

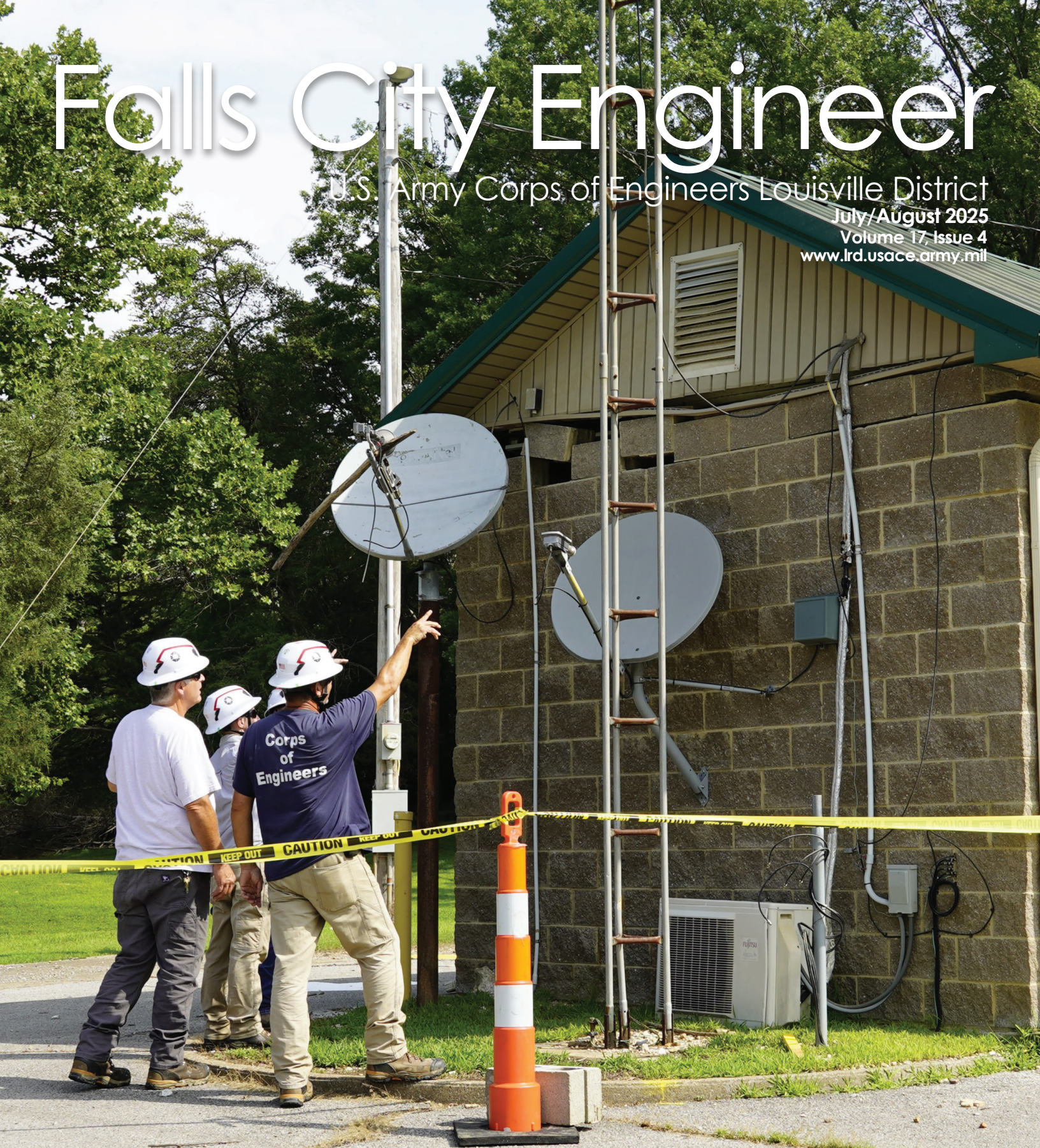
Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

