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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Louisville District

Keeping Asian Carp out:
**Corps study
underway to
stop invasive
species
migration**

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**Levee repair
vital to
Indiana, Illinois
communities**

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Commander's Comments

Team,

2010 was record-setting for the Louisville District's employees, contractors and stakeholders. Each of you should take great pride in your remarkable accomplishments.

We successfully executed \$1.3 billion in civil, military and environmental programs.

We set a record by awarding \$641 million in small business contracts during FY 10 which was more than 50 percent of the district's total contract amount.

We met or exceeded the USACE small business goals in every category.

We set four dam shells at Olmsted and kept the project on schedule.

We executed more than \$227 million in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) under tight deadlines.

We kept BRAC the focus of our organization and have now delivered 54 of our 123 BRAC projects. We must deliver the 69 remaining projects by the BRAC deadline on Sept. 15, 2011.

We continue to deploy in great numbers. Currently the district has 27 volunteers overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq with another 25 in-queue to go.

We had more than 14 million visitors

to our lakes and locks in FY 10. Our lake visitors have contributed more than \$174 million to boost state economies.

2011 promises to be another challenging year full of opportunities as we execute a program valued at more than \$1.1 billion. I am convinced if we do what is required to refine our program execution, strengthen our people and our processes and improve customer satisfaction, FY11 will be an even better year for us all.

Keep others that are less fortunate in mind during the holiday season. This year our Combined Federal Campaign has been a big success, with contributions of more than \$106,000 so far. That exceeds our \$100,000 goal. As I promised, since the district met our CFC goal I will take the plunge in the dunking booth—if someone can hit the target! I hope this extra incentive will encourage you to support the CFC campaign.

I would like to remind you to practice safety measures during the winter.

It is my hope that we will all have a joyous holiday season and return to work rejuvenated in 2011 to tackle the big projects that await us.

Thanks again for all you do.
Happy Holidays!



Army photo digitally enhanced

Col. Keith Landry, Ph.D., P.E.
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Falls City Engineer

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On the cover: Asian carp jump out of the water at the mouth of the Wabash River in July 2010.

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Corps study underway to stop invasive species migration

By Sarah Mattingly, public affairs

In early November, an Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Louisville District project team conducted an extensive site visit at a potential pathway for invasive aquatic species migration, including the bighead and white Asian carp.

The area, near Fort Wayne, Ind., lies where the Wabash River drainage basin—where all waters ultimately end up in the Mississippi River—meets the drainage basin of the Maumee River, a tributary to Lake Erie. Because a flood event could potentially cause waters from nearby streams to come together, the invasive Asian carp species could migrate from the Wabash River, where they have already been identified, into the Maumee River where they could potentially reach the Great Lakes.

“Our main goal is to hydraulically disconnect the two basins,” said Gerard Edelen, project manager. “We want to start identifying options that would stop as many species as possible from migrating between the basins and, at a minimum, stop the Asian carp.”

Invasive species can disrupt ecosystems and be detrimental to indigenous species, according to Mike Turner, chief, environmental resources. Asian carp, in particular, are filter feeders that—by dis-

rupting the food chain for native species—pose an economic threat to the commercial fishing industry.

In an effort to stop the spread of the invasive carp, the project team began the Fort Wayne Wabash-Maumee Basin Connect Feasibility Study that will identify possible alternatives for disconnecting the basins and ultimately recommend a solution. Alternatives could include structural or nonstructural, pre-existing or new or enhanced construction.

At the site near Fort Wayne, the area of main concern is the Junk Ditch pathway near the Eagle Marsh wetland. Less than one mile of flat land in Eagle Marsh separates the Graham McCullough Ditch in the Wabash Basin and the Junk Ditch in the Maumee Basin. A high-water event could flood the marsh, allowing opportunity for passage of carp from the Wabash Basin to the Maumee Basin.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has erected a chain-link fence barrier in the Little River Wetlands area that would stop the migration of adult Asian carp, but the fence is viewed as temporary and does not provide a long-term solution.

During the November site visit, the feasibility team from USACE Louisville met with representatives from IDNR, the Little River Wetlands Project and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to discuss project possibilities as well as potential setbacks. The USACE team, which consisted of engineering, hydrology, real estate, environmental planning and geology specialists, visited numerous sites in the area including the temporary fence barrier and a rock quarry.

“We want to come up with the most beneficial and least intrusive solution,” said Turner.

The study is part of the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) to explore options and technologies that could be applied to prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through aquatic pathways.

Fish Facts

- Asian carp is a generic term for four species of non-native carp that are established in the United States.
- Bighead carp and silver carp were brought to the United States in the 1970s by catfish farmers.
- In the 1990s, they were released into the Mississippi River Basin when flooding caused catfish farm ponds to overflow their banks. Both species have been identified in the Wabash River.
- Boaters have been injured by silver carp because they commonly jump out of the water in response to outboard motors.

Sources: USGS, EPA, Indiana DNR



Sarah Mattingly

Harry Hottel, study manager, and Ken Lampkin, hydraulic engineer, study a map of the area around Eagle Marsh.

According to the GLMRIS Other Pathways Preliminary Risk Characterization report, Eagle Marsh is at the top of the list of 18 “other aquatic pathways” identified as posing a significant risk for the potential interbasin transfer of ANS.

The feasibility study is authorized and appropriated under the Water Resources Development Act through the Environmental Protection Agency and is fully funded through the Louisville District. However, once a solution is identified, construction will be cost-shared with a yet-to-be-identified local sponsor. The feasibility study will likely be complete in Sept. 2011.

Levee repair vital to Indiana, Illinois communities



Ron Elliott

An aerial photo of Elnora, Ind., shows the flood waters from the June 2008 flood which resulted in a total of 13 levees needing repairs to protect communities in the Wabash Basin.

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

Since the flooding of June 2008—preceded by an atypical May soaking—the Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has worked diligently to repair eight damaged levees in the Wabash and White River basins in Indiana and Illinois.

Several levee systems failed in this area as a result of the historic rainfall and subsequent flooding that occurred during the unprecedented event. In Indiana alone, flood waters affected more than 25,000 people with total flood damage exceeding \$1 billion.

The repairs have been completed, and Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Planning Project Manager Theresa Beckham can breathe a sigh of relief. “Our goal is to provide flood risk management for the communities involved, and

we were committed to that goal throughout the entire repair effort.”

These levees had sustained damages from the flood event such as breaches due to overtopping which also caused large scour areas; internal seepage and piping of embankment materials due to high water; or a failed wing wall. The levees primarily minimize risk for agricultural areas, however some residential structures and businesses lie in some of the protected areas.

A total of 13 levees initially needed repairs from breaches and overtopping where heavy rains had weakened them. Many of these levees were built during the early 1900s. Russell Allison Levee, one of the levees affected, had not failed in more than 50 years.

While the Corps may have originally constructed the levees, it is the local sponsor’s responsibility to operate and maintain them. Under the Rehabilitation Inspection Program (RIP), if the governing body or levee sponsor keeps their levee in good operating condition and the levee is damaged by flooding, the Corps will step in and do the work to repair it under Public Law 84-99. If the levee was a non-Federally constructed levee the costs of the repairs are cost-shared with the government paying 80 percent and the non-federal sponsor paying 20 percent. If the levee was federally constructed the government pays 100 percent of the repairs.

Beckham, whose job it was to keep ev-

everything on track regarding work progress, contracts, milestones and funding, worked with the levee associations to identify their interests and keep them in the loop. She led a multi-disciplinary team to identify the most feasible solution for repairs and provided forums for technical assistance. “The process was an invaluable learning experience,” she said.

The levee repair projects were prioritized for repairs. The breached levees had the highest priority, and levees with only erosion problems had lowest priority.

“The driving force was to protect these communities.”

—Theresa Beckham, Project Manager

The Corps completed the entire fix for the Ambraw, Russell Allison, and Sainte Marie levees—three of the four breached levees—within four months from the time the rain hit the ground to end of construction. The Corps completed Honey Creek Levee repairs within six months due to real estate issues and the fact that there were five separate areas to be repaired.

The Russell Allison and Ambraw levees were addressed first because they had several breaches. They were repaired in October 2008. These two levees form a combined levee system which minimizes flood risk for approximately 33,000 acres of agricultural land, farm homes, several (Continues on Page 5)



Levee work progresses in January 2009 to repair the levees in the Wabash River area that failed as a result of the historic rainfall and subsequent flooding that occurred during June 2008.

small businesses, the Lawrenceville-Vincennes Airport and many miles of improved roadways.

