

Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

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Corps completes
Contingency Operations
Area for Cadets





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 10, Issue 2

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On the cover: A new bed-down facility at Fort Knox offers cadets a place to recharge during tactical training.
(USACE photo by Katie Newton)

 **Please conserve:**
Think before you print.

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

Summer is here! June is national safety month which focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road, in our homes and communities. It is important that we continue to deliver safety messages, especially water safety messages during our busiest season for recreation and outdoor activities. Be aware not only at work, but also during non-duty hours, of your surroundings and do not compromise your safety. You are a vital member of the Louisville team and play an important role in our ability to serve.

As the weather continues to heat up and summer vacations start, be safe and look out for one another. This is especially true over the upcoming 4th of July holiday. Enjoy the time with family and friends.

The save the date announcement for the Olmsted Ribbon Cutting has officially been released. This project has been 30 years in the making and we are now less than 90 days away from the grandest of ceremonies to celebrate this achievement—the premier event for USACE in 2018.

Please enjoy this issue of our Falls City Engineer as we highlight projects at Fort Knox, our dam safety team, Indiana Silver Jackets team and much more. We continue to do great things here at the Louisville District and are proud to showcase the efforts of our team. I am certainly Louisville Proud!



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

Thanks again for your dedication, passion and hard work to execute and deliver as a member of the Louisville District.

Building Strong and Taking Care of People! We are Louisville Proud!

Col. G

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Save the Date for Olmsted Ribbon Cutting



John Kelly, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has distributed Save the Dates for the Olmsted Ribbon Cutting ceremony, slated to happen August 29 at

the Olmsted Locks and Dam project in Olmsted, Illinois.

This is an event which has been a goal of the Louisville District for the past 30 years.

The project's completion is critical to keeping America's water highway moving. Bottlenecks along America's 25,000 miles of inland waterways occur in a stretch of southern Illinois where the Ohio River meets the Mississippi, and the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers splinter off. Boats carry up to 90 million tons of commodities annually on average while transiting this stretch of the Ohio River.

The Olmsted Locks and Dam project offers approximately \$640 million in annual benefits to the nation. Even at the estimated completion cost of \$2.77 billion, the project will pay for itself in a few short years.

Capt. Jeremiah Nichols has been the project engineer on site for the past two years. During which time he has helped lead through flooding events, construction execution and management of the site.

When asked how this event will dovetail with history, "The Olmsted Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be a great event," Nichols said. "It will pay tribute to all the hard work invested in Olmsted's construction over the last 30 years."

The Olmsted Ribbon Cutting will happen August 29, 2018 at 10 a.m. CDT.

Mike Braden receives award from Engineering News Record

Mike Braden, Louisville District Olmsted Division Chief, was recently recognized in the Engineering News Record (ENR) magazine as one of the 25 Top Newsmakers of 2017.

According to ENR, this award recognizes individuals who have served the best interests of the construction industry and the public. While the nominees come from every market sector and represent many professions, the winners all have three things in common: they innovate, they overcome challenges, and their accomplishments offer benefits that will have an impact beyond their own companies or institutions.

Braden accepted this prestigious award April 5, 2018, in New York at ENR's awards banquet. Mike Braden developed, staffed and gained approval of a construction plan that was successful in reaching project completion four years earlier than expected and \$330 million below its 2013 budgeted cost. This is an outstanding achievement by Mike Braden, the Olmsted team and many others.



Mike Braden, Olmsted division chief, was recognized as one of Engineering News Record's Top 25 Newsmakers of 2017 at the Engineering News Record awards banquet in New York April 5, 2018.

Dam Safety team preps for 'rainy day' at Taylorsville Lake



Jeff Esterle, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Program Manager leads emergency management officials and Corps representatives through the Emergency Action Plan Table Top Exercise at Taylorsville Lake May 16, 2018. The mock exercises allow for inter-agency preparation and coordination in the event of an emergency, such as a dam failure.

Katie Newton, public affairs

Even though it was a sunny day, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District representatives and local emergency management agencies gathered at the Taylorsville Lake Visitor's Center May 16, to prepare for less ideal weather conditions and potential emergency situations, such as a dam failure.

The table top exercise allows all parties to run through different emergency scenarios from a minor spillway event to a complete dam failure to identify ways to better communicate and work efficiently in case of an event.

"First off, the dam at Taylorsville Lake is very low risk, it's in very good shape

and functioning very well," said Jeff Esterle, USACE Louisville District dam safety program manager. "It's actually the youngest of all the dams in our Louisville District inventory—built in 1983."

