Falls City Engineer

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USACE, partners successfully remove Barren River Lock and Dam 1

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On the cover: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with The Nature Conservancy as a supporting partner, have successfully removed Barren River Lock and Dam 1 on the Barren River in Warren County, Kentucky. Photo by Mike Wilkinson.

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Commander's Comments

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

Team Louisville,

First and foremost, I want to say congratulations to the entire Louisville District Team. We have successfully closed out another fiscal year! These past two months have been incredibly eventful, and our team has answered the call.

As we closed out FY22, our contracting team executed 2,393 actions, and obligated more than $874 million, making our district rank third in number of actions executed in the enterprise and eighth highest in total obligations.

We also said a bittersweet farewell to Linda Murphy - a true legend in the Army Corps of Engineers - and greeted our new Deputy District Engineer, John Bock.

In this issue of the Falls City Engineer, we highlight several of our projects and missions to include: The Louisville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Barren River Lock and Dam 1 removal, Indiana Silver Jackets' wetlands educational outreach efforts, DoDEA's Patch Elementary School opening, the career of Linda Murphy, HQ Climate Champion Award winner Brantley Thames, Cyber Security Awareness, and Real Estate Division's recruiting mission.

As we begin FY23, I want to thank everyone for their dedication to the district's mission. I am very proud of our Louisville team, and I look forward to watching the district continue to lead across this region to deliver for our partners and stakeholders with world-class excellence.

Building Strong, Louisville Proud!

Col. Eric Crispino

Eric D Crispino

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USACE, partners successfully remove Barren River Lock and Dam 1

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with The Nature Conservancy as a supporting partner, have successfully removed Barren River Lock and Dam 1 on the Barren River in Warren County, Kentucky.

"We were excited to partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy on the removal of Barren River Lock and Dam 1," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Project Manager Chris Wernick.

The lock and dam was originally built in 1841 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky at River Mile 15, about 15 miles downstream of Bowling Green, Kentucky, for commercial use. The federal government acquired the property in 1886 and later constructed a second lock chamber in 1933-1934. It ceased operation May 1965 after Green River Lock and Dam 4 failed and navigation on the Barren River was no longer possible. Since then, the structure had deteriorated, causing a significant slump across a large portion of the top of the dam and a scour hole under the dam. Consequently, the dam was currently in an active state of failure. The structure has sat unused, creating a pooled condition in the river with lower oxygen levels, more sediment, and higher temperatures—conditions that are detrimental for aquatic life and the overall health of the river. The dam also presented a barrier to boat traffic and presented a public safety hazard. Removal helped address all of these challenges.

Mike Wilkinson

Barren River Lock and Dam 1's structure, originally built in 1841 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for commercial use, had deteriorated and was in an active state of failure. Federal legislation, under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, was signed into law in 2016 deauthorizing the lock and dam site from the USACE inventory and directing its removal.

Mike Wilkinson

Aerial photo of Barren River Lock and Dam 1 being removed from the Barren River in Warren County, Kentucky. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with The Nature Conservancy as a supporting partner, successfully removed Barren River Lock and Dam 1 on the Barren River in Warren County, Kentucky.

Federal legislation, under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, was signed into law in 2016 deauthorizing the lock and dam site from the USACE inventory and directing its removal.

"The removal process started in mid-July and the team has worked hard to ensure we were removing the unsafe dam, which was in an active state of failure, in a safe and controlled manner," Wernick said.

USACE, TNC and USFWS were in close coordination with Bowling Green Municipal Utilities in preparing for the removal. Out of an abundance of caution, USACE performed additional surveys to further validate that water supply intakes should not be impacted by the dam removal.

"Overall, Barren River 1 was actively failing, and the potential safety hazards or other risks were too uncertain to not move forward with removal," Wernick said.

The dam was dismantled by dam removal personnel who were overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With the dam removed, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue improving and stabilizing the shoreline which is anticipated to be completed by the middle of October.

"The aquatic benefits from this project will be significant," said Allan Brown, assistant regional director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation for the Service's Southeast Region. "Fish passage and fishing access to anglers will be improved, and the aquatic habitat improvements will be measured in miles of better fish and mussel habitat."

Louisville District, Indiana Silver Jackets educate public about importance of wetlands

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Over the last few months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District partnered with Indiana Silver Jackets and other Indiana state and federal agencies to host several educational outreach workshops for Indiana wetlands throughout the state.

The intent of these workshops was to deliver an educational outreach program for Indiana communities focusing on the importance of wetlands and how they impact water quality and reduce flood risk.

"We worked in partnership with several agencies - the team's level of collaboration really built these workshops and ArcGIS Story Map from the ground up," said Jenny Stromberg, Louisville District project manager. "By contributing and combining everyone's different areas of wetland expertise, we ensured we were providing the best and most helpful information to the public."

