

Falls City Engineer

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Louisville District responds to
Kentucky tornado disaster





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 13, Issue 5

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On the cover: USACE Commanding General and 55th Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples visit affected areas in western Kentucky Dec. 16, 2021, in support of the ongoing emergency response effort. (photo by Katie Newton)

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

First and foremost, happy holidays everyone! The holidays are upon us and the new year is just around the corner. I hope you are able to spend quality time with your family members during the holidays and take some time to recharge during your well-earned leave.

I appreciate everyone's efforts as we continue to execute our mission while battling unprecedented challenges. As usual, the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is packed with activities and your commitment to hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your patience and dedication to our mission in the Louisville District. You are appreciated for all you do.

As I write this update, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is starting to recover from devastating tornados that struck the region December 10-11. The Louisville District has mobilized people to assist FEMA in the recovery efforts with temporary emergency power and debris removal. I thank all those who are working to help alleviate suffering among our fellow Kentuckians.

Enjoy this issue of the Falls City Engineer, which focuses on the great efforts of our people and teams who comprise this district. Items of interest include a spotlight on our dive team, the groundbreaking of the new Louisville VA Medical Center, Dr. Christine Altendorf's visit to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the reopening of Markland Lock and Dam's main chamber, the Student Conservation Association's data collection initiative at Nolin River Lake, winter safety tips, and more.

Lastly, I know life tends to get busy as we approach the holiday season. It can be very stressful for many, especially as our workload continues to increase. Please ensure you take



Col. Eric Crispino
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

time to check in on your co-workers and of course pause to check your own well-being. A simple expression of support and outreach can go a long way. I extend a heartfelt wish for all of you to have a safe and enjoyable holiday with friends and family. Let's come back recharged and ready to hit the ground running in 2022.

Thank you for what you do every day to make the Louisville District the great place it is.

Building Strong! Louisville Proud!

Col. Eric Crispino

Eric D Crispino

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Louisville District responds to Kentucky tornado disaster

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is working in partnership with local, state and federal agencies in response to the severe storms and tornadoes, which impacted western Kentucky the evening of Dec. 10, 2021. When disasters occur, USACE works under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support state and local governments in responding to major disasters.

According to the National Weather Service, the tornado outbreak included a violent EF-4 tornado, which had a total path length of more than 165 miles, resulting in significant destruction and damage in the region.

The Louisville District Emergency Operations Center was activated Dec. 11 to support the disaster response.

“We are fully activated, working in coordination with the state to provide technical assistance and deploy teams to necessary areas as quickly as possible,” said Robert Burick, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers Louisville District emergency operations manager.

To date, USACE has received four mission assignments totaling \$6.5 million, which include Regional Activation; Temporary Power, which is being supported by the Pittsburgh District and the 249th Engineer Battalion Prime Power Team; and a Debris mission assignment to conduct assessments and provide technical assistance. Only a week after the storms, there were 55 USACE employees deployed to assist the emergency response effort. As of Dec. 20, 31 personnel remain on the ground to provide support.

“We have 17 Louisville employees deployed and conducting debris assessments across multiple counties in western Kentucky,” said Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino. “I thank all those who responded so quickly and those who have volunteered to help.”

Additionally, subject matter experts deployed to conduct infrastructure assessments and surveys of critical public facilities. The teams visited eight

impacted counties in western Kentucky and completed assessments on 25 facilities and systems.

On Dec. 16, USACE Commanding General and 55th Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint visited Mayfield, Kentucky.

During their visits, the subject matter experts for infrastructure, power, critical public facilities and debris briefed the chief on the latest updates before touring the city.

“I just want to pass on the gratitude for all your work and updates to the senior levels in the department, who are really grateful for everything that is going on, on the ground,” said Spellmon.

