

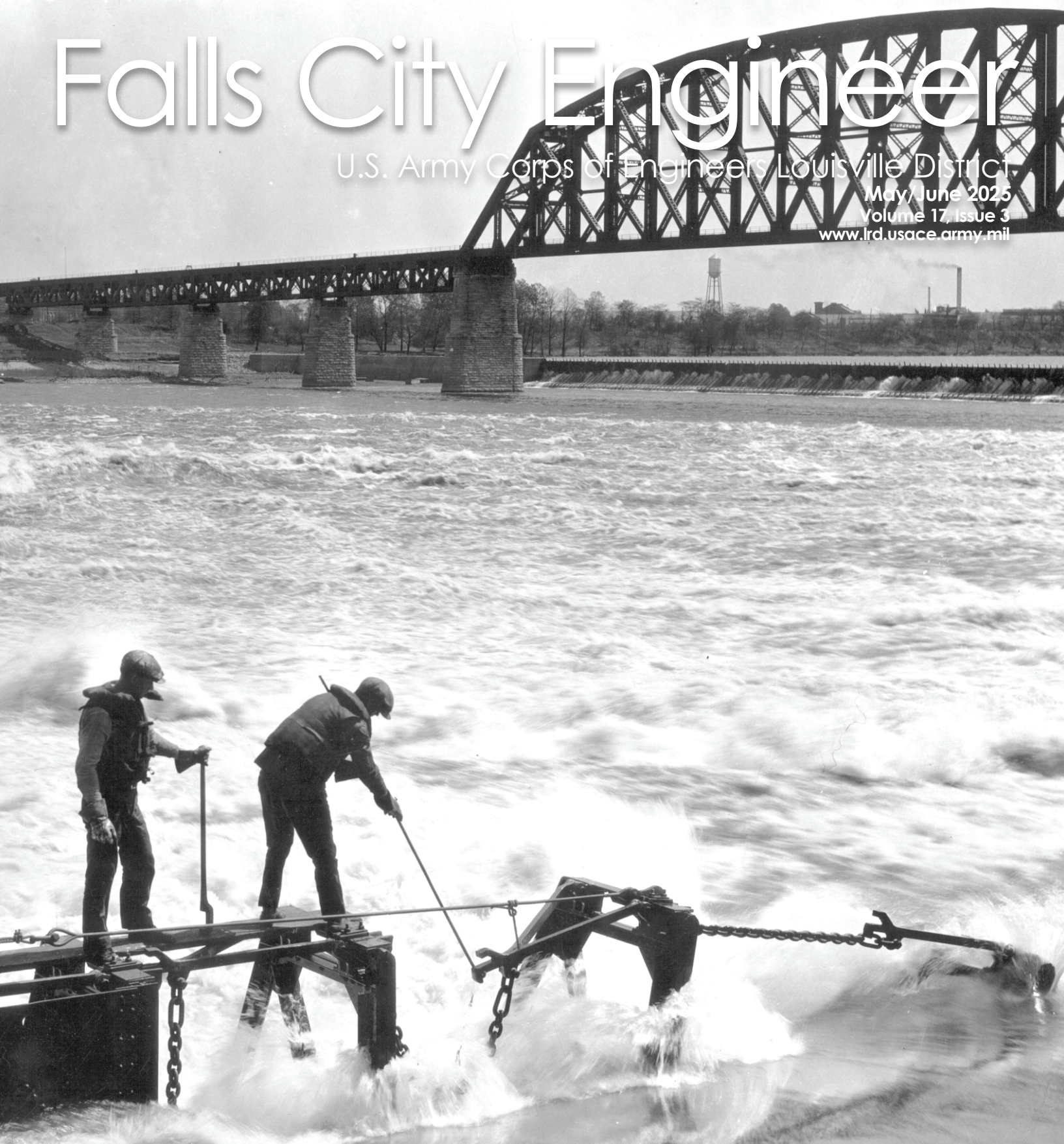
# Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

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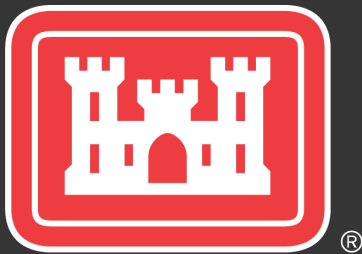


Navigating History, Building Strong:  
A look at the U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers' legacy in Louisville



4/18/30





## Falls City Engineer

Vol. 17, Issue 3

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On the cover: Crews work on the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky, April 18, 1930. (USACE Historic photo)

# Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

Summer is officially in full swing, and I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication and energy as we move through another busy season here in the Louisville District.

