

# Falls City Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

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Blue ribbon cut at new  
21st century Fort Campbell  
High School







## Falls City Engineer

Vol. 10, Issue 5

**District Commander**  
Col. Antoinette Gant  
**Public Affairs Chief**  
Todd Hornback

Send articles to Louisville District  
Public Affairs office at:  
abby.n.korfhage@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
CELRL-PA  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

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**On the cover:** Students and visitors wait for the ribbon cutting ceremony to get underway in the Fort Campbell High School atrium area, Nov. 15, 2018, Fort Campbell, Ky. (USACE photo by Shatara Riis)

 **Please conserve:**  
**Think before you print.**

# Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

'Tis the Season to be Jolly! I can't believe we are approaching the end of 2018. Oh what fun it's been and I am sure 2019 won't let us down with even more to come. As we close out the year, I encourage you all to take some time to reflect on your individual as well as our collective accomplishments and celebrate. You deserve it! We are an organization that is focused on our people and that means YOU!

Over the past couple of weeks, we have had many deployed employees return home to us if you see them please welcome them back to the district. I also ask that we stay mindful of our teammates still deployed and away from their families during the holiday season.

This time of year also brings many farewells to co-workers and friends as they depart for retirement. I am LOUISVILLE PROUD of all of these employees and truly appreciate their sacrifice and dedication to keeping the vision in focus and making this district exceptional.

This issue of the Falls City Engineer recognizes some of the wonderful accomplishments recently of the great people that comprise this district. Items of interest include one of our own being awarded the Small Business Contracting Professional of the Year award, environmental team awards, and a special tribute to the Locks and Dam 52 and 53 teams. These items are only a small sample of the great things the Louisville District has accomplished.

Lastly, I extend a heartfelt wish to each of you for a safe and enjoyable holiday with your family and friends. I look forward to seeing you back in the new year so we can tackle 2019 head on as it brings new challenges and



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

opportunities to our district. Thank you again for all you do.

**Building Strong and Taking Care of People!**  
**We are LOUISVILLE PROUD!**

Happy holidays and best wishes to you and yours in the New Year!

Col. G

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# End of an era: Generations kept heart of the inland waterways beating

Katie Newton, public affairs

For 89 years Locks and Dam 52 and 53 on the lower Ohio River provided safe navigation on the busiest stretch of America's inland waterways, but the behind-the-scenes efforts to keep the river open have been far from easy.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles throughout the years, but the talented staff held the whole thing together with band-aid type repairs and kept the river open until August 2018 when the new Olmsted Locks and Dam, built to replace Locks 52 and 53, went into operation, ending the era of old-style wicket dams on the Ohio River.

"Thousands of feet have walked the lock walls in those 89 years. Thousands of hands have touched every piece of equipment, created, rebuilt, and molded Lock 52 as it bore the title of being the busiest lock in the United States," said Col. Antoinette Gant, Louisville District commander. "We are so appreciative of the men and women who have given their time away from their families."

For employees like former lockmaster Randy Robertson, who spent 27 years at both locks, the commitment was never a question—even on the tough days.

"It was such a specialty job you couldn't get just anyone to do it. It was the pride of the work that kept us all going," he said.

Jesse Hall, who has spent 16 years

working on the Louisville District's Locks and Dams, agrees. "The complete dedication by the employees for those two locks I have never witnessed before. It gets in your blood is what the older guys always said. Know this—it was only accomplished through rigorous hours and complete dedication by the employees."

Like Robertson, Hall knows the projects at 52 and 53 like the back of his hand, as he not only worked on the locks and dams as a USACE employee, but also spent his childhood living in the dam houses on site until his seventh grade year when his father, Ron Hall, worked there.

"52 and 53 were quite the places to live as a child; it was a really close-knit community," Hall said. "The workers would always get together and have large cookouts and huge functions at the houses after work. It was a unique experience. The workers would treat other kids as their own." Hall recounted that as a kid he only made it to school during times of high water because of the staff at Lock 52 would pick him up in a boat.

Robertson, who was the last one to move out of the houses in 1993 echoed this sentiment. "It was just a way of life," he said. "We would gather for barbecues after work; we would celebrate the holidays together."

Those relationships kept everyone accountable, Robertson said. "The big thing is camaraderie. If you didn't come in to work, you were making it harder on your



USACE employees work together to raise the wickets in 2011 at Locks and Dam 52 in Brookport, Ill.

buddies."