Under the National Response Framework and authorities of the Stafford Act; USACE works under the direction of FEMA as a member of the federal team to support state and local governments in responding to major disasters. USACE assists FEMA by coordinating and organizing public works and engineering-related support as requested by the State.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emergency planning and response teams survey tornado damage in Mayfield, Kentucky, Dec. 16, 2021.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint and Louisville District's Kevin Jasper tour downtown Mayfield, Kentucky, during a site visit Dec. 16, 2021.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Col. Kimberly Peoples visits the generator staging base in Greenville, Kentucky, Dec. 15, 2021.



USACE Commanding General and 55th Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Col. Kimberly Peoples and Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino visit affected areas in western Kentucky Dec. 16, 2021 in support of the ongoing emergency response effort.

USACE team successfully completes miter gate repairs at Markland Locks and Dam

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

For approximately two years, Markland Locks and Dam’s auxiliary chamber, in Warsaw, Kentucky, has been closed for repair. However, as of Dec. 4, 2021, the 600-foot chamber has reopened to navigation traffic.

The chamber was originally closed due to an issue with the upper miter gate, and during that time all traffic continued to pass through the primary chamber. The Regional Heavy Capacity Repair Fleet has been on site at the project since August working to repair the miter gates.

“We have major maintenance going on here,” said Zach Dunagan, Louisville District Operations Division project engineer. “We are replacing some mechanical and structural components.”

The overall goal of the project was to rehab the miter gates in the auxiliary chamber back to full operating condition, according to Markland Locks and Dam Lockmaster Shawn Riley.

“In the auxiliary chamber, the cracked upper middle wall gate leaf pintle area needed to be welded, the upper concrete miter gate needed to be reformed, and the pintle stiffener plates needed to be replaced if cracked,” Riley said. “In addition to specific emergency repairs, the auxiliary



Abby Korfhage

Markland Locks and Dam’s 600-foot auxiliary chamber, in Warsaw, Kentucky, which has been closed for two year for repairs, reopened for navigation in December.

chamber upper gates received new anchor arms, contact blocks, pintle ball and bushings, J-seal and polymer steel on wall quoins.”

The issues were first discovered during annual diving inspections in August 2019. Once the project was approved, preparation and field work began this past summer.

As with any maintenance and repair projects, there can be challenges and

unforeseen circumstances that arise.

On Oct. 21, navigation traffic was halted at Markland to facilitate a hydraulic cylinder repair on the primary 1,200-foot lock chamber. The closure lasted less than 48 hours, however, during that time both chambers were out of service.

“That was the first time I can remember both chambers being shut down for reasons other than flooding,” said Allen Craigmyle, Markland Locks and Dam Work Leader.

Since the Heavy Capacity Fleet was already on site for the auxiliary chamber maintenance project, they were able to help with the main chamber issue to expedite repairs.

Following the auxiliary chamber repairs, the primary chamber closed again Dec. 4 for four days, to allow the Heavy Capacity Repair Fleet to complete hydraulic system repairs that caused the previous lock closure.

Upon completion of the hydraulic system repairs and reopening of the primary chamber, the auxiliary chamber will be closed again to facilitate demobilization of the Heavy Capacity Fleet. This closure is anticipated to extend through Dec. 16, with the intent of both chambers being fully operational by Dec. 17.

Riley is very proud of the teamwork that took place to successfully complete these repairs. “When we work together as a team there is nothing we can’t accomplish.”



Abby Korfhage

USACE personnel work on the Markland Locks and Dam miter gate, Oct. 27, 2021. The goal of the maintenance project was to rehab the miter gates in the auxiliary chamber back to full operating condition.

A deep dive into the Louisville District dive team

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

It's not every day that your duty assignment requires work to take place under murky water, but for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District dive team, it's just another day on the job—and has been that way for decades.

"I believe that we have had divers for over 100 years working on our locks and dams," said Gary Birge, Louisville District Diving Program Coordinator.

The district's dive teams perform underwater inspection and repair of locks, dams, floating plants, reservoir control towers and stilling basins throughout the year.

"We typically dive around the locks and dams and lake projects, but we have assisted in mussel surveys in other areas too," Birge said. "When diving by control towers at the lake projects, it's not uncommon to reach depths of 80 feet or more. Without additional requirements, we can dive to 100 feet."