This June, we had the honor of celebrating the U.S. Army's 250th as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 250th birthday. This milestone provided us a generational opportunity to share our story on a larger stage by participating in a podcast, multiple print and video interviews and media coverage to showcase the important work happening across our district. Moreover, we're part of a larger organization that has been solving the Nation's toughest challenges for two and a half centuries. We should all take great pride in being a part of that legacy.

Throughout June, we are also recognizing National Safety Month. This is a time to reflect on the importance of maintaining a strong safety culture in everything we do. Culture is simply what we do everyday; it is what our habits and routines create. Whether in the office or out in the field, safety remains a shared responsibility. Please continue to look out for one another and speak up if you see something unsafe. By creating a safety-first culture, we can ensure that we are safeguarding our most precious resource, our people!

In this issue of the Falls City Engineer, enjoy articles including Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly's visit to Beattyville, Kentucky, a look into our Dam Safety Program and more.

Finally, I'd like to give a warm welcome to Maj. Adam Cartier, who recently joined us as the new Deputy Commander for the



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

Louisville District. We're excited to have him on board and for his leadership of so many initiatives that will posture this district for decades of continued success.

Thanks for all you do to SAFELY deliver QUALITY projects, on time and within budget.

Building Strong... Together!

LOUISVILLE PROUD!


Col. L. Reyn Mann

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# USACE leadership visits Beattyville, Kentucky ahead of final flood risk management report



USACE Louisville District Project Manager Jacob Sinkhorn shows USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly the study area on a visit to Beattyville, Kentucky, May 13, 2025.

*Abby Korfhage, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently hosted Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on a visit to Beattyville, Kentucky, May 13, 2025, to conduct a site visit and receive a pre-chief's report briefing on the Kentucky River, Beattyville, Flood Risk Management Study.

The \$2.5 million study focuses on identifying and evaluating solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in Beattyville — a community situated at the confluence of the North, Middle and South Forks of the Kentucky River. The town has faced several major flood events in recent years, including a devastating one in March 2021 and another in February 2025.

During the visit, Maj. Gen. Kelly toured several key locations around the community, viewing four highwater marks that illustrate the extent of past flooding. He also met with local officials and community members to better understand the town's challenges, demonstrate the comprehensive benefits associated with the recommended plan, and to see current floodproofing efforts that have preceded the project.

"This visit was an important opportunity for the general to see firsthand the flood risk issues Beattyville faces and to engage with the people we're working to help," said Jacob Sinkhorn, Louisville District

project manager. "Hearing directly from the community really reinforces the importance of delivering a practical, long-term solution that will increase life safety and strengthen resilience for future generations."

USACE is working in partnership with Lee County and conducting this study to find and evaluate possible solutions to flooding in Beattyville, Kentucky, along the Kentucky River. This includes studying

different measures and alternatives and preparing a report that recommends the plan that results in the most comprehensive benefits to make Beattyville more flood resilient.

"We've worked closely with local leaders and stakeholders to ensure the study reflects the needs of Beattyville," Sinkhorn said. "Our goal is to recommend a solution that is both effective and implementable. A plan that acknowledges and communicates the risk facing a community that is in such close proximity to the river and that supplements efforts already going on in town that will make Beattyville more flood resilient."

The study has assessed various alternatives and will culminate in a final Chief's Report, which is on track for signature by the end of the calendar year. Once signed, the recommended plan will be eligible for inclusion in a future Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) which would authorize the project. The recommended plan will increase life safety, reduce recurring flood damages, and support community resilience in Beattyville.



USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly speaks with local leaders and residents during a site visit to Beattyville, Kentucky, where the Louisville District is conducting a flood risk management study.



# Standing Strong: How the Louisville District keeps dams, communities safe

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Dam Safety Awareness Day is commemorated each year on May 31. National Dam Safety Awareness Day is a reminder that while dams provide valuable services to communities nationwide, none are risk free.

Dams across the U.S. serve a vital role in reducing flood risks for communities. They also support wildlife habitats, offer recreational opportunities, generate power and aid river navigation for vessels.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Program is in place to ensure USACE dams continue to safely provide their intended services.

