

# Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

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Safety is paramount in district  
dredging operations







## Falls City Engineer

Vol. 13, Issue 4

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**On the cover:** Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino aboard the Dredge Bill Holman in Louisville, Kentucky, to see first-hand how safety plays a role in dredging operations on the Ohio River.  
(Photo by Katie Newton)

# Commander's Comments

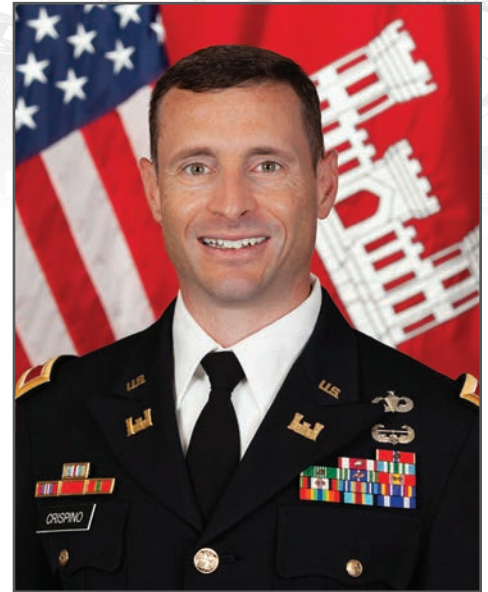
Team Louisville,

I can't believe summer is almost over. This also means the end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching and I appreciate everyone pushing hard to deliver on our commitments.

It has certainly been a busy time here in the district. We have participated in multiple engagements to cultivate partnerships with several of our critical stakeholders and customers, and our teams continue to press forward and are committed to executing our expansive workload to successfully deliver the program amid another challenging year.

This month's issue of the Falls City Engineer highlights just a few of the many contributions you and your teams are making to the nation. These include dredging operations on the Ohio River, awarding a contract for the new Louisville VA Medical Center, Col. Peeples' first visit to the district and much more. This is just a small glimpse of what we have been up to the last couple of months.

I know it feels like we recently took three steps forward and are now taking two steps backwards regarding COVID-19, but I want to ensure everyone that we are taking measures to maintain an environment where employees can feel safe while still executing our district mission. I know this time of year can be stressful for many due to end of year execution, but I encourage everyone to work together and keep yourself, others and our families and friends healthy and safe.



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

I am very proud of our Louisville team and can't wait to celebrate and close out another great fiscal year.


Louisville Proud!

Col. Crispino

*Eric D Crispino*

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**Think before you print.**

BUILDING STRONG®

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# Safety is paramount in district dredging operations

Katie Newton, public affairs

Each year the Louisville District dredges approximately a million cubic yards of silt and sediment from more than 10 sites along the Ohio River to ensure safe navigation for the towing industry.

On June 28, Louisville District Commander Col. Eric Crispino went aboard the Dredge Bill Holman in Louisville, Kentucky, to see first-hand how safety plays a role in dredging operations on the Ohio River.

Dredging operations are conducted 24 hours per day, seven days per week, but for crews running the Dredge Bill Holman, safety must always take priority.

Mike Dunn, dredge superintendent, Luhr Bros., Inc., who has been dredging this stretch of the Ohio River for nearly 30 years says his crew has to put safety first. This means a safety officer is on shift 24 hours a day.

Col. Crispino applauded leadership for their oversight procedures and best practices to keep the crew safe.

“You have got to have a safe environment for the team and that requires your constant work and attention to guard against complacency,” said Crispino when speaking to the team dredging below the McAlpine Locks and Dam. “It’s dangerous work you all are doing out here, but you clearly have a good safety record so keep it up and don’t become complacent.”