The Corps rehabilitated the Niblack Levee (Indiana) and England Pond Levee (Illinois), last. Neither of these two levees had breaches; however, they had significant underseepage which can cause a foundation material loss that can potentially threaten the integrity of the levee. The repairs of these eroded levees took longer than the repairs of breached levees due to poor site conditions and poor weather conditions. Inclement weather meant contractors were unable to work. Additionally, these two project sites remained under water for several months. Site conditions caused some delay, but repairs were completed in October 2010.

Two project sponsors, Blocksom and Jenckes Levee Association and McGinnis Levee Association, withdrew their requests for assistance and completed repairs on their own. Island Levee, Rochester McCleary's Bluff Levee, and Wabash Levee Unit No. 5, three levees that requested assistance, could not be repaired by the Corps of Engineers because the amount of damage was under the required threshold of \$15,000. Any damages under \$15,000 are considered to be the responsibility of the non-federal sponsor. The Corps offered technical assistance to these three levee associations.

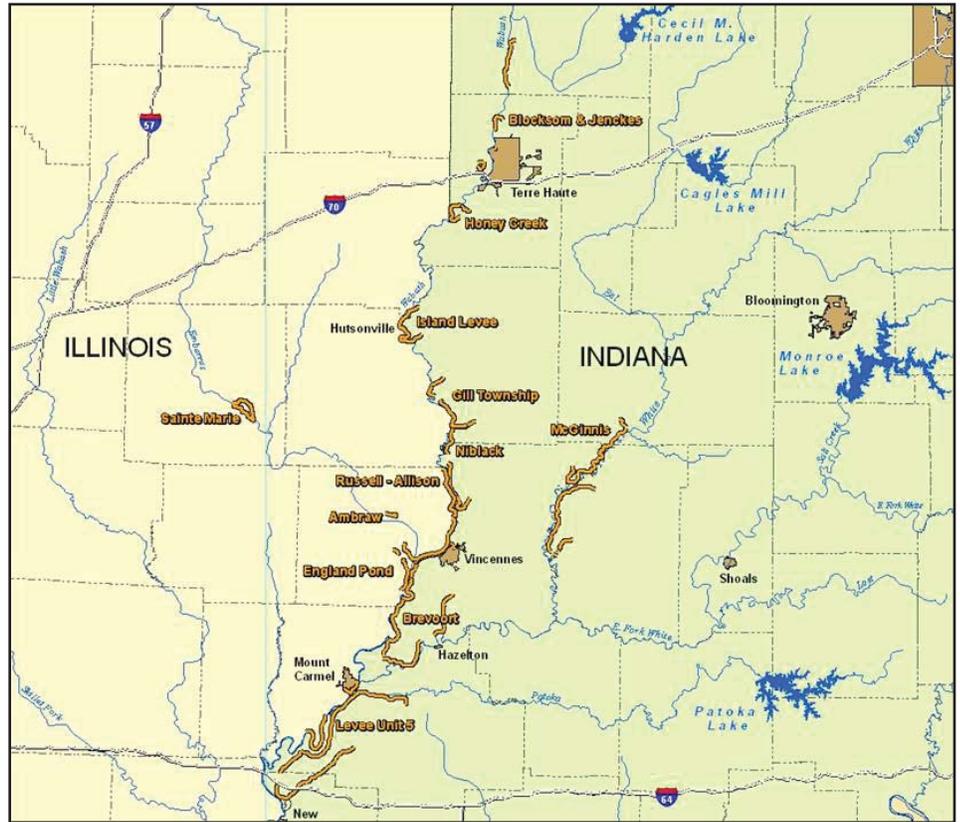
Beckham and her team from engineering; construction; contracting; real estate; planning, programs, and project management; emergency operations center; and office of counsel worked through budgeting, technical, legal, environmental, real estate, and scheduling issues to keep this series of project repairs in the forefront of district leadership.

Because of the potential for loss of life on some of the levee projects, if an issue came up that could put the team behind schedule, the team immediately sat down with leadership to resolve it and to move forward, according to Beckham.

"Particularly when levees are breached, both the Corps of Engineers and the communities are anxious to get them repaired," Beckham said. "The driving force was to protect these communities."

Deputy District Engineer David Dale took note of that fortunate circumstance, along with the deputy commander, who kept the pulse with District Commander

(Continues on Page 6)



The map above shows the levees that failed along the Wabash River Basin in June 2008. In Indiana alone, flood waters affected more than 25,000 people with total flood damage exceeding \$1 billion.



Louisville District repaired levees damaged from the flooding of 2008. Pictured is the Russell Allison levee, Lawrence and Crawford Counties in Ill., before the levee repairs (left) and after the repairs (right).



The Ambraw levee, located in Lawrence County, Ill., shows major damage before the levee repairs (left). At right, shows completed levee repairs.

Col. Keith Landry on developing issues and progress.

But now that the repairs are finally complete, Beckham said she rests a little easier.

“I really want to offer many thanks to all of the project delivery team members that worked diligently on these projects, the emergency operations center, and Christina Neutz and Dan Frank for their expertise in levee safety and their continued willingness to provide advice and assistance throughout the repair effort,” she said.



Ron Elliott

Above, shows a levee breach of the Russell Allison levee in Lawrence and Crawford counties in Illinois. A total of 13 levees initially needed repairs from breaches and overtopping where heavy rains had weakened them during June 2008.

Name of Levee	Damages Sustained
Honey Creek Levee, Vigo County, Ind.	three breaches*, bank & levee toe failure, embankment seepage area
Russell Allison Levee,* Lawrence and Crawford Counties, Ill. (* forms combined levee system with Ambraw Levee)	three breaches*
Ambraw Levee, * Lawrence County, Ill. (* forms combined levee system with Russell Allison Levee)	one breach* approximately 350 feet in length, with an extremely large scour hole
Sainte Marie Levee, Jasper County, Ill.	two breaches*with large scour holes and one partial failure where the levee was overtopped from the inside out
England Pond Levee, Lawrence County, Ill.	Large areas of seepage where numerous sand boils were observed on the landside
Mason J. Niblack Levee, Knox and Sullivan Counties, Ind.	Three areas where observed seepage exceeded what had been experienced or noted during previous events at this project
Gill Township Levee, Sullivan County, Ind.	structural damage to the Rogers Ditch pump station south wing wall
Brevoort Levee, Knox County, Ind.	Levee did not experience any failures during this event partially due to upstream failures along the Ambraw and Russell and Allison Levees; however numerous sand boils and areas of interior flooding were identified near the landside levee toe.

*Breaches caused by floodwaters overtopping the levees.

Fire damages Green River Lake Marina

A fire on Nov. 26 destroyed the marina store at Green River Lake. One small privately-owned boat had some damage and a small section of the roof and walkway were damaged.

The Taylor County Fire Department, Campbellsville-Taylor County Rescue Squad, Taylor County Sheriff Department and the Corps of Engineers Louisville District responded.



Larry Lemmon



Larry Lemmon

Study is first step for future repairs to Paducah levee, floodwall

By Katie Newton, public affairs

On Nov. 8 the Louisville District Corps of Engineers and the City of Paducah, the non-Federal sponsor, hosted a public meeting on the reconstruction of the Ohio River Shoreline, Paducah, Ky., Reconstruction Project.

The public meeting was held to explain the Corps' recommendations of the feasibility study on the rehabilitation of the local flood protection project. Public review of the draft feasibility report was completed Nov. 30. Headquarters review of the document was complete Dec. 3.

"Your voice will be heard," Project Manager Theresa Beckham assured attendees. "All of the public comments will be addressed in the report."

The \$19 million project will consist primarily of rehabilitation and upgrades of a more than 60-year-old project including reconstruction of deteriorated components that are beyond their service life and a new pump plant to address interior flooding. The reconstruction project will be within the existing footprint of the original flood protection project requiring minimal acquisition of property, primarily for access easements. Construction of the original project was completed in 1949.

The existing 12.2-mile flood protection project minimizes flood risk for more than 11,000 acres in the City of Paducah and helps to minimize risk for more than

20,000 people who live behind the levee system, as well as 65,000 people who would be affected economically due to industry and residences located in this area. Risk of flooding can't be totally eliminated, according to Beckham, however, the Corps mission is to minimize risk as much as possible.

"This levee system is so important," Beckham said. "What you're doing as a community is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair the levee system and to bring it up to current design criteria. This will provide continued and improved flood risk management for your community."

Beckham briefed the attendees on the project scope, benefits, cost and schedule and the Corps' recommendations. The Corps suggests the reconstruction of the existing project to include replacement and/or repair of pumps and pump motors, slip-lining of corrugated metal pipes, bank stabilization, construction of a permanent discharge pipe at the Woodward Hollow site, and the addition of pump plant No. 14 on Eighth St.

"We have to get authorization and appropriation so we can get the work done," District Commander Col. Keith Landry said. "What you see presented today is just sort of the first stage."

