

Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

March/April 2020

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Louisville District supports nationwide COVID-19 response



Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

We are in the midst of an unprecedented time in our nation with the current COVID-19 outbreak. As we deal with drastic changes to our routines, that include telework, digital learning for children, caring for family members, isolation from others and more. There is another demographic of people who are dealing with no jobs at all or just trying to make ends meet. I know this uncertainty can cause fear, but I thank you for your patience as we navigate through this very different environment and what could become our new normal. I am very proud of YOU (our leadership and employees) for your continued dedication during this trying time. We are certainly stronger together than apart!

Our primary focus has been and will continue to be protecting our staff, projects and the public while simultaneously continuing our efforts and delivery of the FY20 program and providing needed support enterprise wide to the growing pandemic. We currently have multiple teams engaged in supporting the Alternate Care Facility mission throughout the region. A total of 43 personnel from the Louisville District have assisted in the USACE COVID-19 response. I continue to be amazed at the elevated levels of the dedication and performance our district teams have demonstrated.

Please enjoy the March/April issue of the Falls City Engineer that includes highlights of our recent efforts and spotlights some extraordinary accomplishments outside the office doors. The stories are diverse and cover a wide range of ongoing efforts such as continual support to the ACF mission, Olmsted Locks and Dam receiving national recognition, our environmental program successes, several employee spotlights and much more.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that we will get through this together. Continue to fol-



Col. Antoinette Gant
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

low the recommendations from the CDC, and make sure you are taking care of yourself and your family. I can't say it enough. It brings me great joy to serve as your commander, and I am extremely proud of each one of you for the vital role you play in making everything we do a success.

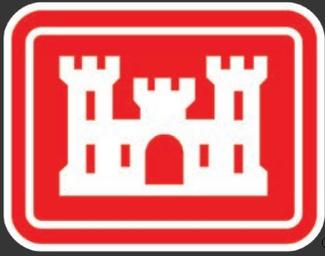
Thanks again for all you do!

Building Strong! We are LOUISVILLE PROUD!

Col. G

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On the cover: Joel Greenwell, electrical engineer, participates in a site assessment to evaluate facilities for possible conversion to alternate care facilities. (USACE photo by Katie Newton)

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Louisville District supports nationwide COVID-19 response



Isaid Cabrera, Engineering Division architect, and other district site assessment team members evaluate facilities for possible conversion to alternate care facilities, if needed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Katie Newton, public affairs

As the nation endures the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is supporting FEMA, in coordination with other federal, state and local partners and playing a key role in the ongoing nationwide response efforts.

USACE – known to engineer solutions for the nation’s toughest challenges – is constructing temporary alternate care facilities across the country to alleviate the burden on hospitals.

USACE districts provide planning, assessment, design and construction missions in response to state requests for alternate care facilities. As of April 21, the Corps had completed more than 1,115 site assessments and awarded 32 contracts for construction of alternate care facilities, which will provide more than 15,800 hospital beds across 50 states and territories.

“In war and in peace, USACE is ready to assist our nation,” said Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant. “It’s an honor for us to work shoulder to shoulder with our local, state and federal partners as we fight this battle together.”

In Louisville, the district’s Emergency Operations Center activated March 26, sending more than 30 district personnel from New York to Chicago to support construction efforts. Meanwhile, the district’s COVID-19 response team prepared for the mission here at home.

Under the direction of FEMA, and at the request of the states, two site assessment teams evaluated 11 facilities throughout Indiana, Kentucky and

southwest Ohio to determine the sites’ potential for possible conversion into alternate care facilities, if needed. Six additional site assessments were conducted at the request of the Department of the Army at nearby military installations.

Site assessments determine if medical requirements are met, including how many patients can fit into spaces and the proximity to nearby hospitals; utility requirements such as electrical, lighting, water, air filtration capacities; safety

features for emergency response and egress; staging of ambulances; and parking availability.

“Essentially our mission here is to look at the space and develop the conceptual plan of how we would lay it out, including where we would put beds, where we would put nurses stations, etc.,” said John Bock, chief, Engineering Division, during a site assessment at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky., March 30. “Then we provide that plan to the state of how the site could look if this facility is needed.”

Engineers spent hours assessing facilities. They then reconvened to summarize their findings at the McAlpine Training Center, where they could work as a team while practicing safe social distancing.

