

Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

January/February 2024

Volume 16, Issue 1

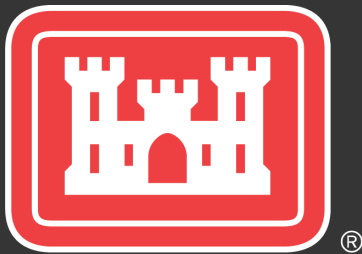
www.lrl.usace.army.mil



Construction of DoDEA 21st Century
School taking shape at Fort Campbell



®



Falls City Engineer

Vol. 16, Issue 1

District Commander

Col. L. Reyn Mann

Public Affairs Chief

Katie Newton

Send articles to Louisville District
Public Affairs office at:
Mary.K.Chandler@usace.army.mil

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

Falls City Engineer is an unofficial publication under AR 360-1, published bimonthly for Louisville District employees and members of the public by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CELRL-PA, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Ky. 40201-0059 under supervision of the Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Corps of Engineers.



On the cover: Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is briefed on how STEAM is built into the school design. Hunter Bailey, project engineer, Fort Campbell Resident Office explains how the maintenance window allows students to study engineering and technology principles. (USACE Photo By Charles Delano)

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

Happy 2024! I'd like to start by sending a shout out to our hard-working Operations teammates who ensured mission success over the holidays and through inclement weather. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group, always ensuring mission success. Coming out of the holidays, the collective Louisville District team is roaring into the new year, laser-focused on project delivery and execution. The new year will bring new challenges, but—as we always do—we will fight through hurdles and continue to deliver for our partners and our stakeholders.

We were recently honored to host the 55th Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Spellmon, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and then we rolled right into our annual Louisville District Open House. By all accounts—through survey results and anecdotal feedback I received—the event was a resounding success. We had more than 350 attendees in the audience allowing our team to share details of our projected workload with many of our long-standing and several new, potential partners. We have a lot of momentum to build on for our future networking event this summer. First-rate forums like this really showcase our resolve to relentlessly and continuously improve partnerships through commitment, communication and collaboration.

February is a busy month! We are proud to celebrate Black History Month, where we'll take time as an organization to reflect on the contributions of Black Americans to the history of our nation and defense of our country. From February 18-24, we'll celebrate National Engineers Week, which promotes educational and career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and celebrates how engineers make a difference in the world. Our engineers at the Louisville District are certainly at the forefront of tackling the Nation's toughest challenges. And of course, with this being a leap year, we'll get an extra



Col. L. Reyn Mann
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

day to SAFELY deliver, quality projects, on time, within budget.

Enjoy the January/February issue of the Falls City Engineer, which focuses on the great efforts of our people and teams who comprise this district. Stories include an update on Phase Two of the VA Canandaigua Medical Center project, a look into the district's Levee Safety Workshop and annual Open House, National Engineers Week, the DoDEA's Universal Pre-k program... and more!

Thank you all for what you do. Your dedication and hard work are what makes the difference.

Building Strong... Together!
LOUISVILLE PROUD!
Col. L. Reyn Mann

Contents

Louisville District announces official closure of Lock and Dam 53	3
Levee Safety workshop strengthens ties with sponsors	4
Phase 2 progresses at Canandaigua VA Medical Center	5
USACE expands DoDEA mission, prepares to outfit more than 170 pre-k classrooms worldwide	6
Construction of DoDEA 21st Century School taking shape at Fort Campbell	7
Welcome to the future: The Louisville District celebrates National Engineers Week	8
Louisville District hosts annual open house	9

BUILDING STRONG®

Volume 16, Issue 1 2

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Louisville District announces official closure of Lock and Dam 53



A historical photo of the construction of Lock and Dam 53 in Grand Chain, Illinois, from August 1926.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

After being in service for nearly 90 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District announced the official closure of the Lock and Dam 53 project, Jan. 16, 2024.

This is a historic milestone for navigation on the lower Ohio River, as this project and its replacement marked the end of the modernization era for locks and dams on the Ohio River.

Lock and Dam 53, on the Ohio River near Grand Chain, Illinois, was authorized by the River and Harbors Acts in 1909. Construction was completed and the facility opened in 1929. Located 962 miles downstream from Pittsburgh, Lock and Dam 53 had two locks for commercial barge traffic, one that was 1,200 feet long by 110 feet wide, the other 600 feet long by 110 feet wide.

