

# Falls City Engineer

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT

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Vol. 8, Issue 3

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**On the cover:** Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander, tours the Olmsted Locks and Dam project in Olmsted, Ill., June 7, 2016.



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

# Commander's Comments

Ladies and gentlemen,

We recently had a great day at the 2016 Corps Day. While I certainly understand that not everyone could participate, I hope that those who were able had a great time and appreciated the opportunity to visit with family and friends outside of work. One of the key highlights this year at Corps Day, in addition to the great activities and dunking booth, was a great safety display that brought in multiple external agencies to discuss safety. Safety is something that we all must stress in our daily activities regardless of where you work. Our teammates at our lakes work particularly hard with water safety and taking care of the public this time of year, and we all need to emphasize these points as many of you are out on the water on your own.

There is a lot of change going on in our organization right now as well. Brig. Gen. Richard Kaiser recently departed the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and Col. Benjamin Bigelow is now the commander until later this summer when Brig. Gen. Mark Toy comes in.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick also recently retired as the 53rd Chief of Engineers and Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite came on board as the 54th Chief. In one of his first project visits, Lt. Gen. Semonite came to Olmsted where he was very impressed with our team's efforts, progress and leadership on this critical project. One of his other key messages from the Olmsted visit, which applies to all of us regardless of where you work in the district, is that we must execute our missions and meet our commitments. That is not a new philosophy in Louisville but something



**Col. Christopher G. Beck**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Louisville District**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

we must constantly push to ensure we are delivering what we promise, regardless of where you fit into the district because everyone helps deliver our mission.

Please be safe over the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, enjoy time with friends and family and remember how critical our team is to the entire nation.

Thanks again for all that you do!

Building Strong!

Chris

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## Semonite visits Olmsted project, says it's time to 'finish strong'

*Leon Roberts, Nashville District public affairs*

In only his third week on the job, the nation's chief of engineers visited three high visibility construction projects June 7, 2016, to meet employees and garner the latest updates from project managers and team members.

Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander and chief of engineers, hopped on a Tennessee National Guard Blackhawk to travel between the Chickamauga Lock Replacement Project and Kentucky Lock Addition Project in the Nashville District, and the Olmsted Locks and Dam Project in the Louisville District.

At the Olmsted Locks and Dam project on the Ohio River between Illinois and Kentucky, 17 miles upstream of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the Louisville District is constructing this project to replace Locks and Dams 52 and 53, which will greatly reduce tow and barge delays through the busiest stretch of the river.

Mike Braden, chief of the Olmsted Division, briefed Semonite on the status of construction on the \$3.1 billion project, an engineering marvel as part of the nation's navigation superhighway, which is expected to be totally completed by 2022.

"We're ahead of schedule, Braden reported to the general. "We're done with the twin 1,200-foot locks on the project... and [we're] about 75 percent complete with the dam using 'in the wet' technology and a navigable pass construction technique. And we're committed right



Leon Roberts

Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite (center), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commander and chief engineer, tours the Olmsted Lock and Dam project on a vessel in the Ohio River June 7, 2016. Col. Christopher Beck (left), Louisville District commander, and Mick Awbrey, deputy chief of the Olmsted project, brief the general on the ongoing construction work.

now, sir, to have this operational by October 2018 to reap \$640 million in annual benefits."

This strategic reach of the Ohio River provides a connection between the Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. More tonnage passes this point than any other place in America's inland navigation system. On average, 95 million tons traverses this portion of the Ohio River.

The project consists of two 110-foot by 1,200-foot locks adjacent to the Illinois bank, and a dam composed of five tainter gates, 1,400 feet of boat-operated wickets and a fixed weir. The dam is under construction in the river using a method known as "in-the-wet" in which giant concrete shells are cast on land and then placed in the river.

Col. Christopher Beck, Louisville District commander, explained that the work is progressing and that they are in phase two of three phases of the project.

"The first phase was the lock construction. The second phase is the dam construction. And then that third phase is us transitioning this over to our operations division and making it part of the system as we bring 52 and 53 out of service," Beck said.

The colonel noted that capability funding over the past several years has allowed the Louisville District to be successful because it has allowed them to

manage the risk.

"That capability funding allows us and the contractor to work together to identify projects, programs and requirements that we can finish for that year and not let the project schedule drive our decisions," Beck said.

Semonite said he is very impressed with the engineering at the project and praised the staff for all they do.