And the job didn't need to be any harder than it already was. Raising the antiquated wicket dams was not for the faint of heart.

Manually raising the wicket dam was an intricate process that meant working long, hard hours. The crew, aboard the LD 559—a 1920s era maneuver boat—would work inches away from the rushing water of the river using wicket hooks resembling massive crochet hooks to grab the wicket eye and pull it out of the water all while fighting against the powerful current. That process was then repeated up to 487 times until every wicket was raised.

"It was extremely tough especially the last few years as the dam started deteriorating," Hall said. "We had to come up with ways that had never been tried or thought of before to raise the dam."

Even under the toughest circumstances the crew never failed to get the job done.

"We would spend tireless hours out on the dam making sure we could get it up so that tow traffic could start moving again," Hall said. "We did many 30-hour straight dam raisings without going home," he said. "The longest I remember was working a straight 42 hours while raising the dam at 52 then coming down to help get 53 ready for a dam raising."

"We have been out there when it was 110 degrees, and we have raised it when it was below zero as well," Hall said.

"There was a lot of pride and accomplishment in getting the dam raised,"



Employees at Locks and Dam 52 and 53 gathered for a little friendly competition with regular baseball games during the late 1920s.

Continued on next page



Robertson said.

Robertson said the beartraps on the dam were just as finicky as the wickets. “They were so unpredictable. I would be out there in an ice storm freezing all night or burning up in the summer heat trying to get the beartraps to operate and now at Olmsted, we have tainter gates that are operated with the simple push of a button.”

Those finely-tuned techniques are now a lost-art as the dam at Olmsted will be raised automatically. “We were operating in a time warp, operating just like they did in the 1920s. It will never be that way again,” Robertson said.

Robertson is happy for the newer workforce to get to experience life at Olmsted versus the tough days previous generations endured at 52 and 53.

“I’m excited for the younger generation,” Robertson said. “I worked on the steam engines and these kids can work on fiber optics. They got to see the tail-end of the old, hard way and now they get to have so many opportunities here.”

Now, as captain of the fleet at Olmsted Locks and Dam, it’s a whole new world for Robertson who is excited for the change of scenery and slower paced life that Olmsted will afford.

“I have missed so much over the years, but now I can finally get a weekend off because the differences in operations here at Olmsted versus what we were dealing with at 52 are remarkable,” he said.

“It’s almost laughable to be sitting here on the new St. James maneuver boat,” Robertson said as he looked out the window comparing it to the old maneuver boats, which are now historical artifacts.

The St. James is used to push the Olmsted Wicket Lifter, the James M. Keen, and has six bedrooms and a full kitchen onboard.

“Now we have side-by-side refrigerators and beds, versus where we used to heat a baked potato on the boiler on the steam engine working 24-36 hours raising the dam, and we were sleeping on the floor of the boat. You would wake up and snow

would be on your face, but you had to rest, you had to take a little break,” Robertson said.

A contract was awarded this year for the demolition and removal of Locks and Dam 52 in Brookport, Illinois, which is expected to begin in January 2019. Work to remove the lower approach walls is already underway downstream at Lock 53 in Grand Chain, Illinois.

“2018 marks the end of an era for navigation on the Ohio River System,” said Waylon Humphrey, Louisville District Operations Division deputy chief. “It is impossible to articulate our thanks to the men and women who gave up so much of their personal time through unmatched dedication and service to ensure the navigation mission continued on the lower Ohio, even as the infrastructure was literally crumbling around them. We now look to the future as Olmsted will begin a new chapter of navigation on the lower Ohio and know the facility couldn’t be in better hands.”



USACE staff raise the wickets at Locks and Dam 53 in Grand Chain, Ill.



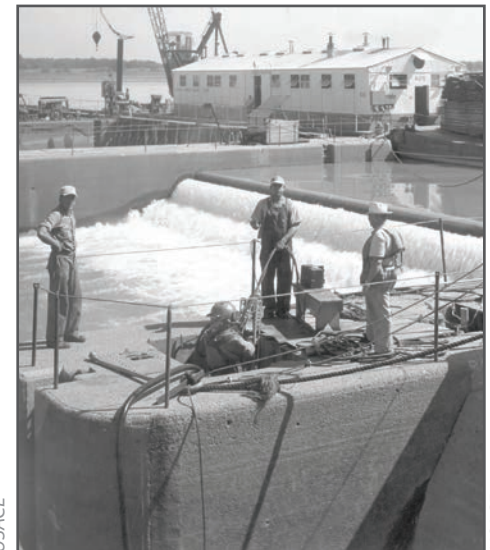
Lock and dam equipment mechanic John Haner helps lift the wickets at Lock and Dam 53 in 2012.



