

Falls City Engineer

March/April 2010

VOL. 2, Issue 2
www.lrl.usace.army.mil

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Louisville District®



**Col. Landry
signs
Middletown
Reserve Center
Permit**

See Page 5

**New Madrid
quakes
approaching
200th
anniversary**

See Page 3

Commander's Comments

Team,

We are almost halfway through fiscal year 2010 and you are on track to have another amazing year.

In the last issue of the Falls City Engineer, I spoke to you about the district's Operations Plan (O-Plan) which your senior leaders developed to support our USACE senior leaders in the effort to take USACE from "Good to Great."

"Our-Plan" features three simple, overarching goals which are in turn supported by division/office objectives, branch/section actions and, at the lowest level, by individual performance objectives. Each member of the LRL team can see how their performance objectives help get us to great.

The three district O-Plan goals are individually important yet interdependent. They are: (1) strengthen our people and our processes; (2) refine our program execution; (3) increase our customer satisfaction. Notice that I now list them in a different order from the last issue of FCE. I am convinced that if we do focus on making our people more capable and our processes more refined, program execution and customer satisfaction will continue to improve.

Program execution is important though. The Louisville District exists to deliver military, civil works (navigation, recreation, regulatory) and environmental programs efficiently and effectively. That means we deliver on time and within budget. To get better, we must manage "risk" better. To do this, we have several initiatives underway.

Root cause analysis examines concerns or problems until a specific cause or causes can be pinpointed. Energy can then be focused at this level to correct the root cause of a problem so it will not be repeated. An old adage can be used here: nip the problem in the bud so it doesn't flower into a bigger problem.

Risk analysis is another tool the district uses to examine potential issues. In risk analysis, a subjective is generated for each project. This number relates to the potential for the district not succeeding in this project. If a project is at risk, the district can reallocate resources to mitigate the risk.

Our goals are audacious. We seek to reduce cost growth by 50% in fiscal year 2010 and deliver every project before or on the date it is needed by the customer.

Risk is inherent in all that we do. Cost growth and time growth become major is-



Army photo digitally enhanced

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

sues when we fail to identify risk early and develop cost-effective ways to mitigate it. We can do this but it requires a creative team approach. Let's get at this and set the standard for others to follow.

Falls City Engineer

Vol. 2, Issue 2

District Commander
Col. Keith A. Landry

Public Affairs Chief
Todd Hornback

Send articles to Louisville District
Public Affairs Office at:
katelyn.c.newton@usace.army.mil

USACE, Louisville District
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

On the cover:

*A striped white violet blossom at
Caesar Creek Lake.*

Contents

New Madrid quakes approaching 200th anniversary	3	
New Deputy Commanding General visits Olmsted project	4	
Col. Landry signs Middletown Reserve Center Permit	5	
FOIA a Corps priority	6	
Tough times in Iraq leads Wounded Warrior to Corps	7	
Leadership Development Program promotes communication	9	
Knox engineers play prime role in 'Key Resolve'	10	
Celebrate Earth Day by going 'green'	11	

New Madrid quakes approaching 200th anniversary

A rendering from the Louisville District Emergency Operations Office portrays potential high-impact areas in the case of a New Madrid earthquake event.

By John Neville, public affairs

(Editor's note: This article is the first in a series that will highlight the Louisville District's response to earthquake activity in the region.)

The question isn't will it happen, but when.

An earthquake as destructive as those that recently devastated Haiti and parts of Chile could hit the Kentuckiana region anytime.

The New Madrid Seismic Zone extends into several states, stretching south from Cairo, Ill., through parts of Missouri and into Arkansas. It also enters into parts of western Tennessee. Major seismic activity along the fault is expected to cause severe damage that will span for hundreds of miles in all directions.

Nearly two hundred years ago, five of the largest North American earthquakes ever recorded occurred along the New Madrid zone. The earthquakes, measuring 8.0 magnitude or higher, occurred from Dec. 16, 1811, through Feb. 7, 1812, and aftershocks continued for months. The town of New Madrid, located in southern Missouri at the time, was destroyed.

Fortunately, the strongest effects occurred in sparsely-populated areas so the destruction of property and threat to human life was minimal. If one of these five quakes hit in the same area today, it would affect millions of lives, and the property damage estimates would easily run into the billions.

The region's history and the Mississippi River

According to scientific theory, about 500 million years ago, the continent was slowly pulling apart in the area. Molten magma began to rise up from far beneath the earth's surface, pushing against the rigid crust until it cracked open. Extreme heat and pressure continued to split the

crust allowing the magma to push through fissures and erupt onto the surface, forming volcanoes.

These forces can completely pull continents apart, allowing oceans to form in the void, but that never happened here. Over the next 300 million years, the thin, fractured crust cooled, and the ground collapsed under its own weight forming a long, wide valley. Flooding eventually turned the area into oceans that covered North America for millions of years. The sunken ocean floor collected thousands of feet of sediment. Eventually the oceans dried up.

Over time, the earth again began its natural cycle of relieving pressure from its core. Magma lurked up old fractures but never reached the top, and about 60 million years ago, the process came to a halt and the crust sank once more. Again, erosion filled the rift with more sediment.

Ten thousand years ago, around the end of the last glacial period, melting glaciers formed the Mississippi River. However, the fragmented and rifted riverbed remained beneath the flowing river. This area is much weaker than the stable crust in the region outside the river, and that's where tomorrow's dangers lie as major population areas (Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, St. Louis, Jeffersonville, Ind., and Little Rock, Ark.,) lie along the river and its tributaries.