The Corps wants to focus on preparation and coordination to have a risk informed dam safety program. The dam safety team leads similar exercises for each of our 20 flood risk management dams in the Louisville District's inventory every two to five years.

"In these meetings we can work with emergency managers and downstream stakeholders to coordinate and emphasize having a risk informed dam safety program," said Esterle.

The exercise included walking through the Emergency Action Plan for Taylorsville Lake including three different mock scenarios—a spillway flow event, possible dam failure and an actual dam failure.

Working through the scenarios allows for discussion about communication across agencies, the public notification process, the emergency assistance request process, road closures and evacuation procedures.

It also gives USACE a chance to confirm that emergency management agencies are aware of the correct processes—for example—how to request federal government assistance for pumps and sandbags.

USACE can then identify any areas that may need improvement to smooth the process.

"The exercise is really intended to be low-stress," Esterle told participants. "It's an opportunity to talk through things and to go through ways we can improve our communication in a possible future event. It hopefully helps you and helps us prepare for future actions," he said.

Participants found the exercise to be worthwhile in helping to avoid potential future issues. "It was very beneficial," said Mike Driscoll, Taylorsville/Spencer County Levee Commission sponsor. "It brought up some scenarios to help us on the levee so it was a really good meeting for us."

Another six table top exercises are scheduled in 2018 for dams in the district's inventory.

Safety Tips: prepare for the unexpected

Emergency situations can happen at any time, making it crucial that you are prepared for the unexpected long before it happens.

- Research and prepare for natural disasters common to your area, such as floods, earthquakes or tornadoes
- Create an emergency kit for both your home and car
- Create a home emergency plan with your family and learn how to shut off your utilities
- Be a good participant in emergency drills at work and school by following instructions and paying attention to lessons learned
- Store important phone numbers, including those of family members, with other important documents in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box

Source: National Safety Council

Age 13 and under must wear life jackets at Indiana Corps lakes

Todd Hornback, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District will be enforcing a U.S. Coast Guard issued regulation 33CFR 175 at its Indiana reservoirs requiring children under the age of 13 to wear an appropriate life jacket when on a moving vessel or outside of an enclosed cabin.

Indiana is one of 10 states where mandatory Personal Flotation Device wear laws do not exist. The USCG regulation states all children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket while recreation vessels are underway.

"Once they anchor they do not have to wear one anymore," said Tyler Blankenship, a park ranger at Monroe Lake in Bloomington, Indiana, "although we advise the life jackets remain on. If the boat is underway, even by a trolling motor, the requirement is in effect. We are doing this to protect the children."

Blankenship, who serves as the chair of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water

Safety Team for the Louisville District, takes water safety seriously.

"It's a life and death situation—especially for children—and we have lost too many children across the nation's lakes. It takes seconds for a child to drown and requiring children under 13 to wear life jackets will help save lives."

In Indiana, the Corps will enforce the requirements at USACE reservoirs including the Middle Wabash Area lakes at Monroe, Bloomington; Cagles Mill, Poland; Patoka, Dubois; and Cecil M. Harden Lake, Rockville.

"Our focus is to educate lake visitors to the regulation requirements. As the recreational season goes into full swing, we want visitors to be safe and wear life jackets," Blankenship said. "We expect most families will follow the new guidance and we will be understanding as we transition into this season. We can issue warnings and for repeat offenders, citations."

Kentucky law requires:

- passengers 12 years of age or under to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while underway on any open boat or when on the open deck of any type of boat.

Ohio law requires life jackets to be worn:

- while riding a personal watercraft
- while waterskiing or being towed on a similar device
- for children less than 10 years of age on any vessel less than 18 feet in length

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Safety first at Ireland Medical Clinic project

Katie Newton, public affairs

It has been six months since dirt turned on the Ireland Army Health Clinic Replacement Facility Project at Fort Knox, Kentucky and the structure—now nearly 20 percent complete—has been built with zero lost-time accidents.

Safety has been paramount to USACE and its construction contractor, Mortenson Construction Company, out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who made sure to pause for a focus on safety during this year's National Safety Week held May 7-11, 2018. Safety week is a national initiative where more than 80 companies and thousands of workers join together with the goal of keeping each other safe.

"In participating in safety week it gives everyone an extra opportunity to focus on safety and to reward our craft workers on this project where we are now 180 days in without an injury," said Darl Flake, Mortenson Project Manager. "We're not taking any risks."

