

USACE

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Fort Worth District CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE

75 YEARS OF
ENGINEERING
FOR THE
FUTURE



Cornerstone Magazine


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*WHERE'S BOBBER? 
CAN YOU FIND THIS IMAGE OF BOBBER IN THIS EDITION?
HE CAN BE FOUND 22 TIMES.

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SWF LEADERSHIP 2025

Team of Teams, what an incredible year to be part of the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District and our 250th year of the Army Corps of Engineers!!! I want to say THANK YOU for an incredible journey thus far, the challenges you've overcome personally, and the incredible contributions you've made to the region and our Nation! Since our inception in 1950, the Fort Worth District has upheld the Corps' mission with honor, delivering vital public engineering services and building critical infrastructure to support our communities, which strengthen our national security, and ensure a brighter future. Our district's rich history is a testament to the dedication, expertise, wisdom, and commitment of every serving member. To all our teammates — past, present, and future — thank you for your unwavering loyalty to the USACE mission. Together, we are building a stronger future.

Respectfully,
#28

Calvin A. Kroeger
Colonel, Engineer
Commanding



As we honor 75 years of excellence, I want to express my profound gratitude for your dedication and service in upholding the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Through your expertise and commitment, the Fort Worth District has become a cornerstone in delivering engineering solutions to protect our communities, strengthen national security, and improve lives. Together, we've faced challenges, pioneered innovations, and created a legacy of excellence that endures. Your efforts ensure the resilience, safety, and prosperity of our nation for generations to come. This milestone reflects the heart of our mission and the unwavering spirit of our workforce. Thank you for continuing to embody the values and vision of the Corps. Here's to building the future, together.

Lt. Col. Joshua M. Haynes
Deputy Commander



For 75 years, the Fort Worth District has proudly fulfilled the Army Corps of Engineers' mission to design, build and manage projects that strengthen our nation's security and improve lives of our soldiers, provide flood risk management for communities, and provide abundant recreational opportunities for our outdoor enthusiasts. As we celebrate this milestone, look through this magazine and honor the legacy of those who came before us, while looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Team Fort Worth - past and present - thank you also for embodying the Army Civilian core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Your dedication and commitment to serving our communities, advancing innovation, and maintaining excellence sets the foundation for a strong and prosperous future.

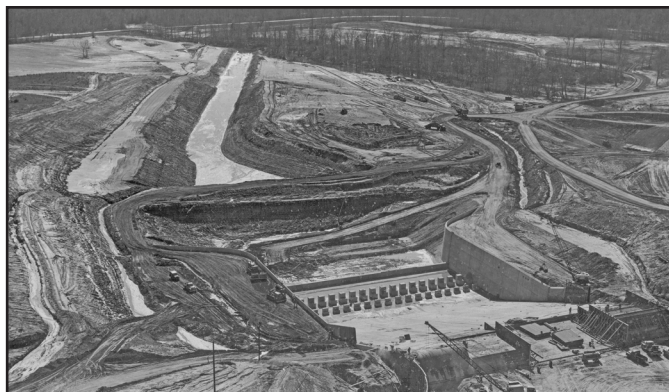
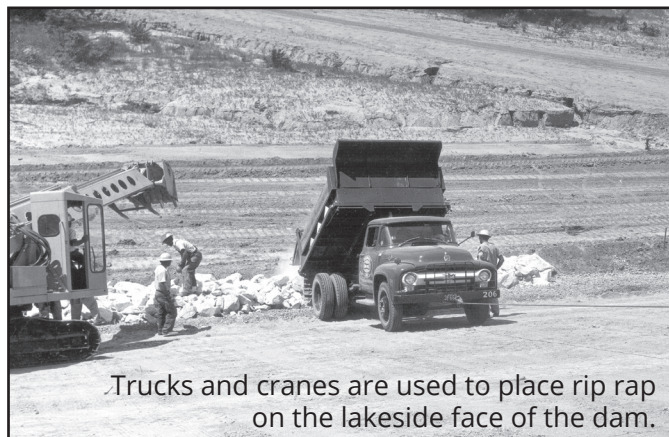
Arnold (Rob) Newman
Deputy District Engineer



LAKE O' THE PINES CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

BY: PAT ADELMANN

Above: A view of the outlet works on the backside of the dam, during construction of the Lake O' the Pines. The outlet works has two gates, which you can see in this photo that control the amount of water that is discharged from the lake. The discharge controls the level of the lake while providing proper flow to the river below the dam. The lake's mission is to provide water to the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District and flood risk mitigation to communities along the Red River.



Right: 1957 - Construction of Ferrells Bridge Dam, located on Cypress Creek.



LAKE O' THE PINES AND FERRELLS BRIDGE DAM, IN EASTERN TEXAS, CELEBRATED ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE GROUND WAS BROKEN AND CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN JANUARY OF 1955.

Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1946, the dam and reservoir were originally known as the Ferrells Bridge Dam and Reservoir, with construction managed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District.

"Reflecting on 70 years since the construction of the lake started, I am proud of what the Corps of Engineers has accomplished in the region," said Cody Berry, Lake Manager at Lake O' the Pines.

Initial impoundment for the lake began on August 21, 1957, when a cofferdam was put in place to stop the flow of Cypress Creek. This allowed for the completion of the dam's embankment. Ten months later, on June 25, 1958, the dam was completed marking the completion of major construction. Deliberate impoundment began to fill the 17,638-acre conservation pool on February 8, 1960. The final project cost in October 1959 was just under \$15 million, equivalent to almost \$162 million today.

"The city of Jefferson is most thankful for the dam," said Linda Starkey, a local resident and descendant of John and Charles Ferrell, who owned the site and former bridge, that the dam is named after.

"Every time it flooded there were rowboats in the streets before the dam was built," Starkey recalled.

Just after the lake became operational, the name was designated as Lake O' the Pines. In 1979, operation of the lake was transferred to the Fort Worth District.

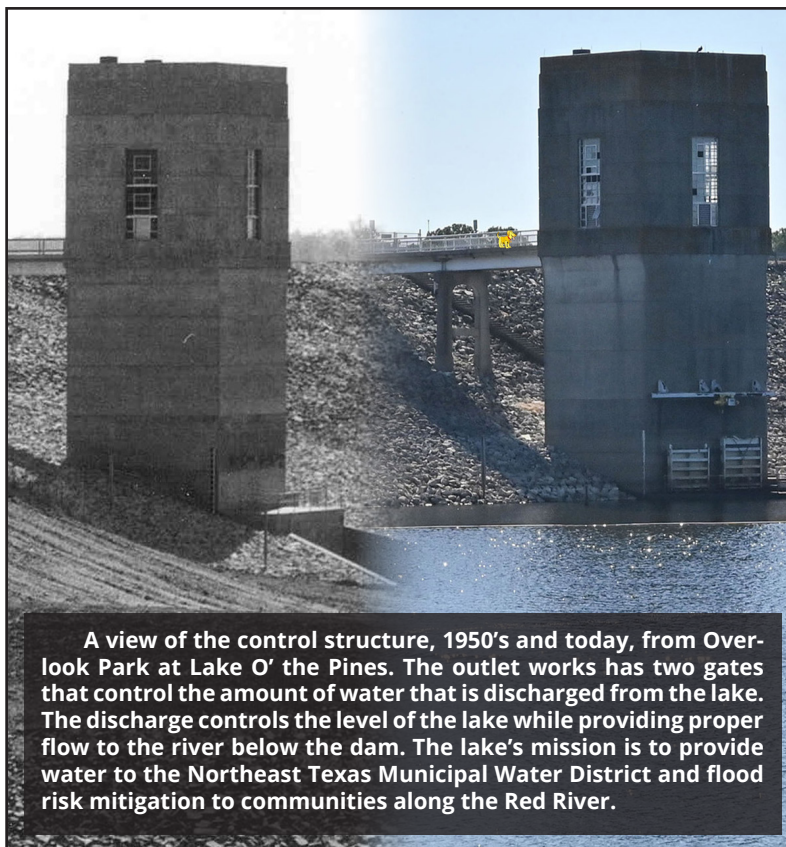


"Development of the area, because of the lake, brought education to the poorer parts of the county," said Carol McKenzie-Harrell, former superintendent of the Marion Independent School District. "The county went from low literacy to where children are now becoming doctors and lawyers."

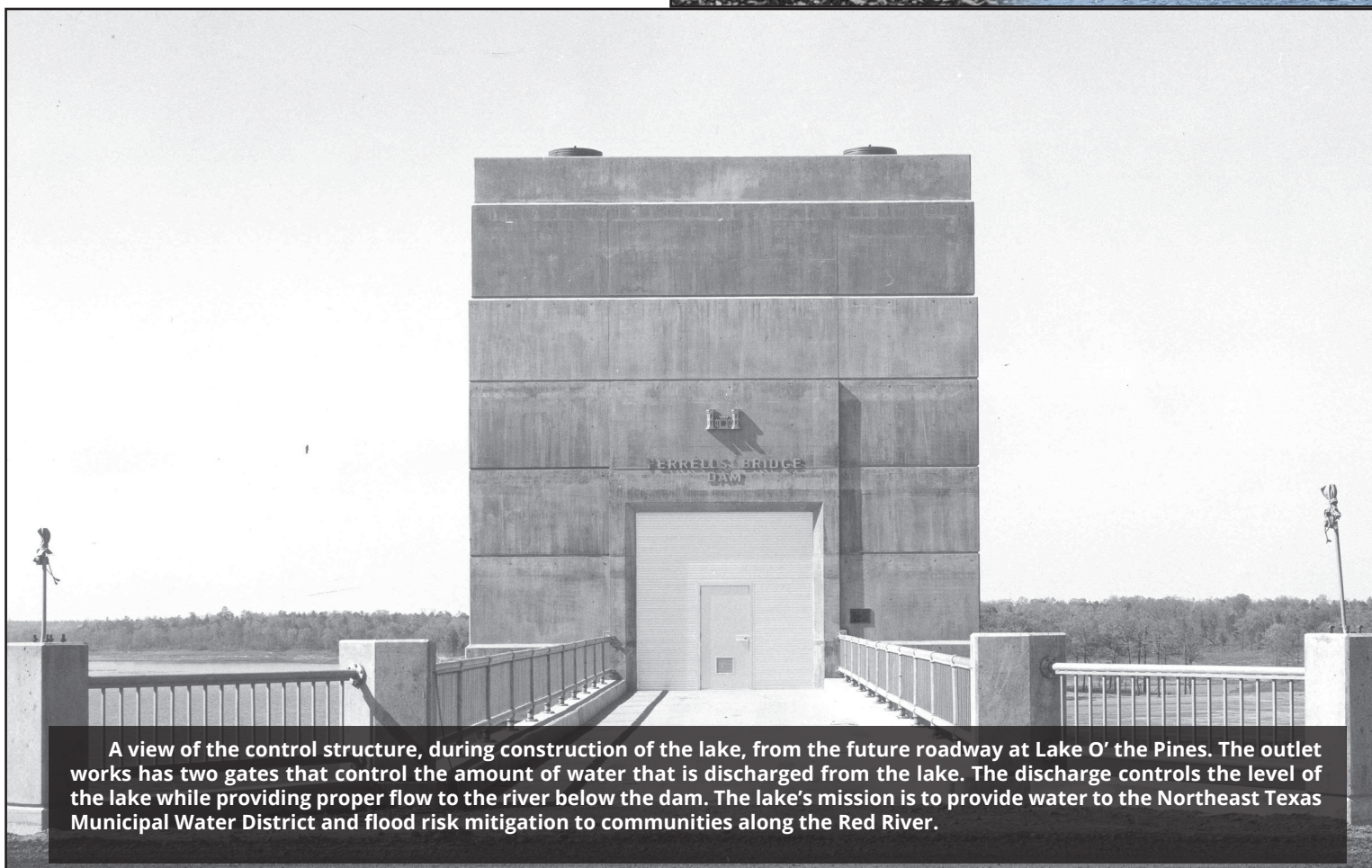
According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, during the 1950s, the enrollment rate for 14 to 17-year-olds in Marion County schools was 83% and by the late 1980s had reached 96%.

