

Falls City Engineer

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Louisville District furnishes
DoDEA schools around the
globe





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 11, Issue 3

District Commander
Col. Antoinette Gant
Public Affairs Chief
Todd Hornback

Send articles to Louisville District
Public Affairs office at:
abby.n.korfhage@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CELRL-PA
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

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On the cover: The information center in McBride Elementary School at Fort Benning, Ga., demonstrates the 21st Century style of learning.
(USACE photo by Jared Korfhage)

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

Summer is here, and June has officially brought the warm weather. In case you did not know, June is National Safety Month. Our lakes' offices work particularly hard with water safety and taking care of the public this time of year, and I would encourage all of you to be engaged in what is going on around you and ensure that you are not compromising safety.

As the summer recreational season officially kicked off with the Memorial Day holiday, the district came together to celebrate and show appreciation for all those who have served. On Memorial Day, a large number of district employees, family members and friends braved the heat and gathered at the Louisville Bats baseball game to celebrate Military Appreciation Day. I was honored to throw out a ceremonial first pitch and to have the opportunity to fellowship with our district team.

We recently had a great day at the 2019 Corps Day. I hope that those who were able to participate had a great time and appreciated the opportunity to visit with family and friends outside of the office.

We have had a lot going on these past few months. Our emergency operations team has been busy helping the Little Rock District reduce the impacts of the flooding in the Midwest; many of our wonderful co-ops have graduated, and several teammates have received their Professional Engineer license or Project Management Professional certification. Our team continues to excel.

Please enjoy this issue of our Falls City Engineer as we highlight our Military Munitions Response Program at Camp Breckinridge, our DoDEA furniture program, the District's sandbagger machine and the work it has done around the U.S., and much, much more. We continue to do great things here at the Louisville District and are proud to showcase the efforts of our team.



Col. Antoinette Gant
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Remember to be safe over the upcoming 4th of July holiday and enjoy time with friends and family. As the weather continues to heat up and many families take vacations over the summer months, please be safe and look out for one another.

Thanks again for your teamwork, dedication, passion and hard work to execute and deliver our program for our stakeholders, users and ultimately our nation.

Building Strong and Taking Care of People!
We are LOUISVILLE PROUD!

Col. G

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BUILDING STRONG®

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Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Marine Board tours Olmsted Locks and Dam



Marine Board group members and federal sponsors view the wicket test pit at Olmsted Locks and Dam during a site tour May 15, 2019.

Katie Newton, public affairs

The Marine Board, part of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, toured the Olmsted Locks and Dam in Olmsted, Illinois May 15 as part of their three-day spring meeting held in Paducah, Kentucky.

The Marine Board is a source of expertise on maritime transportation and technology which identifies research needs and provides a forum for exchange of information relating to new technologies, laws and regulations, economics, the

environment and other issues affecting the marine transportation system.

Before their arrival at Olmsted, the stage was set by Mike Braden, Engineering Design Branch chief, and former Olmsted Division chief, during a presentation in Paducah highlighting “Inland Waterways Infrastructure Projects and the Bigger Picture.” Using Olmsted Locks and Dam as a case study the presentation focused on how current policies affect project delivery of inland waterways infrastructure projects.

“These funding constraints play a significant role at the operational level

on project delivery,” said Braden, who briefly described the challenges that the mega-project faced and the key factors that allowed for its completion.

“Efficient funding enabled the team to turn this project around,” Braden said. “That day in 2013 [when the project received the Post Authorization Change Report] was a big day for the project. You can see what our delivery teams can do when you turn them loose.”

Attendees had the opportunity to see the project — the Corps’ largest since the construction of the Panama Canal — later that afternoon.

“We’ve been following it for a number of years so this has been quite a treat to actually see it come to fruition,” said Rajiv Khandpur, U.S. Coast Guard, Waterways and Ocean Policy chief.

Olmsted Lockmaster Shane Byassee, provided the group of 27 marine board members and federal sponsors with an overview presentation on site before leading a tour to the wicket test pit and control tower. He explained that due to its location at the hub of the inland waterways system more than 90 million tons of commodities pass through Olmsted annually.

“Understanding the great importance of the inland waterways system, the Marine Board planned this trip to Olmsted to examine this infrastructure which we understand to be the lynchpin for

Continued on next page



Olmsted Lockmaster Shane Byassee led Marine Board members on a tour of the locks and dam.



