi-purpose room for education and other local events.



Mark Twain Lake Operations Manager, Sandra Spence, recognizes Mary Anne Heitmeyer and Diane Hellhake for their efforts in preparing for the ground breaking



Partners break ground for the new M. W. Boudreaux Visitor Center.



Diane Hellhake shows some of the features of the new visitor center to Roy Fishback.

# celebrates a "two-for"



Doug Smith, Mark Twain Lake Chamber of Commerce President and local business owner holds up a bumper sticker for Joanna Dam, which was to be the original name of the dam.



U.S. Senator, Christopher 'Kit' Bond was the keynote speaker for the 25th Anniversary ceremony. He was also the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony, only he was governor of Missouri.



Monroe City Scouts parade the National Ensign and Missouri State flag at the beginning of the 25th Anniversary ceremony.

Many of the same people who broke ground in the morning moved down the hill to a site below the Clarence Cannon Dam, which forms Mark Twain Lake, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the lake's operation.

The keynote speaker for the observance was the same person who delivered the keynote remarks when the lake was dedicated 25 years ago: then governor and now senior Missouri Senator, The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond.

Senator Bond contrasted the splendid sunny Saturday event with the first day celebration that saw six inches of rain and a sea of mud. "People lost shoes and they had to use heavy equipment to extricate vehicles," he remembered.

The Senator also announced that with his forthcoming retirement from the Senate that he intended to come to Mark Twain Lake to fish. "Every time I come they tell me I should have been there the day before or they tell me, 'you ought to come tomorrow.' Well, I will be back for that tomorrow," he told.

District Commander Col. Thomas O'Hara noted that the project's first purpose was flood damage reduction and that in its first 25 years it had prevented an estimated \$1.5 billion in damages.

The Honorable Harold Volkmer and Sam Leake, former U.S. and Missouri State representatives of the area also spoke at the celebration, as did current Mark Twain Chamber of Commerce President Doug Smith.

The day was wrapped up by opportunities to look back at historic photos and memorabilia, as well as music by the local RalūGerri group. Another highlight was the first public visitor access to the Clarence Cannon Hydroelectric Powerhouse since the 9-11 attack, which occurred eight years and a day earlier.

In closing the ceremony, Col. Thomas O'Hara presented each event speaker with an original dedication coin from the first day of operation of the facility 25 years earlier, and all promised their support for the next 25 years and more.

# 30... by Thirty

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

There comes a point in life – earlier than we care to admit – at which we realize that looking and feeling good is not necessarily a natural thing. The ease of motion and relative invincibility of youth starts to emerge as somewhat of an achievement vice an entitlement.

This is a crucial hinge point in most people's lives. We can succumb to momentum and try to ignore the fact that thirty-something isn't the teen years or we can do something about it.

Then 29-year-old Natural Resource Specialist Ashley Florey had that epiphany last year after the birth of her second child, daughter Avery. "I kicked it around with my sister and close friends before deciding that I was not going to follow the path of least resistance. That decision evolved into a goal and a plan. I decided to run thirty road runs before I turned 30," the 10-year Corps employee said.

She recently completed the 30th race a 5 kilometer trail race on August 8 before her 30th birthday on August 13.

Athletic endeavors are a natural part of Ashley's life. She was a multi-sport athlete at Cowden-Herrick High School in Herrick, Illinois. She was a scholarship basketball player and golfer at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois as well.

"I knew I had to make a plan and a commitment," she said. "I got on the computer and started identifying road races. I figured that if I signed up, and committed my registration money I'd go through with it. If it was just a



Ashley Florey with her her husband, Matt and son, Wade and daughter Avery after the Tom Short 5K at Shelbyville, her 30th run.

USACE photo courtesy of Wappapello Lake

weekend run on the calendar and a reason not to go emerged, I knew I might just blow it off. I mean, I'm a Mom, I have a full time job and you have to actually get out of bed and show up before race time," she said, listing reasons to fail that she resisted."

She eventually spent over \$800 on race fees in a year.

Ashley's first race was 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) last fall. Over coming months she competed 29 more times, running a half-marathon (13.2 miles) and numerous 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) or 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) races. She also competed in trail runs over rough ground and in a Mud Run at Scott AFB. In the latter she covered 5 kilometers with crawls through mud, "runs" through knee-deep mud and through and around other obstacles. "I had to duct tape my

shoes on for that one," she told.

There were no area runs to be found in January or February, she said.

As she got down to the cross road of accumulating race numbers and her looming birthday, she even had to deal with an emerging schedule problem. "I thought pair of 5 and 10k runs were on consecutive days. But I found they were on the same day – morning and afternoon. I had paid the registration fee and decided to run both of them. And I did," she reported.