The Louisville District currently has three dive lockers equipped with the necessary equipment to perform dive operations, such as dive helmets, air compressors, compressed air cylinders, rack/communications boxes, etc. There are dive lockers located at Markland Locks and Dam in Warsaw, Kentucky, John T. Myers Locks and Dam in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, and Olmsted Locks and Dam in Olmsted, Illinois.

The dive team is comprised of dive



Abby Korfhage

Stephen Panter, Louisville District diver and marine machinery repairer, prepares to enter the Ohio River to assist in replacing wickets at Olmsted Locks and Dam in Olmsted, Illinois.

supervisors/divers, divers, divers in training and tenders. Until the end of the year we have seven dive supervisors/divers, five divers and six divers-in-training.

"They express interest in a variety of ways," Birge said. "Some have been asked to train as dive tenders and once involved, requested to be considered for dive training. There have been cases where the individual reached out to management to express interest. I feel there are several attributes of a successful diver but those most important being interest, aptitude and

physical ability."

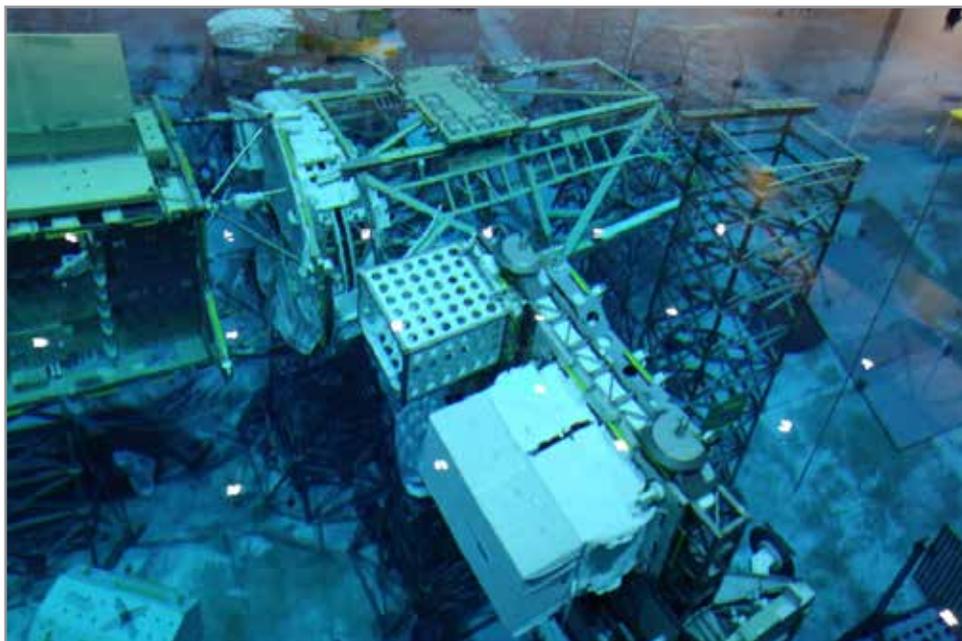
Members of the dive team are current employees in the district's Operations Division and range from being engineers to lock and dam operators. Olmsted Locks and Dam Lead Maintenance Mechanic Jesse Hall is one of those divers and has been a part of the dive team since 2005.

"When I was a kid, I lived at Lock 52. One winter I saw my dad get out of the water after diving and ice froze on his chest as he was changing. Back then all they had was wet suits. I decided then I wanted to be tough like him when I got older," Hall said. "My favorite part about being a diver is knowing I can go underwater and get the job complete and completed right. I've always focused on the job and studied prints, so I knew what my moves were going to be before I entered the water."

Stephen Prater, also from Operations Division, has been on the district's dive team for five years. Prior to joining USACE, Prater was a dive supervisor and an Association Diving Contractors International supervisor.