“The Dam Safety Program’s primary goal is to ensure the safety of the dams in our inventory, prioritizing public safety. We do this through a risk informed approach; constantly assessing the projects,” said Kate Brandner, Louisville District Dam Safety chief. “Through risk assessments, we consider external events and what risks they pose to the projects, like large flood events, earthquakes, along with the performance of the projects, assessing consequences that would occur should an issue develop at a project. We use all available resources to ensure that the projects are performing as well as they can and document what needs to be done to have continued good performance of the projects.”

In addition to Brandner, the Louisville District Dam Safety team consists of Jackie Henn, Scott Kelly, Kyle Murray, Roger Olson, Megan Jones, Jim Kelly, Connor Estes, Emily Anderson, Emily Hild, Kristen Enzweiler, Joe Carnall and Robby Wheeler.

“Leading teams through Periodic Inspections and day-to-day requirements in Dam Safety is incredibly rewarding,” Brandner said. “It enables me, as an office worker, to engage with operations personnel that know and care about their projects, and hopefully provide them with some guidance as to how we as an organization can continue to have our dams performing safely. I have found that I can be a sounding board, appreciating their assessments of issues and working to ensure a path forward to any necessary repairs will be effective.”

With 17 flood risk management (FRM) dams across Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, the Louisville District Dam Safety team



Engineers from USACE Louisville District enter the control tower at West Fork Lake in Cincinnati, Ohio, as part of a dam safety periodic inspection, May 14, 2025.

conducts rigorous inspections, maintenance and rehabilitation to prevent potential failures and reduce flood risks. In fact, since their construction, these 17 lake projects have helped prevent more than \$3.9 billion in flood damages. These structures protect millions of people downstream by managing water levels, mitigating flood damage and preserving vital resources.

This spring, many members of the Dam Safety team mobilized to support operations staff at the projects to ensure continued operations through record-high pools and unprecedented rainfall events. “The flood risk management projects performed great through the ongoing event (several of our projects remain high to this day), and that is in no small part due to the people that were out there during the flood event, and the great staff we have working on the projects every day,” Brandner added.

The Louisville District also implements the dam safety mission over a total of nine navigation locks and dams on the Ohio River and the Green River.

USACE maintains the National Inventory of Dams which documents all known dams in the U.S. that meets certain criteria. This database provides the public with the ability to search for specific data about dams and serves as a resource to support awareness of dams and actions to

prepare for a dam related emergency.

“Being part of a team that shares a passion for public safety is exactly what I was looking for in my career,” said Megan Jones, Louisville District geotechnical engineer and Greater Miami River Basin coordinator. “As a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), and as someone who grew up around lakes and rivers, flood

*Continued on next page*



Louisville District structural engineers conduct a Hydraulic Steel Structure (HSS) inspection of the emergency gate at West Fork Lake, May 14, 2025.



*Continued from previous page*

mitigation has always been a special interest of mine. That's why I strongly believe in the importance of inspecting, assessing and understanding the risks associated with each of our Flood Risk Management projects. We not only use this knowledge to inform ourselves (USACE) as dam tenders, but also share it with local communities — empowering them to make informed decisions about their own safety. We work hard to ensure that everyone receives the most accurate and up-to-date information. I couldn't be prouder to be part of the Louisville District's Dam Safety Team!"

From routine maintenance to major rehabilitation projects, the Louisville District's Dam Safety team is committed to strengthening infrastructure for future generations.



Abby Korfhage

Louisville District's Megan Jones, Kyle Murray and Connor Estes discuss initial findings from a dam safety periodic inspection at West Fork Lake in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 14, 2025.

## Buoy reinstallation effort ensures safety at Nolin River Lake

*Katie Chandler, public affairs*

In early April, historic flooding impacted much of the region over seen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District. Among the top priorities for the Green River Area lakes in the aftermath was locating and reinstalling hundreds of regulatory buoys. These buoys are essential for keeping boaters safe and informed.

Buoys with messages like "Idle Speed, No Wake," "No Ski," or "No Boats" are often seen on the lake. Their placement is critical, not just for boat navigation, but for protecting swimmers in beaches, reducing speed in congested areas, protecting boat launching and mooring areas, regulating skiing activity, marking hazards, and restricting boats from operational areas.

Nolin River Lake in Bee Spring, Kentucky, reached a high-water mark of 557.29 feet mean sea level — 42 feet above summer pool. This event marks their second-highest flood on record.

