

# TOWER TIMES

August/September 2023

DREDGING EXPECTED

CRITICAL, CRANE SAFETY

GROWING WORKFORCE

AROUND THE  
DISTRICT



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Rock Island District



## Mission

The Rock Island District's mission is to deliver vital engineering and water resource solutions in collaboration with our partners to secure our Nation, reduce disaster risk and enhance quality of life, providing value to the region and Nation.

## Vision

A premier public service, engineering organization of trusted, talented professionals delivering innovative and sustainable solutions to the region and Nation.

**Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District**  
Col. Jesse T. Curry

**Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District**  
Maj. Matthew Fletcher

**Chief, Corporate Communications**  
Allen Marshall

**Editor**  
Kelcy Hanson

**Editorial Contributors**  
Kelcy Hanson  
Sam Heilig  
Frances Candelaria  
Jim Finn

## Disclaimer

This publication is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Tower Times are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is published bimonthly by the Corporate Communications Office, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding publication. Circulation 1,500.



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Rock Island District  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004  
Email: cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil  
Phone: (309) 794-4200

# TOWER TIMES

## CONTENTS

### 3 A District I-D-E-A

Col. Jesse T. Curry, District Commander

### 5 District Receives Army Star for Safety Excellence

### 6 Motor Vessel Mississippi Visits the Rock Island District

### 7 Dredging Expected During Desperate Times

### 8 Welcome to the Workforce

### 10 Work Continues on the Illinois Waterway

### 12 Employee Spotlight

### 13 Training Tidbits

### 14 Crane Safety is Critical

### 15 Around the District



## On the Cover

Ryan Vance, Student Trainee, plants new vegetation at Huron Island, near Burlington, Iowa, to assist one of the Upper Mississippi River Restorations (UMRR) enhancement projects. *Photo by Kelcy Hanson*

View on the web: [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Media/Publications/TowerTimes.aspx](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Media/Publications/TowerTimes.aspx)

## A District I-D-E-A



Col. Jesse T. Curry  
District Commander

Greetings once again from the Executive Office of the Rock Island District. As always, it is an absolute privilege to be a member of this amazing team and is my great honor to serve you as the Commander and District Engineer. In this edition of the Tower Times, I wanted to share the District Vision for one of our two deep strategic efforts. If we all take it on together, it will undoubtedly make a positive difference for our Team and all those who will someday get to join us in the AMAZING service we get to provide to the Nation.

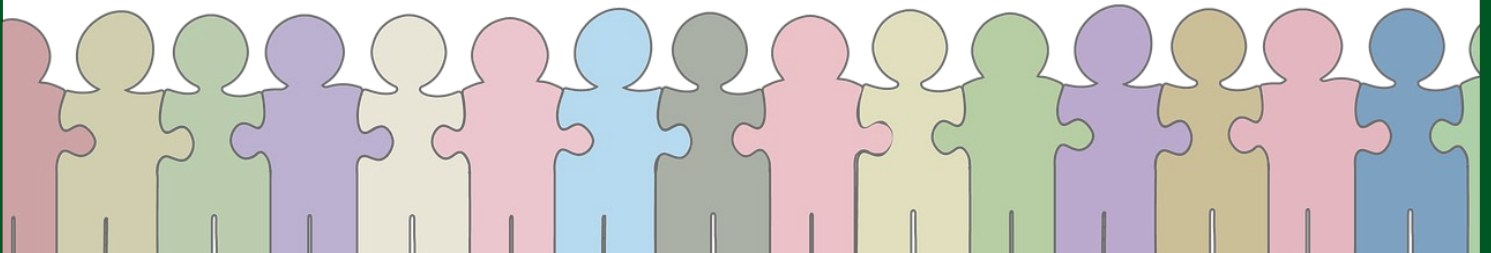
By this point, all Department of Defense employees should be somewhat familiar with the acronym DEIA, which stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. In the DOD Strategic Plan, the mission or purpose is to "Enhance the readiness of the DoD workforce and ensure the nation's security through leveraging the pillars of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and optimizing the diverse talent in support of the Joint Warfighter." I know, we normally don't think as ourselves as "Warfighters", but I'd argue that every one of you goes to battle every day with our Nation's toughest challenges, so I think it still fits. Whether you wear camouflage to work every day or not, our mission as proud members of DoD and the US Army Corps of Engineers is to lead the charge for improving our organization and by extension our communities and our world. If you ask me for the shortest answer I can give for the "why?", it is because this is absolutely the right thing to do.