Maintenance dredging must be performed annually to keep the navigation channel open for commercial river traffic. Throughout the summer of 2021, channel



The Dredge Bill Holman dredges the lower approach at McAlpine Locks and Dam on the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky, June 28, 2021.

maintenance dredging has been performed around McAlpine, Cannelton, Newburgh, and John T. Myers locks and dams in

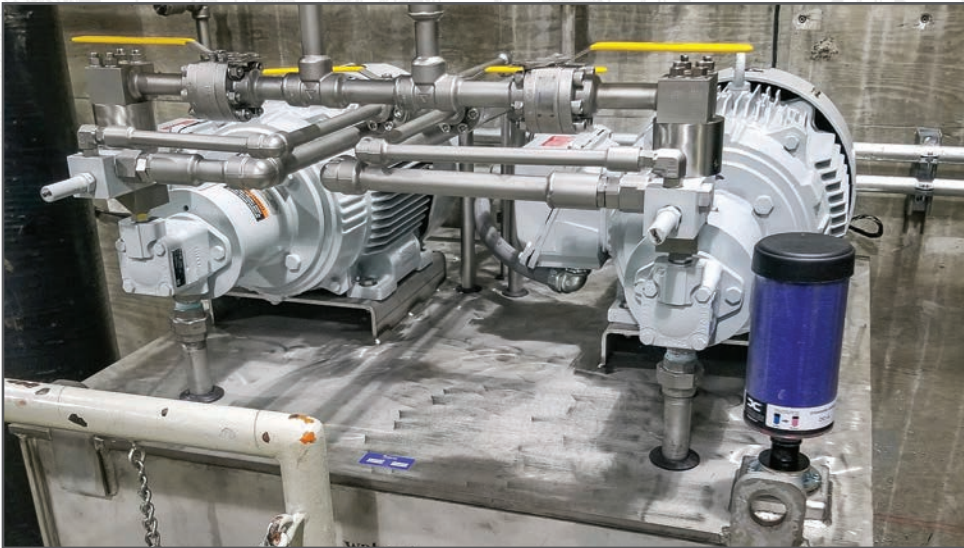
addition to the Evansville Bend at Ohio River Mile 792 and the mouth of the Wabash River near Ohio River Mile 848.



The Louisville District dredges approximately a million cubic yards of silt and sediment from more than 10 sites along the Ohio River each year to ensure safe navigation for the towing industry.



# Cecil M. Harden Lake replaces hydraulic power unit



The new hydraulic power unit at Cecil M. Harden Lake in Rockville, Indiana, was put in this spring. The unit provides pressure in order to open the Mansfield Dam main gates at the lake.

*Charles Delano, public affairs*

The hydraulic power unit which provides pressure to open the Mansfield Dam main gates at Cecil M. Harden Lake in Rockville, Indiana was replaced April 2021. The requirement to replace the unit was identified on July 21, 2015 during a record lake pool level of 690.1 feet above mean sea level (msl). The operation of only one of three service gates was possible

until water levels dropped near 685 msl when there was sufficient hydraulic power to operate all three gates. When water levels exceed 690 msl, the dam's spillway provides a safe path for the excess flows.

"Replacement of this system has been a cooperative effort between engineering, operations and project staff," said Joe Staigl, operations manager for the Middle Wabash area. "This cooperative effort has

resulted in increased performance in the system and confidence knowing the project will operate properly under high water conditions."

The original hydraulic system, which was put into operation in July 1960, produced enough pressure to open the 4 foot by 8.5-foot main gates when lake pool levels reached 685 msl. Lake water levels are kept at 662 msl during the summer and released at an average of 22 cubic feet per second to reduce downstream flooding and provide a reservoir area for recreation. During the winter, the water is drawn down to 640 msl to allow for storage of snowmelt and spring rains to reduce downstream flooding on Big Raccoon Creek.

The replacement hydraulic system was redesigned and approved July 14, 2017 to ensure full operation of all three main gates when the lake experiences flood level pools of 690 msl. The upgraded system includes higher horsepower motors, larger hydraulic pumps, counterbalance valves, pressure relief valves, and a new electrical service. This new system will allow the dam at Cecil M. Harden Lake to operate at any pool level, which is critical to maintaining dam safety and reducing flood damages downstream.

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# USACE celebrates National Park and Recreation Month

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

July was National Park and Recreation Month – a month designed to tell the parks and recreation story and encourage the public to create their own memories. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District celebrating National Park and Recreation Month means recognizing those who run the show at the district's flood risk management projects.

The Louisville District flood risk management projects could not, and would not, run as successful as they do without USACE Natural Resources Specialists, most commonly known as park rangers. Rangers work day-in and day-out ensuring public safety at their projects, but they also run several different programs for local communities and visitors, manage wildlife areas stimulating growth of native species and removing invasive plant species, design visitor centers and exhibits, attend boat shows to spread the water safety message, conduct boundary inspections, host natural resources events and perform countless other duties.