The earthquakes of 1811-1812 fundamentally altered the character of the Mississippi River. According to newspaper accounts, the river appeared to flow backwards and large rapids, unheard of along the Mississippi, churned the muddy waters. The crew of a New Orleans steamboat reported that the island they'd moored to the evening before the quake had disappeared by morning. Soon, the river became unnavigable. Trees littered

the water, and sandbars disappeared in spots and rose in other sections. Banks caved, essentially moving the river.

Severe shaking was felt more than 120 miles away in St. Louis and more than 300 miles away in Cincinnati. There were reports of cracked mortar structures and ringing church bells in Charleston, S.C. Some clocks stopped working in Savannah, Ga. Shaking was reported as far away as Montreal. The shaking felt during these quakes was two to three times that of the devastating 1906 San Francisco quake that killed more than 3,000 people, left more than a quarter million homeless, and leveled buildings.

There is constant seismic activity along the New Madrid zone, but if an event approaches the intensity of the 1811-1812 quake series, the Louisville District will be a first responder. The district must be able to continue its essential operations — mainly ensuring that inland waterway navigation continues — and respond to the needs of the population. However, such efforts could be severely impacted by a personnel shortage, because the devastation will likely extend into southern Indiana and the Louisville area — the vicinity where most district employees live.

The earthquake could occur at anytime, during the workday or while employees are at home. Employees and their families will be dealing with all the issues following a catastrophic earthquake. Some will be able to work, and others won't.

"Families are going to be impacted, but we're still going to have to take care of our responsibility to mitigate the impact of this event," said Louisville District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Bales. "We need to prepare families for this type of event. The less of an issue it is then, the better off we're going to be."

New DCG visits Corps' largest inland waterways navigation project

By Sarah Mattingly, public affairs

The construction of Olmsted Locks and Dam is the Army Corps of Engineers' largest inland waterways navigation project, and Feb. 18 Maj. Gen. William Grisoli, USACE's new deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, visited for the first time along with Steve Little, president and CEO of Crouse Corporation, and representatives from the Louisville District.

"On behalf of the district leadership, we are honored that Maj. Gen. Grisoli chose Olmsted Locks and Dam among his initial field visits," said Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry. "Olmsted is designed to replace the two busiest locks on the inland waterways system. I believe the project delivery team is doing great things for USACE and the navigation industry."

Grisoli's visit began with a stop at Lock 52 where Rick Morgan, chief of operations, and Randy Robertson, lockmaster, explained the workings of the antiquated wicket dam system. Located at the hub of America's inland waterways system—the confluence of the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers—Olmsted Locks and Dam will replace Locks and Dams 52 and 53, which were completed in 1929, and create nearly half a billion dollars in economic benefits to the nation. "This project is an investment in the future," said Landry.

Later, at Olmsted, Larry Bibelhauser, project manager, and Rick Schipp, deputy chief of construction division, gave a briefing on the construction project progress, the risk management involved and the effects of unforeseen delays. Bibelhauser explained that the longer the project takes to complete, the greater the risk of component failure at Locks and Dams 52 and 53 where a closure could impact the entire river.

"More traffic passes through this area than any other place in the inland waterways system. Completion of this project



Rick Schipp (right) leads Maj. Gen. William Grisoli (center) and Col. Keith Landry on a tour of the Olmsted construction site.

is not just a local concern; it's in the national interest," Bibelhauser said.

Following the briefing, Grisoli was taken on a tour of the site where he visited the completed lock, control tower and precast yard. He spoke with some of the

staff to get a better idea of how the site will operate once complete.

"I've been very impressed today," said Grisoli. "The team of professionals here, the Corps and contractors, is accomplishing the mission of maintaining an effective inland waterways system. It's vital to the nation that we continue to invest in our infrastructure along the waterways and that we do it effectively and efficiently over time."

The project is scheduled to be operational in 2016.

"It's vital to the nation that we continue to invest in our infrastructure along the waterways and that we do it effectively and efficiently over time."

-Maj. Gen. William Grisoli

Collateral Duty Safety Officer Steering Committee holds 2nd quarterly meeting; chairpersons recognized



Sarah Mattingly

Lt. Col. Stephen Bales presents Dr. David Brancato, engineering division and Jane Archer, operations division with the district's safety coins for their efforts leading the District Collateral Duty Safety Officer Steering Committee.

The Collateral Duty Safety Officer Steering Committee (CDSOSC) assembled for its second quarterly meeting this fiscal year.

The main theme was Volunteer Protection Program (VPP) Star Certification which is listed as the second goal contained in the CDSOSC charter. A tutorial on the VPPCX eTool was presented by the VPPCX located in Arlington, Va., via webinar. The eTool is pivotal to the VPP application process.

Dr. David Brancato, chairperson, highlighted the need to communicate the process of VPP among staff and management for the purpose of understanding the level of effort required to attain Star certification. He asked that CDSOs follow his example by making appointments with leaders to provide a dialogue on the implementation procedures to complete the VPP application.

Steve Lee of the Miami River Project presented a "fun idea for employee

training with Safety Rodeo." The rodeo included safety themes of boat safety, fire suppression, shoreline rescue and fall protection. The exercises were fun, making the message of safety learned and enjoyable at the same time.

Safety updates were provided by Matt Burg, chief, safety office.