Because I struggle with settling for short answers when I'm passionate about something, I'll elaborate now on why I wholeheartedly believe this is the right thing to do and why the District will be stronger in the long run because of our commitment to take this challenge on together. As I consider the four focuses within the DEIA program and how they can best be embraced at the Rock Island District, it makes sense to me to reorder the acronym a bit to reflect what is most important to focus on up front. The bottom line is that Inclusion is the key that results in Diversity and enables us to provide Equity and Accessibility to ALL who become a member of the Rock Island District. That's the I-D-E-A.

To explain a bit further, I think inclusion is where we need to start a bit further. The Rock Island District is always hiring and through that process are providing an incredible opportunity to someone who, if they are the most qualified candidate and want to join our team, will be able to enjoy a long and rewarding career serving generations of American People through a job with USACE. The problem is when the best candidate doesn't want to join our team because of their limited perception of who we are. The tough reality is that the outward image of the Rock Island District (mostly via an internet google search) is not one that immediately creates a perception that individuals with diverse backgrounds have been given opportunities to succeed within this District. I KNOW that perception is a poor reflection of the truth and I hope no member of the District (past or present) takes that as a criticism. I KNOW and am proud that the Rock Island District is made up of leaders who are 100% dedicated to providing opportunity to serve and excel to EVERYONE who joins the team. The truth is that perceptions are powerful and denying that they exist doesn't remove the real barrier keeping people from walking through the open door in front of them.

I want to emphasize that Diversity is NOT the goal, but it IS part of the measure of success related to our efforts to ensure EVERYONE with the right talent and potential to join the team, perceives that opportunity accurately and chooses to make a difference with us, the Rock Island District.

*Continued on page 4*



## COMMANDER'S COLUMN (Continued)

This summer, the Rock Island District has established the District DEIA Committee. Several of our teammates have been hard at work developing the Charter and Strategic Way Ahead for this effort. The committee is comprised of representatives for every Division who will help lead this effort for us all. That said, if you are not one of those leaders but are passionate about this part of our responsibility to DO THE RIGHT THING, all will be welcome to support, inform, and directly influence the initiatives that the committee will create. Please watch for the emails explaining how to get plugged in and sharing updates on what the committee is doing. If you don't see those in your inbox, feel free to contact me or the Deputy Commander directly and we will get you connected.

As always, my door (physical door, phone, email, text, etc.) is always open to the members of the Rock Island District and their families. Thank you for all that YOU do for your team, the entire Rock Island District, and all those who we have the privilege to serve together. WE ARE ONE DISTRICT and along with the rest of MVD and the Corps, we will CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG on the ROCK! 🏰

Appreciate You,

COL Jesse T. Curry  
50th Commander of the Rock Island District  
US Army Corps of Engineers

### Last Issue's Winner



Answer : Behind Pump Station at Lock and Dam 18  
Winner: Randy Senbeil



**Can you name where this photo was taken?**

If so, send your answer to [Kelcy.C.Hanson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelcy.C.Hanson@usace.army.mil) to be featured in the next issue of the Tower Times.






# DISTRICT RECEIVES ARMY STAR FOR SAFETY EXCELLENCE

By Frances Candelaria, Public Affairs Specialist

**T**he Corps of Engineers Safety & Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS) is a method to integrate safety into the everyday work culture throughout USACE. The Rock Island District safety office has ensured its implementation has been taken seriously and all safety requirements have been fulfilled at every level of employment throughout the District. USACE Rock Island earned the bronze, silver, and gold safety awards before going on to be awarded Army Safety & Occupational Health Star Flag.

Safety has become a normal part of the working environment and encourages others to keep safety at the forefront.

"Safety is implemented in everything we do daily here," explained Eddie Sanchez, Assistant Lock Master, Lock and Dam 15. "We review [Activity Health Analysis] and risk assessments on the work that's going to be conducted that day." 



Rock Island District Commander Col. Jesse Curry, stands with Honorable Rachel Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, to present the Army Star Flag. The Rock Island District is the first District within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be awarded the Army Safety and Occupational Health Star.