Today, the lake continues to provide flood risk mitigation to the Red River Basin and Marion County while supplying water storage for the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District. Recreation brings almost one million visitors to the lake annually.

"Now we look ahead to the next 70 years of protection against floods, providing for water supply, recreational opportunities, and natural resources conservation along with the progress of Marion County," said Berry. ■



A view of the control structure, 1950's and today, from Overlook Park at Lake O' the Pines. The outlet works has two gates that control the amount of water that is discharged from the lake. The discharge controls the level of the lake while providing proper flow to the river below the dam. The lake's mission is to provide water to the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District and flood risk mitigation to communities along the Red River.



A view of the control structure, during construction of the lake, from the future roadway at Lake O' the Pines. The outlet works has two gates that control the amount of water that is discharged from the lake. The discharge controls the level of the lake while providing proper flow to the river below the dam. The lake's mission is to provide water to the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District and flood risk mitigation to communities along the Red River.

A LATE START

CONTINUING TO SERVE

By: Pat Adelman

At 62 years of age, most people are thinking about what to do in retirement. Some are even enjoying the fruits of their labor that comes with it. But at 62, Ronald Morris decided to start a career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District.

After serving as a summer park ranger, a temporary position that turned into a full year, Morris submitted his resume for one of the two permanent ranger positions at Hords Creek Lake in April 2022.

Today, he has been a full-time park ranger at the lake for almost three years. But this is not his first time serving the nation or the Corps of Engineers.

"I joined the Navy in 1976 and served as a welder on active duty for four years," said Morris. "Then I spent a year in the Naval Reserve before going back on active duty for a little over six years."

After a break in service of four years, in 1991 Morris reenlisted in the Naval Reserve where he served another 12 years. After much consideration for his future, he decided to transfer to the Texas Army National Guard in 2003.

"When I first joined the National Guard, I was a motor transport operator and then an infantryman," said Morris. "But in 2010, I changed my career field and became a geospatial engineer. When I graduated from my training, I also received a certificate inducting me into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Morris stayed with the Army National Guard, both stateside and deployed overseas, for another eight years. He completed his career as an Army 1st Sgt. and retired from military service on December 31, 2018.

For the next three years Morris enjoyed the retired life doing odd jobs. Having driven by the entrance to the Hords Creek many times, he had no idea what laid beyond the gates at the lake.

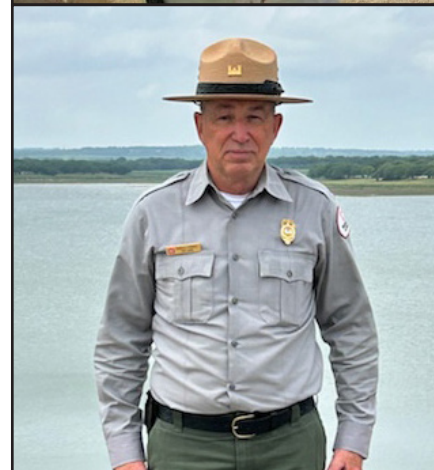


"I didn't know USACE had campgrounds at Hords Creek," said Morris. "Growing up in Brownwood, about 40 minutes from the lake, I just thought it was a lake for water storage."

With a love of the outdoors Morris became interested in the opportunities at the lake and soon found himself applying for the summer park ranger program.

Now, almost four years later, he has found commonality between the military service he loved and being a park ranger.

"When you transition out of the military, you're in a slump because you've lost that brotherhood, the camaraderie that was back behind you," said Morris. "But I built the same camaraderie and teamwork with the team at the lake that I had when I was in uniform, so it fills that void." ■



RAISING THE ROOF



BY: CHAD ELLER

A firm handshake between two old friends, Col. Calvin A. Kroeger, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District, and Col. Denis J. Fajardo, the Red River Army Depot commander, commenced a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the renovation and modernization of two tactical wheeled vehicle repair facilities at RRAD, Jan. 30, 2025.

The ceremony, witnessed by state and local elected officials, as well as over 100 depot employees and members of USACE, showcased the innovative engineering solutions USACE and depot engineers developed in renovating buildings almost 70 years old.

"Look around you," Kroeger encouraged the audience. "I want to thank our team of teams, which includes all of you right here in the audience, and stakeholders that laid the groundwork before us, for their efforts in bringing the project to this important milestone."

The \$42 million project, which began in 2020, involved a complete demolition of 180,000 square feet of roofing, then encapsulating the existing stone walls, and in a unique solution, raised the roof over 10 feet at both vehicle repair facilities.

"Facilities like this bring tremendous quality improvements that ensure our warfighters have the equipment they need, whenever and wherever they need it," Kroeger said.

The two facilities now feature taller ceilings and wider vehicle bays to accommodate larger military vehicles. Additionally, 24 overhead cranes equipped with fall protection systems and a vehicle exhaust system were installed. The renovations were aimed at enhancing safety, efficiency, and operational capabilities.

"Many of our facilities, while having served us faithfully over the decades, are now at a stage where they require significant upgrades to continue to meet the demands of modern military operations," said Fajardo. "A modernized RRAD will stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to the defense of our nation and the preservation of global stability."

Originally established in 1941 as an ammunition facility, RRAD expanded its mission during World War II to include tank repair. Today, the depot plays a vital role in maintaining and repairing military vehicles for the U.S. Army, as well as providing inter-service support to the Marine Corps, Air Force, and Navy's repair and overhaul programs.

According to Warren Sayes, USACE resident engineer, the new facilities are a "vehicle mechanic's dream."

"The depot employees can now work on tall military vehicles, 8-10 feet off the ground, safely," Sayes said. "We have upgraded compressed air systems for pneumatic tools and outlets that can handle welding equipment."

These improvements save the depot team considerable time in completing refurbishment and upgrading vehicles. "The team isn't wasting time sending vehicles to another area of the depot to complete a job; it's all now under one roof," Sayes said. "RRAD now has the tools to send battle-ready vehicles back out to our warfighter more efficiently. It's a major accomplishment for the depot and our nation's warfighters." ■

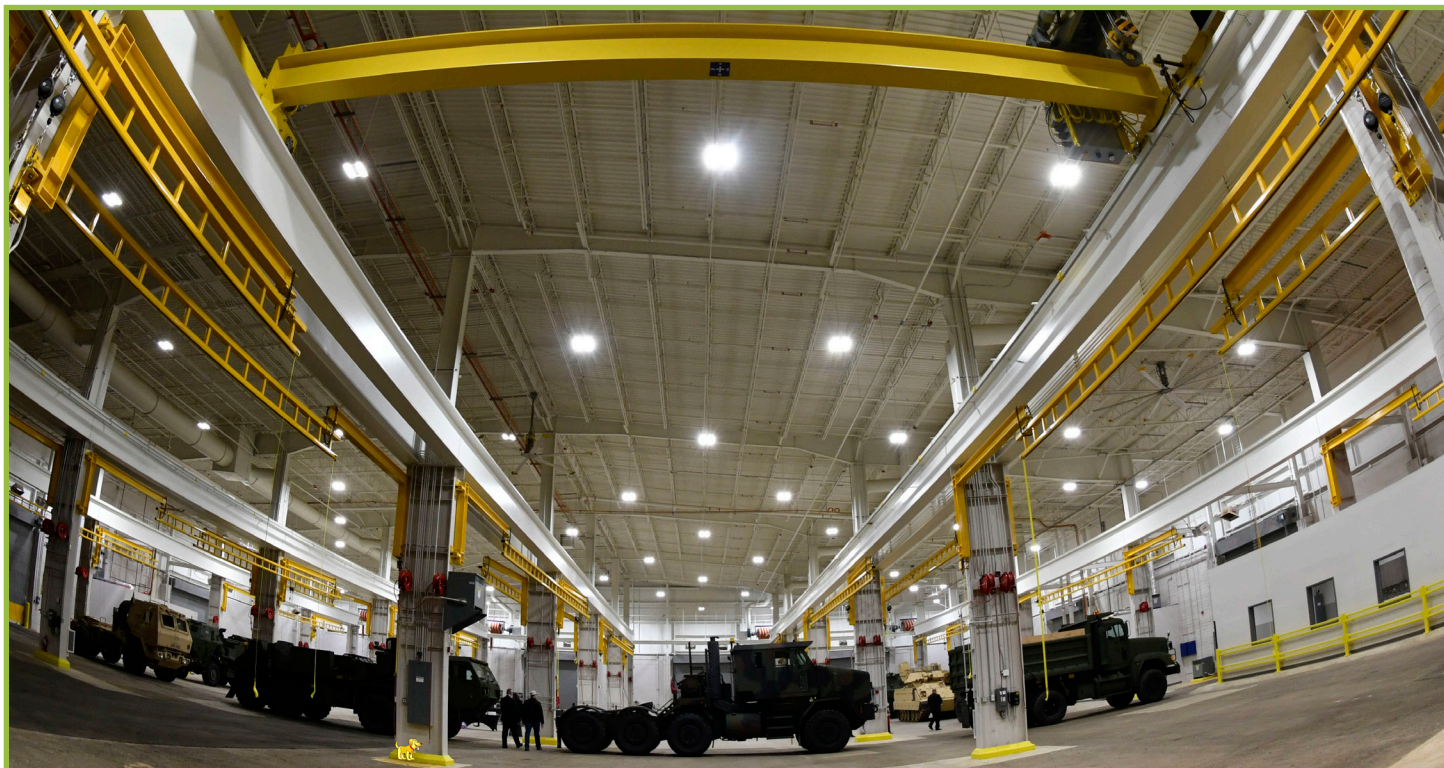
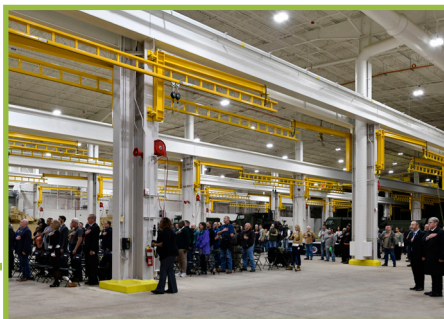
Fort Worth District Commander Col. Calvin Kroeger addresses the attendees at a ribbon cutting ceremony for two updated military vehicle maintenance facilities. In the background sits Red River Army Depot Commander Col. Denis Fajardo.



The first vehicle rolls in at the newly renovated vehicle maintenance facility at Red River Army Depot.



Attendees at a ribbon cutting ceremony for two updated military vehicle maintenance facilities at Red River Army Depot stand for the playing of the national anthem.



RENOVATING HISTORY

Ahead of schedule and under budget

BY: PAT ADELMANN

Building 1093 on Fort Bliss, Texas has been a part of the Army's Air Defense Artillery since before the branch's inception on June 20, 1968.

Originally built in 1959 and housing two Nike Hercules surface-to-air missile laboratories, the newly renovated building is now home to the U.S. Department of Defense, Missile Defense Agency's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Academy. The academy is a partnership between the DOD and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to train Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces soldiers on how to operate and maintain the THAAD battery.

When the MDA reached out to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District's Southwest Area Office with a plan to renovate the building for the training academy, they set the timeline at 24 months. A normal redesign of this magnitude would typically take 30-36 months. A strict timeline of July 15, 2024, was in place for the start of the first class of international students to come through the academy doors.

"It was an incredibly compressed schedule," said Andrew Davis, the project engineer for the renovation from the district's Southwest Area Office. "Especially because we were notified in August, put out a solicitation with the contract awarded September 30, 2022."

Multiple contractors said the work could not be done within the time allotted or for the budget that was set for the project. In the end, the Ross Group stepped in and said they could meet the timeline and budget outlined in the contract.

Building 1093 is one of more than 450 historical buildings on Fort Bliss. Because of its historical significance to the base, the first step before any construction could begin was to contact the post's historic preservation team.

"We have a programmatic agreement in place with the Texas and New Mexico State Historic Preservation offices," said Donald Sevigny, a historic preservation specialist with the Directorate of Public Works on Fort Bliss. "It's a way to streamline the review process that would otherwise be required for federally owned historic properties."