"I have been commercial diving for 12 years total, with seven of those working with various offshore and inland companies," Prater said. "I enjoy diving because its dark and peaceful underwater, the gentle noise of just your breathing and whatever project your working on."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has



Gary Birge

NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory in Houston, Texas, is where all divers-in-training attend the USACE Working Diver Course before receiving official certification.

Continued on next page

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strict requirements in place for all working dive operations.

“Without question, diving is one of the most dangerous operations we perform here in the Louisville District,” said Jeremy Ball, Louisville District Safety and Occupational Health chief. “We have a great team of competent and experienced government employee and contractor divers who ‘splash’ very often at our projects.”

There is a list of training and a ‘Diver in Training and Tender in Training checklist,’ which includes 22 requirements, that all divers must complete before officially being given that title.

“Once the checklist is satisfied, the diver in training is scheduled to attend the USACE Working Diver Course in Houston,

Texas, at the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory/Sonny Carter Training Center,” Birge said.

Olmsted Locks and Dam Lock Operator Kyle Bohannon, Olmsted Locks and Dam Equipment Mechanic Casey Shultz and Smithland Locks and Dam Lock Operator Wes Riley attended dive training in August.

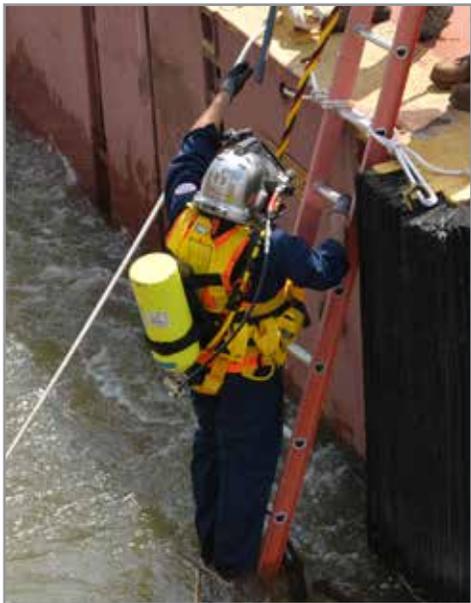
“We completed open water diver certification and dry suit diving over the course of a week,” Bohannon said. “We had a lot of fun together and I know we’re all looking forward to getting back in the water.”

With Birge retiring at the end of December, Dewey Takacy will be backfilling that role as the new Louisville District Diving Program Coordinator and will be responsible for the overall

management of the program that serves 17 flood-risk management projects and nine lock and dam projects. Takacy has been a member of the Louisville District Dive Team since 2010.

“The comradery of the team is unlike anything else I’ve experienced in USACE. Those that do this are volunteers and show a true passion for the missions they support,” Takacy said. “My goal over the next couple of years is to bring the Louisville Dive teams abilities to a higher level of service—focusing on raising our abilities and the scale of work we are capable of, moving in the direction of larger repairs and projects.”

As they always have, the dive team continues to play a critical role in USACE missions.