As part of the visit, attendees were able to tour the state-of-the-art control tower at Olmsted Locks and Dam in Olmsted, Ill.

Continued from previous page

commerce on the system,” said Scott Brotemarkle, Marine Board Program director.

In addition to the tour on site Louisville District operations staff served as representatives for panel sessions during the course of the three-day meeting. Shawn Kenney, Locks and Dams Assistant Operations manager served on a panel discussing institutional considerations for the inland waterways. Tim Fudge, Operations Division chief, participated in a panel discussion facilitated by Marine Board Member retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, who served as the 53rd Chief of Engineers for USACE. The discussion which focused on system infrastructure challenges and opportunities.



Katie Newton

Steve Smith, construction representative at Olmsted Locks and Dam, provides attendees, including retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick who served as the 53rd Chief of Engineers for USACE, a briefing on how the dam's steel wickets work.

10-story tall crane turns into 3 million tons of scrap metal



Jim Hardesty

Using explosives, Olmsted Locks and Dam's super gantry crane turns into scrap metal, May 4, 2019.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The skyline at Olmsted Locks and Dam changed forever, May 4, 2019, as the super gantry crane, built especially for the construction of the Olmsted Dam in 2010, was demolished marking another significant milestone in the project's history.

With the flip of a detonator switch the crane was transformed into 3 million pounds of scrap metal. This method of removal proved to be the most innovative and cost effective as this type of demolition resulted in a savings to the government of more than \$1.1 million, according to Mick Awbrey, Olmsted Locks and Dam program manager.

In the absence of a recipient through the federal reutilization and sales process, it was determined that piece-by-piece disassembly cost would have resulted in a loss to the government of nearly \$1.3

million. Demolition using explosives cost less than one fourth that of disassembly and through sales of resulting scrap, the loss to the government was significantly reduced

providing a total savings to the government of \$1,137,376.

Louisville District Construction Representative Steve Smith was on site during the demolition.

“It was very exciting for everyone who has been here and involved with the project,” Smith said. “It was a monumental event and really marked the beginning stages of the project closing out.”

The super gantry crane helped build one of the largest construction projects in USACE's history. The steel structure moved pre-cast shells to the top of the marine skid-way from their positions in the pre-cast yard and was needed to lift, place and assemble sections of the new Olmsted Dam. What used to be the nation's largest gantry crane, had a lift capacity of 5,304 tons and stood 10 stories tall.

Rest in peace, super gantry crane. The Louisville District thanks you for all of your hard work and heavy lifting.



Jim Hardesty

More than 30,000 pounds of munitions debris found at former Camp Breckinridge

Shatara Riis, public affairs

Located in western Kentucky, 30 miles south of Evansville, Indiana, Camp Breckinridge was once used for infantry housing, combat training and medical care.

It also served as a prisoner of war camp for more than 3,000 German enlisted soldiers from 1943 to 1946. Throughout the 1950s, Camp Breckinridge opened for troop training related to a peacetime draft and the Korean War, followed by annual field training support for summer National Guard troops, Reserve Soldiers and Army Units Special Field Training.

“Training on this site was conducted with small arms, hand grenades, mortars and artillery,” said Clayton Hayes, project manager. “The camp was declared excess in 1962, and the land was disposed of over the following years.”

Due to past military training operations, numerous Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) were found on the site, leading to the development of the project.

According to Hayes, an estimated 1,200 MEC have been found at Camp Breckinridge, along with more than 30,000 pounds of munitions debris (MD). The majority of the items found range from



Contractors work to remove ordnance at the former Camp Breckenridge in Morganfield, Ky.

Todd Hornback

small hand grenades, mortars (60mm and 81mm), to large 105mm projectiles.

Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor are near the end of the field work in the Remedial Investigation phase. However, due to the extensive amounts of munitions found, a time critical removal action (TCRA) is underway in efforts to clean up certain areas with high concentrated amounts of MEC, Hayes said.

As stated by Hayes, the TCRA permitted additional funding for the removal/disposal action during the RI phase. As a result more resources were placed in the field to eradicate and dispose of the munitions while the RI phase is currently in progress – reducing the wait time by two or more years to start the removal action.

“The significant impact of this step greatly reduces the risk for the public to come in contact with MEC,” Hayes said.

One of the key aspects of projects of this nature is safety.