Louisville District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Bales closed the meeting with a recognition of Brancato and alternate chair Jane Archer's achievements with a presentation of the district's safety coin.

Bales also emphasized that the leadership council recognizes the level of effort that the CDSOSC is providing as the District is leveraged from good (seven castle five star) to great (VPP Star) certifications. Bales requested more involvement in the CDSOSC officer nominations, which Brancato indicated will be due at the next quarterly meeting in June.

Col. Landry signs Middletown Reserve Center permit

By Ken Beyer, public affairs

On March 26, Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry signed a permit issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the New England District that will move the Armed Forces Reserve Center project in Middletown, Conn., forward.

The permit allows the project to move into the construction phase while preserving aquatic resources.

"The 404 permit opens the door for construction to start on the Armed Forces Reserve Center and protects wetlands and wildlife," said Landry. "The project shows the importance of partnering with the Middletown residents; local, state, Connecticut National Guard and congressional representatives; and the collaboration with state and federal environmental organizations such as the New England District Corps of Engineers."



Ken Beyer

Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry, signs the 404-permit for the Middletown, Conn., Armed Forces Reserve Center project March 26. Also pictured are Middletown AFRC Project Manager Diane McCartin, and Deputy District Engineer David Dale.

Freedom of Information Act a Corps priority

District navigates toward 'open and transparent' presidential directive

By John Neville, public affairs

“A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.”

—James Madison

In 1966, the spirit of Madison’s words were given legal backing when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) into law. The FOIA established the premise that any person has a right of access to federal agency records, and that federal agency records must be made available to the public unless they are exempt from public release.

In the nearly half century since Johnson’s signature, administrations have sought to both limit and expand the executive branch’s, and its agencies, compliance with the FOIA. On Jan. 1, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a memo committing his administration to ensuring a new era of government transparency and cooperation with the public. The memo asserts that federal agencies will be held accountable in their efforts to comply with the new initiatives.

Four days after Obama sent out the directive, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commander Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp directed the agency to implement the president’s changes to the FOIA.

“The administration is holding agencies accountable for improving their FOIA programs, while at the same time agencies are being asked to more thoroughly review requests and to communicate more promptly with the public, to provide additional reports, and to proactively post information to their Web sites,” Van Antwerp’s memo stated.

Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry is ensuring the district complies with the chain of command.

“It’s all about trust and respect,” Landry said. “Responding to FOIA requests in a timely manner builds both. We hired an outstanding paralegal to implement the

new program and eliminate our backlog of 82 FOIA requests. As a result of his superb efforts and those of the district’s employees, we will do so this year.”

District Paralegal and FOIA Officer Louis DiNatale is overseeing the district’s FOIA posture. Since he’s been here, he and his supporting staff have reduced the backlog of FOIA requests by 50 percent, and he’s assured Landry that the backlog will be reduced to zero by late spring.

DiNatale spent 23 years in the Army working with the Judge Advocate General Corps, and he spent much of that time resolving FOIA issues. He said that prior to 2007, the Army tended to look for ways to deny FOIA requests, instead of looking for ways to release the information.

“The mindset was that we were the guardians of documents,” he said. “A lot of stuff we classified enabled us to withhold it from other agencies, or we’d classify it to increase its importance. That’s the wrong way to classify something. We over-classified. Instead of classifying by specific paragraph or lines, we classified entire documents. We could’ve easily omitted or redacted classified information.”

To submit a FOIA request, individuals must 1) cite the request for information as a FOIA request under 5 US Code 522; 2) cite the specific documents or a description thereof; and 3) state whether they are willing to pay fees, or if not, request a fee waiver be granted. If the requester doesn’t meet these criteria, DiNatale said the district will contact the person and see if the request can be refined or clarified.

When deciding whether to grant a fee waiver, DiNatale said FOIA request reviewers analyze the requester’s intended use of the information. If the information

will provide a significant and better public understanding of the Corps’ mission and the information is not in the commercial interest of the requester, then a fee waiver is usually granted.

FOIA exemptions, DiNatale explained, protect information belonging to the Corps, its business partners, key stakeholders or employees. Such information, if released, would be harmful or compromise the security interests of the nation. Still, the goal is to release as much information as allowed. DiNatale recently reviewed a 5,000-page document. “It was about 18 inches thick, and when I was done, I found a total of four pages that weren’t releasable,” he said.

The Corps can’t delay the release of information, either. By statute, the agency is required to respond with the requested documents within 20 days of receipt of the request. DiNatale said the Corps tries to send out a letter acknowledging receipt of the request the same day it’s received in the district. If the release of all or part of the information can’t be made fully within 20 days, then the requester will be informed about the delay.

If the Corps doesn’t meet the communication deadlines set out in the statute, then the requester has the ability to sue the Corps for the documents, minus attorney fees. The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act passed in 2007 makes it easier for FOIA requesters to recoup costs and fees. Corps offices are responsible for payment of costs and fees — assessed by a court — from the office’s appropriated funds.

“Obama ran on a campaign of change and transparency,” DiNatale said. “We’re obligated to the public to meet those promises. They, the tax payers, are paying our salaries.”

The district will have FOIA training April 21 from 9 - 11 a.m. in room 22C in the basement.

Tough times in Iraq leads wounded warrior to Corps contracting team

By Katie Newton, public affairs

After 12 improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, a traumatic brain injury, nine staples in his head, and being diagnosed with severe post-traumatic stress disorder after two tours in Iraq, Nicholas Ebbinghaus is thankful for the opportunity to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Louisville District.