Lock and Dam 52 operator, Wes Riley and team save a baby raccoon from drowning in July 2018.



Historical photo of the wicket dam being raised at Lock 52 in Brookport, Ill.



A diver at Lock and Dam 52 in September 1951.



# Commander tours Green River Area, promotes workforce readiness



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant visits with employees at the Barren River Lake office Oct. 23 in Glasgow, Ky.

*Katie Newton, public affairs*

Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant toured projects in the Green River Area in Kentucky Oct. 23, including Nolin and Barren River lakes and the site of the former Green River Dam No. 6. Gant visited with Corps lake staff, where she promoted workforce readiness and recognized team members for their superior service.

“You do have a commander that cares,” Gant said during her first stop at Barren River Lake in Glasgow, Kentucky. “Even though I’m not out here all the time. This is an opportunity for me to talk to you all, hear your concerns and address any issues.”

“I see so much good work coming from the field, but so little recognition for the work you are doing so I wanted to come out here and recognize you all for the great things you are doing,” Gant said.

Gant presented Maintenance Mechanic Leader Timmy Jackson with a Louisville Proud award for exemplary safety efforts while overseeing the painting contract for the control tower.

Later in the day at Nolin River Lake in Bee Spring, Kentucky, Gant presented Park Ranger Curtis Martin with a 30-year service award and recognized Ruth Ann Wilson, office administrator, with a Louisville Proud award for her support with the new reservation system transition. Gant also handed out commander’s coins to the maintenance crew comprised of Kerry Sanders, Mark West, Richard Hatcher, David Anderson, Theodore Repper and Blake Sullivan for their work to remove hundreds of trees from Nolin River to provide safe conditions for recreational

boaters and canoers.

“From the maintenance crew, office staff, seasonal workers to the full time rangers thank you for all that you do to keep us going,” Gant said.

At both project sites Gant took the opportunity to introduce the staff to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division’s newest initiative – WkRP – the Workforce Readiness Program. WkRP focuses on four key areas which include Deployments and Family Readiness; In/Out Processing and Sponsorship; Training, Awards, and Mentorship; and the Ready and Resilient Campaign.

“We want to make sure everyone stays ready to do your job,” said Gant, explaining how WkRP should be the focus for how we

treat employees. “It’s about progressing as people and an organization to be better.”

When employees deploy to support disaster response and overseas contingencies, the district is committed to supporting deployed team members and their families.

“Taking Care of People means preparing our employees and their families for the challenges that deployments offer,” Gant said.

She went on to explain why such a focus has been put on In/Out Processing and Sponsorship. “We’ve worked to try to streamline the processes for bringing new employees into our organization and supporting them as they grow with the workforce,” Gant said.

“The next part of that is to ensure while they are here they are getting the necessary training and recognition. We’ve started giving away our new Louisville Proud awards as an encouragement,” she said. Gant also discussed the importance of having a mentor no matter how junior or senior you might be in your career.

Lastly, explaining the Ready and Resilient Campaign Gant discussed examples of what the Louisville District is doing to emphasize the importance of having a holistic, collaborative and coherent enterprise to increase individual and unit readiness and resilience including health and wellness programs, employee feedback, and family and spouse events such as the new 90-day fitness challenge.



Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant meets with Nolin River Lake staff Oct. 23 in Bee Spring, Ky.



# Caesar Creek holds regional park ranger workshop

Michael McCoy, Huntington District

The Great Lakes and Ohio River Park Ranger Community of Practice Advisory Board held their second biennial workshop at Caesar Creek Lake Nov. 6-8, 2018, after overwhelmingly positive feedback received from a similar meeting held in 2016. This meeting supports the CoP charter which states, "To develop and administer the division's Park Ranger CoP; to serve as a direct link between the regional Park Ranger CoP with its constituent district communities and the larger national Park

Ranger CoP; and to provide a unified and ongoing support platform for park rangers."

