



ESSAYONS EXAMINER

FORT WORTH DISTRICT

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Front Cover Photo: Blue Bonnets bloom along the shoreline below the Aquilla Lake spillway.
 Photo by John Thibodeaux.
 Back Cover Photo: A Bald Eagle is perched in a tree at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.
 Photo by April Roberts.

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Team Fort Worth,
 as I recently completed my first year as your District Commander, I’ve now had a chance to meet many of you and visit most of our project sites that span across the states of Texas and Louisiana.
 As I get a chance to interact with each of you at these project sites, it reminds me of the high level of leadership, dedication, and technical expertise that each of you bring to the table. I know without a doubt now that I now have had the privilege to command some of the very best people that the Corps of Engineers has to offer.
 The Fort Worth District has some challenging projects – my recent visits to Fort Polk, Joint Base San Antonio, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s Western Currency Facility, and the Border Wall in the Rio Grande Valley continuously remind me of that. But at each location that I have observed, the employees of the District have responded by sharpening their pencils, putting in the long, hard hours to overcome problems, all while displaying a positive attitude. I cannot thank-you enough for that.
 A lot has changed in the District since our last newsletter in March. The degraded environment brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has stabilized enough to move from a predominantly telework status to a hybrid one; employees within the local commuting area are now required to work from the office two times each pay period. I am humbled by how of you have adjusted to the new work environment; it is nice walking the hallways now and

meeting employees in person for the first time.
 Another big change is that we recently farewellled the District’s military deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Rod Forman. After three years with the District, he is off to his next duty assignment at Joint Base Langley/Eustis in Virginia. I cannot tell you how appreciative I am of his behind-the-scenes efforts at keeping the District running smoothly. Our new military deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Josh Haynes will sign on in August, and in the interim, Bob Morris from PPMD will step into the breach and execute those duties.
 In other news, the 2022 Federal Employment Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) is now live, and will remain open until Friday, July 22nd. I strongly encourage all employees to take a few minutes and respond to the survey. I personally read each and every one of your responses, and your feedback is crucial in determining how we proceed as a District in a number of different areas. This is your chance to be heard!
 Finally, I want to announce that we are currently planning to have a “Party in the Park” (formerly engineer day) this year, location is still being developed, but it will most likely be held in the month of October, once we get a relief from the Texas summer weather. I hope that each of you will consider participating in this, I promise it will be full of fun activities.
 In conclusion, I want to personally thank all of you for everything that you do each day as we move forward in unison to deliver on the commitments that we make to our partners.

ESSAYONS- Col. Jon Stover
 Commander




Team,
 As we continue to focus on our USACE Safety and Occupational Health Safety System (CE-SOHMS), we will look at another of its six primary principals – Leadership and Employee Engagement.
 The five other principals are dependent on and cannot be adequately executed without BOTH Leadership and Employee Engagement.
 Leaders from the most senior to the newest, must ensure that they as leaders but also their personnel are aware of and carry out their individual responsibility for ALL aspects of Safety and Occupational Health. This includes the very critical element of adherence to applicable safety and health requirements.
 In order for that adherence to take place, leaders and all team members must be familiar with and fully understand their roles and responsibilities. In doing so, the foundation will be established to drive towards the goal of continuous and sustained improvement in every realm of the District’s safety mission.
 As I wrap up what will be my final column as your Deputy Commander, I want each of you to know that with Safety and every other mission priority during my tenure; I was able to navigate and execute them because of the hard work and dedication of each of you. I am grateful and it has been my honor to serve with the SWF Team.
 Continue to be the best in USACE!!!!

ESSAYONS- Lt. Col. Roderick Forman
 Deputy Commander

Fort Worth District Park Rangers Come Together for Recognition, Training

Story and Photos by: Trevor Welsh, Social Media Manager, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Camaraderie, competition, coaching and cultivation were not in short supply during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District 2022 Annual Park Ranger Appreciation and Refresher Training at Canyon Lake, Texas April 5-7.

Park Rangers, lake managers and operations staff from the Fort Worth District came together in person and virtually at the Hidden Valley Sports Complex Community Resource & Recreation Center to recognize the year's outstanding Park Rangers as well as teach the rookies and refresh the veterans on proper responses and procedures for a variety of situations they are faced with in their day to day.

As the field agents of USACE's recreation program, its Park Rangers have two primary responsibilities: promoting and protecting public safety and practicing good stewardship of the public lands in their care. The refresher training meets the requirements for Park Rangers to maintain existing citation authority.

The week's events kicked off with remarks from Fort Worth District Commander Col. Jon Stover.

"I am very excited to address all of you and hand out some very well-deserved awards for the regional superstars as well as the Ranger of the Year," said Col. Stover. "This is the second Ranger appreciation I have attended since I assumed command of the Fort Worth District and I have enjoyed them immensely. From the awards presentation to the extracurricular activities after hours, this gathering of Rangers every year is essential to keep up proficiency in your duties and maintain a high state of morale in the workplace. Not only that but getting down here and talking to the you face-to-face I get to hear what's going on out in the field straight from the source; that's what I need to make decisions."

After more presentations and discussions with Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) of Comal County, Dam Community Alliance, Fort Worth District Park Ranger Community of Practice, and the Leadership Development Program, it was time to honor this year's most outstanding Park Ranger.

Each region submitted a nominee for the Park Ranger of the Year award:

Billy Jasper, Benbrook Lake Park Ranger, Trinity Region Ranger of the Year Nominee

Lynden Wood, Sam Rayburn Lake Lead Park Ranger, Piney Woods Ranger of the Year Nominee

Shauna Sadoski, Whitney Lake Park Ranger, Three Rivers Ranger of the Year Nominee

Jennifer Plair, Somerville Lake Park Ranger, Capitol Region Nominee

Plair was awarded Fort Worth District Park Ranger of the Year and her nomination will be submitted for the USACE HQ Natural Resource Management Employee of the Year!

Following the award ceremony Fort Worth District's Park Ranger Refresher Training Project Delivery Team led the Rangers through two additional days of training. Policy requires all USACE Rangers to receive eight hours of training annually on a variety of topics such as self-defense, de-escalation techniques, tactical communications, policy, and cultural demographics. This training is essential and is designed to mimic real-life scenarios these Rangers may face during their duties to include dealing with unauthorized hunting,



unauthorized possession of firearms, and encountering illegal drugs and narcotics on federal recreational grounds.

"Encountering any situation as a Ranger there are always unknowns, preparing for those situations by creating unique challenges that resemble situations we may encounter is a great way to practice," said Brad Grems, Park Ranger at Lake O' the Pines. "Scenarios like drownings or dealing with customers who have a language barrier are great ways to force Rangers to find creative solutions to hopefully ease a difficult situation. Our customer base is very diverse, and each situation is different than the last so approaching each instance with everyone's safety at the forefront of our mind has to be a priority no matter what is going on."

Along with the scenarios, the Rangers took part in interactive training to include, hunting programs management; non-escalation; de-escalation; communication and self-defense tactics; fire management; and communicating with the media; to name a few.

Although this training is essential, one of the most valuable resources Park Rangers have, is each other.

"I think the most important part of the Ranger appreciation and training is networking with other Rangers," said Chandler Sanford, Park Ranger at Lewisville Lake. "Meeting Rangers from other lakes and areas opens opportunities to share knowledge and ideas about programs and duties that we oversee as Rangers. It is very beneficial to be able to reach out to another lake to ask questions about something that they are working on at their lake and be able to collaborate on projects and events."

Whether the same lake, or across the state, the Fort Worth District Rangers are a team.

"This opportunity provides a wide exposure to the world each lake project experiences," said Grems. "In my opinion, the most important part of the training is the sharing of ideas to implement best practices. Understanding that just because a program or responsibility has always been done a certain way, does not mean that it cannot be improved. Sharing our ideas and experiences can often reduce the workload for certain objectives through the trial and error of others."

The week wasn't only education and training; Rangers and district staff played slow-pitch softball and kickball on day one and a fishing tournament on day two with prizes



included. These opportunities after duty hours gave those in attendance a chance to socialize and get to know each other.

"The extracurricular events are a good team-building exercise for the group," said Sanford. "This allows the group to get to know each other outside of the work atmosphere and encourage each other in the softball and kickball games. These extracurricular activities bring people out of their comfort zone and give Rangers the opportunity to partake in something that they may not usually have the chance to do. It is awesome to see the Rangers using their different skillsets and coming together to coach the other Rangers in these activities."

The culmination of the week's events was the Ranger Challenge where teams from each region; Trinity, Three Rivers, Capitol, and Piney Woods; competed against each other in physical and technical challenges for the honor to take possession of the trophy for the year. Three Rivers Region, which includes Hords Creek, O.C. Fisher, Navarro Mills, Proctor, Waco, Whitney and Aquilla Lakes, won this year's Ranger Challenge.

Park Ranger Appreciation and Annual Refresher Training exists as a way for the district leadership to recognize the important work Rangers do with the Park Ranger of the Year award, as well as ensuring Rangers are up to date the with best practices and procedures to perform their duties at the highest level.

