

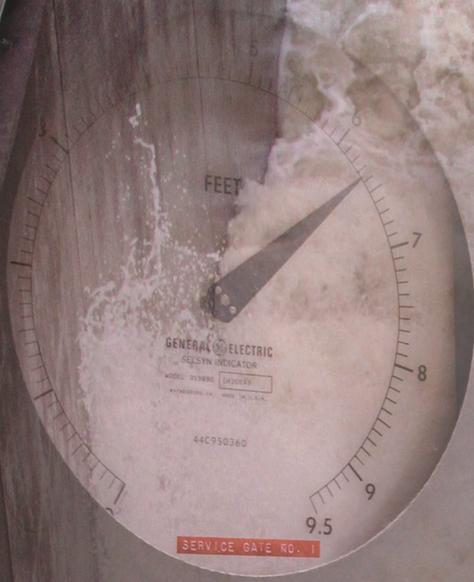
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER



www.nwk.usace.army.mil

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015



OPERATING AS DESIGNED



INSIDE THE HEARTLAND

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Sara Goodeyon,
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs
Photo provided



Commander's Notebook	3
Senior Leaders Review Employee Survey Results, Pledge Follow-up	4
Corps Employees Join Together For a Day of Fun	5
STEM Driven, Team Driven	6
Kansas City District Reservoirs Prove Value to Nation During Spring and Summer Flooding	8
Commitment to Small Businesses	10
Handshake Partnership Provides Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail at Stockton Lake	11
Bobber Promotes Water Safety at Springfield Cardinals Game	12
A Note From OPM	14
Corps Day 2015	15
Around the District	16

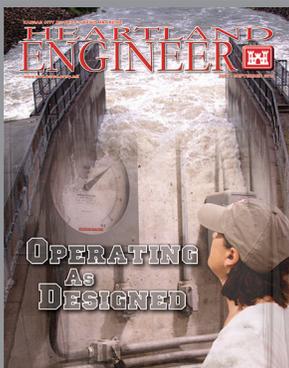
The Public Affairs Office is pleased to announce a new member of the district's public affairs team. Ms. Sara Goodeyon has joined the team as the Deputy Chief, Public Affairs. Sara comes to us with a wealth of public affairs experience gleaned from decades of challenging assignments. Her transition has been virtually seamless as she served as the Deputy Chief, Public Affairs at the Tulsa District prior to joining the Kansas City District.

"I'm really excited to be part of the Kansas City team as I've had the opportunity to work alongside and interface with many of the district's employees through water safety training activities and emergency operations in Joplin."

In addition to her duties as the deputy chief, Sara serves as the public affairs representative to the USACE National Water Team.

Her vast knowledge of all aspects of the communications spectrum of public information, command information, community relations and outreach make her an invaluable asset to the district's public affairs mission.

Welcome aboard Sara!



The **HEARTLAND ENGINEER** is an authorized publication for members of the Kansas City District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is published bimonthly using Adobe InDesign CS6 and Photoshop using photo-offset reproduction by the district public affairs office. All editorial content of the **HEARTLAND ENGINEER** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the district public affairs office.

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ON THE COVER:

Lora Vacca, operations manager for Smithville Lake conducts a gate change to raise the dam's gates to release 3,000 cubic feet of water per second for just the second time in the dam's history. Photo by Sara Goodeyon

As we head into the twilight of the fiscal year ending 2015, I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation for all the efforts put forth by the district to successfully close out yet another impressive year.

I'd also like to welcome MAJ Arlo Reese to the district as he assumed the duties of Deputy District Commander while LTC Reynolds completes his deployment in Kuwait.

Since the last edition of the Heartland Engineer, our district has been exceptionally busy. The district was involved in a prolonged flood from the beginning of June through mid-August. The emergency operations team has done an excellent job in managing, coordinating and communicating the district's actions during this prolonged event.

In June we conducted our annual senior leader offsite. This is a forum for the senior leadership to determine what we're doing right, how we as a district can improve and to identify the actions and tasks needed to improve our organization. We also reviewed and discussed the 2015 employee survey and will follow-up and communicate back to the workforce the results and way forward. Thanks to all who took the time to provide their valuable input in this year's survey.

In July, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon requested the district provide him an update on our operations during the multiple high water events. He visited the district and after providing him with a 90 minute briefing, he understood our operational philosophy and methodologies in flood risk reduction and ultimately on behalf of the more than six million Missourians thanked the Corps for our flood fight efforts during these events.

The district continues to improve its communication and relationship efforts with our many stakeholders. A great example of such an effort is the Missouri River Stakeholder Meeting and Inspection Tour the District hosted in September. The event was well attended and well received by many of our stakeholders. This event provided a great opportunity for relevant dialogue regarding the status of ongoing projects and initiatives and stakeholder concerns on the Missouri River. Thanks to the team who made this event possible and such a success.

Congratulations to Team Corps on a superb showing in this year's annual Corporate Challenge. We finished in third place out of 24 teams in Division C. This year again, we proved our competitive spirit and sportsmanship throughout the 200 companies and over 25,000 individuals that competed. Thanks to everyone who participated in, volunteered, or helped organize the events. Your interest and support of Team Corps is greatly appreciated and you helped reinforce our positive image and reputation within the greater Kansas City community. I'm certain we'll do just as well, if not better next year.

As we near the end of the FY 15, I remind you to be cognizant of SAFETY in all your work and non-work related endeavors. Nothing is more critical to our mission than the emphasis we place on the safety of our employees.

Again, thanks for your continued efforts to close out a very successful 2015. Your successes continue to provide a greater quality of life to those we serve as we build better future for the Heartland.