Presentations were given by USACE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Department for Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

"The goal of these workshops and accompanying ArcGIS Story Map was to educate and communicate the significance of wetlands to communities across the state of Indiana," Stromberg said. "Especially since wetlands have such positive impacts on water quality and flood risk management, it's important to engage communities and raise awareness."

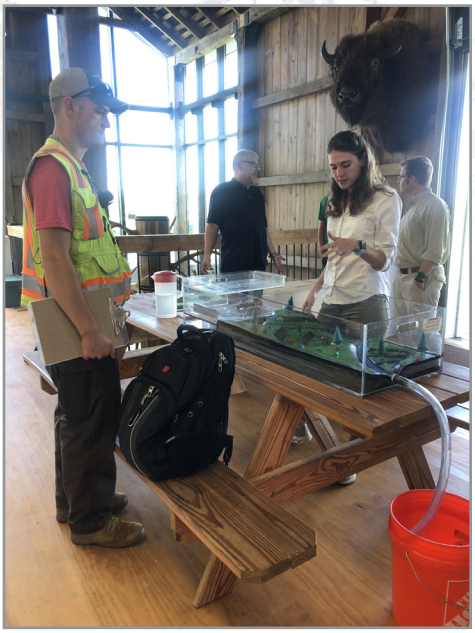
Studies completed by Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis have shown that streams without functioning wetlands in the watershed have peak discharges up to 24 percent higher than those with functioning wetlands.

In addition, pilot studies in Canada have shown that natural wetlands reduce flood damage costs to buildings by 29 percent in rural locations and up to 38 percent in urban locations. Increased understanding of wetlands and their importance could lead to similar savings in Indiana, according to Indiana Silver Jackets.

Four educational workshops were conducted between June and September, hosting an average of 20 attendees per session. Locations included Seymour, West Lafayette, Fort Wayne and Bloomfield, Indiana. As part of the workshops, participants also were able to attend guided tours of nearby wetlands.

During the workshop in Fort Wayne, Louisville District Hydraulics and Hydrology Engineer Abbey Just conducted demonstrations on the effectiveness of wetlands for the public using a physical model. Attendees also took a tour of Eagle Marsh Nature Preserve to learn about the significance of the wetlands in Fort Wayne.

"It was such a great experience interacting with the attendees and teaching them about the hydrologic significance of wetlands and how they play a role in the improvement of water quality and flood risk management," Just said. "The model was used to visually demonstrate how impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, contribute to higher velocities and volumes of runoff, which can exacerbate flooding downstream, while wetland areas reduce flooding by reducing the velocity of flows moving across the ground surface and by absorbing water into the ground."



USACE

Louisville District Hydraulics and Hydrology Engineer Abbey Just conducts demonstrations on the effectiveness of wetlands for the public using a physical model during the Indiana Wetlands Workshop in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Aug. 10, 2022.

It is important to understand that wetlands improve water quality, provide habitat for numerous species and combat climate change by storing carbon, according to the team.

"It was very rewarding being part of such a successful interagency team," Stromberg said. "Everyone brought so much passion for wetlands, it was a proud moment getting to see these workshops come to life and connect with the public, knowing how much collaboration and teamwork went into these this past year."

USACE

Indiana Wetlands Workshop attendees participate in a guided wetland tour at Eagle Marsh Nature Preserve in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Aug. 10, 2022.

USACE

Jenny Stromberg, Louisville District project manager, briefs approximately 18 workshop attendees during the Indiana Wetlands Workshop in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Aug. 10, 2022.

USACE Real Estate executes recruiting mission on behalf of Army

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Recruiting is an essential task for the U.S. military to maintain its strength in numbers, and a recruiting office is where some start their military career. It can also be a prospective service member's first impression of the military.

One of the specialized programs within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Real Estate Division is the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program. It is through this function in which all military branch recruitment offices are acquired and maintained. Under a Department of Defense directive, the Secretary of the Army is designated the executive agent for recruiting facilities, responsible for the acquisition, maintenance, physical security, and disposal of space needed for recruiting offices, intermediate command, and main stations of the Military Services—meaning USACE Real Estate executes the recruiting mission on behalf of the U.S. Army.

The Recruiting Program nationally has an annual budget of $317 million, and the Louisville District makes up approximately 10 percent of the national program.

In fiscal year 2022, the district completed 264 actions and supported 3,544 recruiters, 872 individual recruiting offices, and managed 355 leases. That is equivalent to managing approximately one million square feet with an annual program budget of $32 million.

"The military services we support includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Air Force Reserves, Space Force and Air National Guard," said Ashley Klimaszewski, Louisville District Real Estate Division chief.

The Louisville District is the real estate agent for the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program within the district's military program area of responsibility, which includes Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.

"But we are frequently called upon to help other districts achieve their recruiting mission when needed," Klimaszewski said.

Each member of the team plays a critical role in executing the real estate recruiting mission at the district.