A consultation package with the Texas SHPO was put through to modify the interior of the building while retaining the general appearance of the exterior. While the consult is normally completed months before construction starts, Sevigny was able to work with the Texas SHPO to complete the consult and keep the project on schedule.



Above: A southern view of building 1093 on Fort Bliss, Texas circa 1962 when it housed two Nike Hercules surface-to-air missile laboratories and classrooms. The launch rack on the left and radar trailers on the right link the missile system to the building. Building 1093 has been a part of the Army's Air Defense Artillery since before the branch's inception on June 20, 1968.

"It was tough when we were told that everything had to look like the original building on the exterior," said Alex Espinoza, the quality assurance representative from the district's Southwest Area Office. "That was because we had to follow strict SHPO rules and regulations for any changes to include installing exits to meet modern safety standards for people to exit the building."

To meet the standards of the modification of the interior set forth by the SHPO and keep the exterior's general appearance, special construction techniques were followed both inside and out. This included replacing exterior doors with sheet metal made to look like the original roll-up doors while having exit doors built in to meet modern safety standards. The most challenging process was to match the color, texture, and pattern of the originals, which are rolled up and hidden behind the temporary interior walls.

"Everything that is in the building is not permanently adhered to the building," said Espinoza. "Nothing is drilled into the walls, and a special adhesive that can be removed was used to hold the walls in place. The building can easily be brought back to its normal state as it was before we even started construction."

In the end the Ross Group and the Southwest Area Office team completed the renovation in just over 18 months.

"I was impressed with the process," said Thomas Harraghy, chief of the MDA's KSA THAAD Training Academy. "When we had to start class, we were able to do that and that was the ultimate goal."

By working as a team, preplanning for long lead items, and implementing value engineering, the renovations were completed ahead of schedule and under budget. ■



An exterior view of the newly renovated building 1093 on Fort Bliss, Texas.



A plaque recognizing the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Academy. The THAAD academy is a partnership between the Department of Defense and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to train Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces soldiers on how to implement the THAAD battery.

RETIRING FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS: A FOND FAREWELL

BY: PAT ADELMANN



For many long-serving U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees, retirement is a bittersweet moment. On one hand, there is a sense of pride and accomplishment in having served the nation and contributed to important infrastructure projects. On the other hand, there is a sense of loss in leaving behind the camaraderie and a sense of purpose that comes with being part of a military organization.

Retirement from USACE is also a time to reflect on the legacy one leaves behind. Retirees can take pride in the impact they have had on the nation's infrastructure and the communities they have served. Their dedication and hard work have helped to build and maintain critical infrastructure projects, both military and civilian, that can benefit the country for generations to come.

For Robert "Bob" Morris Jr., who came to the Fort Worth District as an Army Lt. Col. in the role of deputy commander in 2002, and then transitioned to federal service as a Department of the Army civilian, reflecting on more than 22 years of service with the district, seems almost like yesterday.

I sat down with Bob as he reminisced about his career.

Pat Adelmann: How did you first come to work at the Fort Worth District?

Bob Morris: As I approached retirement from the active-duty Army, I reflected on a promise I made to my wife when we got married. That is, once I retired, I'd go where she wanted to go. Since

she was born in Cleburne, Texas, she wanted to come back to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In 2002, I started looking at opportunities for the Army to move down here. That would give me some time to get acclimated to the area and start networking before retirement. I saw that the military deputy's position was going to rotate the summer that I was scheduled to leave my instructor position at West Point. The commander was Col. Gordon Wells, who I knew while I was a cadet at the academy. So I flew down here for office call with Col. Wells. We talked a little bit and he put in a by name request for me to fill the deputy commander position. That's how I got to the district in June of 2002. I stayed in that role until I retired from the active Army in December 2005. But I actually started working as a civilian while I was on my terminal leave.

PA: What position did you hold when you started working as a civilian for the district?

BM: Col. John Minahan was the district commander, and Mike Mocek was the deputy district engineer and chief of programs and project management, at the time. They offered me the program manager position for BRAC, Base Realignment and Closure, 2005. So, in November 2005, I was hired to oversee a \$5 billion program at Joint Base San Antonio. We were coordinating the medical education training campus back then. It included the modular dorms, Tri-Services Research Lab, the Battlefield Health and Trauma Lab, and the expansion of the San Antonio Military Medical Center ambulatory care clinic on Lackland Air Force Base.

PA: What was your next role with the district?

BM: Troy Collins was the deputy district engineer at the time, and he left to go over to Afghanistan. The district put out an announcement for the position as a temporary fill. I applied for and was selected to fill the position. I think it was 2011. I did that for a year and a half, and then, when they finally advertised it for a permanent fill, Peggy Grubbs, a future distinguished civilian inductee, got the position. She asked me what I wanted to do next, whether I wanted to go back to program manager, and I said 'no, I want your job', to be the deputy chief, Programs and Project Management Division. So, we flipped positions.

PA: As the deputy for PPMD for the past 13 years, what do you see as one of your legacies?

BM: The opportunity to mentor our people. Typically, you have folks in the leadership development program, LDP 2 and 3, coming for mentoring sessions. It's one of those things that once you start with mentoring somebody, it may initially start off as a short-term arrangement or a limited term arrangement. But as people move around and up in the organization, you become a strategic asset for them down the road. One of the major things that all employees should do is have those mentors check in with them throughout their careers.

PA: What do you see as one of the biggest challenges of your career?

BM: I would say probably the post-COVID era. I think we successfully navigated COVID. But coming out of COVID, we have experienced angst while adapting to the hybrid work environment. I feel that exacerbated the differences of generational interactions. I'm old school, I like to see people face to face. But some employees prefer to communicate with email or Microsoft Teams, but others respond to text messages.

So, I think we're dealing with a lot more personal preferences in communication styles as well as the folks that prefer to work from home. I have always worked in the office. Even through COVID I came in every day. I work better that way. I had our admins coming in every day because we needed to be able to support the folks that are working from home. It's hard to answer the phones if nobody's at the phones. There also might be requirements, perhaps a project manager is going to a meeting with the city of Dallas and needs something printed out for the meeting. The project managers don't have printers at home so they send it to

the office, we can print it out for them, and they can pick it up on their way to the meeting. So that's why we need an element in the office for that kind of support.

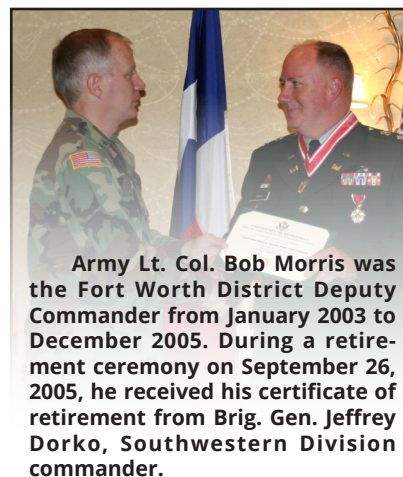
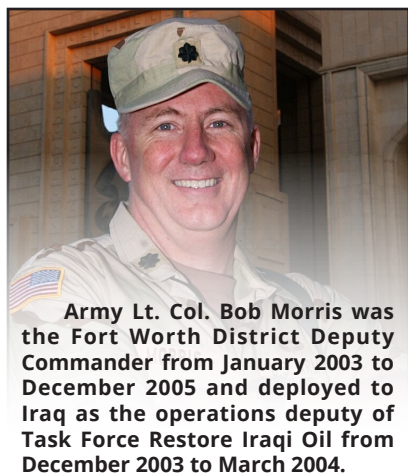
PA: Looking back on your career with the district what do you feel is your biggest accomplishment?

BM: I liked what I did at JBSA. To be able to go on the base and know that I had a hand in getting those improvements. It was medical heavy, and that's where the district ended up gaining expertise on hospitals, and we used that expertise with the Fort Bliss hospital, along with Darnell on Fort Cavazos.

PA: What does the next chapter of your life hold for you?

BM: I grew up as an Army brat and did a lot of traveling and living in different places. Between that, my own career, and marrying a flight attendant, travel plays a big role in what we will do. So, we've already got a couple of big trips planned for next year. A trip to France to see the Normandy beaches and stuff, if the good Lord allows us to still be in good health and moving forward. But the other piece really ties back to why I joined the military in the first place and then continued to stay with the Corps afterwards and that is service. I've always been engaged in volunteer activities. Whether it's the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, or Coast Guard auxiliary. I look forward to being able to do more volunteer activities where I can give back to our community.

A Fond Farewell; as the district bids Bob a fond farewell, he will move on to the next chapter of his life, retirement from USACE. This is a moment to reflect on the legacy he leaves behind. He can take pride in the significant impact he had on the nation's infrastructure and the communities he served. His dedication and hard work helped build and maintain critical projects that will benefit the country for generations. It's time to celebrate his accomplishments and sacrifices made during his tenure in the Corps of Engineers, and to look forward to new opportunities and challenges. Retirement offers a chance to relax, reflect, and enjoy the fruits of his labor, while also leaving a lasting legacy of service to the nation. ■



THE CORNERSTONE OF CONTRACTING SUCCESS

BY: BRITTANY SCRUGGS



As the fiscal year drew to a close, agencies reflected on past achievements while implementing the year's lessons learned into the next fiscal year. This period can be likened to changing seasons; just as nature transitions from the vibrancy of summer to the introspection of winter, agencies assess their performance and strategize for the upcoming year.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, it is no different.

Fiscal year 2024 saw a season of substantial growth and accomplishment with total obligations exceeding \$1.9 billion. This period of investment focuses on broad spectrum initiatives, from military programs and civil works to real estate and emergency management. An analysis of all the district's key project completions, funding allocations, and their overall impact on community resilience and infrastructural integrity highlights one division where almost every mission within the district intersects – contracting.

Col. Calvin Kroeger, commander of the Fort Worth District, provided a snapshot of the district's 2024 fiscal year, saying, "Our USACE culture is focused on 'winning' - with over \$1.9 billion awarded in fiscal year 2024 and our job order contract business line spearheading our impactful programs. Our delivery touched 92 separate and discrete end-users across our portfolio."

How did the Fort Worth District obligate funding exceeding \$1.9 billion? Through multiple initiatives, underscoring a robust operational framework. Notably, total construction placements for the year were recorded at \$578.6 million, with military construction accounting for \$434.5 million, civil works/operations and maintenance at \$45.5 million, and Infrastructure Investment Strategy at \$98.6 million. The district advanced 25 projects valued over \$300 million, reflecting its commitment to exceeding infrastructural needs and expectations.

The district also awarded 249 military projects totaling \$923 million in FY24. This included \$647 million for MILCON, \$22 million for minor MILCON, \$194 million for sustainment, restoration, and modernization, and \$60 million for job order contracts. Key projects included the Fort Bliss Rail Extension, the Fort Bliss Fire Station, and various initiatives at Fort Johnson and Joint-Base San Antonio, collectively enhancing military readiness and infrastructure.

The civil works program executed a multi-billion-dollar initiative supported by various legislative acts, including flood risk management projects in Fort Worth, and major levee improvements in the Dallas Floodway. The Operations and Maintenance program completed 98% of scheduled obligations, funding significant upgrades to include critical repairs and enhancements at Lewisville and Joe Pool dams.

The theme that pulsed through each project was job order contracts. Depending on the type of action, any challenges faced, funding, and regulations upheld, it could take on average three months to a year to go through the contracting process. Knowing this, completing tasks that required multi-level coordination with a 30-day closeout certainly added extra pressure to get the job done with 100% accuracy.

"In the hustle and bustle of complex projects, it's the strength and collaboration of each section, branch, and division that helped transform any challenges into success," stated Lindsay Chvilicek, contract specialist with the Fort Worth District. "Every role and every voice mattered in achieving our year-end goal."

In FY24, the district allocated \$609 million for Veteran Affairs projects, including substantial investments in the El Paso VA Facility. Additionally, collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection advanced under federal guidelines, streamlining service delivery.

The Regional Planning & Environmental Center managed total obligations of \$428 million, with contract awards, involving interdivisional efforts with the Tulsa



The Contracting Division takes their group photo on September 4, 2024.

district, exceeding \$393 million in reimbursable environmental and master planning services. A key accomplishment included the completion of the agency's decision milestone for the San Francisco Waterfront Study.