COL Andrew Sexton

Senior Leaders Review Employee Survey Results, Pledge Follow-up



Story and photos by Sara Goodeyon

Kansas City District leadership held a Senior Leader Off-Site June 30-July 1 to discuss overarching challenges facing the district in the coming years. Taking care of the workforce was among the many agenda items leaders tackled, including reviewing the results of the 2015 employee survey.

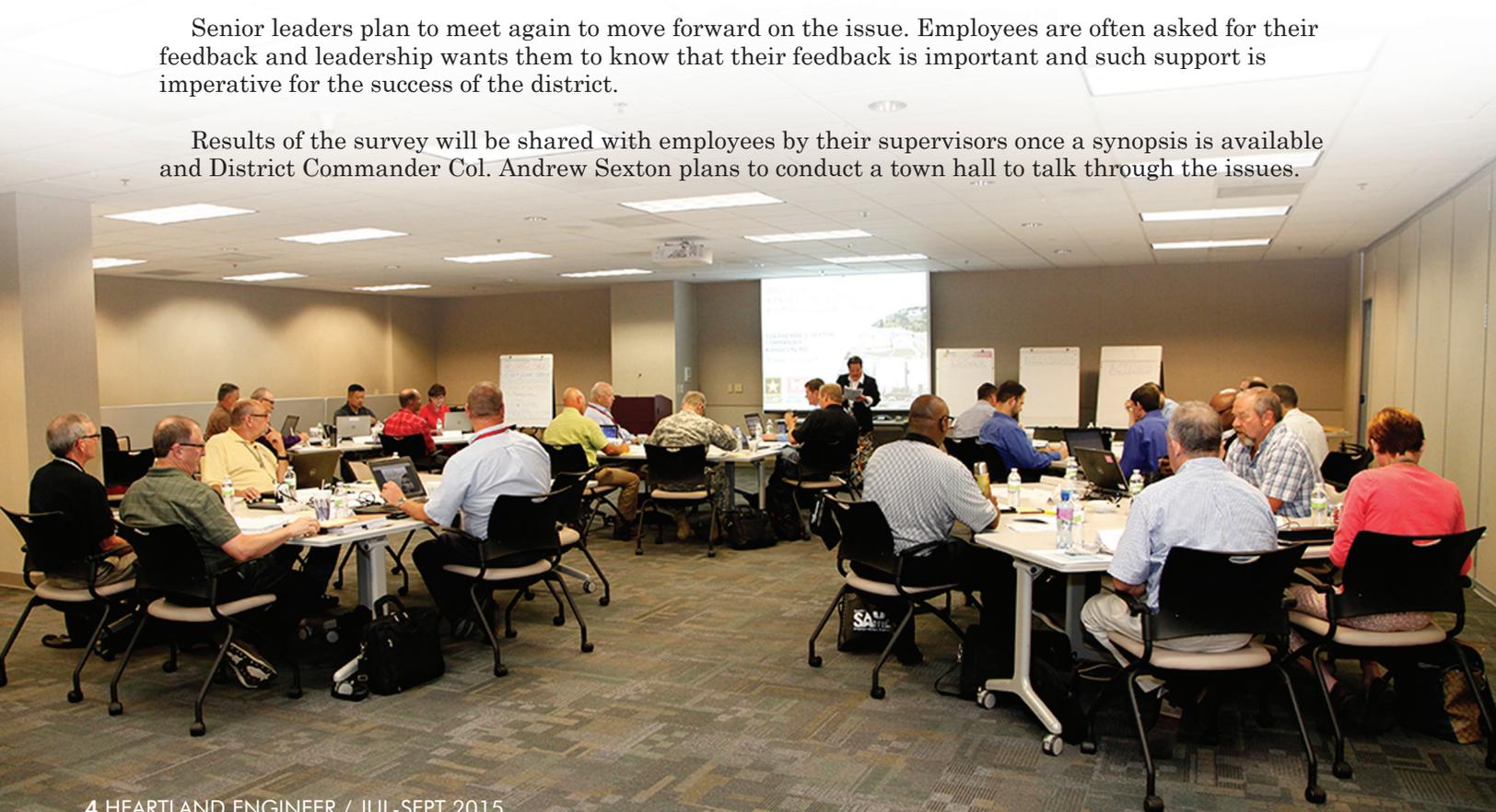
Leadership agreed that there will be communication back to the workforce about the survey results because it is important for district employees to know that their comments were heard.

“There will be some follow-on as a result of the senior leader off-site and review of survey answers,” said Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Storm Reynolds. “The workforce is our most valuable commodity and we appreciate their input and they can expect to see some proactive actions in the future.”

The survey provided employees the opportunity to give leadership feedback on factors affecting their workplace. Leadership spent most of the second day of the off-site addressing employee concerns shared in the survey pertaining to topics such as communication and working conditions.

Senior leaders plan to meet again to move forward on the issue. Employees are often asked for their feedback and leadership wants them to know that their feedback is important and such support is imperative for the success of the district.

Results of the survey will be shared with employees by their supervisors once a synopsis is available and District Commander Col. Andrew Sexton plans to conduct a town hall to talk through the issues.





Corps Employees Join Together For a Day of Fun

Story and photos by Amy Phillips

What started as a discussion in December came together June 9th with a bang when U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees from the Fort Riley resident office and Milford Lake project office met at Fort Riley for a tour and team building event.

Rolf Harms (RJ), Milford Lake project manager, originally contacted Tony Cady, Fort Riley resident engineer, to see if there was an opportunity to view some of the areas at Fort Riley as a team building exercise for the Milford Project.

"I thought Tony could steer me in the right direction with a point of contact," said Harms.

What happened is that the two combined their office staffs toward one event and decided on the "Victory Week" celebration as a good time to get together to view static displays and see the live fire event. They took advantage of the idea to build camaraderie between the two offices.