According to Hayes, this project is of particular importance to the Corps of Engineers because it carries a high risk score – for safety reasons. It is also ranked as one of the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection’s top projects.

“For environmental stewardship, it’s not good to leave contamination, especially where the public can directly be in contact with it,” Hayes said. “However, to the area residents, the project may not be so important, since they have been dealing with the munitions for many years and may not consider it as much of a threat. Fortunately, we’re not aware of any casualties or accidents associated with the

munitions there.”

Even though some residents may be comfortable with the munitions, it is still vital to recognize when one may have encountered a munition; retreat – do not touch, move or disturb it but leave the area the way it was found, and report the siting – call 911 and immediately notify law enforcement.

Progress and success of the project stem on partnership.

“Partnering among the many people and stakeholders (both internally and externally), acting as one cohesive team has been excellent,” Hayes said. “The coordination of activities has been very smooth, and we have great teams of experienced professionals in the UXO (unexploded ordnance) field who put safety first, and orchestrate the work very efficiently.”

There is still more work to be done.

The current contract consists of the RI/ Feasibility Study phase, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2020. However, subsequent phases of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA) process may take several years to complete. The total estimated cost to complete the project is approximately \$60 million.

“We still have much to do,” Hayes said. “(We) look forward to the successful completion of this work.”

The Camp Breckinridge Project Development team consists of Clayton Hayes, project manager; Nick Stolte, project engineer/contracting officer’s representative; and Jay Trumble, project engineer/technical manager.



A contractor discusses findings with Clayton Hayes, project manager, and Jay Trumble, environmental engineer, during a tour of the Camp Breckinridge site.

Todd Hornback

Louisville District furnishes DoDEA schools around the globe



A Zukeran Elementary School classroom on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, shows the 21st Century style of learning which was outfitted by the Louisville District furniture team.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

For the past five years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District has partnered with the Department of Defense Education Activity providing furniture and equipment for schools around the world.

DoDEA is a federally-operated school system, and according to their website, is responsible for planning, directing, coordinating and managing prekindergarten through 12th grade educational programs on behalf of the Department of Defense.

"We did our first project with DoDEA in 2014," said Brian Cash, Louisville District program manager.

Murray Elementary School at Fort Stewart in Georgia was the furniture team's first project, and the completion of that project helped build the relationship with DoDEA.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serves as DoDEA's construction contracting agent, and Louisville District's Brian Cash and Jared Korfhage are the primary project managers who oversee contract execution and furniture delivery. The DoDEA Furniture team also includes Budget Analyst Annette Mode who provides budget support for the program. Louisville District's interior designers primarily include Liche Sastro and Colleen Crum, and they provide Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment, also known as FF&E, with the attributes required for the 21st Century style of learning.

"We started with just procuring furniture, but the program has grown into

much more. For example, now we provide anything from broadcast and physical fitness equipment to security cameras," Korfhage said. "Whatever DoDEA and the school needs, we are there to support."

The furniture process includes the review of products, layouts and design colors. The team is also responsible for the contracting process, including shipping, installation, punch inspection and a post-occupancy visit to ensure quality assurance. The district team collaborates with the school's principal and teachers on the type of furniture they desire in the classrooms, kitchenette, storage space, group rooms, administration suites, health unit and common areas. Additional spaces that may need furniture and equipment could include an occupational and physical therapy room, computer lab and gymnasium. The team orders anything from typical furniture like tables and chairs to audio visual equipment, physical fitness equipment, fire extinguishers, AEDs, evacuation chairs and more.

"We enjoy working with DoDEA and take a lot of pride in what we do," Korfhage said. "To see the end product and students using what we've helped put together is very rewarding."

In addition to working with the schools, the Louisville District DoDEA Furniture team works diligently with DoDEA and conducts site visits at different phases throughout the project to include a furniture punch inspection at the end to ensure everything required has been received. The

team also provides guidance and direction to each vendor so they understand the requirements and expectations during the shipping and installation phase.

"Since 2014, we have helped with approximately 30 schools and are currently working on 11 more that will open between now and August 2020," Cash said. "In addition, there are 45 school projects that have been identified in the next 10 years."

DoDEA's schools are divided into three areas: Europe, Pacific and the Americas, and the Louisville District DoDEA furniture team assists in all three areas.

"We have projects in the United States, Korea, Japan, Germany, Spain and future projects in Italy, United Kingdom and Brussels," Cash said.