The Regulatory branch handled nearly 1,900 permit actions, resolving significant compliance issues, including high-profile enforcement cases involving the James and Sabinal Rivers. Each case was resolved by the removal and restoration of the rivers.

Real Estate activities supported the Joint Forces Recruiting Program with nearly \$39 million in contracts being executed, providing essential lease support, and completing extensive compliance inspections.

The district facilitated 48 lease renewals, relocations, and expansions, significantly contributing to operational efficiency.

The district advanced several key acquisition contracts, including a \$100 million capacity for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's vertical design which involved the coordination and assembly of structures that extend above ground level, and a \$2.4 billion capacity for unrestricted vertical construction. These contracts enhanced construction capabilities across the Southwestern Division, meeting the needs of each customer.

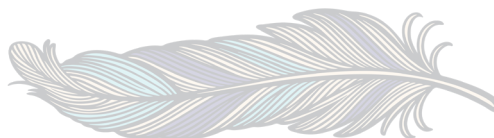
In response to the Maui wildfires, the district's emergency management division spearheaded the deployment of over 200 employees and managed \$3.4

million in travel funding with the guidance of resource management. This initiative emphasized cultural considerations in disaster response and recovery efforts, reinforcing the district's commitment to community support during crises.

Charging the district with the way forward in fiscal year 2025, Kroeger exclaimed, "We will continue to seek opportunities to safely deliver, and finish, quality projects on schedule and within budget!"

Fiscal year 2024 marked a significant period of achievement for the district, characterized by extensive financial obligations and project completions across multiple sectors. Each mission set demonstrated the district's dedication to enhancing infrastructure and community resilience and emphasizing the importance of strategic collaboration with other federal and local agencies.

As the district prepares for the future, the lessons learned and successes achieved serve as a foundation for continued mission excellence where the Fort Worth District's motto, Cornerstone of the Southwest, rings true! ■



NAVIGATING ARMY RESOURCES

From Military Service to Civilian Careers

BY: BRITTANY SCRUGGS

Picture the sun rising over a bustling café, two military members settled into a corner table, engaged in a conversation that reflects a pressing concern for many service members: life after military service. While one service member expresses concern over whether his 15 years of uniformed experience will translate into civilian job opportunities, the other service member is concerned with finding resources to expand her knowledge and technical skills desired before heading to the Captain's Career Course.

Hearing the conversation, the barista, a former military member, interjects, "Have you heard about the DOD SkillBridge program or Technical Engineer Competency Development Program?"

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has seen first-hand how the program works and how it is impactful for service members and civil servants alike. Each program is aimed at helping service members build upon the expertise, skills, and foundational leadership instilled by the Army, but where they largely differ is the end goal.

A Gateway to Opportunities

Through the SkillBridge and TEC-DP programs, the Programs and Project Management Division within the district utilizes both programs as a crucial link between service members, civil servants, and the mission of providing vital engineering solutions. Each program provides a unique experience to gain skills and explore new avenues while remaining on active duty.

1st Lt. Leandra Ramos, project manager in the military construction branch within the district's Programs and Project Management Division, experienced TEC-DP firsthand.

"Participating in the technical engineer competency development program has given me invaluable insight into the civilian side of engineering, allowing me to bridge my military experience with real-world project management," Ramos said. "While my role here may differ from

what I'll do in a traditional Army unit, this experience has expanded my understanding of engineering and highlighted the importance of effective budgeting and scheduling in successful project execution."

Understanding SkillBridge

SkillBridge, according to the Department of Defense, is akin to a GPS for service members preparing for post-military life. It allows them to gain real-world experience through training, apprenticeships, and internships during the last 180 days of their service. Service members interested in the Fort Worth District have an opportunity to work in various fields where a need has been established.

Jessica Napier, military programs branch chief, PPMD, provided insight into how the SkillBridge program has helped the district.

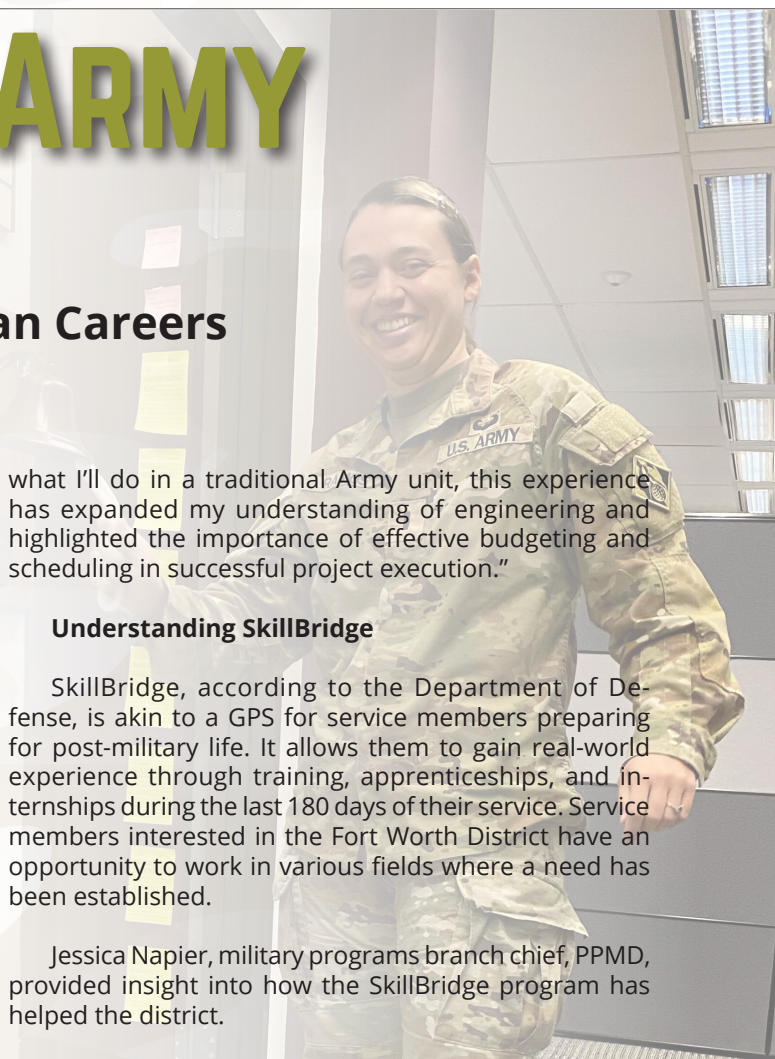
"We've received extremely intelligent service members who learn very quickly—a testament, in part, to their Army training," said Napier. "Their presence allows for real-time feedback as they are directly tied to the facilities that we provide military members."

Bob Wooley, chief of the military branch's eastern section and first-line supervisor to Ramos, spoke to her work ethic and how the program was value-added to the district.

"From day one, Lt. Ramos displayed a strong drive to learn and quickly earned the knowledge and trust required to lead complex projects," Wooley said. "Her ability to build trust not only enhanced collaboration within our team, but also strengthened relationships with our customers, fostering improved teamwork and seamless project execution."

Understanding The Technical Engineer Competency Development Program

The Army's TEC-DP is designed to enhance the skills and competencies of technical engineers within the mili-



tary or engineering organizations. This program typically focuses on several key areas: training and education, competency framework, career advancement, assessment and feedback, and collaboration and networking. Each key area provides an added layer of leadership development that can only be attained by working with agencies outside of a regular Army unit.

Lt. Col. Joshua Haynes, deputy commander of the Fort Worth District, echoes this sentiment, explaining the broader mission of USACE and the district.

"The TEC-DP program is about providing our lieutenants with a well-rounded experience within the Army Corps of Engineers, allowing them to understand the diverse resources at their disposal before they advance in their Army careers," said Haynes.

Essayons

The SkillBridge and TEC-DP programs are two of many invaluable resources available for soldiers who are navigating the complexities of an Army career.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has prioritized partnering with highly qualified service members to build crucial, yet necessary, links between service members and civil servants. No matter the chosen path, each selected service member is encouraged to embody the spirit of the USACE motto, Essayons; a French phrase that translates to, "let us try."

Haynes emphasized the potential for growth within these programs.

"If an individual enters the SkillBridge or TEC-DP program with motivation and an open mind, the opportunities for growth and learning are limitless," Haynes said.

Service members are encouraged to "try" by using one's skills and talents to effectively tackle the challenges of modern engineering projects with the Army Corps of Engineers and embrace the possibilities that lie ahead. While the future is unknown, utilizing all available Army resources will challenge them to Be All You Can Be! ■

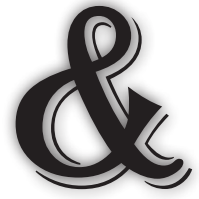
Editor's Note: For more information on SkillBridge, go to the DOD site: <https://skillbridge.osd.mil/>.



Group photo of Army Corps of Engineers' employees taken at the Army-sponsored Career Fair, April 13, 2024, at Globe Life Stadium, Arlington, Texas. **Page Left:** 1st Lt. Leandra Ramos, project manager, Fort Worth District's Programs and Project Management Division, rings the bell to signify all her Fiscal Year 2024 contracting tasks have been completed successfully. **Above:** Col. Calvin A. Kroeger, commander of Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District, pins a lapel pin on Charles Baker, a recruit who was hired on the spot at the Army-sponsored Career Fair, April 13, 2024, at Globe Life Stadium, Arlington, Texas.



ALOHA



In August of 2023, a little over one year ago, devastating wildfires swept through the small tropical towns of Kula and Lahaina, Hawaii, setting the stage for a mission unlike anything the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District has ever seen.

Once the scope of the disaster was realized, USACE was mission assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the National Response Framework, as Emergency Support Function #3, which regulates public works and engineering support for a natural or manmade disaster.

For emergency operational response, USACE initially relies on personnel from the district geographically responsible under their regional authorities. But as most major disaster missions have tremendous manpower requirements, which can overwhelm local districts, USACE utilizes a rotational system of districts responsible for providing specific engineering, construction, and technical support to the FEMA mission.

For the wildfires mission, Fort Worth District was tasked to support the massive debris removal mission in August 2023.

"That tragic event happened right after I took command of the district," said Col. Calvin Kroeger, the Fort Worth District commander. "Within four days of the wildfires we had our subject matter experts and senior leadership on the ground, starting to assess the complexity of the mission we were given."

The Fort Worth team physically began debris removal at Kula in November 2023, and Lahaina in January 2024, but it took a lot of hard work by everyone involved to set the conditions for that to even happen.

"Once we were able to understand the operating environment with FEMA, we were able to apportion the workforce based on the requirements," Kroeger said. "Our biggest lesson learned was the cultural aspect of the debris removal mission. To better understand that we had an amazing team of cultural resource advisors and support staff that enabled our efforts for Maui at the local, state and national level."

To date the Fort Worth District team has deployed over 190 Fort Worth personnel, both Department of Army ac-

tive-duty military and civilians, to lead removal efforts of fire-damaged debris from areas across Maui.

Brian Brandt, a resident engineer from Fort Worth District, was one of the first to survey the scene and plan debris removal efforts.

"The mission posed several unique challenges that increased the complexities to the mission," said Brandt. "Not only the cultural and archaeological considerations but identifying a space to build a Temporary Debris Storage site proved difficult with the environmental sensitivities of the historic and beautiful island. Once identified, gaining approval required cooperation from federal, state, county, and local cultural leaders.

Through public engagement and transparency, the USACE team designed and built a one-of-a-kind temporary debris storage site in less than six weeks to ensure a timely cleanup for the people of Lahaina."

District personnel were primarily deployed to support the Emergency Field Office, which manages the actual day-to-day efforts of debris removal. They have also been deployed to support the Joint Field Office, which acts as a temporary federal multiagency coordination center, and a Recovery Field Office, which is considered a temporary USACE district, localized for recovery efforts.

Initial estimates were that the debris removal mission for residential properties alone would last more than a year, but the USACE team significantly beat that metric.

On August 29, 2024, the final residential site - out of 1390 home sites when the team started - was cleared of fire debris, a significant accomplishment. The team's focus now shifts to commercial sites, with 62 percent of commercial sites cleared.