*Photo by Kelcy Hanson*



# MOTOR VESSEL MISSISSIPPI VISITS THE ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT

By Sam Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

Motor Vessel Mississippi traveled to the Rock Island District to conduct a low water inspection, while hosting multiple public open houses, a local educators STEM event and a public hearing.

During the Mississippi River Commission's (MRC) low water inspection trip in the Rock Island District, the District facilitated several panel discussions to allow the MRC to learn more about topics of critical interest to those living and working on the Upper Mississippi River. Topics included Flood Control Progress since 1993, Corn Belt Ports, the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program, and the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program.


Local educators were welcomed aboard the M/V Mississippi and learn about STEM opportunities throughout the District. Educators were provided a short presentation about the various missions of the Rock Island District, STEM careers with USACE, and the STEM outreach available to their classrooms. After the presentation the educators were provided tours of the vessel while

traveling through Pool 15.

Public tours of the M/V Mississippi were held in Davenport, Iowa, and Dubuque, Iowa. During these self-guided tours, employees from multiple district field sites including the Mississippi River Project, Coralville Lake, Lake Red Rock, Saylorville

Lake, and Central Area Office were stationed throughout the vessel to provide interpretative discussion, security and assistance to the public. Displays were placed in the hearing room of the vessel which highlighted the USACE Navigation, Environmental Stewardship, and Recreation missions.

The Mississippi River Commission, led by Brig. Gen. Kimberly Peebles, hosted a public meeting aboard the M/V Mississippi on the Burlington, Iowa, riverfront as part of the

Commission's Low Water Inspection Trip. The public meeting was well attended and those who spoke were provided ample time express their views. 



**Public gathers to take self-guided tour of the Motor Vessel Mississippi while docked in Davenport, Iowa.**

*Photo by Jim Finn*

## TIPS FOR SETTING GOALS AND COMMUNICATING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

By Sara Munts, Professional Development Specialist

### 1. Brainstorm Goals

a. Think through/write down goals. This can literally be anything that comes to mind.

### 2. Review brainstormed goals & identify which goals will be focused on and tracked moving forward.

a. Discuss and review which goals you'd like to include on a formal goal sheet.

b. Identify your chosen goals with a star, circle, or a check mark.

### 3. Categorize into 3 buckets: Habit forming, reach, and stretch goals.

a. Habit-forming goals: These are goals you would like to see become habitual behavior. Since it takes 21-60 days to form a habit, mark these as goals to be achieved in 4-8 weeks.

b. Reach goals: These will be the goals you will have to take a few significant steps to reach, so set these to be achieved in 3-12 months.

c. Stretch goals: These are goals that are out of reach right now, and so are more likely to be achieved in 2-5 years.

### 4. Decide which are and aren't feasible and discuss with peer/mentor/supervisor as needed.

### 5. Visualize success and what development is needed to achieve goals.

### 6. Establish a timeline and training plan.

### 7. Share plan with supervisor in advance with plan to discuss during DPMAP performance evaluations.



# DREDGING EXPECTED DURING DESPERATE TIMES

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

**M**aintaining a nine-foot channel on the Mississippi River is part of the Rock Island District's critical navigation mission, especially during low-water conditions. Although early spring snowmelt caused flooding throughout the upper Midwest this past year, water levels receded quickly, causing large amounts of material to settle in the channel.

To aid in channel maintenance, geological surveyors regularly monitor water levels throughout the District. They use state-of-the-art imaging equipment to measure depths and create topographic maps of the surface beneath the water. These maps show how much sediment is settling on the riverbed and where dredging needs to be conducted.

Material that settles into the navigation channel must be removed to maintain a safe and reliable path for commercial vessels on the river.

"Dredging is expected every year, most generally in the same spots too," said Bob Lohmeyer, Crane Operator Supervisor.

Although the placement can be predicable, the type of sediment often changes. Sometimes it is very heavy and dense while other times it's porous and lighter. This can create challenges, either way.

For smaller dredging needs, the District deploys a local maintenance crew from the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, to perform mechanical dredging with a three-yard crane bucket mounted on a barge. The crane scoops the sediment from the bottom of the river and loads it onto another barge which then takes it to a designated areas along the river for placement, in accordance with environmental regulations.

