

# TOWER TIMES

November/December 2024

Lock and Dam Workers  
Save Fisherman's Life

Small Harbor Funding Returns

Rock Island District Takes  
Centerstage at National Awards



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

# TOWER TIMES

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### 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. Aaron M. Williams

**Deputy Commander**  
Maj. Matthew Fletcher

**Chief, Corporate Communications**  
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Jordan Raiff

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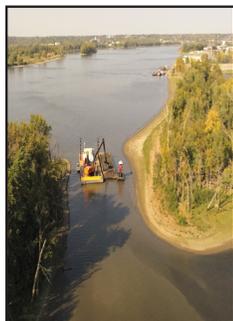
### Disclaimer

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### On the Cover

A barge loaded bucketloader dredges the channel leading into the Sunset Harbor located in Rock Island, Illinois. Designed for "small" boats, this channel facilitates agricultural, commercial, and recreational water traffic. *Photo by Doug Vogel*

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

## ***Congratulations On Another Banner Year***



**Col. Aaron M. Williams**  
District Commander

Just over six months ago, I assumed the role as this District's 51st commander. It is amazing how fast time flies and here we are closing out a calendar year and moving into 2025. My first six months in command has been humbling and eye opening as I realize the vast expanse of what our District does and what our work means to the Nation. I continue to learn every day and remain amazed at the dedication and professionalism of our workforce. I am grateful for the patience and knowledge shared by everyone, and I look forward to meeting more of you and spending time understanding your critical role.

This was indeed a banner year for the Rock Island District as we executed the largest program in our history. When the fiscal year ended September 30, we had completed \$439 million in programs execution across our business lines for FY 2024.

The "fiscal year" is the time period by which many of our goals and successes are measured, the District performed outstanding in FY24 completing 77 of 79 tracked milestones. These milestones included significant gains related to our mega projects like the Brandon Road Interbasin Project as well as projects within the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program and Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program.

We broke ground on multiple projects and celebrated six ribbon cuttings at places like the 12th Avenue Floodgate in Cedar Rapids, which is part of a very significant flood risk management project to protect the city and its residents.

Meeting these milestones and tracking expenditures only encapsulates a small portion of what is a much bigger picture. Collectively, the more than 1,000 Rock Island District employees continually set the standard of excellence enabling our District to serve as a leader within the Division and across the Enterprise. Prior to my assumption of command, the organization's reputation was well known for professional expertise and mission success. Every day, my observations and interactions with you reinforce that reputation. Whether it is the willingness to deploy in support of national emergencies, like the one caused by wildfires in Maui, or conducting critical day-to-day, behind the scenes work to keep our locks and dams operational, our entire workforce gives their very best daily.

Setting a standard of excellence comes with a responsibility to continue and build on those successes. The coming year shows no signs of slowing down. There is much work ahead and I am proud to know we have the best team to take on any challenge. Taking care of our people remains the number one priority. Without our dedicated and talented workforce, past and future accomplishments are not possible. Each of you should be proud of what we, as a team, have accomplished and I encourage you to reflect on your own personal contribution to these successes. Be proud of yourselves!

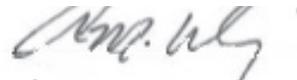
*Continued on page 4*

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN (Continued)

During the last six months, I have made a concerted effort to meet as many of you as possible. That is a tough task considering the sheer breadth of professionals spread out through our rather large area of responsibility. Continuing to move throughout the District and engage with all of you remains significantly important to me. Although, I have met many of you, I recognize I still have a lot of work to do. For those of you I have not met, I look forward to shaking your hand and hearing about what you do in support of our critical missions.

In closing, the end of the calendar year also marks a period of holiday celebration, please accept my very sincere wishes for a joyful holiday season with family and friends. I ask that as you gather for your holiday celebrations, please take a moment to reflect on those who will not have the same opportunity as they serve and protect our Nation 24/7, across the country and around the globe. Thank you again for everything YOU do and CONTINUE BUILDING STRONG! 