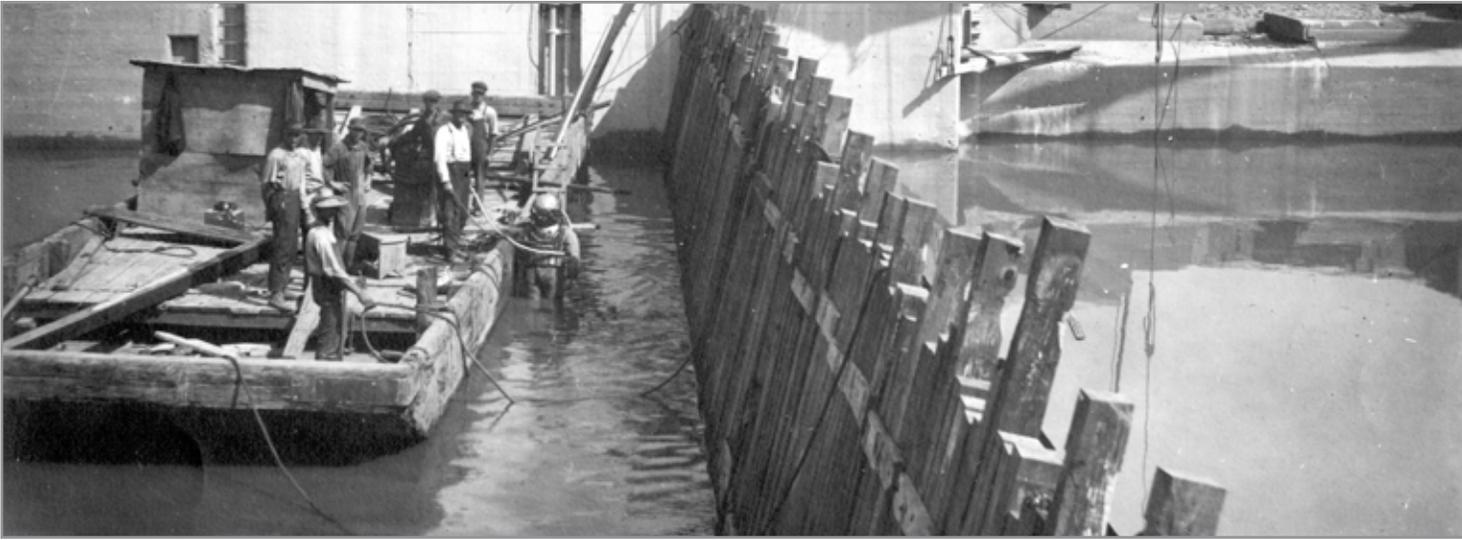
Abby Korffrage

Jesse Hall, lock and dam equipment mechanic, descends into the river to help the USACE team successfully replace wickets at Olmsted Locks and Dam, Sept. 14, 2021.



USACE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District diver lowers into the Ohio River at Markland Locks and Dam in Warsaw, Ky., to perform emergency repairs.



USACE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam staff and diver work on raising the wickets at Lock and Dam 39 in September 1919. Markland Locks and Dam was approved to replace Lock and Dam 39, along with Ohio River Lock and Dams No. 35, 36, 37, 38 in 1953.

USACE military program director tours Louisville District projects

Charles Delano, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Military Programs Dr. Christine Altendorf conducted a two-day site visit of reserve and military construction projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 2-3, 2021.

The first part of the visit began at the USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio, to discuss the benefits of a centrally managed military construction program and how the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program will affect future USACE projects.

Altendorf, accompanied by Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino, Rachael Haunz, chief, Army and Air Force section, Linda Murphy, Louisville District deputy district engineer, and Kevin Jefferson, Wright-Patterson area engineer then toured the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB. The Louisville District earned a citation award in 2016 for the 224,000 square foot mega-expansion of the museum, which now houses walk-through exhibits of presidential aircraft.

The group viewed and discussed the Air Force Research Laboratory research tower, military housing and Air Force Material Command office and administrative facility projects. The \$3.8 million 13-story AFRL research tower project includes the renovation and repair of current floor space with the addition of two floors of lab space to support added test mission. Military



Charles Delano

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Military Programs Dr. Christine Altendorf tours the Intelligence Production Complex construction site during a visit of Louisville District projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dec. 3, 2021. Altendorf discussed details about the \$156 million facility with Paul Richter, Messer Construction senior project executive and U.S. Army Col. Eric Crispino, Louisville District, district commander. The five-story complex broke ground Nov. 5, 2020 and is scheduled for occupancy in 2025.

family housing improvements involves renovating 29 housing units to provide modern and efficient housing at Wright-Patterson AFB at a cost of \$45 million. The AFMC HQ office/administrative facility project consists of renovating two buildings totaling 788,793 square feet using a phased construction approach.

“It was great to spend time with the Louisville District and get a deeper understanding of how they execute their Reserves program and see all the work they are doing at Wright Patterson AFB,” said Altendorf.