Kroeger visited the Planning and Response Team for debris removal at the Emergency Field Office in Lahaina, to express his appreciation for their hard work and dedication, and to get an assessment of the current conditions on the ground.

MAHALO

BY: RICHARD BUMGARDNER




U.S. Army Col. Calvin Kroeger with members of the Recovery Field Office, the Joint Field Office and some members from the Emergency Field Office in Maui.

"I am extremely proud of the entire team, that were resourced and mobilized from across the Fort Worth team, who stepped up and responded to this disaster," Kroeger said. "I want to give a special thank you to those at home in Texas and Louisiana who continue to shoulder the extra workload while many of our Fort Worth teammates are forward supporting this critical mission. Without their support back here in Texas, this national response mission would not be successful."

Kroeger went on to say that he felt this mission in Maui was one of the most complex missions that USACE has been part of in the past century, if not the past 249 years of the Corps of Engineers' history.

As Kroeger and district employees attended the 1-year remembrance ceremonies held to honor those lost during the wildfires, a common Hawaiian expression of Mahalo, or thank you, was often heard when speaking about the impact of the USACE mission.

The extra team effort to complete this difficult mission, on time and in a culturally respectful manner, will benefit and strengthen the community for years to come. 



U.S. Army Col. Calvin Kroeger, Fort Worth District commander, recently met with Corps of Engineers' team members that are deployed to Maui supporting the debris cleanup mission from wildfires that swept through the small Hawaiian towns of Lahaina and Kula, Aug. 8, 2023.

USACE and Partners Break Ground on New Barracks at Fort Johnson

BY: CHAD ELLER

Brig. Gen. Jason Curl, Commanding General of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, and Arnold "Rob" Newman, the Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District Deputy District Engineer, leaned onto their shovels March 13th to break ground with their teammates on the new unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing facility.

Once complete, the new barracks will provide modernized living quarters for 160 soldiers at Fort Johnson. The two-bedroom units have walk-in closets, a bathroom with tub/shower, and a kitchen equipped with a two-burner induction stove and a full-size refrigerator. Soldiers will also have access to a recycling center and a laundry room on each floor of the facility.

"This is going to be another piece to our facility improvement plan - we have buildings going up all over this installation as we continue to modernize Fort Johnson," Curl said. "This is critical to our soldier's readiness and the readiness of our Army. This will be a great place for soldiers to live and recharge."

Newman, the chief of Programs and Project Management Division at the district, leads the project managers that are overseeing the \$55 million design-build project.

"Supporting these soldiers' well-being, and making sure they are combat-ready, is a top priority for the Fort Worth District," Newman said. "We are proud of our military construction program, and we are proud to join Brig. Gen. Curl's team to start working on this facility."

The 85,500 square foot, three-story building is expected to be complete in July of 2027 by Cerris Builders, Inc. ■





Fort Worth District **Part of the journey** **for 75 years-**

U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS



250 YEARS

1775  2025

BUILDING STRONG

Proud to celebrate **250 together!**

75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FORT WORTH AND BEYOND

BY: PAT ADELMANN

From its humble beginnings in the wake of the devastating 1949 floods that inundated Fort Worth to the support of the recovery efforts after the Hawaii and Los Angeles wildfires, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District has successfully met every mission head-on.

The district was established on April 16, 1950, and called 100 West Vickery home. In 1980, the district moved to the Fritz G. Lanham federal building at 819 Taylor Street where it remains to this day.



Left: During the 1949 Fort Worth flood, a horse was famously spotted on a rooftop - a visual symbol of the city's struggle with the devastating floodwaters, and the horse became known as the "lucky horse".

From its singularly focused mission set in 1950, to the dynamic, multifaceted mission set of today, the Fort Worth District has evolved. Today, the district oversees military construction in Texas and Louisiana at 14 installations from Fort Bliss to Fort Johnson, more than 900 miles away. This includes approximately 600 projects with an estimated value of more than \$9.8 billion in design and construction.

"One of the biggest issues for the district during the 90s was the Cox Range Control Facility on White Sands Missile Range," said Jim Weller, the Fort Worth District commander from November 1997 to July 2000. "It was a design build contract. In the 90s, the Corps of Engineers transitioned from district engineers serving as the contracting officers and signing the contracts to the contracting staff signing the contracts. But I was still heavily involved in the contracting, which created some issues for contracting, so it was a learning curve."

The district currently manages 51 civil works projects which includes 373 miles of levees and bank protection. Approximately 33% of Texas' surface water is located within the boundaries of the district, which includes 9.6 million acres of land and water. In total these civil works projects have prevented an estimated \$170 billion in damages.

"Back in the 70s, the district was doing the preliminary design to make the Trinity River navigable all the way up to just west of loop 820," said J.B. West, a former district employee for over 30 years starting in 1965.

West was also the commander for what was then an Army Reserve aviation unit that worked in unison with the district.

"I was able to fly the district photographer low level along the Trinity River all the way to Galveston Bay," West said. "Periodically, someone in the district would need some aviation support. So long as it was official business, I could carry civilians on Army helicopters. Every time there was a major flood, somebody in water resources would go out, look at the flood waters and see how they were doing."

As with the responses to the Hawaii and Los Angeles wildfires, district staff have participated in emergency management response since the start of the district. Ten presidentially declared major disaster events have occurred since 2010, and district personnel have supported each of them. Since 2016, more than 590 staff members have volunteered their time and skills in support of civil response and recovery missions. There have also been 122 deployments outside of the continental United States since 2001.

"From 2002 to about 2006 the deployment schedule for the district was very heavy," said Bob Morris, who served with the district from 2002 to 2024 as a soldier and civilian, culminating in his roles as the deputy for the Programs and Project Management Division for 13 years.

"The district pioneered the Forward Engineering Support Team concept," he continued. "In June 2002, we sent the FEST team over to Afghanistan to support the 18th Airborne Corps. Beyond supporting the war fighter, we've also been a lead for the debris removal mission after natural disasters."

The real estate section of the district manages 2.6 million acres of real property, which includes 4,462 civil and military real estate instruments. There are 7,400 real property items managed valued at \$824 million. Along with the real property items, the section also manages 350 recruiting leases for all branches of the armed forces with \$46.2 million in annual economic impact across 150 communities.

"In the 80s we had a large acquisition branch," said Randy Roberts, the former chief of Realty Services Branch, who joined the district in 1983. "With Joe Pool and Ray Roberts Lakes under construction, we were acquiring the land that would later become the lakes."

With the construction of the lakes came a new way of developing the property around the lakes. What seems commonplace now, was something new for the district which inherited many

of their lakes from the New Orleans District.

"Unlike many of the lakes we had in our inventory already, we developed Joe Pool and Ray Roberts lakes with cost share partners," Roberts said. "For the recreation side we had partners, such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, leasing out parts of those lakes for their own parks; at Joe Pool Lake there's Cedar Hill State Park."

The district also works with partners and outside entities that are developing properties along rivers and waterways. Each year the regulatory division averages almost 1,900 permit authorizations across the district. They also investigate more than 180 compliance and enforcement actions.

"In the early 80s, the Trinity River in the metroplex led to major changes when it comes to regulatory and a standardized criteria for floodplain development," said Becky Griffin, the former chief of the district's planning branch. "Wayne Lee, who was the chief of regulatory at the time, became really concerned that there was so much activity that his people wouldn't be able to carry out their obligations under environmental requirements. He wanted a programmatic environmental impact statement that would look at development, particularly focused on the Three River Region in the metroplex."

An outgrowth of the changes later became the Central City Project.

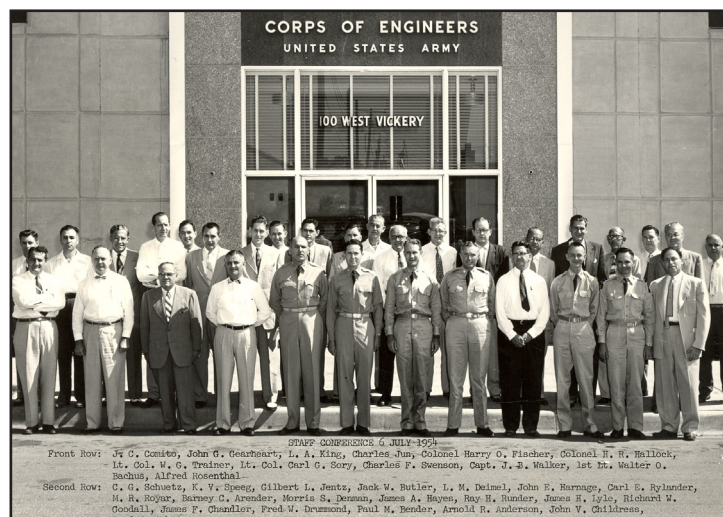
"We developed what we call the regional environmental impact statement that eventually led to working with the North Central Texas Council of Government," continued Griffin.

Probably the most known part of the district is its dams and flood control reservoirs spread across of Texas. With 25 lakes spread across the district's four regions, it is no surprise that there are more than 19 million visitors annually to the various parks and day-use facilities. The lakes offer 7,700 campsites and in 2024 the total revenues reached \$11.85 million.

"In 1983 I came to the Fort Worth District from the New Orleans District to become the lake manager at Lake O' the Pines," said Jerry P. Thomas, who served as the first operations project manager for the Piney Woods Region in the district. "I became a project manager when the district combined Lake O' the Pines, Wright Patman, and Jim Chapman after it was built. In 1993, the district stood up the four regions they have now and Sam Rayburn and Town Bluff were added to the other three to become the Piney Woods Region which I oversaw until I retired in 2015."

With 75 years on its resume and accomplishments across the globe, the Fort Worth District has no plans on slowing down. No matter if it's military construction, civil works, flood risk mitigation, or a future natural disaster, the district will continue living the Corps of Engineers' motto, Essayons! – Let us try! ■

Below: Red Cross volunteers traveled by canoe to deliver food to the flood victims. As late as the 1990's, city residents still recalled the "Big One" that buried sections of downtown in 10 feet of water.



Above: USACE Fort Worth District, located at 100 West Vickery. Staff conference July 1954. **Front Row:** J.C. Comito, John G. Gearheart, L.A. King, Charles Jun, Colonel Harry O. Fishcer, Colonel H.R. Hallock, Lt. Col. W.G. Trainer, Lt. Col. Carl G. Sory, Charles F. Swenson, Capt. J. B. Walker, 1st Lt. Walter O. Bachus, Alfred Rosenthal. **Second Row:** C.G. Schuetz, K.V. Speeg, Gilbert L. Jentz, Jack W. Butler, L.M. Deimel, John E. Harnage, Carle E. Rylander, R. R. Royar, Barney C. Arender, Morris S. Denman, James A. Hayes, Ray H. Runder, James H. Lyle, Richard W. Goodall, James. F. Chandler, Fred W. Drummond, Paul M. Bender, Arnold R. Anderson, John V. Childress, Fred W. Johnson

An aerial photograph showing a town almost completely submerged in floodwater. The water is a murky, brownish-grey color. Several houses and buildings are visible, their roofs and upper floors above water. A large, light-colored building with a prominent gabled roof and a small tower-like structure is in the center. To the right, a long, narrow strip of land with trees and a few buildings is partially submerged. The overall scene depicts a severe flooding event.

1936

An aerial view of San Angelo during the floods of September 1936. This flood, and others like it over the previous decade, led to the authorization of O.C. Fisher Dam and Lake by the Flood Control Act of 1941. Since its completion, through fiscal year 2023, the cumulative amount of damages prevented by the dam during rain events is \$21.3 million.