In Fiscal Year 2018, the DoDEA furniture program awarded \$13.5 million in contracts involving 19 schools, completed installs on eight schools and was officially assigned the outfitting program in February 2018. The outfitting program is made up of a team leading the 21st Century educational facility project. The outfitting team identifies stake holders and key players who are critical to the success of a new school opening.

"I have really enjoyed growing the program and working with the schools," Cash said. "The team has worked diligently to put ourselves in position to execute for several years to come."



Shown above is the Fort Campbell High School library in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Corps' automatic sandbagger is game changer in flood fights



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District employees, Todd Davis and Bob Burick, fill sandbags during a flood fight in Smithland, Ky., in February 2019 using the district's automatic sandbagging machine, which is capable of filling up to 1,000 sandbags per hour.

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is raising the bar for disaster response and touting its latest asset — automatic sandbagging machines, which can fill up to 1,000 sandbags per hour, drastically increasing efficiency when it's needed the most.

"The automatic sandbagging machine has proven valuable in multiple flood fights over the last year and is now considered the new standard," said USACE Louisville District Emergency Manager George Minges, whose office is becoming a center of expertise on the new tool.

The Louisville District deployed a team of six people in support of the flood fighting efforts along the Arkansas River in late May where the machine was used to fill more than 56,200 sandbags over the course of two weeks.

The concept was the brain-child of the Kansas City District Emergency Management Office as they saw the need for faster, more efficient sandbag-filling operations, years ago and worked with Express Scale Parts and Manufacturing out of Lenexa, Kansas to use their existing portable bagging technology to build a trailer-mounted sandbag machine.

USACE now has an inventory of 13 machines across the country that can be deployed quickly in an emergency upon request according to Minges.

"The state emergency operations center or any Corps of Engineers district can request them through the National Flood

Fight Materials Center in Rock Island, Illinois," Minges said.

The Louisville District's machine has already expended more than 100,000 sandbags after its latest mission in Arkansas. It was the first off the production line and deployed immediately in September 2018 to support flood fighting efforts in South Carolina after Hurricane Florence.

"By happenstance Hurricane Florence was targeting the East Coast when the National Flood Fight Material Center got a request for our assistance," Minges said.

In only a few short days it was used to fill 25,000 sandbags to protect areas like Conway, Georgetown and Pawley's Island

in South Carolina.

"This machine allows us to better support our partner agencies because we are able to respond faster and more efficiently," Minges said. "We can fill more sandbags with fewer people. It greatly increases our emergency response posture."

The sandbag machine is completely self-contained only requiring sand, sandbags, fuel and two operators making it extremely cost-effective and efficient. The entire bag-filling process takes less than 5 seconds.

"Using four to six guys you can get the same amount of bags filled in an hour as it would take 20 guys filling them with shovels," Minges said. "It's not nearly as labor intensive so you don't fatigue the workers as bad."

The automatic sandbagging machine was a game changer in the February 2019 flooding in Smithland, Kentucky. There, along the sprawling riverbank, were crews of up to 100 people pitching in to fill sandbags in hopes of holding back the mighty Ohio River. When the Corps arrived with the new sandbagging machine in tow it was a welcomed sight.

"It's a wonderful tool — it's like a rolling billboard when we show up to flood fights," Minges said. "They know the Corps is there."

In February 2019 the machine proved invaluable in the flood fighting efforts in Smithland and farther south in Jamestown, Kentucky, in support of the Nashville District where it was used to fill 25,000 bags. In both events the machine filled

Continued on next page



Rob Nicolson, Louisville District, stands by a stockpile of sandbags that were filled for the City of Little Rock, Ark., during the flood fight in June 2019.

Continued from previous page

sandbags to provide extra support for the construction of temporary gabion baskets and geocell structures.

“When you couple them together the time it takes to build something just goes down exponentially,” Minges said. “There is always going to be a need for sandbags to wrap corners and things like that on the barriers, and this makes it all so much faster.”

Because of the Louisville District’s flood fighting expertise they have been named as the proponent to train other districts across the region.

Minges and Andrew Fleming, emergency management specialists, who are relied on across the region for their expertise, have conducted operator trainings for the Rock Island, Detroit and Baltimore districts in addition to numerous trainings for state and local responders throughout Indiana and Kentucky. During the Arkansas flood fight the team delivered just-in-time classroom training on flood fighting tactics and techniques for Little Rock District personnel.