The Army's Wounded Warrior Program and the Corps' Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) coordinated to bring 30-year-old Ebbinghaus onboard as an administrative assistant in contracting division in February.

"If it wasn't for the Wounded Warrior Program I'd still be looking for a job," Ebbinghaus said.

The Wounded Warrior Program is designed to transition wounded Soldiers into civilian jobs where they can utilize their skills.

"A lot of people see that [Soldiers] were wounded in Iraq and think that they may not be able to do their jobs up to their standards, but [the Army] is helping former Soldiers find jobs in the civilian world," Ebbinghaus said.

Joseph Tober, human resources specialist, who coordinated Ebbinghaus' transition, felt that he was a good candidate for the job from their first conversation. "I got

"A lot of people see that [Soldiers] were wounded in Iraq and think that they may not be able to do their jobs up to their standards, but [the Army] is helping former Soldiers find jobs in the civilian world."

-Nic Ebbinghaus

the feeling that Nic wanted to work," Tober said. "It didn't really matter what the position was, he just wanted to work."

A painful history in Iraq

The Ohio native's seven-and-a-half year Army career began in 2002 when he decided he wanted to get out of the local area and explore the traveling opportunities the Army offered.

That decision led to his first deploy-

ment in 2003 where he served with Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Brigade out of Fort Sill, Okla. He was stationed at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Fire Base Bulldog in Balad, Iraq.

"If there was a mortar attack we went out and looked for the mortar men," he said. During this tour he encountered many difficult scenarios, but losing two of his good friends made the job extremely difficult.

The two Soldiers, one of who was filling in for Ebbinghaus, were killed by Al-Qaida disguised as civilians while preparing for a controlled blast for weapon caches. "It made it hard to get close to people with friendships and relationships," Ebbinghaus said. "I always kind of second guess everything." Knowing that he should have been there that day still

bothers Ebbinghaus. "It just eats at me and it's probably something that will never go away."

The tragic event made returning to Iraq for his second deployment in 2005 difficult. This time he served with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He was stationed at FOB Logistics Support Area (LSA) Anaconda in Balad, Iraq near the

Sunni Triangle, known as the "Triangle of Death." Part of his job as a Staff Sgt. Patrol Commander was to perform weapon cache searches and look for IEDs. One day while on duty, Ebbinghaus' vehicle and two other trucks were attacked twice by IEDs.

"It was so fast-paced; while it was happening I tried to get everyone out of the area, make sure nobody was injured and make sure the vehicle was okay," Ebbinghaus said.

"There's really no time to think, it's all just reaction. Then, afterwards you just wonder...why?" he said.

Everybody in Ebbinghaus' patrol was medically retired from the Army due to the attacks.

In total, Ebbinghaus endured 12 IED attacks during his stint overseas which led to multiple concussions and ultimately a traumatic brain injury. "It makes everything inside you feel like it's moved," he said. "There's a lot of stuff I don't remember — I don't know if it's from the head injury, or from blocking it out."

After returning home in December 2006, he became a recruiter for Cleveland Recruiting Battalion until 2009. "I had a rough transition into that," he said, "Knowing what I went through over there and then putting kids into the Army to go and do the same thing. It was just a constant reminder of what happened," Ebbinghaus said.

(Continues on Page 8)



Transition to civilian life

In 2009, Ebbinghaus was medically retired from the Army and looked to the Wounded Warrior Program to help him find a position where he could put his talents to use.

He admits the transition from the Army to civilian life at the Corps has been difficult. “You get so accustomed to Army life then you get pushed out of that,” Ebbinghaus said.

“It’s hard to explain,” he said, “you go from working with all guys in a combat unit to coming here where it’s slower paced.”

His supervisor, Contracting Division Chief Mark Yates, feels that Ebbinghaus has handled the change pretty well. “In his

short time here, he’s adjusting to the civilian workforce atmosphere well,” Yates said.

Ebbinghaus is the third wounded warrior the Corps has hired in the past year. “I believe the Wounded Warrior Program provides a win-win situation for the district,” Yates said. “Nic will definitely be an asset to our organization. He is extremely efficient and hard-working with a great attitude.”

Tober feels the same way about Nic’s abilities, “You can tell he’s going to get the job done,” he said. “He’s only got one way to go, and that’s up.”

Outside of work Ebbinghaus enjoys driving to Cleveland to visit his parents on the weekends, playing video games and

playing bass guitar. He has used music as a way to heal from the painful memories. “Music helps,” Ebbinghaus said. “It takes your mind off everything.”



Famous last words about Carol Terry

By Wanda Baldwin, planning, programs and project management

Marcia Carol Terry, known to friends and co-workers as Carol, is leaving the building. After 27 years of service to the federal government, her retirement is well-deserved.

“Some of the things that have thrilled me all these years are the opportunities and personal growth I have achieved since beginning to work with Department of Defense,” Terry commented.

Terry started her federal career as a GS-4 Clerk/Typist (steno) at the now defunct Naval Ordnance Station on Southside Drive in Louisville. She was promoted to a GS-6 secretary and then shortly after began a career ladder budget analyst position with the budget office.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) program began and Terry was transferred to the industrial division where she was the administrative officer, responsible for 14 departments and 800 employees. Before she transferred to the Corps of Engineers, she held the position of program analyst. She gave the Naval Ordnance Station more than 12 years of devoted service.