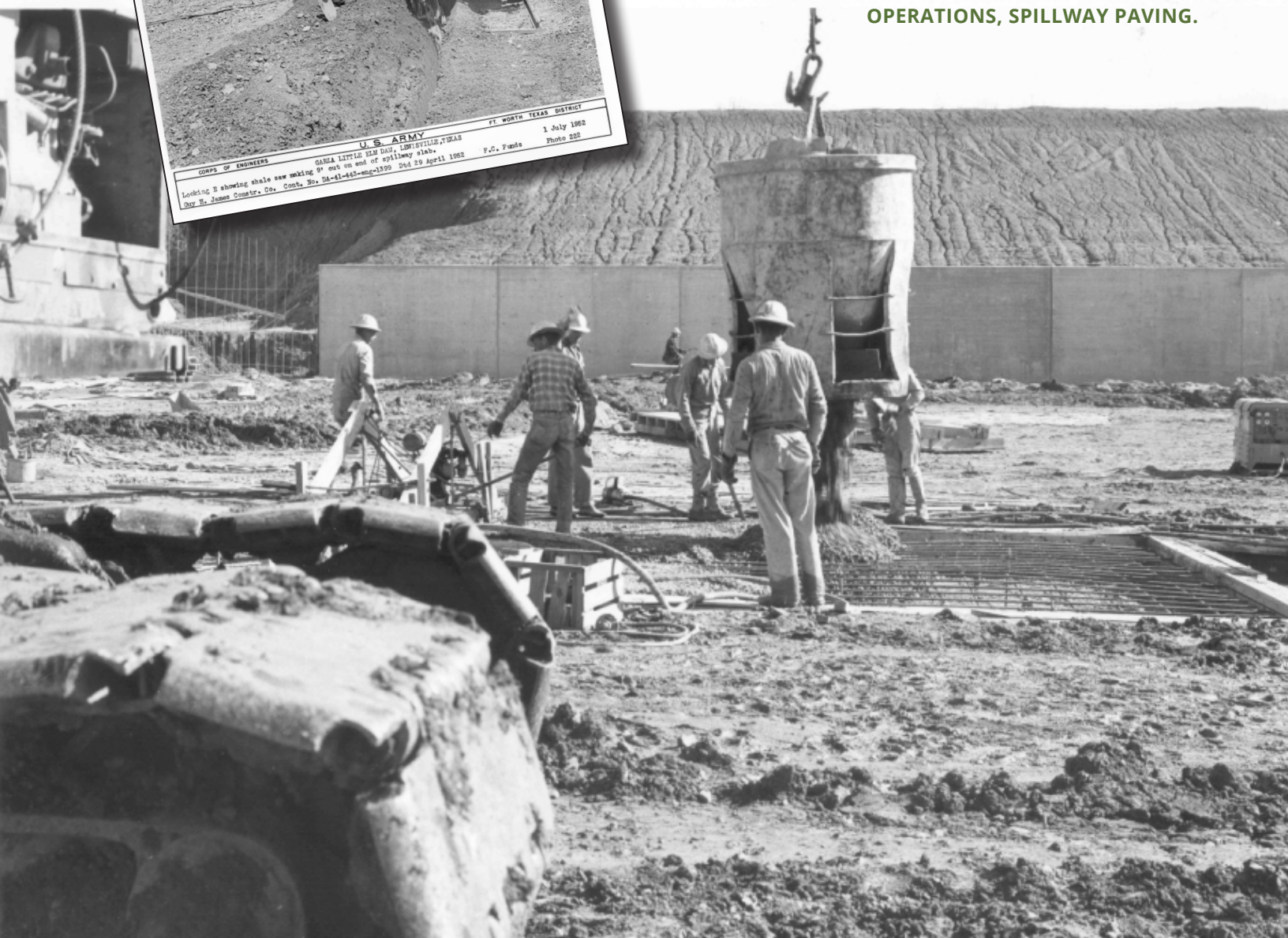
1952

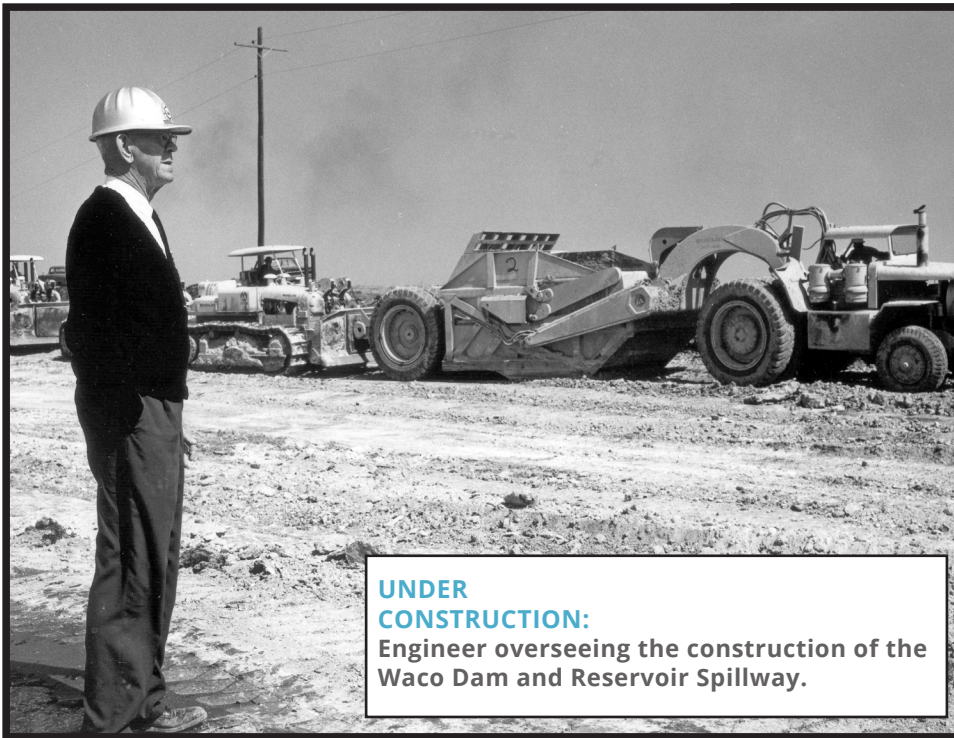
CONSTRUCTION LITTLE ELM DAM LEWISVILLE LAKE

USACE Fort Worth's Lewisville Lake is the second lake to impound the waters of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Before the construction of the lake the area was prairies, farmland, and forests. The city of Dallas constructed the original lake in the mid-1920s for water supply which was at the time named Lake Dallas. In 1948, Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took over the original dam and spillway which was then 10,890 feet long and had a 515-foot spillway. Expansion of the lake and dam started in 1948 and was completed in 1955 and the lake was renamed to Lewisville Lake. Completion of the project extended the dam to 32,888 feet (just over 6 miles) and the spillway to 560 feet. Fort Worth District took over the project at its completion in the 1950s. Today the lake and its properties total nearly 30,000 acres and provide water supply, flood risk management, conservation and recreation for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.



**SHOWING CONCRETE PLACING
OPERATIONS, SPILLWAY PAVING.**





UNDER CONSTRUCTION:
Engineer overseeing the construction of the Waco Dam and Reservoir Spillway.



LAKE WACO DAM AND RESERVOIR

The flood threat to the city of Waco and downstream portions of the Brazos - combined with the need for conservation storage to save millions of gallons of water that were wasted, led local citizens to seek a new reservoir. Through their efforts, Congress authorized the project for construction by the Corps of Engineers.

By law, local interests are required to bear the cost of acquisition of the storage allocated to conservation in the reservoir. A water conservation contract covering repayment of the cost of those features has been approved, and, under its terms, the Brazos River Authority will also contribute its share annually for operation and maintenance of the project.

Waco Lake is operated for its various purposes by the Corps of Engineers, with water being furnished to the Authority under the term by the Texas Water Commission.

1925

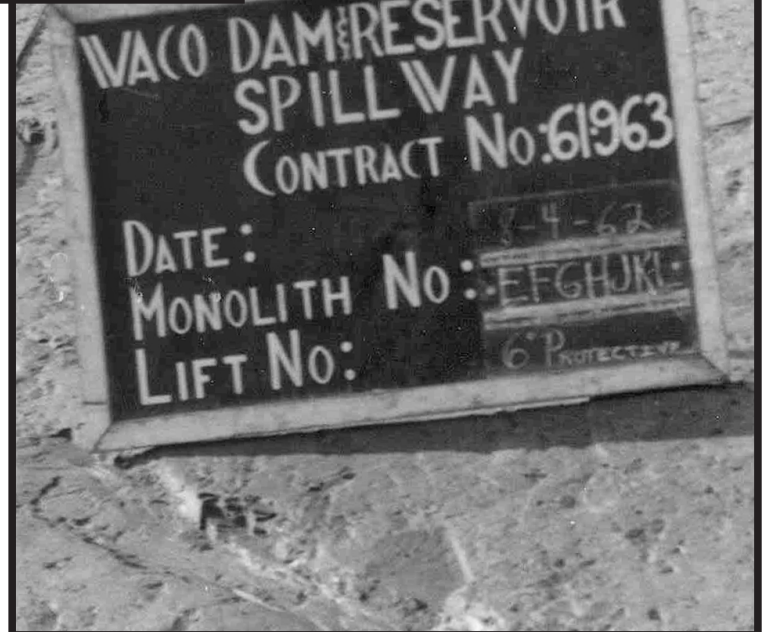
The Bosque River was considered as a primary water supply for Waco and surrounding areas.

1926

City passes a \$3.5 million bond to fund building the original Lake Waco.

1929

Construction begins on Lake Waco Dam.



1930

Construction of the first Lake Waco Dam secured 39,000 acre-feet of water.

1950

Due to drought conditions, The City of Waco begins planning for future water needs.

1956

City officials lobby for the construction of a new dam.

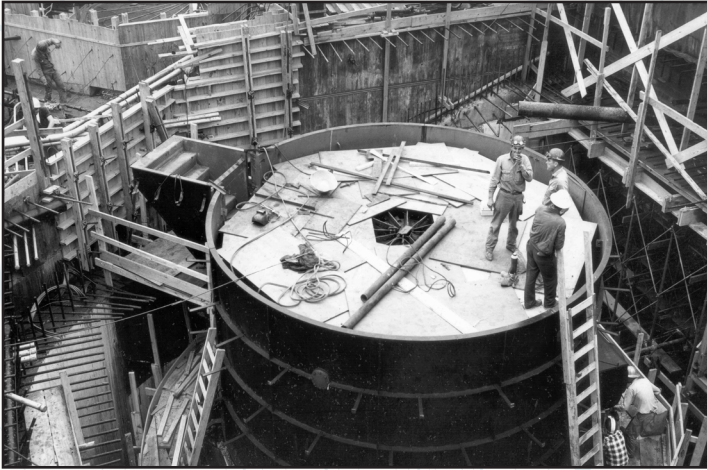
1958

Construction begins on the new dam.

1964

Waco Lake Dam is completed and provides longterm, dependable water supply for the citizens of Waco and surrounding areas. The new dam secured an additional 59,000 acre-feet of water.

SAM RAYBURN DAM



Construction of the dam began September 7, 1956. Deliberate impoundment began March 29, 1965. The lake was built for water supply, flood control, and recreation purposes.



The Fort Worth District's innovative approach to the traditional area of engineering design was exemplified by the new spillway at Sam Rayburn Dam.



BELTON LAKE



Belton Lake was completed in 1954 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with flood damage reduction within the Brazos River Basin. The lake also functions as a water supply, fish and wildlife habitat as well as providing recreation opportunities for the public.



BELTON CONSTRUCTION 1951

BENBROOK LAKE

Significant flooding on the Trinity River during May 1908, April 1922 and September 1936, was a primary cause for the development of Corps of Engineers flood control projects in North Texas.

Benbrook Dam and Lake were built by the Galveston District of the Corps of Engineers, a division of the War Department, as the Department of Defense was known at the time.

During the decade of active civil works construction that followed the Second World War, the U.S. Congress provided for the construction of Benbrook Lake, Grapevine Lake, Lavon Lake and Ray Roberts Lake as well as modifications to the existing Garza Dam for the construction of Lewisville Lake.

Construction on the lake began in May 1947, and was practically completed when floodgates were closed and deliberate impoundment was begun in September 1952. The cost to build the lake was \$14.5 million.

Flooding in May of 1949 claimed eleven lives in Fort Worth and cost \$11 million to local businesses, as construction for the dam was beginning. During a spring 1957 flood, the new lake and the downtown floodway prevented \$9.3 million in damages, almost recouping the original construction costs of the lake.