Mortenson Construction Company hosted a safety lunch May 10 for approximately 50 workers on site and additional events were held throughout the week including safety trivia, safety videos, and safety demonstrations from vendors on tools and equipment. They asked workers



The steel structure of the new Ireland Medical Clinic at Fort Knox is now complete with a topping off ceremony held June 14 to highlight the construction milestone of the final beam being placed.

to post reminders on a bulletin board of 'why they work safe' and hosted a coloring contest to involve their families.

"Safety is a family thing; it affects everyone," said Flake.

Carl Lindsay, lead construction representative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Fort Knox Resident Office, emphasized his appreciation for the contractor's focus on safety.

"They have an exemplary safety program," said Lindsay. "They are a robust, healthy partner to the Corps of Engineers for this project that we are building in support of the community."

The new \$80 million clinic will provide the Fort Knox community with a state-of-the-art facility to provide patient and family centered care to its patients. The medical clinic replacement facility will include primary and specialty care, behavioral health, ancillary services and administrative support activities.

The two-story, 101,373 square-foot facility is twenty percent complete overall with the steel beam structure now complete and some plumbing and electrical work already underway. During the month of June the construction crew will focus on roofing and exterior framing.

"The project is ahead of scheduled," said Ken Jagers, USACE construction representative for the project. "They have changed the schedule to push forward and get us to this point."

The clinic is scheduled to open to patients in 2020 after which the existing Ireland Army Community Hospital, which serves the present Fort Knox community, will be demolished.

"We are honored to be a part of this to help bring a state-of-the-art medical facility to this base and replace one of the oldest active hospitals the Army had in operations," said Jagers.



Mortenson Construction Company, the Louisville District's construction contractor responsible for building the medical clinic, hosted a safety lunch May 10 for approximately 50 workers on site during safety week.

Corps completes Contingency Operations Area for Cadets

Katie Newton, public affairs

After a long day of tactical training cadets at Fort Knox, Kentucky now have a new bed-down facility where they can recharge overnight.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently completed the five-acre site making room for 1,400 cadets to sleep, shower and dine.

"It's a quiet area and a good place for them to decompress a little bit," said Carl Lindsay, lead construction representative for the Corps' Fort Knox Resident Office. "With a training area like this we try to simulate realistic conditions for the cadets to be able to experience how they will serve."

The \$1.8 million project, constructed by Semper Tek, Lexington, Kentucky, created gravel access roads and a parking lot along with concrete pads for the temporary dining facility, latrines, showers, dumpsters and 35 tents, which will each sleep approximately

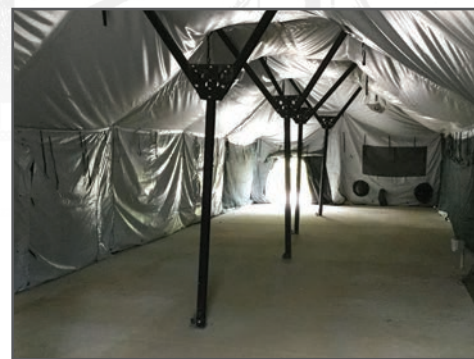


Cadets training at Fort Knox will stay in the recently completed bed-down facility complete with tents, showers, latrines and a dining facility.

25-40 cadets comfortably.

Additionally, electric power was supplied to all tent pads and a water line installed to shower trailer pads and a new fire hydrant.

"We also constructed an overhead lightning protection system, which is fully functional and will help keep them safe when they're using the facility during



Katie Newton

storms," said Lindsay.

Construction is now complete with only minor seeding work for erosion control to take place before Cadets enter for training operations in late May.

"The Cadets will stay with us for the summer," said Lindsay. "So from now until late August this place will be swarming with Cadets."

Construction in session at Fort Knox Middle School

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is in the home stretch of completing the Fort Knox Middle School in Kentucky.

The \$23 million project is now 80 percent complete with turnover expected later this year. The 2019 school year will

welcome approximately 385 students to a new twenty-first century Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school.

"The layout follows the new DoDEA school concept with an open learning environment with three learning hubs, learning studios, and open, adaptable

areas with operable partitions," said Alex McCoy, USACE Louisville District Project Engineer.

The 51,000 square-foot school differs from the cinder-block schools from the past. It has a bright color scheme of oranges, greens and blues running throughout, large skylights in the main areas, and a courtyard intended as an oasis for students.

"It's a unique feature that will be really nice for the kids," said Carl Lindsay, lead construction representative. "It's a place they can go eat lunch during the nicer weather and can also be used as a privilege for good behavior."

Students of the new school have already had an opportunity to learn from the construction process.

"We partnered with our contractor, Walsh Construction Company, to do STEM sessions where the students toured the site to see the construction and had a chance to ask questions," said McCoy.

