

District leaders switch roles in a cross-training effort

By Carol Labashosky and Katie Newton, public affairs

In an effort to cross-train leaders, the Louisville District has switched the positions of Chief of Military Branch and Chief of Reserve Branch. In July, Fred Grant assumed the position of Military Branch Chief and Russ Boyd took over the Reserve program.

“Russ and Fred are essentially trading jobs in a cross-training program assignment to enable supervisors to be well rounded, said David Dale, Deputy District Engineer.

During the July Reserve Project Management Review, Fred Grant received a pleasant surprise and a high honor when he was presented an award and recognition by the Army Reserve Management Directorate – the customer for whom the district builds -- for his superior service and management of the USAR projects across the country.

Deputy District Engineer David Dale congratulated Grant and then said a few words regarding reversing the jobs of Grant and Boyd explaining that the switch is enabling supervisors to expand their fields of expertise.

"We won't lose Fred," said Dale. "These supervisors will tackle problems which are new to them for continuous improvement."

Grant assumed the position of Military Branch Chief this month after more than 34 years of service with the Corps, 30 of which have been associated with the Army Reserve Program. Grant has enjoyed his time in the Reserve Branch and will miss the team immensely. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with the most highly professional, dedicated group of individuals I could have imagined,” said Grant.

Notable accomplishments by the Reserve Team included the development of a turnkey approach to construction of Army Reserve facilities including the coordinated purchase and placement of furniture into construction projects, the creation and execution of the Full Facility Restoration Program, and the Design and Construction of over 175 Army Reserve MILCON Project between FY08 and FY12 with a total Program Amount of \$2.6 Billion.

“It seemed that the Army Reserve Customer was always presenting the Reserve Team with new challenges and they were always able to bring them to a successful conclusion. From what I’ve observed from my new team in the Military Branch, they seem up to any challenge as well.”

Looking to the future “I look forward to working with another outstanding group of individuals in the Military Branch and exploring new ways of expanding our services to the Army and Air Force Customers” said Grant

Boyd, who has 29 years of service with the Louisville District has worked his way up spending many years in the district's Engineering and Project Management Divisions.

The switch to Chief of the Reserve Branch seems a smooth transition for Boyd who served as the Military Branch Chief for the last 3 years. Before that, Boyd was Fort Knox Section Chief in Military Branch, the PM Forward for Fort Knox, the PM for Fort Knox, and spent 18 years covering all the bases in Engineering Division including Design, A/E Management and Quality Assurance.

Boyd reflected on the accomplishments of the Military Branch during his tenor. "This job without a doubt has been the highlight of my career," said Boyd. "During my tenure we executed the largest Military program and completed construction of the two single largest Military projects in the history of Louisville District—the Human Performance Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Human Resource Center of Excellence at Fort Knox. In addition, military branch and members of the branch received numerous awards for these efforts by the Air Force, Army, HQUSACE, installations, and the district.

Having the opportunity to work with a great group of professionals and having an opportunity to learn from them was great," said Boyd.

Now settled into his new role as Reserve Branch Chief, Boyd is excited for the challenges that lie ahead. "Challenges are what I thrive on," said Boyd. "You do your best work when you are outside of your comfort zone and I think that's what senior leadership has done here with me and Fred, they have taken us out of comfort zones and challenged us to lead these groups."

"The fulfillment and satisfaction of accomplishing a challenging task out of your comfort zone is so rewarding, meaningful and I believe develops great professionals," he said. "You can be proud of the work you are doing when you are challenged— those challenges are what makes our jobs more than pay checks.

I look forward to working with the new team here. I know I'm with another great group of high-performing professionals and I hope to learn from them and share my experiences with them so that we can increase our performance," said Boyd.

Grant and Boyd, both anxious to dive-in with their new teams, have full confidence that the man taking their seat will do a great job. "I know Fred will bring new ideas and opportunities to Military Branch," Boyd said. I know the future will be bright and bring more great things for the Branch."

Grant also encouraged his team to keep the momentum always moving forward, "This is a great Team and has the potential to really make a difference for our nations Reserve soldiers and airmen" said Grant.