Appreciate you,



Col. Aaron M. Williams  
Rock Island District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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

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

**Last Issue's Winner**



Answer: Big Island River Conservancy District Milan, IL  
Winner: No Correct Answers Submitted

# Quick Thinking Lock and Dam Workers Save Man's Life

By Jordan Raiff, Public Affairs Specialist

August 28th started out like any other day for the workers on Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk, Iowa. With vessel traffic flowing up and down the Mississippi as usual, nobody expected anything out of the ordinary.

At approximately 10:22 a.m. the towboat Cowboy Carl was making its way upstream bringing an empty barge up to Lock 19. As Lockman Dan Earhart was meeting the vessel at the lower I-wall he noticed a fisherman and his vessel headed for the outer I-wall. Bound for an area between the railroad bridge pier and the highway pier, the fisherman was in imminent danger.

As the towboat went abreast of the smaller craft on the outside of the wall, the fisherman's boat suddenly began taking on water and capsized. Springing into action, Earhart raced to the nearest storage cabinet on the lower I-wall and retrieved a life vest for the fisherman who was now standing on some driftwood. Simultaneously, Shift Head Tom Stolley readied and lowered the land wall assist boat into the water to go after the fisherman. Joined by Lock Operator Jeff Dorethy, the duo successfully deployed the boat in rapid fashion and made it over to the driftwood. Working in tandem the duo successfully saved the man before the driftwood could give way.

In recognition for their heroic efforts Dorethy and Stolley were presented the Deed of Valor award during the quarterly awards ceremony on November 15th. For Stolley, this award capped off a career of selfless service, as he has since retired. Meanwhile Dorethy and Earhart are back working the walls of Lock and Dam 19.



The remnants of the boater's vessel still cling to the driftwood after the rescue. Photo by James Knight

The Deed of Valor is described as being awarded in "Recognition of a District employee for an act in the provision of aid or assistance to a person or persons in imminent danger of death or serious physical injury,

associated with substantial danger or serious physical injury to the individual performing the act."

Col. Williams added, "Receiving the Deed of Valor Award is not just a recognition of courage, but a testament to the unwavering commitment to protect and serve, even at the highest personal risk. It honors those who, in the face of imminent threat, put the safety of others above their own, demonstrating true heroism in the most critical of moments. Such acts of valor demonstrate the unwavering selfless service and personal courage, and commitment that are the backbone of our organization's culture and a reminder of the profound responsibility we carry for each other." 

# Small Boat Harbors Project Receives Vital Funding for Dredging

By By Sam Heilig and Jim Finn, Public Affairs Specialists

In a significant boost for recreational boating and local economies, several small boat harbors along the Mississippi River are set to undergo essential maintenance dredging. Thanks to some newly appropriated federal funding. This comes after a prolonged period of stagnation, with federal support for small harbor dredging absent since 2010. Prior to the lapse in funding, these harbors historically were being dredged every two to five years.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, completed dredging for the Davenport, Iowa Small Boat Harbor earlier this year, and just recently finished up \$1 million in dredging work at Sunset Marina, in Rock Island, Illinois.

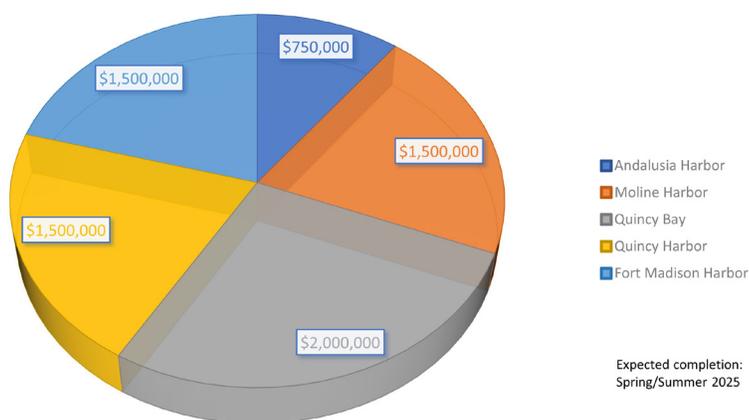
Under the River and Harbor Acts of 1946 through 1962, numerous small boat harbors were authorized for construction and maintenance as part of the Mississippi River 9-foot Navigation Project. These harbors were specifically designed to accommodate shallow draft recreational vessels with depths ranging from five to nine feet. Currently, twelve small boat harbors remain fully operational in the USACE Rock Island District.