USACE and Walsh covered what engineering and construction careers offer. "It really grew their interest," said McCoy. "It allowed them to see how their subject matter in the classroom applies to what they just saw on the ground."



Concrete work continues on the exterior of Fort Knox Middle School.

Katie Newton

Grand Rapids Target Range project reaches concurrence, closeout



View from atop the large berm, which served as a backstop to stop stray bullets during target practice at the Grand Rapids National Guard Target Range project in Michigan. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has determined that No Further Action is necessary at the formerly used defense site successfully closing all open projects at the property.

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has recently determined No Further Action (NFA) is needed at the Grand Rapids National Guard Target Range (NGTR) near Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This determination closes the last open project at the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and puts the bookend on a 28-year environmental investigation.

“The project has had its share of challenges, but due to a great working relationship with the state regulator—Michigan Department of Environmental Quality—the project has moved forward and received concurrence,” said Angela Schmidt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Risk Assessor.

The site currently forms the northern most portion of the Donald Lamoreaux County Park, but historically was used as a target range by the Michigan Militia, now known as the Michigan National Guard. They used the site for small arms marksmanship practice and non-explosive mortar training using 0.30, 0.38, and 0.45-caliber ammunition. Because of this, lead pellets (residual lead) were scattered among the target pit and the large berm behind it leaving debate over how residual lead should be addressed.

“When the Army turned the property over to be used as a park in the early

1970s – we had cleaned it all up except in a large berm where residual lead and pellets remained,” said Schmidt.

Concentrations found in previous studies by the Corps were misrepresented due to pieces of lead pellets being in some samples and causing exceedances of screening values.

“A lot of times when you have a strict exceedance of a screening value we are forced into action unnecessarily, but in this case by partnering and dissecting previous studies we were able to be very successful,” said Schmidt.

“We held a workshop with MDEQ in December and sat down and hammered it out,” she said. “We looked at data, at site conditions, at distribution of lead – we looked at all things collectively to come up with a common-sense, yet protective solution.”

After the re-evaluation USACE and MDEQ ultimately agreed that any residual lead in the surface soil was not in concentrations great enough to pose a significant threat to human health or the environment. No additional analysis or remedial actions were warranted and a NFA determination was made for the target range area.

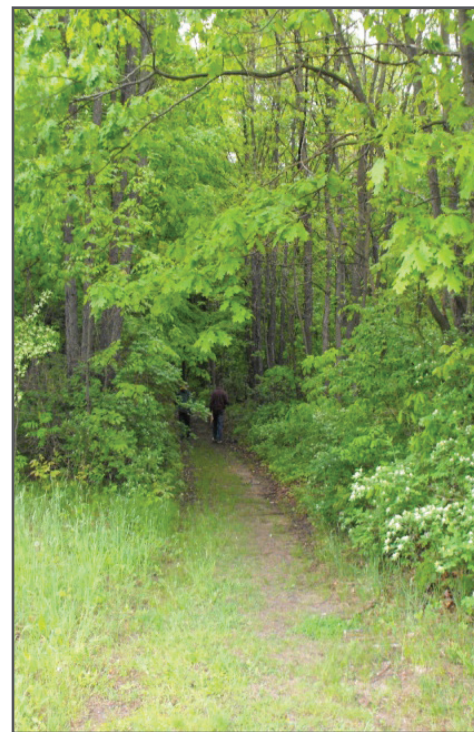
“Lead is a stable compound, it is part of a natural environment, it has a slow decomposition rate and has little effect on

the environment when it is in a solid form like an ore. Lead is naturally occurring and the berm is now covered in grass – it’s not bioavailable,” said Schmidt.

“By having a No Further Action here we’re preserving the natural resources,” said Schmidt.

The benefits include preserving the park by having no destruction or disturbance to the park or its operations or ecology, economic benefits of saving money from not conducting a removal action or having future land-use controls in place, societal benefits to the community that it can continue to be used as a park as intended, and additionally there are no disturbances to the environment by pulling clean fill dirt from another location.

“With cooperation, diligence, and everyone doing their job to the best of their ability we came together at the right time to be able to make this a No Further Action project,” said Schmidt. “The biggest thing was going back and looking at the site with a different set of eyes. We were worlds apart, but then once we worked together and formed a common strategy we had success.”



The pathway to the large berm is currently part of the Donald Lamoreaux County Park in Kent County, Michigan. The USACE, with concurrence from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, has determined the site poses no threat to human health and the environment and No Further Action (NFA) is needed.