"I believe events like this are important to provide employees exposure to the different divisions, offices and responsibilities within our organization," said Harms.

This team building event was hosted by Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division. The group spent the day touring training sites, viewing static displays and enjoying a show of force with the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise.

Capt. Danny Williams, 1st Infantry Division Operations Officer, led the group to the Fort Riley Mission Training Center and Virtual Clearance Training Suite to view the latest technology the Army trains with.

The group also took part in the culminating event of the 1st Infantry Division's Victory Week celebration of viewing a live fire exercise. The exercise included several military vehicles firing live rounds on a range at Fort Riley.

"Our employees appreciated the opportunity to visit other offices and tour the training facilities on Fort Riley that the resident office has been involved in building," said Harms.

When asked if they intend to plan future team building events, Harms replied, "We do plan to reciprocate and invite a group of combat engineers to join us for a short tour and discussion of the Corps of Engineer's responsibilities and how we manage the federal reservoirs in Kansas."

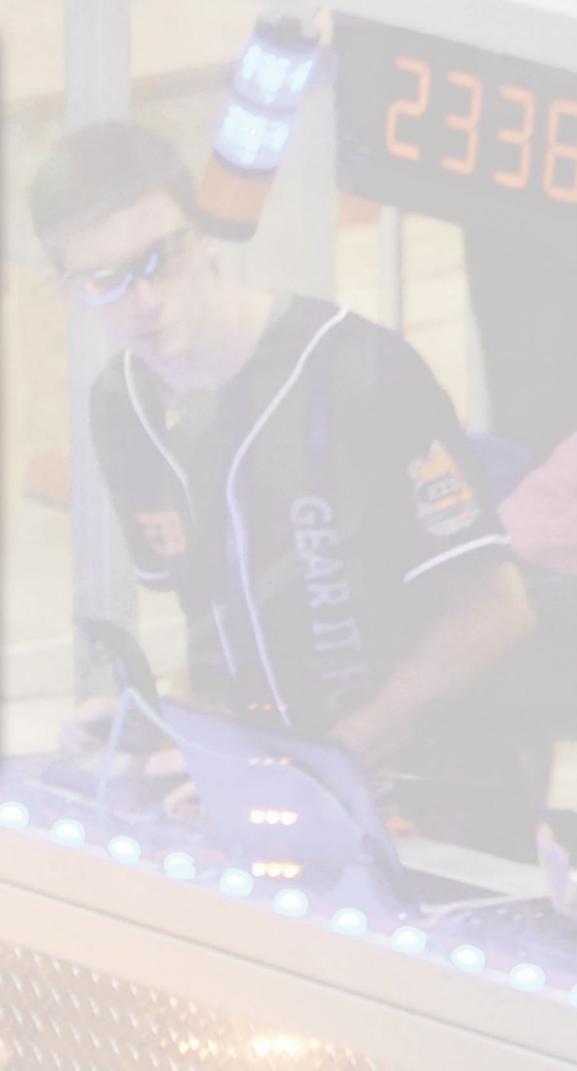
The Fort Riley resident office staff joined with the Milford Lake project office staff on June 9 for a team building event. They toured training sites at Fort Riley and viewed static displays and a live fire exercise that was part of Fort Riley's Victory Week.





STEM Driven, Team Driven

*By David S. Kolarik
John Holm contributed to this article*
Photos provided



John Holm, Chief of the Civil Branch, is a mentor to the Lee's Summit High School robotics team, "Team Driven". John's oldest son, Jared, a senior at LSHS has been a member of the robotics team since ninth grade.

Team Driven participates in numerous robotics competitions. For these events, students are given a new game challenge that is released each year during the first Saturday in January then has six weeks to build a robot. This year's recycling-themed game was called "Recycle Rush" and is played by two alliances of three robots each. Robots score points for their alliance by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter.

During the six week build season the team begins setting goals and priorities, developing concepts and strategies, building and testing prototypes, preparing detailed design drawings utilizing computer aided drafting, machining the components, assembling a practice robot, testing (and often breaking) the robot, refining the design, then building a second competition robot. Given the wide range of jobs, students have great flexibility to follow their interests ranging from designing, CAD, machining, welding, electrical and electronics, programming, communications, schedule management, public speaking and business partnership development.

One of the great things about the robotics program is the engagement of parents and business partners to support the team. This is a program where adults and students are often found working side-by-side on all aspects of building the robot, managing a team and a budget, coordinating travel, and insuring safety. In serving as a mentor, John states that he is inspired by the dedication, knowledge and drive the students and other mentors bring to program.

Team Driven's final robot design utilized a robust six-wheeled chassis with a unique chute design that enhanced the loading process, pneumatic cylinders that powered a container grasping system and a high-speed jack screw system to lift the containers. With this design, Team Driven had a very successful year at the following events:

Greater Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition March 11-13, winning the Engineering Inspiration award celebrating the team's innovative methods to spread excitement about STEM. Team Driven ranked first out of 54 teams and advanced to the finals, ultimately losing the third match that had the entire venue rocking and rolling.

Denver Regional March 25-28 hosted 51 teams from all around the U.S. and a team from Mexico. Team Driven was ranked second overall. The first ranked team chose them as part of their alliance and went on to win the event. They also received the Gracious Professionalism award along with the Industrial Safety award.

FIRST WORLD Championships April 23-26 in St. Louis, Mo. Team Driven had a great run in the qualifying matches ending as a fourth seed out of 76 teams. They won an Entrepreneurship Award recognizing their business and outreach plan to create and maintain a sustainable business model.

Missouri Robotics State Championship held May 9 in Sedalia. Team Driven and Lee's Summit West's Team Titanium were joined by Optimus PRIN from the Principia School in St. Louis on a three-team alliance that emerged from a 27-team pool to capture the State Championship.