"If the military services need a new recruiting office, our realty specialists conduct market surveys, locate potential new offices, negotiate the new lease and manage that lease for its term," Klimaszewski said. "Real Estate is also responsible for negotiating lease renewals when a lease's current term expires."

The Louisville District Recruiting Branch has 15 realty specialists and three realty assistants dedicated to the mission. The leases are broken down into territories and each specialist is responsible for managing the leases within their assigned territory.

The realty specialists wear many hats. A few of the tasks realty specialists are responsible for include performing market surveys and determining market rental rate; calculating cost estimates for new buildouts and upgrade work; attending preliminary, intermediate, and post construction meetings to ensure that the space is being built, updated, upgraded as specified because all construction work must be inspected before funds can be released; obtaining construction bids; inspecting recruiting stations, usually semi-annually if no construction work has been performed; finding space to lease in the local market to meet the recruiting office needs; negotiating new and renewal leases; and problem solve if there are any maintenance or security issues. Every issue must be addressed and rectified immediately, according to Klimaszewski.

Realty assistants are also integral to executing the mission. Realty assistant tasks include making rental payments each month on 355 leases; making over 1,000 utility payments each month to include electric, gas, water and sewer; making approximately 250 janitorial payments each month; and committing, obligating, invoicing and paying for every upgrade action.

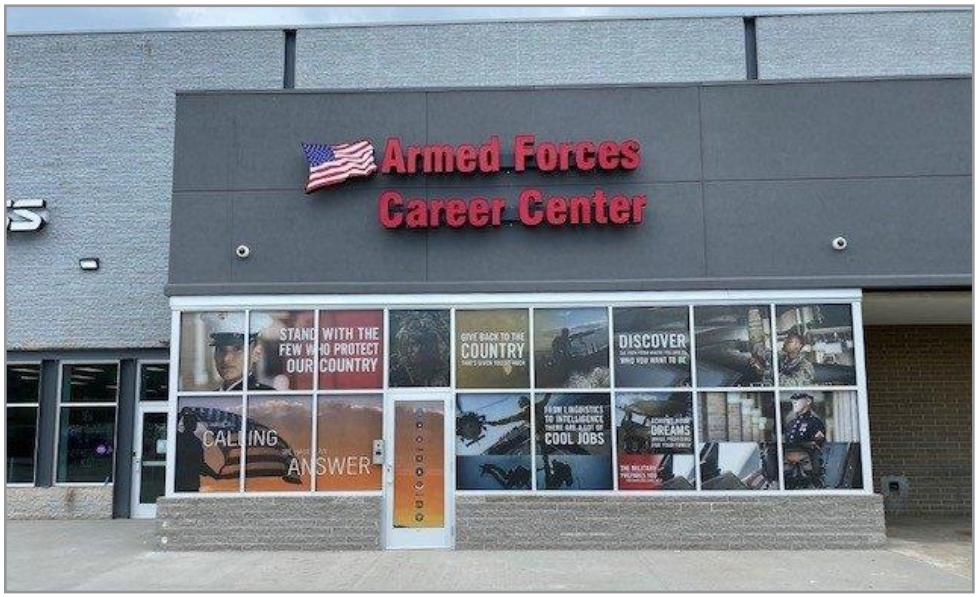
"Our recruiting branch employees are constantly under a pressing deadline," Klimaszewski said. "Work is very fast paced."

In addition to pressing deadlines, the team faces other challenges.

"Getting property owners to agree to our lease is often challenging if they have never worked with us before," Klimaszewski said.

Finding suitable space for new offices can also be challenging. The military services USACE supports have very specific delineated areas for recruiting. If one were to go outside that perimeter, they would be in another recruiting office's territory.

"My goal as the Chief of Real Estate is to support our customer, so they can meet the recruiting mission for the Department of Defense. It is incumbent upon me to ensure the realty specialists and realty assistants have the tools, support and encouragement they need to accomplish the mission," Klimaszewski said. "What makes recruiting a fun program to work are the timelines and metrics. If you have a competitive spirit, it's great. Every district with a recruiting mission has a goal (number of assigned actions), a budget, and a definitive timeline to get the job done. Once it's done, you start over the next fiscal year. Additionally, you can physically see the fruits of your labor when you walk into a recruiting office."



USACE

Exterior of an Armed Forces Career Center. USACE Louisville District is the real estate agent for the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program within the district's military program area of responsibility, which includes Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.

Wright-Patterson AFB is largest contributor to USACE military construction program

Charles Delano, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District supports and serves military installations and sites within the five-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

Of all the Army and Air Force installations, Department of Defense sites and Base Realignment and Closure sites within the district, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base contributed 30 percent or about $752 million of the military programmed construction amount in Fiscal Year 22, not to include Reserve projects.

"USACE military construction supports the WPAFB labs that create the Air Force of the future," Gregory Moore, chief, Air Force and Defense Logistics Agency Support Section said. "The designs that we are completing today are helping the Air Force warfighter of tomorrow."