The Louisville District manages 17 lakes throughout Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, and hosts an average of 15 million visitors per year. While most people enjoy the down time of summer holidays and weekends with family, park rangers spend a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure the safety of local communities.

"Our rangers perform thousands of boat safety inspections ensuring sufficient quantities of PFD's (personal floatation device) are on board and, more importantly, that the PFD's are the right size and fit," said Jeremy Ball, Safety and Occupational Health Office Chief. "When there are issues



Caesar Creek Lake hosts a Jr. Ranger Day Camp for children in 2017, where rangers educated participants on everything from solar and hydro power to the importance of wind and water quality.

with PFD's, our rangers make sure the right PFD is available and even offer loaner PFD's to our visitors. Along with boat patrols, they make thousands of contacts each year at our boat ramps, campgrounds, on the water, in the local schools, at various boat and fishing shows, local fairs and concerts, and even visit local news stations to spread our safety message."

Just this summer, Dan Taylor, lead park ranger at Barren River Lake, who has been with USACE for 17 years, appeared on ESPN Radio's "SOKY Outdoors" program to discuss various topics. He also appeared on a local television station to discuss the 4th of July holiday weekend including water safety, mandatory vessel safety equipment and the fireworks show.

"You might notice that we are staring for a few minutes, but we are basically just trying to do a quick check, as we are patrolling the lake, to make sure everyone on the vessel is following the rules," Taylor said during his interview.

It is very common for USACE park rangers to work with local media platforms to promote events or safety messages throughout the year. Green River Lake Park Ranger Andrea Davis has already recorded six water safety public service announcements for six local radio stations this summer.

Louisville District park rangers also partner to work with local and state parks for community events.

On June 26, Brookville Lake Park Rangers Tyler Allen and Spencer Beard attended the CanoeFest Canoe Races at Brookville Lake, in Brookville, Indiana. Allen and Beard assisted with parking and event sign up. Allen also monitored the starting line to ensure sure people were properly wearing their life jackets.

"I love being on the lake and meeting

new people," Allen said. "This job never gets boring."

When asked what their favorite part of their job was, most rangers attribute it to the fact that each day brings something new.

"When it comes to being a Park Ranger for USACE, I enjoy the diversity of the job. That diversity is shown through the natural resources we protect, the team that I work with, and the recreating public that we come in contact with that are here to enjoy the beautiful project nestled in south-central Kentucky," Taylor said. "I get to see a lot of the project throughout the year while on patrol in the campgrounds, on the water, and with boundary line inspection. It is the diversity of the area that makes calling Barren River Lake home so gratifying."

Many rangers also love being able to work outdoors.

"I really enjoy the Natural Resource Management aspect of the job here and the opportunity to work out in nature," said Wendy Clark, park ranger at Cagles Mill Lake in Poland, Indiana. "I get to play with bugs and snakes."

Brian Menker, park ranger at C.J. Brown Dam and Reservoir in Springfield, Ohio, feels the same.

"This is a nice place to work, we have good facilities and regular lake visitors that I love to talk to," Menker said. "I know the area so well now and love the habitat work we do."

Often thought of as the face of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, park rangers interact with the public, along with local community leaders, stakeholders and many more. 365 days a year, Louisville District Park Rangers go above and beyond, ensuring public safety and maintaining their parks - and National Park and Recreation Month is a time to thank them for all they do.



Park Ranger JD Tucker prepares to paint water safety messages on bridge piers around Rough River Lake.



## New wind turbine to reduce energy consumption for Marseilles Training Area



The Marseilles Training Area (MTA) in LaSalle County, Illinois will be the site of a new \$4.2 million project featuring a 900 kW wind turbine generator.

*Charles Delano, public affairs*

The Marseilles Training Area (MTA) in LaSalle County, Illinois will be the site of a new 900 kW wind turbine generator. The \$4.2 million project was awarded to Boyd Jones Construction of Omaha, Nebraska, June 29, 2021 and will provide about 2,750,000 kWh of power per year to the Illinois Army National Guard's training area. The area incorporates a Unit Training Equipment Site for the Illinois Army National Guard as well as a range complex used by military, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Greg Hayes, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, Louisville District, military support section program manager, said that he was glad the project was awarded and that his team was excited about being involved with the wind turbine project.