Paducah City Engineer Rick Murphy who was in attendance referred to a photo of a severely corroded corrugated discharge pipe and said that the justification for the reconstruction is all in one picture.

Additionally, Landry praised the City of Paducah for being a responsible and diligent sponsor by maintaining and supporting the project. "We're very happy that the City of Paducah is a great partner," Landry said.

The sponsor spent an average of \$73,000 a year, between 1994 and 2006, for necessary replacement of system components to improve the reliability of the system. These expenditures were in addition to the annual average of \$500,000 for normal operations and maintenance of the levee system.

The city had previously completed the slip-lining of 37 severely corroded



Katie Newton

Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry heads down 21-feet into a confined space entry wet-well in Pump Plant No. 2 to investigate the deteriorating components.

discharge pipes throughout the levee system. Without the proposed reconstruction project, the cost of the pipe slip-lining would be the sole responsibility of the City of Paducah at a cost of \$2.1 million.

"We have to put our best foot forward so we can move forward," Murphy said.

Prior to the meeting, Louisville District staff visited ten locations along the levee system including underground canned pump plants; sections of the floodwall with deteriorated water stops; slip-lined discharge pipes in the levee; Bee Branch sluice gate structure; several closures in the floodwall proposed to be permanently sealed; antiquated components in pumping plants; and the largest pump plant in the system, pump plant No. 2, where Landry was lowered 21-feet by a hand-cranked hoist into a confined space entry wet-well to see first-hand the condition of the deteriorating components.



Katie Newton

Paducah City Engineer Rick Murphy discusses the current condition of the floodwall with Deputy District Engineer David Dale, Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry and Planning Chief Sharon Bond.

Fort Campbell booms with projects



Work continues on the Fort Campbell, Ky., Warrior In Transition complex which, when complete in August 2011, will include three new buildings: A 206-Soldier four-story barracks, a single-story battalion headquarters, a two-story company headquarters and the Soldier and Family assistance center completed back in April of 2010 and currently in use. This new complex is situated near the Fort Campbell Hospital and the Fisher House making the Wounded Warrior Unit much more convenient and mission ready.

Ken Beyer

By Ken Beyer, public affairs

Fort Campbell, Ky., may not have huge Corps projects like the Human Resource Center of Excellence on Fort Knox, Ky., or the Human Performance Wing on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, but what it lacks in project size and scope is more than made up for in sheer project volume. With more than 45 projects currently in work or recently completed—and 33 more projects on the books for 2011-2015—the Louisville District is playing a huge part in Fort Campbell's transformation.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited Fort Campbell, Ky., Nov. 16 to get an update on projects and to see first-hand the progress being made.

A driving tour of the post, led by Rick

Lotz, chief, Fort Campbell support section and military project management branch, gave the general a close up look at the projects and allowed Bryan Moser, senior resident engineer, and his team to highlight several projects including the 101st Airborne Headquarters, a new elementary school, and the Warrior in Transition complex.



A new 85,750 sq. foot elementary school which will accommodate 600 pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students includes an art room, music room, computer lab, gym, cafeteria, kitchen, info center, teacher work room and administration offices. Building features standing seam metal roof, EPDM roof, advanced communication systems to support technology program, and maximum use of natural light throughout building to achieve LEED rating. The picture shows the entry area of the building with the exposed ceilings and natural light entering the area. This completed \$17 million elementary school will open in January 2011.



The Fort Campbell Resident Office and Louisville District office personnel tour the Fort Campbell Command and Control Facility with Maj. Gen. Dorko and crew. The picture shows the atrium area of the building, called the hinge during construction because it connects the two wings of the building, contains many Fort Campbell historical items. The building was designed in a "V" shape to simulate the wings of an eagle which goes along with the rippled drywall ceiling, shown in the picture, constructed to represent the white feathers under the head of the "eagle". This 99,000 sq. foot, \$30 million project was completed in 2008 and replaced the WWII wood constructed HQ building. Phase two of the state of the art facility, with a program amount of \$45 million is slated for FY 13.



Maj. Gen. Dorko explains to members of the Corps resident office how their projects help to maintain the readiness of Fort Campbell Soldiers by providing them with much-needed facilities and the importance they have on the well-being of Army families.

Dams not the place to drop a line

By John Neville, public affairs

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dams along the 941 miles of the Ohio River provide a navigable pool of water 365 days a year, a function that is critical to the economy and, ultimately, national security.

They also attract swarming fish in search of food—the small minnows or nutrients pulled into the area around the dams. It's a safe area for fish but a perilous place for fishermen.

Currently, signs above the gates warn fishermen that they must stay back 150 feet from the gates. A red line 150 feet back from the gates painted on the lock wall lets fishermen know if they're treading into the danger zone.

However, several factors can pull fishermen into the deadly dam-created current. An irresistible temptation to move closer to the fish or bait, wind, current and a dead motor are some of the factors that can get an angler into trouble. Eventually, fishermen are pulled into the gate where it's nearly impossible to get out without assistance.

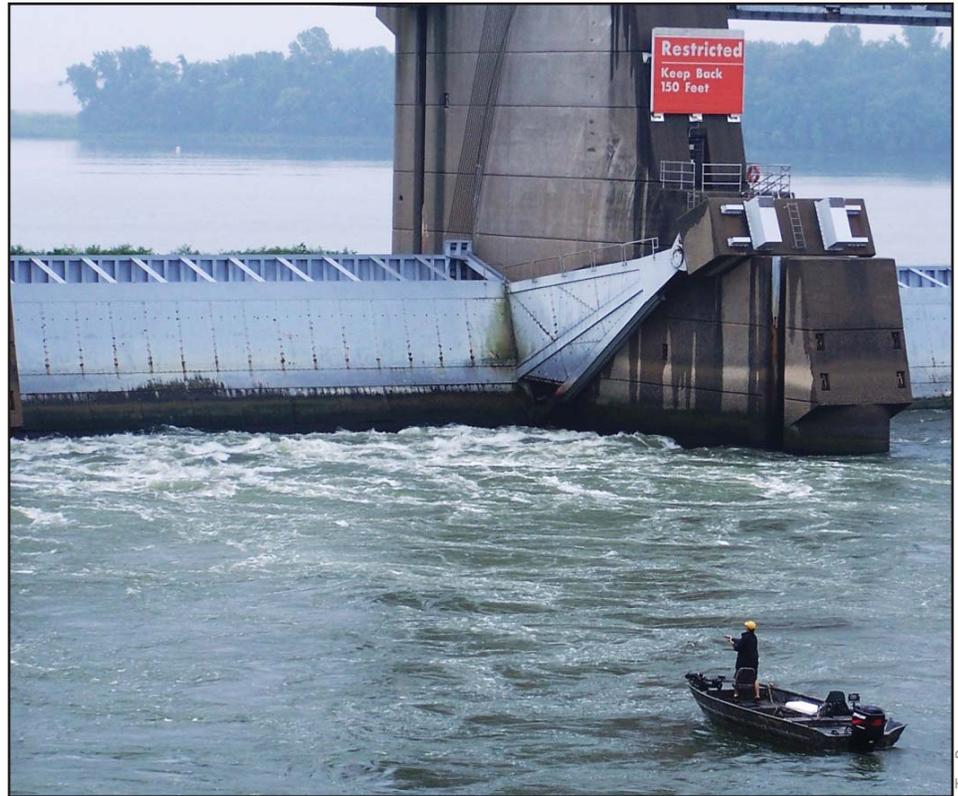
"When the gates are open, even just a foot or two, the water moving underneath the gate creates enough current that boats are literally pulled into the open gate, and the boat can't get out," said Patoka Lake Park Manager Stan Akin who was patrolling Cannelton Locks and Dam in October.

Boaters, according to Akin, mistakenly believe they can motor their way out of the situation. However, the water churning against the gate, "is so aerated, meaning there is so much air in it, that the propeller can't grab water."

This situation played out a few years ago when two fishermen were sucked into the gate. Another boater spotted the dis-



Patoka Lake Park Manager Stan Akin patrols the Ohio River near Cannelton Locks and Dam. Akin is on the lookout for fishermen who stray within 150 feet of the dam.



Tre Barron

This fisherman is just outside the 150-foot boundary at Newburgh Dam. Signs posted on the dam and a red line painted on the lock wall warn fishermen not to come within 150 feet of the dam.

tressed vessel and moved in for a rescue. The rescuing boat also became trapped. One man in the originally trapped boat died along with the person who attempted the rescue.

Even if a park ranger was patrolling near the area at the time of the drowning, there is only so much the ranger could've done to prevent the tragedy, according to Akin.