Military Construction is comprised of two areas of funding: construction of new facilities and Operations and Maintenance which includes renovations. Fifty-eight percent of the workload at WPAFB are Operations and Maintenance projects. These funds for WPAFB will increase in fiscal year 2023 and 2024 due to planned Air Force Material Command and family housing projects.

For the Louisville District's military construction program, there are currently 66 projects in the design phase and 71 in the construction phase. Of these projects, WPAFB constitutes 14 design phase projects and 26 construction phase projects.

Currently under construction are the Intelligence Production Complex, hydrant fueling system replacement and Air Force Materiel Command Headquarters renovation.

"The partnerships that are established between Louisville District and WPAFB are key in successfully delivering projects in support of the many missions of the Air Force at WPAFB," said Rachael Haunz, chief, Military/IIS Project Management Branch, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division. "We could not deliver the program without WPAFB as a key stakeholder on projects."

More than five percent or $61.5 million of the project workload at WPAFB has consisted of Energy Conservation Investments, which seeks to improve the energy resilience, energy security and energy conservation requirement of existing missions through military construction.

With the addition of major construction projects at WPAFB, there also comes a myriad of challenges. Market conditions, continued supply constraints and availability of labor continue to challenge contractors and the Military Branch of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division who have the responsibility of managing the construction projects.

"The WPAFB mission is critical to Louisville District in supporting the war fighter and we value the collaboration of the stakeholder agencies at WPAFB," Haunz said. "The projects at WPAFB are challenging, complex, schedule and cost driven, and require working together to solve problems."

The Military Construction Program at WPAFB continues a long history of support for U.S. Air Force mission with memorable projects like the Human Performance Wing Complex and the Hangar Four addition to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Katie Newton

Military construction at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the largest contributor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District's Military Contruction Program. Many high-visibility projects, like the 224,000 square foot extension of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, have been completed at WPAFB. The hangar, which is pictured under construction in 2014, mirrors the design of the three existing buildings.

Regulatory

USACE instrumental in preservation of one of Louisville's oldest historic homes

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

A piece of Louisville's history has been preserved thanks in part to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's Regulatory Division.

The Paget House, a home which was originally built in the late 1700's and then added onto in the early 1800's at the request of Margaret Wright Paget, a descendant of George and Martha Washington, has been restored as part of a preservation project. It is one of the last intact structures of Louisville's early neighborhood, The Point. The majority of the neighborhood was destroyed by the 1937 flood leaving The Paget House as the oldest standing house in the City of Louisville. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places Inventory in 1978.

"Preservation of historic properties is important, and it matters," said Leiellen Atz, Louisville District Regulatory Division archeologist. "Once these resources are gone, they're gone forever, and we lose a significant part of our history and the story of how the City of Louisville changed over the years and how settlement patterns changed. There was an entire mini-city around the Paget House. These are the stories of the people that are responsible for making Louisville the City it is today and it's important to remember that

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and to preserve history."

The Louisville District's Regulatory Division was heavily involved in the preservation project.

"It was actually a Department of Army permit non-compliance matter," said Eric Reusch, Louisville District Regulatory Division chief. "And because we required action on it, restoration/preservation was successfully completed."

The Louisville District had been involved for nearly three decades as the initial Department of the Army Permit Application was received from the developer, Waterfront Development Corporation, in 1992 for impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States associated with a proposed residential development.

"As part of the permit review process, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was executed to mitigate for adverse effects to archaeological sites, and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Paget House; one stipulation required preservation/ rehabilitation of the Paget House," Atz said.

In 1995, USACE issued both a Section 404 permit and a Section 10 permit to the developer. That project did not come to fruition, but developers made a new proposal in 2005 at the same location as the 1992 project. Although the location was the same, the project was substantially different, according to Atz, meaning a new application for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act DA permits was required.

Due to the change in regulations over that time period and the substantial changes in the proposed project, Regulatory Division decided the best course of action was to vacate the existing MOA and execute a new one through consultation with interested Native American Tribes, the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC), Waterfront Development Corporation and other consulting parties.

"A new MOA was executed in 2007, and the stipulation requiring preservation/ adaptive reuse of the Paget House was included in the MOA; DA permits were also issued in 2007," Atz said.

USACE's role, per the MOA, was to oversee the implementation of all stipulations of the MOA including the one requiring preservation of the Paget House. Per the MOA, the specific preservation/rehabilitation plans were to be developed and approved in consultation with the KHC.

However, by 2019, Waterfront Development Cooperation had not begun the required preservation/rehabilitation work, which resulted in Regulatory Division taking an enforcement action to ensure compliance with the permit. In 2021, a contractor was hired to complete the rehab, who took on the challenge and completed it through consultation with the KHC as required by the MOA, and USACE oversaw the process, according to Atz.

The length of time of the project and staying on top of leadership changes were significant challenges, according to the team.