July/August 2025

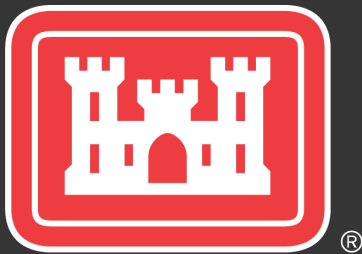
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USACE staff race to reopen recreation areas after historic flooding





Falls City Engineer

Vol. 17, Issue 4

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On the cover: Maintenance staff at Nolin River Lake near Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, inspect the flood damage to a campground entrance station following this spring's historic flooding, July 21, 2025.
(USACE photo by Abby Korfhage)

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

I hope everyone has had a great summer! Fourth quarter execution is heating up, to match the weather! I appreciate everyone's continued hard work and dedication in delivering on our commitments, and I'm confident we will finish FY25 strong.

This July marked the 50th anniversary of Brookville Lake. The celebration included multiple days of events that highlighted the incredible history of the lake and its vital role in flood risk management, recreation and environmental stewardship. A huge thank you to all who worked so hard to make the ceremony a success, especially Ranger Stephanie Ison.

In August, we recognize Antiterrorism Awareness Month, and while the designation is important, our commitment to vigilance must remain year-round. By staying alert and reporting suspicious activity, we can help safeguard our teammates, our families and our communities. If you see something, say something!

This month we had the privilege of hosting Command Sgt. Maj. Galick during his visit to the Louisville District. His tour included the new Louisville Veterans Affairs Medical Center construction site, McAlpine Locks and Dam and the maintenance work at Markland Locks and Dam. Although this was just a quick trip, I was delighted at this opportunity to showcase the dedication and skill of our world-class team.

Please enjoy this July/August issue of the Falls City Engineer, which spotlights the cleanup efforts of USACE staff after historic flooding in the Green River area, Brookville Lake's 50th anniversary



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

celebration and more.

Finally, we are looking ahead as the lease for our new district headquarters has been fully executed. This is a significant step forward and I look forward to moving into a new space that will better support our mission and our people. I'm proud to serve alongside such a talented and dedicated team.

Building Strong... Together!
LOUISVILLE PROUD!


Col. L. Reyn Mann

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BUILDING STRONG®

Volume 17, Issue 4 2

 Please conserve:
Think before you print.

USACE staff race to reopen recreation areas after historic flooding

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

When floodwaters finally receded throughout Kentucky's Green River Basin, they left behind more than mud and debris—they left a monumental cleanup challenge for the crews who manage U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District flood risk management (FRM) projects in the area.

Following record rainfall in early 2025, project staff at the district's lakes have worked tirelessly repairing, cleaning and reopening facilities so visitors could enjoy as much of the 2025 recreation season as possible.

Several reservoirs reached historic highs: Rough River Lake crested at a record 530.4 feet MSL (mean sea level), Barren River Lake at 586 feet MSL, Nolin River Lake reached its second-highest pool at 556.28 feet, and Green River Lake rose into its top five historic pools on record.

Despite the devastation, teamwork never wavered, and there was no shortage of volunteers ready to help. Every available staff member volunteered for difficult, dirty and undesirable tasks, showcasing teamwork and commitment to restoring USACE recreation areas. Despite time, effort and normal job duties, the field staff was determined to get recreation areas as operational as possible to accommodate the public.

Alan Ramey, Barren River Lake manager, praised the teamwork of staff and volunteers, noting that daily priorities had to shift with changing water levels.

"I cannot speak highly enough about the



Nolin River Lake Maintenance Lead Kerry Sanders (right) and his team discuss plans to replace windows at a campground entrance station, July 21, 2025. The building was submerged for several weeks following record rainfall in early 2025.

professionalism and team effort that has been on display over this highly unique, multiple-month clean-up effort," he said.

Ramey also called it the most difficult cleanup of his career.

"Our personnel aren't just employees, they're members of this community, and knowing their efforts supported both the recreating public and local businesses was extra motivation."

Other team members reflected on the scale of the flooding itself.

"It left me in awe to watch us go from winter pool in late January and rise 58' in less than three months to the record pool of 586'," said Dan Taylor, Barren River Lake lead ranger.

At Rough River Lake, the flooding presented different but equally daunting challenges.