Park rangers from the six districts within the Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division attended the workshop that was geared specifically toward entry journeyman-level positions. Sessions included career development, interpretation, boundary line inspection and encroachment, leave and retirement, an introduction to natural resource management gateway, critical incident

stress management, as well as media relations and visitor assistance. The career development was set up panel style in which rangers were able to have a group discussion with success stories from members of the natural resource management community. One participant noted, "The career development panel was less formal, and more approachable which made questions easier to ask."

The goal moving forward is to have different rangers attend each workshop, the next of which will tentatively be planned for November 2020.

"The CoP's goal for attendance at the event was at least one journeyman-level park ranger from each area within the division. With this goal in mind, the CoP was able to limit the topics to be covered to those which directly serve to benefit the journeyman-level park rangers in their career," said Trey Church, chair, Great Lakes and Ohio River Park Ranger CoP Advisory Board.

Huntington District Ranger Dylan Johnson said, "The biggest takeaway for me was the ability to see what others are doing out in the field and put it to good use at the home project."

The ranger CoP team would like to thank the staff at Caesar Creek Lake for all their hard work and hospitality. Following the workshop, attendees were given a tour of the project which is surrounded by breath-taking scenery and stunning facilities.



Park rangers from the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division attend the community of practice workshop Nov. 6-8, held at Caesar Creek Lake in Waynesville, Ohio.

## Environmental

### Environmental team recognized with Fudder Award of Excellence

The Headquarters Environmental Division recognized the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division with the Fudder Award of Excellence in which the project team achieved success on 10 of 10 performance metrics. The team exceeded their obligation goal which assisted in facilitating the completion of the 100 percent FY18 federally used defense sites obligation metric.

"The project team has a strong and unrelenting commitment to quality, as demonstrated by continuous improvement developed and implemented by the team," Karen Baker, Directorate of Military Programs, Environmental Division chief said. "The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division defines success and challenges the team to continually meet and exceed expectations."





# Water quality assessed through sampling at C.J. Brown, Caesar Creek reservoirs

*Shatara Riis, public affairs*

Fish and macro-invertebrate surveys are common methods for assessing water quality, particularly in streams.

The number and types of organisms in these communities can indicate the health of a stream – providing a bigger picture of long-term water quality.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, with the assistance of contractors, assessed the water quality of the C.J. Brown and Caesar Creek reservoirs in Ohio through biological studies of the primary tributaries and tail waters, said Zac Wolf, USACE water quality team biologist.

Macro-invertebrates were sampled using the Hester-Dendy sampling technique, in which artificial substrates are placed in the water for six weeks to be colonized by the resident invertebrates, said Jenna Odegard, environmental scientist/wildlife specialist with MAD Scientist Associates, contractor responsible for the sampling. When these samples are retrieved, additional sampling is performed using dip nets.

This supplemental sampling allows for a collection of invertebrates from a wider variety of the habitats present resulting in a more complete accounting of invertebrate diversity, Odegard added. Fish were sampled using an electrofishing rig referred to as “rollerbeast,” that can float in deeper water or be pushed through shallow water on wide, drum-like rollers.

The contractors take samples of the reservoirs’ tributaries, streams and tail waters, Wolf said. They conduct surveys of insects, small crustaceans and fish to evaluate water quality based on the composition of the aquatic community.

“Biological sampling studies are useful to collect data allowing us to gain an understanding of an ecosystem’s function and general health quality,” Odegard said. “Generally, biological studies can provide important baseline data, such as species presence, abundance and diversity. Furthermore, we can evaluate trends such as growth or abundance of organisms over time.”

The biological sampling also benefits the community and environment by calling attention to environmental changes.

“For example, drastic shifts in the biotic community can indicate presence of pollution and highlight concerns for drinking water or fish consumption,” Odegard said. “We can monitor progress,



Mark Dille

Zac Wolf, USACE water quality team biologist; Zach Bollheimer, MAD Scientist Associates environmental technician; Jenna Odegard, MAD Scientist Associates environmental scientist; Jackie Kopechek, MAD Scientist Associates intern; and Aaron Laver, MAD Scientist Associates environmental scientist, electro fish using a rollerbeast to sample fishes in Buck Run near Caesar Creek Reservoir in August.

determine and document the success of management decisions that will improve our ability to repeat desirable outcomes.”

Wolf summarized that the goal is to see how healthy the water is flowing in and out of the reservoirs.