"Thank you all for being here; this is an awesome program," said Operations Chief Tim MacAllister. "This is about you; we want to come in here, have a great time and get the training you need for your positions. We want you to enjoy it and return to your duties refreshed and ready for action."

Out with the Old, in with the New: *How Prescribed Fires Benefit the Ecosystem*

Story by: Trevor Welsh, Social Media Manager, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Courtesy Photo

On the morning of March 2, 2022, a prescribed burn was initiated at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) in an effort to create, restore, and revitalize prairies below the Lewisville Dam. This fire was assumed to be controlled prior to noon, but due to weather condition changes, that fire escaped its intended area.

“I received a call from an employee at approximately 4:00pm that he noticed a large plume of smoke and Lewisville Fire Department responding,” said Nick Wilson, Lead Park Ranger at Lewisville Lake. “Our Ranger staff responded to provide access and traffic control to responding agencies and assisted with their knowledge of various roads, conditions, and hazards that would make the firefighter’s response safer.”

The fire was large and produced a significant amount of smoke as it burned through various habitats. Ranger Wilson recalled the smell of mesquite; he knew it meant mesquites may be dying off providing more nutrients and sunlight for native grasses and forbs.

“This burn not only released stored nutrients back into the soil, but reduced woody vegeta-

tion in the prairie, and reduced the fuel load that not only makes future fire more controllable, but makes it easier for native grasses to grow,” Ranger Wilson said. “Within weeks the amount of green in this prairie was greater than I had ever seen out of it and the benefits of this fire will be evident for several years through diversity and quality of the plant life it left.”

This fire, which turned out to be exactly what the prairie land below the Lewisville Dam needed, came on the eve of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District and Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) signing a Memorandum of Understanding for Wildland Fire Management and Prescribed Burning at the 25 lake projects within the Fort Worth District. The MOU outlines coordination of wildland fire management and prescribed burning activities on federal lands administered by USACE with TAMFS and defines responsibility for both organizations.

A prescribed fire, also called prescribed burning or controlled burning, is form of land management in which fire is intentionally applied to vegetation. A scientific prescription

for each fire, prepared in advance, describes its objectives, fuels, size, the precise environmental conditions under which it will burn, and conditions under which it may be suppressed.

Historically, natural and man-caused fires occurred frequently. Biologists now use fire to manipulate vegetation for the benefit of wildlife. A prescribed burning program, in conjunction with grazing deferment and deer harvest management, is an effective tool for managing wildlife habitat. These fires may be designed to create a mosaic of diverse habitats for plants and animals, to help endangered species recover, or to reduce fuels and thereby prevent a destructive fire.

Marty Underwood is the Trinity Region Environmental Stewardship Business Line Manager. Trinity Region includes Lewisville Lake, Ray Roberts Lake, Benbrook Lake, Bardwell Lake, Joe Pool Lake, Lavon Lake and Grapevine Lake. He says more frequent prescribed fires can stimulate prairies, especially in the native remnant prairies that are becoming much rarer in North Central Texas.

“Most, if not all, of Texas’ vegetative terrestrial ecoregions are fire dependent meaning some part of their lifecycle involves fire, whether it’s to burn back invasive woody vegetation and allow light and openings for grasslands or prairies to develop, clear out the understory in woodlands, stimulate herbaceous plant growth, stimulate seed germination, or to convert nutrients to more favorable forms that the plants can accept,” Marty said. “Fortunately, some of our USACE DFW area lakes still support this type of habitat including Lewisville Lake. Earlier this year USACE signed an MOU with the Texas A&M Forest Service to gain their assistance for the use of prescribed



Photos by Trevor Welsh

March 8, 2022
Six Days After Fire

fire as a tool at all of our lakes throughout the district. Prescribed fires work very well when done right but if improperly executed, things can go very wrong quickly. With the Texas A&M Forest Service assistance and expertise, we can work with the public better and possibly make prescribed fire an accepted tool in urban areas when needed.”

The ravenous danger, destruction and potential loss of life related to wildfires makes it such that any burning of wildlands could be viewed negatively; this is not always the case. Burning wildlands is a common occurrence, especially in areas prone to wildfires.

Rich Gray is the Chief Regional Fire Coordinator for TAMFS and has been with the organization for 25 years. Over the years, he has worked in a variety of fire management roles including prescribed burning, fuel reduction projects and suppression operations. He says the purposes of prescribed burns are many.

“Often times, prescribed burning is used to reduce hazardous wildland fuel loads, improve wildlife habitat, improve forage quality and quantity, reduce competing vegetation, restore and maintain healthy and resilient landscapes,” he said.

A prescribed fire is one of the most important tools used to manage wildfires and habitat today. But planning, like other potentially



March 22, 2022
20 Days After Fire

dangerous, but necessary, events such as this, is paramount.

“Land managers will set resource goals and objectives for a management unit,” Rich said. “If fire on the landscape is determined as the most appropriate management strategy, a specific prescribed burn plan will be developed to meet the management goals and implemented by a Prescribed Burn Boss. From this, burn managers will develop a plan to meet these objectives. It will include the amount of personnel and equipment needed to successfully prepare the burn unit, ignite, control, suppress and monitor the burn over the duration of the prescribed burn. Additionally, all phases of the planning and implementation require coordination and participation of cooperators as well as members of the public, media, and emergency management community.”

For prescribed fires initiated by the USACE staff at Lewisville Lake, Ranger Wilson is the Burn Boss. He says USACE is always working to improve in training and qualifications for prescribed fires. There are risks to employees, government assets, private property, and life, so being properly trained and physically fit enough to conduct burns is critical.

“Being that Lewisville is in an urban area it makes a few things easier and others much more difficult,” Ranger Wilson said. “Easier is



April 14, 2022
43 Days After Fire

partnerships and training. We have outstanding local fire departments that are well funded, well trained, and nearby to provide for quick response times. We also allow departments to train on our property when appropriate, whether it be swift water response, or time on a chain saw, we can typically accommodate most training opportunities. Urban areas become difficult in that fire can be viewed by residents as a bad or scary thing. Our Rangers, among other procedures and training, are trained for wildland firefighting. Part of this training includes understanding weather’s impacts to fire, how to prepare firebreaks, and techniques for suppressing fire in a safe manner.”

There is an art and a science to using this powerful tool.

“If the conditions or personnel situations are not right, don’t light the fire,” Ranger Wilson said. “Also, reach out to your local agencies for appropriate notifications and invite them out to learn the area, plan a response, work together on trainings, and enjoy being outside and improving your habitat.”

Fires have been a natural part of the Texas landscape for a very long time, it is an agent of change necessary to keep our forests healthy and resilient. Prescribed fires help protect our communities for future generations to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.



Photo by Alec Mitchell



Photo by Nicholas Wilson

USACE, Jasper County Complete Recreation, Safety Improvements at Sam Rayburn Reservoir

Staff Report



Photos by Justin Shelby

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with Jasper County officials announced the completion of new dock enhancements for visitors with disabilities and mobility issues at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Enhancements of the boat ramp docks located at Twin Dikes Public, Mill Creek, and San Augustine parks have been undergoing construction since May of enhancements to make them more accessible for persons with disabilities and mobility issues. Additionally, safety railing has been installed on existing docks while maintaining the primary courtesy function of loading and unloading vessels. These efforts will assist all patrons in safely transferring to and from water vessel.

Kayak launches have also been installed at Mill Creek and San Augustine parks utilizing the existing courtesy docks. Kayak users have limited launching areas on the lake, often launching from an uneven shoreline. The kayak launches provide a designated and stable platform for people entering the water.

The Army Corps of Engineers and Jasper County completed this work in unison under a newly-developed partnership. USACE provided materials and equipment, while Jasper

County provided volunteers to assist in the installation of the railing and kayak launches.

Installation were been completed prior the Independence Day weekend, with a formal “launch” of the new facilities over the extend-

ed Juneteenth holiday weekend. All visitors to the lake are reminded to be aware of their surroundings, be courtesy in their outdoor behavior and always wear a life jacket while on or near the water.



USACE Announces \$76.1M Construction Contract for Lewisville Lake Spillway

Staff Report



Photos by Trevor Welsh

Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced the award of a contract to construct the modifications of the spillway at Lewisville Dam to Shimmick Construction Co. LLC, Irvine, California, in the amount of \$76.1 million.

The project was approved in 2017 at an estimated cost of \$150 million in October 2016 dollars to design and construct the approved repairs. The modifications are funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) and the Consolidated Appropriations

Act for 2019 (Public Law 115-244). Work to reduce risks of dam failure from seepage was completed in August 2021. Lewisville Dam continues to successfully perform all the functions for which it was designed (flood risk management, water supply, recreation, and environmental stewardship).

This spillway contract is the final construction contract. It will address the risks associated with spillway stability by constructing post-tensioned anchors, installing an upstream geomembrane cutoff, overlaying the spillway

apron, and installing a cut off wall and erosion protection measures to prevent movement of the new apron panels and reduce scour and erosion in the spillway channel during flow events. The contract is expected to take approximately four years and take place in areas restricted to authorized personnel only. No impacts to recreation or water supply.