"On a good day, we are able to fill five barges," said Lohmeyer.

It can take days or weeks to clear a shallowed area of the river, depending on how far the barges must travel to off-load material and other working conditions on the water.

For more information on dredging in the Rock Island District visit:

<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Dredging/>. 





# WELCOME TO THE WORKFORCE

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

The thought of finding an internship or job after college can be daunting at times, but the resources available through the federal government and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help kickstart the journey. Acquiring a permanent career as a civilian employee with Department of the Army can look different for everyone. Paths can

One program students may apply for is the SMART (science, mathematics and research for transformation) Scholar program. This Department of Defense program is designed to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematic) students with the tools needed to pursue higher education and begin a career with the DoD. There are 24 STEM disciplines/majors that qualify for the program. If granted this opportunity, scholars earn annual stipends depending on the degree level, gain invaluable experience during their summer internships and jump-start their careers with guaranteed employment after graduation. Since the beginning of this program, over 50 students from nearby universities have been accepted. The DoD is currently accepting applications and more information may be found at: [www.smartscholarship.org](http://www.smartscholarship.org).

Another way to join the District is through the internship program as a student trainee. This unique opportunity allows students, from high school through graduate level, to experience the work environment within USACE while still attending school.

Upon meeting graduation requirements, the program provides an opportunity for participants to be non-competitively converted into permanent full-time employees.

To view a listing of current student trainee positions available, visit: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?hp=student&k=U.S.%20Army%20Corps%20of%20Engineers&p=1>.

A third way to enter the workforce is through the federal government's Pathways Program. This program replaced the Student Career Experience Program and Student Temporary Employment Program that previously existed. The Pathways Program is an exciting opportunity for students attending technical, vocational or trade school, but is also open to other types of schoolings. Students who have successfully completed the program may be eligible for conversion to a permanent job. For



include experiential learning, hands-on shadowing, and career broadening assignments.

The USACE Rock Island District is dedicated to hiring and retaining qualified individuals who are ready to serve the nation, and has been successful in helping individuals transition from student to full-time employee through a variety of available programs.




more information about the Pathways Program, visit: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/students-recent-graduates/>.

Lastly, the Army Fellows Program (previously known as the Department of Army Intern Program) is intended for recent engineering and science graduates, looking to jump start their career. This DoD funded program is a two year full-time training program that rotates employees through different projects and programs offered at USACE. Although the name may portray this as a temporary intern program, all participants are full-time employees, with full benefits. While advancing through the program, participants are automatically upgraded to the next pay grade each year until completion (GS 7-9-11).

Once an individual is accepted into one of these programs and begins working for the District, a variety of opportunities are provided for them to get involved and start learning about programs and projects.

Some examples from this summer include a trip to the Upper Mississippi River Restoration program's Huron Island site, near Burlington Iowa, to plant vegetation as part of their multi-year habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project and a visit to Dresden Island Lock and Dam, near Channahon, Illinois, where they received a tour of the dewatered site and gained a full understanding of the scope of construction taking place this year.

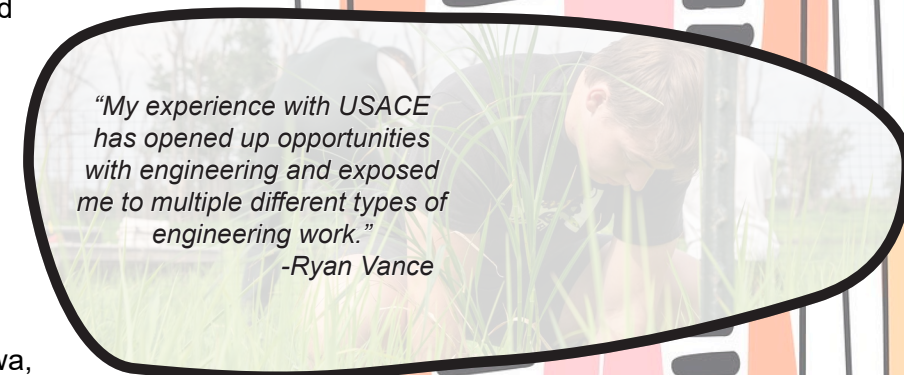
As the District continues building a strong workforce, these programs and opportunities will aid in attracting qualified candidates with talents and skills needed for the future. This is vital for the civilian and military professionals within the organization to ensure the mission and vision is executed daily. 