“I couldn’t be more proud of how our site assessment team members responded when called upon,” Bock said. “They got the call at 9 p.m. on a Friday night and were at the first facility the next morning to do an assessment. Working long hours under ever-evolving requirements was a challenge, but these folks went above and beyond to deliver outstanding plans for the states of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. We talk about the Army Values all the

Continued on next page



John Bock, chief, engineering division participates in a site assessment to evaluate facilities for possible conversion to alternate care facilities, if needed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued from previous page

time; Selfless Service, Personal Courage, Loyalty, Honor, etc; but this group of individuals lived it and showed what it means to be leaders in our organization.”

Once assessments are completed, the district provides the reports to the states to help with their decision making. States can then request continued assistance from USACE or execute the alternate care facility construction mission on their own based on their projected needs and their state’s best interests.

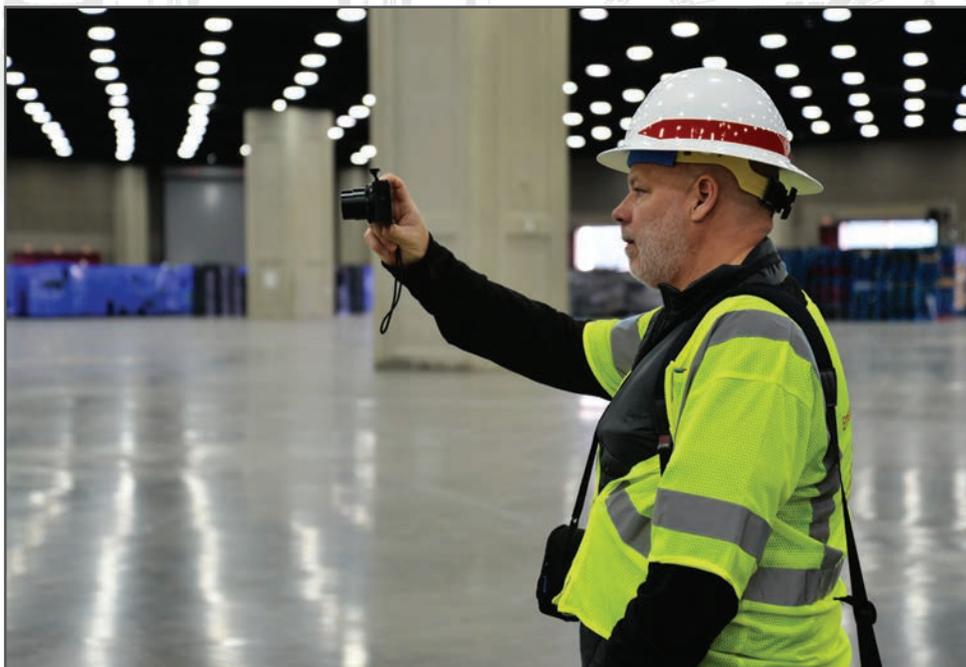
For example, the district’s plans were used for the layout at the Kentucky Exposition Center, where the Kentucky National Guard recently setup more than 250 beds for patients recovering from COVID-19.

“In our area of responsibility, the states were able to do the build out of facilities by either mobilizing National Guard resources or having the work managed by other entities, such as their local health care collaborative,” said George Minges, Louisville District Emergency Operations manager. “They were able to create the low-acuity, smaller scale facilities that they felt were needed.”

Three district liaisons, Tim Fudge, Jay VanHoose and Ryan Martin, worked in the emergency operations centers of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana alongside local, state and federal partners to ensure full coordination throughout the process.

“The liaisons are the eyes and ears of the district at the state-level emergency operations center,” Minges said. “They help explain what assistance we can provide and ensure the states receive federal support as expeditiously as possible,” Minges said.

The district’s contracting team played another key role in the pandemic response, providing regional contracting support



Katie Newton

Louisville District site assessment teams evaluate facilities for possible conversion to alternate care facilities, if needed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

throughout the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

Together the team conducted three source selection boards, creating two pools of contractors within the region and one pool for the state of Illinois to support Chicago District’s alternate care facilities. The team also awarded two A/E task orders to assist with site assessments within the Louisville District.

Louisville’s contracting team awarded five Alternate Care Facility contracts for sites at McCormick Place Convention Center, Metro South Hospital, Sherman Hospital and Westlake Hospital, all in the Chicago area, as well as the Milwaukee State Fair Grounds in Wisconsin.