"Water this high moves or submerges all but a few buoys on the lake," said Nolin River Lake Park Ranger Matt Skaggs. "Once these buoys are underwater, they cannot be seen until we return to summer pool."

In total, Nolin has approximately 110 buoys deployed at summer pool and an estimated 85 percent were displaced or submerged during the high-water event.

"Any buoy on the water is there for safety, protection of public infrastructure or security," Skaggs said.

Finding the missing buoys was the first



Katie Chandler

Nolin River Lake Park Ranger Matt Skaggs works to reinstall regulatory buoys near the Dogcreek Campground June 2, 2025, following Nolin's second-highest flood on record.

step in the recovery effort, and lake staff got to work as soon as the water started to recede.

The recovery work required team coordination and some essential tools, including jon boats, cinder blocks, cable and clamps.

"The jon boat can safely transport several buoys plus the cable, hardware, cinder blocks and staff," Skaggs said. "Typically, two park rangers handle the reinstallations, with sometimes a third helping place supplies for the crew."

This high priority task came at a busy time for the team. In the case of this specific flooding event, the team at Nolin

River Lake were working on these buoys when they would typically be gearing up for the summer recreation season.

To help keep the public informed about hazards while the buoys were being reinstalled, the team at Nolin used Facebook to share updates, promote safe boating practices, and share reminders to check gear and plan ahead.

Now, after weeks of work, the buoy reinstallation effort is nearly completed.

"As you boat this season, take time to recognize the buoys on the water and identify what they are," Skaggs said. "Do some planning before you hit the water and be sure to check all your safety gear."



# Interagency collaboration drives progress at West Virginia Ordnance Works site

*Sarah Atherton, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District continues to lead cleanup efforts in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and local government at the former West Virginia Ordnance Works facility, an 8,320-acre Formerly Used Defense Site property located along the east bank of the Ohio River, six miles upstream of Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

What is now the McClintic Wildlife Management Area was once a Trinitrotoluene (TNT) manufacturing facility, producing 281,000 tons of TNT for the U.S. military between 1942 and 1945 during World War II. The site was nominated by the state of West Virginia for the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. The NPL represents sites that represent significant environmental and health hazards that can have far-reaching negative impacts to the communities and environment surrounding them.

The Louisville District has served as the lead agency, responsible for management and execution of the remediation efforts since 1994.

At the former West Virginia Ordnance Works property, USACE identified 45 areas of interest for further investigation, most of which have been closed out through No Further Action determinations. Currently the site contains five actively funded remedial projects, four of which require Long-Term Management.

“While WVOW is not wholly unique in its size, it is more complex than typical projects, especially for those in Remedial Action and Long-term Management phases,” said Matthew Kluge, a project manager in the USACE Louisville District Environmental Support Section. “Over the past several years, USACE has been proactive in planning for system upgrades, replacements, and repairs to not only prevent issues, but to optimize systems and make them run more efficiently.”

A large part of Long-Term Management is to oversee the effectiveness of groundwater contamination treatments. The Louisville District is developing an



*USACE contractors perform maintenance on remediation equipment at West Virginia Ordnance Works in September 2024.*



*USACE contractors sample a groundwater well for the long-term monitoring program in August 2024 at West Virginia Ordnance works.*

innovative bioaugmentation treatment design that may reduce treatment timeframes and meet restoration goals more quickly.

The Louisville District has worked closely with both EPA Region III and WVDEP in developing these strategies, as well as with overall project status and

monitoring. All parties are committed to maintaining this collaborative relationship.

According to the team, the Louisville District’s goal at McClintic WMA is to reduce risk to human health and the environment through the implementation of effective, legally compliant and cost-effective remedial actions.



# Grissom ARB breaks ground on new Logistics Readiness Complex facility

*Abby Korfhage, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District joined partners to break ground on a new state-of-the-art Logistics Readiness Complex at Grissom Air Reserve Base in Indiana, May 8, 2025.

The 33,000-square-foot, one-story facility will consolidate the squadron's supply, vehicle management, traffic management, and mobilization planning operations — which are currently spread across six buildings — into a single, modernized hub. The project will include a drive-through corridor, HVAC-controlled mobility bag storage, offices, meeting rooms, parking areas, access roads and secure connections to the flight line. Additional features include paved work areas, security fencing, gates and the relocation of communication lines.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District is very excited to be able to deliver a crucial facility for the Logistics Readiness Squadron at Grissom Air Reserve Base," said Jim Walters, project manager with the USACE Louisville District Air Force Reserve Support Section. "By working together with our partners, we're building more than a facility — we're building readiness, ensuring our airmen have the resources they need to succeed."