"The only thing we would do would be for a person to get on the front of the boat and throw a buoy as far to them as we could," he said. "We wouldn't go into the gate itself. I'm not going to jeopardize my life or partner's life making the situation worse by going into a situation I know I can't get my boat out of."

Those who work at the locks and dams do try and enforce the rules, but the fishermen don't respond very well to the warnings, Akin said. Responses range from obeying, ignoring and, at times, verbal and nonverbal expletive-laden rejections.

Akin recently took Wendy Pohl, a ranger from Rough River, on a patrol

around the locks at Cannelton. Pohl was so surprised to see the number of boaters treading inside the 150-foot boundary that she contacted Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry.

"I talked with Col. Landry about the possibility of having rangers patrol more regularly, maybe even some permanent positions," she said. "The problem is always funding, but Col. Landry is always concerned about safety. He directed that a small team be put together and come up with some different ideas to include different cost options. We'll compare the plans and look at what we can do."

There is another approach, Akin mentioned, that other districts are currently using to deal with the same problem. Huntington and St. Louis have set up a buoy line that stretches across the river, and this boundary begins further out than 150 feet.

Pohl and Akin plan to contact Huntington and St. Louis to see if the buoy solution is working.

"That could solve our problems," Akin said.

Back to nature: Former defense site added to wildlife refuge

The Gibraltar Bay Unit, a former Grosse Ile, Mich., Nike missile site, provides important spawning and nursery habitat for many species of fish and also serves as a critical stopover habitat for birds. After an environmental investigation conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District concluded that no human or ecological risks existed, the site became the newest addition to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

By Jenn Domashevich, public affairs

Formerly used defense site that once housed Nike Ajax missiles during World War II is now home to more than 200 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. After an environmental investigation of former Nike Missile Site D-51 in Grosse Ile, Mich., concluded that no human or ecological risks existed, the site became the newest addition to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

“It used to be a Nike missile site and now it’s wetlands and prairies and birds and fish,” said John Hartig, refuge manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Large Lakes Research Station. “It’s very cool.”

The 40-acre area, known as the Gibraltar Bay Unit, is located off the southern tip of Grosse Ile and includes unique coastal wetland, meadow, prairie, and upland habitats. Gibraltar Bay provides important spawning and nursery habitat for many species of fish and the uplands provide a critical stopover habitat for birds.

“Ninety-seven percent of coastal wetlands along the Detroit River have been lost,” Hartig said. “Only three percent is left along the Detroit River. It’s got huge ecological significance.”

Under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), restoration of the site, including road and building demolition, began in 1991 and was completed in 1993 by the Louisville District. Since then, numerous studies and investigations have been completed in compliance with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address environmental concerns.

The former Nike Missile Site D-51 was part of the former U.S. Naval Air Station (NAS) Grosse Ile in Wayne County, Mich., which served as a Navy airplane, seaplane and blimp training site and U.S. Coast Guard rescue station during World War II. In 1954, 52 acres of NAS Grosse Ile was transferred to the Army for the establishment of a Nike Ajax missile site known as Nike Missile Site D-51, which operated until 1963. It was then transferred back to the U.S. Navy.

In 1972, the U.S. Navy transferred the property to the U.S. EPA, which stewarded and protected the property for more than 35 years. During this time, an effective partnership developed among USACE, EPA, Grosse Ile Township, Grosse Ile Land and Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The partnership shared a vision — to transfer the 40-acre, former Nike missile site from the EPA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Program to protect, preserve, and conserve the natural resources of the area, with the intended use of nature observance, research and education.

“The vision was created eight years ago and it took a lot of hard work to get here,” Hartig said.

Prior to taking ownership of the property in January 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed two Preliminary Acquisition Surveys (Levels I and II) to assess the potential liability associated with any residual contamination that they

may incur by taking ownership of the property.

Additionally, an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) at the former Nike missile site was completed by USACE in 2008 to determine if the site required further evaluation for potential remediation to protect the environment.

“We took the results of the Level II Assessment and incorporated them into an Ecological Risk Assessment,” said Angela Schmidt, Louisville District subject matter expert risk assessor and biologist who conducted the risk assessment. “We did a full-blown risk assessment using a different set of criteria to determine if there were any risks to the environment. Our results showed that the ecosystem on Grosse Ile was functional and not at risk. It also translated to no liability for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Both the Corps and Fish and Wildlife Service’s results agreed and the success of these assessments is evident in Grosse Ile becoming part of the refuge.

The ERA was conducted on the two areas of concern (AOCs) on the former Nike missile site, known as AOC 5 and AOC 15, to evaluate the potential for ecological risks.

“AOC 5 and 15 were part of the overall investigation of the Naval Air Station and were two of 25 AOCs,” said Kathy Krantz, Louisville District environmental scientist and technical manager of the project. “AOC 5 and 15 were pulled out from the work that was being done over the overall site to expedite it so that this transfer could happen.”

(Continues on Page 11)

Upon completion of the ERA, everyone agreed that the transfer was good to go.

“The key in the end was the risk assessment clearly showing that there was no unacceptable risk out there,” said Krantz. “We all had a common goal. We wanted the Fish and Wildlife Service to take the property and use it.”

Gibraltar Bay is one of the two largest



remaining emergent marsh/submerged macrophyte areas on the U.S. side of the Detroit River. The bay is a known resting and feeding area for ducks and other water birds and is a spawning and nursery area for Great Lakes fishes. The entire area is additionally frequented and/or inhabited by a wide range of other wildlife. Approximately 250 species have been observed on the site including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and other biological resources, and State of Michigan Endangered and Threatened Species have been observed.

A dedication ceremony was held Oct. 23, 2010, to mark the bay’s entrance into the refuge and its preservation in perpetuity for wildlife and wildlife compatible public uses. Approximately 150 people

were in attendance at the ceremony, including Michigan Rep. John Dingell.

“The addition of this beautiful gem to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will allow families and wildlife to enjoy this site for many years to come,” said Dingell at the ceremony.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge includes 5,700 acres along the Detroit River and Lake Erie. The refuge was established in 2001 as the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America and one of only a few urban refuges in the nation.

“This is a big day for Grosse Ile, the Detroit River and the entire Great Lakes region,” said Michigan Sen. Carl Levin in a release issued after the ceremony.

Native American celebration offers Corps mission perspective

By John Neville, public affairs

Do you know what the Slack Farm Incident is?

Besides being a topic of discussion at the Louisville District’s Native American Indian Heritage observance held Nov. 10, the Slack Farm, named for the Slack family, is located in Union County, Ky. What is significant about the property is the history that lies beneath the soil, or what’s left of it.

A Native American village existed on the property between 500 and 1,300 years ago. In more modern times, the Slack family owned the property for generations and refused requests from relic hunters who wanted to excavate the site for the valuable artifacts buried within. In the 1980s, the Slack family sold the property to a new owner who accepted \$10,000 from three men for leased digging rights on the property. In their search for pottery, carvings and other valuables, the men cast aside skeletal remains on their path to desecrating hundreds of graves, leaving behind beer bottles and plastic.

The story made national news and angered a public that was surprised to learn that the crime was classified only as a misdemeanor. The reaction eventually led to more stringent laws that make it a felony to excavate grave sites without prior approval from state or federal agencies, depending on who owns the property.

“Had it not been for Slack Farm, we’d be very far behind,” said event guest speaker and Kentucky State Representative Reggie Meeks.

The new laws haven’t been the only force protecting Indian burial sites. The Corps, Meeks said, “is vitally important, and your role is very much appreciated. You do very good work.”

When the Corps does discover human remains in unmarked burial grounds located at a project site, the agency has a responsibility to notify and consult with those tribes whose ancestors are interred there.

“The Corps takes the responsibility to consult with Indian tribes very seriously,” said Louisville District Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison Jan Marie Hemberger. “Consultation with federally recognized tribes is in fact government to government relations. In recognition of this the Corps established a Tribal Issues office at headquarters under civil works and a Tribal Nations Community of Practice so that Corps personnel could share and learn from experiences as consultation with tribes is pursued. Districts also have tribal liaisons who work to establish and maintain contact with Indian tribes that have an interest in the area covered by a particular District.”

The Corps’ goal is to return the remains

to members of the original, or closely related, tribe. This responsibility—preserving the integrity of the dead and their connection to living ancestors—tied in directly with Louisville District’s celebration, according Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry.

“It’s about building bridges among the Corps, the different cultures of our employees, and the community,” he said. “One of the things I’ve learned is that culture matters. As an organization we strive to understand culture. Having culture on our team strengthens the team and makes us all better.”



Jacquelyn Poole, sister of district EEO Specialist Sharon Brazley, serves up some of her Cherokee chicken and rabbit chowder to Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry during the district’s Native American Indian Heritage Month Celebration Nov. 10 inside the federal building.