“I’m so incredibly proud of the contracting team, those who are working

the FEMA mission and those who are working hard to continue delivering the Louisville District program,” said Misty Bock, deputy chief, Contracting Division, Louisville District. “Our contracting and counsel FEMA team worked countless hours to quickly let contracts and commence construction for the completion of alternate care facilities ahead of the anticipated peaks. We worked so expeditiously that we were sought out by the enterprise to provide guidance and lessons learned to assist districts across the nation. It has been my honor to work with such a tremendous group of dedicated and hard-working professionals for an unprecedented event.”

Amid the current COVID-19 pandemic response, critical work at the Louisville District never stops. The district continues to perform all critical missions regarding flood risk management, navigation, civil works, emergency management, construction of medical facilities and environmental regulatory functions.

“Our Louisville District workforce continues to demonstrate their resiliency as they respond to this crisis while simultaneously working to keep our locks and dams, lake projects and our FY20 construction program moving forward,” Gant said. “The majority of our employees have transitioned to telework to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, yet even in these challenging times, they remain relentless in their efforts to deliver our critical projects for the nation.”

LOUISVILLE DISTRICT REC AREA CLOSURES

Due to COVID-19

Find the latest updates at: www.lrl.usace.army.mil

Operations Division hosts Natural Resource Management Workshop



Sarah Howard

Louisville District park rangers and staff attend the Natural Resources Management Workshop held Feb. 25-27, 2020, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District held a Natural Resource Management Workshop, Feb. 25-27, 2020, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The three-day workshop, held in the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, provided park rangers and project managers the opportunity to meet outside the project area and network together.

“We are seldom able to meet outside of our project areas, and even then, some project areas have limited internal meetings due to geographical distances among lake projects, so just being able to all meet together at the same time is very beneficial,” said Lisa Freeman, Louisville District locks and dams natural resources specialist. “We can put names to faces, both of field personnel and district staff that we may interact with regularly by email or phone, but have never met in person. Being able to network and bounce ideas off each other, find out what new things are going on in other project areas is a great opportunity.”

Several speakers, some from outside the Louisville District, also attended the event to provide information and presentations on different items of interest.

“The majority of presentations have information that everyone across the spectrum of experience can use, such as updates to the uniform program and new developments in the visitor assistance area,” Freeman said. “Breakout sessions allow for participants to pick the seminars that will most benefit them or be of most interest to them.”

A project delivery team was formed

to plan this event, as hosting an event for approximately 67 rangers and staff members, does not come easy. Operations Division attempts to host this workshop every other year; however, due to funding and other constraints, it has been three years since the last event, according to Freeman.

“A huge amount of planning goes into this event. This workshop was especially challenging, as we had started planning for a workshop in 2018, then had to switch gears to 2019,” Freeman said. “After having laid out most of the planning, we discovered that to meet new location requirements we had to scramble to find a location on federal property. Over the course of the two years of planning for this workshop, 11 people assisted with the planning. Members of the committee included park rangers from each project area and district operation staff as well.”

The event is open to district park rangers, project managers, area managers and Operation Division staff. Lake administrative personnel and maintenance staff stay behind to run the office while the workshop takes place.

“Maintenance staff are still there working making sure water control gate operations and other essential functions are still happening,” Freeman said. “We hold the workshop during the winter when it is our low public visitation period to limit disruptions to visitors. We feel the networking that occurs with having all the natural resource management staff present is worth not having them at their projects for a few days.”

Although it may have been a scramble

near the end to get the new venue secured, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was a great venue, according to Freeman.

“I think participants had a great time exploring the museum before the event and during lunch breaks. Overall, positive comments were received through participant evaluations regarding the presentations, speakers and the venue,” Freeman said.

Sam Ferrarelli, William H. Harsh Lake project manager, agreed.

“The NRM workshop is a chance for all of us in the field to come together, share ideas and learn from each other’s challenges and creative moments. These meetings provide the best opportunity to grow a strong, cohesive natural resource program across the district,” Ferrarelli said. “Our speakers are excellent and provide wonderful learning opportunities for our staff, but the best part of these meetings for me, is getting to see again or meet for the first time, all of my fellow staff members. I learn so much from them that putting a value on what I get out of these workshops would be impossible.”