“The Corps’ dams have a big impact on the tail waters. If there is poor water quality, then re-evaluation needs to be made as to how the dam operates or what we can do to improve conditions,” Wolf said.

“In this part of the U.S., we have a really rich biodiversity, which many people don’t realize, and many species can be sensitive to numerous types of pollution, including chemicals or other things such as too much sediment in the water. Little things that change the habitat can have big impacts,” Wolf said.

It is important for people to understand that pollution can come from a variety of sources, not just from the stereotypical big factories that individuals think of. Household products used on a daily basis can also have negative impacts on the water quality; therefore, these harmful substances need to be disposed of properly, Wolf said.

“Even if dumped on land, things typically end up back in the water, which we all rely on,” Wolf said.

The C.J. Brown and Caesar Creek reservoirs are important recreationally for many public activities such as fishing,

swimming, camping, hunting and hiking. They are also necessary to reduce flood risk in the Great Miami and Little Miami river systems in southwestern Ohio.

“By monitoring invertebrates and fishes in the tail waters and streams surrounding the reservoirs, we can assist USACE in evaluating the health and sustainability of these aquatic resources for the benefit of the environment and enjoyment of the public,” Odegard said.



Dan Hribar

Jenna Odegard, MAD Scientist Associates environmental scientist, retrieved Hester-Dendy artificial substrates to collect benthic macro invertebrates in Trace Run near Caesar Creek in September.



# Blue ribbon cut at new 21st century Fort Campbell High School



Fort Campbell leaders, Department of Defense Education Activity personnel, and Fort Campbell High School faculty and students cut the ribbon for the new 21st century Fort Campbell High School, Nov. 15, 2018.

*Shatara Riis, public affairs*

Fort Campbell and the Department of Defense Education Activity held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 21st century high school located on the Kentucky-based Army installation, Nov. 15.

This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, spearheaded by the Louisville District, is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certified facility with sustainable design strategies and enhancements for energy efficient lighting and heating, ventilation and air condition systems.

"It is with great honor that the Corps has the opportunity to serve the Soldier," said Ben Evans, USACE Louisville District project manager. "Not a day goes by that this is not the focal point of everything we do."

Fort Campbell and Fort Knox high schools are the only two DoDEA high schools in the continental United States located on an Army installation.

"Very few students will have the opportunities that you as Falcons have being the first students in the new 21st century high school designed to promote college and career readiness," said Kimberly Butts, Fort Campbell High School principal. "This is only the fourth time in the history of Fort Campbell that a new high school has opened."

The ribbon cutting ceremony commemorated the journey of the project, also the successes and growth of the lives who are a part of the Fort Campbell High School.

"Since the inception of Fort Campbell

High School it has provided excellence in education that nurtures the talents and addresses the unique needs of our military-connected students," said Dr. Judith Minor, DoDEA Americas Performance and Accountability associate director and student excellence director.

Dr. Minor shared a brief history of the naming of Fort Campbell High School after Brig. Gen. William Bowen Campbell, commissioned as brigadier general of volunteers in the Union army by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

"We are dedicated to support our military-connected students' educational growth and achievement," Minor said. "This 21st century school, in and of itself, is a teaching tool. Inside you will see building components exposed to peak students' curiosity – providing hands-on learning experiences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics."



Social Studies and world nations classroom pod at the new Fort Campbell High School.

While traditional public community schools may not have to necessarily deal with the constant transition of students, military schools do.

"Being a part of a military community is not always easy," said Brig. Gen. Todd Royar, Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division acting senior commander. "It's not necessarily easy for the Soldiers with deployments. It is certainly not easy for the spouses also with the deployments and the multiple moves, but the reality is we make those choices together."

Royar said military children live with those choices their parents make. They have the opportunity to move but also have the requirement to move – to make new friends, start over at new schools for every move that military families make.

"Because of which, we recognize that it is not easy, and it's also not easy on the teachers as well," Royar said. "As we go through the (various) cycles of different students coming in, they have to learn the strengths and weaknesses of every student and be able to change their approach to make sure every student is able to meet their best opportunity."

The acting senior commander said it's appropriate that Fort Campbell and DoDEA have the privilege to cut the ribbon on such a brand new facility.