Louisville District Emergency Management staff assisted in the completion of a field guide, which will be printed by the USACE Readiness and Support Center in Mobile, Alabama to be pushed across USACE on how to operate the machines.

“We are happy to share our expertise to better the enterprise as a whole and raise the bar for USACE flood fighting responses,” Minges said.

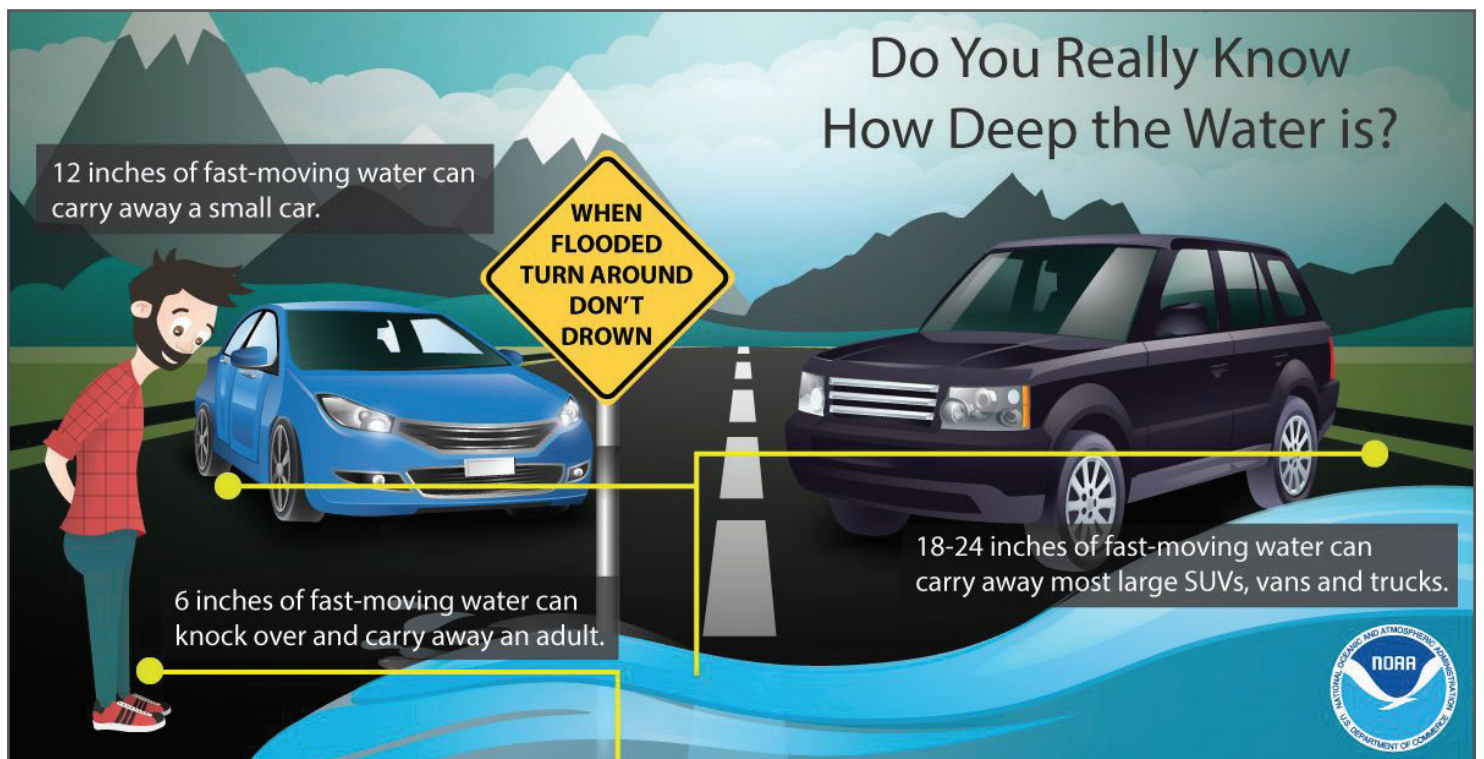


Louisville District's Emergency Operations staff operate a hydraulic sandbag filler in Horry County, S.C., in support of Hurricane Florence flood risk management efforts across the region, Sept. 17, 2018. When disasters occur, USACE teams and other resources are mobilized from across the country to assist FEMA, state and county efforts regarding flood response.