SWF AMBASSADORS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) park rangers, though not part of the National Park Service, have a history rooted in the Corps' broader mission of managing water resources and public lands, with their first citation authority granted in 1971.

Initially focused on military engineering, the Corps expanded its role to include civil works, including managing water resources and developing infrastructure.

As the Corps managed increasingly large water projects, it also became responsible for managing the recreational areas and public lands surrounding them.

USACE park rangers' primary responsibilities include promoting and protecting public safety, practicing good stewardship of the public lands, and educating the public about water and boating safety.

The first USACE park ranger granted citation authority for Title 36 violations was Wallace Halcomb in 1971 at Lake Cumberland in Kentucky.

The USACE park ranger uniform draws inspiration from the U.S. Army Cavalry's role in the first national parks, with the first badges purchased from the U.S. Marshalls Service in Lexington, Kentucky.

The current USACE badge features the "Corps Castle" and has remained unchanged since around 1987, with the word "Ranger" removed from the badge design.

USACE park rangers continue to be the organization's most visible ambassadors, focusing on water safety, public interaction, and natural and cultural resource management.



Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building



Action Scheduled for Start Soon on Federal Center

Fort Worth's new \$16,000,000 federal center, an exciting structural addition to the downtown area in its completed architectural concept, will begin to rise on its Monroe, 10th and Taylor site early in 1964.

Congress appropriated the money in December.

Bids on the building are scheduled for opening Feb. 27 in the regional offices of the General Services Administration in Dallas.

Contracts are due to be awarded in March,

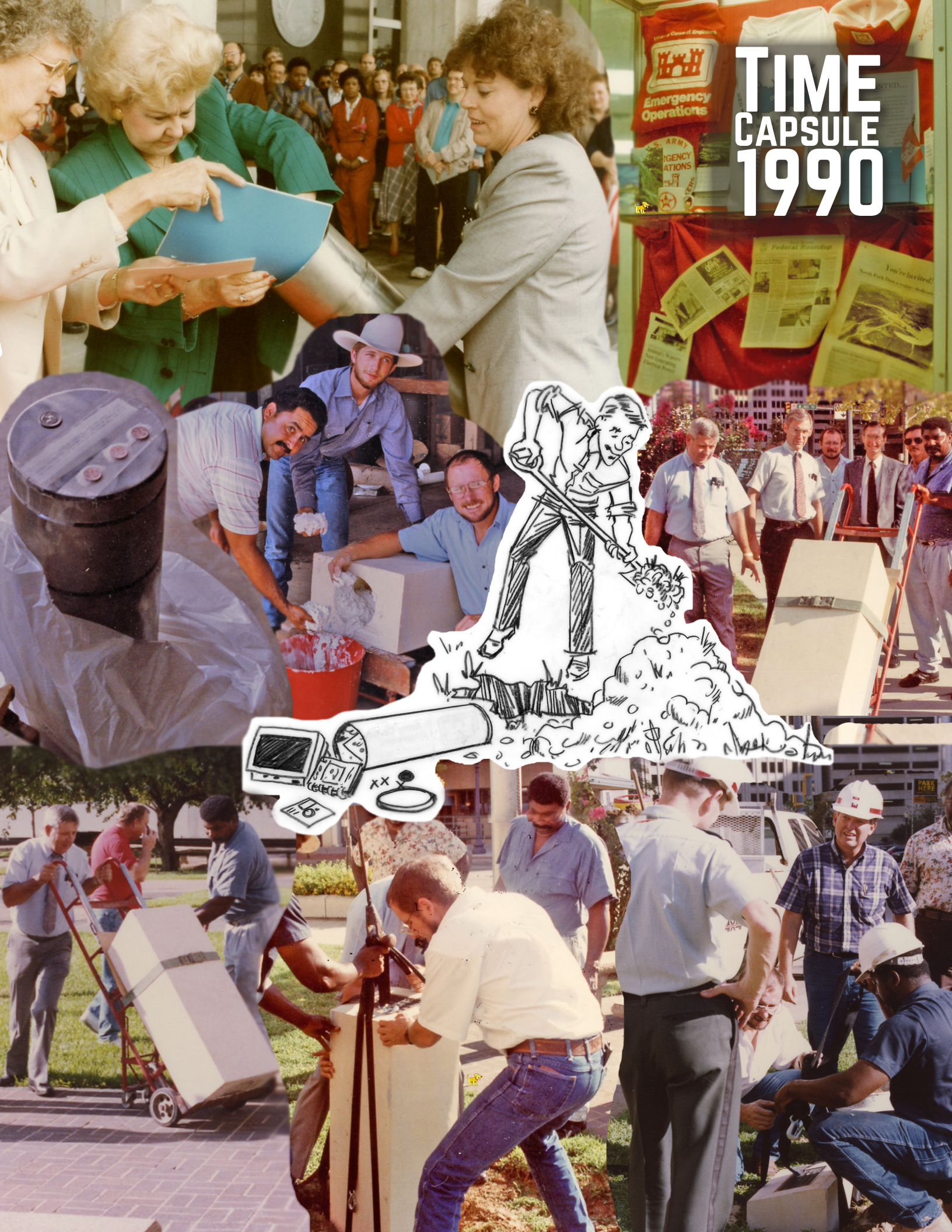
with construction expected to start shortly afterward.

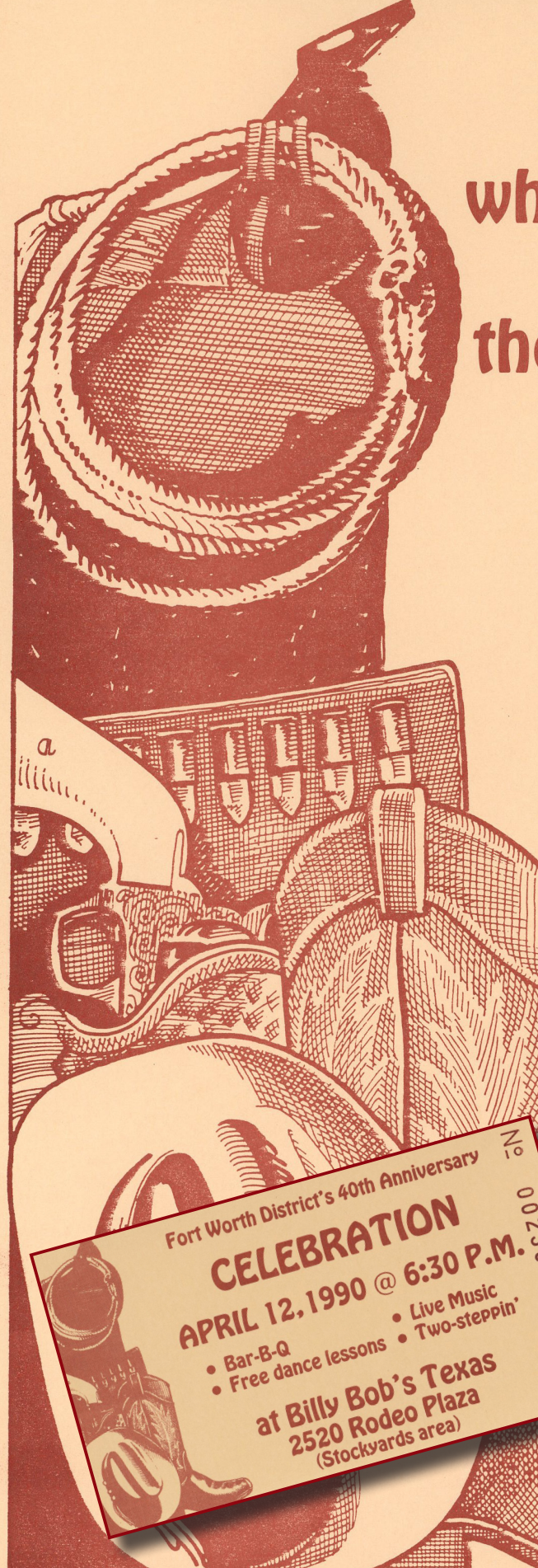
Final concept of the center, which will rise 13 stories and contain more than 500,000 square feet of floor space, was the work of three Fort Worth architectural firms—(1) Wyatt C. Hedrick, (2) Thos. E. Stanley and (3) Wilson, Patterson, Sowden, Dunlap & Epperly.

These firms share in a \$496,800 contract for design of the center.

A \$3,000,000 appropriation was voted earlier for the center, to apply on the site purchase and for engineering studies.

TIME CAPSULE 1990





Fort Worth . . . where the West begins— and so did the Fort Worth District 40 years ago!

Dust off your boots and grab your 10-gallon hat for a rootin'-tootin' hoedown at Billy Bob's Texas, located in the Stockyards area of North Fort Worth. Chow down on rib-stickin' barbecue and two-step the night away to some down-home, honky-tonk music.

APRIL 12 @ 6:30 P.M.

Tickets are available from CASU in Room 1F01, next to Security Office, for \$15 each.

Checks may be mailed, payable to the Recreation Association, to: USACE, Fort Worth District, Attn: CESWF-RM-C, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Tx. 76102-0300

**R.S.V.P. (817) 334-2209
no later than March 30**

**Billy Bob's Texas
2520 Rodeo Plaza**

Fort Worth District's 40th Anniversary

CELEBRATION

APRIL 12, 1990 @ 6:30 P.M.

- Bar-B-Q
- Free dance lessons
- Live Music
- Two-steppin'

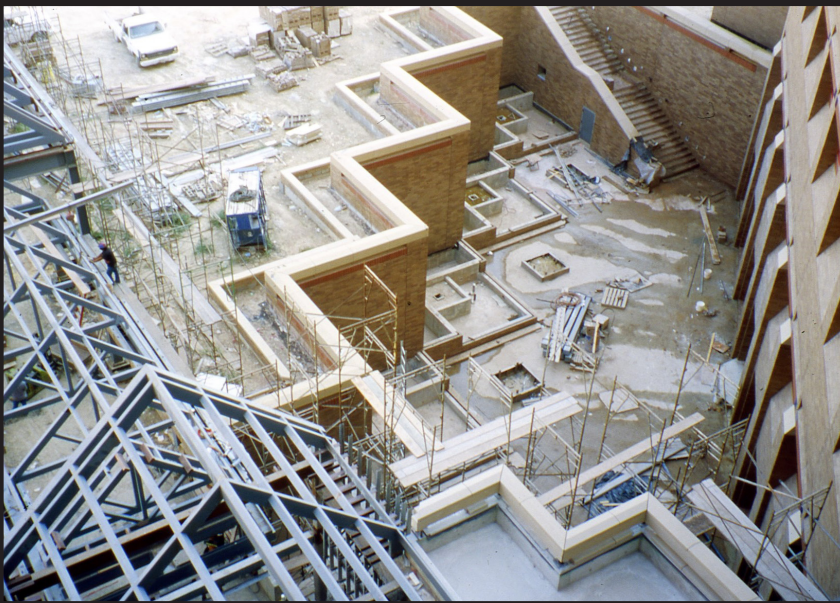
**at Billy Bob's Texas
2520 Rodeo Plaza
(Stockyards area)**

No. 00236 ADMIT ONE

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER



Top: Groundbreaking Event **Middle:** BAMC Under Construction **Bottom:** BAMC Ribbon Cutting Event



THE FORT WORTH DISTRICT TURNED OVER THE FACILITY TO THE ARMY ON JULY 18, 1995 - 10 MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

One project that generated considerable pride in Fort Worth District personnel was the \$300 million Brooke Army Medical Center, located at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. This monumental project represented a decade of planning, designing, and constructing. The new complex replaced the original hospital, which dated from 1936, and included an eight-story teaching hospital. "Brooke is big in every sense of the word," marveled Calvin Conger, project manager, in 1995, "from its 1.5 million square feet to the its 38 tons of drawings sent out to prospective contractors... to the distinction of having the largest architect-engineering contract of \$42 million awarded by the Fort Worth District." The Fort Worth District turned over the facility to the Army on July 18, 1995 - 10 months ahead of schedule. "Partnering is a factor that contributed to the hospital's early completion," explained a resident engineer for the new medical center. "I've become a strong supporter of the partnering concept. It works." Former District Commander Schaufelberger then described the project as being especially significant. "It was a beautiful facility," he recalled. The designer did a wonderful job on the project."