2015 Indiana Robotics Invitational July 17-18 in Indianapolis described as an "All-Star" event. They had a fantastic run ending as the top seed in alliance selection. Their alliance was eliminated during the semi-final round. While disappointing, one of the members of the winning alliance was a fellow metro area team from Smithville, Mo.

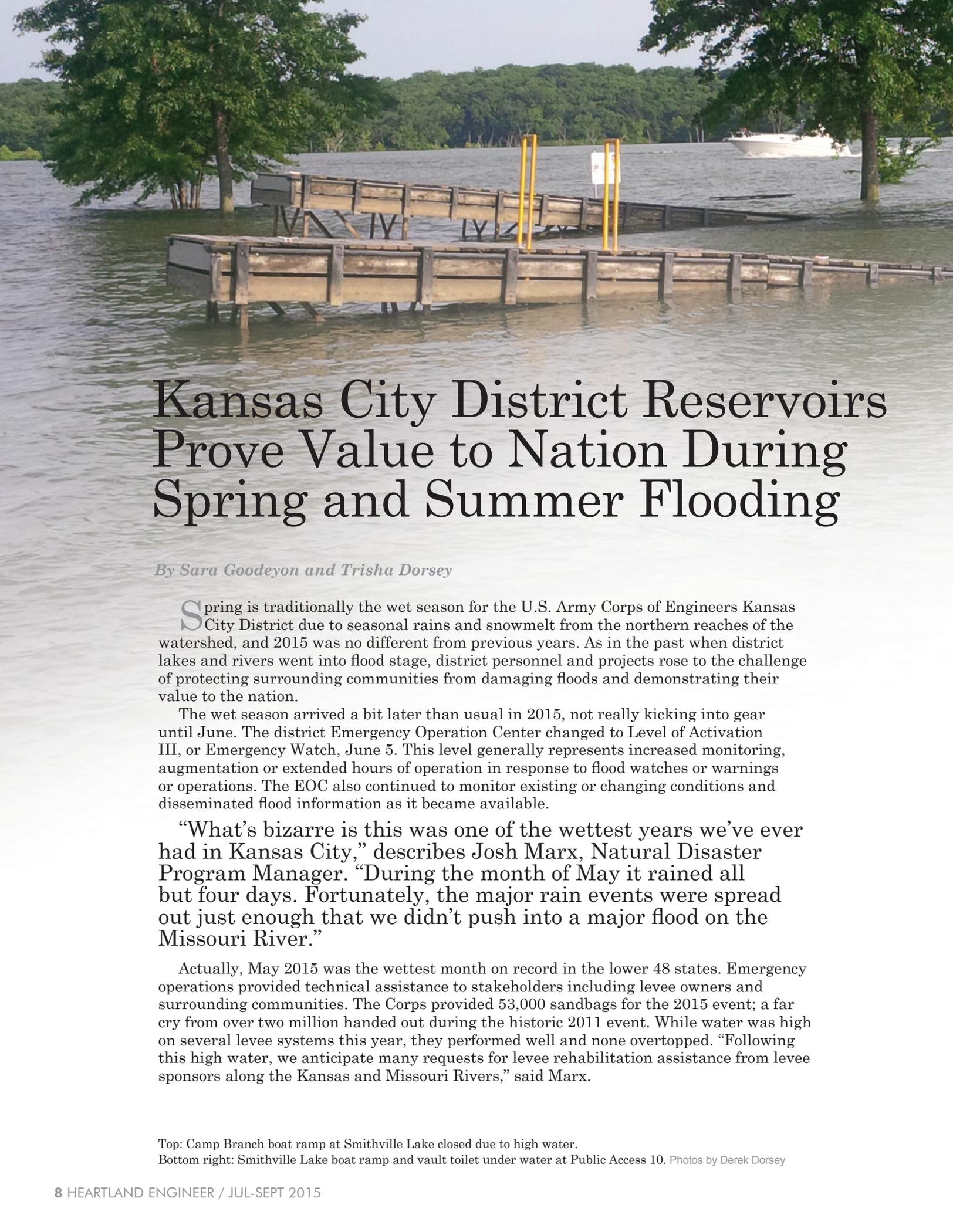
There are many opportunities to support STEM related initiatives in the Kansas City metro area. The KC STEM Alliance is a collaborative network of educators, business partners and affiliates that inspires interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers. FIRST Robotics offers programs for grade, middle and high school levels and teams can be found at many area schools. One exciting development is the creation of a shared robotics shop at the University of Missouri Kansas City that is providing space, equipment, and mentors for inner city schools that are not as fortunate to have the space and support that suburban schools have. All these programs need volunteers with a desire to help students reach their potential. You don't have to be an engineer to make a contribution.

John is grateful for this opportunity to further STEM related interests at the high school level. Alumni of the Team Driven program are pursuing careers in engineering, science, medicine, teaching, agricultural, machining and other fields. John's goals for the coming year include getting his younger son involved on the team and increasing awareness within the Kansas City District for volunteer opportunities.

For more information on Team Driven, visit www.TeamDriven.us.

For more information on FIRST Robotics, visit www.usfirst.org

For more information on KCSTEM, visit www.kcstem.org



Kansas City District Reservoirs Prove Value to Nation During Spring and Summer Flooding

By Sara Goodeyon and Trisha Dorsey

Spring is traditionally the wet season for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District due to seasonal rains and snowmelt from the northern reaches of the watershed, and 2015 was no different from previous years. As in the past when district lakes and rivers went into flood stage, district personnel and projects rose to the challenge of protecting surrounding communities from damaging floods and demonstrating their value to the nation.

The wet season arrived a bit later than usual in 2015, not really kicking into gear until June. The district Emergency Operation Center changed to Level of Activation III, or Emergency Watch, June 5. This level generally represents increased monitoring, augmentation or extended hours of operation in response to flood watches or warnings or operations. The EOC also continued to monitor existing or changing conditions and disseminated flood information as it became available.