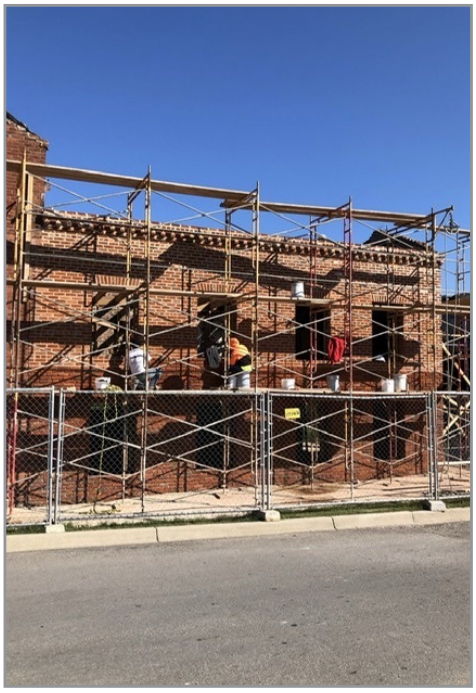
"But the biggest challenges were forces outside of our control like the real estate market collapse, a restaurant pulling out of the deal, tax credit regulations changing, and a pandemic. We really had the kitchen sink thrown at us trying to get this done," Atz said.

But the team overcame the challenges by being resilient, persistent and continuing conversations with all parties Atz added.

The project was completed in April 2022, and Waterfront Development Corporation received an official certificate of preservation from the State Historic Preservation Office in May.

USACE

Pictured is The Pagent House prior to rehabilitation. The home was originally built in the late 1700's then added onto in the early 1800's at the request of Margaret Wright Paget, a descendant of George and Martha Washington.



USACE

Contractors work to rehabilitate and preserve the exterior of the Paget House in Louisville, Kentucky.

USACE

The Paget House, a piece of Louisville's history, has been preserved thanks in part to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's Regulatory Division.

Major features of Louisville VA Medical Center project lay down foundations for future work

Michael Maddox, public affairs

After 10 months of construction on the site of the Louisville VA Medical Center, area residents are starting to see the beginnings of the facility rise out of the ground. Much of this year has been spent on various earthwork preparations, but great strides have been made in several foundation-laying portions of the project over the last several months.

Along with work on the base of the main hospital, there has been noticeable progress to install stormwater and sanitary tanks on site and the drilled piers for the North Parking Garage.

Proper planning was key to getting the project to where it currently is – starting with foundations.

"There are many critical items to ensure we have proper foundations. It begins with ensuring proper layout. We have a surveyor dedicated to this task," said Dennis Klass, lead construction control representative. "Once a hole is drilled for the deep foundation, it is thoroughly inspected to ensure the underlying bedrock is competent to support the load it was designed to hold."

That foundation work has allowed the team to start on the basement walls, which are one of the most noticeable current features of work as more than 1,000 cubic yards of concrete has been placed with preparations being made to start installing the steel frame soon.

Mchael Maddox

Contractors continue to place concrete sections of the basement walls of the Louisville VA Medical Center, in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 9, 2022.

Not all the current work involves vertical construction, explained Carl Lindsay, lead quality assurance representative.

Mchael Maddox

Contractors work on what will be the base of elevator shafts for the Louisville VA Medical Center, in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 2, 2022. Construction of the facility is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

"Although there will be lots of excitement about construction that is going up, there is also a huge effort of work that is going down," Lindsay said. "In the southwest corner of the site we will be installing the underground sanitary tank that will be some 40 feet into the ground. Many people will drive by on Interstate 264 and never realize that there are several people and whole pieces of equipment that they cannot see because they are so deep in the ground."

"Although structural steel will be the biggest piece of construction that will be visible from anywhere passing by the sight, we can't forget about the other work that will not be as visible. We are beginning to put the supporting utilities below the hospital that will allow the facility to work as designed," Klass said. "Storm, sanitary, drainage, domestic water and fire suppression water will be soon followed by conduits for electric and telecommunication. It is important that these utilities are correct now because repairing them later will be costly and inefficient."

Working on such a large project with so

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many details reinforce the importance of planning to ensure the job is done right.

"It is important to always be looking at the next phase of construction while we are working in our current phase. It is important to ask ourselves how the decisions we make today will affect the work we need to do tomorrow," Klass said.

"You have to learn to think of what you can do to make sure that the work is done right the first time, that nothing goes wrong in the first place and that you continue to improve the processes," added Lindsay.

Another key to the project's success has been having the right people for the job, said Lindsay.

"The USACE team that we have assembled on the project works cohesively. It allows us to provide many answers to questions and concerns that the Joint Venture has quicker than the contract requires. It is a real privilege to be part of such an outstanding team," Lindsay said.

The $900 million project designed by URS-SmithGroup is being constructed by Walsh-Turner Joint Venture II, Chicago, Illinois.

The project includes the 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.

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.

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 four Patient Aligned Care Teams.

Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

To learn more about the project visit: www.va.gov/louisville-health-care/programs/new-robley-rex-va-medical-center.

Michael Maddox

A contractor digs a trench in the basement of the Louisville VA Medical Center, in Louisville, Kentucky, in preparation for the later installation of underground utilities Sept. 9, 2022. The project includes the 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.

Reserve

Furniture team plays vital role in successful opening of DoDEA's Patch Elementary School

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District furniture team helped successfully open Alexander M. Patch Elementary in Stuttgart, Germany for the 2022-2023 school year.

Patch Elementary is part of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools system that operates schools world-wide for children of military sponsors, Department of Defense civilians, and State Department personnel. The school provides instruction to about 500 students from kindergarten through grade five.

The furniture installation for the new Department of Defense Education Activity school was completed Aug. 12, allowing the school to successfully open Aug. 24.

According to Brian Cash, Louisville District Army Reserve Section chief, Project Manager Jared Korfhage and Interior Designer Colleen Crum worked hard over the last year to ensure furniture for the school was ordered, delivered and installed in time for the school to open.

"Today was the first day of school for our new Patch Elementary facility on Patch Barracks. It was a beautiful day with a ton of happy children," said U.S. Army Stuttgart Garrison Commander Col. Matthew T. Ziglar on opening day. "I am confident that the environment will provide world class education to the children in our community. A ton of thanks to all of the teammates that made this day happen including DoDEA, USACE, IMCOM-E (Installation Management Command Directorate-Europe) and others."

USACE

Part of a classroom in Alexander M. Patch Elementary in Stuttgart, Germany, shows some of the furniture installation managed by the Louisville District Furniture team, which was completed Aug. 12, allowing the school to successfully open Aug. 24.

Louisville District Deputy District Engineer retires after 44 years

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Some mention legacy, some say legendary, but how would one properly sum up an esteemed 44-year career?

Linda Murphy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District deputy district engineer, retired Oct. 8, 2022, after more than four decades of hard work and selfless service—during which time she has contributed substantially to the mission, prestige and reputation of USACE.

Murphy began her government career in 1978 as a civil engineer student trainee after graduating from Purdue University with a civil engineering degree and has spent most of her career in the Louisville District. Murphy held several different positions from serving as a civil engineer, section chief, branch chief and division chief before being selected to fill the dual-hatted role of chief of planning, programs and project management and deputy district engineer in March 2015, which is the highest civilian position in the district.

Before being selected to serve as DDE, Murphy deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 for 21 months and served as the Chief of Water and Infrastructure Branch and Afghan National Security Forces Program Manager for the Transatlantic South District and the Transatlantic Afghanistan District.

In addition, Murphy has also filled key critical positions in a temporary capacity including the Deputy Commander for the Louisville District, the Chief of the Civil Works Integration Division for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, served as the first DDE for the district office in Puerto Rico for the critical power restoration mission, and served as acting Programs Director at North Atlantic Division.

Murphy has worked a variety of highly visible, critical projects and programs and met every challenge through leadership and diligence. She has routinely overseen successful execution of a more than $1 billion program annually. Murphy has contributed immeasurably to the sustained success of the district, region and enterprise.

Q: You have devoted 44 years to this organization. Why?

Murphy: Because I love it. I love the people. I love what we do here at the Corps of Engineers and enterprise in general. I love being able to say that we have made a difference in people's lives, both with the public and military organizations that we serve. I am just very proud of everything we have done at the Corps of Engineers and Louisville District.

Debra Hunter

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Deputy Commander Maj. Guillermo Guandique , with Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino attending virtually, presents Linda Murphy her retirement certificate during a retirement reception held in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 4, 2022.

USACE

Abby Korfhage

Q: What has changed the most in the district in the last four decades?

I would say the technology. When I first started, we did not have computers at all on the desks. When I first started, there wasn't even a Project Management office at all. It had not formed in the Corps of Engineers until the late 80s. Projects were either managed in Engineering or Construction or Planning if it was in the pre-design phase. We would have meetings and review the programs with overhead projectors and transparencies, so there were no computers to do PowerPoint or excel spreadsheets. In Engineering, there were no CAD computers, so we did the plan sheets on drafting tables, and you would actually ink the drawings. I think the culture is the one thing I think has not changed. Everybody that I have ever known that has worked here has been fully dedicated to the mission, and to each other, and the comradery has always been here – from the very start until now.

Q: What project(s) holds a special place in your heart?

This is a hard one. I feel like I have worked on a lot of projects and especially with Civil Works – you know it takes forever to build civil works projects. Obviously, Olmsted (Locks and Dam) – finally completing Olmsted. When I first started, I worked on the feasibility study in Engineering and did some of that work. But probably the project I had the most effort on myself and was actually kind of the

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project manager on, was the South Frankfort Floodwall. That probably means the most to me just because we had to build a floodwall underneath a school, the school was right on the riverbank. Once we completed that project, we went down for the dedication and the school had all the kids sign it, and they had this huge sign that said, 'We love our wall.' And so, I think that's the one that meant the most to me knowing what we did for that community there and seeing the kids out there being able to play on their playground without a threat of flooding coming from the river.