These dredging projects require precise coordination with local municipalities. Those local entities serve as sponsors for these projects and are responsible for providing space for the placement of dredged material, sometimes a more difficult task than it appears.

“The dredging activities are not just essential for recreational boating; they also play a crucial role in supporting local economies dependent on fishing, tourism, and other water-related activities,” said Dan Guise, Small Boat Harbor Program Manager with the Rock Island District. “The renewed funding signals a positive turn for local harbors and highlights the ongoing partnership between the federal government and local municipalities to ensure safe and accessible waterways for all.”

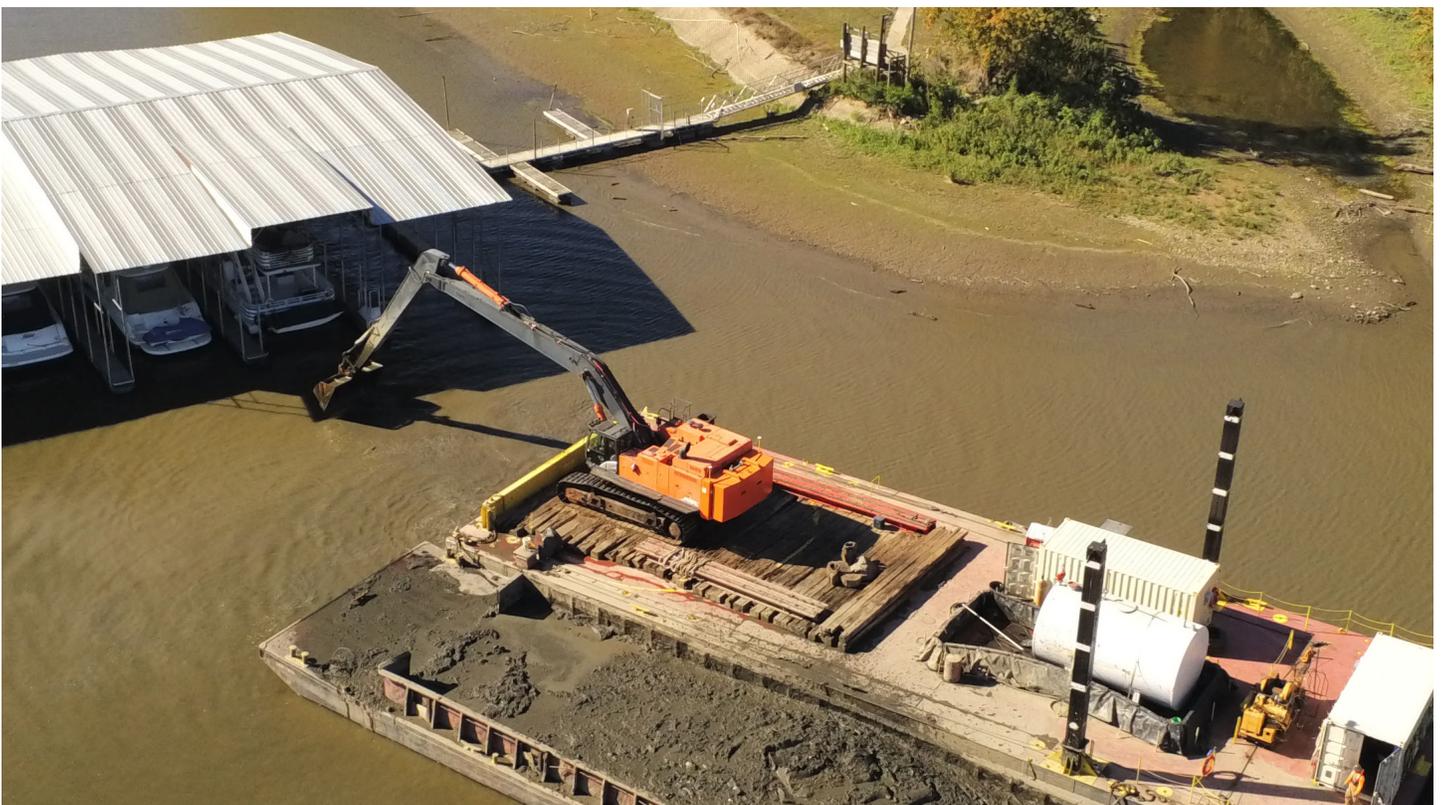
Thus far, the District has seen success in dredging the first two harbors and looks forward to completing the other five harbors in 2025. Long term, the District is hopeful that federal funding will remain in place to return these small boat harbors to a predictable cycle of dredging as they were before the 2010 lapse in funding.” 