*"The Student trainee program has allowed me to gain finance knowledge to transfer easier into a full-time position with USACE."*  
-Drew Belliveau



*"I'm grateful that the student trainee program has lead me to meet wonderful people and open up opportunities for my future endeavors."*  
-Christine Mack



*"My experience with USACE has opened up opportunities with engineering and exposed me to multiple different types of engineering work."*  
-Ryan Vance



*"I have enjoyed working on projects to help communities through the flood fight and helping to design future projects."*  
-Max Abbott



# WORK CONTINUES ON THE ILLINOIS WATERWAY

By Frances Candelaria, Public Affairs Specialist





**T**he Illinois Waterway closure of 2023 began June 1st to perform critical maintenance on the USACE locks at Marseilles, Dresden, and Brandon Road. The locks are set to reopen on October 1st.

"So far it's been steady, a lot of work to do in a short amount of time" explained Levi Kriete, Crane Operator Supervisor, Illinois Waterway.

The upkeep of the locks is vital in maintaining a reliable navigation system such as the Illinois Waterway.


"It's a huge, combined effort of the whole district and contractors as well," stated Doug Shaer, General Maintenance Supervisor, Illinois Waterway. "It's for very needed repairs, our infrastructure is aging."

Bob Castro, Chief of Operations, Illinois Waterway, explained the significance the closure of three locks has on the waterway. "The users of the waterway have stressed that they would like to have one consolidated closure as opposed to many similar long term closures from year to year to year." Castro added "it's important to do the work because with the components being worked on the reliability will be brought back to almost new conditions."

The highly dedicated crews have worked long hours though rain and heat to stay on schedule.

Kriete said "The weather hasn't been ideal so everybody's looking at the finish line and doing a great job." He added they have inevitably run into hiccups along the way, but the crews have been persistent and driven in continuing their jobs day in and day out.

"As far as work's going, we've been staying on schedule working really hard trying to get this project done and keep it moving along," said Bryce Kingsley, Lock & Dam Repairman.

The work that has been done on the locks includes concrete work within the lock chambers, installing new miter gates and miter gate machinery, emptying valve rehabilitation, culvert valve replacement, electrical upgrades, new control stands and miscellaneous work needed to maintain the locks. 





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

## Emma Linde Environmental Civil Engineer



After completing two years as a student trainee, Emma Linde, Environmental Civil Engineer, continued her journey with the Rock Island District as a full-time employee. Originally from Lewisville, Texas, Linde attended Iowa State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering in May 2023.

Growing up, Linde was exposed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because her mother works for the Ft. Worth District and she was familiar with seeing many of the USACE water safety messages.

“When looking into what I wanted my career to look like, I liked that USACE tends to have a wide range of projects,” said Linde. “To me, that means there’s always something new to learn, whether it be a different section perspective or a different project entirely.”

She started as a student trainee during the summer of 2021. It was a very interesting time to start a new job, with COVID-19 restrictions in place and most co-workers teleworking. The summer experience was so positive, that she joined the District again during the summer of 2022.

“I enjoyed that my coworkers often put me on a variety of project and site visits,” said Linde. “There were multiple occasions that they invited me to join them in meetings and/or on projects.”


Linde spent her summers providing support to the main technical leads, where needed. A few examples of her work included writing operations and maintenance manuals, helping answer requests for information, ensuring documents had proper signatures and helping write habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project site inspection reports. Most of these tasks are similar to the duties she is assigned to today as a permanent member of the team, and her goal is to become a technical lead in the future.

Working with co-workers that went through the student trainee program and transitioned into full-time employment, made it easier for Linde to navigate the process. It gave her the chance to see what the full-time position was going to look like, how duties were assigned and made her familiar with the projects. Although this took place in bits and pieces, it played a large part in helping her decide to stay with the Rock Island District.

When asked about her experience thus far in the Rock Island District, Linde says, “I love my co-workers and I love how passionate they all are about their jobs. They’ve also been a great support system to me as well. I feel very comfortable asking anyone in my section for help or advice.”