With all the forward momentum for the project, there have also been some challenges. The project management team needed to source a wind turbine supplier for a very specific size and capacity turbine and meet Buy American Act (BAA) requirements.

"Taking into consideration the availability for this particular size turbine was a critical component for enabling us to advertise this project," said Hayes. "Given

the market conditions for the equipment in this particular size range, we had to make sure we understood the BAA requirements well and worked to maximize competitive equipment sourcing."

The power generation from the wind turbine will support the MTA's mission to provide combat, combat support of combat service support units of up to 1,000 personnel. The project, funded by the Energy Conservation Investment Program, will contribute to President Biden's goal to achieve a 50 to 52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution in 2030.

"The Marseilles Wind Turbine project was set in motion as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Executive Order 13423. It will be a major step in energy reduction for the Marseilles Training Area allowing the Illinois Army National Guard to reduce its overall energy consumption and provide clean, renewable energy back to the grid for use in the surrounding area," said Mark Lee, Department of Military Affairs engineering technician. "Although the generated energy will go back on the grid, the Illinois Army National Guard will see a substantial reduction in its utility bill as a result of this project."

## New Joint Operations and Mission Planning Center construction at Scott AFB

*Charles Delano, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, and 375th Civil Engineer Squadron have collaborated on a 171,727 square foot Joint Operations Mission Planning Center (JOMPC) to be built at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The \$72.7 million contract was awarded July 8, 2021 to Zodiac-Poettker HBZ JV II, LLC of St. Louis, Missouri. This was the third USACE project at Scott AFB to be awarded below the programmed amount.

"This project is one of the more high-visibility projects I have been associated with," said Sean Hoben, military support section project manager. "There are two four-star commands that will be occupying this facility and its progress has been closely tracked by General Officers and their staff."

The facility will house three Air Mobility Command units and one U.S. Transportation Command unit within the two-story steel structure. As a joint facility, the project team was faced with the challenge of coordinating user requirements and requests. Hoben and team successfully

balanced and organized space requests from multiple units while maintaining the allowable square footage.

"The ability to provide a joint operations facility to both the Air Mobility Command and Transportation Command is key to continuing the mission of our military personnel," said Hoben.

"The Joint Operations and Mission Planning Center will enhance USTRANSCOM's global warfighting mission by providing the right amount of space, technology and security needed to accommodate large multi-day joint staff directed Geographic Combatant Command

and Scott AFB conferences and exercises," said Sara Matis-Dettman, Director of Conference Support for USTRANSCOM. "The JOMPC will support all types of events from small five-person local trainings to large 175+ person joint service planning events supporting Joint Staff directed planning initiatives."

Planning and requirements for the JOMPC were identified during the fifth Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2005. The project began forward movement in 2019 with a design by Burns and McDonnell. The project is scheduled to be completed Aug. 2023.



Rendering of the Joint Operations Mission Planning Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.



# Contract awarded for new VA hospital in Louisville



A rendering of the west façade of the new Louisville VA Medical Center hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

## Joint News Release from USACE Louisville District and VA Robley Rex Public Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, will build a new 104 bed, full-service hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. An \$840 million contract was awarded to Walsh-Turner Joint Venture II headquartered in Chicago, Illinois on Aug. 17, 2021 to construct the new hospital, which will replace the existing Robley Rex VA Medical Center.

The contract includes constructing a new 910,115 square foot medical center, parking structures, a 42,205 square foot central utility plant, and roadways, sidewalks, and other site improvements. Groundbreaking for the new Louisville VA Medical Center, located on approximately 34 acres of land located at 4906 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, is expected to occur in the fall of 2021.

“We are excited to reach this significant milestone in the project and look forward to breaking ground,” said Stephen D. Black, Medical Center Director of the Robley Rex VA Medical Center. “We are pleased to work alongside the USACE and Walsh Turner Joint Venture II to bring this world-class health care facility into reality for our Nation’s heroes. I want to recognize the support of our strong community partnerships and thank everyone who advocated to make this facility happen, especially our Veteran community in the Kentuckiana area.”