This year’s project delivery team included Samantha Ferrarelli, Jared Blocher, Alicia Cannon, Keith Chasteen, Wendy Clark, Michael Coleman, Lisa Freeman, Mark Klimaszewski, Blake Smith, J.D. Tucker and Jessica Zimmer.



Lisa Freeman

Louisville District Natural Resources Management Specialist Keith Chasteen presents at the Natural Resource Management Workshop held Feb. 25-27, 2020, in Ohio.

Olmsted honored with top 10 Honor Award at civil engineer gala



Nick Klein Photography

Louisville District's Olmsted Locks and Dam project was recognized with a top ten Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Honor Award recipient at the American Society of Civil Engineers OPAL Awards Gala held in Washington, D.C., March 13, 2020. The ceremony recognizes outstanding projects and leaders in civil engineering.

There to represent the project were Olmsted Locks and Dam Project Manager Dewey Rissler; Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant; Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander and acting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle and the 54th Chief of Engineers and Commanding

General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite.

The completion of the Olmsted Locks and Dam project represented nearly three decades of innovation excellence and engineering ingenuity, 45 million labor hours and more than 20,000 dives. The Olmsted Locks and Dam became fully operational in 2018.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

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Team effort makes Waugoshance Point Target project a success



A diver prepares for an underwater investigation in the area surrounding the lighthouse at Waugoshance Point, Michigan. The diver uses a metal detector to search for evidence of munitions potentially remaining due to prior use of the lighthouse as a practice target.

Kari Meier

Shatara Riis, public affairs

By surface area, Lake Michigan is the third largest of the Great Lakes and the second largest by volume.

And, located on Lake Michigan is Waugoshance Point Target, a Formerly Used Defense Site in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a remedial investigation.

“The area was formerly used by the U.S. Navy for a short time between 1944 and 1945, in support of Naval Air Station Traverse City, Michigan,” said Dr. David Brancato, USACE Louisville District risk assessment subject matter expert. “There were limited equipment testing and scheduled bombing missions, as well as machine gun strafing practice from aircraft.”

After World War II, the needs of the nation changed, and eventually, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources began managing Waugoshance Point Target

under the Wilderness State Park – offering year-round recreational activities and natural resource conservation.

Training missions ceased at the former Naval Air Station, and the leased target areas, including Waugoshance Point Target, were no longer needed. The property was declared eligible for the FUDS program in June of 2007, said Nick Stolte, a munitions response subject matter expert with USACE’s Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise located in Huntsville, Alabama. Following the authorization of the Military Munitions Response Program in the spring of 2010, a preliminary assessment was completed with the recommendation of a remedial investigation.

According to Stolte, no munitions and explosives of concern were observed.

“No munitions have been discovered, but we did find a small amount of munitions debris,” Stolte said. “Based on

the results of the RI, there is no evidence that high explosive munitions were used. All evidence suggests that only practice bombs were used.”

Therefore, USACE’s recommendation was no further action as no unacceptable risk was found at Waugoshance Point, Temperance Island, Waugoshance Island and the old Waugoshance Lighthouse, Brancato said.

Completing the remedial investigation did not come easy, though. It took time, effort, patience and expertise.

“The biggest challenge was the marine environment and weather. Collecting geophysical data underwater is always difficult, but it was especially difficult in this part of the country,” Stolte said. “In the Mackinaw Straight, we frequently encountered high winds and waves that made data collection tedious and sometimes impossible.”

Brancato added the team had to adjust and delay investigations because of lake conditions and to not impact seasonal boaters.

Even with a few barriers that manifested, the project is tracking an early completion.

“The success of this project is due to the teamwork and coordination among the District, the Military Munitions Design Center, the contractor, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Great Lakes and Energy,” Stolte said.

With the remedial investigation complete, the public will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the Corps’ recommendation of no further action, and the project is slated for completion in the fall of 2020.



District employee retires from Air National Guard

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's Laurie Fudge, Engineering Division administrative officer, recently retired as a major from the Air National Guard, 130th Airlift Wing, based out of West Virginia after 20 years of honorable service as a critical care nurse.

The ceremony was held Jan. 11, 2020, at McLaughlin Air Force Base in Charleston, West Virginia.

According to the unit's website, the 130th Airlift Wing is a part of the West Virginia Air National Guard, stationed at McLaughlin Air National Guard Base in Charleston. If activated to federal service, the wing is gained by the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command. The base operates a fleet of eight C-130H Hercules cargo aircraft known as the "Workhorse of the Air Force."