Mike Lush

ARRA funds Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center expansion

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars have funded 100 percent of the new visitor center expansion project at Caesar Creek Lake in Ohio which will add an additional 6,000 sq. feet to the facilities' current 6,560 sq. feet.

The expansion project will include a 150 to 200 seat auditorium/classroom to accommodate large groups of school children and the general public that visit annually. The classroom will provide for learning activities, space for large programs and provide students a lunch and warming area during winter or inclement weather.

"It is exciting to see this much-needed education center under construction. We will now be ready to keep up with the growth of the local community and our increased visitation," Park Ranger Kimberly Baker said. "The new facility will expand our educational and interactive displays, leaving the customers with more information about the Corps of Engineers, the construction of the lake, how dams and locks work and the local flora and fauna of the area," said Baker.

The Caesar Creek Visitor Center facility is a Class A regional visitor center for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which serves more than 79,000 visitors each



Matthew Palmer

The 6,000-sq. foot addition to the Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center will accommodate large group tours. The visitor center serves more than 79,000 visitors annually.

year. School and education groups are more than a third of that number.

"The Caesar Creek Lake Regional Visitor Center has been a victim of its own success," said Operations Manager Steven Lee. "School children often overflow the lobby, theater and display areas where they learn about the Corps of Engineers and its missions."

The new education center will be able to accommodate the large school group tours, special events, and interpretive presentations which have become popular at

Caesar Creek Lake. The large classroom is flexible and will equip park rangers to perform a variety of programs including audiovisual presentations, lectures, laboratory and field work activities.

"We appreciate the entire team effort from operations, planning, engineering, construction and the contractor TJC Engineering, Inc., for providing this needed facility for our customers and the visiting public," said Lee.

Louisville District honored by Air Force Reserve Command

By Ken Beyer, public affairs



Col. Nick Desport, Air Force Reserve Command (right) presents Col. Keith Landry, Louisville District commander (left), and Mark Ringenberg, Louisville District Army Reserve South and Air Force Reserve section chief with a plaque in appreciation for the support the district has provided in executing the \$94 million Air Force Reserve military construction program in 2010.



To the Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In Appreciation for Our Continued
Partnership Resulting in
\$94M MILCON Executed in FY10.
Your Efforts Enabled AFRC to
Continue Providing World-Class
Support to Our Nation's Defense.

Corps on alert over Thanksgiving holiday to activate Cincinnati flood gate if need arose

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

While many folks prepared Thanksgiving dinner checking their ovens' temperatures, public servants were monitoring gauge readings of a different sort. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinated with the city of Cincinnati standing ready to operate a flood gate structure along Madison Avenue over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The closure was anticipated to protect a business area from potential flooding from the rising Duck Creek brought about by a storm front which moved through the area Nov. 24. The emergency operations plan for the Duck Creek closure included close communication with the city to relay actual rain gauge levels so the Corps could respond to close the gate structure. As an additional precaution, the Corps analysis showed a level of more than three inches of rain within a six-hour period would require closure of the gate. This amount was not expected in the storm predictions noted Nov. 24.

"There was a lot going on behind the scenes Nov. 24-25 to keep the public protected should the need arise in case of flooding," said Steve Rager, Louisville District Emergency Manager.

The Corps set the gate on automatic closure based on the rain gauge readings.

As a backup plan, the Corps contacted the gate contractor and the local Corps office at Harsha Lake. The Corps contacted the city to inform them the automatic gate closure closed due to a false gauge reading.

Chuck Crushham, district construction representative, Cincinnati, gave up a portion of his Thanksgiving Day to sit at the site prepared to activate the gate as necessary as backup in case of high water Nov. 24, however, it was not necessary to close the gate. "People like Chuck are taking the Corps from good to great with the willingness to do whatever to get the job done right," Rager said.

"We want the public to know the Corps of Engineers is actively engaged during potential flooding 24-7 and in contact with the National Weather Service and the city of Cincinnati," Rager continued.

The Corps and NWS remained in consistent communications as the storm front moved through the area to monitor and update precipitation levels.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinated with the National Weather Service Nov. 24 to assure communication would remain open during the end of the week and into the next week on rainfall projections. At that time, the front was expected to release four to five inches of rain

in isolated spots along the White River basin in Indiana and less rainfall amounts in the surrounding areas. Approximately three inches of rain fell over the Thanksgiving holiday in and around Cincinnati.

The gate structure is one small part of the larger flood protection project located along 3.2 miles of Duck Creek, between Interstate 71 and the Little Miami River, within Cincinnati city limits and Village of Fairfax. The Duck Creek Flood Damage Reduction Project is nearing full completion.



Chuck Crushham

The flood gate structure was set to automatically close based on rain gauge readings and consequently closed due to a false gauge reading. Cincinnati received approximately three inches of rain over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Beckham receives Ohio Distinguished Service Medal

By Jenn Domashevich, public affairs

The Ohio Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Louisville District project manager Glen Beckham, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency project manager Eileen Mohr and Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant BRAC Environmental Coordinator Mark Patterson Dec. 3, at Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (RVAAP) in Ohio. The medals were presented by Maj. Gen. Matthew Kambic, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio, Ohio Army National Guard, on behalf of Ohio Governor Ted Strickland for their significant contributions to the success of Camp Ravenna through their dedication to excellence in the Installation Restoration Program.

"It's humbling to be recognized for

this award because there were so many wonderful people who have lifted me up to make this possible," said Beckham. "It's not just a Corps project, it's a multi-agency team consisting of the BRAC Division, Army Environmental Command, Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio EPA, and National Guard Bureau. They will volunteer for any challenge, no matter how many challenges there are, and come up smiling about it."

RVAAP is one of the Louisville District's Installation Restoration Program projects. Portions of the site are currently being utilized as a training facility for the Ohio Army National Guard called Camp Ravenna, and once all remediation work is complete, it is anticipated that Camp



Derek Kinder

(From left) Glen Beckham, Eileen Mohr and Mark Patterson stand with Maj. Gen. Matthew Kambic who presented the award on behalf of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland Dec. 3.

Ravenna will become Ohio's premiere National Guard training facility.

Just do it

They did it—First in LRL to earn program analyst certification

By Jon Fleshman, planning, programs, and project management

Brenda Ellis and Terri Harris this September became the first program analysts in the Louisville District to be certified under the new Program Analyst Career Development Plan, and both earned the highest certification – level III.

“Brenda and Terri are exceptional analysts as well as role models for the program analyst field,” said Angie Puckett, chief of the business management branch in the district’s construction division. “Their wealth of knowledge and experience was a natural fit for this certification.”

Implementation of the current version of the career plan for program analysts began January 2010, and includes a transition period of certification ending in July 2011, according to Joanne Milo, deputy chief for the district’s planning, programs and project management division and one of the reviewers of the certification packets before they are sent to the division.

“During the transition, program and budget analysts may apply for certification by submitting their application packages detailing how their experience and education have equipped them with the necessary competencies,” Milo explained.

She said after she reviews the applications they must be approved and signed by David Dale, deputy district engineer and chief of planning, programs and project management. Then they are forwarded to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for adjudication and, if warranted, certification at one of the three levels.

“I felt that it was important for them to become certified during the transition period as the differences in their paths to their current positions would show others that this registration is possible for all,” Puckett said. “Their registration applications would serve well as examples for others to follow.”

Ellis came to the Louisville District in 1991 as a GS-5 accounting technician from the 266th Theater Finance Command in Heidelberg, Germany. Along the way to her new position she worked as a budget analyst in resource management and then construction. Puckett retires at the end of the year and Ellis has been selected to succeed her as the chief of construction’s business management branch, a position



Jon Fleshman

Brenda Ellis (left) and Terri Harris became the first program analysts in the Louisville District to be certified under the new Program Analyst Career Development Plan. Both women earned the highest certification—level III.

with a target grade of GS-13.

Ellis admits she had to be nudged by her supervisor to compile and submit her certification application, but she said once she finally got started it only took her four days. And the results both surprised and pleased her.

“I’ve learned so much about myself and I appreciate myself more,” Ellis said. “It taught me something about my own creativity, the way I designed my packet in chapters. I will never have to go back and research my career history again.”

Much of the documentation Ellis needed, like certificates and diplomas, was stored in a box in her garage, an indication of the many moves she’d made when her husband was on active duty. She said when she got done compiling all her professional records “it gave me renewed confidence when I realized I had done certain things.”

Harris came to the Louisville District in 1992 from the U.S. Census Bureau. Her first position at the district was as a GS-3 automation clerk in military project management. Then she worked on the civil side as a project support assistant. In 2002 she joined the construction division as a GS-7 budget technician and two years later was promoted to budget analyst in project management. That led to another promotion to program analyst. Harris currently serves the construction division as a GS-12 senior program analyst.