The Tower Hill resident, who lives on a farm with husband Matt and her children, said that her Mom, Cathy Mathias, was her strongest supporter in her quest. "She usually watched the kids or brought them to the races so they could be part of the event," Ashley said. Twice she

— SEE *RUNNER*, NEXT PAGE

# OCO Deployments

## Recently deployed:



WES GAFFNER



MIKE KESSLER



PAT SHAW



KRISTINA WEIS

## Others currently deployed:

CHAD ADAMSON  
GERALD ALLEN  
JOHN CANNON  
JOE KELLETT

MATT RECTOR  
HENRY SHELTON  
JASON THOMPSON  
GREG WALGATE

### RUNNER, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

pushed both of her children, son Wade-3 and daughter Avery-1, in a jogging cart during the race. She also told how she was able to shape work hours around runs, coming in a little late to fit in Saturday races when she was scheduled to work on weekends. "A lot of people made this possible," she said.

Ashley says she intends to continue running. "It keeps me in shape and I like to compete," she listed

as reasons. She tried to run at least five miles, six times a week to prepare.

Life consists of a series of forks in the road. They are times to decide which path to follow. If you have questions about your path, you might want to ask Ashley Florey for advice. But ask only if you aren't afraid of a path that leads up hill, that resists instead of surrendering. Ashley runs in Asics running shoes – but she subscribes to the Nike solution: "Just do it."

# Batteries ARE included

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

The Stephen Spielberg sci-fi film titled “Batteries Not Included” entertained audiences nationwide in 1987. In 2009 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis has been acquiring vehicles that include batteries – big batteries. Known as hybrids, they use batteries for propulsion versus simply to provide lights, dash board info or other small scale uses. The new hybrids combine smaller gasoline engines and battery-electric motors to drive the vehicles.

The growing hybrid fleet included seven vehicles at the start of July 2009. There are three Chevrolet Malibu sedans, a hybrid Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck and most recently, two new Ford Escape 4x4s, according to fleet manager Charlie Johnson.

Added to the growing list of high tech fuel savers is the vehicle assigned to the Commander’s use, a Saturn Vue Hybrid van.

The Malibu sedans have been very popular with users, Johnson reports. “We expect the same kind of acceptance of the new Escapes as well,” he said. Johnson went on to say, “The Escapes may be the first of their kind in the USACE fleet, but I can’t prove that. They are early for sure though,” he added with a laugh.

Are they more fuel efficient? “It’s too early to get the whole picture, but on a vehicle for vehicle basis, it appears they are,” Johnson indicated. For example, we are seeing mileage numbers in the range of 35-plus mpg for the Malibu sedans.

Some of the vehicles add new wrinkles to what we have long



Charlie Johnson, fleet manager for St. Louis District’s inventory of vehicles, inspects the new Ford Escape Hybrid shortly after taking possession. The fleet of seven hybrids also includes the District Commander’s Saturn Vue Hybrid.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

assumed about trucks and cars. It is well known that most hybrids get better mileage around town than on the highway, Johnson noted. This is because they store energy in batteries that was formerly discarded as heat from braking, which occurs more frequently in stop and go city use.

“But when you stop the Silverado, the gasoline engine stops as well. Suddenly there is no oil pressure indicated and the vehicle starts to move again on electric power. Then the gasoline engine restarts and oil pressure is indicated. I insist that the people in Engineering, who are going to operate this vehicle, review the operator’s manual before they drive it the first time,” Johnson said.

In addition to the battery-

gasoline hybrids, the Corps vehicle fleet downtown includes five flexible fuel vehicles that can burn unleaded regular gasoline, 85 percent ethanol or combinations of those two fuels. More flexible fuel vehicles are positioned at field projects around the District. “This gives us added flexibility in buying fuel as well as helping to save oil-derived fuel,” Johnson said.

The new high tech vehicles are a multiple win, Charlie Johnson said. They are being built by hard pressed auto workers, they are serving as examples for Corps employees who may consider similar purchases when they know more and are saving fuel while they are doing that. “We need to be able to move around anyhow, so why not do it a better way,” Johnson concluded.

# Kaski is reviewed by stakeholders

STORY BY ALAN DOOLEY, PA

More than 250 stakeholders, partners and guests who are working toward the future of the Kaskaskia River went aboard the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Barge 51. They boarded just upstream of the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam on “Kaski.” The purpose of what was billed as the 9th Annual Showcase event of the Kaskaskia Watershed Association, and hosted by the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI), was to discuss mutual watershed goals and to hear from Congressman Jerry Costello, District leadership and others intimately concerned with the future of the longest river wholly within the State of Illinois.

The afternoon departure was prefaced by remarks by Congressman Jerry Costello (D-Illinois 12th District). The Congressman, who has long championed Corps of Engineers work in his district, which includes the lower navigable stretch of the Kaski, updated his audience on recent issues in Washington and reiterated his continued support for navigation as well as environmental and other work by the Corps. Congressman Costello expressed his regrets at needing to depart due to another commitment before the river cruise started.