“What’s bizarre is this was one of the wettest years we’ve ever had in Kansas City,” describes Josh Marx, Natural Disaster Program Manager. “During the month of May it rained all but four days. Fortunately, the major rain events were spread out just enough that we didn’t push into a major flood on the Missouri River.”

Actually, May 2015 was the wettest month on record in the lower 48 states. Emergency operations provided technical assistance to stakeholders including levee owners and surrounding communities. The Corps provided 53,000 sandbags for the 2015 event; a far cry from over two million handed out during the historic 2011 event. While water was high on several levee systems this year, they performed well and none overtopped. “Following this high water, we anticipate many requests for levee rehabilitation assistance from levee sponsors along the Kansas and Missouri Rivers,” said Marx.

Top: Camp Branch boat ramp at Smithville Lake closed due to high water.

Bottom right: Smithville Lake boat ramp and vault toilet under water at Public Access 10. Photos by Derek Dorsey



At one point the Kansas City District loaned a sandbagger and a few personnel to the Southwestern Division, Tulsa and Fort Worth Districts, to help with the extreme flooding in that region brought on by Tropical Storm Bill in June. Several staff deployed for a short duration to assist with the sandbagging efforts in various locations.

Many of the Kansas City District's lakes captured quite a bit of the rain and floodwaters. Five of the district's 18 lakes received much more attention than normal; Clinton, Hillsdale, Perry and Tuttle Creek Lakes in Kansas and Smithville Lake in Missouri.

On June 8th, Smithville Lake hit a record high elevation of 874.77 feet, 10 ½ feet above normal, and three inches higher than the flood of 1993 which held the existing record pool level. Swim beaches were washed out, boat ramps were underwater and out of service, parking lots and areas of the nearby golf course looked like swimming pools and all boats had difficulty clearing bridges. The staff stepped up their game with increased monitoring of the dam by inspecting piezometers, relief wells, stilling basin and the downstream river channel and control tower around the clock.

“Natural events would have flooded the whole area, but with the flood control system the Corps has, this is exactly the way it is supposed to work. The City of Smithville would have had close to five or six feet of standing water in the downtown area with all the rainfall we've had. With the dam here and

operating as designed, everything (downtown) is high and dry,” Lora Vacca, Smithville Lake Operations Manager explains.

Continued high water and high releases did begin to have an impact on recreation and a few projects. Over the July 4th holiday, high water caused the closure of several recreation areas and impacted boating. At Tuttle Creek Dam, a sinkhole developed below the dam by the stilling basin wall resulting in the temporary closure of the area. Lake personnel temporarily repaired the opening just one week after it appeared while conducting low releases on that side of the dam. A full inspection of the sinkhole and drain system below it will be conducted this fall to determine the appropriate permanent fix.

As the summer progressed the district continued outreach efforts, including a briefing to Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and his staff to address their concerns primarily due

to the heavy rainfall in the Osage Basin and the state as a whole. “They appreciated we could accommodate their needs and provide adequate communication during such an event with a short request period,” informs Jud Kneuvean, Chief of Emergency Management. “The Kansas City District has a long tradition to be responsive to the state of Missouri and communicate our efforts in a timely manner. Governor Nixon was pleased overall and we received positive feedback from his staff.”

As water receded and rains backed off, Col. Andrew Sexton, District Commander, declared an end to the flooding on August 13. “This was a 69-day duration, the second longest declared flood in the district's history,” explains Kneuvean. “Luckily there wasn't much localized flooding as the rains remained scattered through the duration allowing for our reservoirs to catch it. We monitored a lot of river stages but overall there wasn't a need to take much action compared to a localized flood and we were able to reduce the risk of flooding by holding water in our reservoirs.”



Commitment to Small Businesses

U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

By Trisha Dorsey

The Kansas City District's Office of Small Business Programs is an essential office which optimizes opportunities to participate in federal acquisitions, thereby ensuring a broad base of capable service providers and suppliers to support Corps missions and strengthen our nation through economic development.

The federal government spends billions of dollars annually for services, construction and other related acquisitions. Small businesses have a great opportunity to access these dollars directly with government agencies through the competitive edge in federal contracting.

"We have a strong commitment to small disadvantaged, women owned, HUBZone, Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions and service disabled, veteran-owned and small businesses. Combined, these members are often identified as the Small Business Community," said Arthur Saulsberry, Chief of Small Business. "We use contracting set-asides as authorized by statute to provide members a competitive edge in the federal market place. The district supports the government's policy of ensuring a fair proportion of contracts with qualified members.

Small Business Community members are a major provider and source of capabilities, supplies and services to assist us in accomplishing our various missions and responsibilities. Our business approach is consistent with the Corps' project management business process, strategic plan and the Small Business Job Act."

The district's policy is to provide maximum practicable opportunities to members and Tribal-owned economic enterprises. Historically, the Kansas City District has awarded approximately 51 percent of its prime acquisition dollars to the Small Business Community. The district's business processes and communities of practice portals enable us to virtually interface globally with stakeholders, customers, consumers, constituents, delivery teams, partners, industry and the federal market place.

Those interested in doing business with the district must be registered online through the System for Award Management which combines federal procurement systems and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance into one tool for small firms and a link to opportunities and important information.



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, 53rd U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general and U.S. Army chief of engineers greets vendors and guests at the annual Small Business Conference Dec. 9, 2014 in Kansas City, Mo. The conference is just one of many outreach efforts by the Corps to meet its small business goals. Photo by Jennie Wilson



Handshake Partnership

Provides Kids Fishing Pond and Nature Trail at Stockton Lake

By Trisha Dorsey

Thanks to a Handshake Partnership Agreement between Stockton Lake and multiple local organizations and groups, the lake is now home to a nearly five-acre kid fishing pond and one-mile nature trail.