ADDITIONAL DREDGING EFFORT FUNDING





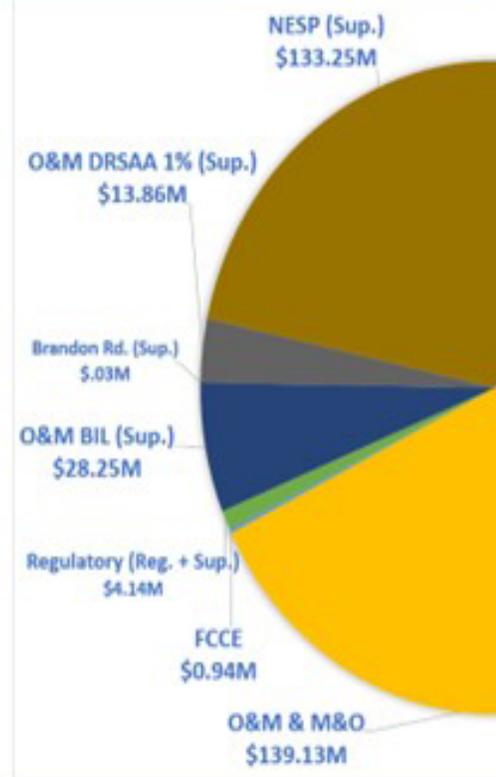
Bucket loaders work to dredge the small boat harbors at Sunset Marina. *Photos by Jim Finn*





# USACE Rock Island Dist

**\$439 M** Largest in Rock I



**1,024 Employees**



## National Awards:



- 2 Individual Recognitions
- 1 Team Recognition
- 2 Organizational Recognitions

## Support to Other USACE Missions:

- TS Bolave: 1 employee
- Maui Wildfires: 61 employees

**98 Staff Activated for District Flood Event**

## Levees Ins



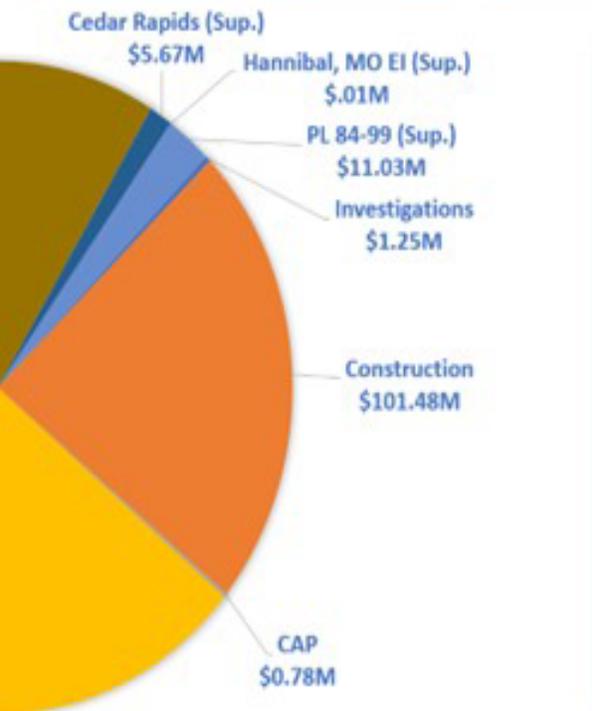
## National Flood Fight Materiel Center

- USACE Districts NFFMC assisted: 9
- Flood Fight Materiel Provided:
  - Typical Sandbags: 875,000
  - Large Sandbags: 3,000
  - Gabion Baskets Barrier: 7,110 Ln. Ft.
  - Pumps: 8
  - Poly Sheeting: 87,500 Ln. Ft.
  - Inflatable Culvert Bladders: 3