Additional Lewisville Dam Safety Modification Project information is available at <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Home/Lewisville-Lake-Dam/>.



Waterloo Greenway Awarded Historic \$9M Federal Funding for Austin Green Space

Story and Photos from: WaterlooGreenway.org



Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, the City of Austin, and U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett announced April 25, 2022 monumental support by the federal government to propel the next important phase of Waterloo Greenway's expansive park system project forward – The Confluence. Because of the recently approved Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is dedicating \$9 million for the restoration of Waller Creek.

"We are thrilled by this endorsement to continue building Waterloo Greenway's 35-acre parks system," said Waterloo Greenway CEO Jesús Aguirre. "We've been humbled by the community's support of parks, particularly as we've seen our Austin friends and neighbors enjoy the newly-reopened and reimagined Wa-

terloo Park over the past year. Now we're one step closer to realizing our vision with this incredible support by our federal partners."

"With City of Austin funding and generous private support, Waterloo Greenway is already contributing so much to our community. Now we have secured federal dollars to back up this local investment. This \$9 million represents both the first benefit to Austin from the new Infrastructure law and the very first environmental infrastructure project to ever be approved in the State of Texas. More green space, cleaner water, economic development potential—another big plus for our quality of life in Austin. I salute Col. Stover and his team for working with the City and Waterloo Greenway to make this possible," said U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett.

Col. Jonathan S. Stover, commander, Fort Worth District said, "The Fort Worth District, United States Army Corps of Engineers, is excited to participate as a partner in the Waterloo Greenway framework by implementing an Environmental Infrastructure project within the City of Austin's Waller Creek District."

Significant environmental restoration at The Confluence will recreate a thriving ecosystem, with a resilient landscape to clean and manage stormwater runoff, in partnership with the Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation Departments, and is the first Environmental Infrastructure project in the state of Texas for the United States Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District.

Eroded, fallen creek banks showing the effects of historic flood events will be recon-



structed – building upon the Waller Creek Flood Control Tunnel's capacity for flood mitigation.

"We are at the cusp of an environmental transformation in downtown Austin," said Watershed Protection Director Jorge Morales. "This level of reconstruction is unlike any project the City of Austin has been able to build in support of healthier downtown habitats and watersheds."

With support by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and this federal funding, a lush new landscape of nearly 1,550 trees, 200,000 mature plants, and 10 acres of seed mixes will improve downtown air quality, improve ecosystem functions, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce the urban heat island effect. Park-goers will experience a one-of-a-kind immersive experience within 13-acres, including the deepest and most ecologically diverse section of Waller Creek.

"We are a city that delivers on huge aspirations. Into our future, we will continue to need creative solutions to equity, mobility, quality of life and climate resiliency challenges," said Mayor Steve Adler. "The second phase of Wa-



terloo Greenway embodies our vision, spirit, and values. In Waterloo Greenway, we celebrate an Austin that is smarter, greener, healthier, more creative, more connected, and more equitable."

The Confluence, located at the southernmost point of Waterloo Greenway, sits at the cultural epicenter of Palm Park, Rainey Street Historic District, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican Amer-

ican Cultural Center, Convention Center, and Ann and Roy Butler Hike & Bike Trail.

Construction begins this October at The Confluence, representing the next step toward completing the entire 1.5-mile park system that will connect 15th Street to Lady Bird Lake. The opening of Waterloo Park and Moody Amphitheater in 2021 marked the first phase of Waterloo Greenway.

City of Dallas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Start Construction on Levee improvements

Story by: Alan Scaia, NewsRadio 1080 KRLD



Construction has started on \$459 million in improvements to levees along the Trinity River west of Downtown Dallas. The first phase is a \$56 million project to raise levees on both sides of the river and flatten the slope.

“These improvements will undoubtedly address years of waiting and protect our residents’ lives and property,” said Dallas City Councilman Omar Narvaez.

“Public safety has always been the number one priority in the Army Corps of Engineers’ levee safety program,” said Col. Jonathan Stover, Commander of the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “The Dallas Floodway system is a great example of this.”

The project was funded through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the federal government is providing \$298 million in funding.

“In my first campaign, West Dallas and the Roosevelt section of South Dallas were underwater,” said Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. “I promised I’d do all I could to ensure that didn’t continue to happen because flooding is the most common natural disaster

in the United States.”

Stover said the project will focus on flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and recreation.

Narvaez said construction will start on two

additional pump stations in the next year and a half, and additional plans include a lake.

“This is a milestone that West Dallas residents have been waiting over 20 years to see come to fruition,” Narvaez said.

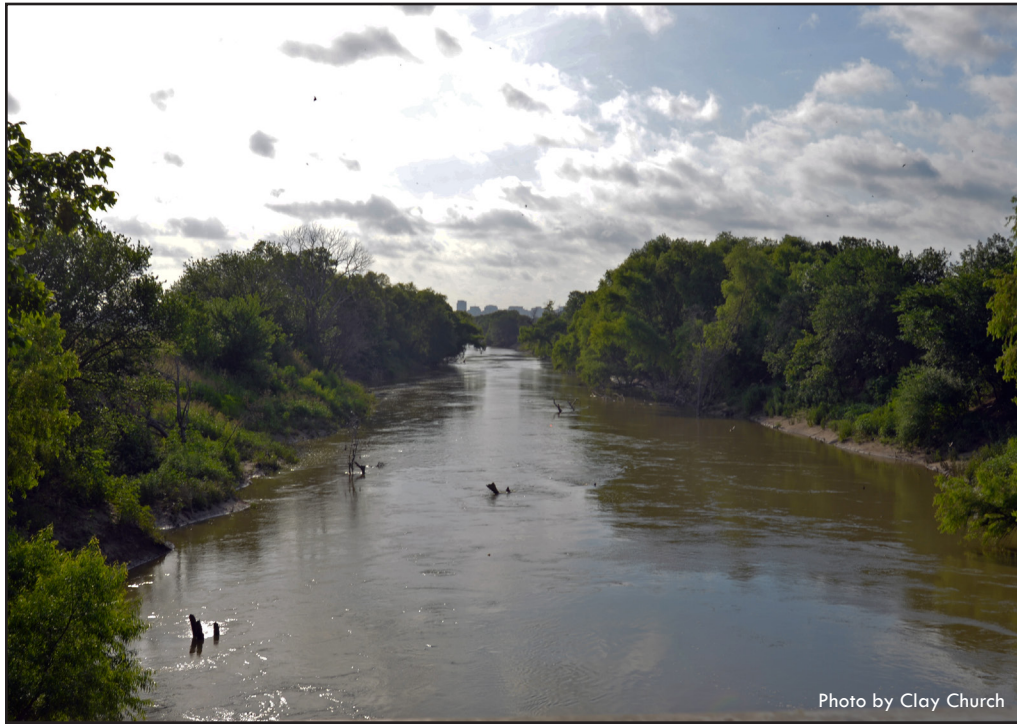


Photo by Clay Church

McAllen Central Processing Center Increases Efficiency Through Renovations

Story by: Brittany Scruggs, Command Information Manager, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, completed renovations to an existing Central Processing Center (CPC) in McAllen, Texas.

USACE was responsible for improving a 77,000 square foot warehouse split into 55,000 square feet and 22,000 square feet sides. Facility improvements include permanent build-out of short-term holding areas, installation of plumbing, personal hygiene facilities, laundromat, medical areas, and a new HVAC system.

The original award contract was \$15,459,784.00, with a 420-day period of performance. The contract was awarded to Spaw-

Glass Contractors Inc. on September 25, 2020, and BOD occurred on February 25, 2022. Despite many challenges, including 27 modifications totaling \$4,527,917.61, the project delivery team was able to keep the contractor on time by expediting request for proposals (RFPs) and proposals in record time.

The largest modification required a user requested change adding a sally port to the building totaling \$2,058,025.81. Fort Worth District designers were able to complete the modifications in record time to allow for construction to preserve its tight schedule.

In addition to renovations, separate laundry

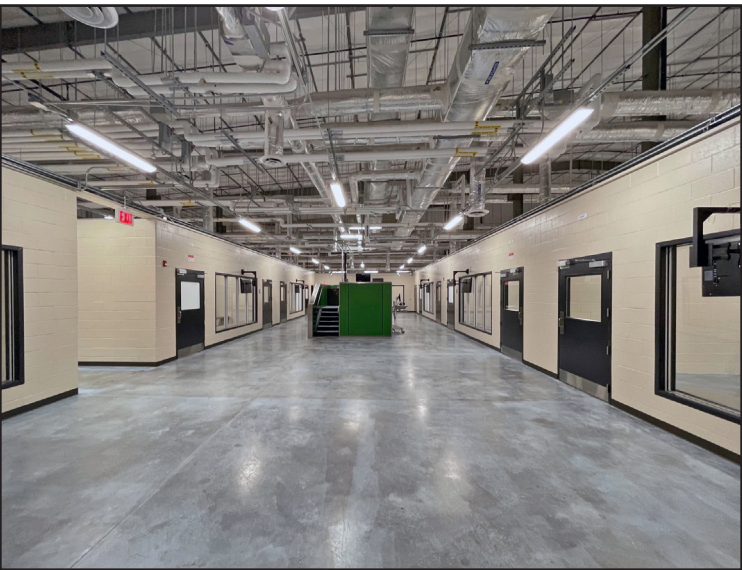
and shower facilities were added as modular building designs that were then attached to the warehouse. These facilities allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to provide laundry and showers in-house instead of paying for a third-party vendor.