Nestled below the Stockton Lake Dam, in the 214-acre Old Mill recreation area, the kids fishing pond and nature trail officially opened to the public on July 21, 2015. Since opening, the pond and trail have been popular with youth fishermen, families, bikers, hikers, walkers and nature lovers.

Brian Wright, Natural Resource Manager at Stockton Lake, led the effort on this project. "It's a team effort. Our office partnered with multiple groups and agencies including the Missouri Department of Conservation, Catch a Special Thrill, Stockton Community Foundation, Stockton R-1 School District, Stockton American Legion Post # 230, Agape' Boarding School, Citizens Memorial Healthcare and the Stockton Trails Initiative Coalition. These agencies and groups helped with the application for the Handshake Partnership Agreement, design and construction of the area and stocking the pond with channel catfish, hybrid bluegill and

largemouth bass," said Wright. "In addition to the partners and groups, staff from local lake projects Harry S. Truman and Pomme de Terre played an important role assisting in key components of the project. We appreciate the assistance from our partners and community, which helped make this grant possible and

Stockton Lake \$30,000 in federal funds as a source of seed money to complete the fishing pond and trail. The partnering groups and agencies matched the grant by donating an additional \$23,425 in volunteer efforts and \$9,275 in supplies and materials towards the project.

Volunteers like Marilyn Ellis, President of the Stockton Community Foundation and Stockton area resident, helped with the design of the trail. Ellis said, "The Corps has been outstanding to work with and did a great job in coordinating the project. It was wonderful to be part of such an exciting partnership that will benefit the entire community and lake."

Other partners like Adam Boman, Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Biologist, helped in getting the initiative off the ground. Boman said, "The area will play a vital role in the community and the lake area to ensure the outdoor recreational vitality of our community for generations to follow."



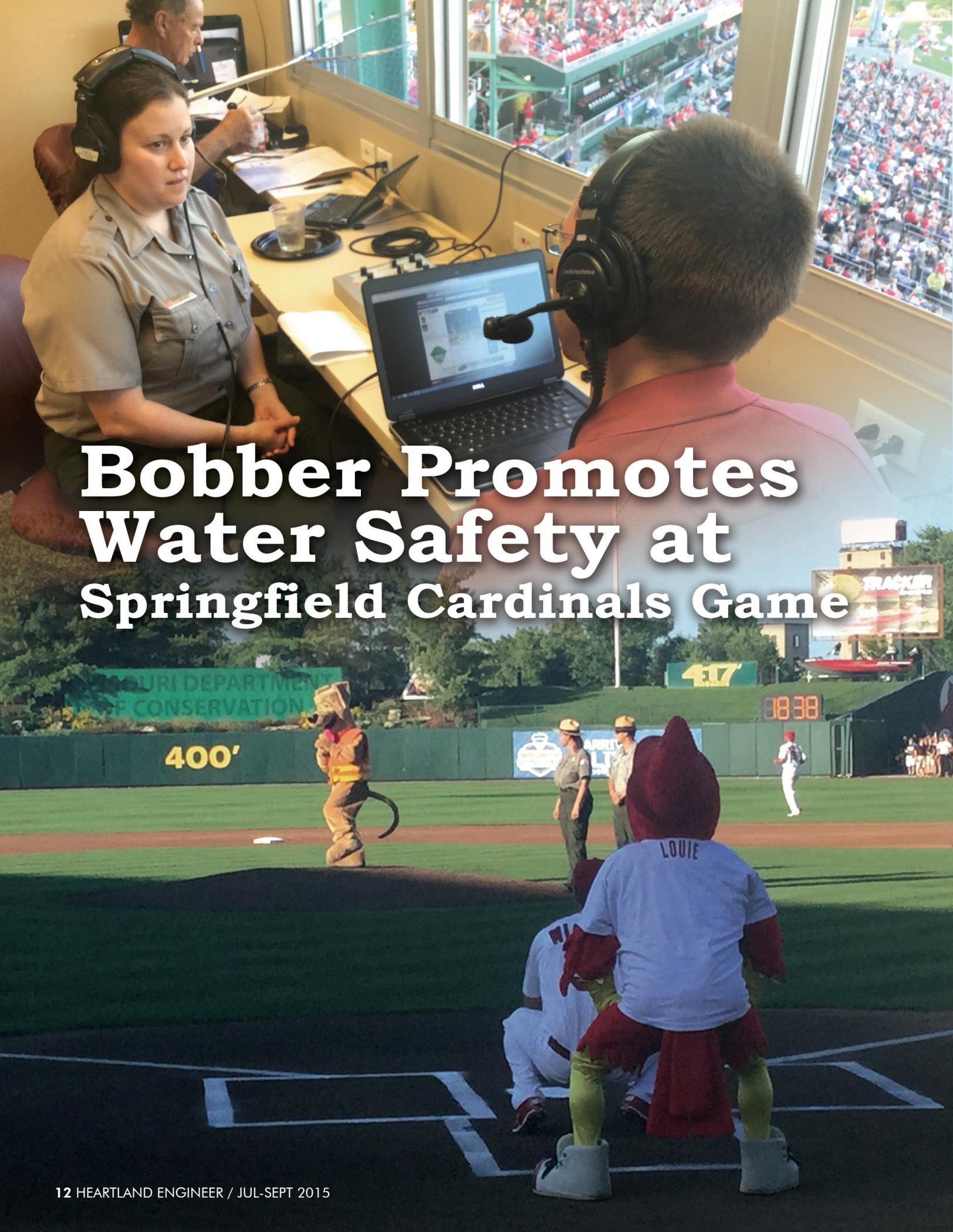
our project a success."