Harris said she sees certification as a “chance to set yourself apart.” She added:

“I’m always looking for ways of improving and it looks good on your resume’. It’s a personal accomplishment.”

Harris, who oversees the work of three budget analysts, said she did a lot of the compiling at home; doing a little each day she put the packet together in two weeks.

“Don’t procrastinate, just do it,” Harris said. “There’s never time. Give yourself a time, set a goal and just do it.”

Milo explained that the steering committee of the program and project management community of practice developed this career development plan to standardize levels of competence across the Corps. The application goes through Dale because he’s the district’s senior member of the PPM community of practice, Milo said. Certification is approved by Mike White, the division’s director of programs, and it’s his signature on the certificate that is presented to successful applicants.

Job series eligible for certification are 343 Program Analyst and 560 Budget Analyst, said Barbara Petersen, chief of programs management branch at the Vicksburg District and leader of the team who drafted the career development plan. Petersen said she began researching and drafting the plan in 2006 and the USACE commander signed the first version in June 2009.

For a complete copy of the Program Analyst Career Development Plan and the transition-period certification application, go to Engineering Knowledge Online (EKO) <https://eko.usace.army.mil/usacecop/ppm/>.

Sanders prepares, comforts deployees' families

By Amanda Deane, public affairs

In the last two years, family readiness coordinators and programs for deployed civilians and their families have sprung up all over the USACE community. The family readiness program gives employees assurance that if they deploy, their families are going to be okay. Jamye Sanders currently supervises 15 families, some living in Oregon, New York and New Jersey. She has been the Louisville Districts' family readiness counselor since January of 2010.

"In the past, there was nothing readily available for families of the deployed. I try to be friendly and let them know that I'm here for them if they need me," she said.

She meets with employees who work in field offices, but hasn't yet met with their families. Sanders puts together care packages for deployed employees and their families and keeps a box in her office for individuals to drop items in for the care packages. There are also boxes in area offices for employees to bring items to donate overseas. "We send Mother's and Father's day boxes over with all types of goodies and baked goods," said Sanders. "It takes about seven days to get there. I normally get an email from someone telling me 'Hey, we got the box!'"

Normally, Sanders contacts the employee's department to help her send a care package. She requests a wish list, and then meets the items listed and sends out the package. "A co-worker and I have been providing the packages, but there have been three different branches that have gotten the boxes together themselves so I can mail them out."

"I try to be friendly and let them know that I'm here for them if they need me."

-Jamye Sanders, Family Readiness Counselor

Recently, Sanders has visited Fort Campbell, Olmsted, Rock Island and Scott Air Force Base to give her presentation on family readiness and explain the deployment program. The family support and deployment presentation consists of introducing and explaining passports, power of attorney forms, and distributing children's materials dealing with



Amanda Deane

Jamye Sanders keeps many family readiness materials on hand for family members of Louisville District deployees. Sanders has served as the family readiness counselor since January.

deployment. Other materials provided for families of deployed individuals include family readiness tips on the reunion process, and she also stresses the importance of communication within marriages. "I have CDs, DVDs, Sesame Street coloring books and calendars for children dealing with deployment. I have magazines to give to fathers that give them ideas for how to keep in contact with their children while overseas. Families have my contact information if they need me."

Often a family member will go into panic mode when something happens at home, and they call the deployed spouse who can't do anything about it except give advice. That's where Sanders steps in. She assists the family member through that emergency and makes sure that a support system is in place through his or her family, job or church. "One woman in New York is looking for jobs in Fort Campbell because her husband is due to come home from Iraq before December and work there. So I've sent her a lot of information on finding a job there," she said.

"The visits were excellent...and to meet the employees was wonderful, because I always email them, but to put faces to names was great," said Sanders. "It was also nice to meet individuals who

had been deployed. I assist their families before they go, while they're there, and after they come back. Fort Campbell office had the most deployed, but each office has someone deployed."

While in the office, Sanders sends greeting emails and phone calls to family members and to those who are deployed. It's up to the employee to give her permission to contact their family. She forwards emails that come into her inbox, to let families know of different programs in their own state.

Military life consultants are free for civilians. "If a civilian employee goes over and they need to talk to somebody, the sessions are free." There is also the employee assistance program here in the states, too.

Sanders worked at Fort Knox and the 84th Training Command as a human resource specialist. She has been in the Army Reserves for 24 years and even deployed to Iraq from 2004-2005, so she understands going overseas and coming back can be difficult because work in Afghanistan and Iraq is faster paced.

Sanders enjoys her new job for many reasons. "I'm having a blast with it because I have a passion for it. I believe this is what I'll do until I retire," she said.

Wright finds it bittersweet to say goodbye



Construction Technical Support Specialist Mary Alice Wright is retiring from Construction Division on Dec. 31 with 29 years of service with the Corps of Engineers.

By Katie Newton, public affairs

The switch from typewriters to PCs, snail-mail to scanning, the integration of CEFMS, RMS and SPs, and the undertaking of the nationwide Reserve Program in 1994 are just a few of the things that Wright has seen change in her 29 years with the Corps.

At age 76, Construction Technical Support Specialist Wright is retiring with 38 years of civil service at the end of December.

"It is bittersweet," Wright said. "I love my job and I'm going to miss the interactions with the people. So many of them are my extended family, and we have our field offices and they just become like your family, too."

English, Ind., native, Wright, has worked since she was 18 years old and has enjoyed every minute of it. "If you want to kill me just sit me down in front of the T.V.," Wright said. "I'm at my best when I'm busy."

She held more than 11 different positions before joining the Corps ranging from mail clerk, dental assistant, jail matron, medical assistant, secretary and deputy auditor.

"There's not one job I've had that I would want to delete—not a one of them—every one has had an influence on me and been interesting."

She found her niche, though, when she joined the Corps' Construction Division helping with contract administrative work. Wright originally began her stint with the Corps in 1981 working at the

Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (IN-AAP) in Charlestown, Ind., doing contract admin work at the field office level. In 1984, when INAAP shut its doors, Wright moved to the Romano Mazzoli Federal Building in downtown Louisville. "I haven't had one boring day since I've been here," Wright said.

Wright and her five co-workers Bobbi Lockwood, Morris Cunningham, Jan Brewer, Stephanie Shacklett and Chelly McCarthy have the responsibility of contract administration from "cradle to grave" for Louisville District civil works projects and military projects in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. "Right now we have the biggest load we have ever had," said Wright.

"We do the contract administration including changes and mods," she said. The process starts with Bid ability, Constructability, Operability, and Environmental Certification (BCOE) review and ends when the contract is financially closed.

As one of the senior specialists Wright handles the more complex problems. "Since I love to do research and problem solving, it is right up my alley," she said.

Wright is solely responsible for Fort Campbell and the 88th Reserve Regional Command. "I'm the go to person in the contract arena for my field people. I love helping my field folks," she said.

There is no doubt that Wright's teammates are going to miss her expertise as well. "She has been a wonderful person to work with all these years. If there were any issues in contract administration

branch that she or I would come across, we decided, if we both agreed on the solution, it was right. The saying went, 'if Mary Alice Wright said so, it was right.'" I could not have asked for a better work partner in the world," said Lockwood.

Her supervisor Angie Puckett added, "Mary Alice is the consummate professional. She is one of the most caring, knowledgeable employees that I have ever had the privilege to supervise."

After her retirement Dec. 31, Wright plans to take a little time to do the simpler things in life like yard work and cleaning her house. More importantly, she hopes to spend more quality time with her family, especially her husband of 56 years, Versel.



Wright (left) is presented with a retirement certificate by her supervisor, Angie Puckett, construction division, during a luncheon honoring Wright and her 29 years of service with the Louisville District Dec. 9 at Buckheads restaurant in Jeffersonville, Ind.

