



# Omaha Outlook

## 2018 Year In Review

*Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center  
lifted up as example Corps wide*



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

# Table of Contents

## **FY 18 District program**

*District program tops \$1 billion for 8th straight year.....pg. 4*

## **Ribbon cut on VA project**

*Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center sets the standard.....pg. 6*

## **Disaster relief**

*More than 100 district employees respond to disasters coast-to-coast.....pg. 8*

## **Special Projects POL-MCX**

*Mandatory Center of Excellence fuels America's warfighters.....pg. 10*

## **Gone Fishin'**

*Garrison park rangers host local seniors for a day of angling.....pg. 11*

## **Safety changes direction**

*CE-SHOMS involves employees in safety process.....pg. 12*

## **EPA**

*NWO making drinking water safe for troops stationed across the world.....pg. 14*

## **Working with the Tribes**

*Tribal Liaison recounts how NWO, tribes worked together on water issues.....pg. 16*

## **Hail and Farewell**

*Welcoming new employees and celebrating those who retired this past year.....pg. 18*

## **MRRP ushers in major milestones**

*Missouri River Recovery Program issues final biological opinion.....pg. 20*

## **Deployed but not forgotten**

*Honoring employees who volunteered to serve in harm's way.....pg. 22*

## **In memorium**

*Remembering those we lost this year.....pg. 23*

**Front Cover:** The new \$1.67 billion, 1.2 million-square-foot Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colo., was turned over in July. USACE members from other VA projects across the nation have visited the Aurora project site to cover the critical lessons learned from this project and integrate each of them into all of the other VA projects. *(photo by Capt. Ryan Hignight)*

**Inside Cover:** A rainbow stretches out over the Oahe Dam (S.D.) spillway. *(photo by Harry Weddington)*

# From the Commander

Omaha District Team – 2018 was a year filled with great accomplishments and several particularly notable project completions. I continue to be amazed by the technical skills and professionalism across the organization. Your commitment to mission execution has enabled the District to continue solving our Nation's most challenging and complex problems. Your efforts earned the respect and trust of our partners, stakeholders and the Nation as we executed a \$1.3 billion program.

As you page through this edition of the Omaha Outlook, you will see the results of our strong team. From military construction projects in eight states, to civil works projects in nine states, and environmental restoration projects in 41 states, none of these projects are successfully executed without the disciplined and collaborative teamwork from the great people all over this organization.

The District completed our two MEGA projects – the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, and the USSTRATCOM Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base. Both of these projects have significant national level implications.

The VA Medical Center was the first of seven that Congress directed USACE to construct. The exceptional work of the Omaha team enabled the District to complete our portion of the project on time and within budget. We set the example for the rest of the Corps to emulate and bolstered USACE's national reputation on timely and cost effective medical facility construction.

The completion of the USSTRATCOM Command and Control Facility has been an enormously challenging and complex undertaking. On Oct. 31, 2018, we completed construction and turned the facility over to the installation to complete the outfitting of the facility. The project is a truly unique facility which will facilitate the effective management and control of our Nation's nuclear arsenal.

Within Civil Works, we reached a significant milestone with the completion of the Missouri River Recovery Program's Environmental Impact Statement and signing of the Record of Decision. This has been a tremendous effort that has required significant coordination with numerous stakeholders and partners.

This past year, more than 120 of you deployed to help our fellow citizens, many of you answered that call more than once. We continued to support recovery operations from the 2017 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, along with the wildfires in California. District personnel also supported recovery operations following Hurricanes Florence and Michael that hit the southeast and another round of California wildfires. You set a tremendous example with the selfless service you exhibited by leaving your family and friends, heading to a disaster zone, living in austere conditions and working long, arduous hours.

Additionally, you have been stewards in our communities and in our professions through your service and leadership. Thank you for your contributions to Brush-Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon, Operation Santa, the Combined Federal Campaign, our many professional societies, and the multitude of excellent events that we facilitate in communities throughout the Missouri River basin. Your voluntary service to our communities and profession adds further depth to the character of our Corps.

Looking forward, we are on track for another robust program in 2019, projected to once again be more than \$1 billion. We have already awarded a number of significant projects this fall that will begin construction early in 2019. It is a great honor to serve with all of you, and I look forward to accomplishing our mission together.



## *ESSAYONS!*

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Omaha Outlook is produced by the Public Affairs Office for the  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in accordance

with AR 360-1. This publication is produced for the Omaha District workforce and external audiences including other Corps' districts and stakeholders within the Omaha District's area of responsibility. Content is aimed at highlighting what, why and how the district fulfills its mission.

This publication is available on the district's public website (<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil>) and has a limited print circulation of approximately 500 with distribution in district offices and via U.S. Mail.

Content is prepared in accordance with the Associated Press Stylebook and the Omaha Outlook Style Guide. Contributions are welcomed and highly encouraged. However, the editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to any submitted material as deemed necessary.

The views and opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Army or the U.S. Department of Defense.

# District program tops \$1B for eighth straight year

Zane Ecklund  
Public Affairs Specialist

The Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, USSTRATCOM and the Missouri River Recovery Program Environmental Impact Statement are among the many significant accomplishments for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha District in 2018. The District closed out the fiscal year on Sept. 30 with a \$1.29 billion program, one of the largest the district has ever managed.

Omaha District Commander Col. John Hudson stated, "I've had the opportunity to visit projects across the district's 700,000 square-mile area of responsibility, from Fort McCoy (Wisconsin) in the east, all the way up to Fort Peck (Montana) to the northwest, and down as far south as Colorado Springs (Colorado). I have seen the great team of dedicated civilians we have across the district. I've been impressed by the professionalism, quality of work and team-

*"As is traditional for Omaha District and our hard working 'take the hill' mentality, we executed a very robust combined program in a very difficult climate, and in some cases pulled rabbits out of our hat to meet our commitments in support of our nation,"*

**-Vincent C. Turner  
Chief, Military Construction**

work I've seen throughout the district," Hudson said.

The completion of the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, marked the most significant accomplishment of the year. The VA facility is a 1.2 million-square-foot complex which replaced an older hospital in Denver. The new facilities include a 148-bed VA medical center, a 30-bed spinal cord injury center, a research lab, parking structure and

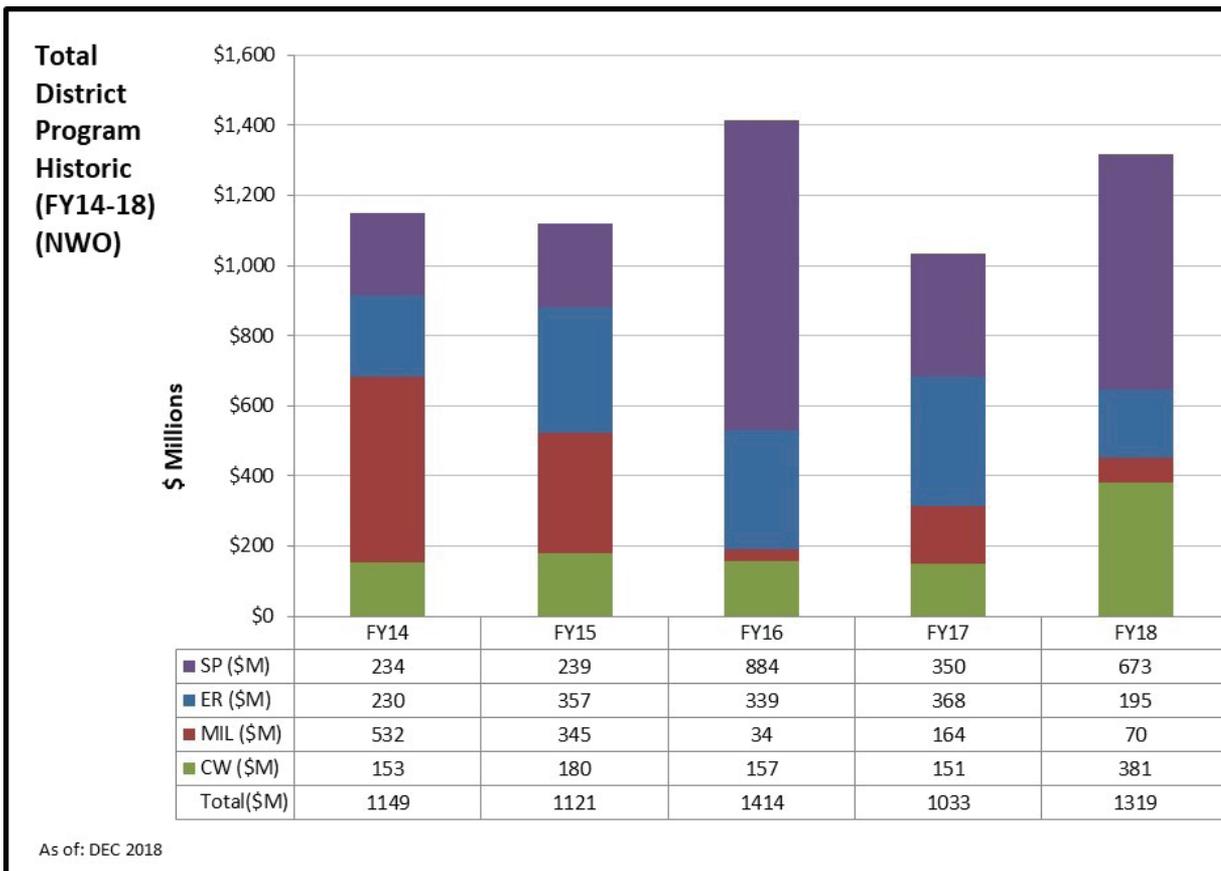
administrative space. The project was completed this year and was a huge success for the district and the VA.