Camp Ellis community updated on munitions removal

Katie Newton, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Louisville District hosted a public meeting May 15, 2018, at the Bernadotte Township Hall near the former Camp Ellis Military Reservation –a formerly used defense site (FUDS) in Table Grove, Illinois. The team provided an update to local residents on the status of the remedial action being conducted to remove munitions from the Aircraft Bombing Area (Area D) and the Obstacle Area (Area M).

The latest field effort, which began in January of 2018 with digital metal detector surveys is now using more advanced instruments to refine the list of anomalies to be excavated and removed.

Throughout the spring the investigation has uncovered a total of 15 munitions confirmed to present an explosive safety hazard, and another 18 that may potentially present an explosive hazard. Items recovered from the former Obstacle Area included M1 practice mines with M1A2 fuze. Items recovered from the former Aircraft Bombing Area included M43A1 TP 81mm mortars.

“Completion of this action will address our priority to mitigate safety issues potentially posed to the community by unexploded ordnance,” explained USACE Louisville District project delivery team members Valerie Doss and Cynthia Ries.

More than 125,000 troops trained at Camp Ellis during World War II and approximately 7,000 German and Austrian Prisoners of War were housed there in the 1940s. Camp Ellis was used from 1943 to 1950 for various types of military training including small arms and munitions training. USACE initiated environmental response at the roughly 18,000-acre Camp Ellis property in the 1990s. Upon completion of remedial actions currently under contract, approximately 17,400 acres will require no further response.



Valerie Doss

Members of the public gather at a meeting May 15, 2018, for an update about the current remedial action taking place at the Former Camp Ellis Military Reservation in Table Grove, Illinois.



USACE

An 81mm Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) item was recovered from the Aircraft Bombing Area (Area D) May 17, 2018.



USACE

Series of M1 Practice Landmines recovered from a pit at the Former Camp Ellis Military Reservation.

Indiana team wins Silver Jackets Team of the Year award

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The Indiana Silver Jackets team has been awarded the 2017 Silver Jackets Team of the Year honor. This award was presented to the team May 3, 2018 during the Interagency Flood Risk Management Community of Practice Training Seminar in Indianapolis.

The Silver Jacket Team of the Year award recognizes an outstanding interagency team that exemplifies the goal of effective flood risk management within the context of shared responsibility. The award seeks to acknowledge the efforts of state teams as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers transitions from flood risk reduction to management of flood risk through communication, cooperation, coordination and collaboration with federal, state, regional, tribal and local partners.

Members of developing and active state teams were invited to vote for their selection via a website.

"I was very pleased that the Indiana team was voted on by the other teams as the team of the year," said Brandon Brummett, Louisville District outreach coordinator and Indiana Silver Jackets coordinator.

The Indiana Silver Jackets Team has served the citizens of the state of Indiana



The Department of Homeland Security presents the Indiana Silver Jackets team members the 2017 Silver Jackets Team of the Year award May 3, 2018 in Indianapolis.

for more than 11 years. Team members meet monthly where their collaboration assists in addressing issues and advancing the implementation of multiple flood risk management projects. The team has led efforts examining fluvial erosion hazards—a flood risk that most federal and state agencies have no authority to address. The team also continues efforts with Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis to use LiDAR data and GIS technology to identify non-levee embankments along streams and has led

the way in development of flood inundation map libraries throughout the state. To date, over 40 sites have been developed.

"This team is one of the highest functioning teams I have ever been a part of and really has a can-do attitude," said Brummett.

USACE Louisville District Silver Jackets team members include Brandon Brummett, Nate Moulder, Chuck Oliver, Richard Pruitt, Todd Hagman and Roger Setters (retired).

Louisville hosts business opportunities open house

Nearly 300 contractors attended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District business opportunities open house June 6, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The free event was an opportunity for

all interested contractors and other parties to meet with USACE senior leaders, staff and contracting officials from the district to learn how small businesses can work with the Corps. The event consisted of two

identical sessions to ensure all attendees were able to maximize their time during the networking event.

"The purpose of the business opportunities open house was to gain a greater database and promote positive relationships with the large and small business community, explaining our unique missions and projects, meet firm's members, and publicize the mission and projects for the district," said Crystal Harbin, Louisville District Small Business Deputy. "This is a great way for firms to build partnerships not only with the Corps but with other firms for subcontracting opportunities."

The Louisville District recently held an open house in January 2018 where district leaders presented on the upcoming projects, but this business opportunities open house was a less formal event and gave the contractors an opportunity to specifically target the projects they were interested in.



Crystal Harbin, Louisville District deputy for small business, talks with contractors about small business opportunities at the open house June 6, 2018 in Louisville, Ky.