"The flood inundated roads, bridges, recreation areas, nearby subdivisions, and caused downstream flooding," said Jon Fillingham, Rough River Lake manager. "It was impressive to observe our 60-year-old facilities perform exactly as designed—a true testament to the skill and dedication of our agency."

But the aftermath revealed just how powerful the floodwaters had been.

"The spillway this time was unbelievable—the amount of dirt and rock gone and the total reconfiguration of the retreat channel was mind-blowing," said Bryan Duvall, Rough River Lake maintenance lead.

Through it all, the district's dedicated maintenance crews and park rangers worked around the clock—before, during and after the floodwaters receded—to protect infrastructure, clear debris and prepare recreation areas for reopening.

Preparation ahead of the heavy rainfall proved vital. Teams removed electrical systems, pumped septic tanks, relocated equipment and used inundation maps to prioritize response efforts.

"It was very overwhelming," said Klint Hawkins, Barren River Lake maintenance mechanic. "What motivated me was seeing



Barren River Lake's Ryan Weaver prepares supplies to replace the ceiling of a campground restroom that was severely damaged by April's flooding.

Continued on next page



Jon Fillingham, Rough River Lake project manager, takes piezometer measurements, April 4, 2025, at Rough River Lake in Falls of Rough, Kentucky, monitoring the dam and keeping watch 24 hours a day during the high water event.

the impact on the local businesses and community.”

Beyond the initial shock, staff quickly turned their attention to working together and prioritizing cleanup tasks.

“Getting the team together and coordinating efforts to assist where needed was essential to start the cleanup process,” said Libby Watt, Nolin River Lake lead ranger. “Rangers’ primary focus was keeping an open schedule to assist maintenance with inspections, pressure washing, raking gravel on campsites, securing swim lines and docks. When lake levels started going down, we had to switch focus and address buoys, permits and volunteer placement.”

Lessons from past floods helped guide recovery efforts.

“This flood was just a few feet short of the record pool event of 2011 at Nolin. We learned a lot 14 years ago that helped us as we worked this event,” said Deryck

Rodgers, Nolin River Lake manager. “We removed wooden ceilings in bathroom and shower-house facilities, we learned to strap down hot water heaters, and we updated our action lists to note exactly when we needed to remove electrical infrastructure as the lake levels continued to rise. We did the same thing during this event, building on the experience of the past.”

The aftermath was staggering; campgrounds, entrance stations, restrooms, shower-houses, sewage lift stations, signs and navigational buoys were all affected.

Still, lake staff worked nonstop to get recreation areas reopened as quickly as possible.

“The primary focus was making repairs to campgrounds because of the reservations people had made, some up to six months in advance,” said Adam Warren, Rough River Lake lead ranger.

Maintenance crews replaced light fixtures, HVAC systems, insulation, roofs,

and buoys—often racing against time.

“If you can get into a building right after the water recedes, the mud washes out much easier,” said Kerry Sanders, Nolin River Lake maintenance lead. “What really sticks with me is the entire team’s effort—everyone worked together to get things cleaned up and reopened as quickly as possible.”

That same spirit of collaboration extended beyond the job site, with staff focused on helping the community recover.

“We were just trying to bring back a sense of normalcy to the lake, businesses and surrounding areas,” said Ryan Weaver, Barren River Lake maintenance mechanic.

For many, the reward was seeing lake visitors return.

“It has been a great feeling to see what was once covered under feet of water back to being enjoyed by the public,” Taylor said. “I find a great sense of pride in knowing that I get to help ensure this resource is here for generations to come.”

Volunteers, staff and even employees from surrounding lakes stepped in to help.

“It was nice having the opportunity to offer help and assistance from another lake,” said Green River Lake’s Drew Shockley. “Barren River Lake is where I started my career with the Corps of Engineers, and I take pride in being able to help when I can.”

During the cleanup stage, visitors, too, showed understanding.

“I think they knew we were doing the best we could with the staff and time we had,” said Andrea Davis, Green River Lake park ranger. “As a ranger, I care deeply about what we’re presenting to the public and that makes it even more meaningful to show how hard we work and how much we care about these recreation areas.”

For many on the team, this effort was personal.