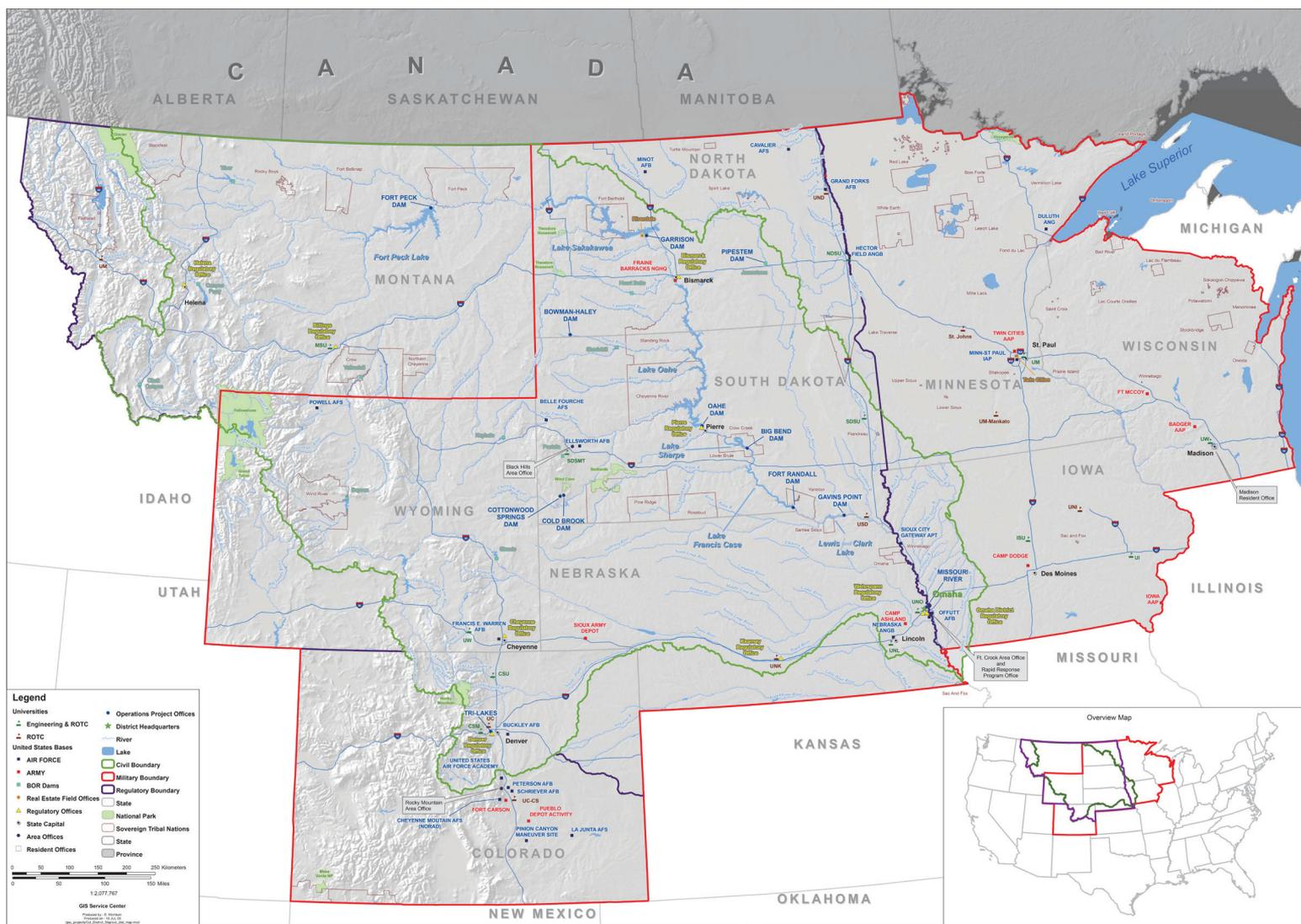
"This was the first in a series of VA hospitals the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been directed by Congress to complete. Our success at the VA Medical Center in Aurora has paved the way for future success across the Army Corps of Engineers as other districts begin seven other hospital projects across the country. They are taking lessons

from our project and applying it to theirs so they too will have the success that we have experienced at Aurora," Hudson said.

One of the major focus areas for the district was working to finish construction of the U.S. Strategic Command and Control Facility at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. The building will boost USSTRATCOM's command and control abilities by providing the most up-to-date information to the President, Secretary of Defense and other decision makers privy to the information. The building will also house an updated global operations center which in essence is the command's nerve center.

"As is traditional for Omaha District and our





hard working ‘take the hill’ mentality, we executed a very robust combined program in a very difficult climate, and in some cases pulled rabbits out of our hat to meet our commitments in support of our nation,” Vincent C. Turner, Chief of Military Construction said.

The Civil Works mission was also very successful along the Missouri River. The Missouri’s headwaters in the northern Rockies experienced 160% snowfall this year (the third highest runoff year in recorded history).

Thanks to the superb management of river flows and operation of the system, there was no significant flooding along the main stem of the river despite having to maintain high flows throughout the summer and into this fall.

There was, however, localized flooding in Montana, as well as central portions of the basin due to the deep snow pack and a number of significant rain events.

Omaha District was heavily engaged in disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, California and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

More than 120 individuals across the

district deployed.

Most recently, our dedicated civilian and military personnel deployed to Hurricane Florence ravaged North Carolina, in support of restoring critical national infrastructure at the MOTSU (Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point), the Department of Defense’s primary ammunition seaport supporting the European, African and Middle Eastern areas of operation.

“Omaha District’s commitment is to help others in their time of most need. The dedication of our district employees to support contingency operations is commendable and wonderful to witness; but we also cannot forget the Omaha District employees who took up the mantle and continued to carry out our ‘regular’ program execution during these disasters. It is a combination of these people that make the Omaha District the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leader that it is,” Matthew Krajewski, Readiness Branch Chief said.

Omaha District’s Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) had a banner year. The

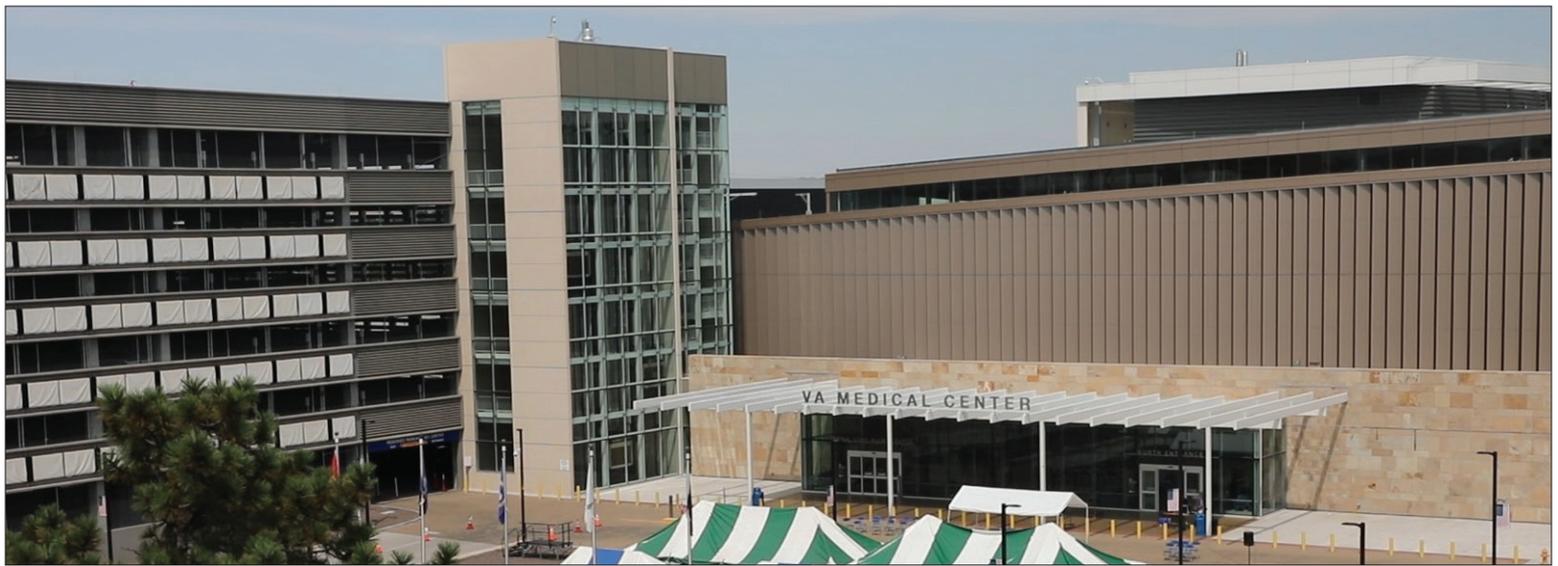
POL-MCX managed a \$120 million program, and worked on 375 projects in 385 sites around the world.