USACE Headquarters rates the submitted applications based on several key factors including: Recreational Benefit, Partnership Value, Communication and Educational Value, Sustainability, Innovativeness and Environmental Stewardship Value. The proposed submittal for this project exceeded all of the criteria. In May 2014, USACE Headquarters awarded

Top: Stockton Lake one-mile nature trail.

Photo by Anna Huselhuhn

Inset: Stockton Lake Kids Fishing Pond Ribbon Cutting – Photo provided



**Bobber Promotes
Water Safety at
Springfield Cardinals Game**

Story and photos by David S. Kolarik

This July, Bobber the Water Safety dog delivered the first pitch in front of thousands of cheering baseball fans attending the Springfield Cardinals minor league baseball game in Springfield, Mo., yet that was but one pitch of many Bobber would share with Cardinals fans.

Since 2011, Bobber has thrown out the first pitch with the Springfield Cardinals and pitching Corps water safety messages of the importance of personal floatation devices, boating safety and alcohol use through numerous mediums including outreach at the stadium, local radio interviews and public service announcements.

Natural Resource Management Specialist Emily Coffin has been active for several years with the event. "The Springfield Cardinals event is an excellent opportunity for the Corps of Engineers Park Rangers to team up with Safe Kids of Springfield to share important water safety messages. The Cardinals host a wide age range of baseball fans, many of which frequent area Corps of Engineers lake projects making their audience perfect to share water safety practices. Keeping safety in mind while on the field and or in the water is always important," said Coffin.

Since 2005, the Kansas City District has endured 98 water-related deaths throughout our 18 lake project offices with five of those occurring in 2015. Of those, 92 victims were male with only six being female. That's why the Corps targets their messages to 18 to 60 year-old-males.

The district works tirelessly in their efforts to prevent these occurrences and actively pursues relevant venues to spread its water safety messages.

The District operations team has a project delivery team in place to guide the water safety program, the PDT is comprised of Natural Resource Specialists. The Specialists research viable methods of relaying important water safety messages and develop support materials for the field to distribute at appropriate venues. They produce graphics for banners and other promotional items to include Frisbees, cups, baseballs and other items all branded with water safety messages.

The idea to work with the Springfield Cardinals minor league team is natural since in the past the district has partnered successfully with the Kansas City T-Bones minor league team.

Natural Resource Specialist, Shannon Henry participated in a live radio interview and said, "During the fifth inning I was able to share U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water safety messages across the radio broadcast that included, wearing and properly fitting a life jacket, swimming in designated areas, lake flooding/hazards, promoting sober boating and encouraging everyone to learn to swim."

The Springfield Cardinals Bobber the Water Safety

Dog night was a huge success not only for the Kansas City District, but for partners Safe Kids of Springfield and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Table Rock Project who also assisted at the event.

According to Scott Rice, Melvern/Pomona Operations Project Manager, Springfield, Mo., is a logical city to promote water safety messages both because of its size and vicinity to numerous lakes in Southwest Missouri.

The Kansas City District partners with other organizations during these events such as the Safe Kids Organization and Brian and Nathan Keese Water Safety Organization.

"The Safe Kids Organization based in Springfield, Mo., is a great partner in providing us opportunities and venues to share our water safety information to the public," said Rod Hendricks, Stockton Operations Project manager.

He added that The Brian and Nathan Keese Water Safety Organization has also helped in supporting our life jacket loaner boards located on several Corps lake projects and other water safety outreach efforts.

Rice said that the Springfield Cardinals have been outstanding partners over the last five years as they've been very flexible, extremely accommodating and very personable. The staff always goes the extra inning to ensure success.

"Here at Hammons Field, nothing is more important than the safety of our fans! That is why we have teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to promote water safety to all of our Cardinals fans for the past five years. We know Cardinals fans love the lakes and we offer instruction and tips to make sure they are safe. Some of the ways we pass along this safety information is through T.V., radio, Cardinals Yearbook, giveaway items at the ballpark and even having Bobber; the Water Safety Dog, throw out the first pitch. It is a special event that the Cardinals as well as our fans look forward to each and every year!" said Scott Bailes, a former Major League pitcher and current Manager of Market Development for the Springfield Cardinals.

The Table Rock, Stockton, Pomme De Terre and Truman lake projects are exceptionally supportive of this event as they continually provide the required staff and resources needed to ensure success.

Top left: Shannon Henry with the Pomme de Terre Project Office provides water safety messages to the Springfield Cardinal's Baseball Radio Network.

Bottom left: Bobber throws out the first pitch.

A Note From OPM
August 10, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

In the spirit of maintaining open communication, I want to update you on the steps we are taking to confront our cybersecurity challenges and to regain your trust in the IT systems that house your information.

Our team at OPM is working side-by-side with cybersecurity experts from across the Federal Government and from private industry, both to bolster the security of our systems and to ensure that the people affected by the recent incidents receive high quality service and information.

In the four weeks I've been at OPM, the agency has made important progress. The e-QIP system we use to process background information forms is back online and operating with enhanced security features. And, working with our interagency partners, we are developing the process for notifying the people affected by the background investigations intrusion and providing them with credit monitoring and identify theft services. We will announce details of that process in the near future. In the weeks following the award of the contract, the government will send notifications to the bulk of the individuals affected. While we are committed to moving as quickly as practicable to get notifications out the door, we also must make these notifications in a secure manner. We recognize that building those protections into the notification process will take some extra time, but we believe this trade-off is worth it.

We are continuously updating our online cybersecurity resource center at opm.gov/cybersecurity. We've added a "Recent Updates" section and a "Stay Informed" feature, which includes options to sign up for email alerts, links to OPM social media, and an RSS feed. And, OPM's agency partners and outside organizations can now place a digital badge on their own websites that will link their users to the resource center.