"What I'm most impressed with is the people out here that every single day come to work to be able to make this happen," Semonite stressed. "We've got to have a quality project and I saw that out here today."

The general talked about delivering on time, which is what the engineering castle on every hard hat is all about, he said. "We say we're Army Strong. We say as the Corps of Engineers we're Building Strong. But I need you guys to make sure we're finishing strong."

The general thanked everyone for the warm welcome he received and for helping him understand these great projects so that he can make decisions that are in the best interest of the country in regards to maintaining and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

*Editor's note: To meet space requirements, this story was shortened from its original form. To view the story in its entirety, visit <http://go.usa.gov/chdfd>*



Leon Roberts

Construction continues at Olmsted Locks and Dam on the Ohio River between Illinois and Kentucky, 17 miles upstream of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.



## Air Force Museum cuts ribbon on fourth hangar



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Hudson, director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, addresses attendees at the ribbon cutting for the museum's new fourth building June 8, 2016.

On June 8, 2016, a ribbon-cutting was held to officially open the new fourth building of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District managed the construction of the mega-expansion of the 224,000-square-foot building with the help of the construction contractor Turner Construction Co., Washington, D.C., which broke ground in June 2014.

The \$40.8 million project now houses four galleries – Presidential, Research and Development, Space and Global Reach, along with three science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning nodes. The new building is home to the Air Force One used by eight recent presidents, the only remaining XB-70 Valkyrie, the C-141C Hanoi Taxi, which airlifted the first American prisoners of war out of North Vietnam in February 1973, and the massive 96-ton Titan IVB



Kirk Dailey, Louisville District construction division chief (center), is pictured with Mike Imhoff, executive director of the Air Force Museum Foundation (left), and Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Hudson, who presented Dailey with a plaque recognizing the Louisville District's contributions to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

space launch vehicle.

The museum, which is the world's largest military aviation museum, has approximately one million visitors from around the world each year.



On June 8, 2016, a ribbon-cutting was held to officially open the new fourth building of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The new building (far right) houses four galleries with more than 70 aerospace vehicles, including 10 presidential aircraft, flight test aircraft, space artifacts and huge cargo planes.



# Industry Forum highlights Rock Island Army Family Housing projects



Clayton Hayes, USACE Louisville District Project Manager, briefs attendees at the Industry Forum held at Rock Island Arsenal, May 4, 2016.

*Katie Newton, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District hosted an Industry Forum at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, on May 4, 2016, to inform the construction community about two highly-anticipated housing projects at the installation.

The event was well-attended by approximately 50 representatives from the construction community. Among the participants were Maj. Gen. Kevin O'Connell, commanding general, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, and Col. Elmer Speights, Rock Island Arsenal garrison commander, while project delivery team members provided a project overview, the procurement process and construction contract administration details.

"It's a great way to spread the good

news of work that is about to take place in the area," said Steve Farkus, military project management section chief, USACE Louisville District. "The project delivery team put a great foot forward and the Directorate of Public Works staff really did a great job on getting the right information about these projects out there."

The projects of interest are two new Army Family Housing projects. The first is scheduled to break ground late summer 2016, and will create 33 single-family residential housing units. The second is scheduled to break ground in fall 2016 and will create 38 new single-family residential housing units.

"These projects will offer housing for various grade officers including colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, senior non-commissioned officers, and also E7s – E9s. Without it, service members relocating to Rock Island Arsenal will not be able to find adequate affordable housing, and will have to either live in sub-standard conditions, or outside the area requiring excessive commute time," said Clayton Hayes, military project manager.

"The government currently leases 50 family housing units that have exceeded their useful and economic life, and will be terminated in conjunction with this project, and the follow-on deficit

construction project," said Hayes.

There will be six to seven different floor plans used in the housing units and one- and two-story configurations that meet the current standards for Army Family Housing. The first project will include a bus stop, playground and basketball court. The replacement project will have a bus stop playground, and running path.

As part of the new construction, all the homes were designed to have storm shelters, and to meet LEED-H version 4 silver compliance for homes from the U.S. Green Building Council. Many green features will be incorporated throughout such as energy star shingles, material efficient framing system, whole house water and gas meters and additional insulation above the minimum energy requirement.

Both projects are scheduled to be complete and ready for occupancy by summer of 2018.