Currently, Linde is working on the dewatered lock project at Dresden Island Lock and Dam in Channahon, Illinois, which has become one of her most memorable projects. It has been a once in a lifetime opportunity, especially since she is currently working night shifts to assist construction as planned.

When asked what advice she would give another student looking to work with the District, she replied, “Trying to improve and learn is half the battle. People can tell when an honest effort is being given. My job as a trainee, was to learn as much as possible to provide the best support.”

Outside of work, you can find Linde putting together difficult jigsaw puzzles- less than 1000 pieces is too easy! She enjoys getting outdoors on nicer days and playing PC/Switch games in her downtime. Linde has been trying to find more time to read, now that she isn’t a full-time student anymore. 





# TRAINING TIDBITS

## FY24 Training Plans

LDP2 is scheduled to launch in early 2QTR FY24. Program announcement and application process is expected to be published by NOV 2023.

Interested employees should request this course through TED:

Course Number: MVR-LDP2

Estimated Start Date: 01/30/2024

---

FY24 District Training Guidance will be published in early FY24. Be on the lookout for this guidance containing valuable training information including mandated training requirements for all employees for FY24.

## Free Online Training Opportunity with Udem Business

Creating the account is super-easy... Visit this website <https://armyciv.udemy.com>  
Enter your USACE email. A verification email with a link to set a password will be sent to the email provided. Once you have the password set, you can access from work or a personal device/network.

SAVE THE DATE! FY24 SHARP Refresher training is scheduled for 06-10 NOV. Detailed schedule coming soon!

Office training coordinators are always the first point of contact for employee training and development needs.

## Supervisors Corner

Supervisor Resources located here:

[Supervisor Resources \(dps.mil\)](#)

Supervisor Development Course (SDC)

- » Supervisors should now be auto enrolled at one month of accepting a supervisor position and receive an email on how to access the training. Supervisors will then have 4 months to complete the 10-hour online course.

New Supervisor 101 Course

- » Supervisors should be auto enrolled in this new mandated course at 8 months in their supervisory role. Supervisors will then have 4 months to complete the 10-hour online course.

## Training Links

TED: [Total Employee Development](#)

DAU: [DAU Home](#)

ALMS: [EAMS-A Single Sign-On](#)

CES: [CHRTAS](#)

Army eLearning: [Percipio](#)

PROSPECT: [ULC Course Schedule](#)

Academic Degree Training: Process guidance can be found here.

[FY22 Training - All Documents \(army.mil\)](#)





# CRANE SAFETY IS CRITICAL


By Justin Marshall, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

**C**rane operation is one of the most dangerous activities performed in the Rock Island District. Multiple cranes of different sizes and types are used on a regular basis to perform a variety of heavy lifting tasks. When an accident involving a crane occurs, it can be catastrophic. Last year, only one crane incident was recorded in the District but when the strap broke on a 6-inch pump, it caused a painful loss-time injury to an employee. With this thought in mind, it is critical that crane maintenance, crane training and crane safety remain a priority and those working around these complex pieces of equipment stay dedicated to keeping everyone safe.

One easily overlooked aspect of crane safety, is maintenance of both the crane and rigging. Repairs and services that might easily be pushed aside to complete a job on time, could make for a dangerous situation. It is vital that equipment servicing is done correctly, and deficiencies and faults which could hinder or degrade performance, are promptly repaired. Simple things like a broken indicator, a worn strap or an inoperative camera system could make the already dangerous job of operating a crane, fatal.

Proper crane training is also essential to crane safety. Having highly qualified, highly trained operators and riggers can help to create safe working environments for all employees working in and around cranes. Access to quality training resources and making time for training opportunities is key to mitigating and limiting crane related injuries and accidents.

Crane safety is something that cannot be overlooked or pushed to its limits. With the heavy workload the Rock Island District is known to carry, it can be easy to rush to get a job done instead of focusing on what is needed to complete a task safely. Operators must file all paperwork, follow all standards, and complete all inspections prior to use of any District crane. Riggers must ensure loads are rigged correctly and all straps and chains are in good working order.

It is important that employees maintain composure and discipline while making sure all safety regulations and procedures are followed. Only by working as a team will the District continue to complete its mission effectively and safely. 