Initial phases of construction began in mid-March, with the Louisville District managing the project in partnership with design and engineering firm, Woolpert RS&H JV, and the construction contractor,



*Abby Korfhage*

*Work continues at the site of the new state-of-the-art Logistics Readiness Complex at Grissom Air Reserve Base in Indiana, May 8, 2025.*

Commercial Contracting Corporation.

The new complex is expected to enhance operational efficiency and mission readiness for the 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron, which plays a vital role in supporting Air Force logistics and mobility operations.

The Louisville District is the National Program Manager providing project

management and planning support for the construction of Army and Air Force Reserve centers nationwide directly contributing to the readiness and resilience of our warfighters by delivering high-quality, mission-critical facilities. Currently, the Louisville District's Air Force Reserve program has 90 active projects in various stages of study, design or construction.



*Abby Korfhage*

*Team members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District join representatives from Grissom Air Reserve Base, 434th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the construction contractor for a groundbreaking event celebrating the new Logistics Readiness Complex, May 8.*



# Louisville VA Medical Center project moves closer to completion



Construction continues on the North Parking Garage on the site of the Louisville VA Medical Center in Louisville, Kentucky, May 28, 2025.

*Michael Maddox, public affairs*

After three and a half years, significant progress has been made on the construction of the Louisville VA Medical Center. Work is taking place inside and out all the structures across the site as construction completion nears.

Terry Durham, area engineer for the project, said the team has made substantial progress over the past year that will continue into 2026 as construction wraps up.

“The majority of site utilities are installed, the water tower is complete and construction of the water tower’s storage tank near the entrance of the site continues,” he said. “Over the next few months, the site will be graded in preparation for paving, sidewalks and perimeter fence construction. Foundations to support the structural steel for the laundry facility are being placed and loading dock concrete work is also nearing completion.”

He said the site utility work is also getting closer to providing essential conditioned air that’s critical for finishing interior work.

“The central utility plant is well underway with cooling towers set and equipment start up and testing planned over the next few months. This will enable the startup of the chilled water system and will be critical to cooling the medical center

during the summer months,” Durham explained.

Both the North and South parking garages are also now structurally complete, and elevators are being installed in both.

“The exterior rain screens are also being installed on the North parking garage, which will complete the architectural aesthetics of that structure,” Durham added.

While there is activity on-going on the site, the majority of the effort is taking

place inside the medical facility itself.

“Exterior panels on the west side of the facility are wrapping up. This will allow significant construction to continue on the interior of the facility. Framing, utility rough-in, and drywall is currently being installed,” he said. “Flooring is also underway with mockup rooms being completed for architectural review.”

“Interior buildout continues in the east side of the medical center, where many of the patient rooms are located,” Durham added. “Skylights and curtain wall are also going in to complete the enclosure of the concourse. The exterior of the medical center will really start to take shape over the next months.”

Durham said activities in the next year of construction will be critical, but he’s confident in the team’s ability to get to the finish line.

“I’m really proud of the hard work and dedication by my team, the construction contractor, and our counterparts at the VA. As we work to complete the interior of the medical center, the delivery and installation of high-tech medical equipment will require extensive coordination to ensure we get it right and provide the most state-of-the-art care,” he said. “I look forward to construction completion in 2026 and getting that much closer to providing veterans in our community the care they deserve.”



Construction continues on the East and West Bars of the medical facility on the site of the Louisville VA Medical Center May 28, 2025.



# USACE Louisville District welcomes Maj. Adam Cartier as new deputy commander

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District welcomed Maj. Adam Cartier as the new deputy commander June 16, 2025.

Commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 2010 after graduating from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, Cartier brings 15 years of diverse military experience to the district. His most recent assignment was as engineer for the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he oversaw military construction projects in support of the Group at Fort Campbell, Fort Bragg, and the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

Cartier says he is honored to join the Louisville District.

"It's a true honor to take on this new role in the Louisville District, carrying with it a deep sense of responsibility," said Cartier. "I'm proud to support the incredible professionals here, whose dedication, expertise, and commitment to the mission are the foundation of all we accomplish. I look forward to supporting the command to empower our team and help create the conditions where every individual can thrive and continue delivering excellence to the communities and nation we serve."