This rendering shows one of the two-story Army Family Housing projects slated to begin in 2016.

## Reserve

# Conn. Army Reserve Training Center nears completion



The Bridgeport Army Reserve Center in Branford, Connecticut, will host approximately 20 full-time staff members and accommodate 300 Reservists for training weekends. The facility includes classrooms, a physical readiness center, weapons simulator training, kitchen,

offices and assembly hall. The complex also includes a vehicle maintenance shop, military equipment parking area and storage building.

Project is 98 percent complete and is expected to open in August 2016.



Connecticut Sen. Ted Kennedy, Jr.; Kevin Anderson, USACE New England District construction control representative; Connecticut Rep. Sean Scanlon; Fred Pike, USACE New England District project engineer; and James Cosgrove, First Selectman, Town of Branford, are pictured at the Bridgeport ARC June 14, 2016.



## Fort Sheridan Landfill removal to begin soon



An informational public meeting was held April 28 to address residents' concerns about the landfill remediation at Fort Sheridan.

*Katie Newton, public affairs*

At the end of June 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District will begin digging up and removing a 1.1-acre landfill on Fort Sheridan in Lake Forest, Illinois.

The landfill, which is located on U.S. Army Reserve property, was used in the 1940s and 50s as a dumpsite for the installation. Materials recovered from soil borings in the landfill included soil fill, coal cinders and ash, broken glass and miscellaneous construction debris.

"We concluded that removing all waste and contaminated soil and disposing of it at a permitted disposal facility was the best remedy to be protective of human

health and the environment," said David Dierken, USACE Louisville District project manager. "This remedy also allows for no property restrictions for future use."

To prepare residents about the upcoming work the Corps, along with the City of Lake Forest, the 88th Army Reserve, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the construction contractor—Ch2mHill, hosted a public meeting April 28 to inform community members about the Landfill 1 remediation and site restoration.

"Our intent was to reach out to the residents and address any concerns they might have before the work begins," said Dierken, "We understand the

inconvenience this may place on residents and we've taken measures to reduce the impact as much as possible."

To help prevent dirt and dust all trucks leaving the site will be cleaned and street sweepers will be used as needed to keep the roads and sidewalks dust free. The site will be sprayed with water to help prevent dust as well.

After all the waste is excavated and removed from the landfill site, sampling will be done to ensure waste and contaminated soil has been removed. Then, clean backfill soil will be used for fill. The existing parking lot and grassed area will be restored on the Army Reserve property and on the Lake Forest property the landfill will be restored as a natural ravine, consistent with the on-going ecosystem restoration project there. Additionally, native plant species will be planted to enhance the area. All work is expected to be complete in spring 2017.



The project delivery team visited the Landfill 1 site at Fort Sheridan to discuss the site work which will take place beginning in late June.

## USACE shares proposed cleanup plan at Camp Ellis

*Katie Newton, public affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Louisville District hosted a public meeting April 26 to share the proposed cleanup plan of four sites at the Former Camp Ellis Military Reservation—a formerly used defense site (FUDS) in Table Grove, Illinois.

More than 125,000 troops trained at Camp Ellis during World War II and approximately 7,000 German and Austrian prisoners of war were housed there in the 1940s. Camp Ellis was used from 1943 to 1950 for various types of military training including small arms and munitions



Members of the public gather at a meeting April 26 to comment on the proposed plan for the Former Camp Ellis Military Reservation in Table Grove, Illinois.

*Continued on page 7*



training.

As part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program-FUDS cleanup program, USACE manages the cleanup at properties where there is Department of Defense generated contamination. USACE started work at the roughly 18,000-acre Camp Ellis property in the 1990s and now has four sites remaining to be addressed. The meeting explained the selected remedy for each of the four sites. Of those sites recommended for cleanup, two are munitions sites—the Aircraft Bombing Area and the Obstacle Area. For both of these sites USACE is recommending surface and subsurface clearance of MEC (munitions and explosives of concern) to mitigate explosive hazards.

The other two areas recommended for cleanup are the East Landfill and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Digesters, where the Corps proposes to do excavation of the sediment and the sludge in the digesters with off-site disposal.

“These remedial actions would remove



USACE

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Digesters are one of the four sites recommended for cleanup at the Former Camp Ellis Military Reservation.

soil with contaminant concentrations exceeding remediation goals, and mitigate the threat of release of hazardous substances from sediment,” said Cindy

Ries, USACE Louisville District technical manager. “All of our remediation goals will be protective of human health and the environment.”