Upon arriving at the Corps, Terry worked with the reserve team, now known as RST. She was one of the founding employees of that branch. She worked under Fred Grant for 10 years before moving to military branch.

“Working with the reserve team was more enlightening and broadened my

experiences even more since they are a nation-wide program,” Terry said. In the 10 years she worked on the reserve team, the program constantly changed and grew, creating new challenges for the team.

In the five years that she has been in the military branch, Terry has had the opportunity to work with several other programs. She is proud of the fact that she had the knowledge and the drive to provide applicable solutions to resolve issues.

Now it’s her turn to close an important chapter in her life. She leaves with joy and some sadness that is reciprocated by the ones she leaves behind.

“I have been very pleased and proud of my federal career. I know I assisted the fleet when I worked for the Navy, provided better facilities and welfare for the Army Reserve and have smoothed a financial path for the complicated Ravenna installation. I am pleased.”



Carol Terry (center) celebrates her retirement with Susan Harvey (left) and Lori Weber during her retirement party March 24.

John Neville

Leadership development program promotes communication among Corps offices

By Amanda Deane, public affairs

Each year, the Leadership Development Program (LDP) class is compiled of Corps employees from different offices through an application process. Participants meet two days a month, for one year, reviewing books on leadership skills.

Kari Meier is a recent alumna of this year's LDP, which included 16 students.

"We came away from the class understanding more about how we all function together," said Meier.

Meier, an environmental chemist and scientist, has been a Corps employee since January 2006. She described the aspects and benefits of the class.

"Each division leader gave a presentation about their mission and why their office is important to the Corps," said Meier. "It gave us a good understanding of what they do.

"We also learned that if you don't communicate your needs and interests effectively, then you don't have a real conversation," she said. "Being a leader doesn't mean being supervisory. Having good leaders within teams still helps to direct and negotiate problems and take control of a situation. There are so many aspects to being a leader, and one is getting the team to work toward a common goal.

"Practicing our skills was a hoot. We started by using other class members as 'guinea pigs' to see how others respond to different ways of communicating. We each learned to communicate honestly and openly, so both parties feel give and take, to speak to others in a way that they are going to respond well. As we became more comfortable with these skills, we applied them to try to understand how co-workers and family members were thinking," said Meier.

Members also worked to understand how all aspects and duties of the Corps fit into the big picture. Class members analyzed interactions with others in the workplace and developed their communication skills to learn to lead effectively.

Meier explained how having preconceived notions of others and of ourselves affects modes of communication.

"For me, this class meant understanding myself better. When you communicate



Courtesy of LDP class

(Back row left to right) Deryck Rodgers, Jacqueline Ashmon, Lisa Fleming, Barry Schueler, Casy George, Ian Mitchell, Michael Lapina (Middle row) Alysen Davis, Luke Elliott, Howard "Dee" Goldman, Kalid Williams, Front row: Jeremy Nichols, Theresa Beckham, Shenita McConis and Kari Meier were members of the Leadership Development class.

with people, understanding their 'hot buttons' — what makes them shift from a calm or normal state to a storm or anxious state — allows you to bring them back down to a calm state," she explained. "People's perceptions may be based on their values, and if you have a mental model (misconception, stereotype) of somebody, you may not understand their values."

She also said about her experience, "I had a mental model of myself which changed in this class. It helped me to recognize my own perception and tweak it. Understanding how to rank my values has helped me to realize my goals more clearly, which could potentially reflect itself in my career," said Meier.

The LDP took a couple of site tours —one to Taylorsville Lake and one to the McAlpine Lock and Dam. "The visits were insightful, and helped those of us working in the main district building understand how field personnel support transportation of commodities up and down the rivers," said Meier.

Another aspect was a class project to benefit the Louisville District, which was implementing the interactive customer surveys (ICE) that we see at the bottom of our e-mail signature blocks. Fort Knox uses ICE, and other districts are looking at implementation as well.

"Everyone took away something different. I learned something from every person in that class," said Meier.

After graduating from LDP, alumni join the bigger group of alumni and work to develop leadership from a district-based program. One such program is known as brown bags or lunch-time presentations sometimes called lunch-n-learns. The topics include leadership skills, understanding values and mental models, reflective listening, mitigation techniques, interest-based negotiations, and more.

There are three levels of the LDP. The first focuses on brown-bag events and an intern program for leadership development. LDP two focuses on district-specific leadership and LDP three is regional.

"At the end, we each looked at our own development plan and said 'Here's what we want to be when we grow up, here's what we learned, and here's what we're going to do with it.'" The 2009-10 LDP class graduated Feb. 3.

"I see the potential long-term benefits to my career. I think it will grow from here and I hope to see follow-up opportunities," said Meier.

Knox engineers play prime role in 'Key Resolve'



USACE Reachback Operations Center (UROC) review of the automated route reconnaissance kit (ARRK): Angela White, civil engineering technician with UROC (right) and Hal Gates, IKE trainer, UROC (seated in center) show members of the 533rd Engineer Detachment, Forward Engineer Support Team – Main on some of the finer points in using the ARRK during the Key Resolve 2010 exercise Mar. 8-18 in Seoul, South Korea.

By Samantha Tucker, FEST-M public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 533rd Engineer Detachment, Forward Engineer Support Team – Main (FEST-M) from Fort Knox, Ky., provided critical reconnaissance and analysis of convoy routes and damaged infrastructure in support of Key Resolve March 8-18.