“This is why I choose the career that I have. I grew up using campgrounds and areas just like the ones here at Rough River Lake,” said Warren. “I have a personal interest to keep these areas in the best condition possible so that not only can I use them, but future generations will be able to use them as well. I want future generations to have the same opportunities I have had to enjoy these areas.”

The entire Green River Area team’s relentless work ensured the lakes could once again provide recreation opportunities for the 2025 season—while never losing sight of USACE’s primary mission of flood risk management and public safety.



Green River Lake’s Drew Shockley (left) and Barren River Lake’s Clint Hawkins (right), both maintenance mechanics, inspect a shut-off electrical box at a Barren River Lake facility, July 22, 2025.

Brookville Lake celebrates 50th anniversary

Katie Chandler, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's Brookville Lake marked a major milestone on July 25, 2025, as community members, partners, USACE staff and leaders gathered at the lake's overlook in Brookville, Indiana, to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Located in Franklin and Union counties on the East Fork of the Whitewater River, Brookville Lake was completed in 1974 and formally dedicated the following year. Managed by the Louisville District in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, its primary mission is flood risk management. Over the decades, it has also grown into one of Indiana's premier outdoor recreation destinations.

Louisville District Commander Col. L. Reyn Mann, along with other guest speakers, delivered remarks recognizing

the lake's enduring role in flood protection, recreation and environmental stewardship.

"Over the past 50 years, this lake has welcomed generations of boaters, fishermen, campers and nature lovers," said Col. Mann. "It has withstood storms, served during droughts, and quietly protected the region from devastating floods. In fact, since its construction, Brookville Lake has prevented more than \$100 million in flood damages and has helped protect the community of Brookville and communities downstream. It reminds us that the work we do at the Corps isn't just about concrete and steel—it's about people, safety, resilience, and legacy."

Key partners included the Franklin County Community Foundation, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, IDNR and others.

In addition to the official ceremony,

the three-day event featured a dinner for displaced residents, a 70's-themed parade and other small events hosted by local organizations.

Brookville Lake Park Ranger Stephanie Ison, whose roots dig deep into the history of the lake, expressed extreme pride knowing she was apart of such a monumental event.

"May future generations always remember the sacrifices that were made for the building of Brookville Lake while acknowledging the main mission and purpose of the lake which is to protect lives and property downstream," Ison said. "This is the third largest lake in Indiana. With over 17,000 acres of land and water, there is a spot that might become a favorite place at Brookville Lake, so go find it. It's hard to pick just one favorite spot for me. Adventure awaits."



Katie Chandler



Katie Chandler



Katie Chandler



Katie Chandler

Crowds gathered at the overlook area at Brookville Lake in Brookville, Indiana, July 25, 2025, for a ceremony hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the lake's dedication. For more than five decades, through the joint management of USACE and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Brookville Lake has served not only as a flood risk management project but also as a place of solitude and adventure for the surrounding community.

Louisville District signs Record of Decision for former Camp Breckinridge

Kelsie Hall, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the former Camp Breckinridge, a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) located in Union County, Kentucky.

Project manager for the USACE Louisville District's Environmental Support Section within the Military Branch of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, Matthew Kluge, explained that the purpose of a ROD is to document the selection of the remedial action.

"It defines the agreed upon remedy and the goals and objectives of the remedial activities, current and future land uses, projected costs, and community involvement and participation," Kluge said.

He also explained that USACE coordinates with the state regulator, Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, in the development of the ROD.

For various periods between 1942 and 1962 the range complex at Camp Breckinridge was used by the Army and National Guard for training in small arms,

hand grenades, mortars and artillery firing.

Today, USACE executes the FUDS program on behalf of the Department of Defense, investigating and cleaning up potential contamination or munitions that may remain on these properties from past DOD activities.

The former Camp Breckinridge is a 6,667-acre High Use Area (HUA) and Low Use Area (LUA) Munitions Response Site (MRS) consisting of the portion of the former range complex where previous investigations identified high- and low-density munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris. Currently, this area is used for residential, industrial and recreational uses.

"Farmers are actively farming the fields and have, on several occasions, found munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris," said Kluge. "They need to continue to work their fields whether we conduct work or not, so from a safety standpoint, this is a high priority project."