This coming year will be another big year for the Omaha District as we celebrate our 85th anniversary of providing engineering excellence and outstanding support in service to the nation.

The Omaha District plans to execute more than one billion dollars of work across the region in 2019. In addition to continuing a robust work load, the district expects to grow with additional personnel.

Currently there are about 1,250 Department of the Army civilians in the district, but by the end of 2019 that number will likely increase to over 1,300.

The district expects to continue to have between \$1 - \$1.5 billion in workload annually for the foreseeable future. The exceptional professionalism, skill, and expertise of its workforce will enable Omaha District to continue to build on this year’s success for decades to come.



*photos by Capt. Ryan Hignight*

On July 21, members of the VA, including then acting Secretary of Veteran Affairs Peter O'Rourke, along with Colorado members of Congress, hosted a ribbon cutting declaring the medical center open and available for use. Outpatient services began to utilize the new medical center on July 27 and inpatient services transferred to the new facility on Aug. 3.

# turnaround sets stage for more work Corps wide

*Capt. Ryan Hignight  
Public Affairs Officer*

The nearly 400,000 Colorado military veterans now have a new Veterans Affairs-managed medical center to seek medical attention.

On July 21, members of the Department of Veteran Affairs, including then acting Secretary of Veteran Affairs Peter O'Rourke, along with Colorado members of Congress, hosted a ribbon cutting declaring the medical center open and available for use.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, declared the construction of the new campus substantially complete in January.

The Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, located in Aurora, just outside Denver, is comprised of 12 buildings and offers veterans a full-service medical facility to meet all of their medical requirements.

"The vision of the (Army) Corps of Engineers is to engineer solutions to the nation's toughest challenges," said Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commander and 54th Army Chief of Engineers. "This is a project that we were very honored to come and work side-by-side with the VA to bring it home."

The new \$1.67 billion, 1.2 million-square-foot medical center replaces an older, dated

VA medical center built in Denver in the 1950s and offers Colorado's veterans state-of-the-art facilities. Within the new medical center, veterans have access to a spinal care injury center, research facilities and a diagnostic treatment center.

The VA medical center construction was originally started by contractor, Kiewit-Turner, before 2014, but stalled due to disagreements with the VA resulting in litigation filed in court. At that point, the court asked USACE to step in and advise and assist with completing construction on the project.

Upon taking the project over, the Omaha District awarded a fixed-price incentive firm target contract in late 2015 to the original contractor. This type of contract is rarely used in the federal government and it was the first time the District has ever awarded it.

A fixed-price incentive firm target contract is mutually beneficial to the government and to the contractor. Through the contract, the Army Corps was able to save money during construction, bringing the project in under budget.

"Because of the successfulness of the contract, it has been looked at by enterprise for other areas it could be a viable acquisition tool for future USACE projects," said Eric Vokt, Deputy Chief for Omaha District's

Contracting Division.

"It was really complicated when we (USACE) came on board," said Andrea Rodriguez, Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center Program Manager. "The project was 50 percent complete... here was a lot of collaboration that was required and a lot of team building. We were able to integrate key players into our team so we could move forward with the project in a collaborative effort."

To ensure all 12 of the buildings were completed in the prescribed timeline, each of the buildings was assigned to a different project team, essentially treating each building on the campus as its own project with its own completion date. This differs from a normal USACE project because it normally manages a project from conception to completion, and an entire project is managed by a single team no matter the quantity of buildings.

Each building project team contained members of Kiewit-Turner, USACE, VA and other key stakeholders. This allows all stakeholders to partner together, have complete visibility of and input on each project and to share historical knowledge so lessons learned could be applied across the entire campus.

This unique approach forced the team to

come at problems differently than normal, which allowed the project to move forward at the anticipated pace, Rodriguez said.

“The way we set the contract up and the way we had a good balance of communication skills, technical and leadership...we were set to succeed on this project,” said Pete Sturdivant, the chief of construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

The medical center complex consists of a research facility, a diagnostic treatment facility, two inpatient buildings, two new clinic buildings, as well as renovation of a preexisting clinic building. The concourse, or spine of the campus, is a long corridor that connects all the other buildings allowing both veterans and medical center staff to travel across the campus without stepping outside into the elements. Additionally, there is an energy center and three parking garages: one for staff and two for veterans.

The medical center is a full-service facility with operating rooms, intensive care units, research facilities and a therapy pool to allow medical professionals to prescribe appropriate services and procedures for patients.

Due to the long duration of the project, there have been many VA criteria changes related to updated technology and medical requirements that are different than they were in 2011 when the original construction contract to Kiewit-Turner was awarded. The Army Corps awarded a new contract to a small business to address the minor issues at the end of the project. The contractor, Medvolt, received the contract in March 2018 and has already updated or installed many of the required design changes. Completion of the new contract is expected in the second quarter of fiscal year 2019.

By awarding a new contract to Medvolt, the government allowed Kiewit-Turner to

complete their contract with USACE without adding additional scope, and in turn, save the government money while supporting small business.

Across the country, the Army Corps is building fifteen different such facilities, projected at nearly \$8 billion, for the VA and is using the one in Aurora as a blueprint for the others. Many of the challenges faced in this medical center are also being found in the other facilities.

“It’s critical getting the issues straightened out during design,” said Terry Stroschein, Army Corps resident engineer.

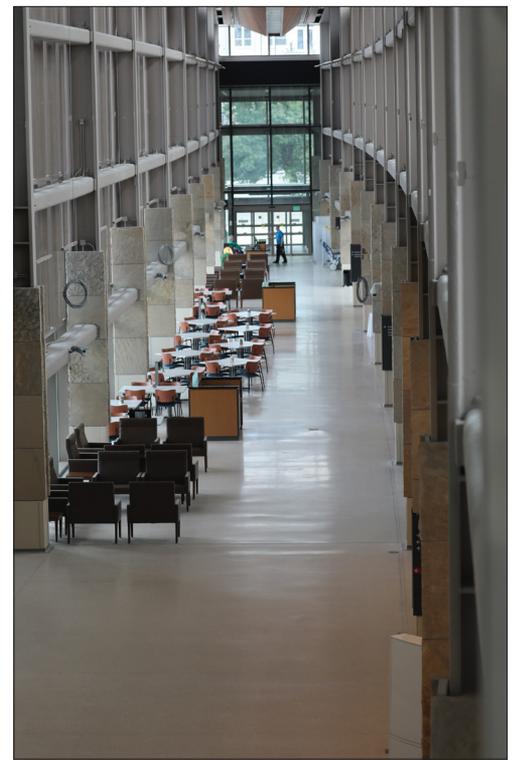
Stroschein said that he continues to work with the integration team to get everything functional and working together.

As progress continued at the medical center, USACE members from other VA projects across the nation have visited the Aurora project site to cover the critical lessons learned from this project and integrate each of them into all of the other VA projects.

USACE is also building more than 30 different medical facilities for the Department of Defense. These same lessons learned are being applied to each of these DoD facilities to save time, money and to offer the highest quality construction to those that serve.

USACE construction representative Joe Caracillo says cooperation between the contractor, the VA and USACE is great and the “representatives of each organization have worked hard to bring that partnership together to work together as a team. It is a highly visible project that a lot of the city has known about and the veterans are very interested in.”

“This was a huge day for the District and the (Army) Corps,” said Col. John Hudson, Omaha District Commander. “This is the first VA medical center for us to complete



**The medical center complex consists of a research facility, a diagnostic treatment facility, two inpatient buildings, two new clinic buildings, as well as renovation of a preexisting clinic building. The concourse, or spine of the campus, is a long corridor that connects all the other buildings allowing both veterans and medical center staff to travel across the campus without stepping outside into the elements.**

in this huge program the (Army) Corps has undertaken...we had the opportunity to come in and complete the last \$600 million of this \$1.67 billion program.”