Q: What is your favorite thing about working for USACE?

I would say, it's what we do to help others. And I think everybody has it in them – that they want to be an important part of a team, or a group, to solve challenges or to solve problems and to know you have made a difference in other people's lives. And I can't say it enough that I think we are a welcoming organization, and I think everybody can find a place here within the organization no matter what your background is, no matter what their education is. I think everyone feels a part of something bigger - for everything we accomplish here for the men and women of our military and our local communities.

Q: What will you miss most?

The people, obviously, the people. When you spend this much time here, you are almost with the people here more than some of your family members. It's been really hard for me during COVID because I really thrive off the energy I get from other people and seeing other people work closely together and come up with solutions.

Q: If you could sum up your entire career in 3 words, what would they be?

Love, proud and thankful.

Q: Any final thoughts or items you would like to share?

I just can't imagine working anywhere else. I, again, think this is the best Corps of Engineers district. We have got the best people, the best programs, and I just cannot imagine not working here over my entire career.

Murphy has undoubtedly left her mark on the Louisville District through her passion and unwavering dedication to USACE. Under her supervision and leadership, the Louisville District has continued, and will continue, to play vital roles in delivering engineering solutions, reducing disaster risk, strengthening the economy and supporting national security.

Abby Korfhage

Trisha Oakes

Abby Korfhage

Trisha Oakes

Abby Korfhage

Katie Newton

Engineering Division makes recruiting top talent a priority

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is always looking to add talented individuals to their world-class team. When comparing USACE to large federal agencies, USACE ranks number two on the Best Places to Work list, behind only NASA.

Louisville District's Engineering Division has specifically played a crucial role in the district's recruiting efforts. Just in the month of September, Engineering Division attended 10 recruiting-type events to include career fairs, informational sessions, seminars and local school events.

"Over the last couple years, we have been trying to set up a program," said Ray Frye, Louisville District Engineering Division deputy chief. "One of the things that makes our organization so attractive for civil engineering students is that we offer every civil engineering discipline that is taught in the universities. In fact, we do and offer more than that, with civil engineering positions in dam safety and levee safety sections, which aren't really taught in schools – students have to come here to learn that."

Kathy Dorsch, Louisville District civil engineer, and Gary Grunwald, Inland Navigation Design Center structural engineer, recently gave a presentation to a sophomore engineering class at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, Sept. 28.

The class, a career development course, blends coursework with professional career pathways in civil engineering.

"In this course, industry representatives show a bit about what they do to prospective students to help steer them in coursework, minors, etc., and set them in right direction professionally," Dorsch said. "Obviously, we get to plug USACE as a great place to work."

Dorsch and Grunwald's presentation focused on USACE, the Louisville District, and the New Lock at the Soo in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Grunwald specifically talked about how USACE used virtual reality to help design the New Lock at the Soo and provided students the chance to use the VR headset to see a portion of the new lock's design.

Following the presentation, students had the opportunity to talk with Marcus Doddridge, Louisville District risk manager who also helped organize the event, about careers within USACE.

That same week, three Louisville District Engineering Division employees, Andrew Foley, Tim Wessel and Weston Young, also met with local elementary students to talk about engineering and the different opportunities available to them within the career field.

Approximately 120 gifted 3rd-5th grade students in advanced placement programs participated in the educational event at Blackacre Nature Preserve in Louisville, Kentucky, which included an interactive model where students were able to see how water can change landscapes and other engineering activities.

"I talked with the kids about, not only what engineering is, but also what got me interested in engineering," Foley said. "During the tours around Blackacre, I explained some basic engineering feats that the kids see every day, but probably didn't realize it took an engineer to design like culvert pipes, retaining walls and drainage systems."

Abby Korfhage

Gary Grunwald, Inland Navigation Design Center structural engineer, talks with students at Purdue University about how USACE used virtual reality to help design the New Lock at the Soo and provides students a chance to use the VR headset to see a portion of the new lock's design.

Abby Korfhage

Kathy Dorsch, Louisville District civil engineer, and Gary Grunwald, Inland Navigation Design Center structural engineer, give a presentation to a sophomore engineering class at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, Sept. 28.

As Foley stood on a small bridge above a creek, he explained how powerful water can be and the effects it can have on bridges and other structures.

"They had not gotten a chance to see firsthand how water can erode a bank or a creek and seemed to be very interested."

Foley, a Louisville District student co-op, also discussed his experience and daily life of an engineering student.

"Hearing that I inspired the kids to be excited about college and engineering at such a young age was absolutely amazing," Foley said. "It was a great event that I was very proud to be a part of."