OC Chief retires after 30 years of service; reflects on time in Afghanistan

By John Neville, public affairs

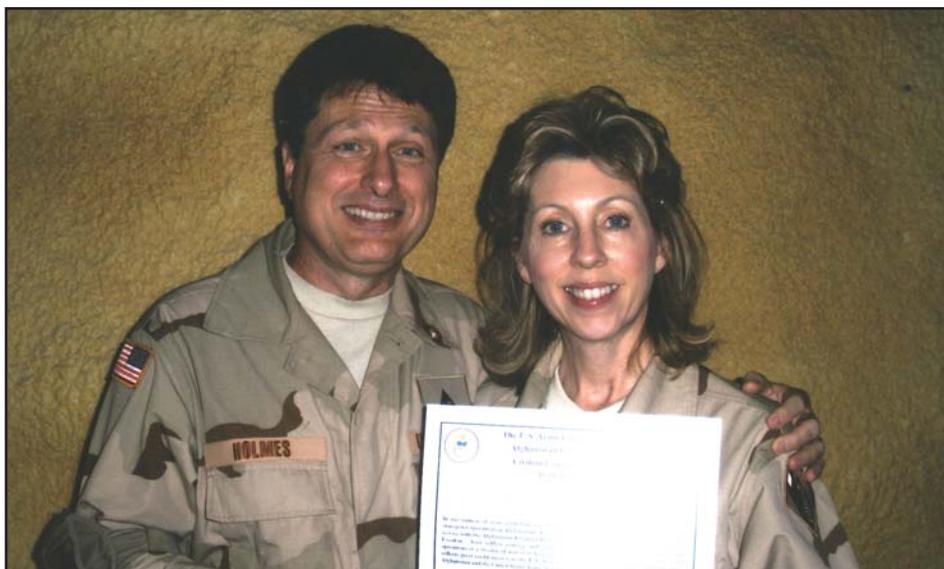
Dale Holmes retired last month after 30 years of federal service. He served as Louisville District's Chief of Counsel beginning in 2000. The following excerpt is from an oral history interview taken shortly before Holmes retired. In the interview, Holmes discusses his deployments to Afghanistan, including a detailed account of an undercover sting operation that netted the biggest fraud scheme in Corps history; an unnerving flight into Kabul, Afghanistan, with his wife; some words on ethics; and some final thoughts about retiring. Louisville District historian John Neville conducted the interview.

Neville: You deployed to Afghanistan. Can you talk about that experience?

Holmes: Yes, it was certainly some of the most interesting work I did. A lot of contract work and a lot of fraud work. I took part in the largest fraud case involving the Corps. It involved our former chief of contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The chief of contracting is a pretty important position in the Corps. She was on the take, taking bribes from a Lebanese firm. She got them hundreds of millions of dollars of contracts awarded. (The U.S. government) paid off claims and modifications as a result of all those bribes. She got her sister working for that company, and they engaged in a three-year-long scheme. I was involved in ending that and getting her prosecuted. She got more than five years in federal prison. Her sister got more than two years in prison. The president of the company, a Lebanese citizen, did about a year in federal prison. We terminated a number of their contracts in Afghanistan. They forfeited \$25 million in claims they had pending against us, some of which were likely bogus but would've been paid

"We brought down a major international crime operation."

—Dale Holmes, former chief, office of counsel



Dale Holmes and his wife, Teresa, pose together during one of Holmes' two deployments to Afghanistan in support of Overseas Contingency Operations in 2009 and 2010.

had the sister remained in power. We did it all through an undercover sting operation.

One of our engineers worked closely with us and the FBI agents in Afghanistan that are on the International Contract Corruption Task Force. He wore a wire, and the sister tried to bribe him to cover up the continuing scheme she was operating since the chief of contracting retired from our organization. This scheme started back in 2006 and ran through 2009. We made a big high-profile arrest in Kabul. We arrested the sister and Lebanese company's president. We lured them in with a demand for a meeting with our commander, threatening to terminate their contracts. The director of the FBI and the U.S. attorney general have a Gulfstream jet that flies them all over the world. It's used to arrest high-value targets. So they flew it from Washington to Bagram and the FBI agents made the arrest when these people came in for our meeting. (The agents) put them on the Gulfstream and flew them to Alexandria, Va., where they were arraigned in federal court. That happened in April 2009, the last week I was there. It was a rather tense time for us.

There was concern this whole undercover thing was going to be blown, and there's no extradition treaty with

the Lebanese. We were fearful the sister was going to figure this out. We still had half a dozen contracts pending with the company; they were grossly behind and they stopped working on some of them. My clients wanted me to terminate them immediately for non-performance, but of course we had to hold off on that because of this undercover operation. We collected the bribes and got the evidence to support the criminal case. It was an exciting time right at the end of my career. I really had a career case.

I personally nominated the undercover agent for an award because he did a wonderful thing. He received the Declaration for Exceptional Civilian Service award from the Secretary of the Army. He was offered to go into the witness protection program. We brought down a major international crime operation. They had been awarded over a quarter of a billion dollars through this corrupt scheme of bribing our employee and the sister, and they had been awarded millions of dollars in contract claims that were probably not valid and many of those contracts were not performed in a timely manner. I wrote the victim impact statement that was filed in federal court during the sentencing explaining the impact of her corrupt behavior (Continues on Page 18)

on our contracts and on the war efforts. I personally signed the letter and sent it off to the federal judge in New Orleans. He actually quoted from it during the sentencing hearing in New Orleans and he threw the book at this lady and she paid more than a half million dollars in restitution, and the company paid restitution. Everybody pleaded guilty without trial because we pretty much had the evidence on them.

The scheme certainly was a huge impact on the mission. There were road jobs that were delayed by this company, a commando training facility where we were training the Afghans to do commando raids and take over a lot of those critical efforts to capture some of the leaders of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Several of those projects were slowed down because this company was not pursuing them vigorously. I'm proud I played a role in that.

I convinced the Department of Justice that they should indict, not just these individuals, but the company and company officials because if you don't do that, then when all this unfolds, they're going to claim, "We're shocked that these people were corrupt." When in reality, it was their business model to bribe our people and the president of the company was fully aware and endorsed this behavior. So they did. They indicted the company, and it pleaded guilty, and the president pleaded guilty. Even though he was not an American citizen, he was taking American dollars and if you do that corruptly, then you're subject to American justice.

things so we could depart the country. Much of what you did directly supported those efforts—building those facilities, the infrastructure for the country and the infrastructure for the military that was actually doing the fighting. It taught you something about your character because it was hard work.

You never had a day off. You worked 10-12 hours a day with more work than you could possibly get done under immense stress. Getting anything built in Afghanistan is extremely hard. There is no infrastructure. There is no construction industry. There is no engineering industry. You're bringing in international companies. There's an insurgency going on. Their workforce isn't educated in western construction. They can build a stonewall... but building a CMU block building with rebar and plumbing is a different story.

There's a basic drug use problem. Ninety-four percent of the world's opium and heroin come from there, and it's heavily used by the population. The Taliban is there trying to mess with the projects, so security was an issue. Workers weren't getting paid and subcontractors weren't getting paid. Money was moving to the Taliban for the corruption of Afghan officials. All of those problems made it incredibly difficult to get all this incredibly important work done.

You were in the middle trying to solve almost insolvable problems, and it beats you down physically and psychologically. But, it was very rewarding. By the time



Katie Newton

Former Office of Counsel Chief Dale Holmes retired from the Corps of Engineers Louisville District in November after 30 years of federal service.

that extend up several thousand feet above that. The United Nations flew in a humanitarian flight and we flew in on it. They weren't shooting planes out of the sky. They were not that sophisticated in Afghanistan as they were in Iraq. However, it was a pretty crude aviation system in Afghanistan. It was a very dangerous place to fly. Many planes crashed. On my second tour, my wife took a job and went over as well. When we flew in on that U.N. plane in August 2009, the pilot engaged in aerial maneuvers that are not allowed by the FAA in America (laughing). He banked that old dilapidated 707 at angles that you would not want to be at (laughing). It wasn't a corkscrew landing, but we circled the city twice in that 707, and she commented, "Oh my gosh, are we gonna die in this landing." It's a difficult place to move around. But you had to fly a lot; it got so dangerous that a lot of the driving in up-armored SUVs was not allowed. You had to move in aerial assets, helicopters or planes. It's definitely an adventure you never forget.

Holmes last words: It's been an interesting career. I have no regrets. Should I have stayed longer and waited a few more years? My wife thinks so, but I don't (laugh). You fight too many legal battles, you get tired to the point you say, "You know what, I don't know how many more legal battles I got in me. I think I'm done."

"I felt more patriotic during and after the process than I've ever felt in my life."

—Dale Holmes

Neville: How did serving in Afghanistan change you on a personal level?

Holmes: I felt more patriotic during and after the process than I've ever felt in my life. I was in Afghanistan on one of the 9-11 anniversaries. We had a candlelight vigil ceremony. It reminded you of that episode, that attack, and it felt like you were part of that war effort, and fighting Al Qaeda and the Taliban and the people who launched those attacks. We were building roads to get the troops out to find them and kill them, and help sustain the Afghan government so they could do those

you were done with it, you really felt like you accomplished something. And the cases I was involved in, we cleaned up our corruption problems, and we can't demand the Afghans to clean up theirs, if we can't clean up ours.

Neville: How was the flight into Afghanistan? I hear the methods to avoid enemy fire can turn your stomach.