Members of the VA have already begun training in the new facilities. Services have already begun to be transferred from the old medical center to the new one. Outpatient services began utilizing the new medical center on July 27 and inpatient services transferred to the new facility on Aug. 3. PTSD services will remain at the old facility until a new facility can be built at the new medical center campus.

Mirroring the USACE motto of “Building Strong,” Semonite said “we are building VA strong because that is what we need to do to take care of Colorado’s veterans!”

The medical center is located just off Highway 225 on the east side of Denver, allowing both Colorado veterans, as well as others close to the area, easy access to the medical center and medical care.

**The therapy pool is one of many options a medical professional can prescribe to a patient at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center.**





*photo by FEMA/K.C. Wilsey*

Residents look for anything recognizable in the debris left by Hurricane Michael after 155-mph winds and a strong storm surge devastated the town. Mexico Beach, Fla., was ground zero when the category 4 storm came ashore Oct. 10.

## ***NWO teammembers deploy coast-to-coast providing disaster relief, hope***

***Capt. Ryan Hignight***  
*Public Affairs Officer*

An unprecedented 38 named hurricanes across the globe, flooding in the Missouri River Basin and numerous wildfires and mudslides in California have kept the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, extremely busy for the last eighteen months.

Though the Omaha District is located in the Midwest and land locked, the District has supported most of the national emergencies across the U.S. over the last few years. Within the last 18 months, more than 200 Omaha District employees deployed in support of emergency response and the projections are not slowing down.

In 2017, Hurricanes Harvey in Texas, Maria in Florida and Puerto Rico, and Irma in the U.S. Virgin Islands were the beginning of the big push of emergency support. Then there were fires in Northern California and fires and mudslides in Southern California. Additionally, there was flooding in the Missouri River basin due to ice jams in winter/early spring and ice melt in the late spring/early summer caused flooding. Heavy rains in central Nebraska helped to continue

flooding or at least kept water near a near-flood state for much of the summer.

As we moved into September, there were additional hurricanes making landfall and causing damage. Hurricanes Florence and Michael both made landfall in North Carolina and Florida resulting in Omaha District employees being deployed to support debris clean-up and temporary roof missions and Hurricane Olivia made landfall in Hawaii.

Throughout the many emergencies the Omaha District responded to and continues to support, it supports several FEMA missions to include debris clean-up, temporary power, temporary roofing, temporary housing, critical public facilities, infrastructure assessment and external affairs. When District employees deploy for emergency response, each will be assigned to one of these missions in their assigned affected geographic area and will work with FEMA teams to ensure the assigned mission is complete.

After the most recent hurricanes made landfall in North Carolina and Florida, District employees were sent in to assist with debris clean-up, in coordination with the states, so the local governments had

the room to better take care of those effected by the storm.

“Omaha District is very good at having people stand-up and raise their hands for this kind of work,” said Omaha District Chief of Emergency Management Matt Krajewski. “They fully realize they could be going in and sleeping on the floor of the convention center or sleeping on a cot in the state EOC (emergency operation center) for a period of time until they get power or water. Historically, the Omaha District is very good at getting the right people out to help execute these missions.”

The Omaha District had several people forward deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands prior to the Hurricane Maria making landfall in 2017. As soon as the storm cleared the island, these team members were out

assisting with the temporary blue roof mission which offered residents that had damaged roofs a specialized blue tarp to help protect what was left in their homes.

This level of emergency response can be difficult to support and challenges often arise. The biggest challenge of emergency response for the Omaha District is finding enough people to help coordinate and support the number of volunteers that the Omaha District is deploying. “We need to ensure we have enough coverage in the District to keep the focus on those that are deployed,” said Nicole Cominoli, Natural Disaster Program Manager.

However, there have been many lessons learned from supporting such a large emergency response. The Emergency Management section has developed a Standard Operating Procedure that defines, required number of people, assigned tasks, and identifies the members

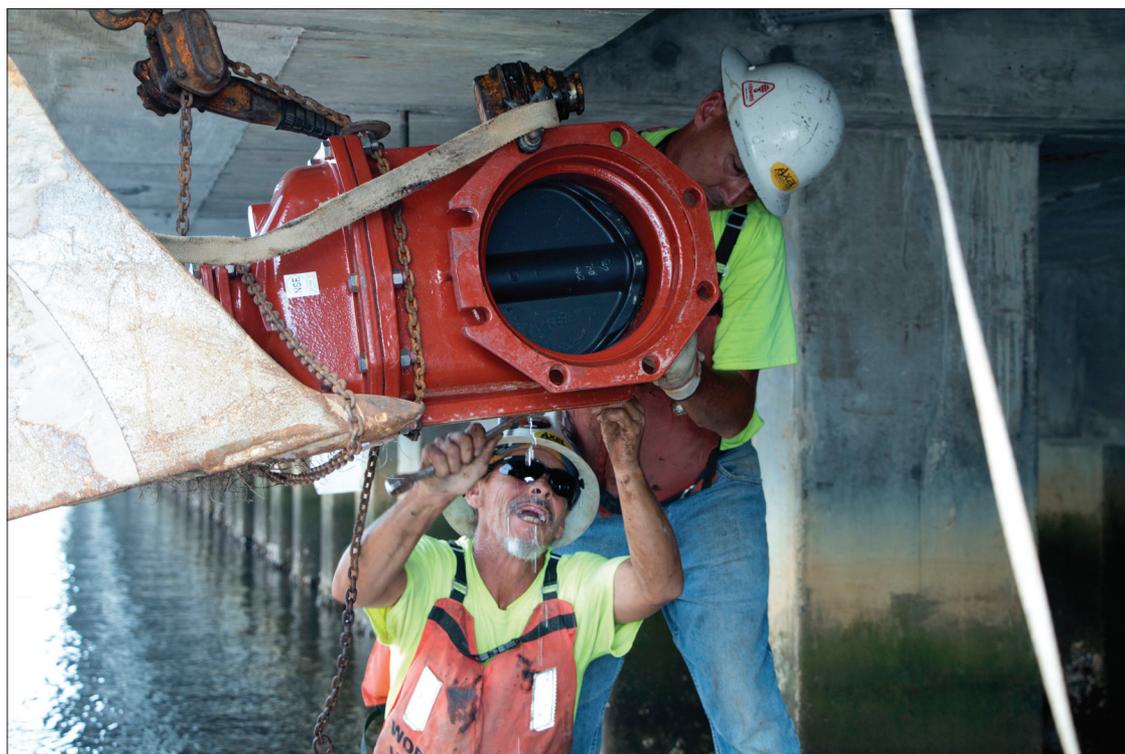


photo by Mike A. Glasch

Contractors install a pressure valve on the fire suppression system at one of the wharfs on the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, N.C., damaged by Hurricane Florence. The system was damaged when Hurricane Florence struck the installation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District’s Rapid Response Team was called in to assess the damage to the installation and get the contracts in replace to start repairs as quickly as possible. As the U.S. military’s largest ammunition terminal, MOTSU serves as a transfer point between rail, trucks and ships for the import and export of ammunition, explosives and military equipment for the DoD.

of the District’s Crisis Management Team. This SOP gives the District a head start when responding to emergencies because much of the work is already complete.

Additionally, Michelle Shultz, Omaha District GIS, created a database of volunteers, for emergency management, that are willing to deploy within a few hours’ notice. This database, which is updated by the volunteers themselves, allows the Emergency Management section to provide all pertinent information to the responsible parties before the volunteers arrive in the affected area. This gives the command team on the ground an opportunity to manage expectations, plan logistics, and coordinate with other government agencies

to ensure the mission is being properly managed. This database has been so successful that it is being adopted and implemented across the Army Corps.

While the Omaha District hopes for crises to slow across the United States, the District continues to prepare for emergency response and support. The good people of the District continue to raise their hands to volunteer and stand ready to react to emergencies.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed the debris removal program for Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties, Calif., following the wildfires under the direction of FEMA, and in partnership federal, state and local agencies. (photo by Carol Vernon)



# Omaha's POL-MCX fuels America's warfighters

**Mike Glasch**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

Having your car's engine sputter when you step on the gas because of dirty fuel can be annoying, but having your engine sputter when you're in the cockpit of an F-16 going MACH 2 thousands of feet in the air can be deadly.

The responsibility for insuring that doesn't happen to U.S. military aircraft begins with the Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

The POL-MCX is recognized by the Department of Defense as the authority for all military fuel storage and delivery systems, providing an all-inclusive design center located in the Omaha District with a mission to design and implement military fuel storage and delivery systems that reliably provide clean fuel safely to support the U.S. Military.

In 2018, it completed \$120 million worth of work (up from \$90 million in FY17), and is projected to complete at least that much by the end of FY19.

The POL-MCX designs the entire system; storage tanks, pumps, valves, the pump house and fuel piping.

"We started off, oddly enough, designing support facilities for cruise missile systems in the early 1980s," said Greg Etter, program manager, POL-MCX. "Part of that requirement was working on storing fuel and making sure that those missiles were ready. So of all things it's cruise missiles but that's where we got our start."