The website also has valuable information about how to protect against identity theft and stay safe online. If you still have questions after browsing the website, please email us at cybersecurity@opm.gov. Our automated call center can be reached toll free at (866) 740-7153.

Feedback is important to us and vital to our success. I am committed to keeping the lines of communication open and will be writing regular blog posts and using other social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter, to provide as much current information as possible.

We know we have much more work left to do and we are determined to meet the important challenges ahead. Even as cybersecurity remains a top priority, I am working every day with our talented team at OPM to fulfill the agency's mission of supporting and providing exceptional and comprehensive service to our Federal family. From improving the hiring process, to developing first-class training and leadership programs, to helping agencies improve employee engagement across government, OPM will continue to be your partner.

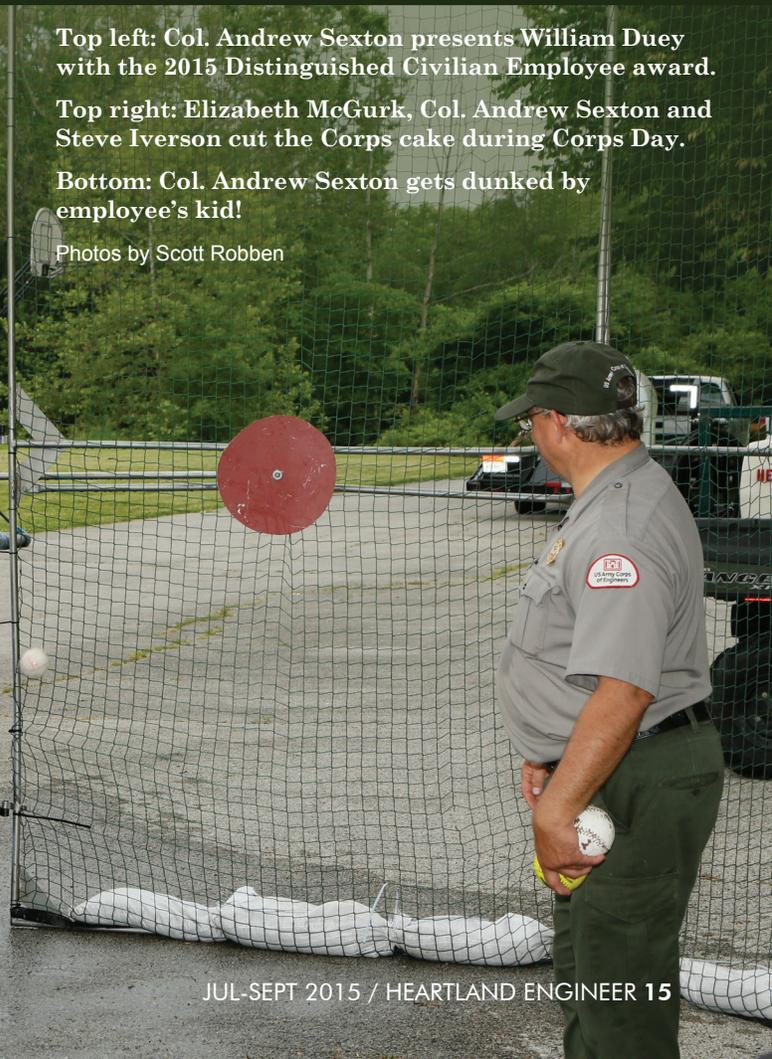
Sincerely,

Beth Cobert
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management





CORPS DAY 2015



Top left: Col. Andrew Sexton presents William Duey with the 2015 Distinguished Civilian Employee award.

Top right: Elizabeth McGurk, Col. Andrew Sexton and Steve Iverson cut the Corps cake during Corps Day.

Bottom: Col. Andrew Sexton gets dunked by employee's kid!

Photos by Scott Robben

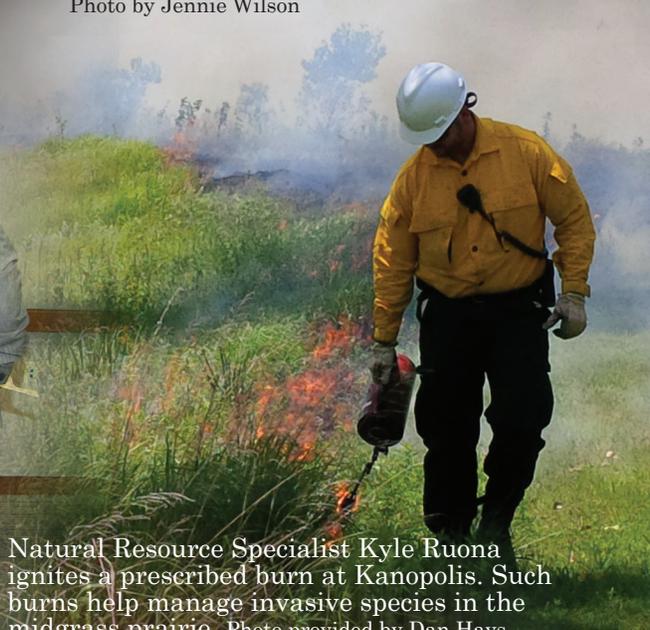


Around the District

Gov. Jay Nixon received a briefing regarding the 2015 flood flight efforts on July 7th.
Photo by Jennie Wilson



2015 LDP Graduation
Photo by Jennie Wilson



Natural Resource Specialist Kyle Ruona ignites a prescribed burn at Kanopolis. Such burns help manage invasive species in the midgrass prairie. Photo provided by Dan Hays



Brigadier General Scott A. Spellmon assumed command of the Northwestern Division on July 16, 2015.
Photo by Billie Johnson