Prior to departing, Congressman Costello was presented a custom-made puzzle of images of the Kaskaskia River, with his picture at its center.

After departing from the river bank, the barge, pushed by the Southern Illinois Transfer tow boat Dale W, first locked downbound through the 600-foot by 84-foot concrete lock chamber. Then they



Kaskaskia River stakeholders and members of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc., board the Corps' barge, pushed by Southern Illinois Transfer's M/V Dale W, immediately upstream of Kaskaskia Lock and Dam.

USACE photo by Alan Dooley

turned and locked upbound in company with a commercial barge tow pushed by the Lisa Ann, a sister vessel of the Dale W.

As the barge was pushed upstream, District Commander, Col. Thomas E. O'Hara told the embarked guests about recent work in the St. Louis District as well as future work supporting a spectrum of goals from improving navigation, to floor risk reduction and environmental enhancement. The Colonel praised the Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA) for its cooperative spirit and work, which is often cited by federal authorities as a model for regional cooperation.

Other speakers, including the new LKSI President, Ms. Pat Wetzel, discussed the contributions of the river, especially to agricultural interests in the rich valley, who are able to ship their farm commodities to market via barges, as well as to other commercial interests along the river.

Following the remarks, cruise attendees were hosted to a \$10

buffet dinner and opportunities for congenial discussion as the barge was pushed upstream to Fayetteville, Ill. as the sun descended and evening took over on the Kaskaskia River as it passed through some of southwestern Illinois pristine wetland and wooded environment. Fulltime residents and recreation campers waved as the towboat passed.

The return trip back to the Lock and Dam was filled with night sounds and the music of a traditional cruise participant, the one-man song and music man who calls himself “Shakey Dave.”

On arrival above the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam the cruise participants were greeted with a resounding fireworks display before coming ashore, where they were hosted to additional refreshments and conversation.

The river cruise marked the third time the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders have hosted the KWA Showcase and based on comments and reactions it won't be the last.

# Four Square MEALs A Day

## *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, and Quality*

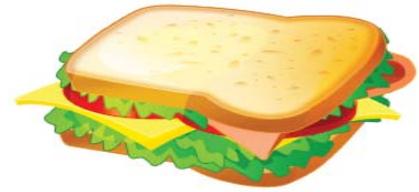
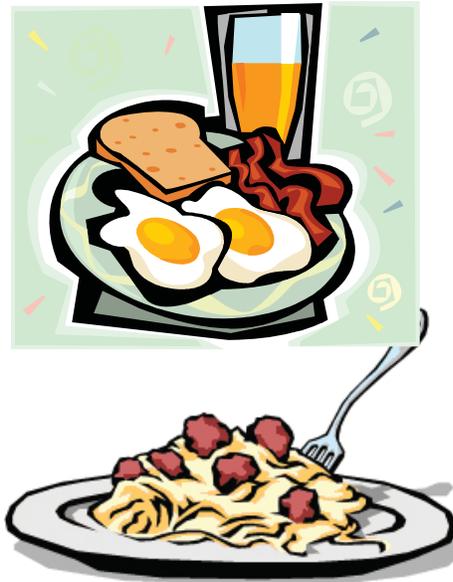
BY JANET ULIVI, P.E.  
MVS QUALITY MANAGER

You've seen it on your computer desktop and you've seen it on e-mails by way of the Quality QMS MEALs, but just what is this QMS anyway? QMS is the acronym for Quality Management System and comes from ER 5-1-11 titled USACE Business Process, and our Project Management Business Process (PMBP). It is a web-based depository for written processes that we use daily in our work.

The Corps is becoming much more focused on mission, customers, teamwork, and operating principles. We want to be able to measure quality. Quality is the degree to which a set of characteristics fulfills requirements. Quality is managed through the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle which can be found in the ER.

The first part of the cycle is "Plan" for Quality which is the development of the Project Management Plan (PMP); the second is "Do" by Working the Plan and Building Quality which is executing the PMP; the third is "Check" for Problems which are the technical reviews, management oversight, after action reviews, and lessons learned; and finally, "Act" by Revising Procedures which means revisions to management plans and adjustments to resources.

Let's get back to QMS. If you get onto the site you'll see the Corps' vision statement: "To execute the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission through standard business processes that increase efficiency, effectiveness, and product quality; are championed



by the Communities of Practice (COP's); and improved through Lean Six Sigma so that USACE PDT's can respond virtually and seamlessly in support of the Nation's Civil Works priorities and the Armed Forces' call for expeditionary technical teams in real-time, anywhere across the globe with minimal onsite training." That's a mouthful but what it's trying to say is that if globally we are able to do all of our processes the same, or at least similar, we'll give consistent quality products and services to our customer, the public, in a much more efficient way, no matter where we are on this earth.