# District FY 2024 In Review



## program executed District history



## Key Contracts



- NESP LaGrange New 1200' Lock – Machinery and Fabrications
- Lock & Dam 14 Bascule Bridge Design Build
- Lock and Dam 16, 18, 20 Kevel Rail Replacement
- UMRR Steamboat Island Stage 2 HREP
- Lock and Dam 21 Concrete Repairs
- NESP Dam 22 Fish Passage
- Southwest Coastal First Priority Group Design Build
- NESP Mooring Cells Lock and Dams 14, 15, 20, 22
- Brandon Road Interbasin Project (BRIP) Acoustic Speaker Fabrication

**77 of 79**  
FY24 Tracked  
Milestones  
Completed  
on Schedule

## Program Oversight of National Programs

- Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program
- Upper Mississippi Restoration Program
- Brandon Road Interbasin Project
- Southwest Coastal Louisiana Storm Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Project

## ected: 75

### Groundbreakings

- Steamboat Island HREP - UMRR
- Southwest Coastal Louisiana
- Starved Rock Breakwater – NESP



### Ribbon Cuttings

- Thomson Ranger Station
- Beaver Island – UMRR
- Starved Rock Breakwater – NESP
- Cedar Rapids FRM – 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE Floodgate
- Miss. River Project Office Motorshop



## Regulatory

- 917** General Permits
- 16** Standard Permits
- 366** Jurisdictional Determinations
- 29** Permit Compliance Visits
- 24** Public Outreach Events



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

# A Bonanza Year for

By Jim Finn Public Affairs Specialist

**O**n November 13th the US Army Corps of Engineers held their awards ceremony in Washington D.C. for 2023. It was a bonanza year for the Rock Island District when it came to national recognition and awards as two individuals and one team were recognized for their efforts at the USACE National Awards Ceremony held recently in Washington, D.C. The District took home two accolades as well.

Rock Island District Emergency Management Chief Sarah Jones was named Emergency Manager of the Year for 2023. Jones received the award for her prodigious response and recovery accomplishments during the year, including response to the 2023 Upper Mississippi River flood event, leading rehab efforts of nine flood damaged levees, and deploying to the Maui Wildfire Recovery Field Office (RFO) multiple times including twice as the Operations Chief and once as the RFO Deputy.

“I’m deeply honored to receive the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year award,” Jones said, “particularly for my role in leading our response and recovery operations associated with the 2023 floods and Hawaii wildfire recovery efforts.”

“This recognition is a testament to the hard work, resilience, and dedication of our entire team. We’ve learned so much through these challenges, and I’m excited about the opportunities ahead to strengthen our emergency management practices and continue supporting communities in need.”

Supervisory Biologist Mark Cornish was also recognized for his efforts on the Lock and Dam 22 Fish Passage Project by receiving the USACE National Civil Works Planning Excellence Award.

Cornish is instrumental to the USACE civil works planning program and the aquatic ecosystem restoration mission and is dedicated to environmental compliance requirements. He is always looking to advance the state of practice and emerging science related to invasive species management and fish passage. While Cornish is part of the Regional Planning and Environmental Division North (RPED North), he is an integral part of the Rock Island District mission.



Sarah Jones was named the Emergency Manager of the Year for 2023. Pictured from left to right is Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. William “Butch” Graham, Sarah Jones, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick.

# National Recognition

The Illinois Waterway Consolidated Closures team received an honor and recognition in the program for the USACE National Awards Ceremony as Project Delivery Team of the Year. The team completed a complex and critical navigation project at multiple sites during the summer of 2023 amid numerous cost growth and material supply chain challenges. Work was completed on or ahead of schedule at all sites and the level of planning, coordination and collaboration between all entities was a truly remarkable accomplishment.

Not only were great District individuals recognized, but the entire team was recognized for their greatness as well as the Rock Island District as a whole received two awards, taking home the Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence and the Exceptional Organization Safety Award (Brigade/Equivalent). Rock Island District Safety Manager Nate Gorham and District Commander Col. Aaron Williams accepted the Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence on behalf of the District during the ceremony.