"Students, you deserve it – for all that you go through," Royar said. "To quote an old Army slogan – to the students – 'Be all that you can be.' The world is in front of you. You are the future of our nation. We are incredibly proud of you and that you have the ability to receive an education in such a facility."



# District deputy promoted to lieutenant colonel



Lt. Col. Kevin Lewis takes his oath of office at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Oct. 26, 2018.

Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy commanding general, along with Col. Timothy Holman,

Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison, promoted Maj. Kevin Lewis, Louisville District deputy commander, to lieutenant

colonel in a promotion ceremony held Oct. 26 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Lt. Col. Lewis assumed responsibility as the deputy commander of the Louisville District in July 2018 and has been determined to set the foundation for USACE Commanding General and 54th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite's three goals for the organization – to deliver the program, strengthen the foundation and achieve the mission – by working behind the scenes to help Louisville District continue success.

"It was an honor to get promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel by Maj. Gen. Wehr," Lewis said. "This promotion is a testament of the hard work that many others have poured into me. Specifically, the noncommissioned officers and Soldiers who gave their all for me over the past 17 years. I am truly humbled and look forward to what the future holds."

## Louisville's small business program applauded at national conference

*Abby Korfhage, public affairs*

Jesse Scharlow, Louisville district contracting officer, was awarded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Office of Small Business Programs Contracting Professional of the Year Award at the small business conference Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, in New Orleans.

"It was an honor to be selected as the Small Business Contract Professional of the Year," Scharlow said. "America's small businesses are an essential part of the economy, and their success is essential to

economic growth and prosperity because of the unmatched potential to create jobs and put money back into communities."

Scharlow made significant contributions and participated in special programs and public relations that resulted in continued improvement of the small business program by leading an industry day and pre-proposal conference events.

Scharlow also deployed as a contract specialist at the onset of Hurricane Irma and Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands in October 2017. He coordinated with Corps

Headquarters and the chiefs of contracting with Jacksonville District, Wilmington District and New Orleans District to find a suitable small business contractor that could handle the size and scope of the debris removal mission.

"Jesse is a great asset to any team and is especially supportive of the Small Business Program," Crystal Harbin, small business deputy said. "He truly understands the role small businesses play in federal acquisition. Knowledge and dedication, like his, are what make Louisville District a success."

Scharlow demonstrated initiatives that consistently resulted in increased contract awards and opportunities for small businesses by being an advocate for the small business program.

"I really owe the best deputy for small business in the country, Crystal Harbin, a big thank you for all of her support," Scharlow said. "Her knowledge and passion for small business is unmatched, and she's dedicated to ensuring the Louisville District has the tools and data necessary to make the best possible acquisition decisions."

The Louisville District was also recognized as the Top District by dollar for HUBZONE and the 9th District for Top Dollars in the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business category at the event.



From left to right: Crystal Harbin, Louisville District Deputy of Small Business; Denise Bush, Chief of Contracting Division; Jesse Scharlow, Contracting Specialist; and Louisville District Commander Col. Antoinette Gant attended the small business conference Oct. 31 in New Orleans.



# Division commander tours Louisville District projects, shares vision



Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Toy shares his command vision during a town hall for the Louisville District workforce Nov. 13, in Louisville, Ky.

## Shatara Riis and Katie Newton, public affairs

Amid freezing cold temperatures, Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander, visited Louisville District projects and shared his command vision with the Louisville team, Nov. 13 and 14.

Hosted by Col. Antoinette Gant, Louisville District commander, Toy opened his visit here with a town hall for district employees.

“Taking care of people is the centerpiece of what we do each and every day,” Toy said. “People are our bedrock; people make us great,” was his message to the workforce.

He reiterated the Workforce Readiness Program in sharing the pillars of family readiness, in/out processing and sponsorship, Ready and Resilient campaign, and recognition through awards, training and mentorship.

“We need to bring people in the right way and send them off the in the right way,” Toy said.

Following the townhall, Toy toured the Metro Louisville Flood Protection System with the local sponsor, Metropolitan Sewer District, to see first-hand the system components the Corps will evaluate as part of a two-year Feasibility Study.

The cost-share agreement between the Corps and MSD was signed Oct. 5 to investigate aging project features including floodwalls, levees and associated infrastructure.

The system was originally built due to the Great Flood of 1937, which inundated

60 percent of the city. Today, it reduces flood risk to approximately 216,000 residents and \$33 billion in property.