The West Virginia Air National Guard serves FEMA Region 3 (Washington, D.C. area). Anytime there is a State of the Union, Presidential Inauguration, pope visit, G-20 Summit, African Summit, or any other high profile event, the West Virginia Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Packages team is activated, according to Fudge.

"We spent every presidential event since 2011 either inside the Capitol or (on) the front lawn of the Capitol ready to get to work if the need arose," Fudge said. "I was able to see the Pope when he came



Louisville District's Laurie Fudge, administrative officer, recently retired as a major from the Air National Guard as a critical care nurse.



Courtesy of Laurie Fudge

During her time with the Air National Guard, Laurie Fudge worked with the West Virginia Swift Water Rescue Team training for water rescue missions and volunteered to be a "bobber" in the Cheat River to be rescued via helicopter by some of her fellow medics..

to D.C. in 2015, and I was in the Capitol when President Trump gave his State of the Union Address last year. Our convoy always received a police escort through the busy streets of D.C., which was one of my favorite parts."

Fudge began her USACE and military career in 1999.

"I started with USACE in 1999 as a student admin in the Operations Division at the Huntington District," Fudge said. "I was a double major at Marshall University in Huntington, obtaining bachelor's degrees in nursing and in business management. Soon after starting at the Corps, I decided I wanted to join the Air Force."

Fudge joined the West Virginia Air National Guard as an Airman First Class, where her job was an operations resource management apprentice. She tracked the training for the pilots, co-pilots and navigators who flew for their unit to ensure they were mission ready.

"In 2006, I moved to South Carolina, where I started working in a trauma hospital in the Intensive Care Unit," Fudge said. "I became homesick and moved back

to West Virginia in 2007, where I continued working as a critical care nurse."

It was then, in 2007, when Fudge received her commission as a second lieutenant in the West Virginia Air National Guard as a critical care nurse.

"I was part of the CERFP," Fudge said. "I was a homeland defense first responder for mass casualty/CBRNE events, and I remained in the 130th Medical Group as a nurse until my retirement in December 2019 as a major."

One of Fudge's favorite experiences was working with the West Virginia Swift Water Rescue Team training for water rescue missions.

"I volunteered to be a "bobber" and jumped in the Cheat River to be rescued via helicopter by some of my fellow medics as we were pushed downstream," Fudge said. "The rescuers must certify every six months by "rescuing" the bobbies by being lowered from a Blackhawk into rushing water. This proved difficult with all of the external factors involved. The rescuer located me in the river and placed a harness

Continued on next page

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around me to lift me out of the river and into the Blackhawk, all while battling the wind, freezing water, a panicked bobber, and a lot of pressure. It was terrifying, but I would've never had that opportunity if it wasn't for the National Guard."

Fudge enjoyed many things about working for the Air National Guard, but her favorite was the camaraderie.

"You can put a lot of people in the same room that might not have a single other thing in common, but you know deep down that those people would have my back just as I would have theirs," Fudge said. "We always managed to find the humor in

things, and even the most horrible tasks didn't seem so bad."

Fudge accepted a position with the Louisville District in the Engineering Division as an administrative officer in 2018.

"By this time, I was ready for a career change and hung up my nursing hat to utilize my management degree instead," Fudge said.

Fudge is excited for life after Air National Guard retirement.

"I don't remember life without the military," Fudge said. "Without fail, I would always miss something fun because

of drill weekend; anniversaries, birthdays, weddings or other social events. I'm looking forward to not missing another special event with my friends and family."

Fudge was gone from home a lot during her tour of duty and is now really looking forward to spending time with her family.

"I am excited to have extra time back to spend with my husband, Tim, our cat, D.J., and our three dogs (Rocky, Bailey and Maddie)," Fudge said. "I'm also looking forward to my next adventure of volunteering at the Harrison County Humane Society and taking care of animals in need."

District employee finishes No. 1 of some 4,000 in Chick-fil-A 5k race

Shatara Riis, public affairs

Logan Barrett bested nearly 4,000 others at the Chick-fil-A 5K Fitness Classic race in downtown Louisville, March 7.

Barrett, a contract specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, beat the next runner by nearly 30 seconds.