The Award of Excellence was awarded to the District for achieving significant milestones in FY23, including executing its second-largest program valued at \$411 million and earning the prestigious Army Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Star Award, the first USACE District to earn that particular award.

The Exceptional Organization Safety Award was bestowed on Rock Island for excelling in safety performance and culture. The District fully implemented the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS), and by doing so, significantly reduced injuries while also achieving the previously mentioned Army SOH Star Award.

“These awards are the result of the dedication and hard work of the District’s employees who are committed to improving safety for everyone they work with,” Gorham said. “I was incredibly honored to stand on stage with Col. Williams and accept the Exceptional Organization Safety Award for the Rock Island District and wish we could present the award to every member of our District team for their tireless efforts.” 



Nate Gorham and COL Williams receive the Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence. Pictured from left to right is Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. “Butch” William Graham, Nate Gorman, Col. Aaron Williams, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Jordan Raiff, Editor

## Nate Gorham

Safety and Occupational Health Manager



This means Nate is conducting dive audits across our district as well as traveling the globe to ensure diver safety the USACE. Being so involved with the workers is Nate's favorite aspect to the role. "I would say it's the people, and I know that's a common answer, but for me, it truly is. Being in a position where I have the opportunity to make a difference is incredibly fulfilling." Nate's leadership isn't exclusive to the office. As husband and father he has some pearls of wisdom to pass along. "I always tell my daughter that if you say you're going to do something, you should follow through. (And if anyone's reading this and thinking I owe you something I said I'd do, don't tell her!)" 📺

**S**afety and Occupational Health Manager Nate Gorham took a very hands-on path to his current role that allows him to advise based upon both book and experience knowledge to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). "I chose the Corps because, growing up, a good friend's father worked as a Lock Operator, so I had a basic understanding of what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) does. Later, while working as a welder at the Rock Island Arsenal, I saw a Lock and Dam Operator position posted on USAJobs. Given my familiarity with the work and knowing that USACE is an organization I would enjoy being a part of, I decided to apply."

**F**irst jumping over to Lock and Dam 17 in 2007, he remained there for two years before moving to Lock and Dam 19. Getting another 9 years under his belt there, Nate stepped into his role as Safety and Occupational Health Manager back in 2018. Focusing his efforts on improving safety across the Rock Island District, Nate also serves as the Division Dive Coordinator for the Rock Island District and for the Transatlantic Middle East District as well.



Receiving the Army Safety Star on behalf of the Rock Island District. Pictured (left to right) are Karen Martin, John Young, Hali Strobel and Nate Gorham. *Photo courtesy of USACE Rock Island*

# Partnerships, a Cornerstone In Any Relationship

Frances Candelaria, Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works diligently to forge strong relationships with federal and state agencies across all districts to achieve thorough results on different programs and projects through combining resources, expertise, and departmental authority. Beyond collaboration on specific initiatives, the Rock Island District hosts and attends different partnership meetings to maintain and lay down groundwork for working relationships. Through this relationship-driven approach the Rock Island District delivers efficient, effective, and valuable solutions for the communities it serves. The district is laying the groundwork for new connections and fortifying the existing ones.

“The (Iowa Department of Transportation) director sends kudos about the online permit process,” Charlie Purcell, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Transportation, expressed during the Iowa’s July partnership meeting.

Before participants of the Illinois partnering meeting in October dove into small group discussions, they were encouraged to use their most efficient of tools readily available to them. “We need to communicate more,” stated Col. Andy J. Pannier, Commander and District Engineer, USACE St. Louis District.

“Do a lot of listening,” urged Brant Vollman, archeologist, USACE Rock Island District at the beginning of an October partnership meeting. “When you’re getting in on these projects, be open to listening.”

During both Illinois and Iowa partnering meetings, participants from all agencies were intermingled at tables set up for collaboration. By intentionally arranging tables to have people facing each other, rather than having a central focus point in the room, this encouraged a more unified and participatory dynamic.

“This creates goodwill,” shared Logan Pappenfort, Tribal Relations director, Illinois State Museum. “It builds the relationships needed to grow.” By continuing to facilitate and attend partnering meetings, Rock Island District demonstrates its commitment to cooperation and success for all.