According to *Last of the Old Wicket Dams: A History of Ohio River Locks and Dams 52 and 53 1928–2018* History book, Lock and Dam 53 was, at that time, the final structure on the Ohio River that would provide a navigational channel of at least nine feet. Louisville District employees operated and maintained the project to ensure river traffic moved efficiently. This involved raising and lowering the wicket dam, operating the locks, performing maintenance, making repairs, and reacting to the dangers of the river, such as ice, drift, severe weather and breakaway barges.

As conditions deteriorated at Dams 52 and 53 in the late 1900s, Louisville District employees worked to innovate solutions to

prolong the life of these structures as the construction of the new Olmsted Locks and Dam project progressed.

Lock and Dam 53 ended operations Aug. 15, 2018, and the project was replaced when Olmsted Locks and Dam in Olmsted, Illinois, opened Sept. 4, 2018.

The Olmsted facility came online just in time, said Waylon Humphrey, Louisville District Operations Division chief in an excerpt from the *Last of the Old Wicket Dams*. Dams 52 and 53 were “essentially in active states of failure . . . It was truly

a race against the clock.” He expressed the Corps’ gratitude to the personnel who had kept the projects in operation. “It is impossible to articulate our thanks to the men and women who gave up so much of their personal time, through unmatched dedication and service, to ensure the navigation mission continued on the lower Ohio, even as the infrastructure was literally crumbling around them.”

In its final years, more than 80 million tons of freight, worth more than \$22 million, moved through the area controlled by Lock and Dams 52 and 53. Goods included coal, gasoline, jet fuel, de-icing fluid, cement, scrap steel, metal ingots, soybean oil, wheat, and an array of other bulk commodities. A single tow of fifteen barges could weigh more than 20,000 tons and be worth millions of dollars.

The demolition of Lock and Dam 53 started under the Olmsted Dam construction contract and was completed under a final demolition contract. By early November 2018, the lower approach walls at Dam 53 were being removed. The contract for the final demolition of Lock and Dam 53 was awarded in August 2020.

Lock and Dam 53 was demolished down to elevation 280.0’ (Ohio River datum) across the width of the river, and the river has returned to open navigation in that area.



(From left to right) Former Diver supervisor Randy Robertson and dive tenders Phillip Noel and Jake Winburn work with diver Kenny Robertson to remove a worn-out white oak wicket from the dam at Lock and Dam 53 on the Ohio River, June 26, 2012.

Jon Freshman

Levee safety workshop strengthens ties with sponsors

Michael Maddox, public affairs

Levee sponsors, operators and maintenance personnel were updated on the most recent information on levee operations in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's footprint during the Levee Safety Workshop held at the University of Louisville Shelby campus Jan. 17-18.

During the two-day event, topics including changes to rules and regulations, inspections, and levee inspections were presented by district staff.

Ryan Jeffries, Chief of the Geotechnical Branch for the Louisville District, said the workshops provide an opportunity to not only share information, but to also listen.

"The purpose for having this meeting every other year or so is just to provide some updates on where we are with the evolution of the levee safety program and to have partnering opportunities to come together and talk about issues that are near and dear to those who are out there maintaining and operating these levee systems," he said.

Neil Cash, Levee Safety Program Manager for the Louisville District, said the workshops are essential in strengthening the partnerships with levee staff and ensuring everyone has the most up-to-date information.

"We try to host the workshop for a variety of reasons, but overall, our goal is to educate our levee sponsors of any noteworthy changes in the levee safety program or our business processes," he

said. "It serves as a good opportunity to do a little course correction if we notice levee sponsors are misunderstanding our recommendations, inspections, or policies. And with turnover on both sides, it also assists in maintaining competencies through informative presentations to ensure proper levee maintenance, levee integrity, and consistent messaging for public risk communication."

Cash said the workshop allowed district personnel to cover many topics associated with levee safety and operations.

"We had several presentations informing the audience of current or forthcoming changes in the Levee Safety Program, the Section 408 Program, and the recent USACE requirement for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) accreditation. These were very important topics to discuss in this setting as they included significant changes to the way the programs have operated in the past," he said. "We also had a presentation regarding potential funding sources, which continues to be the main obstacle to our non-federal levee sponsors as they struggle with dwindling budgets for levee maintenance and improvements."