Engineering Division has made recruiting a priority and focuses on attending as many events as possible to help spread the word about USACE.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is an innovative, transformative organization providing engineering solutions to customers worldwide. Working at USACE means making a direct contribution to war fighters and their families, supporting overseas contingency operations, developing technology and systems that save the lives of soldiers and civilians, providing disaster relief, and protecting and enhancing the environment and the national economy. USACE offers challenging professional, technical and administrative opportunities in the U.S. and abroad—each building on a strong tradition of public service extending back more than 200 years.

To learn more about a career with USACE visit https://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Careers/

Louisville District's Brantley Thames awarded HQ Climate Champion Award

Madison Thompson, public affairs

Brantley Thames, Hydraulic Engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District and member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Climate Preparedness and Resilience Community of Practice and National Policy Advisor for Climate and Military Programs, was awarded the HQ USACE Climate Champion Award in July 2022. This award signifies a commitment to promoting climate resilience across all USACE Civil Works business lines.

"I value my role as a public servant and saw the opportunity to support the CPR CoP utilizing my skillset as a hydraulic engineer and H&H modeler to address the threats of climate change," Thames said. "My support to the CPR CoP is not signified by a single project but an overall commitment and passion to improving the nation's resilience to climate change in both the Civil Works and Military Programs."

The CPR CoP, as Thames explained, is the group of USACE professionals responsible for evaluating the impacts of climate change to USACE missions and informing adaptation activities to ensure resilience to climate change.

"My main contribution, to date, has been supporting the development of the Defense Climate Assessment Tool (DCAT) and the supporting Army Climate Resilience Handbook. DCAT provides installation planning teams a better understanding of climate change exposure for eight climate hazards (coastal flooding, drought, energy demand, extreme heat, historical weather events, land degradation, riverine flooding and wildfire) so they can develop climate resilient plans across Army's installations," said Thames.

Thames has spent his entire career in theUSACE, which began over twenty years ago, because of the opportunities the Corps offered, and the impact Corps projects have on the environment.

"From the time I started working for the Corps, I recognized that the Corps works on large, complex, publicly impactful projects, which has always provided value to me as a Corps employee," Thames said. "I feel like I have the best job in the world. The value of the work we do coupled with the ability to provide value to our nation as a public servant are the two main things that have provided me enjoyment and fulfillment throughout my career. I am honored to be in this position and did not envision the opportunity to serve in this position."

Courtesy of Brantley Thames

Brantley Thames, hydraulic engineer, was named the HQ USACE Climate Champion Award winner of 2022.

Cyber Security Awareness Month: Protecting your online identity

Madison Thompson, public affairs

October is Cyber Security Awareness month and has been since 2004 after it was created by the President of the United States and Congress. The month serves as a reminder for individuals to protect themselves in the virtual world, whether it is proper handling of electronic data or suspicious emails phishing for information.

Between extravagant passwords and all of the information available about how to identify scams, spreading the word every October about insider and outsider threats is important. These reminders help keep the subject of online safety relevant and are important in an increasingly virtual environment; and, because workplaces and meetings are more virtual than ever, many try and take precautions to safeguard our online identities.

"2FA or Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is considered a layered approach to securing data. MFA increases security because even if one authenticator becomes compromised, unauthorized users will be unable to meet the second authentication requirement and will not be able to access the targeted physical space or computer system," said Roy Stone, security manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District.

According to Stone, "MFA requires users to present two or more authentication factors at login to verify their identity before they are granted access. Each additional authentication factor added to the login process increases security. A typical MFA login would require the user to present some combination of the following: something you know i.e. a password or Personal Identification Number; something you have i.e. smart card, mobile token or hardware token."

You can protect yourself and others by following these recommendations:

1. Filter spam
2. Don't trust unsolicited email – think before you click
3. Treat email attachments with caution
4. Don't click links in email messages from unverified sources
5. Do not reply to spam messages
6. Configure your email client for security
7. Never give out or post your email address publicly

While there are safety precautions such as two-factor authentication and personal identification tools on our smart devices such as fingerprint unlock and Face ID unlock, technology is constantly evolving as are the tools criminals use to obtain information.

As stated in a Public Service Announcement from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Cyber criminals are very likely developing and selling scamming tools to trick consumers of brand-name companies into revealing personal account information to compromise accounts and bypass online security protocols, most notably two-factor authentication."

Even though it is only one month long, everyone needs to practice safe cyber security every day of the year. Identify Theft, Phishing Attacks, Imposter Scams and email Scams are on the rise, and it is more important than ever to protect our virtual identities.

These are common virus/network attack symptoms that can indicate that your computer has been infected.

1. Request to provide, reset or change passwords
2. Email from unfamiliar source
3. Notification of logon attempts by unknown user
4. Unexplained inability to log on
5. Unexplained modifications/deletion of data/error messages
6. Denial of service (e.g.) information being held ransom)
7. Sudden lack of hard drive space
8. Computer continually restarts
9. Out-of-memory error messages