Soon, the expertise and reputation of Omaha's fuel program would grow significantly.

"The first real opportunity to demonstrate our abilities came when the Air Force had a requirement to design and construct a new fuels facility for the B-1 bomber on Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, which is in our AO (area of operation). This was an Omaha project. The Air Force came in with their own command fuels engineer," Etter said. "This is the guy who has to look the pilots in the eyes and say, 'you won't fall out of the sky because of bad fuel, I will make sure of that.' That's a tremendous responsibility, so they take their job real seriously."

The Air Force was concerned with two characteristics of its fueling systems; consistency and contingency. Consistency, because an Airman working on the system at Ellsworth had to be able to go halfway around the world and be able to operate the fueling system at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Contingency, so that the system will be able to work even when nothing else will.

"We did something that, the way I've heard it, no other district did until then, we listened," Etter recounted. "We said 'okay we won't fight you, we understand the need for consistency and contingency, we'll work with you.'"

The Ellsworth project led to another at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, with even more following. Eventually the Omaha fuels program was designated as a Design Center of Expertise, and then in 2016, as a MCX.

"From cruise missiles to where we are now, operating as the only project life-cycle production center with mandatory center of expertise authorities in USACE, we've evolved a lot over those 33 years. We have developed the in-house capability to execute a project from design to construction to repair and provide those same tools and assistance so other districts may be successful. So there's a long, long story but that's how we got from where we started to where we are now," Etter said.

Today, the POL-MCX reach is worldwide. The in-house resources delivered by the POL-MCX provide the highest level of design quality, execution safety, and post-construction support and include:

- Technical review of fueling systems designs performed by, or administered by, other districts and other commands.
- Consultation services for design (full service), support to design, testing support, programming support and construction inspection support for fueling systems.
- Contract capacity for fuels design and construction/repair.
- Assistance to commands in conducting final acceptance testing of fueling systems.
- Project-specific quality assurance training.



Fuels pump house on Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

- Development of technical guidance and guide specifications for fueling systems.

"These fueling systems are really a force multiplier," Etter pointed out. "If you take a normal tanker truck out there (on the flight line) and it's pumping maybe 600 gallons per minute, and they're filling 30,000 gallons on a KC-135 or KC-46 (aerial refueling aircraft) it's going to take quite a few trucks a whole lot of man-hours to fill those types of aircraft. These fueling systems are designed to operate at 2,400 gallons per minute with one or two operators on the apron."

Since the design of the system has the fuel moving in a continuous loop (and is able to fuel multiple aircraft simultaneously) it accomplishes two objectives; it cleanses the fuel because it routes it through the filter separator flushing out any sediment, contaminants or water, and if there is any pressure surge either from someone starting or stopping fueling that pressure gets dissipated as it goes through the loop rather than damaging the next aircraft on the system.

While the fueling system has undergone a metamorphosis throughout the years, Etter is excited about what might still come, and knows it will take the total team effort that has already been a recipe for success.

"What makes me swell with pride is knowing that you know you're not alone in this. We operate as a matrix organization, so I have counterparts in contracting (division), construction (division), and engineering (division) who are just as prideful about this program. It's rewarding to see the great things USACE can accomplish when other districts leverage our 33 years of experience and make a real difference for the warfighter."



# Gone Fishin'

Reeling in fun at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

*photos by Reece Nelson*

For the second year in a row, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers natural resource specialists at Garrison Lake, N.D., team up with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and North Dakota state wildlife agencies to host a fishing rodeo for local assisted living residents.

**Reece Nelson**  
*Natural Resource Specialist*

It was a regular North Dakota fall day Sept. 11, at Garrison Lake, North Dakota. By normal, it was windy. Really windy. That did not stop senior citizens from local assisted living centers from coming out and catching their limit of rainbow trout at the second annual Senior Fishing Derby.

Volunteers from Garrison U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resources staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services personnel, and North Dakota state wildlife agencies welcomed more than 60 ageless anglers to test their casting skills at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery.

Volunteers spent time helping to bait worms; how to cast; helping with cleaning the 190 netted fish; and swapping fishing tall tales about that one that got away.

Eric Kelsey, natural resource specialist, and Toni Ganje, administrative assistant with the USFWS (and a former Corps employee), teamed up to coordinate this afternoon of fun. Out of the more than 80,000 rainbow trout that are annually raised at the Hatchery, 1,100 end up in the stocking pond, and before being released to local streams before winter freeze sets in, assisted living centers from Bismarck, Mandan, and Minot, North Dakota, are invited to bring out their residents to enjoy the thrill of the catch, in a controlled environment. Not everyone caught their state limit of three fish, but no one went away empty handed.

Partnering with local groups and other agencies is part of life for the Natural Resource management community, and that especially shows in folks at Garrison Dam.

"I enjoy lending a hand with this partner agency. Working as a team we are able to impact more public users and get a positive image

out for both. It is also great to watch the anglers enjoy themselves," Kelsey said.

This is just one of the ongoing efforts and beginning of future unique events to get people drawn out to the project. Kelsey mentioned that they are ramping up efforts for multiple events next year, including Memorial Day events at the hatchery, working with National Park



Service to utilize USACE campgrounds to engage visitors in interpretive programs, and going out to State Park and surrounding fairs to spread the Water Safety message.

"It's crucial during times of diminished funding that we seek out partners to help accomplish our natural resource missions and continue to provide high quality and safe recreation opportunities to the public," said Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager. "We should all applaud the great partnership work going on not just at Garrison, but across the entire Omaha District Natural Resource Management community."



*photo by Mike Glasch*  
Chad McManus, an electrician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Omaha District, hangs on tight as he is hoisted up from a tunnel during confined space rescue training at the Big Bend, S.D., power plant April 20. The closest first responders are more than 25 miles from the plant, making rescue training at the plant a top priority.

# Safety transforming how district manages risks

Jeff Skrivanek  
Safety & Occupational Health Manager



In 2018, the Omaha District started transforming Safety and Occupational Health from a compliance-based program to a systems approach.

This systems approach is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS). CE-SOHMS will enhance

the Omaha District Safety culture that is based on employee involvement at every level.

To be effective, any safety and health program needs the meaningful participation of employees. Employees have much to gain from a successful program and the most to lose if the program fails. Employees often know the most about potential hazards associated with their jobs. Successful programs tap into this knowledge base.

Management provides leadership, vision and resources needed to implement an effective safety and occupational health program. The success of USACE systematic approach to managing safety and occupational health is dependent on how management and leadership engage on how safety and health is implemented and managed within their business processes or activities.

The goal is to empower the command to identify solutions to execute safety and occupational health at each level of the organization to allow for supervisors, managers, leaders, and employees to become empowered to become committed in managing and participating in

safety and health.

External district assessments help define to leadership where gaps or weaknesses in the system may exist. Part of the CE-SOHMS process is three assessment stages.

The Omaha District received a Stage 1 baseline assessment in September, 2017. Stage 1 assessment is look at the planning of safety and occupational health within organization.

These include review of written program, processes, records, and documents.

The Stage 1 assessment concluded that within the five capability objects and 52 elements that the Omaha District was 86 percent complete, and 14 percent in progress.

The Omaha District received Stage 1 validation assessment in October 2018. The purpose of this assessment was to validate that Omaha District made effort to close the 14 percent in-progress gaps within the planning portion of CE-SOHMS.

The Omaha District validation assessment concluded the 14 percent in-progress items were closed and identified as complete. This closed out Stage 1 for the Omaha District with 100 percent completion.