## Spotlight

# Visitor assistance a top priority for Miami Area rangers

Sarah Mattingly, public affairs

On June 6, 2016, the Miami River Area park rangers participated in Visitor Assistance Refresher Training at the Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center, Waynesville, Ohio. The Miami River Area includes Caesar Creek Lake, William H. Harsha Lake, West Fork Lake, and C.J. Brown Dam and Reservoir in Ohio, as well as Brookville Lake in Indiana.

Chris Rapenchuck, Miami River Area operations manager, welcomed the rangers and emphasized the importance of visitor assistance training.



Seasoned park ranger staff members shared valuable real life experiences with the newer staff members.

Sarah Mattingly

“You are the face of the Corps,” Rapenchuck told the group, whose members ranged from lake managers with decades of experience to rangers on their very first day of work.

While holding only two percent of federal lands, the Corps of Engineers hosts 20 percent of visits to federal recreation sites, according to a 2013 recreation report.

“During the peak recreation season, interactions with the public are so dynamic that a frequent review of the Visitor Assistance program is crucial to protecting the public, ourselves, the Corps of Engineers, and park resources,” said Matthew Palmer, manager at C.J. Brown Dam and Reservoir, Springfield, Ohio.

The training day included refreshers on regulations, customer service, self-defense and pepper spray use. Discussions were held on tactics and language for dealing with tough situations and keeping a professional demeanor. Rangers also had a chance to share lessons and techniques from their own real life experiences, which Palmer said was especially helpful for the newer staff members.

All permanent park rangers with citation authority must receive a minimum of



Sarah Mattingly

The Miami River Area’s visitor assistance training included a self-defense refresher.

eight hours of annual refresher training, including among other topics, visitor assistance policy, enforcement procedures, local issues and personal protection.

“Visitor Assistance training defines the roles and responsibilities of the park rangers, who are regulation enforcers at the projects,” said Palmer. “The annual refresher ensures the park ranger staffs are properly carrying out their duties as natural resource, environmental, regulation enforcement and public relations specialists.”



# Louisville District observes Safety Week 2016

May 2-6, 2016, the Louisville District observed Construction Safety Week, a worldwide initiative to create leaders in safety across the construction industry. To mark the week, Louisville District employees and contractors in the field as well as the district office took part in safety focused activities and learning opportunities.

"Although in years past, we have supported our contractor's participation in Safety Week, we wanted to step up our participation this year and plan, prepare and provide for our own Safety Week activities," said Kirk Dailey, chief, Louisville District construction division.

At the Systems Integration Maintenance Facility construction project ongoing at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Corps employees and contractors from



At the Wright Patterson Area Office Boiler Maximum Achievable Controls Technology Project, Walsh/Butt Construction Joint Venture conducts early morning "Stretch and Flex" in preparation for the workday.

Walsh Construction participated in an emergency response drill, along with the Fort Campbell Fire Department, to test the readiness of the participants to execute a 911 call and practice quick responses in an emergency situation such as a cardiac arrest.

The Rough River Lake construction project team attended a fall protection demonstration, showing the proper use of equipment and safeguards to prevent falls—the leading cause of worker fatalities—as well as the safe steps to take after a fall.

Other locations held safety stand-downs, ladder and personal protective equipment inspections, fire extinguisher training, and electrical demonstrations. Construction division employees based in the district office took part in a special safety meeting, which included a game of Safety Jeopardy.

"Construction division has developed a robust safety culture over the last several years, and this was yet another way to turn words into actions," said Dailey.



## Corps Day provides fun and fellowship



The Louisville District's Corps Day celebration for employees and families was held June 9, 2016, at Taylorsville Lake, Taylorsville, Kentucky. Organized by operations division, the event featured 45-minute boat tours on the lake, a sweets station showcasing employee-made

desserts, a car and bike show, a talent show, and a dunking booth.

Corps Day attendees got competitive in a Corn Hole tournament, tug-of-war, balloon toss and the three-legged race.

There were activities for children, as well as appearances by Bobber the Water



Safety Dog and Seamore the Sea Serpent.

The safety office hosted Safety Day displays, including a Kentucky State Police car and trooper, Kentucky Association of Electrical Cooperative's Arc House, which simulates arcing wires, and Spencer County's burn house.