The selected remedy is Focused Surface and Subsurface Removal (with Analog Anomaly Reduction) and Land Use Controls, including a surface sweep of the munitions response site to assist

in identifying and removing surface Munitions and Explosives of Concerns. Dynamic Advanced Geophysical Classification will be used in both the HUA and LUA for locating and identifying items to be removed.

"The Record of Decision was being worked on by the project delivery team for close to four years," said Kluge.

The ROD faced a high level of scrutiny from the USACE Headquarters and USACE Environmental and Munitions Mandatory Center of Expertise (EMCX) leading to extensive coordination of reviews, checks and backchecks, as well as additional public meetings.

Kluge noted that strong internal and interagency relationships ultimately helped get the ROD signed.

"Past challenges to getting the Record of Decision signed were primarily overcome through constant coordination with our technical partners at the EMCX, the state regulators at Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, and with USACE Headquarters," he said. "A lot of teamwork was involved among the team members at both the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville and the Louisville District, and I think a major impact on the team's ability to problem solve on the fly was that any time a problem arose, the team was able to take care of it quickly rather than letting it build."

Although high priority, it is anticipated the Remedial Action-Construction Phase will take 30 years, which USACE anticipates conducting via contractors with USACE oversight, prior to moving into Long Term Management to ensure the project continues to meet its objectives.

"I am incredibly proud of the team's dedication and persistence in reaching this major milestone for the Camp Breckinridge High Use and Low Use Areas," said Corey Knox, Louisville District's Environmental Support Section chief. "The signed Record of Decision is a significant achievement that reflects years of collaboration, technical excellence and stakeholder engagement. It outlines a path forward to address munitions hazards while supporting the protection of human health, the environment, and valuable farmland in the surrounding community."



Courtesy Photo

A contractor completes Digital Geophysical Mapping as part of a time critical removal action at the former Camp Breckinridge in Union County, Kentucky.

The Louisville District aids in military recruiting mission

Katie Chandler, public affairs

Recruiting is a key part of keeping the military mission-ready and for many, walking into a recruiting office is the first step of that journey. Behind the scenes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's Real Estate Division works hard to make sure those offices are ready to welcome the next generation of service members.

Through the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program, the Louisville District's Real Estate Inleasing Branch manages the acquisition and maintenance of military recruitment offices across five states, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. Under a Department of Defense directive, the Secretary of the Army is designated as the executive agent for recruiting facilities, making USACE the key player in managing space for all branches of the military.

At the national level, the Joint Recruiting Facilities Program operates on a \$386 million annual budget. The Louisville District alone supports approximately 13.5 percent of all active leases, managing 929 recruiting facilities and 348 leases and supporting more than 3,300 recruiters and support personnel across the region.

In fiscal year 2024, the Louisville District completed 544 recruiting actions. These included relocations, upgrades, office closures, expansions and lease renewals.

These actions represent over 1.1 million square feet of space and a \$37 million annual program budget.

"We support all branches—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force and National Guard," said Louisville District Inleasing Branch Chief, Mark Klinglesmith. "What we do is vital to the success of our recruiters and making sure they have top-notch facilities, in the right places, and at the right times."

The Recruiting Section of the Inleasing Branch currently consists of 18 team members: one branch chief, two section chiefs, 12 realty specialists, two realty assistants and one budget analyst.

Realty specialists are responsible for a wide range of duties which include locating office space, conducting market surveys, negotiating leases, monitoring construction and solving maintenance or security issues. Realty assistants support this work by handling thousands of payments annually. This includes rent, utilities, janitorial services and construction upgrades.

According to Klinglesmith, the team's work environment is fast-paced and deadline-driven.

"This is one of the fastest-paced programs you will find throughout the enterprise," Klinglesmith said. "Facilities can go from an idea to people sitting in a brand-new facility in six months to a year. In the real estate and government world,

that is lightning speed."

From the team's perspective, the commercial real estate market has stayed fairly steady, but new leasing procedures, tighter budgets and changing security needs are still presenting challenges.