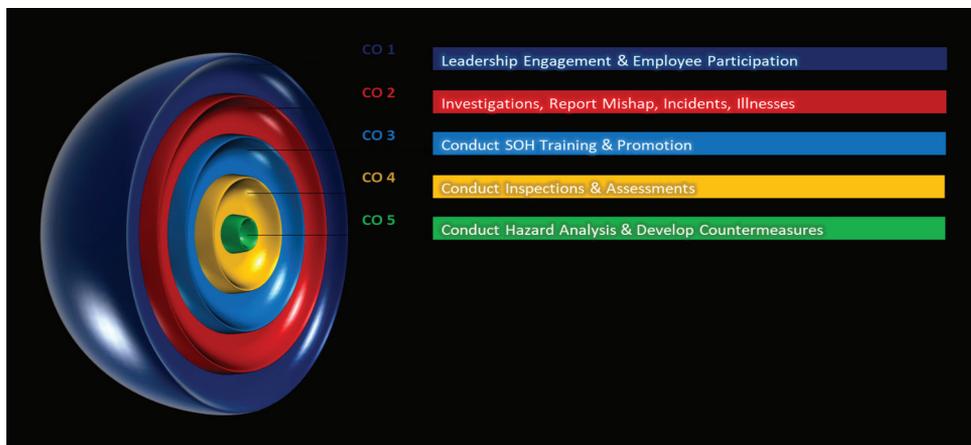
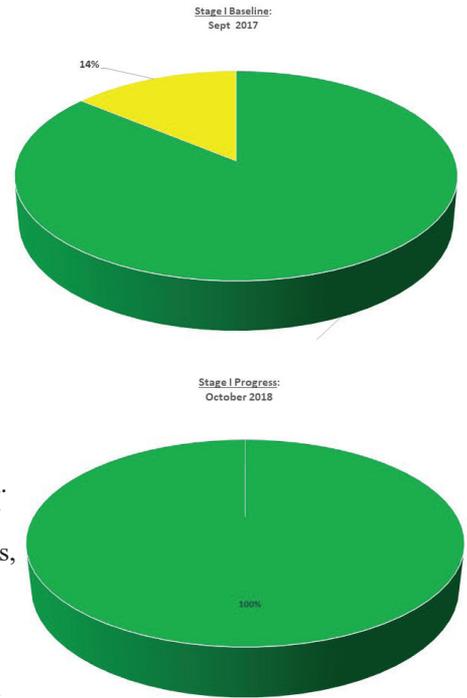
The Omaha District was the second district within USACE to receive 100 percent validation, and to date, one of eight districts to complete the validation process.

It is essential the Omaha District strives for continuous improvement and sustainment Stage 1 (planning). It is very easy for

organization regress from past efforts if they are not continually reviewed and assessed.

Additionally, the Omaha District received the Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award in FY2018 for performance in the FY2017 period! Great work from the entire Omaha District!

More to come as we move into Stage 2 of implementation and execution of Safety and Occupational Health of CE-SOHMS in FY 19! Let's make some progress and continually improve!



# NWO makes drinking water safe for U.S. military bases worldwide

Zane Ecklund  
Public Affairs Specialist

In addition to managing waterways, hydropower and flood control measures, the U.S. Army Corps' mission focuses heavily on environmental remediation, and the Omaha District in particular has been working on reducing the threat of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, which are industrial compounds consisting of engineered groups of molecules with special properties that do not readily break down under natural conditions.

The PFAS compounds have been used on military installations since the 1970s as they were a major component of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), used to suppress aircraft fires and burning fuel during regular fire training exercises, accidental spills, and activation of aircraft hangar fire suppression systems.

Because of its widespread use, PFAS have been found in the soil and groundwater at numerous Department of Defense installations, which has negatively impacted groundwater resources both on and off military installations. The Corps of Engineers Omaha District has been asked to help in the cleanup effort.

The Omaha District is working with other federal, state, and local organizations to work on the groundwater cleanup. A challenge the Corps faces is navigating through the differing water standards set by each surrounding municipality, as well as working within Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

In 2016, the EPA released a health advisory stating that PFAS should not exceed 70 parts per trillion in drinking water. If PFAS are found to exceed this figure, the EPA recommends retesting samples, communicating the threat to state drinking water officials, notifying consumers, and determining appropriate actions to reduce the concentrations of PFAS at the source.

"The full health effects of PFAS are, at this time, not fully understood. DoD has adopted a conservative approach to ensure that exposure to PFAS through drinking water is at or below the Lifetime Health Advisory Level of 70 ppt," Doug Simpleman, a project manager with the Omaha District said.

However, the DoD and Omaha District have been working with several states, who under their own initiative have determined their own drinking water standards for certain PFAS standards. In certain instances, these state values are more conservative than the EPA's health advisory level, which creates technical challenges when it comes to meeting those values.

"Working with PFAS has been both rewarding and challenging over the last few years. There are few, if any, regulations at this point, and the science surrounding these compounds is new and fairly incomplete—it certainly makes the work more arduous," Simpleman said.

Omaha District has employed a variety of methods to counter the PFAS threat. The first step is conducting preliminary assessments and site inspections. Omaha District uses the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process to determine the scale of the problem.

Mitigation systems are also used to reduce the chances of exposure. The systems vary in size from serving individual households to large municipal facilities. The larger operations use various technologies



*courtesy photos*

(Above) The NWO polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) team inspects newly installed 12,000-gallon Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) vessels on Camp Walker, South Korea, May 21. (Right) The PFAS team inspects the pipe rack for operating the GAC system on Camp Carroll, South Korea, May 22. Camps Walker and Carroll operate their own drinking water supply wells and conditions drinking water at their own water treatment plant and distributes to installation users.

such as reverse osmosis, ion exchange resin and granular activated carbon to safeguard water.

Omaha District also developed an information exchange with the Engineer Research and Development Center. ERDC even went as far as to invite representatives from Omaha District to present on the subject of PFAS to the US/German Data Exchange Agreement for Environmental Technology in August 2018. This led to the U.S./German DEA inviting the Omaha District to attend future meetings and continue the exchange of pertinent information.

"The PFAS team has had to be innovative and flexible in all of our approaches from investigation to mitigation. Adjusting our approaches as new science and information becomes available has allowed this team to enjoy success while other agencies are still in the planning phases. This team continues to provide engineering excellence to the nation and I am really proud of the work that we have accomplished," Simpleman said.

PFASs have been in use since the 1940s. They are ubiquitous, found in common household items, such as clothing, packaging and cookware. They are also used in various industrial applications in addition to military applications previously mentioned. The chemicals in PFAS are persistent in the environment and the human body and can bio-accumulate over time. Evidence has shown that PFAS exposure can lead to negative health effects in humans, potentially including low infant birth weight, cancer and thyroid disruption.

However, the understanding of PFAS' health effects are constantly evolving along with state and federal regulations. Different health advisory levels have been established and technology has improved the ability to detect the presence of PFAS in lower concentrations. Toxicological studies and long-term remedial technologies are continuing to be evaluated for PFAS, and the Omaha District is supporting these efforts on several fronts with the intent of being proactive in their efforts that benefit human health.





*courtesy photos*

During the floods of 2011, the district worked with the Winnebago Tribe (Nebraska) to construct a large ring levee around their casino, hotel, and gas station.

# NWO, tribes work side-by-side resolving water issues

*Joel Ames  
Tribal Liaison*

I arrived to the district in 2003 and soon realized how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers core mission and the Native American tribes in the district's area of operation were intertwined. That year was a time when drought weighed heavily on almost everyone throughout the basin. Areas had been in a severe drought for four to five years, depending on the region. The system reservoirs were down 20-plus feet, and there did not appear to be any signs of this improving. As reservoir levels continued to drop, tribes were concerned that their water intakes would fail. To address those concerns we worked with the various tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to lower some water intakes, and in other cases building new temporary intakes to ensure that the tribes had an adequate water supply.

Adding to the region's concerns was the re-write of the Missouri River Master Manual, which was closing in on its 14th year of development. The new version had to address the protection of endangered species, along with all the other authorized purposes of the system.

The upper basin was very concerned about use of water for recreational purposes, while the lower basin was concerned about water releases to support navigation. The basin tribes wanted more stable pool conditions to minimize the exposure of cultural resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services wanted larger releases of water during springtime to help promote pallid sturgeon spawning.

Toward the end of 2003, just days before Thanksgiving, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe experienced a failure of its water intake at Fort Yates, North Dakota. USACE, along with the tribe and BOR quickly jumped into action to begin repairs. The Corps lowered

releases out of Garrison Dam to assist in the construction of a temporary road out into the reservoir. The Corps expedited getting a permit for the tribe to begin the road construction. BOR helped in the design and construction of a new water intake system. The state of North Dakota worked on providing drinking water to the tribe while the new system was being constructed.

In 2005, with the drought continuing, the district determined that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's water intake was at risk of failing if the drought were to continue. The district, using its authorities under Public Law 84-99 (Rehabilitation Assistance for Non-Federal Flood Control Projects), worked with the tribe, the state of South Dakota, BIA, the Indian Health Service and the Department of the Interior, to pool together funding which would allow for the construction of a new intake system in Lake Oahe. While the new system was being designed, the district,

working with the tribe, constructed a 14-mile long temporary intake system. Power lines were also added that would serve to power a new pump house that had to be built. In September 2007, the new intake system officially became operational.

Flood fighting is another part of what the Corps does and in 2010, the Emergency Management Team worked with the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming, to minimize flooding, prevent bank destabilization, and assist in damage assessments. In 2011, the district again found itself assisting a majority of the tribes but on a much larger scale, over a much greater time frame. Of the 29 basin tribes, 27 requested assistance from the district from February through October. A few examples of the assistance provided that year included – stabilizing the Standing Rock Sioux Tribes causeway into Fort Yates to prevent the causeway from eroding away due to high water levels; the Wind River reservation again needed additional stabilization work around some of its bridges and roadways; Fort Peck's new water intake pump house required a large ring levee; and the Winnebago Tribe (Nebraska) needed to construct a large ring levee around their casino, hotel and gas station.