The annual exercise was defense oriented and tested the ability of the Republic of Korea and U.S. Forces Korea to defend the peninsula.

The scenario involved a simulated attack on South Korea that caused extensive destruction to essential services and infrastructure. Damaged roads, bridges and buildings caused huge logistical challenges. Soldiers in-country needed to maneuver, civilians needed to evacuate, supplies needed to be delivered and incoming support elements needed transportation routes.

“Our U.S. forces are highly-skilled and equipped to perform tactical combat and stability operations,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Engel, 533rd FEST-M. “But they are not equipped to support some of the engineering demands we face in the early and late stages of conflict. That’s where the FEST-M comes in.”

What the team brought is exclusive tele-engineering capabilities and a depth of specialized knowledge not found in military ranks. It didn’t take long after the exercise started for those skills to get put

to use.

“Our first task was to select and assess the viability of a route for a convoy with several U.S. Army M1A2 Abrams tanks,” said John Oberhelman, mechanical engineer and Team C leader. “Through satellite imaging technology and a process of elimination, we selected a route that could possibly support the mission.”

With digital maps in hand, the team headed out to do route reconnaissance to make sure that the roads and infrastructure reflected what the imagery showed and to gather other essential data for the USACE Reachback Operations Center (UROC) to process.

FEST-M teams used an automated route reconnaissance kit (ARRK) — a rugged laptop and window or dash-mounted camera easily attached to virtually any land or air vehicle. The ARRK captures video, audio, three-dimensional gyroscope data streams and other detailed information such as elevations and global positioning system coordinates.

“We’ve practiced with the ARRK back home, but in a scenario like this, we got to deal with variables we’re not used to and we want to learn the right way to put a packet together from the start,” said Oberhelman. “So we consulted with a UROC representative on exactly what information we need to provide them and how they want it formatted.”

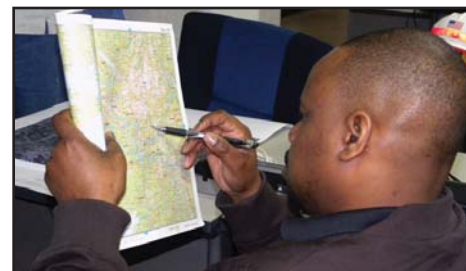
The team met with Angela White, civil

engineering technician with UROC. She walked them through how to gather and report data and shared some of the common mistakes in format that negatively affect the final assessment of a bridge or structure.

“We took the raw data from FEST teams in the field, processed the data and output routes and bridges to standard Army format,” said White. “We can also export still images, video and Google Earth images. We can format a final product which frees up the FEST to continue data collection processes.”

With the recon data collected, the team moved on to bridge assessment.

“This exercise showed us just how many aspects there are to putting together a complete route assessment,” said Oberhelman. “What we learned, we’ll build on. We’re focused on providing the best product possible for our military forces.”



David Wells, 533rd Engineer Detachment, Forward Engineer Support Team – Main supply technician, reviews a map while assessing possible routes for reconnaissance while supporting Key Resolve 2010 in South Korea.

Samantha Tucker

Samantha Tucker



Celebrate Earth Day by going 'green'



By John Neville, public affairs

On a spring day 40 years ago, 20 million Americans joined a call to arms against environmental degradation. The movement, organized by then Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson, is celebrated annually on April 22.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, every day is Earth Day. The agency is committed to environmental stewardship year around.

“The challenges we face are enormous — climate change, renewable energy, green jobs, green remediation, energy reduction, just to name a few,” said Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp. “But the opportunities for an organization like ours are equally enormous.”

“We are the nation's environmental engineer,” he said. “No other federal agency is addressing environmental issues of the same scope and magnitude as we are, but that's not to say that we're doing it alone.”

The Louisville District, under its own environmental sustainability policy, is partnering with its customers, other federal and state agencies, non-governmental

environmental organizations and academia to meet its challenges. A district sustainability team is leading the policy's implementation.

“One of our first assignments is to develop a Sustainability Implementation Plan that will require us to execute our missions and conduct our operations in a sustainable manner,” said District Sustainability Team Leader James Cruz. “We're going to partner with our installation customers to determine how best to transition their facilities to high-performance buildings, promote green housekeeping, and achieve their energy consumption goals; and as real property owners we will lead by example by adopting operational sustainability principles and promoting energy efficiency. Sustainability and energy efficiency will become a part of our culture.”

A policy priority is achieving the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for Corps construction projects. The internationally

recognized LEED certification verifies that the following strategies are part of the design process — energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

“In addition to investigating energy reduction requirements and processes under our Army Reserve Energy Pilot Program, we're also investigating the user-related points necessary for LEED Gold certification as well as determining the costs and impacts of achieving the highest level of LEED certification – Platinum,” Cruz said.

The district is also seeking to reduce its own carbon footprint. By late spring, energy-efficient hybrid vehicles will replace up to 21 non-hybrid government vehicles currently in the district's inventory.

“Our transition to hybrid government vehicles will be one of the many actions we'll take to demonstrate our commitment to making sustainability central to our culture,” Cruz said.

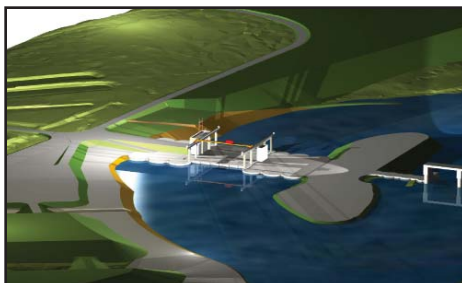
Don't miss these Earth Day events:

April 22 is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day and the Louisville District is hosting Earth Day events in Ohio and Kentucky.