With completed renovations, the CPC can process 1,200 migrants for evaluation by on-site medical staff prior to entering the facility and transitioning migrants out of CBP custody.

The project delivery team worked hard with both CBP partners and SpawGlass Contractors Inc. to turn this building into another world-class facility in the USACE portfolio!



Photos by Richard Bowles



South Texas Area Office Supports Memorial Unveiling Ceremony at VA Cemetery

Story by: Tony Strickland & Shawn Bozeman, South Texas Area Office, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The public and media were invited to attend an unveiling ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in Texas Feb. 22, 2022 for an interpretative marker and memorial for the 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment.

The battalion was a unit of Buffalo Soldiers involved in the Houston Riot of 1917, in which 118 Black Soldiers were charged with murder and mutiny for defending themselves in Houston, Texas.

The memorial honors the 17 Black Soldiers who were exhumed from a mass grave in 1937 and re-buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Speakers at the ceremony included Undersecretary of the Army Gabe Camarillo, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Donald Remy, Undersecretary of VA Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn, and the nephew of a Soldier executed in 1917 Jason Holt. Other descendants also were in attendance.

The ceremonial memorial marker is near an ongoing construction contract, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, South Texas Area Office. The ongoing VA cemetery project will provide full depth asphalt replacement for the roads around three separate committal shelters and will con-



Photos by Tony Strickland

struct a new 826 square foot restroom facility near the cemetery admin office.

The South Texas Area Office coordinated closely with the construction contractor and VA counterparts to deliver the requested site for the ceremony. The contractor completed

the site and paved the requested portion of the cemetery road near the memorial for a successful event.

With constant coordination and problem solving, the contractor placed the asphalt pavement Feb. 18, 4 days before the event.



RPEC Staff Takes Active Role in Federal Planning Division Annual Training Workshop

Staff Report



Courtesy Photos

Nine Master Planning Branch members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District Regional Planning and Environmental Center attended the Federal Planning Division Annual Training Workshop June 6-9, 2022 in Norfolk, Virginia.

FPD is the premier training and networking opportunity for federal planners. RPEC staff took advantage of the numerous training sessions covering topics such as federal resiliency, adaptive planning, technology and innovation, as well as skill building and planning management, to name a few.

RPEC Staff took active roles in the conference among the over 300 attendees. Ricqui Brager served on the executive committee for FPD, Joshua Copeland and Shenita McConis served as committee members/volunteers, and Joey Ball was a presenter at the conference. Ricqui Brager lead the coordination for the student session.

RPEC also received the 2021 FPD Planning Merit Award for Category Five – Outstanding Environmental Planning Project for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Monzen District Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development.



Programs and Project Management Branch Soars Through 2022

Story and Photos by: Clay Church, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

As the temperature reaches into the triple digits for almost 20 times so far this year as this article is being written the projects and people of the Fort Worth Program and Project Management Division also continues to rise. Although the calendar may indicate that only six months of the year has past the last quarter of the fiscal year is here and those processes and management controls are being implemented for end of year close out and contract award actions.

People

Lots of transition has occurred so far in 2022 with people leaving the organization such as Chevron Blond and Scott Bryant departing for private industry, Stacey “Memphis” Carlson transferring to the Memphis District and Capt. Robert Parker returned to Texas Army National Guard in March.

Newly arrived in Civil Works Branch are Kali Clark-Egan, program manager for the Central City Project along with Matt Lindquist from private industry as a program manager. For the Military Branch coming from the Border Infrastructure-Program Management Office are Bill Edwards who will be a project coordinator and Brent Harkins returning as a program analyst. Michael Torres, Amanda



Fuller and Todd Trulock all join the Military Branch from different USACE organizations to be a program analyst or project managers. Capt. Joe Sterr joins PPS Branch as an Acquisition Project Manager and Richard Deaner joins Interagency and International Services Branch as a project manager focused on VA and projects in San Antonio and Fort Bliss.

Many people also had promotions, realignments within their organizations or were

involved with developmental assignments. These included Mick Nyenhuis in the Military Branch to program manager forward for the Joint Base San Antonio program in January and then Stacy Gray as program manager for the Lewisville Dam Safety projects in May along with PPS Branch members Michael Delaune from scheduler to program specialist and Norma Edwards from project manager in Military Branch to Knowledge Management Specialist in PPS Branch. Developmental assignments included Military Branch members Andy Tarver returned from a 120-day opportunity with Military Integration Division at SWD followed by Prabha Sharma who returned in June. There were also two members, Tiffaney Abbatello, Construction Manager in Engineering and Construction and Tarek Eljizi with Engineering and Construction Support Office that served 120 days with Military Branch.

To round out news about people we celebrate with Javier Cruz and his wife the arrival of a baby to their family.

Program and Project news

Great news for the District’s Civil Works program was received in January with the announcement of funding through the Infra-

structure Investment and Jobs Act of \$403M for the Central City project in Fort Worth and \$75M for the Westside Creeks program in San Antonio, Waterloo Greenway in Austin as well as boosting funding for Operations & Maintenance backlog at our lakes including the multiple slide repairs at Joe Pool Lake.

Within the Military program there is much work to be accomplished and much that has been done. Solid Military program ahead for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 with \$430M at Joint Base San Antonio (not including the METC Dorm Replacement Program), \$450M at Fort Hood, \$210M at Fort Polk, \$110M at Corpus Christi Army Depot. Awarded Military Construction projects include a Replace Fuel Facility at Fort Hood, \$32M, working on five additional MILCON projects despite the challenges caused by the current inflation and supply chain issues; most likely an Air Traffic Control Tower at Kelly Field, and Child Development Centers at Lackland AFB and Fort Sam Houston, along with two higher risk (scope vs funding) projects at Camp Bullis – a dining facility and a vehicle maintenance shop. Recently completed projects – the FY17 General Purposes Warehouses at Red River Army Depot, the Fort Polk Swimming Pool and a



Fort Hood Vehicle Maintenance Shop. We are also working with the Veterans Administration to help finalize plans for a new health clinic to be co-located with the new Fort Bliss Hospital and an expanded mental health clinic at the VA Dallas location.

The PPMD team also engaged with the Office of Small Business Program outreach efforts with Peter Matar, Viet Nguyen, Bob

Wooley, Stacy Gray and Andy Park (along with other Fort Worth District members) participated in the annual Society of American Military Engineer’s Government Industry Engagement Day held in May at the University of Texas – Arlington. These folks were key in discussing future business opportunities with industry representatives, including large and small businesses.

Accolades did not miss the mark with several Team of the Month Awards so far this year:

- Brazos Waste Water Treatment Plant Stream Bank Erosion Emergency Repair PDT
- JBSA Sustainment Management Systems Infrastructure Assessment PDT
- Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Roads and Restroom Repair PDT

PPMD also salutes the Administrative Professional of the Year – Mandy Vinson recognized in April at a luncheon honoring all administrative professionals, held at the City Club of Fort Worth (see page 21-22) and Gallery of Distinguished Civilians Inductions – Paul Rodman (2021) in April and Charlie Burger (2022) in May (see page 23-24).

As the end of a fiscal year process begins and the rest of calendar year 2022 marches on, PPMD continues to soar while we execute the projects and programs in the portfolio solving the nation’s toughest engineering challenges.



Leadership Development Program Level II Project Team Tackles Tough Challenge

Story by: Clayton Muerer, Emerging Leader, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Photo by Brittany Scruggs

The Leadership Development Program Level I Class of 2021 graduated Dec. 10, 2021. The Level I curriculum takes approximately 125 duty and non-duty hours to complete over the course of one year. On behalf of the Fort Worth District, congratulations on this great accomplishment!

The LDP II Project is underway! The project team, led by Mrs. Stephanie Goaley, has been tasked by Colonel Stover, Fort Worth District Commander, to investigate, evaluate, and recommend methods to streamline in-processing for new SWF employees. The project was initiated in February 2022 and has a scheduled delivery date in early-December 2022. The project team will deliver their findings and recommendations to the Commander's Advisory Board and improve our business methods for welcoming new employees to the district!