His early assignments included positions as Assistant Operations Officer, Platoon Leader, and Company Executive

Officer with the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Following this assignment, he deployed to Erbil, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2014 while assigned as a Facilities Officer with U.S. Army Central Command.

After graduating from the Engineer Captains Career Course in 2016, Maj. Cartier was assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he served as an Engineer Staff Officer for the 130th Engineer Brigade. He commanded the 523rd Engineer Support Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, from November 2018 to March 2019. Following his assignment in Hawaii, Maj. Cartier served as the Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff, United Nations Command at Camp Humphreys, Korea.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Missouri of Science and Technology, and a Master in Operational Studies from the Command and General Staff College. He is a certified Project Management Professional. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Engineer Captain's Career Course, and the Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include



Tyler Delawder

**Maj. Adam Cartier**  
Deputy Commander  
Louisville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault Badge, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).

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# Beattyville flood reunites USACE engineer and Kentucky teacher

Charles Delano, public affairs

When Jacob Sinkhorn joined a routine conference call about a flood risk management study in Beattyville, Kentucky, he didn't expect the conversation to turn into an elementary school reunion.

As a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, Sinkhorn was focused on the technical, community and environmental aspects of the study—until a familiar name on the participant list caught his attention: Kitty Dougoud.

"I noticed the name Kitty Dougoud and thought, there's no way that could be my fifth-grade teacher from Georgetown," Sinkhorn recalled. "I asked if she lived in a pink house on Main Street, and she said yes—and that she remembered me."

Sinkhorn's career may have officially started in college, but his creative instincts emerged much earlier in Ms. Dougoud's fifth-grade classroom.

"I was a pretty creative kid," he said. "I built several treehouses, two go-carts and a very dangerous 'firework' with resistors and a coiled wire that knocked the power out in the garage for years. I even made a desk lamp from a soda can that shorted out every plug in our classroom during show and tell."

The impact of Dougoud's instruction may not have been immediately evident, but her influence on Sinkhorn's career path became clear years later.

"Ms. Dougoud was very kind and encouraging, always full of energy," Sinkhorn said. "I don't remember being set on a career that early, but teachers like her made learning enjoyable."

"Jacob was a good student and a very sweet child," Dougoud recalled. "I can see him in a plaid Henley shirt, standing behind his chair, laughing with classmates. He was a pleasure to have in class."

Sinkhorn didn't learn about the USACE until attending college, but once he did, he was hooked.

"I was drawn to the large-scale projects and the mission to support our military," he said.

Initially, Sinkhorn joined the Beattyville study as the engineering technical lead but soon transitioned to project manager.

"I shifted from technical details to working more with the community and



Charles Delano

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District Project Manager Jacob Sinkhorn (left) speaks with residents and vendors with the Main Street Marketplace during a flood risk management study, May 13, 2025, in Beattyville, Kentucky. During the study, Sinkhorn reunited with his fifth-grade teacher, Kitty Dougoud (second from the right).

leading the broader team through the study," Sinkhorn said.

The flood risk management study aims to protect lives and property in Beattyville while strengthening the town's connections—both physically and within the community. It relies heavily on collaboration between USACE and local leaders in Lee County and Beattyville.

As the study progressed, Sinkhorn and community leaders identified a critical area of focus: Beattyville's Main Street.

"The historic buildings, recent investments and beautification efforts show the town's desire to become more flood resilient," he said.

After a 27-year teaching career at Garth Elementary, Dougoud transitioned into historic preservation and economic development. In 2013, she joined the Kentucky Heritage Council as the state coordinator for Kentucky's Main Street Program.

"I have worked in Beattyville for over a decade," Dougoud said. "What began as support for downtown revitalization evolved into something much deeper in 2021."

In that year, Dougoud helped the community recover from a devastating flood.

"I suddenly had to become something of a first responder for downtown disasters," Dougoud said. "We learned a lot and

applied those lessons the next year when eastern Kentucky was hit by a hundred-year flood."

She now helps communities like Beattyville rebuild and reimagine their futures.

"I attend meetings, offer insight and help locals process the information and options presented by the Corps," she said.

"Kitty has been a huge help," Sinkhorn said. "She's connected us with local resources and shared lessons learned across other communities. Her collaboration with Teresa Mays, who's been instrumental in the study, has created a powerful force for preservation and resilience."