The final project site the group toured was the \$156 million 262,973 square foot Intelligence Production Complex

Altendorf discussed details about the five-story facility with Paul Richter, Messer Construction senior project executive. The new construction, which includes secure space, offices, administrative space, conference space, laboratory space and parking, supports the National Air and Space Intelligence Center mission and is scheduled for occupancy in 2025.

“It is clear that they focus on relationships and partnering which ultimately makes for successful projects, said Altendorf. “They are a district that is focused on teamwork, collaboration and responsiveness and it shows with their delivery of quality projects.”



Charles Delano

USACE Director of Military Programs Dr. Christine Altendorf tours the Intelligence Production Complex construction site during a visit of Louisville District projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dec. 3, 2021.



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Military Programs Dr. Christine Altendorf tours the Intelligence Production Complex construction site during a visit of Louisville District projects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dec. 3, 2021. Altendorf discussed details about the \$156 million facility with Paul Richter, Messer Construction senior project executive. The five-story complex broke ground Nov. 5, 2020, and is scheduled for occupancy in 2025.

Veterans Affairs VA, USACE break ground on Louisville VA Medical Center

Katie Newton, public affairs

History was made on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, and the Department of Veterans Affairs broke ground on the much-anticipated Louisville VA Medical Center.

The new 104 bed, full-service hospital located on Brownsboro Road in Louisville, Kentucky, will provide world-class healthcare for more than 45,000 Veterans in Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

Dignitaries including Sen. Mitch McConnell, Rep. John Yarmuth, Gov. Andy Beshear and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer gathered to celebrate the project, which has been more than a decade in the making.

“While no government program can fully repay the great debt we owe, by breaking ground on this project today, we’re taking a meaningful step toward fulfilling our sacred obligation to our nation’s heroes,” McConnell said.

“It will soon provide the revolutionary twenty-first century care that our nation’s heroes deserve.”

The new hospital will integrate modern patient-centered care concepts to provide the best possible care for Veterans. In addition, to specifically address the needs of women Veterans, the new hospital will

include a Women’s Health Clinic with 4 Patient Aligned Care Teams.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is honored to be here working alongside our partners to help bring this much-deserved, state-of-the art facility to fruition for our nation’s Veterans,” said Col. Kimberly Peeples, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

The \$840 million project designed by SmithGroup will be constructed by Walsh-Turner Joint Venture II, Chicago, Illinois.

“We know just how much our Veterans are counting on us,” said Michael Whelan, President of Walsh Construction. “The men and women who will build this facility are ready to start.”

“Our team will deliver the highest standards of safety and quality as this is part of our mission,” said Whelan. We will work hand in hand with all stakeholders to deliver the project on time and in budget.”

The project includes construction of a new 910,115 square foot medical center, parking structures, a 42,205 square foot central utility plant, roadways, sidewalks, and other site improvements.

“In the Corps of Engineers, our definition of winning is to finish quality projects on time, within budget, and safely. That is certainly what we intend to do



Abby Korfhage

Col. Kimberly Peeples, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, speaks after the VA Groundbreaking ceremony to partners and guests.

here,” said Peeples. “We will not give our nation’s heroes anything less than the very best.”

Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

To learn more about the project visit: <https://www.louisville.va.gov/newmedicalcenter/>



Abby Korfhage

Officials broke ground on the future Louisville VA Medical Center on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021 in Louisville, Kentucky. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District will build the new 104 bed, full-service hospital, which will provide world-class healthcare to more than 45,000 Veterans.

New Fort McCoy training barracks project nears completion

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is well on the way to completing the construction of a four-story barracks project at Fort McCoy, which is approximately 60,000 square feet and will house 400 Soldiers on the base in Wisconsin.

“The FY19 (fiscal year 2019) barracks project is for the construction of a four-story transient training enlisted barracks for major exercises, annual training, battle assembly and mobilization training at Fort McCoy,” said Betty Beck, Louisville District project manager.

The permanent buildings will be reinforced with concrete foundations, concrete floor slabs, structural steel frames, steel stud infill with drywall, masonry veneer walls, prefinished standing seam metal roofing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, plumbing, mechanical systems and electrical systems.