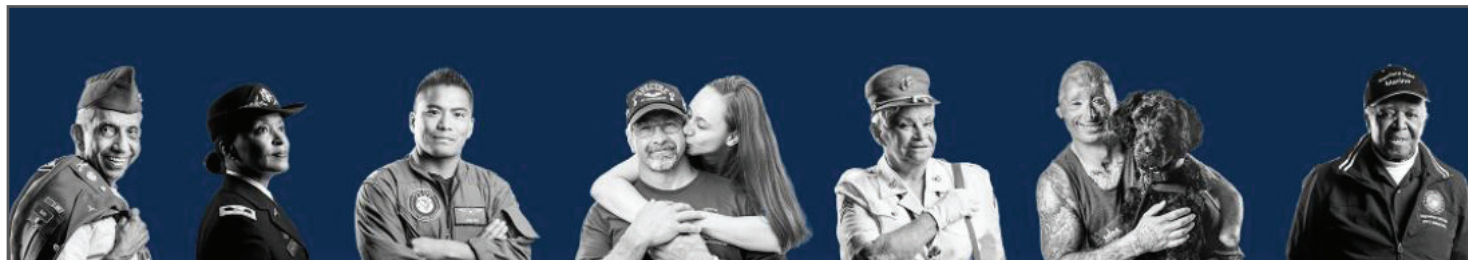
The new hospital will integrate modern patient-centered care concepts to provide the best possible care for Veterans. In addition, to specifically address the needs of our women Veterans, the new hospital will include a Women’s Health Clinic with 4 Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT).

USACE is proud of its long history supporting the Department of Veterans

Affairs with design, planning, and construction of facilities that enable our Nation’s heroes to accomplish their missions and receive the care they deserve during their time of active service and beyond.

“The announcement of today’s contract award is a testament to the strong partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Veterans Affairs and brings us one step closer to delivering this much-anticipated state-of-the-art medical facility,” said Col. Eric Crispino, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District Commander. “We are proud to play a role in this project and remain committed to delivering the new Louisville VA Medical Center in a timely and cost-effective manner to serve our local Kentuckiana Veterans.”

Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2025.





# Louisville District executes \$356 million nationwide reserve program

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District spans more than two centuries. During this time the Louisville District has acquired many diverse programs and missions, one of them being the nationwide reserve program.

The Louisville District provides project management and planning support for Army Reserve Centers in the United States and Puerto Rico. The district's Reserve Support Team also serves as the design agent for the Air Force Reserve program. The Reserve program makes up more than 25 percent of the Louisville District's military workload.

"The Louisville District is the National Program Manager for the Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve MILCON (Military Construction) Program and centrally managed Operations and Maintenance projects," said Cristie Mitchell, Louisville District Reserve Support Programs Branch chief. "We are very customer, stakeholder and partner focused."

Additional programs, and support services, for the Army Reserve that are centrally managed out of the Louisville District include a National Roofing Program, Full Facility Restoration,



The new aircraft hangar at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Intrusion Detection System, Furniture Procurement, Criteria Management, Real Estate Support, Fire Alarm Monitoring, IT Program, and Environmental Support for MILCON Land Acquisition and Professional Services.

The district's Construction Division Reserve Branch also plays a unique part in the process of delivering the robust program. They are responsible for managing construction nationwide—far beyond the district's five-state military construction footprint.

"We deliver, not only in a five-state area, but across the nation," Mitchell said while providing an overview of the program to potential contractors as part of the district's annual open house. "Delivering on our commitment – that is our goal."

In 1994, the Louisville District received its nationwide Army Reserve mission, and the Air Force Reserve mission was established in 1999. Since then, countless facilities have been designed and constructed by the district.

Since 2001, a total of 468 Army Reserve projects have been successfully delivered by the Louisville District, and since 2006, 126 Air Force Reserve projects have been completed. As part of the National Roofing Program, 940 new roofs have been installed at 346 facilities.

"Why is this important?" Mitchell asked. "It is to put a human element to the work we do. It is about impacting a war fighter and supporting what they do."