LDP II Project Team Members: Emily Brooks, Alicia Cannon, Erin Gerhart, Billy Jasper, Jennifer Brady, Stephanie Goaley, John Jacobs, Colin Richards, Michael Solis, Anthony Sanders, and Keshondreia Brooks

Leadership Development Program Class of 2021

Erin Gerhart
Natural Resources Specialist, Bardwell Lake, Operations Division

John Jacobs
Civil Engineering Technician, Canyon Lake, Operations Division

Sydney Jernigan
Realty Specialist, Real Estate Division

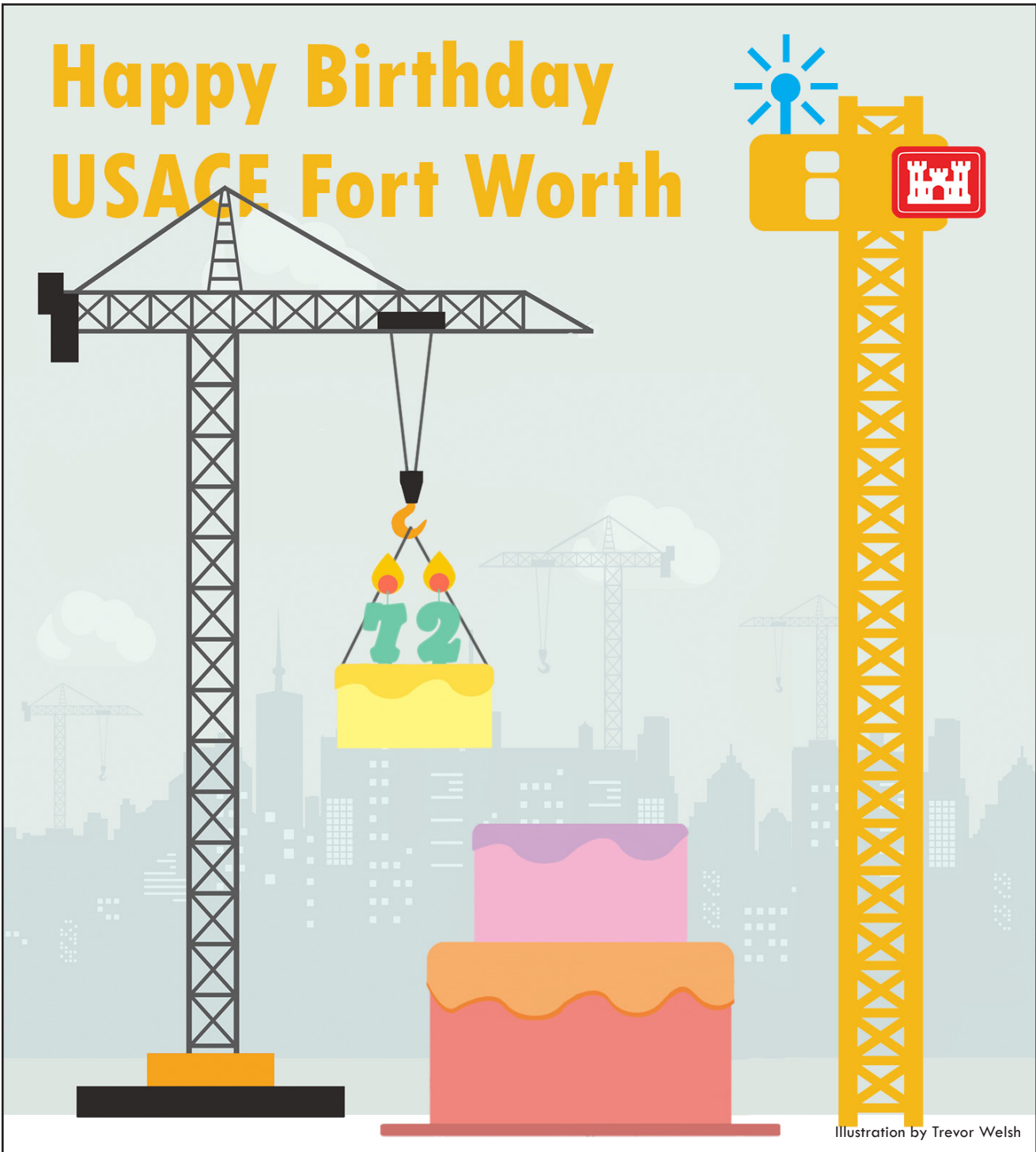
Elizabeth Knapp
Biologist, NEPA and Natural Resource Section, Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Stella Morales
Contract Specialist, Contracting Office

Madison Wetterstroem
Natural Resources Specialist, Belton Lake, Operations Division

Keshondreia "Shay" Brooks
Administrative Support Assistant, Bardwell Lake, Operations Division

Cassandra G. Soper
Natural Resources Specialist, Navarro Mills, Operations Division



April 16, 2022, marks Fort Worth District's 72nd Birthday! Our proud past, present and future as one of the Army's top engineering districts continues to bring value to Texas and the Nation.

From our district's humble beginnings following the area's disastrous 1949 floods, we have continued to set the bar high, providing water resources to two-thirds of Texas, along with our military design and construction missions in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico.

Looking back at our many accomplishments

over the last 72 years, we continue to operate 25 flood risk management reservoirs, built state-of-the-art research structures for NASA's Apollo Command Module engine test, countless hospitals, barracks, and other facilities as we execute our major Military Construction and Civil Works missions.

And most recently, the district closed out FY21 awarding over 2,300 actions valued at approximately \$800M. This accomplishment is even more impressive as it was achieved despite COVID challenges and a predominately remote workforce.

Moving forward as we enter the second half of this fiscal year; our district will continue garner new work via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We are on the glidepath to meet and or exceed the FY21 benchmarks.

Our district will continue to excel because of the teamwork, dedication, long hours and willingness to serve by each of our team members and those who served before.

We've shown time and time again over the last seven-plus decades, we can and will continue to excel, because we are the Fort Worth District! ...and here's for 72 more.

New Tick-Borne Virus Is Spreading Across U.S.

Story by: Steven Reinberg, HealthDay News

The potentially deadly tick-borne Heartland virus is spreading across the United States and has now been found in Georgia, Emory University researchers report. First identified in Missouri in 2009, the virus is found in the Southeast and Midwest and is spread by the lone star tick. The genetic fingerprint of the virus found in Georgia differs from that found in other states. This suggests the virus may be rapidly mutating, researchers say. “Heartland virus is an emerging virus native to the U.S.,” said the study’s lead author Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec. He is an associate professor of environmental sciences at Emory University in Atlanta.

“There is no formal testing or treatment for the virus, and the level of transmission to humans is unknown,” Vazquez-Prokopec said. “Our findings contribute to the understanding of a pathogen that is poorly known and that could become a public health problem as people spend more time outdoors either recreationally or occupationally.”

In 2009, two men in Missouri were hospitalized with high fevers, diarrhea, muscle pains, low counts of white blood cells and platelets, and other symptoms of tick-borne diseases. Researchers called this previously unseen illness Heartland and found that it was common in lone star ticks. They also found antibodies to the virus in blood from deer and other wild mammals.

Since it was discovered, more than 50 cases of the Heartland virus have been seen in 11 states, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of these infections were so severe that patients had to be hospitalized. In a few cases, patients with other chronic diseases died from the infection. In 2005, one patient in Georgia died from a then-unknown disease, later identified as Heartland virus. Vazquez-Prokopec’s team found that the virus had been in deer in Georgia since at least 2001.

As of last year, the Heartland virus had been found in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee, the CDC reports. The lone star tick, which has a telltale



Lone Star tick

white dot on its back, is so tiny it can go unnoticed on the skin, and you might not even know if you are bitten. To get an idea of how pervasive the virus is in Georgia, the research team collected nearly 10,000 ticks. Roughly one in 2,000 carried the Heartland virus, the investigators found.

The lone star tick and the Heartland virus it carries may be spreading as climate change results in warmer winters, enabling the tick to expand its range. And, as more people live near wooded areas, they are more likely to come into contact with deer and other wild animals that carry the virus. These conditions have helped spread Lyme disease, another tick-borne infection. But unlike Lyme, which is a bacteria and can be treated with antibiotics, Heartland is a virus with no known treatment. Heartland virus can cause fever, fatigue, decreased appetite, headache, nausea, diarrhea, and muscle or joint pain. The virus can also affect blood counts and liver function. Symptoms and signs of Heartland are often similar to those of other tick-borne illnesses, such as ehrlichiosis or anaplasmosis (illnesses caused by bacteria), and it can take up to two weeks after infection for symptoms to appear, the CDC warned.

Infectious disease expert Dr. Marc Siegel is a clinical professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City. He advises doctors treating what appears to be a

tick-borne illness that doesn’t respond to antibiotics to suspect Heartland. “We don’t have a treatment, and Heartland can be confused with something more treatable,” Siegel said. “So if I think somebody has ehrlichiosis or Lyme, I treat them with doxycycline, and if they don’t get better, maybe I would think of this as a possibility.” He predicts Heartland will be seen in more places as the tick population increases, but he expects it to remain fairly rare. “The deer tick, which carries Lyme disease, is the one I worry about the most,” Siegel said. “But we should be aware of this tick because it’s a growing problem.”

To protect yourself from tick bites, the CDC recommends:

- Know where ticks are. They live mostly in grassy, brushy or wooded areas and even on animals.
- Treat your clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.
- Check your clothing after being in the woods or fields.
- To kill ticks on dry clothing, tumble dry on high heat for 10 minutes.
- Check your pets and gear for ticks.
- Shower after being outdoors.
- Check your whole body for ticks.