The project contract also included supporting facilities such as land clearing, paving, general site improvements and utility connections. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection, also known as ATFP, physical



Project rendering shows one part of the quad for the Transient Training Brigade Headquarters and Barracks at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.

security measures, and sustainability and energy measures are also included in the project’s design.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District is also involved with the Army Reserve project and according to the weekly update from their field representative, Ken Green, as of early December, testing and inspections were taking place and the installation of furniture

has begun.

“The teamwork between the inhouse designers and the Omaha District field office has contributed to the successful completion of the project for the soldiers at Fort McCoy,” Beck said.

The \$22 million project was awarded in Sept. 2019 and the construction of the project is scheduled to be completed in January 2022.



The four-story barracks facility is approximately 60,000 square feet and will house 400 soldiers.

Louisville District meets 2021 goal of 280 Jacobsville properties remediated

Charles Delano, public affairs

Commercial and industrial manufacturing during the late 1800's produced airborne dust, soot and smoke containing lead and arsenic, which contaminated about 4,000 residential properties in 12 neighborhoods in Evansville, Indiana. The Environmental Protection Agency began cleanup of the contaminated soil in 2007.

In 2019, after remediating contaminated soil for about half of the properties, the EPA asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remediate the remaining 2,000 properties.

Removal and remediation of contaminated soil for the Jacobsville neighborhood proved to be challenging for the USACE in 2021. The project team had to overcome 23 lost working days due to inclement weather and COVID-19 related issues to meet the 2021 goal of 280 properties restored. USACE, the contractor and the EPA collaborated to develop a schedule that continued remediation of

properties while ensuring worker safety.

"The contractor's response and protocols to COVID-19 have been instrumental in the continuation of the field work while ensuring the crews are able to work in a healthy environment," said Corey Knox, project manager.

On behalf of the EPA, USACE removed and disposed of 17,940 cubic yards or 23,322 tons of lead and arsenic-contaminated soil for the 2021 field season. Residences received 25,010 cubic yards of clean soil and 571,031 square feet of new sod. Last year, 13,178 tons of soil was removed with 188 properties restored with 14,118 cubic yards of clean soil and 375,980 square feet of sod installed.

"The 2021 season was a success due to homeowner cooperation, interagency support, a streamlined remediation process in place and efficient effort of the contractors," said Brett Smith, onsite project engineer, Louisville District. "I feel the experience and knowledge we gained this year will further the project's success in the coming years."



Workers install sod at a Jacobsville, Indiana residential property that is being remediated for contaminated soil, April 6, 2021. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency removed and disposed of 17,940 cubic yards or 23,322 tons of lead and arsenic-contaminated soil for the 2021 field season. Residences received 25,010 cubic yards of clean soil and 571,031 square feet of new sod.

USACE

Spotlight

SCA provides valuable information for USACE Recreational Projects

Madison Thompson, public affairs

The Student Conservation Association, or SCA, known as America's conservation corps, is on a mission to create a unified nationwide data set of Corps of Engineers assets across the country.

As part of that effort, the SCA began data collection at Nolin River Lake in Bee Spring, Kentucky Oct. 19, 2021. The purpose of their visit is part of a three-year Geographic Information Systems assessment of transportation, facility, and recreation facilities across the country to create a nationwide data set of the road, parking, and recreation assets that the Corps of Engineers manages. There are many applications for the data according to SCA Program Manager Jamie Weleber.

"The data collected has a wide variety of applications ranging from public maps to supplying data sets to other agencies to also help recreation and natural resource management," said Weleber.

Weleber and the other members of the team including Shannon Kelly, a SCA Corps of Engineers GIS Field Collector,

planned to stay for three days at Nolin River Lake while collecting data.

"We're collecting parking lots, roads, boat ramps, campgrounds, bathrooms then and, within those features, there are certain attributes that you have to fill out like whether the bathroom has water or if they have showers or all that stuff. If you're in a campground, is there running water, electricity, usage," said Kelly.