"Class" of



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - 1991



ENGINEERING DIVISION GEOTECH - 1991



ENGINEERING DIVISION MILITARY BRANCH - 1991



ENGINEERING DIVISION - 1991



PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION - 1991



INTERNAL REVIEW OFFICE - 1991



OFFICE OF COUNSEL - 1991



CONTRACTING DIVISION OFFICE - 1991

1991



OPERATIONS DIVISION OFFICE - 1991



PLANNING DIVISION OFFICE - 1991



CONSTRUCTION DIVISION OFFICE - 1991



HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE - 1991



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE - 1991



LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT OFFICE - 1991



HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE - 1991



REAL ESTATE DIVISION - 1991

District Engineer Col. Joseph G. Graf greets Maurice Royar, who was inducted into the gallery in 1981. In the background are retirees Eulas Ready and Bill Phipps.



Honoring those who paved the way

More than 50 district retirees were on hand to witness the new Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees display Nov. 14 at the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building.

The former team members were welcomed by District Engineer Col. Joseph G. Graf and the division and office chiefs in the first floor training room and then treated to a State-of-the-District briefing by the colonel. Afterwards, the retirees were honored with a reception on the third floor where they were able to view the gallery pictures and visit with former friends and co-workers.

The previous black and white photos of the gallery members were replaced with brass-plated etchings mounted on a walnut base and permanently hung on the west wall of the third floor.

"I think the new plaques are great," said Bill Stroman, the 1994 inductee whose plaque was unveiled by the colonel after his briefing. "Looking at the gallery brought back a lot of memories and I'm very proud to join that group."

That afternoon, 40 retirees and team members met at River View Country Club in Cleburn for the Commander's Golf Tournament. The

team of Gerald Boelter, Ron Pivonka, Erich Davis and Sharon Brown took first place, each winning \$40 gift certificates at a sports store. Second place went to the team of Al Joe Hunt, Jesse Kidd, Russ Fennema and Dwight Quarles, with each getting a \$30 gift certificate. Coming in third was the team of Jimmy Baggett, Eli Kangas, Glenda Baggett and Lt. Col. Tom Kuchar, with each receiving a \$20 gift certificate. Erich Davis also won for getting closest to the hole, while Jimmy Baggett scored for longest drive. □



Former team members, including Virginia Hasley (left), stroll down memory lane as they view the new Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

PHOTOS BY DEE DEDMAN



Jim Vandersand (middle), assistant chief of Engineering Division, chats with 1980 gallery inductee John Gearheart (right) and retiree James Piester.

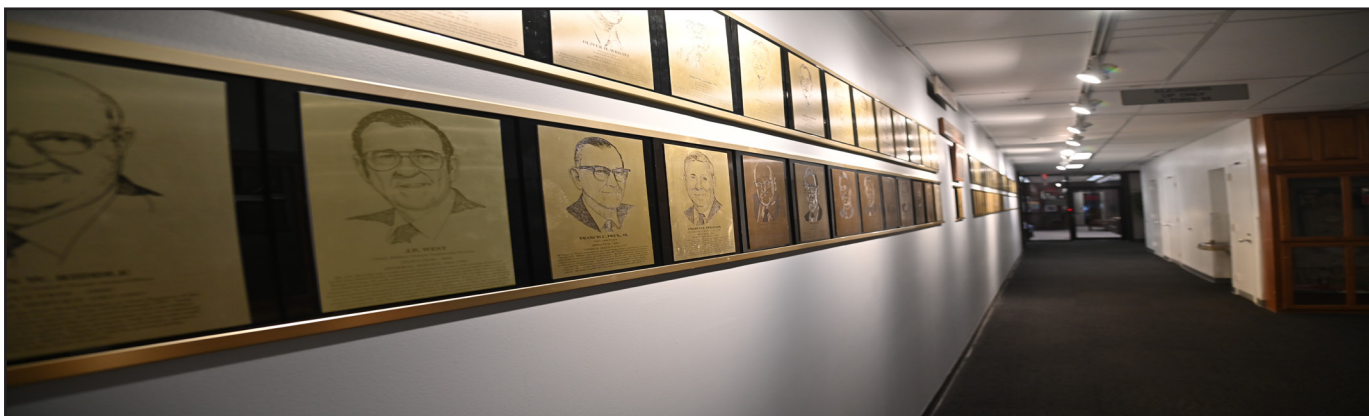


Retirees Dorothy Henderson (left) and Sally Werst (right) visit with each other, along with Dorothy's daughter, Linda Eadie, who is chief of Contracting's Purchasing Branch.



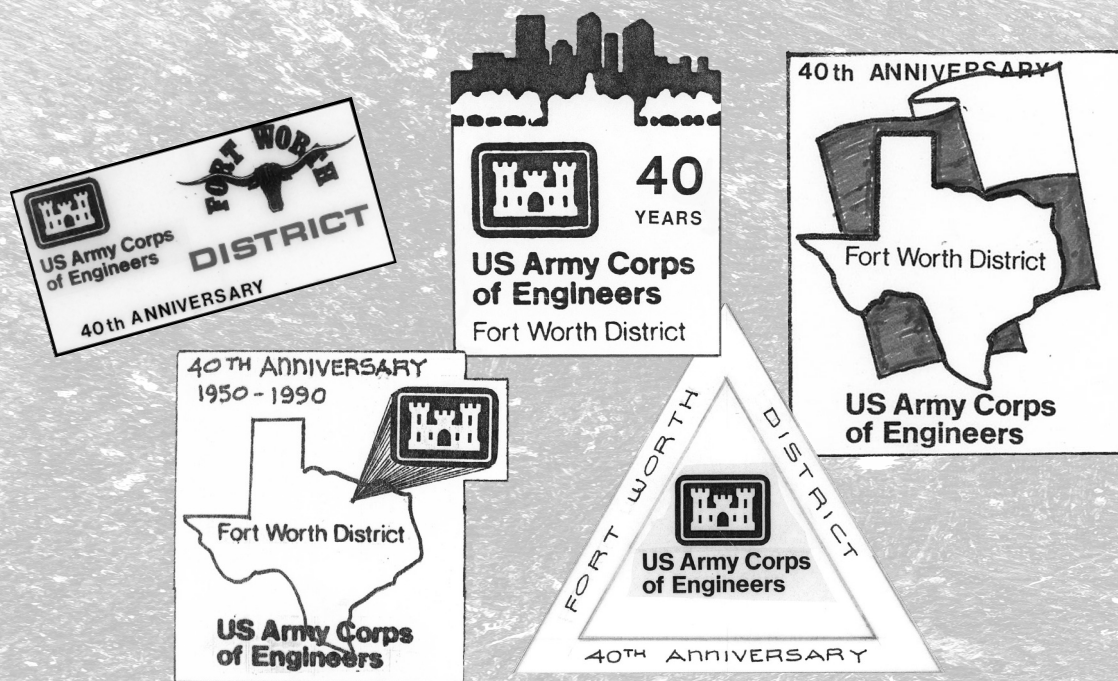
Retirees John Lee and Jim Herbert, 1992 gallery inductee, get a chance to visit before the State-of-the-District briefing.

Below: The Gallery of Distinguished Civilians as of April 2025. To this date, the Fort Worth District has inducted 71 former employees.



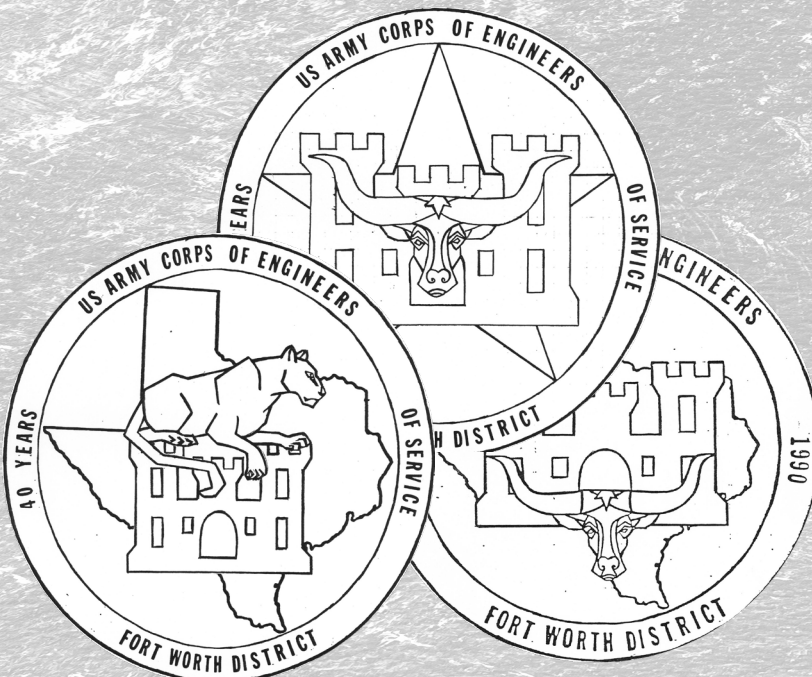
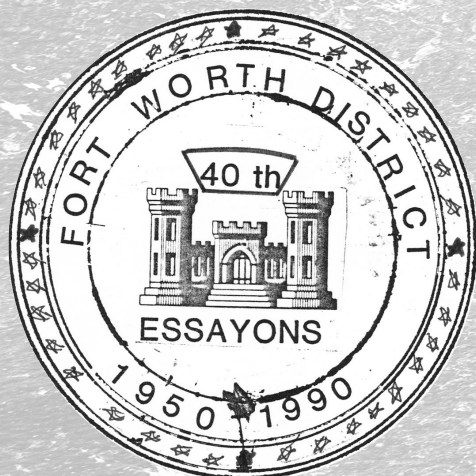
40th Anniversary Logo Contest Entries

Gilbert Rodriguez



Barbara Wilkes

Walter Lloyd Horn



75th Anniversary Logo Contest Entries

Don A. Mondrik



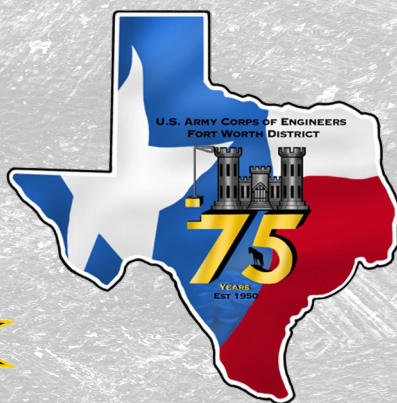
Esteban Reyes



Robert J. Bush



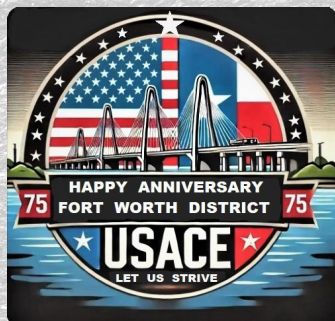
Rob Giacomozzi



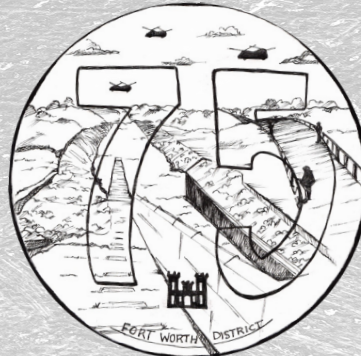
Terry Schmidt



Iris Medina



Misty A. Simpson



WACO

STILLHOUSE FOLLOWS

PROCTOR LAKE, SOMERSET

GRANGER LAKE, GEORGETOWN

BELTON

AQUILLA LAKE

WHITNEY LAKE

FORT WORTH DISTRICT

BLAUGS CREEK

OWN BLUFF SAM RAY

LAKE

THE PINES

WRIGHT PAT

BARDWELL

BENBROOK

CELEBRATING



ANNIVERSARY

1950 ★ 2025

Photo Illustration By: Andre' Mayeaux

GRAPEVINE JOE POOL DAVEN LEWISVILLE WARRO MILLS RAY ROBERTS