Fort Worth District Recognizes Waco Wetlands

Story and Illustration by: Trevor Welsh - Social Media Manager, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



May was American Wetlands Month and we highlighted the Lake Waco Wetlands.

The Lake Waco Wetlands is a win-win partnership and a unique 180-acre mitigation area. Did you know Waco Lake has more than 180 acres of wetlands? Nearly 11 million gallons of water are filtered through the Waco wetland every day!

American Wetlands Month celebrates the vital importance of wetlands to our Nation’s ecological, economic, and social health. Wetlands help improve water quality and supply, reduce flooding and provide critical habitat for plants, fish and wildlife.

Why Celebrate Wetlands?

Wetlands are renowned for their ability to remove excess nutrients, toxic substances, and

sediment from water that flows through them, helping to improve downstream water quality and the overall health of waters in our communities. Studies indicate that, depending on the type of wetland, the season, and other factors, wetlands can retain significant percentages of pollutants such as nitrates, ammonium, phosphorus, and sediment loads. Natural wetlands have also been effective in removing harmful contaminants such as pesticides, landfill leachate, dissolved chlorinated compounds, metals, and storm water runoff. They are so effective at improving water quality they have been referred to as the “kidneys” of a watershed.

Wetlands can absorb excess rain or river water, so they protect against flooding. They are a form of green infrastructure that also provides

recreational opportunities and serves as important habitat for many wildlife species. They are both an effective and economical way to enhance community safety while improving quality of life.

History of American Wetlands Month

American Wetlands Month was created in 1991 by EPA and its federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit, and private sector partners to celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to the Nation’s ecological, economic, and social health and to educate Americans about the value of wetlands as a natural resource. Historically, annual events such as national and regional conferences have been organized to include a broad range of people including wetland scientists, educators and public interest.

Fort Worth District Administrative Professional of the Year: Mandy Vinson

Getting the job done with excellence wherever she serves

Story by: Trevor Welsh, Social Media Manager, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mandy Vinson is the 2021 Fort Worth District Administrative Professional of the Year, and for her, being an administrative officer with the Fort Worth District, has turned out to be a dream come true... So much so, she longed to return to her team in the Real Estate Division while she was deployed as part of the Texas Air National Guard (TXANG) to Qatar.

Yes, not only does she manage the administrative responsibilities for one of the largest divisions in the district with over 150 personnel, the admin officer/Master Sergeant, recently returned from a six-month deployment to Al Udeid Air Base where she was part of the command support staff for the 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel.

Born and raised in the small town of Wicksburg, Alabama, a small farming town about 2 hours south of Montgomery, Mandy is the eldest of four siblings: with three younger brothers. Since she was a little girl, she had the desire to serve her country.

"My grandad served in the Army and my dad served in the Navy," Mandy said. "I wanted to have that stability and discipline while traveling and meeting people from all over the world."

Mandy fulfilled her zeal for patriotic duty and has been serving her country for nearly 20 years.

"I joined the Air Force Reserve in 2002 as a security forces member, which is basically like military police," Mandy said. "I did that for 8 years and was stationed in Delaware, Italy and Florida. Then, the opportunity presented itself for me to be an air reserve technician, which is to be a full-time government civilian employee in a field that is correlated with my Air Force reservist career field. I cross-trained into administration in 2011 and took a job here in Fort Worth with the 301st Fighter Wing as an admin assistant and did that for three more years."

Mandy has two children, ages (Aaliyah) 25



Courtesy Photo

and (Derrick) 17. It was at this point in her career in 2015 Mandy felt the need to change her path, to chart a new course for her and her family. She transferred from the Air Force Reserve to the Texas Air National Guard. At the same time, accepted a position with the Fort Worth District.

"I felt it would be better in the long run for my family because there was not enough room for growth or advancement," she said. "I wanted to do something more challenging; I wanted to work somewhere where I had room to spread my wings. I love helping people and I thrive on being busy and being there for my team."

Her passion at work with the Real Estate division is obvious. Tammi Hasenpflug, Administrative Support Assistant with Real Estate Division's Management and Disposal Branch, describes her as the "Energizer Bunny."

"She has an amazing amount of energy and needs it for all the tasks required for her as the administrative officer for Real Estate," Tammi said. "She takes care of 158 employees and is the mentor to six administrative assistants. She wears so many hats for us; it took three admin-

istrative assistants to cover for her while she was deployed!"

Mandy oversees all admin functions within the division. Her main function is to provide administrative support to the chief and deputy chief of Real Estate Division, but she also provides support to all the other branches within



Courtesy Photo

the division. This can include budgeting, coordinating meetings, training coordination, government credit card purchasing, ordering IT equipment, consumable inventory and purchasing, calendar management, and more. There is a lot of overlap between her job with the TXANG and USACE.

"In my role on deployment, I provided admin support directly to the commander, but also took on about 15 additional duties to include support for awards and decorations, officer and enlisted evaluations, anti-terrorism coordinator, the list goes on, all in support of the commander and the six units under us," Mandy said.

Mandy wanted to deploy at least once in her career. As it turns out, this deployment was not at the top of her list.

"When they asked me this time if I wanted to deploy, I initially told them no because I felt it wasn't good timing and I had too much going on with my family and work to leave," she said. "But they didn't have any other volunteers, so I did my duty."

While deployed, Mandy cherished the support from her USACE family back at home.

"When I found out I was deploying, I was able to give the Corps enough notice and they understood and were really supportive," Mandy said. "We stayed in contact throughout my entire deployment; they even sent care packages. I talked to my supervisors at least once a week while I was deployed. They were really supportive the whole time and I feel I would have had a harder time if I didn't have that; they were phenomenal."

One of her supervisors, Lee Flannery, Deputy Chief of Real Estate Division, describes Mandy as "extremely professional, full of energy and drive, striving to ensure everyone is taken care of," and someone who "simply gets things done."

"Filling her shoes during the deployment was challenging to say the least," Lee said. "Ms. Vinson is always fond of saying little things like 'Let's get this done,' or, 'Come on, we're burning daylight here,' and a multitude of other things that demonstrate how she is able to get so much accomplished each day. She likes to be busy, but her no nonsense ap-

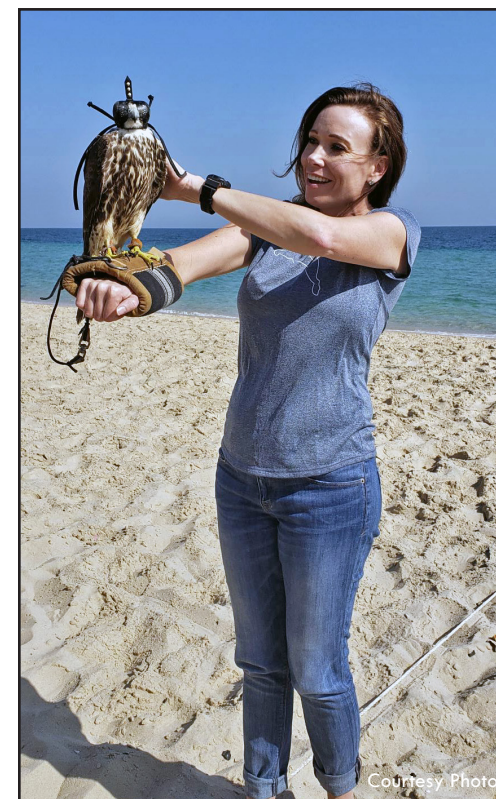
proach to working never overshadows the execution of those tasks while having fun doing it. I would venture to say she is one of the most dedicated employees you will come across in the Corps of Engineers."

Lee also says Mandy even kept up with some of her USACE responsibilities while she was deployed.

"Ms. Vinson was always very willing and helpful while deployed when we had issues or questions that needed to be addressed despite having a full plate of her own where she was serving," Lee said. "She performed her deployment duties with rave reviews by her leadership there and she received multiple awards and honors making certain she represented USACE well."

Apart from her duties with USACE, TXANG and Air Force Reserves, which seemingly add up to 25 hours a day, Mandy loves to shop and says she is "obsessed with clothes." She loves cats and reading books. She often jogs or walks around her neighborhood, and last but not least, she adores her family time.

"I can't get enough time with my family," she said. "One of our favorite things to do is explore new hole-in-the-wall restaurants and support local businesses. I also love taking my kids to museums, water parks, hiking trails, Fort Worth Stockyards, and all the wonderful local attractions."



Courtesy Photo

At the end of the day, Mandy says she wakes up every day looking forward to going to work.

"I tell anybody who asks me this; I absolutely love my job at the Corps," Mandy said. "When I was deployed, I liked what I was doing there, but I absolutely could not wait to get back to my job. It's the sense of camaraderie and how it feels like a family; everyone looks out for each other and takes care of each other."