Louisville District's Sandbag Machine Numbers:

(in less than one year of service)

- 100,000 sandbags expended
- Fills 500-1,000 sandbags per hour
- 10 trained operators in the Louisville District
- Requested for 5 different flood fight events
- Used for 9 training events for USACE/local responders



District participates in Louisville Bats Military Appreciation Day game

Shatara Riis, public affairs

On a scorcher of a day, many of the Louisville District employees, family members and friends enjoyed America's favorite pastime at Slugger Field to celebrate Military Appreciation Day, where they saw the Louisville Bats beat the Toledo Mud Hens on Memorial Day, May 27, 2019.

While Memorial Day honors servicemembers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation, the Louisville Bats paid tribute to all servicemen and women who have honorably served.

But, this wasn't just another day at the ballpark. It was Memorial Day – a day to remember those who have defended our freedoms and the American way of life.

"When deployed in 2009-10 to Afghanistan, a Soldier from our battalion was killed. It was really hard for the entire battalion to grasp the loss of our comrade. There isn't a single day that goes by that men and women such as he, are not sorely missed by their family, friends and brothers/sisters who don the uniform," said Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant. "I read somewhere, 'It isn't without loss that we truly value what we have gained.' We owe those who have passed away in combat our unwavering gratitude for giving their life to maintain the safety and prosperity for this nation and many others across the world."

The Bats honored military personnel from nearby Fort Knox, April 28, but on



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant takes a moment to pose with mascot Buddy Bat and disabled veteran Roy Gray with the Paralyzed Veterans Association and his service dog at the Louisville Bats Military Appreciation Day game held Memorial Day at Slugger Field.



Louisville District employees enjoy the Louisville Bats game with family and friends on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day, they officially recognized the many veterans, National Guard, Reserve and active-duty servicemembers working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I think it's great that the Bats host Military Appreciation events," said Laurie Fudge, Engineering Division administrative officer. "It was worthwhile for me to attend this event because it gave me a relaxing, fun day out with my husband, and it also gave us the opportunity to thank and to socialize with other veterans."

The crowd cheered and applauded as the Bats recognized serving military members and veterans by having those in attendance stand.

"I was overjoyed to participate in such an event. It was such an overwhelming, elated feeling when I looked around the stadium to see so many servicemen and women in my own agency as well as others," said Anthony Johnson, Air Force veteran and Corps of Engineers mail clerk. "This is the kind of organized event that connects us to a hard part of our lives – patriotic duty ... to know we survived."

To kick off the start of the game, Col. Gant threw out a ceremonial first pitch. Following the ceremonial first pitch, came the posting of the colors and the singing of The Star-Spangled Banner.

Steve Farkus, an Army veteran and Corps of Engineers project manager said he was very appreciative of the recognition and thankful to retailers for the veteran incentives they offer.

"It was a great way to collectively think of our mission and for me to remember Soldiers who gave their lives for our country," Farkus said.

Initially, the Bats struggled in the 80 F heat to make things happen before their home crowd of nearly 6,000 fans, and the Toledo Mud Hens held firm control with a 5-0 lead early on.

But the Bats would rally back in the 6th inning with six runs to seize the lead. They never looked back, scoring an additional four runs in the 7th and 8th innings, sending the Mud Hens home with a 10-6 loss.

"What an honor it is to be asked to participate in the Bats Military Appreciation Day Game. I continuously think about those who served during the Vietnam era and were not welcomed home or publicly appreciated for their service," Gant said. "It is great to see organizations such as the Louisville Bats take the time to recognize those who have served and continue to serve to protect the freedoms of our nation."



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant throws out a ceremonial first pitch at the Louisville Bats Military Appreciation Day game held Memorial Day at Slugger Field.

Employee deploys to support debris cleanup following Hurricane Michael



Collected debris is piled high at one of 25 Temporary Debris Storage & Reduction (TDSR) sites in southwest Georgia.

Shatara Riis, public affairs

Traditionally, deployment and mobilization are associated with military personnel – active duty, Guard and Reserve.

However, there are Department of the Army civilians who volunteer to deploy in support of statewide and worldwide missions.

Marty Wahking, Louisville District Environmental Branch Section chief, returned from a deployment to the state of Georgia in April of this year.