For Sinkhorn and Dougoud, the reunion was unexpected but meaningful.

"When I saw Jacob's name on the attendee list, I thought, I taught a Jacob Sinkhorn," Dougoud said. "It was a great icebreaker. That personal connection helped make the meeting less tense for everyone."

Their working relationship has evolved into a collaboration that has improved communication during the study.

"Now the roles are reversed—Jacob is teaching me," Dougoud said. "I'm learning so much from him and the Corps, and I appreciate all they're doing for Beattyville."

"It was great to see a kind, familiar face

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join the project,” Sinkhorn said. “It’s hard to connect a federal feasibility study to my fifth-grade experience, but having someone like Kitty involved reminds me of the importance of human connection in these efforts.”

As the study nears its final stages, both Sinkhorn and Dougoud continue to champion the community of Beattyville—one through engineering and project management, the other through history,

preservation and heart.

“I always told my students to follow their passions and give 110%,” Dougoud said. “Jacob clearly took that to heart.”

And Beattyville is better for it.

## Navigating History, Building Strong: A look at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ legacy in Louisville



*Teams use stiffer derricks to lift and move heavy stones during construction of the canal in Louisville, Kentucky, 1872.*

### *Kelsie Hall, public affairs*

This year, the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrate 250 years of service to the Nation.

The story of the USACE Louisville District flows from the Ohio River in the early 1800’s. What began as efforts to improve navigation around the dangerous Falls of the Ohio to open the waterway for safe and efficient commerce, ultimately shaped the history of the city of Louisville, and resulted in the establishment of the USACE Louisville District in 1886. This navigation mission still drives the district today, expanding to a total of seven locks and dams on the Ohio River and two on the Green River, that are operated 365 days a year. More than 415 million tons of cargo pass through the district’s Ohio River locks annually, powering America’s economy with the most cost and energy efficient way to transport commodities.

But navigation was just the start for the Louisville District. The Great Flood of 1937 devastated the region with damages stretching across the length of the Ohio River, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to

Cairo, Illinois, leaving 385 people dead and more than 70 percent of Louisville under water. Since then, the Louisville District’s mission has expanded to include flood risk management, resulting in the construction of a system of floodwalls, levees and reservoirs that have helped to prevent more than \$3.9 billion in flood damages and protect lives.

“The inland waterways system is one of our Nation’s most valuable and enduring assets, made possible by the infrastructure we’ve built to ensure reliable navigation and flood protection,” said Waylon Humphrey, Louisville District Operations Division Chief. “Each navigation lock, reservoir, and levee or floodwall system reflects American ingenuity and resilience. These systems continue to perform well beyond their original design life because our PEOPLE; the dedicated government employees who rise to the challenge every day, keeping them operational and mission ready.”

Today, the Louisville District’s mission reaches far beyond the river.

The district supports warfighters

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and their families through their military construction mission by building world-class facilities across five states to live, work, train and heal. They also provide project management, engineering and construction service to other federal, state and local agencies through the Interagency and International Support (IIS) program, including the construction of a new Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Louisville that will provide care for more than 45,000 Veterans in Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

In addition, the Louisville District supports the Army and Air Force Reserve by delivering modern, mission-ready reserve centers nationwide and providing a variety of professional and technical services. Their impacts also reach internationally, outfitting 21st century Department of Defense Education Activity schools around the globe.

They also protect the Nation’s natural resources through the regulatory program which is committed to protecting aquatic resources and navigation capacity, through

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permit evaluation for all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands, and through Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, ensuring the remediation of hazardous, toxic and radiological waste related to certain military activities.

Lastly, when disasters strike, the Louisville District, along with other USACE districts, are ready to respond, working side by side with local, state and federal partners in a variety of capacities.

"This month, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Army celebrate their 250th anniversaries, and our birthdays are only two days apart," said Louisville District Commander, Col. L. Reyn Mann said. "Just as USACE has done for 250 years and this district has done for 139 years we will continue to answer the call when our Nation needs us."

For 250 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has built more than



Downtown Louisville, Kentucky during the Great Flood of 1937. The Great Flood of 1937 devastated the region with damages stretching across the length of the Ohio River, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cairo, Illinois, leaving 385 people dead and more than 70 percent of Louisville under water.

infrastructure, they've built a legacy of service, not just in Louisville, but across the region, the nation and around the world.

# Locks, Levees, and Legacy: 250 Years of U.S. Engineering

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