To collect the data, SCA uses a special device that pinpoints geographic locations and connects to a Field Map data collection center.

"Then, we connect it to our phones, and use an ARC GIS program called Field Maps. You plot your staff, push a few buttons on your phone, and it will take your location and put it into the Field Maps where we collect our data into one huge data set. Then, we go through and process the data, make sure that everything's cleaned up and nice and pretty for the Corps of Engineers," said Kelly.

There are a few reasons why this mass data collection is important.

"There's a wide variety of use cases for this information ranging from just compliance to maintaining funding streams. It can be used for maps.... Being able to integrate that data into 911 systems at a local level can help dispatchers be able to get help to people in emergencies should they get in trouble," said Weleber. "The key is that it'll be the same standard data collection for every project inside the Corps of Engineers in every district so we can create one unified nationwide data set."

Kelly added that the data set will help provide a comprehensive snapshot of the actual number of campgrounds and other assets at each lake project for proper fund allocation in the future.

"SCA gives young people mission and purpose. The organization offers them opportunities to protect and restore our public lands, while inspiring and training them to be future land managers and leaders. Their programs provide Nolin Lake and USACE with boots on the ground that help get important jobs done," said Lillian Setters, Nolin Lake park ranger.

COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS

Winter is upon us here at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, which means biting cold wind, frigid water, and unpredictable snowstorms. When working in the elements, it is important to keep safety in mind, whether it is hot or cold outside. Thankfully, there are resources to help us prevent potential safety hazards of cold weather.

Cold Stress

The definition of "cold stress" varies across the country, but an inclusive definition is when people are exposed to temperatures that drop below normal, causing heat to leave more rapidly from your body. The change in environment can create weather-related conditions and may lead to serious health problems which include, but are not limited to, hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot and chilblains. These health problems range in severity and treatment, but there are several common symptoms to watch out for.

- Common symptoms for Cold-Stress Illnesses:
 - Shivering
 - Fatigue
 - Numbness
 - Discoloration of the skin (usually taking on a blue or paler hue)
 - Aching
 - Itchiness of the skin



Cold Stress First Aid

If you are experiencing cold stress in an extreme/severe form, you should seek professional medical assistance.

There are some general first aid tips that can help reduce and prevent cold stress symptoms.

- Common First Aid
 - Avoid scratching affected area
 - Slowly warm the skin using blankets and refrain from using heating pads, heat lamps, heat from a stove, fireplace, or radiator
 - Avoid walking on affected area
 - Consume warm beverages slowly
 - Remove wet/damp clothing
 - Do not rub or massage affected area
 - Warm the center of the body first: chest, head, neck

Deck the Halls with safe lighting - fa la la la la la la la

When decorating your home or office, keep the following safety tips in mind:

- No open flames or candles
- Do not hang decorations on fire sprinklers
- Use flame resistant decorating materials



Cold Weather Common Sense

As employees, there are measures you can take to guard yourself against cold-stress illnesses and cold weather emergencies. You should also try and keep a cold-weather kit in your car with the following:

- additional clothing layers
- blankets, jumper cables
- flashlight, bottled water
- non-perishable snacks

What to wear - one layer at a time

To protect yourself better against the elements, wear layers including the following:

- long sleeves
- jackets
- coveralls
- insulated pants
- scarves
- gloves
- Hats



Winter Weather Activities

Here are some tips for when you're out and about in the cold weather.

- Work during the warmest part of the day if you have to work in the cold
- Bring warm beverages in a thermos to keep you warm
- Check on your friends if they're working outside
- Wear the correct footwear
- Check potentially slick areas before placing your weight on them
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Watch for slick spots when driving

Cyber Security Reminder

Many of us will be using online shopping for the holiday season and we must be vigilant for hackers, scams and other cyber security threats.



To avoid cyber threats, avoid clicking on pop-up links, use the sites you trust, do not save your passwords or other personal information to your browser and check your balances and statements for irregular charges.