Going forward, the district’s focus on relationship building will continue to deliver these tangible results and impactful benefits. 



Representatives gather into small groups to better understand their needs from their partnership.

Photo by Frances Candelaria

# Staying Safe On and Off Duty This Winter

By Nate Gorham, Safety and Occupational Health Manager

**W**hat's the biggest hazard we encounter in our jobs?

In the Rock Island District, we manage one of the most hazardous missions across the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with some of the most remote sites. Across a broad area of responsibility, we operate one of the largest cranes, maintain one of the largest dive teams, and oversee two of the three wicket dams in the country. Still, despite these significant challenges, there is one hazard that surpasses them all—one that we all face every day.

## Driving

Statistically, anyone reading this article has known someone who has lost their life in a motor vehicle crash. In 2022 alone, 42,514 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States and as winter approaches, bringing ice and snow to the roads, this risk becomes even greater. For many of us, driving is an unavoidable part of the job.

This winter, with two major projects requiring travel out of district, Rock Island USACE employees will be logging countless miles on potentially hazardous roads.

Motor vehicle accidents remain one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities, and the arrival of winter conditions only amplifies this risk. However, with preparation, vigilance, and adherence to safe driving practices, we can reduce this hazard and protect ourselves and others on the road.

## Have a winter car kit handy

 <b>Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist</b> 		
<input type="checkbox"/>  Flashlight & Extra Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>  Blankets/Sleeping Bag	<input type="checkbox"/>  Extra Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots
<input type="checkbox"/>  First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>  Non-Perishable Food Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>  Sand/Kitty Litter Used for Traction
<input type="checkbox"/>  Snow Shovel	<input type="checkbox"/>  Bottled Water	<input type="checkbox"/>  Cell Phone & Charger
<input type="checkbox"/>  Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/>  Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/>  Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects

# Winter Driving Tips for Staying Safe

## 1. Prepare Your Vehicle:

- Ensure tires are properly inflated and have adequate tread for icy conditions.
- Check your vehicle’s battery, antifreeze levels, windshield wipers, spare tire, and first aid kit.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid freezing fuel lines.
- Keep a blanket, winter hat, gloves, water, and non-perishable snacks inside the vehicle.

## 2. Adjust Your Driving:

- Reduce your speed and leave extra space between vehicles to account for longer stopping distances.
- Avoid sudden braking, accelerating, or sharp turns, which can lead to loss of control.
- Use low beams in snowy or foggy conditions to improve visibility.

## 3. Stay Alert and Informed:

- Monitor weather forecasts and road conditions before heading out.
- Plan your route in advance, avoiding areas prone to hazardous conditions if

possible.

- Keep your eyes on the road and avoid distractions like mobile devices.

## 4. Know When to Stay Off the Road:

- If conditions are too dangerous, delay your travel. No deadline is worth risking your safety.

## 5. Communicate Your Plans:

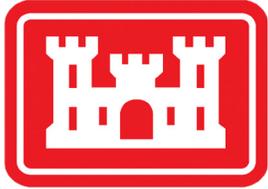
- Let someone know your travel plans, including your destination and expected arrival time.

Driving is one of the most routine parts of our jobs, yet it remains one of the most dangerous. As the weather changes, let’s remain vigilant and prepared, prioritizing safety every time we get behind the wheel.

By following these tips, we can make a significant difference in keeping ourselves and others safe on the road. Let’s all do our part to prevent winter driving mishaps and ensure everyone makes it home safely. 🚗



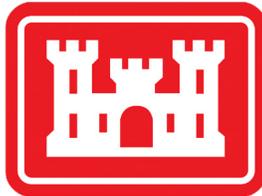
# Welcome NEW EMPLOYEES



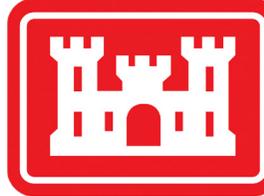
Erin Blackwell  
Natural Resources  
Specialist (Ranger)



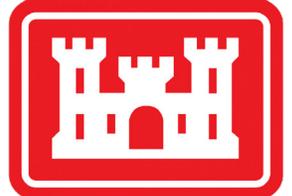
Brennan Broders  
Maintenance Worker  
(MVO)