2010 Cave Run Lake Cleanup in Morehead, Ky., will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., with free food afterwards. The event will mainly focus on cleaning up the shoreline and some of the major tributaries into the lake. Call (606) 784-9709 for more information.

24th Annual Green Up Day at Caesar Creek Lake in Waynesville, Ohio on Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Help beautify and spruce up the areas around the lake with a morning of hard work followed by a recycling drive and picnic. Call (513) 897-1050 for more information.

Interior, Energy and Army Corps of Engineers Sign MOU on hydropower



Artist's rendering of the hydropower plant which is currently under construction at Cannelton Locks and Dam in Cannelton, Ind.

American Municipal Power

A Memorandum of Understanding agreement was signed March 24 by Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo Ellen Darcy on low-impact hydropower between the U.S. Department of the Interior, Department of Energy and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of the agreement is to help meet the nation's needs for reliable, affordable and environmentally-sustainable hydropower by building a long-term working relationship, prioritizing similar goals

and aligning ongoing and future renewable energy development efforts among the U.S. Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Army, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Award ceremony recognizes employees

Photos by Jack Sweeney, ACE-IT

The Louisville District held an awards ceremony March 23 to recognize employees' outstanding efforts since the start of fiscal year 2010.

There were two national awards presented as well as four division level awards. Those awards are pictured on this page.

The district also presented three awards and honored the Leadership Development Program Tier II Class graduates, Middle School Connection volunteers, Combined Federal Campaign coordinators and length of service awards.

Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry used the opportunity to highlight some of the district's accomplishments and remind employees of the importance of the district's new operational plan, known as the O-Plan. Landry also shared a bit of inspiration with employees by noting we won't stop when we get from good to great. "When you reach the top, keep climbing," he said.



Jackie Preston received the 2010 National Real Estate Achievement Award for her support to the Army Reserve acquisition and disposal programs.



The Real Property Inventory award was presented to the Louisville District Real Property Inventory Team for their combined effort in providing support to the U.S. Army. The team visited more than 50 military installations verifying and documenting all real property assets located on the installations.



Karen Sweeney was awarded the Construction Management Excellence award for her contract administration and management skills as the resident engineer for the Human Resource Center of Excellence at Fort Knox, Ky.



The Achievement Medal for Civilian Service was presented to LRD Quality Management/ISO Project Delivery Team for implementation of the regional business process manual as well as conducting internal audits.



Diane Ormerod was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award for her retirement as chief of the Louisville District Equal Employment Opportunity office.

Emergency preparedness: Are you ready?

Preparing for an emergency requires a bit of effort, but it's time well spent. What if an explosion, landslide or flash flood forced an evacuation of your neighborhood before you got home from work? Would you know where to find your family? Do you know the emergency plans for your children's school? At work, do you know your role in your company's emergency response plan?

When you prepare for an emergency, you can reduce some of the stress and anxiety experienced by yourself and your family members during a difficult time. Here are some tips to help you prepare for an emergency, at work and at home:

At work

1. Learn about the hazards of your workplace. Do you know where to find a chemical's material safety data sheet (MSDS), a safety shower or an emergency shut-off switch?
2. Know how to get out

alive. Study the company's evacuation plans and memorize two ways out of every area of your workplace — without an elevator. Note the number of doors and workstations between you and the exit so you can find your way out in the dark, if necessary. You should also know the designated meeting place and reporting procedures for personnel after an evacuation.

3. Note the location of the fire extinguishers and learn how to correctly use them.

4. Know where to find the first aid kit and how to contact employees certified to provide first aid.

5. Post emergency phone numbers by your workstation, as well as the address and exact location of your workplace.

6. Keep your identification cards, contact numbers and any necessary medical information with you.

7. If you have a disability or condition that might interfere with your ability to exit quickly, inform your supervisor.

At home

1. Pack two disaster kits. Keep one kit in the home and a miniature version in your car.

2. Create an evacuation plan of your home. Review it with your family and practice it at least once a year.

3. Designate an out-of-the-area relative or family friend to be a contact—the family point person.

4. If family members are separated during an emergency, they can call the point person and leave or retrieve messages.

5. Pick two meeting places, one in your neighborhood and one far from home in case the neighborhood is evacuated.

6. Talk to your children's schools about emergency plans. Make sure they have your contact information and know who is authorized to pick up your child if you can't get there yourself.

Preparing for an emergency will not only reduce the stress experienced during an emergency, it can also make family members feel more in control of their safety.

Source: Army Safety Gram



New faces and fond farewells

New January and February employees



Georgia Sibbie
Budget Analyst
Resource Management



Jamye Sanders
Deployment Support Tech
Emergency Operations



Jennilee Foster
Administrative Support
Emergency Operations



Randy Stadel
Budget Analyst
Planning, Programs, and
Project Management



Nic Ebbinghaus
Administrative Assistant
Contracting Division



Greg Hales
Project Manager
Planning, Programs, and
Project Management

Not pictured:

Danny Elliott, operations division
Timothy Lamb, engineering division
Samuel Lowery, operations division
Matthew Peacock, operations division
Billy Williams, engineering division

By the numbers

Louisville District totals

- 1,356 employees
- 20 Department of the Army interns
- 28 volunteers deployed

April is month of the Military Child

By Jamye Sanders, emergency operations

April is the month we celebrate the Military Child, so applaud them for the sacrifices they make and the obstacles they overcome.