Wahking, who has worked 25 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has deployed five times – twice to Iraq, twice to the Virgin Islands and most recently, to the state of Georgia, following Hurricane Michael for disaster duty.

“(For this deployment) I received a phone call on a Monday afternoon and was on the road to Georgia on Wednesday morning,” Wahking said. “It was pretty quick. The need for a mission manager in Georgia came out from headquarters.”

While there, Marty’s role as the mission manager was to organize and communicate all field activities, coordinate and plan staffing needs as personnel moved in and out of the debris mission.

According to Wahking, he would have meetings throughout the morning with his staff, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the 13 affected county commissioners and the debris contractor. FEMA, GEMA and the county commissioners required daily reporting of the previous day’s activities, which included the amount of debris collected, reduced and hauled out for disposition.

During the afternoon, if he wasn’t coordinating and planning personnel actions, he would visit sites that needed his direct attention. His day concluded in a final meeting with his resident engineers, environmental specialist and safety manager.

Marty went into this debris mission with the expectation of accomplishing everything he could to get the people and communities of southwest Georgia back to their normal environment and lifestyle.

“Perfect example was one of our TDSRs (Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction Sites) was located in the gravel parking lot of one of the Little League fields in Terrell County,” Wahking said. “We had to get 60,000 cubic yards of debris reduced, hauled off to the final disposal area and the site restored, so the kids could start Little League.”

While his deployment missions have been unique, going to Georgia was mind-boggling because of the total magnitude of vegetative debris.

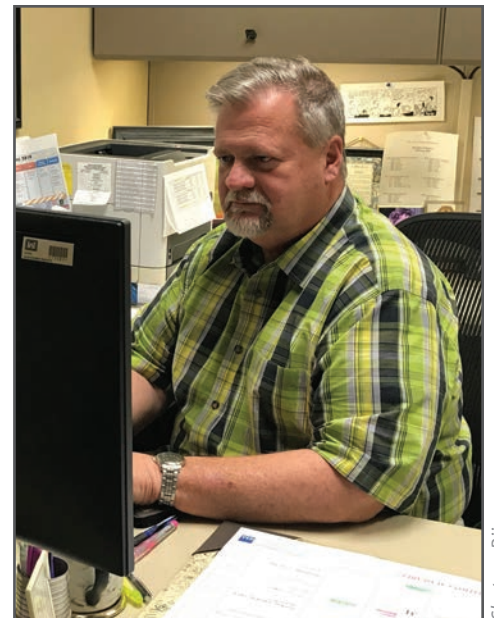
“We wound up collecting 4.2 million cubic yards of vegetative debris at 25 TDSRs with 34 FDS (final disposal sites),” Wahking said. “Our debris mission boundaries included 13 counties (approximately 5,200 square miles). It would take 2.5 hours to drive from our farthest south TDSR to the farthest north TDSR.”

With the expanse of the debris and what seemed to be an insurmountable hill, “We wrapped the debris mission up under budget by \$60 million and two weeks ahead of schedule,” Wahking said. “The best thing I like about disaster duty is being able to impact the lives of people and communities that have just sustained

a devastating blow to their livelihood. Personally, I love the logistics of planning and coordinating personnel and equipment to execute the mission in the most efficient way. The challenges of the always-changing requirements and priorities are just awesome.”

According to noaa.gov, Hurricane Michael is the first hurricane to make landfall in the United States as a Category 5 since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and only the fourth on record. The others are the Labor Day Hurricane in 1935 and Hurricane Camille in 1969. Michael is also the strongest hurricane landfall on record in the Florida Panhandle and only the second known Category 5 landfall on the northern Gulf coast.

“We’ve had a huge amount of disasters over the past (few) years,” Wahking said. “We have a great resource of USACE personnel who are willing to volunteer; however, we could always use more. For this debris mission only, we had around 440 USACE personnel from 43 different USACE home stations – from district to headquarters offices responding. All knowing they have jobs and bosses that need them and coworkers who are covering for them – volunteering is a burden to their current job and families, but they are still willing to help people out. The personal satisfaction of helping people get back to their normal lives is super rewarding.”



Marty Wahking, Environmental Engineering Section chief, works on tasks at his computer work station. Wahking served as the mission manager from February to April of 2019 in support of the southwest Georgia debris mission, following the destruction caused by Hurricane Michael.