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## RETIREMENTS

**Stephen Bielser**, Staff Support Assistant - Operations Division, Technical Support Branch, retired June 30, after dedicating over 21 years of service to the federal government.

**Karen Hagerty**, UMRR Long Term Resource Monitoring Project Manager, retired July 29, after dedicating over 25 years of service to the federal government.

**Jon Klingman**, Supervisory Biologist, retired August 5, after dedicating over 35 years of service to the federal government.

**Laurie Kotecki**, Management Support Branch Chief, retired August 26, after dedicating over 20 years of service to the federal government.

**Gary Lenz**, Regulatory Division Chief, retired August 31, after dedicating over 36 years of service to the federal government.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Tate and Ming Sattler on the birth of their son, Wesley Thomas Sattler, on June 24. Wesley weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces at birth.



Congratulations to Aaron and Rachel Berogan on the birth of their daughter, Elyse Joy Berogan, on July 17. Elyse weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces and 19.5 inches long.

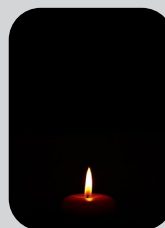


Congratulations to Aaron McCann and his wife on the birth of their son, Colton Lee McCann, on July 13. Colton weighed in at 7 pounds, 1.5 ounces and 20 inches long.

## SYMPATHY



**Edward Clark**, 86, of Moline, Illinois passed away June 15. Clark retired from the District as a head machinist.



**Ruth Johnson**, 74, of DeWitt, Iowa passed away July 2. Johnson retired with over 30 years with the District as a budget analyst.

*Continued on page 18*



# Welcome NEW EMPLOYEES



Juan Coulter  
*Lock and Dam  
Repairer*



Emma Doyal  
*Civil Engineer  
(Hydraulics)*



Joseph Tekippe  
*Civil Engineer*



Fisher Woelke  
*Student Trainee  
(Eng. & Architecture)*



Ryan Koonce  
*Lock and Dam  
Repairer Helper*



Grace McKenzie  
*Student Trainee  
(Biology)*



Jordan Cox  
*Electrical Engineer*



ShoShanna Swanson  
*Construction Man-  
agement Assistant*



Jalen Norris  
*Lock and Dam  
Operator*



Brynn Noble  
*Biologist*



Jack Kelly  
*Park Ranger*



Addison Abbott  
*Student Trainee  
(Physical Science)*



Joshua Theodore  
*Electrical Engineer*



Santiago Lopera  
*Auditor*



Gavin Gosch



Mitchell Wright  
*Lock and Dam  
Operator*



Michael Barry  
*Diving Program  
Coordinator*



Michael Mallicoat  
*Lock and Dam  
Equipment Mechanic*



John Wysocki  
*Contract Specialist*



Mike Blankenship  
*Student Trainee  
(Eng. & Architecture)*

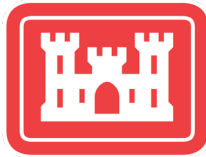


*Visit our careers page for available opportunities :*

<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Careers/>



Nick Saeugling  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



William Ewell Jr.  
Lock and Dam  
Repairer Helper



Lisa Montes  
Support Services  
Specialist



Cheri Massie  
Administrative Office



Michael Martin  
Welder



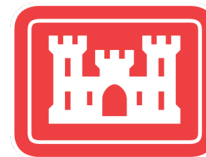
Jeremy Thousand  
Marine Machinery  
Mechanic



Garrett Orrico  
Lock and Dam  
Repairer Helper



Braydon Boelk  
Lock and Dam  
Repairer Helper



Jared Greer  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Cynthia Radja  
Economist



Jacob Marcus  
Electrician



Steven Nugteren  
Natural Resources  
Specialist



Nathan Dameron  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Allison Froeschle  
Environmental  
Protection Specialist



Ranjit Kaur  
Electrical Engineer



Madison Cornell  
Student Trainee (Ad-  
min & Office Support)