Photo by Trevor Welsh

2021, 2022 Fort Worth District Distinguished Civilian Gallery Induction

Mr. Paul K. Rodman

Chief, Water Resources Branch, Engineering and Construction Division



Photo by Trevor Welsh

Paul K. Rodman began his career with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, as a Hydraulic Engineer in the Hydrologic Engineering Section from 1969 to 1981. His dedication was met with a promotion as chief of the Hydrologic Engineering Section from 1981 to 1995. Paul would go on to become chief of the Reservoir Control Section from 1995 to 2007, and Chief of Water Resources Branch from 2007 to 2011 until his retirement in October 2011.

Paul played a significant role in the development of the Upper Trinity River Regional Environmental Impact Study in the mid-1980s, which identified flood risks in the Dallas-Fort

Worth watershed. He was a leader in recognizing the impacts of development on flood risk in the Trinity River floodplain. He co-authored the Trinity River Record of Decision, which provides guidance for the Fort Worth District Regulatory Program assessment of Section 404 permits.

Paul also played a significant lead role in the development of the Trinity River Corridor Development Certificate program. He contributed countless hours, partnering with cities and counties along the upper Trinity River Corridor, in the development of the first edition of the CDC Manual. The CDC Manual affirms local government authority for local floodplain

management and establishes a set of Common Regional Criteria and procedures for development within the Trinity River Corridor.

Paul's 42 years of dedication in the field of water resources was evident by his willingness to actively mentor his staff and support their growth to help create a highly skillful and technical competent team. His professionalism, leadership, competence, integrity, technical knowledge, and personal commitment earned him widespread respect within the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Texas, and numerous external customers within the water resources field, while delivering quality water resources projects to the nation!

Mr. Charles L. Burger, Chief, Operations Division

Charles L. Burger began his distinguished career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in October 1976 as a Park Ranger with the Tulsa District. In May 1982, he was promoted to a Park Ranger position at Waco Lake, Fort Worth District. He worked his way through the Ranger Training Program in Fort Worth District until September 1992, when he became the Lake Manager at Grapevine Lake, Fort Worth District. He was then promoted to the GS-13, Park Manager position for the Sam Rayburn/Town Bluff Project Office. In November 2001, he assumed the Operations Project Manager, GS-13 duties at the Mid-Brazos Project Office. In June 2006, he was again promoted to the Assistant Chief, Operations Division, Fort Worth District, until his final promotion to Chief, Operations Division in January 2009.

At this time, he had overall responsibility and staff supervision for accomplishment of management, operation, maintenance, and major repair of all completed civil works projects within the district's boundaries. Program implementation included all activities associated with management and operation of 25 multi-purpose reservoir projects in accordance with their authorized purposes of flood control, hydroelectric power generation, water supply, recreation, natural resources and environmental management and protection. In addition, he led the district in supporting the Emergency Management function, ensuring the district's ability to support all natural and man-made disasters.

Mr. Burger established an unprecedented standard of excellence for his organization and garnered personal respect and trust from all with whom he came in contact. He is valued by many within the Corps of Engineers and by our external customers for his expertise and leadership in the civil works field.

He retired from this position in October 2013 with 41 years of Federal Service, all of that with the Corps, and 31 years with the Fort Worth District. He returned as a re-hired annuitant from March 2019 to November 2020. During this time, he served as the Operations



Photo by Andre Mayeaux

Project Manager for Capital Regional Office and a special advisor to the Chief of Operations.

Charles was a highly respected and esteemed member of the Fort Worth District and Southwestern Division. His dedication and service-oriented demeanor has led to the placement of the National Water Safety position in Fort Worth District. In addition, oversight of the National Recreation Reservation System program resided under his guidance and leadership.

He provided the influence and guidance necessary to help lead the organization to peak effectiveness, while delighting his customers. His dedication and skill in working with our local partners, local and state officials, and members of Congress had great beneficial effect on the projects under his supervision. Many customers, stakeholders, and other District personnel relied on Mr. Burger's expertise and guidance on Operations & Maintenance projects and issues. He provided guidance through many complex issues and his counsel was sought by many within and outside the District who knew he would partner with them in a manner equitable to all parties.

Mr. Burger promoted the value of his profession to many groups. Many outside groups have recognized his dedication, wisdom, and problem-solving abilities along with his integrity and personal courage. He served for many years as the lead instructor for the national Visitors Assistance NRM course, ensuring continuity throughout the entire Natural Resources Management community. His knowledge of the visitor assistance programs, Title 36 laws, and regulations served to train natural resources management staff, ensuring their own safety as well as the safety of the visiting public. Mr. Burger always made himself available to mentor junior staff on the history and importance of Title 36, facilitating a legacy of knowledgeable and capable natural resources professionals.

Mr. Burger exhibited a true concern for his employees, acting as a coach and mentor. He encouraged employees to take challenges and to grow in their assignments. He continually worked to ensure that employees have access to the training needed to accomplish their jobs and was a strong proponent of developmental assignments and activities, including participation on national teams.

Fort Worth District 2022 Annual Awards



Employee of The Year
H. Christopher Bryan

Christopher Bryan consistently exhibits outstanding professionalism and enthusiasm as an advocate and technical contact for the Asset Management Program. His actions to solicit input, evaluate and deliver solutions for asset classification and risk assessment data had an immediate and positive impact on the program and enduring effects on Enterprise management.



EEO Supervisor of The Year
Justin Berndt

Justin Berndt is the model of professionalism and leadership. He often takes time to speak to his employees and getting to know details about their personal lives as well as encourage each employee to grow in their position. He consistently builds relationships within the different divisions of Fort Worth District and actively seeks a better way to do business across the district.



Quality Assurance Rep of The Year
Vic Mastronardi

Vic Mastronardi embodies professionalism and selfless service as a Quality Assurance Representative and is by far the most deserving candidate for Quality Assurance Professional of the Year in the Fort Worth District. Victor is a Navy Veteran who continues to serve the nation to the highest standard with pride.



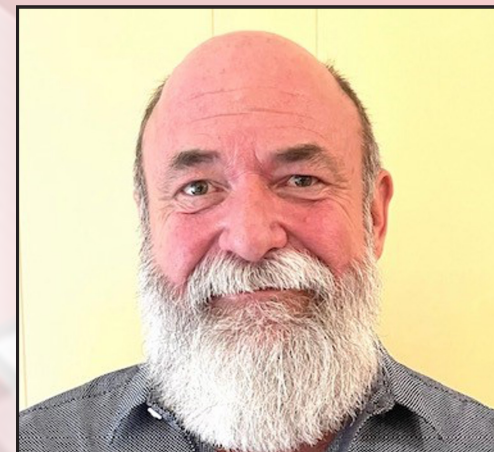
Construction Contract Admin of The Year
Kim Sullivan

Since her arrival at the Central Texas Area Office and the Corps of Engineers in 2004, Ms. Sullivan has become invaluable. She has continuously developed and excelled in any position she filled. Her consistent diligence in all tasks has enabled her office to become the go-to office for difficult administrative and office engineer solutions.



Architect of The Year
Stefan Weissenstein

Stefan Weissenstein has developed strong relationships with DMs, PMs, the field, and others with whom he works. He is quick to respond and provides thorough and well-researched answers to questions that arise during the design or construction stages of a project. Mr. Weissenstein is professional and makes positive contributions on all his projects.



Hard Hat of The Year
Tom Mondrik

Tom Mondrik emphasizes teamwork and safety in all aspects of construction. While reviewing his area of expertise, he assists in reviewing projects for safety related items associated with the 'Safety and Health Requirements Manual' and has assisted the Safety Office with reviews of electrical related to temporary power, temporary lighting, and start of electrical equipment.



Engineer Manager of The Year
Kim Phillips

Kim Phillips took on a leadership role and moved the Acquisitions Plan and Procurements Office through an improved process expeditiously, keeping the team focused on getting the contracts in place. Her efforts, in the short period of time she has been working Acquisitions, have put the office in a position where they should have A-E capacity in place prior to running out with most of the evaluation boards being completed and signed off.



Engineer of The Year
James Kaspar

James Kaspar serves as the District Fire Protection Engineer. He is the fire protection subject matter expert for the district and supports Engineering and Construction Branches. He's also responsible for the Quality Control of all fire protection, fire alarm, and life safety design features created in the Engineering Branch. He supports the District Construction and Field Offices with troubleshooting issues in the field, review of technical proposals by contractors, and review of requests for waivers and exemptions.

Bobber Visits Marshall Touch-a-Truck

Lake O’ the Pines Maintenance Management Analyst April Roberts donned the Bobber the Water Safety Dog outfit and had a blast with the kids at the Marshall Touch-A-Truck event May 7, 2022!

Touch-A-Truck events exist all over the country. Marshall Touch-A-Truck, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Marshall, Texas and Marshall Main Street, is a free, family-friendly event where children of all ages (or apparently Water Safety mascots) learn about big trucks & emergency vehicles by looking at, climbing inside,touching and talking with first responders and other euipment operators. A kid’s Area includes games, crafts, and activities with local nonprofit organizations at the Harrison County Courthouse.