Military children deal with situations unique to military families. There are many great experiences and opportunities. But they also make sacrifices and serve their country as much as anyone in uniform does.

Military children have to deal with having a parent deployed and frequent moves. Many are vulnerable during deployment because they often don't know how to handle all the changes and uncertainties.

Children of America's finest are never forgotten, but often put in the backseat of the driving war effort because the affect of a parent's military service upon the child is unheard. Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger established the Defense Department commemoration "Month of the Military Child" in 1986 because he understood the challenges that military children face by having a parent serve in the Armed Forces.

January/February Retirements

Nicholas Ballard, engineering division
Donald Boley, construction division
John Froman, operations division
Sharon Greer, resource management office
Lloyd Harlow, operations division
Richard Loehr, engineering division
James McCoy, engineering division
James Minter, internal review office
Ann Nunn, office of counsel
Martha Roark, engineering division
Mary Somerville, operations division
Roy Tyler III, construction division
George Williams, operations division
Barney Williamson Jr., operations division
David Zagurny, operations division

Springtime Treats

Try these heart-healthy recipes:

Garden Potato Salad

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Ingredients:

- 6 large potatoes, boiled, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup sliced green onion
- 2 tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 3/4 cup skim milk
- 3 tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. celery seed

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, place potatoes, celery, green onion, and parsley.
2. In a blender or food processor, blend cottage cheese, milk, lemon juice, vinegar, celery seed, dill weed, dry mustard and white pepper until smooth. Chill for 1 hour.
3. Pour chilled cottage cheese mixture over vegetables; mix well. Chill at least 30 minutes before serving.



Tropical Fruit Compote

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 piece lemon peel
- 1/2 tsp. rum or vanilla extract
- 1 pineapple cored and peeled, cut into 8 slices
- 2 mangos peeled and pitted, cut into 8 pieces
- 3 bananas peeled, cut into 8 pieces
- fresh mint leaves (optional)

Directions:

1. In a saucepan combine 3/4 cup of water with the sugar, lemon juice and lemon peel (and rum or vanilla extract if desired). Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and add the fruit. Cook at a very low heat for 5 minutes.
2. Pour the syrup in a cup. Remove the lemon rind and cool the cooked fruit for 2 hours.
3. To serve the compote, arrange the fruit in a serving dish and pour a few teaspoons of syrup over the fruit. Garnish with mint leaves.
4. Serve with sour cream



Peach Cobbler

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Ingredients:

- 1/2 tsp cinnamon, ground
- 1 tbsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 cup peach nectar
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice or peach juice
- 2 16-oz cans sliced peaches drained
- 1 tbsp. margarine, tub
- 1 cup pancake mix, dry
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup evaporated skim milk

Topping:

- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar

Directions:

1. Combine cinnamon, vanilla, cornstarch, peach nectar and pineapple or peach juice in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir constantly until mixture thickens and bubbles.
2. Add sliced peaches to mixture.
3. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes.
4. In another saucepan melt margarine and set aside.

5. Lightly spray an 8-inch square glass dish with cooking oil spray. Pour hot peach mixture into the dish.

6. In another bowl, combine pancake mix, flour, sugar and melted margarine. Stir in milk.

7. Quickly spoon this mixture over peach mixture.

8. Combine nutmeg and brown sugar. Sprinkle mixture on top of batter.

9. Bake at 400° F for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

10. Cool and cut into 8 squares.

More work planned for Ohio River Greenway

More work is planned for the Ohio River Greenway multi-purpose trail. The Corps and contractor, Stantec, held an open house on Feb. 23 in Jeffersonville, Ind., to discuss preliminary design for the next stage of the Ohio River Greenway Project.

The new section will cover the eastern end of New Albany's riverfront to where it borders Clarksville. The fully-completed trail will cover seven miles and run between the downtown areas of Jeffersonville and New Albany. Most of the new section will have a 12-foot wide multi-purpose trail.



Courtesy of Kim Turner, 5 Star Public Relations

Attendees look at the renderings of the new stretch of the Ohio River Greenway during the open house Feb. 23.

Louisville District job vacancies

Administrative Support Assistant

There are many continuous vacancies for this position. It is a permanent full-time position.

Salary: \$34,907 - \$45,376 annual

Duties: Perform a wide range of word processing functions and preparation of analytical reports.

Project Support Assistant

This is a permanent full-time position.

Salary: \$34,907 - \$45,376 annual

Duties: Provides clerical support and administrative coordination of a variety of office services.

Program and Budget Analyst

This is a permanent full-time position.

Salary: \$47,448 - \$61,678 annual

Duties: Function as a program and budget analyst performing a variety of duties required in the financial control and utilization of funds for assigned military or civil programs or projects.

Contract Specialist

FEST-M position located at Fort Knox, Ky.

Duties: Responsible for negotiation, award and administration of contracts.



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

Snapshot from the past



A barge carrying chlorine is lodged on the McAlpine Dam on March 19, 1972. If the chlorine had been released into the air it would have produced a toxic gas, but the barge was safely removed.

Falls City Engineer is an unofficial publication under AR 360-1, published bimonthly for Louisville District employees and members of the public by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 50, Louisville, Ky. 40201-0059 under supervision of the public affairs office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Corps of Engineers.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Louisville District®