"A strong support team doesn't fear pressure—it channels it," Klinglesmith said. "In the face of the mission's recurring deadlines, we don't just meet expectations; we deliver the facilities, infrastructure, and real estate solutions that keep the recruiting mission moving forward."

Their work also earns national recognition. Two Louisville District realty specialists were recently awarded the Civilian Commendation Medal from the U.S. Marine Corps. The district currently has representation on the nationwide construction project delivery team and one employee is serving in a detail role to Seattle District to help guide and mentor other specialists. Additionally, the district is now supporting the Joint Recruiting Facilities Committee as interim Regional Program Manager for both the Great Lakes and Ohio River and Southwestern Divisions.

"The Louisville District has some of the most knowledgeable recruiting real estate specialists in the enterprise," Klinglesmith said. "We're proud of the support we provide to other districts and the overall mission of the Armed Forces."



Team members of the Real Estate Division Inleasing Branch gather in front of the federal building in Downtown Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 20, 2025.

District employee earns place on All-Guard Marathon team

Michael Maddox, public affairs

Along with serving in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District as the Area Engineer for the Louisville VA Medical Center mega-project, Terry Durham also serves as an officer in the Kentucky Army National Guard. As if that isn't enough to keep him busy, he is also an avid runner, so much so that he has recently achieved multiple running goals.

Durham was a part of the Kentucky Army National Guard's elite marathon team as they won their first-ever team championship at the All-Guard Marathon Time Trials earlier this year in Lincoln, Nebraska. More than 180 National Guard runners from 47 states, three U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia competed in the event, vying for a spot on the All-Guard Marathon team.

Durham also qualified for the All-Guard Marathon and Endurance Teams, which promotes physical fitness, discipline and esprit de corps among National Guard members while supporting recruitment and retention across participating communities.

He said that what started out as trying to stay in shape has grown thanks to the encouragement of others.

"I've always enjoyed running for fitness, especially with the need to meet Army fitness standards. For years, the longest race I'd ever run was a half-marathon and I had zero interest in going further," he said. "That changed thanks to my brother-in-law, who started running with a Louisville-based running group in 2017. He spent years trying to convince me to join them for a group run."

"I finally gave in, expecting a group of elite marathoners I'd struggle to keep up with. Instead, I found a welcoming community of runners from

all backgrounds and skill levels," he added. "They were more than just training partners, they were people who supported each other's goals, on and off the road. That sense of camaraderie drew me in and before long, the idea of running a marathon didn't seem so far-fetched."

Since then, Durham has run six marathons to include the Kentucky Derby Festival Marathon, the Chicago Marathon and most recently the Boston Marathon.

Durham said each one is different – presenting both challenges and memorable experiences.

"Chicago was my toughest race. I went in with a big goal, breaking three hours, on a famously flat and fast course. But race day brought less-than-ideal weather, a crowded field of nearly 50,000 runners, and my first real experience of 'hitting the wall'," he said. "By mile 22, leg cramps and fatigue set in hard, and I had to dig deep just to make it to the finish. Even though I missed my time goal, the energy from the massive crowds lining the streets made it an unforgettable experience."

He said running the Boston Marathon earlier this year has been one of his favorite experiences.

"Boston was without a doubt one of the most memorable. The history, the prestige, the challenging course, it's everything you imagine it to be and more. The city treats Patriot's Day like a celebration of running, and the atmosphere is unreal," he shared. "It was also the first marathon I ran purely for the experience, without chasing a specific time. I got to take in the crowds, the sights, and the moment itself. It reminded me why I fell in love with running."

Durham said he got the idea of trying out for the All-Guard Marathon Team in



Courtesy Photo

Terry Durham, area engineer for the Louisville VA Medical Center mega-project, also completed the Boston Marathon earlier this year. Durham also serves as an officer in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

late 2023, after he and Ben Bruder, who is the project manager on the Louisville VA Medical Center project and a fellow officer in the National Guard, both finished a marathon within the All-Guard Marathon Team's qualifying range.

Besides the physical fitness aspect of running, Durham said he finds there can be other benefits to running.

"Running for me encourages both physical and mental strength. It's a lifelong sport that you can enjoy alone for personal reflection or with a group for shared motivation. Marathons teach discipline, patience, and resilience; skills that carry over into every other part of life," he said.