Waco Lake Rangers Rescue Cormorant in Distress

Waco Lake Rangers Taylor Christian and Rafael Orozco responded to a Cormorant in distress at Lacy Point Access Area March 22, 2022. Upon arriving to the area, they noticed the bird was caught in fishing line around a stump. Ranger Christian freed the Cormorant from the stump and Ranger Orozco removed the remainder of the line from its neck. The bird would not have survived without immediate help. It is essential to understand how to properly dispose of fishing line! Cut fishing line into 6 to 12-inch segments and place in a container with a lid before throwing it in the garbage.



Fort Bend County Officials Visit Somerville Lake

Fort Worth District, Capital Region Operations Manager Marcus Schimank and Somerville Lake Manager Russell Meier gave a tour of Somerville Lake to 25 officials from Fort Bend County April 22, 2022. The tour stemmed from interest that was created from the Emergency Action Plan Tabletop Exercises held in early March by Emergency Management, Dam Safety and Water Management, Operations, Regional Office and Lake Office team members. The team discussed water control and regulation, watershed description, recent and current dam related contract work, flood release capabilities, dam safety instrumentation and inspections, flood history, dam safety training, and flood pool surveillance efforts. The tour highlights the importance of stakeholder relationships and understanding the importance of flood risk management at U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s projects.



High School Students, Rangers Clean Up Navarro Mills

High school students From Frost, Corsicana and Blooming Grove High Schools joined lake staff and other volunteers at Navarro Mills Lake to clean up areas around the lake with heavy trash build up. The group collected more than 20 tires, 15 bags of trash and many other various large items during the three-hour event.





2022 Life Jacket Video Contest

CONTEST DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2022



THE PRIZE:
\$5,500 for 55-second Video PSA
\$2,500 for 25-second Video PSA
*ONE WINNER PER CATEGORY WILL BE SELECTED



TO LEARN MORE:
www.LifeJacketVideoContest.com

The Life Jacket Video Contest is associated with the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns Campaign, which was designed to provoke adults, primarily men to wear life jackets. Submissions will be accepted from individuals and Teams of up to (4) team members.

- Applicants are required to submit an original 55-second and/or 25-second Video Public Service Announcement (PSA).
- Your task is simple: encourage adults to wear life jackets so we can save more lives on our nation's waterways!
- Be creative, be unique, be YOU!

Prizes

One Winner (either individual or team) will be selected per category.

- 55-Second Video Prize: \$5,500
- 25-Second Video Prize: \$2,500

The winning Video PSA's will become part of the Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns National Campaign - promoted on their website www.PleaseWearIt.com, Social Media Channels, and used as a resource for thousands across the nation.

We are looking for videos that provoke behavioral change in adults, primarily men. We want these videos to motivate, challenge, persuade, and encourage adults to wear their life jackets - when on, in, or near the water.



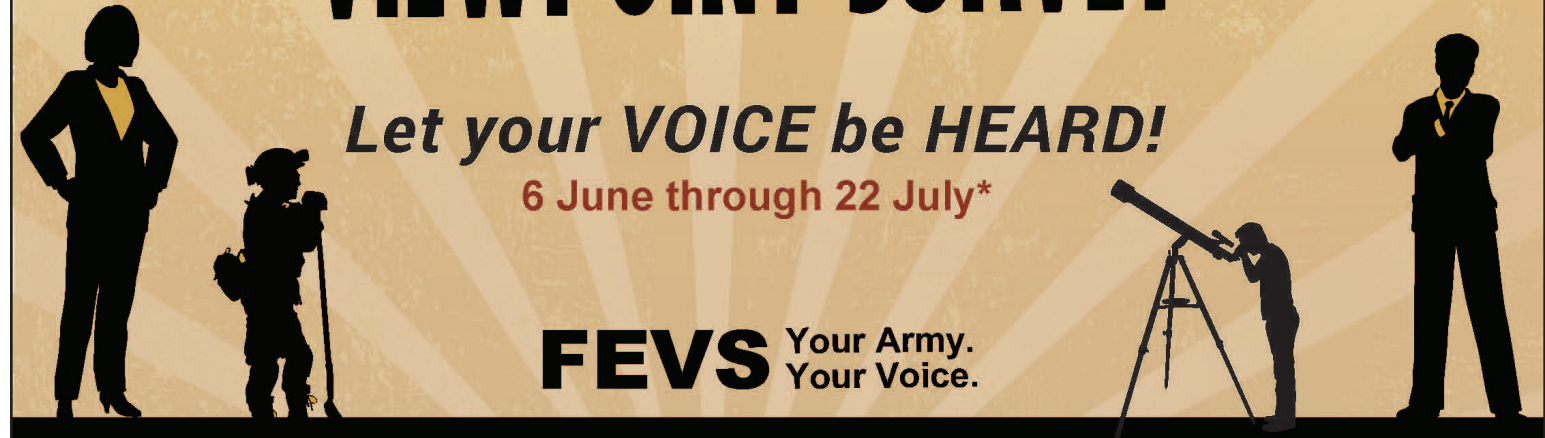
ARMY CIVILIANS

TAKE THE 2022 FEDERAL EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT SURVEY

Let your VOICE be HEARD!

6 June through 22 July*

FEVS Your Army.
Your Voice.



The Office of Personnel Management Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (OPM FEVS) is an organizational climate survey and assesses how employees jointly experience the policies, practices, and procedures characteristic of their agency and its leadership. Results from the OPM FEVS offers insights into whether, and to what extent, workplace conditions characterizing successful organizations are present in Federal agencies, information important to successful organizational change and development initiatives. The OPM FEVS serves as a tool for employees to share their perceptions regarding critical topics including their work experiences, their agency, and leadership. Data collection supports results reporting at lower organizational levels, allowing managers to identify where improvements within a specific work unit may be necessary.

Agency participation in the OPM FEVS provides Federal agency leadership with ac-

tionable insights regarding the success of improvement initiatives, as well as information for identifying aspects of the workplace where improvements should be made. At a governmentwide level, OPM FEVS data are consulted to shape human resource policies and evaluate human resource programs through, for example, assessments of the Human Capital Framework, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility, Veterans' programs and Work-Life programs among others.

Included in the OPM FEVS are the items that make up the Annual Employee Survey (AES). Currently, regulation 5 CFR Part 250, subpart C requires Executive agencies to conduct an annual survey of their employees. OPM fulfills this obligation for agencies when they participate in the OPM FEVS.

The Office of Personnel Management Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey is administered to employees of Departments and large

agencies and the small/independent agencies that accept an invitation to participate in the survey. See the OPM FEVS Technical Report for more information and specific agency participation.

The survey is conducted electronically, with eligible employees invited to participate by email notification. To encourage higher response rates, OPM sends follow-up or reminder emails to potential participants.

The data collected are weighted to ensure survey estimates accurately represent the survey population. Use of unweighted data could produce biased estimates of population statistics. The final dataset reflects the agency composition and demographic makeup of the Federal workforce within plus or minus 1 percentage point. Demographic results are not weighted. For more information on OPM FEVS methods, including data weighting and analysis, see the OPM FEVS Technical Report.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT WORTH DISTRICT

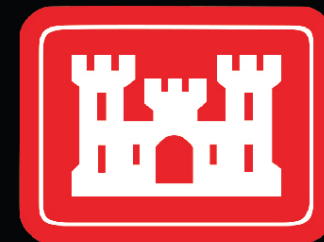
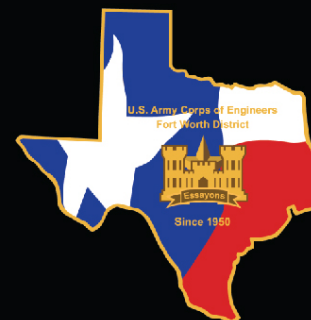
JOIN OUR TEAM!



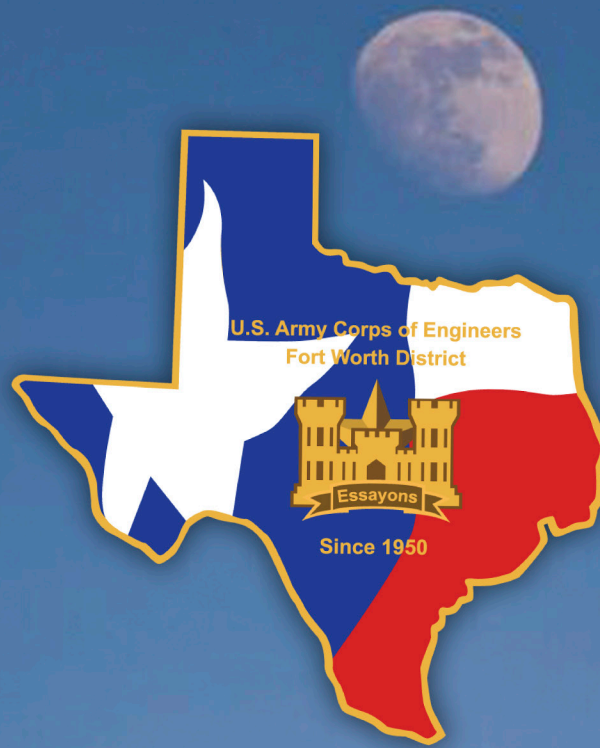
US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and
Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



SCAN ME



about.me/usacefortworth