Through the years, the district has worked to return excess project lands, or lands no longer needed, back to the various tribes.



**In 2010, the Emergency Management Team worked with the Wind River Reservation, Wyo., to minimize flooding, prevent bank destabilization, and assist in damage assessments.**

The MHA Nation (the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes, located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota) received approval to conduct on-water gaming within the reservation boundary and the Omaha District, along with USACE Headquarters, assisted in finding a path to make it possible. The District also works with tribes

on the Missouri River Recovery Program, Cultural Resources Protection, Unexploded Ordnance Removal and Regulatory Permitting.

Making the tribal program a success is not a one-person job. It takes the work of many of our district personnel who work in a very professional and respectful manner to address Tribal concerns.



**In 2011, the district helps stabilize the Standing Rock Sioux Tribes causeway leading into Fort Yates, N.D., to prevent the causeway from eroding away due to high water levels.**

# Hail...

## **JANUARY**

Brown, Cindy Construction Division  
Fluellen, Edwin Real Estate Division  
Jones III, Boyd, Wayne Operations Division  
Dunsmore, Matthew, Engineering Division  
Andreasen, Stacey Office Of Counsel  
Burgos, Dana, Operations Division  
Bridon, Brown, Engineering Division

## **FEBRUARY**

Corbolotti, Gregory Real Estate Division  
Peacock, Kaitlin, Construction Division  
Bramblee, Tyson Operations Division  
Casserly, Kevin Real Estate Division  
Ibarra, Georgina Engineering Division  
Smedley, Zachary Engineering Division  
Swerczek, James Operations Division  
Watson, Shelly PPMD  
Gragert, Steven Project Management  
Sawyer, Milton Engineering Division

## **MARCH**

Miner, Christopher Engineering Division  
Podjun, Stacy Engineering Division  
Wales, Tanya Construction Division  
Goode, Timothy PPMD

## **APRIL**

Carr, Virginia Contracting Division  
Ellis, Matthew Construction Division  
Forster, Jeffrey Operations Division  
Kalafut, Kalvin Engineering Division  
Offen, John, Construction Division  
Beaudet, Kristle Engineering Division  
Canty, Glenda Contracting Division  
Gilbert, Marena Operations Division  
Shepard, Daniel Operations Division  
Nelson, David Military Integration  
Nishek, Loren, B Construction Division  
Golden, Matthew Operations Division  
LaBay, Steven Engineering Division  
Purvis, Victor PPMD  
Vallery, Travis Operations Division  
Hollrah, Chad PPMD  
Keyser, Glen Operations Division

## **MAY**

Caines, Melanie Contracting Division  
Durako, Heidi Project Management  
Johnston, Michael Operations Division  
Bunnell, Mitch Operations Division  
Gee, Adria Engineering Division  
Sosa, Talli Contracting Division

## **JUNE**

Graham, Dylan Contracting Division  
Levy, Lauren Contracting Division  
Monahan, Daniel Contracting Division  
Stringer, Larry Engineering Division  
Inlavong, Erica, Real Estate Division  
Lyon, Joshua Resource Management  
Mayberry, Christine PPMD  
Houska, Trinity Operations Division

## **JULY**

Begeman, Nickie Construction Division  
Bertrand, Brian Operations Division  
Curado, Daniel Small Business  
Reidt, Jeffery Operations Division  
Becker, Brian Resource Management  
Reick, Ivette Internal Review Office

## **AUGUST**

Hoyle, Matthew Engineering Division  
Maki, Aaron Engineering Division  
Winter, Jennifer Operations Division  
Rawe, III, William Contracting Division  
Smith, Richard Construction Division  
Ecklund, Zane Public Affairs Office  
Feider, John Engineering Division  
Wink, Robert Contracting Division  
Foster, Jonathan Operations Division

## **SEPTEMBER**

Monzon, Scott Operations Division  
Smith, Lara Operations Division  
Fechner, Daniel Engineering Division  
Gann, Joshua Operations Division  
Pender, Emily PPMD  
Razey, Jr, Richard Operations Division  
Santiago, Karisa Construction Division  
Bilek, James PPMD  
Bullard, Katelyn Real Estate Division  
Campbell, Morgan PPMD  
Scoughton, Jayson Operations Division  
Cavanaugh, Jeffrey PPMD  
Wisecup, Caitlyn PPMD  
Grant, Thomas Operations Division  
Sailor, Matthew Operations Division

## **OCTOBER**

Barner, Clare West Region Dir. Office  
Moseley, Elizabeth Operations Division  
Doyle, Stephen Construction Division  
Jones-Negron, Bobbie Construction Division  
Banik, Brenda PPMD  
Bieber, Danielle Engineering Division  
Clason, Jennifer PPMD  
Hoppmann, Jessica Engineering Division

## **NOVEMBER**

Johnson, Dominique PPMD  
Knapp Leiferman, Engineering Division  
Laura Engineering Division  
McCool, Shannon PPMD  
McKinney, Eric

## **DECEMBER**

Donaldson, Sarah Construction Division  
Louie, Traci Contracting

# and Farewell

Saniuk, Daniel  
Chieply, Martha  
Chong, Donald  
Metzger, Ronald  
Jensen, David  
Pratt, Mark

Keller, Jeffrey  
Behm, Randall  
Brandon, David  
Nolan, Joseph  
Malene, Donald  
Johnson, Thomas  
Klima, Danny  
Zimbelman, Garth  
Cox, John

Jankord, Gregg  
Moline, Jean  
O'Neill, James  
Reckmeyer, Andrew  
Dorsey, Donna  
Kerzman, Ricky  
Margrave, Craig  
Offen, John

Becker, David  
Briggs, Debra  
Smith, Tammy  
Randall, David  
Linbrunner, Dezso  
Peterson, Lyle  
Shaheen, Waleed  
Sheffield, Phillip  
Shirk, Stanton

Dvorak, Brent  
Kemp, Laura  
Zwieg, David  
Ellis, Matthew  
Courtney, J, Stacey  
Martin, Robert  
Bentley, Laura

Lindsey, Nadyne  
Zink, Thomas  
Dibel, Linda  
Collins, Kimberly

## **JANUARY**

## **MARCH**

## **APRIL**

## **MAY**

## **JUNE**

## **JULY**

## **AUGUST**

## **SEPTEMBER**

## **OCTOBER NOVEMBER**

## **DECEMBER**

Military Integration  
Operations Division  
Engineering Division  
Resource Management  
Engineering Division  
PPMD

Operations Division  
Engineering Division  
PPMD

Construction Division  
Engineering Division  
Operations Division

Engineering Division  
Operations Division  
Engineering Division

Operations Division  
Engineering Division  
Operations Division  
Resource Management

Construction Division  
PPMD  
Contracting Division

Engineering Division  
Engineering Division  
Construction Division

Operations Division  
PPMD  
Engineering Division

Internal Review Office  
Project Management  
Engineering Division

Construction Division  
Operations Division  
Engineering Division

Construction Division  
Military Integration  
Construction Division

Construction Division  
Resource Management  
Operations Division  
PPMD

Resource Management  
PPMD  
PPMD

Executive Office

Retirees, don't forget to stay connected through the RODEO (Retired Omaha District/Division/Region Employees Organization) at <https://coerodeo.wordpress.com/>

## 2018 ushers in major milestones for Missouri River Recovery Program

**Dr. Michael Izard-Carroll**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

The efforts of those involved in the Missouri River Recovery Program culminated in several significant milestones in 2018, including receiving a biological opinion with a “no-jeopardy” finding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), signing the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan (MRRP) Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, as well as the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee’s (MRRIC) 10-year anniversary celebration.

The MRRP allows the Corps to meet our Endangered Species Act obligations so we can operate our Missouri River projects for the congressionally authorized purposes of flood control, water supply, water quality, navigation, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Operating for the eight purposes while maintaining compliance with the ESA is further complicated by scientific uncertainty surrounding the pallid sturgeon. That means the MRRP has to use the best science and engineering available and be ready to implement management actions when needed. All of this requires transparency and significant collaboration with other federal agencies, states, tribes, and basin stakeholders. This year’s accomplishments mark substantial steps in furthering the MRRP’s goals.

### ***Final Biological Opinion***

The Missouri River ecosystem provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including three federally listed threatened or endangered species. The endangered least tern and the threatened piping plover are shorebirds that use non-vegetated sandbars and reservoir beaches for nesting. The river currently does not naturally build enough of the habitat these birds need to nest and feed. In addition, Corps water releases may flood nests if they are too low. The endangered pallid sturgeon is an ancient fish species that lives in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Changes to the river’s flow and loss of habitat may be contributing to the pallid sturgeon’s decline. Section 7 of the ESA requires the Corps of Engineers to consult with the USFWS to determine potential effects of a proposed action on threatened or endangered species. Such consultations may lead the USFWS to issue a biological opinion.