This was the first in-person Levee Safety Workshop since 2019. Cash said being able to have the event in-person seems to spur more two-way communication.

"We were very excited that we could host this event in person. This week allowed for better collaboration and involvement from the levee sponsors and offered the sponsors a chance to build



Michael Maddox

Ryan Jeffries, Chief of the Geotechnical Branch for the Louisville District, opens the 2024 Levee Safety Workshop at the University of Louisville's Shelby campus Jan. 17, 2024.

relationships between neighboring levee systems," he said. "The one-on-one interactions between local sponsors and USACE personnel are too important to overlook and are just not possible in a virtual environment. To us, the physical presence adds to our ability to build stronger partnerships."

Cash said he feels that overall, the workshop accomplished everything he had hoped it would.

"The workshop went great and was well received. The information provided was relevant, consistent, and had a lot of applicability to the levee sponsors. The event went smoothly from start to finish and we met our objectives. Engaging questions were asked and several levee sponsors personally thanked us for hosting the event and are looking forward to the next one," he said. "Also, we had a few retired USACE levee safety team members in the audience and they praised us on a well-executed Levee Safety Meeting. We expect the meeting to be a topic of discussion in the future, as our levee sponsors have historically asked us when we plan to host the next one during inspections because of how much they enjoy participating in the events."



Michael Maddox

Neil Cash, Levee Safety Program Manager for the Louisville District, speaks to attendees of the 2024 Levee Safety Workshop at the University of Louisville's Shelby campus Jan. 17, 2024.

Phase 2 progresses at Canandaigua VA Medical Center



Work continues on the exteriors as well as interiors of cottages at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center Aug. 22, 2023.

Michael Maddox, public affairs

With Phase 1 of work at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center recently completed, the current major focus on the medical center campus is several projects taking place under Phase 2 of construction.

This work includes the construction of a new Community Living Center (CLC) complex, which includes eight long-term care cottages that can serve 96 veterans as well as a community center, and renovations to two of the current buildings on campus to support the CLC and establish a domiciliary.

Gerald DiPaola, project manager for the Canandaigua VA Medical Center project, said work in Phase 2 continues to see advancement.

“Progress has been steady since the contract award in 2019 with the demolition of Buildings 33 and 34 complete, the renovation of several swing spaces, and the construction of all eight cottages at approximately 60 percent complete. The renovation of Buildings 3 and 9 are underway at approximately 10 percent to date,” he said.

DiPaola said while there have been some challenges, teamwork has allowed them to be overcome.

“The Phase 2 project has experienced schedule and cost growth resulting from differing site conditions encountered on-

site and within the existing buildings and mandatory design /construction changes necessary to ensure full utilization of the facilities as intended,” he explained. “Schedule impacts related to the Phase 1 Outpatient Clinic project have also impacted the original Phase 2 completion timeline. The project delivery team (PDT) has worked through these challenges by assessing project risk and implementing strategies to mitigate these risks.”

“The entire PDT, comprised of USACE, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Construction and Facility Management, Canandaigua VA Medical Center, and the contractor Pike/Hueber-Breuer JV, continue to work towards Phase 2 completion on time and within budget,” DiPaola added.

Currently, the estimated completion for Phase 2 is scheduled for the later part of 2025.

“We look forward to project completion which will allow the Community Living Center to function in concert with the newly opened Outpatient Clinic - ensuring the Department of Veterans Affairs will continue delivering 21st-century healthcare to Veterans in the Finger Lakes Healthcare System,” he said.



Contractors work on the roof of the Community Center at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center Aug. 22, 2023.

USACE expands DoDEA mission, prepares to outfit more than 170 pre-k classrooms worldwide

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently partnered with the Department of Defense Education Activity to provide furniture and curriculum for DoDEA's early childhood education program, also referred to as Universal Pre-Kindergarten, or UPK Program.

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.

USACE and DoDEA have a long-standing partnership. USACE has been serving as DoDEA's construction contracting agent, and since 2014, the Louisville District has overseen contract execution and furniture delivery. The Louisville Furniture team provides 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," said Jared Korfhage, Louisville District program manager. "Whatever DoDEA and the school needs, we are there to support. Now, we're poised and ready to expand our support even further to meet the needs of their growing and anticipated universal pre-kindergarten program."