“MSD has been an exceptional sponsor,” said Nate Moulder, Louisville District Lead planner while briefing Toy. “They have made necessary investments and repairs to maintain the system.”

The system includes 29.5 miles of floodwalls and levees, 16 pump stations, and several gate closures. Paddy’s Run Pump Station was the first stop on the tour. Originally, constructed in 1953 it protects more than 36,000 residents and is still functioning with its original electrical components.

“This is one system component that has far exceeded its expected design life,” Moulder said. “It’s been band-aided.”

One key piece of the study is taking a closer look at pump stations and the need to expand their capacity.

Other stops on Toy’s tour included the 27th Street Closure and Canal Street Floodwall – areas which will also be evaluated as part of the \$3 million comprehensive investigation.

Toy urged the team to continue the great partnership with the local sponsor to ensure a timely completion of this vital study for the city of Louisville.

On Nov. 14, Toy traveled to Fort Knox to meet with the team responsible for the military construction projects there.

Jason Root, resident engineer, provided Toy and those in attendance with a progress overview of the three Fort Knox projects – middle school addition, Fort Knox Medical Clinic and the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Root stressed the quality of work being done to deliver excellence in planning and construction for the Corps’ customers.

“Hospital projects are always high visibility,” Toy said. “There is a big commitment to make sure there is no break in provided services with the construction of the medical clinic.”

It’s important to make sure that any certain stakeholder is not left out. The Corps’ role is to be integrators and do the necessary outreach with stakeholders, Toy concluded.



Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander tours the LG&E Canal Street Station, a section of the Metro Louisville Flood Protection System, Nov. 13, with Josh Dickerson, Metropolitan Sewer District (left), Stephen Durrett, Regional Business Director, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and Col. Antoinette Gant, Louisville District Commander.



# Carr Creek park ranger receives special recognition

*Keith Chasteen, operations division*

Park Ranger Kevin Wright of Carr Creek Lake, Louisville District, received recognition from the Kentucky Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation referred to as KY-TACF, in appreciation of his efforts to restore American chestnut trees.

KY-TACF president, Rick Caldwell, along with board members Rex Mann and Ken Darnell, presented Ranger Wright with a wormy chestnut wood plaque in recognition of Wright's efforts at Carr Creek Lake for the restoration of the American chestnut tree.

Wright's efforts include a chestnut display planting at the Carr Creek Lake office, the management "in-situ" of a pure American chestnut tree on USACE lands and the management of a backcross breeding orchard on USACE lands.

As noted prior to the plaque presentation, Wright's activities are never "just enough." Wright didn't just plant a display planting near the office, but he obtained TACF's three-panel interpretive sign to share the chestnut story with the visiting public. The three-panel sign tells the story of the American chestnut tree, the chestnut blight that decimated the species throughout the eastern U.S. and efforts being made to restore the species to its former range. Wright also has encouraged and hosted school groups at the display planting where he has not only been able to tell them about the American chestnut tree, but also show them examples of living trees – some with blight and some without.



*Park Ranger Kevin Wright shows a chestnut burr at the Carr Creek orchard in Sassafas, Ky.*



*Kentucky Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation president Rick Caldwell presents an award to Kevin Wright Sept. 19, 2018 at Carr Creek Lake in Sassafas, Ky.*

Same with the pure American tree that was found on lake property. Finding the tree wasn't enough for Wright. He arranged to have some trees nearby trimmed to open up the surrounding area and allow more light to get to the tree. Kevin also fertilized the tree several times over the past few years. This encourages flowering, which this 4.5 inch diameter 35 foot tree has now started to do. The KY-TACF chapter hopes to pollinate this tree next spring to preserve the genetics of this specimen. Offspring from this tree can be placed into orchards to produce additional trees containing the genetics of this tree.

The nearly 200 tree backcross breeding orchard that Carr Creek Lake hosts falls under Wright's management duties. Wright spent time pulling weeds and mending fences, and he has managed to gather volunteers throughout the years to accomplish much of the orchard management. Even the orchard planting was completed through Wright's efforts to recruit several high school FFA chapters to come out and help.

Following the recognition, KY-TACF representatives and Wright proceeded to review the display planting, look at access

to the pure American tree for pollinating and walked the breeding orchard to evaluate timing for future inoculation (this is the process to determine which trees show the highest blight resistance levels).