Durham suggested that anyone who is interested in taking up jogging or running should remember a few tips as they build up to longer distances.

"Start where you are, not where you think you should be. In the beginning, consistency matters far more than speed or distance," he suggested. "Find a running community where encouragement, shared knowledge, and accountability can make all the difference."

"Listen to your body, fuel it well, and make recovery a priority," he said. "Above all, enjoy the process. Every run, every milestone, and even every setback is part of the journey. The race may last just minutes or hours, but the true reward lies in the miles and effort it took to get there."



Terry Durham (third from left), and members of the Kentucky National Guard Marathon Team win their first championship at the All-Guard Marathon Time Trials in Lincoln, Nebraska, May 4, 2025.

Courtesy Photo

USACE Command Sergeant Major visits the Louisville District

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Earlier this month, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick visited the Louisville District, touring several key projects in the area, Aug. 12, 2025.

The day began with an overview of the district's diverse missions, followed by a visit to McAlpine Locks and Dam in Louisville, Kentucky, where Galick received a site tour of the facility and observed daily operations that keep commerce moving on the Ohio River.

He then toured the district's \$945 million mega project—the new Louisville VA Medical Center. As construction crews worked on site, Galick viewed progress on the future healthcare facility for Veterans. The new 104-bed, full-service hospital will serve more than 45,000 Veterans in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, integrating modern, patient-centered design concepts to deliver world-class care.

Galick also joined Louisville District

military personnel for lunch, gaining insight into their work in support of the district's missions.

The visit concluded at Markland Locks and Dam in Warsaw, Kentucky, where Galick toured the dewatered lock chamber and learned about the extensive maintenance work currently underway.

Along the way, Galick presented USACE coins to several district teammates in recognition of their dedication, including Jay Rickman, lockmaster at McAlpine Locks and Dam; Martin Newberry, navigation assistant at McAlpine; Norman Jackson and Tim Madrick, construction representatives on the VA project; Shawn Riley, lockmaster Markland Locks and Dam, and Justin Crosby, equipment mechanic at Markland.

"We were honored to host Command Sgt. Maj. Galick for his first visit to the Louisville District," said Louisville District Deputy Commander Maj. Adam Cartier. "His visit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the impactful projects we're

leading across the region—and more importantly, to recognize the dedication, skill, and commitment of the employees who make this work possible every day. I'm personally grateful for his willingness to listen to our workforce and take their feedback seriously."

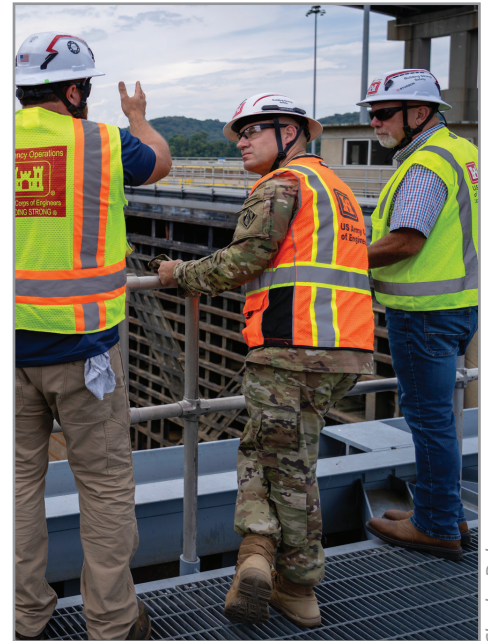
From navigation to healthcare infrastructure, the day showcased the Louisville District's wide-ranging impact across the region.



Lockmaster Shawn Riley explains ongoing work to USACE Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick while standing in the dewatered lock chamber at Markland Locks and Dam, Aug. 12, 2025.



USACE Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick visits the Louisville VA Medical Center construction site, Aug. 12, 2025, in Louisville, Kentucky.



USACE Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick visits the Markland Locks and Dam in Warsaw, Kentucky, Aug. 12, 2025.



USACE Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Galick receives a tour of McAlpine Locks and Dam in Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 12, 2025.