DoDEA announced last year, that they would begin implementing full-day, universal prekindergarten in all of their schools over a five-year period starting in school year 2024-2025 contingent upon approval of the President's Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

"DoDEA's expanded investment in early childhood education recognizes that quality early education is an economic and social advantage for our country and our military families," said Colleen Crum, Louisville District project manager. "As DoDEA begins phased implementation of expanded full-day pre-kindergarten program throughout their global platform, they have declared their classrooms must be equipped and resourced accordingly. To provide each military connected student with engaging hands-on learning experiences, all



Photo of a current DoDEA classroom at Patch Elementary School, Stuttgart, Germany. USACE Louisville District furniture team provides Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) with the attributes required for the 21st Century style of learning.

classrooms must be equitably furnished, equipped, and resourced."

The Louisville District team is working closely with DoDEA and their schools to provide outfitting support to implement the furnishing of FF&E and curriculum items for 177 UPK classrooms in 76 elementary schools that will immediately and universally advance DoDEA's fundamental Pre-Kindergarten platform.

"Currently, we have 72 classrooms in the Pacific, 77 classrooms in Europe and 55 classrooms in the Americas we are working on with DoDEA," Korfhage said. "It's a lot of work in a short amount of time, but we are excited and eager to set up all of these UPK classrooms for our military families."

According to the team, the UPK Classroom Package identifies proven educational items from decades of Blanket Purchase Agreements programmed procurements, programmed by DoDEA's Educational Instructional System Specialist (ISS) teams and constitutes a quality foundational educational tool to expand DoDEA's military student's access to formative educational opportunities.

"DoDEA's UPK Classroom Package

consists of carefully selected FF&E and curriculum items for interior classrooms and outdoor learning spaces. The UPK project implementation expands the Louisville District's effort to identify equipment that ensures complete and usable DoDEA 21st Century schools," Crum said.

According to DoDEA, once this program is completed, it will add an estimated 6,000 prekindergarten students in the 60 military communities served by DoDEA schools world-wide, and providing access to pre-kindergarten for all eligible DoDEA families will continue to build on a solid foundation for success in college and careers while supporting military and family readiness for the communities in which DoDEA schools are located. Furthermore, additional growth will occur at other locations over the next few years in schools that could not currently be altered to accommodate new UPK classrooms.

"This is a Department of Defense initiative that will have positive and long-lasting impacts on the morale and welfare of the Soldiers and their families," said Kevin Jasper, Louisville District Reserve Project Management Branch chief. "We are proud to be a part of the overall team executing the UPK Program for DoDEA."

Courtesy of Colleen Crum

Construction of DoDEA 21st Century School taking shape at Fort Campbell



Charles Delano

Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers(left), discusses the construction of Fort Campbell Middle School with Col. L. Reyn Mann, Louisville District commander (right) and Hunter Bailey, project engineer, Fort Campbell Resident Office. Construction began February 2021 and is scheduled to be turned over to DoDEA in 2025.

Charles Delano, public affairs

A new 167,000 square-foot Department of Defense Education Activity middle school at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is more than 70 percent complete with a majority of the 35 learning neighborhoods having drywall in place.

"Constructing the new Fort Campbell Middle School is not just building walls and classrooms," said Charles King, Facilities Engineer and DoDEA Project Manager. "We're creating a student-centered 21st

Century learning environment where future generations will thrive."

Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer toured the middle school and spoke with USACE personnel and contractors to get an overview of how DoDEA's 21st century learning concepts are designed into the school.

The project includes 69,000 square feet of building demolition and 41,000 square feet of renovation to the old middle school.

"Trying to make the interface between new construction and the existing construction was really challenging," said Hunter Bailey, project engineer, Fort Campbell resident office. "There was quite a bit of effort both on the Corps of Engineers' part and the contractor's part to make the new marry with the old."

The facility is designed to accommodate about 700 sixth through eighth-grade students and includes new construction containing 35 studios, lab, special education, counseling, performance area, information center, health services, technology, telecommunication, administration and offices. The renovation area includes the gym, food service, common area, maintenance, janitorial, mechanical and storage.

"This school has a groundbreaking, flexible layout that anticipates the evolving needs of education over the next 50 years," King said. "It represents a significant step forward in providing ample space for all students, including those with special education needs."