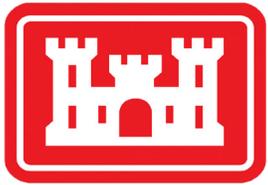
Cayden Clark  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Jeffrey DeLaGarza  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Hunter Hall  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Alex Johnson  
Maintenance Worker  
Helper



Brian Kinney  
Maintenance Worker  
Helper



Robert Kronfeld  
Construction  
Management Assistant  
(OA)



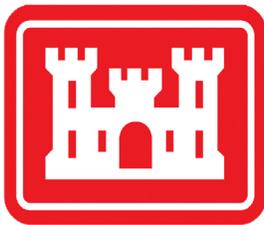
Jordan Raiff  
Public Affairs  
Specialist



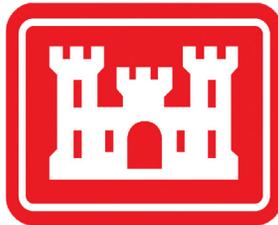
Noah Schnerre  
Maintenance Worker  
(MVO)



Robert Senkbeil  
Lock and Dam  
Operator



Greison Skahill  
Maintenance Worker  
Helper



Logan Welch  
Lock and Dam  
Operator

*Visit our careers page for available opportunities :*

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



**Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'**

# A Month In Service

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20, 2025, is recognized as a day to reflect on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contributions to our nation and carry on his legacy through acts of service.

In honor of this, USACE Rock Island District encourages employees and their families to engage in volunteer work throughout the month of January. Each week will feature a theme inspired by an aspect of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work.

If you would like to participate, please reach out to:

[bailey.w.anderegg@usace.army.mil](mailto:bailey.w.anderegg@usace.army.mil)

Total District volunteer hours and the names of participants will be recognized in February.

**January 5-11th: Underprivileged Groups**

**January 12-18th: Education**

**January 19-25th: Local Change**

**January 26-Feb 1st: The Arts**



Sponsored by the USACE Rock Island District DEIA Committee  
[cemvr-deia@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvr-deia@usace.army.mil)



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Obituaries

William D Ashton passed away on October 6. A member of an engineering family, he earned an B.S. and Masters in Civil Engineering, and served in the US Army as a Ranger with the Combat Engineers. Well known for his love of service and exploring, there was nary a backroad he wouldn't explore at a moment's notice.



Albert "John" Gall Jr. passed away on August 31. Spending 40 years as a surveyor with the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, his expertise can still be seen on projects today. Loving to work with his hands, he was a highly regarded carpenter, golfer, and grandfather.

Eddie Fowler passed away on August 18. First starting as a welder at the Rock Island Arsenal, he later became a member of the Corps of Engineers where he spent 30 years working before his retirement. A staple at the Thursday night Rock Island mix, he was a dear friend to all who knew him.



William Henry Dietrich passed away on December 16th. A U.S. Navy veteran, he served in WWII as a radio operator on the USS Pensacola CA-24. During his time in the Pacific he was a witness to the flag raising on Iwo Jima, and earned a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the battle. Following his service he worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 31 years in Budgeting and Plans until he retired.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to CPT Ryan Sexauer and his wife on the birth of their son Owen Ryan Sexauer. He weighed in at 7lbs, 12 ounces, and 19.5 inches long.



Congratulations to Ben and Ruthanna Vandermyde on the birth of their son Patrick David Vandermyde. He weighed in at 7lbs, 9 ounces.



Congratulations to Amanda and Kirk Mueller on the birth of their son Liam Gregory Mueller. He weighed in at 6lbs, 1 ounce, and 18 inches long.



Congratulations to Jesse Westphaul and Alyssa Frommelt on the birth of their son Jameson Less Westphaul. He weighed in at 7lbs and 6 ounces.



Congratulations to MAJ Matthew Fletcher and his wife on the birth of their daughter Addison Rose Fletcher.



Congratulations to Tara and Karsten Taets on the birth of their son Henry Philip Taets.

*Please send family news to [cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvr-cc@usace.army.mil) to be included in the next issue of the Tower Times.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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