The American chestnut tree was once one of the most prolific trees within the forests of the eastern United States. In the early 1900s, a fungal blight was introduced which quickly spread throughout the entire chestnut range, decimating this tree once known as the "redwood of the East." Nearly one out of every four trees was an American chestnut.

The blight kills the living stem, but does not kill the root system. Often times, these remaining roots will send up sprouts that may develop to a mature (flowering) tree prior to succumbing to the blight. It is from these flowering sprouts that TACF is able to obtain genetic material for their breeding program. The goal of the program is to breed blight resistant chestnut trees that can be placed back out into the forests within the historic range.

More information on the American chestnut tree and efforts by The American Chestnut Foundation can be found at [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org).



# District employee shares about overseas assignment, encourages others to look abroad

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

Louisville District accountant Mark Brohm recently returned from his overseas assignment, where he served in several capacities in the resource management office for the Europe District.

Brohm, who started at the Louisville District in January 2007, joined the Europe District in April 2015 after learning about an opportunity overseas from his supervisor at the time, Rick Shultz.

"I had always wanted to live abroad, but the idea of permanently moving from friends and family in Louisville held me back," Brohm said. "The USACE Europe District provided the perfect solution with the return rights policy, allowing me to work at the Europe District for three to five years while having a position held for me at my home district in Louisville."

Brohm started his assignment in Germany as a systems accountant and was later promoted to finance and accounting officer. With most Europe District employees on a three-to-five-year assignment, causing an attrition rate of more than 20 percent, there was always extra work to be done outside of normal position duties.

"Aside from receiving a promotion, the professional development was second to none," Brohm said.

While at the Europe District, Brohm also spent time working in engineering and construction division as a program analyst, temporarily served as acting resource management office chief, and he was able to get involved in operating budget formulation. Brohm also organized and taught a 30-minute yoga class once a week



Courtesy of Mark Brohm

Mark Brohm, Louisville District accountant, visits Lagos, Portugal, Sept. 4, 2018.

at the district office bringing employees together.

The camaraderie developed overseas amongst coworkers was a highlight for Brohm.

"It feels like I've made professional and personal relationships with someone at just about every district in USACE," Brohm said.

Brohm was Europe's Hero of the District September 2016 and before returning home, Europe District Commander Col. John Baker recognized Brohm's efforts and awarded him with a Superior Civilian Service Award for all of his achievements.

"I'd say my biggest accomplishment there was going from a red to green rating on the Military Construction in Progress Chief Financial Officer test plan which is basically an audit testing requirement

developed by Headquarter's Resource Management to ensure that we have proper processes and controls in place to achieve an unqualified audit opinion," Brohm said. "And skiing the steepest run in the Swiss Alps."

Although being away from family and friends in Louisville was difficult, Brohm took full advantage of the travel opportunities while abroad and visited 23 different countries during his assignment.

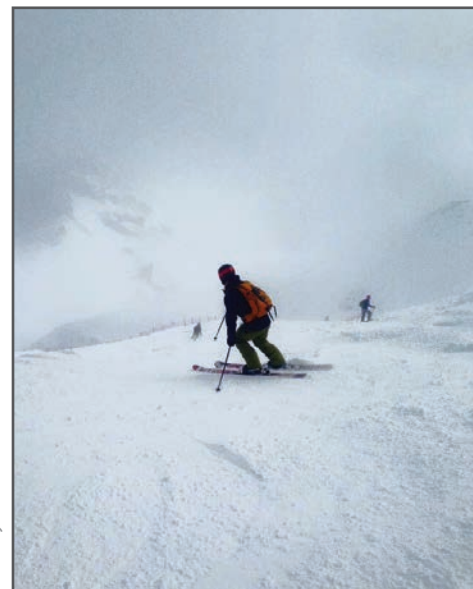
Brohm highly encourages others to explore overseas opportunities.

"There are too many reasons to list as to why employees should consider taking an overseas assignment," Brohm said. "If anyone is on the fence, I'd be happy to talk to them."

Currently, the Louisville District has approximately seven employees on overseas assignments.



Europe District Commander Col. John Baker presents Mark Brohm with a Superior Civilian Service Award Oct. 26, 2018, to recognize all of his achievements while serving overseas



Mark Brohm skis down the Swiss Alps, a mountain range in Switzerland March 6, 2016.

Courtesy of Mark Brohm

Courtesy of Mark Brohm