Construction for the \$62.6 million project began February 2021 and is scheduled to be turned over to DoDEA in the first quarter of 2025.

"The partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is vital to our commitment to the future of our students," said King.



A project rendering illustrates the new 167,000 square-foot at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The project includes 69,000 square feet of building demolition and 41,000 square feet of renovation to the old middle school.

USACE

Welcome to the future: The Louisville District celebrates National Engineers Week

Kelsie Hall, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is celebrating National Engineers Week, Feb. 18-24.

“Welcome to the Future” is the theme of this year’s annual event, celebrating the positive future of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

During Engineer’s Week the Louisville District will highlight employees who represent the various engineering disciplines within the district and will participate in outreach events across the communities it serves.

“STEM outreach is critically important in helping us play the long game and win the war for talent,” said Louisville District commander Col. L. Reyn Mann. “It’s also important for them to see women, people of color, and other traditionally under-represented demographics thriving in a STEM-related career.”

This year, district employees participated in Engineering Days at the Kentucky Science Center, Feb. 16-17, connecting more than 470 middle school students and the community with STEAM professionals in a hands-on setting.

“Events like these are important to share the endless possibilities of engineering with students,” said Kate Brandner, USACE Louisville District Dam Safety Section chief. “It’s rewarding to see them start to imagine futures in engineering.”

While the Louisville District participates in outreach events throughout the year, the week will also be celebrated with district employees serving as guest speakers at the University of Louisville chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and attending recruiting events across the region, including career fairs at Western Kentucky University, University of Kentucky and University of Southern Indiana.

“As commander of the Louisville District, I’m appreciative of all the outreach our team does to tell our story and bring in the next generation of talent that will help solve the Nation’s toughest challenges for the next 248 years,” said Mann.

Engineers Week was founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951 and is dedicated to increasing understanding and interest in STEM careers, ensuring the continuity and further development of a strong engineering workforce.



Courtesy of Maria Beyl

Several employees from Engineering Division volunteered for Engineering Days at the Louisville Science Center to kick off National Engineers Week.



Courtesy of Maria Beyl

Several teammates from the Louisville District Engineering Division volunteered for Engineering Days at the Louisville Science Center Feb. 16-17, 2024.

Louisville District hosts annual open house



Attendees gather at the Louisville District's annual open house Feb. 1, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Katie Chandler, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District hosted its annual open house Feb. 1, 2024, at The Henry Clay building in downtown Louisville, Kentucky., for businesses seeking to work with the federal government. The free event was open to businesses, large and small, interested in working with the Louisville District. The event included briefings from Louisville District Commander Col. L. Reyn Mann and other district staff followed

by opportunities to network with district leadership throughout the event.

"We were excited to have the privilege to connect with over 350 attendees during the event where we were able to share updates about our upcoming projects with our current and potential partners," said Lt. Col. Guillermo Guandique Louisville District Deputy Commander. "The fantastic turnout really highlights the momentum we have garnered, providing a solid foundation for our upcoming networking event this summer. Events of this caliber exemplify

our unwavering commitment to enhancing partnerships."

After the program briefings, contractors had the chance to engage in various networking break-out sessions. These sessions provided them with the opportunity to engage in discussions about upcoming projects with different offices, including engineering, project management, the contracting division and small business.

Deputy of Small Business Crystal Harbin, who organized the event, emphasized that the success of the open house came from the focus on communication and relationship building.

"Not only are we focused on communicating our mission and future opportunities, but we're building relationships through events such as this open house. Being able to build relationships and partner with firms will help us successfully deliver our program in the future as it opens the door for early, meaningful communication," said Harbin. "The overall goal for hosting the open house is market research. We have the opportunity to tell industry about our mission and opportunities and they tell us their interest and capabilities. This influences our internal acquisition planning, allows industry to make business decisions, and ultimately helps us partner together to safely delivery quality projects for our stakeholders."

Another networking event is in the planning stages for the summer of 2024.



USACE District Commander Col. L. Reyn Mann addresses the crowd at the open house Feb. 1 at the Henry Clay Building in Louisville, Kentucky.



USACE Louisville District Chief of Engineering Division, Ian Mitchell, discusses upcoming project opportunities with an attendee.