Accordingly, the USFWS sent a biological opinion to the Corps Apr. 13 concerning the operation of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System operation, the



**Piping Plover**



**Least Tern**

operation and maintenance of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project, the operation of the Kansas River Reservoir System, and the implementation of the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan.

The USFWS sent a draft to the Corps Feb. 8, which in turn transmitted the draft biological opinion to the Independent Science Advisory Panel of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee.

The ISAP supported the science behind the biological opinion, and presented the results of their review to the MRRIC plenary session Mar. 27. The USACE formally transmitted the ISAP response along with the Corps supporting information to the USFWS Apr. 3.

In the final biological opinion cover letter addressed to David Ponganis, director of Programs of the Corps’ Northwestern Division, Michael Thabault, USFWS assistant regional director for Ecological Services writes:

“I would like to thank you and the USACE staff for working so closely with the Service on developing a very complex and cutting edge program to further conservation of threatened and endangered species within the Missouri River Basin. The Service firmly believes that this approach will improve conditions for protected species through time while ensuring the USACE’s ability to meet the authorized purposes on the Missouri River and allowing better opportunities to address human considerations throughout the basin.”

Thabault also noted that the biological opinion and proposed action will not jeopardize the existence of the pallid sturgeon, piping plover or interior least tern, and will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for the piping plover.

### ***Record of Decision***

Another significant accomplishment for the MRRP was the signed “Record of Decision” for the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Nov. 20, which outlines future recovery program activities along the river that will allow the Corps to continue operating its Missouri River projects for all their authorized purposes while complying with the ESA and other federal laws.

“Getting to this point reflects the tremendous efforts of a great team

of partners and stakeholders who truly care about the future of the Missouri River,” said Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. D. Peter Helmlinger. “The amount of coordination required for something that involves such a cross-section of federal, state, local and tribal organizations can’t be understated.”

Using the best available science, the Corps developed the Missouri River Recovery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in cooperation with the USFWS, and with unprecedented engagement with MRRIC, which includes members representing basin tribal governments, a host of federal agencies, states and stakeholders.

Cooperating agencies in the MRRMP-EIS included the USFWS, National Park Service, Western Area Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, and States of Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

The selected alternative in the EIS is part of the proposed action in the Corps final biological assessment. The proposed action allows the Corps to continue to operate its Missouri River projects for all authorized purposes while complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and treaty and trust responsibilities, and provides for a structured, scientific process to monitor, evaluate and adjust actions through adaptive management, which includes collaborative engagement with the MRRIC.

## 10 Years of MRRIC

Another noteworthy MRRP event for 2018 was the 10-year anniversary celebration of MRRIC’s formation, which the committee held in conjunction with its fall plenary meeting Nov. 27-29 in Kansas City, Missouri.

“Since its initial meeting in September 2008, MRRIC has sought to understand the complex scientific uncertainties associated with species recovery and to make recommendations on management actions to benefit the listed species that people with widely different perspectives can live with,” said MRRIC Chair, Gail Bingham. “While the challenges are great, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MRRIC are working together to implement a plan that combines scientific research, actions based on best available science, and monitoring the results of those actions so adjustments can be made over time to increase the likelihood of success.”

Noteworthy attendees of the 10-year anniversary event included Mr.



Pallid Sturgeon

Ryan Fisher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Helmlinger and Kansas City District Commander Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen.

At the meeting, MRRIC members heard from Corps and USFWS scientists and the committee’s Independent Science Advisory Panel about developing new monitoring programs to inform the Missouri River Recovery Program’s activities. The committee also discussed findings from recent monitoring and scientific studies conducted as part of implementing the MRRP’s Science and Adaptive Management Plan. The committee elected a new vice-chairman, Mr. Bill Beacom.

The meeting’s plenary sessions were open to the public who had an opportunity to address the committee and the lead federal agencies—the Corps and USFWS at the end of each daily session.

MRRIC is a 70-member committee comprised of stakeholders and representatives of tribal, state and federal governments throughout the Missouri River Basin. This committee provides recommendations to federal agencies on current and future activities of the MRRP. The committee makes its substantive recommendations by consensus, meeting regularly at locations throughout the Missouri River Basin.

The meeting’s main purpose was to continue developing a shared understanding about the MRRP, including ongoing recovery actions in the Missouri River Basin.

For additional information regarding the MRRIC or if members of the public have specific questions, contact Ms. Gail Bingham, committee chair, by e-mail at [mrric@usace.army.mil](mailto:mrric@usace.army.mil).

The MRRP regularly makes its progress available to the public throughout the year. This year, the MRRP website migrated over to the USACE Omaha District website, and the Corps is the main webmaster in charge of all MRRP pages.



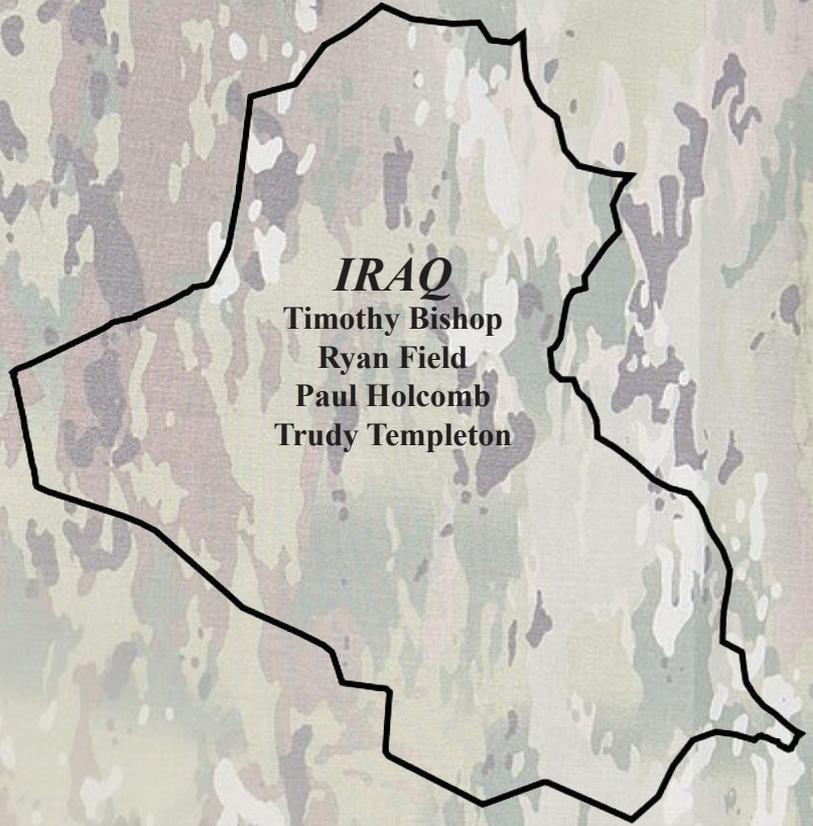
Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee members pose for annual group photo in Kansas City, Missouri Nov. 28.

# Serving in harm's way

We want to honor our employees who volunteered to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2018, and also recognize the tremendous sacrifice made by their families as well!



Ryan Field



## *IRAQ*

Timothy Bishop  
Ryan Field  
Paul Holcomb  
Trudy Templeton



Cheryl Moore



## *AFGHANISTAN*

Cheryl Moore  
John Offen  
Justin Scherzberg  
Matthew Scherzberg  
Michael Wolterman



Michael Wolterman

# *In Memoriam*

Mark Pratt, assistant project manager, passed away suddenly on Jan. 13, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri, at the age of 45.



Mark was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and worked for the Omaha District until 2007, when he took a position with the Kansas City District. Even though he remained in Kansas City, Mark was eventually rehired by the Omaha District to work remotely as an assistant project manager in the Special Projects Branch of Project Management.

Survivors include his parents; his loving wife, Gail; daughter, Debbie Pratt; foster daughters, Torie and Micaela; brother, Scott (Debbie) Pratt; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Tammy Smith, program assistant in the Hydrologic Engineering Branch, passed away Sunday, July 11, 2018, following complications from surgery.

Tammy began her federal career with the USDA and came to the Corps in 2003 as an administrative assistant for the Sedimentation and Channel Stabilization Section in the Hydrologic Engineering Branch. She was promoted to a program assistant in 2010; that job included working with the budget and funds management and inventories for the Hydrologic Engineering Branch and the Transportation Systems Center. Tammy was a very loyal employee and was always willing to take the time to help out in day-to-day activities as well as special events such as the Paint-a-Thon and the annual Hydro Branch Holiday Party.

Tammy had an active group of friends of 30 years that she saw regularly to play cards, and she loved to pull pranks. According to her friends, she was close with her sisters and the rest of her family. She liked to travel and could always make you laugh with a great story.

Tammy is survived by two daughters, Keri and Kelly, and one son, Charley. She also had three grandsons whom she adored.





# CORPS DAY 2018



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