He finished at 14:48 in the first race of the Chick-fil-A Louisville Triple Crown of RunningSM, setting a smooth pace of 4:46 per mile.

"It is a well-designed race series that works great with people training for a long race like the 15k or even moving to a half marathon later in the season," Barrett said.

Barrett did base mile training – easy running on a daily basis. Beginning in late January, he incorporated hill training and tempo workouts.

"I was putting in around 60 -75 miles a week. In the weeks leading up to my first race of the spring season, I (transitioned) to track workouts to start developing leg turnover (speed)," Barrett said. "My plan was to compete in all the Triple Crown races and focus on the Indy Mini at the beginning of May."

The Triple Crown consists of a 5K, 10K and 15K; while the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon is a 13.1 mile course, starting and finishing in downtown Indianapolis and includes a lap around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's famed 2.5 mile oval track.

Like so many other athletes whose season has been cut short by the COVID -19 pandemic, Barrett only completed one of his four races before being sidelined.

Barrett, who has been running since sixth grade, made a whim decision to join the cross country team.

"It didn't take me long to figure out how

much I liked running. I went on to run cross country and track in high school, where I competed at multiple state championships," Barrett said. "My high school success led to a scholarship to run at the collegiate level, and that momentum carried me to multiple conferences and national championships."

Early success spurred Barrett to keep competing, but it's the people he's encountered along the way who keep him running. "I love the sport dearly. (It's) the people I've met and continue to meet who drive me to stay with it."

Barrett said some of those relationships are by design and meant to drive him to be faster.

"I joined the Long Distance Project, a running club started by Dave Long, an Olympic marathoner for Great Britain. We have about 35 people in the club, (in) which all running levels are welcomed," Barrett said. "We strive to better each other and our community by meeting weekly

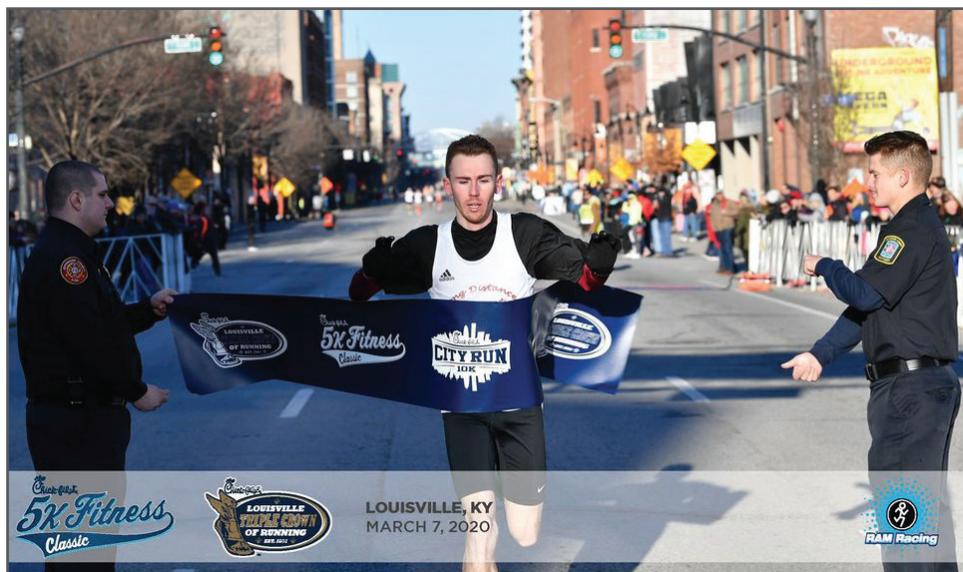
for runs and hosting team events at local businesses."

With the COVID-19 physical distancing mandate, the club has cancelled all group runs; however, the use of social media and running apps, helps them to bridge the gap.

"The new normal might be a burden, but it isn't a show stopper," Barrett said. "We are definitely making the best of the situation."

According to Barrett relationships aren't the only benefit to running. The health benefits to running are great for the body, but it's not all just physical. Mental wellness is just as important.

"I value both equally. Stress is a part of everyone's life, whether it is work related or personal. Finding a way to relieve that stress is extremely important in a healthy life balance," Barrett said. "I enjoy the physical challenge of running, the mental relief, and cherish the friends I meet along the way."



Logan Barrett, a contract specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, finishes first at the Chick-fil-A 5K Fitness Classic race in downtown Louisville, March 7.