By the way, our division, MVD, has its own QMS vision statement: "To execute the USACE Mission through standard business processes that increase efficiency, effectiveness, and product quality, and instill the concepts of quality into everyday operations. The MVD teams engage the standard business processes, reach sustainable

solutions by using best practices and operating principles, and endeavor towards continual improvement. By using standard business processes, the MVD teams can place their focus on the Corps' customers and partners."

Whose idea was it to have QMS? Back in 2007, the National Management Board started an effort to create QMS instead of each district and division having their own Quality Management Plan (QMP). They figured that the benefits of QMS and standard processes include: a structured approach to accomplish work; promoting work sharing (working regionally and across regions), lessons learned, and capturing institutional knowledge; executing work consistently; improving customer satisfaction and the Corps' reputation; increasing efficiency; and centralizing the processes which are now accessible world wide.

Our mission is to provide

— SEE QMS, NEXT PAGE

# Another chapter of history is lost: Ruddle Spring

Forty-three-year river man and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee Ruddle Spring passed away November 2 at age 95. He passed away at the Lincoln Community Nursing Home in Lincoln, Mo.

Ruddle was born near Grand Tower, Ill., January 17, 1914. He began work for the St. Louis District at age 17 at the Service Base in 1931. He moved to the towing industry in 1935 after he obtained a pilot license.

He returned to the Corps as a pilot in 1952. In 1960 he became captain of the Pathfinder. After retiring in 1974, piloted the excursion boat Admiral in St. Louis for four years.

Ruddle's obituary noted his love for his family, friends, the rivers of our heartland and the St. Louis Baseball Cardinals.



*QMS, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*

quality, responsive engineering services to the nation. This includes planning, designing, building, and operating water resource projects and other civil works projects; providing design and construction management for other federal agencies; and, meeting customer expectations by providing quality, cost-effective products and services, and in a timely manner. You can just imagine how inefficient our processes were before QMS. The Corps has eight divisions and forty-one districts throughout the States, Asia, and Europe. What are the chances that all of those districts are doing things the same way?

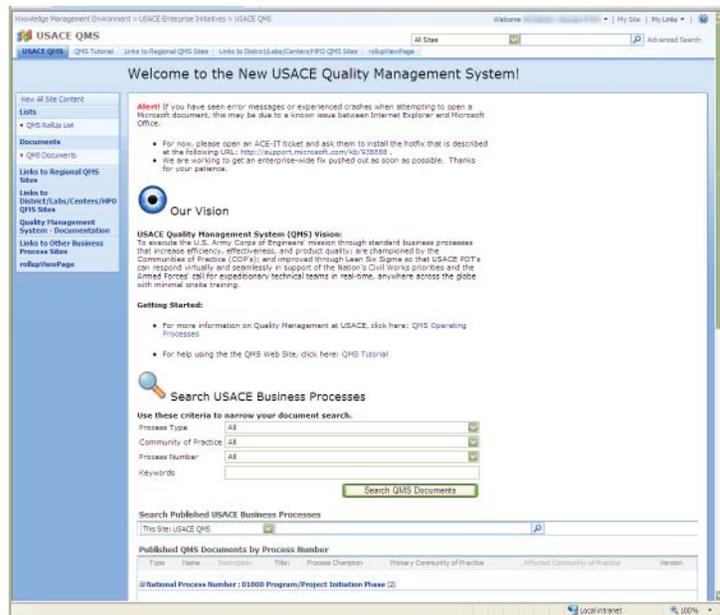
There is an Engineering Regulation on QMS. It is ER 5-1-14, USACE Quality Management System. It is the policy for development and implementation of the comprehensive quality management system (QMS) which is focused on the achievement of customer satisfaction and continual improvement. USACE is committed to providing services and products that meet or exceed customer

expectations. QMS enables USACE to achieve this goal by adapting and refining its management practices.

How do we know that it's working out for us? QMS will be regularly evaluated by internal audit and management review. The MVD team of auditors arrived in our District in late August. Except for some issues with familiarity with QMS, the auditors found that we

were pretty much following the two sample processes that they reviewed. That was good news.

You need to take a look at this QMS. Everyone has the star icon on their computer desktop. Just double-click and explore. Keep your eye out for the next MEAL that will come by way of e-mail. It will help satisfy your hunger for knowledge and awareness.



Screen shot of QMS home page



# ST. LOUIS DISTRICT HONORS VETERANS



Vietnam veteran Archie Ringgenberg, contracting team leader, speaks to a crowd of employees during the Veterans Day ceremony on November 10 at the RAY Federal Building. During the ceremony, current and past service members were recognized for their service.

USACE photo by George Stringham

---

## AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**CEMVS-PA**  
**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
1222 SPRUCE ST  
ST LOUIS MO 63103-2833