Holmes: Kabul is in a bowl with mountains all around it. It's at a plateau at 6,200 feet elevation with mountains



Corps takes action to go green

By Jon Fleshman, planning, programs and project management

Nobody who knows the numbers would deny the operations division is one of the Louisville District's long-time boosters for sustainability.

For example, in the last 15 years the Caesar Creek Lake and Miami Area Office's recycling program has netted 7,200 pounds of paper, 6,240 pounds of aluminum and 1,800 pounds of glass.

"For many years, practices to conserve energy, recycle and demonstrate environmental leadership have been standard operating procedures for operations division's personnel and facilities," said Keith Chasteen, natural resources specialist. "Some efforts not only improve efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, but save direct costs such as the replacement of an old oil-fired boiler to a high efficiency electric boiler at McAlpine Locks and Dam."

He said the electricity is provided at no cost from the LG&E hydro-electric station on the Ohio River.



Caesar Creek park ranger Matthew Palmer unloads another bag of aluminum cans donated by visitors at a tailwater recycling point. Four to five times each summer Boy Scouts of Troop 50 - Dan Beard Council, of Springboro, Ohio, collect the cans for recycling from a storage point at the lake project.



Traveling at safe speeds and with an eye on sustainability, Markland lockmaster Gary Birge helps reduce his project's carbon footprint by using pedal power to get from his office to the maintenance shop.



Equipment mechanic Shawn Riley indicates the point of service tankless water heater and oil recycling container at the Markland Locks and Dam workshops.



Maintenance mechanic Carl Williams puts in a long-life, energy efficient bulb at the Markland Locks and Dam powerhouse.



Markland lock operator Mark Minshall demonstrates a low-flow toilet.



Markland project navigation assistant Christy Kleopfer uses rechargeable batteries for cameras and flashlights.

Jon Fleshman

Holiday Safety

From USACE Strongpoint

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' emphasis on worker safety earned the agency the fiscal year 2009 Secretary of the Army Headquarters' Safety Award. As we closed out 2010 we continued to perform well across the board in safety, but exceptionally well in reducing civilian lost time injuries by almost 50 percent. Safety must remain our focus as we kick-off FY 2011 and the Fall/Winter season.

'No Time to Chill' Campaign

Fall and winter are "no time to chill" when it comes to safety. The Army recently launched its 2010 Fall/Winter Safety Campaign. As the title suggests, we must maintain our edge during the cooler months when evaluating risks and protecting ourselves, our families, and co-workers against the special hazards that Fall and Winter may bring.

To help commanders, supervisors and employees understand the specific hazards of the coming seasons (as well as how to control the risks), the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center team has developed articles, posters and videos focusing on important seasonal safety topics including hunting, outdoor injuries, safe celebrations, home safety, fire safety, winter driving and more. All of these are now available on the USACR/Safety Center website at:

<https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/FallandWinterSafetyCampaign2010/tabid/1981/Default.aspx>.

When Celebrating this Season

- Make a plan. Designate a nondrinking buddy and give him or her the car keys, prearrange a taxi service or have the numbers for local cab companies programmed in your cell phone.
- Use the buddy system. Rotate designated driver responsibilities and, if no one else volunteers, speak up and offer to stay sober.
- Be honest with yourself and remember that even a slight "buzz" can significantly weaken your perceptions and abilities. If you are out on your own and know you are impaired, stay with the host until you are sober or call a friend or taxi for a ride.

Cold Weather, Recreational Safety

- Use only proper, well-maintained equipment when skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling or sledding.
- Dress in layers for winter sports, which allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature. Bring a headband or hat, since 60 percent of heat-loss is through the head.
- Wear personal protective equipment designed for your sport or activity. PPE is just as important for recreation as it is on the job. Ensure you know your limits and stop before you exceed them.

Great organizations take care of their most precious asset—their people. Whether at home or on the job, an injury can have an impact on their lives, their families and our ability to accomplish the important missions we have for our Nation."

—Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers

Source: USACE Strongpoint



New faces and fond farewells

New September/October employees



Glen Arthur Crabtree
Program Budget Analyst
Resource Management
Office



Alicia Fidler
Staff Accountant
Resource Management
Office



Keith Fleck
Civil Engineer
Operations Division



Jedidiah Joseph Kenney
Program Budget Analyst
Resource Management
Office



Rhiannon Payne
Project Management
Specialist
Planning, Programs and
Project Management

Not pictured:

Brad Bradley, construction division
Jeffrey Brooks, engineering division
Michael Clinard, construction division
Paul Goss, planning, programs and project management
Francesca Gregg, construction division
Chessica Loudon, engineering division
Dale Polston, planning, programs and project management
LaToya Price, engineering division
David Ruiz, construction division
Bryan Smith, resource management office
Erin Stine, resource management office
Carl Taylor, operations division
Roy Tyler III, construction division

September/October retirements

Davis Hurt, operations division
Thomas Parker, construction division
Mary Somerville, operations division

By the numbers

Louisville District totals

- 1,338 employees
- 15 Department of the Army interns
- 29 volunteers deployed

Did you know?

Louisville District employees combined have more than 20,000 years of service with an average of 14 years per person

Holiday Treats

Molasses Sugar Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Melt the shortening in a large pan on the stove, and cool.

Add sugar, eggs and molasses, beat well.

In a separate bowl, sift dry ingredients together and add to the pan. Mix well and chill 3 hours or overnight.

Form into walnut-size balls. Roll in granulated sugar. Place on greased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake at 375 F for 8-10 minutes.

Store in an airtight container to keep from getting overly crisp. If they do lose their softness, an easy way to restore it is to place one slice of fresh

bread in the container with the cookies for a couple of hours or overnight and they will be soft again.



Peppermint Chocolate Fudge

Ingredients:

- 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- Dash salt
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1/4 cup crushed hard peppermint candy

Directions:

In heavy saucepan, over low heat, melt chips with condensed milk and salt. Remove from heat; stir in peppermint extract. Spread evenly into waxed paper-lined 8-or 9-inch square pan. Sprinkle with peppermint candy.

Chill 2 hours or until firm. Turn fudge onto cutting board; peel off waxed paper and cut into squares. Store covered in refrigerator.



Eggnog

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup white sugar salt to taste
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup rum (optional)
- 2 drops yellow food coloring
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

Directions:

In a heavy, saucepan, combine eggs, white sugar, and salt; gradually stir in milk. Stirring constantly, cook for 10

to 15 minutes over medium heat, until mixture just coats a metal spoon. Remove from heat, and stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Place saucepan over ice water until custard cools, and then refrigerate until chilled.

In a chilled bowl, combine heavy cream, confectioners' sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract. Beat until stiff peaks form. Stir in rum and yellow food coloring. Fold whipped cream mixture into the cooled custard. Pour into serving bowl, and sprinkle with nutmeg. Serve immediately.



Frequently Asked Questions

By Vanessa Whitworth, public affairs

The Louisville District Public Affairs office receives many inquiries. Below is the answer to a question the district is often asked.

Q: What are the hunting, fishing and trapping rules on Corps properties?

A: Public use of Corps of Engineers water resources is governed by the Code of Federal Regulations. Visitors are bound by Title 36 regulations. We suggest that you contact the lake project for any specific site information. The regulations are as follows:

(a) Hunting is permitted except in areas

and during periods where prohibited by the District Commander.

(b) Trapping is permitted except in areas and during periods where prohibited by the District Commander.

(c) Fishing is permitted except in swimming areas, on boat ramps or other areas designated by the District Commander.

(d) Additional restrictions pertaining to these activities may be established by the District Commander.

(e) All applicable federal, state and local laws regulating these activities apply on project lands and waters, and shall be regulated by authorized enforcement officials.



Jim Plisarowicz

Many areas around Caesar Creek Lake are open for hunting. Whether its deer, turkey, or small game...bow or gun... hunting in the open or by stealth... hunters can be found in the forest and open fields around the lake.

Job Vacancies

Contract Specialist

Salary: \$57,408-\$89,450/year

Series and grade: GS-1102-11/12

Job announcement number:

SWGJF0C351172AYJ

Note: Deployable position

Location: Fort Knox, Ky.

Duties: Serve as a contract specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers. Responsible for negotiation, award and administration of contracts to support the Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST-M) Division.

Civil Engineer Geotechnical

Salary: \$68,809-\$89,450/year

Series and grade: GS-0810-12

Job announcement number:

SWGJ11H2393948AY DE

Note: This position requires professional registration as an engineer.

Duties: You will serve as a specialist in soil mechanics engaged in the design of buildings, earth and rockfill embankments, and other soil or soil/rock-supported structures.



For more info
go to
www.usajobs.gov
or call
(502) 315-6165

Snapshot from the past



On April 15, 1935, 18 trucks were salvaged from the Ohio River after a barge accident six miles below Madison, Ind.

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