The Louisville District also supports the Army Reserve furniture program by designing and acquiring furniture for all new and renovated facilities. The program supports Department of Defense Education Activity, also known as DoDEA, with the outfitting and acquisition of furniture and special miscellaneous equipment - like audio visual, electronic security systems, AED, scissor lifts and fire extinguishers – to support schools across the globe.

Currently, the Army Reserve program has 81 active projects in various stages of design or construction, and 118 active projects in the Air Force Reserve program are in various stages of study, design or construction.



The Armed Forces Reserve Center in Danbury, Connecticut was completed in 2014.



A classroom at West Point Elementary School in West Point, New York. The Louisville District worked with DoDEA on the outfitting and acquisition of furniture for the school.





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Louisville District

# ENVIRONMENTAL MISSION

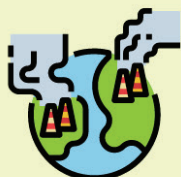


The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's environmental program is dedicated to building a strong, sustainable environment for future generations. The district's environmental program manages, designs and executes a full range of cleanup and protection activities to include the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, Installation Restoration Program, Base Realignment and Closure Program and Environmental Quality Programs.

## FUDS FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES



Environmental restoration (cleanup) of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense prior to October 1986.



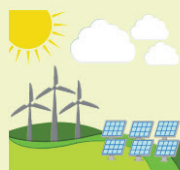
A comprehensive program under the Army's Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) to identify, investigate and clean up hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants at active/operating Army installations.

## IRP INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

## BRAC BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE



USACE responds to changing requirements while maintaining the demanding schedule for cleanup and property transfer of DoD properties identified during the commission's process of reorganizing installation infrastructure.



USACE's effort to achieve sustainability while providing a full range of Environmental Quality (Compliance, Conservation and Pollution Prevention) support to military installations and installation activities throughout the world.

## EQ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



# Division commander makes initial visit to Louisville District



Sean Tucker, Louisville District civil engineer, helps Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples put on a virtual reality headset during her visit to the district Aug. 9.

## Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District welcomed Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander, Col. Kimberly Peeples, August 9th and 11th, 2021, as she visited the district office and toured key project sites near Louisville, Kentucky and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

This was the first time Peeples was able to visit the district since taking command of the division in June 2021.

Her visit started with a Louisville District programmatic overview. She was also briefed on some of the district's diverse programs to include the nationwide reserve program and the Veterans Affairs Program.

Following the presentations, Peeples put on a virtual reality headset, which allowed her to step inside of the New Soo Lock

Chamber in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

"This is incredible," Peeples said as she toured the mega-project from more than 600 miles away.

The Louisville District is playing a key role in the regional design effort and the virtual reality simulation has proved a useful tool for designers and users to collaborate.

"The model allows us to elicit customer feedback," said Gary Grunwald, USACE Louisville District civil engineer. "It allows us to see potential clashes so we can make necessary modifications now, saving both time and money."

On several occasions the VR system was brought to the Soo Locks to receive feedback from site leadership, maintenance workers and lock operators.

"You're the leading edge of what we're doing in the Corps," Peeples said. "This is

a great tool and it's a great process to have industry and users trying the model. Truly incredible."

During her visit, Peeples also recognized several district employees by presenting them with commander coins. Among those recognized for their outstanding service were David Chrisman, safety office; Emily Moore, contracting division; and Jim Walters and David Yankey, engineering division.

The division commander also toured sites in Clarksville, Indiana, across the river from McAlpine Locks and Dam, and the site of the new Louisville VA Medical Center in Louisville. The Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, who serves as the non-federal sponsor for the Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction Study, provided Peeples and district leadership with a tour of the Beargrass Creek Pump Station in Louisville. The pump station is one of 15 federally constructed pump stations within the 26.5-mile levee system around Louisville.

"Today has been awesome. You all do such a great job," Peeples said as the day was coming to an end. "You have a lot of hard work here and hard missions and I realize today was just a small glimpse of that."

Completing her trip Aug. 11, Peeples visited Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. There she received an overview on the district's military program and a tour of ongoing projects.

"This district has a great reputation," Peeples said. "I want to help take the district to the next level."



Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples, and district leadership, tours the Beargrass Creek Pump Station in Louisville, Ky.