**Indicators of Potential Terrorist Associated Insider Threat**

- Advocating support for terrorist organizations or objectives.
- Expressing hatred of American society, culture or government, or principles of the U.S. Constitution.
- Advocating the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or ideological goals.
- Sending large amounts of money to persons or financial institutions in foreign countries.
- Expressing a duty to engage in violence against DoD or the United States.
- Purchasing bomb-making materials.
- Inquiry or obtaining information about the construction and use of explosive devices.
- Expressing support for persons or organizations that promote or threaten the unlawful use of violence.
- Advocating loyalty to a foreign interest over loyalty to the United States.
- Financial contribution to a foreign charity or cause linked to an international terrorist organization.
- Evidence of terrorist training or attendance at terrorist training facilities.
- Repeated viewing of Internet/Web sites, without official sanction, that promote or support international terrorist themes.
- Posting comments or exchanging information, without official sanction, at Internet chat rooms, message boards, or blogs that promote the use of force directed against the United States.
- Joking or bragging about working for a foreign intelligence service or associating with international terrorist activities.

**Report Suspicious Activity:**

- Contact your local Counterintelligence (CI) office
- Stephen Apollonia (309) 792-0902
- CONUS Hotline: 1 - 800 - CALL SPY (1-800-225-5779)
- ISALUTE - The CI reporting portal via AKO at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/633775>
- USACE-MVR-Security Office (309) 794-5747

**ARMY STRONG**



# Employees Of The Month

**MAY**

*Emma Aalbers*



Emma Aalbers has mentored new employees by patiently and thoroughly describing and clarifying their job duties while still managing to balance her own complex workload. She embodies a can-do team attitude, which makes learning complex issues from her a joy.

**JUNE**

*Daniel McBride*



Dan hosted the 2023 Inland Electronic Navigational Charts workshop in which members from many districts participated. His competent and thorough preparation resulted in a smoothly managed workshop; with many participants stating they were impressed by the preparations.

**JUNE**

*Bethany Hoster*



Bethany is recognized for expeditiously completing environmental compliance documentation for a new dredged material placement site near Cassville, Wisconsin. This allowed dredging to proceed and avoiding channel closure.

**JULY**

*Steve Campion*



Steve developed innovative solutions on the Illinois Waterway 2023 Closures project that significantly improved the schedule, reduced the potential amount of post lock closure work and reduced potential cost increases. Their out-of-the box thinking and technical expertise were critical in solving this challenging problem.



**JULY**  
*Brent Anderson*



Brent developed innovative solutions on the Illinois Waterway 2023 Closures project that significantly improved the schedule, reduced the potential amount of post lock closure work and reduced potential cost increases. Their out-of-the box thinking and technical expertise were critical in solving this challenging problem.

## Congratulations

Four members of the Rock Island District were selected by Brig. Gen. Peebles to participate in the FY24 Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Those Emerging Leaders are Daniel Guise from Operations Division, Micki Meier from Programs and Project Management Division, Bethany Hoster from Regional Planning and Environmental Division and Heather Schroeder from the Programs and Project Management Division. The ELP is the third of four leader development phases within USACE.

ELP occurs after LDP1 and LDP2 and includes a dedicated series of developmental experiences over a two year period. Those experiences are designed to enable team members to take their already impressive experience working within USACE and grow into leaders who make an increased positive impact from where they currently serve or from higher levels within the organization.

## SYMPATHY CONTINUED



**Eric Aubrey**, 64, of Bettendorf, Iowa, passed away suddenly in his home on July 17. Aubrey was a current employee of the Rock Island District, serving the Military Munitions Support Section.

Aubrey dedicated his life to serving this Country both in the military and as an Army civilian. As an Army ordnance officer, he served a total of 18 years between active duty and the individual ready reserves (IRR), achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. While in the IRR, Eric was mobilized twice shortly after 9/11 to support the Global War on Terror.

He began his Army Civilian Career as a Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance, where he served in various capacities, including being a member of the last team to perform chemical munitions demilitarization operations at Johnston Atoll. Aubrey became a permanent employee of the Rock Island District in 2001, serving the entire time in the Military Munitions Support Section.

Highlights of Eric's career with the Rock Island District include deploying in support of Hurricane Katrina, deploying once to Iraq and deploying eight times to Afghanistan.

Co-workers will remember Eric as a humble man who never had an unkind word about anyone, always had a positive attitude, willingly dedicated his life to this County, and never asked for anything in return or ever sought glory for himself.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND  
CLOCK TOWER BLDG. - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004

---

## **2023 Retiree Luncheon**

