KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER

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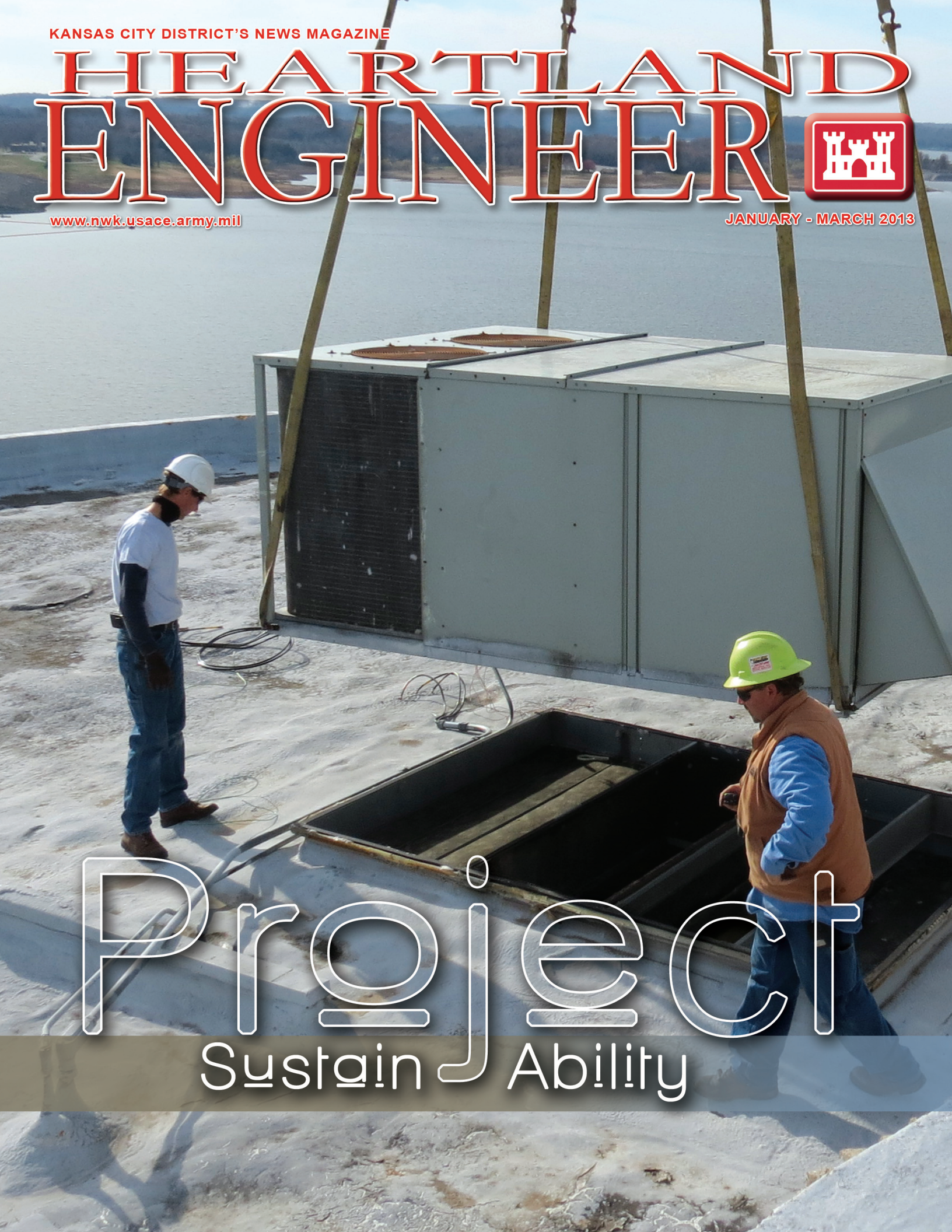
JANUARY - MARCH 2013



Project Sustain Ability

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Where I fit in the **OPLAN 2013**

My Part of the Plan:

Action 2e.: Develop a strategy for new business development.

Action 2 of the OPLAN is to increase efficiency and effectiveness by evaluating processes throughout the district and strategically identify ways to improve how we do business while continuing to add value to our customers. Kelly Miller, chief, Military Construction Section, has been working on Action 2e. of the fiscal 13 OPLAN. The OPLAN requirement is important to Miller as he wants to address the pre-construction requirements for Army operations and maintenance. Going into the future, we are going to have less funds and resources for the large military construction projects so our reliance will be on the smaller scale construction projects.

"Developing a strategy will help with our challenge of offering these services at what our customer perceive as a reasonable rate," Miller said.

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ON THE COVER: Workers remove the old heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit from the Harry S. Truman Lake visitor center on Nov. 13. Photo by James Kindle

Maintaining focus in an uncertain environment

COL Anthony Hofmann

Harold Camping, a 90-year-old broadcaster who lives in Oakland, Calif., predicted the world would end in 2012. The fact that you are reading this edition of the Commander's Corner indicates he was wrong…again. Camping has been wrong multiple times with his predictions on the world's demise. Despite these incorrect forecasts, his predictions draw mass media attention and, in many cases, get people unnecessarily concerned.

Sequestration. Fiscal cliff. Furloughs. Massive cuts. Overall demise for the federal government. These have been the recent headlines since the end of 2012. Having the opportunity to see and talk to many of you in our district, this sort of negativity has folks understandably on edge. With the speed and reach of today's media, this negativity and "worst-case" scenario only adds to everyone's concern.

Although the current fiscal situation is viably uncertain, I don't buy into the doomsday message often sent by our national media. In fact, since I joined the Army/federal government in 1984, I can recall only once where this type of scenario played out (in the early 1990s). By the time you read this edition of the Heartland Engineer, we'll see if my prognostication on "anti-doomsday" holds true or not. Likewise, I know a simple article in this edition may not change anyone's mind or concern. That being said, hopefully it will at least cause a bit of reflection on the current environment. My basic message is this: hang in there, keep things in perspective, take a balanced approach to what you hear in the media, and most importantly, remain focused on our mission. As your district commander, I promise to provide the district with the most up-to-date information I receive without inundating you with unnecessary information as things change—which they undoubtedly will. I would also offer the following thoughts to maintain focus in this uncertain environment:

1. Focus on controlling what we have direct control over—specifically with respect to project delivery. At the end of each fiscal year, this is what our district will ultimately be "graded" on—did we deliver on what we promised or not? Project delivery is why U.S. Army Corps of Engineer districts exist, what the public expects and what sets us apart from other local/state/federal agencies.
2. Maintain an appropriate "Edge" and "Excitement" for what we do. I see these two "E" factors daily in our district. Continue to perform to the highest level possible—and be the district that others choose to come to in order to complete projects.
3. Communicate transparently with the public we serve. Set realistic expectations…say what we're going to do…and then do it! By doing this we will maintain the high reputation we already have and customers will appreciate it…and come back to us for future work.
4. Continue to provide a unique "Value to the Nation" in a variety of areas. When budgets become tight, comparisons are made between local, state and federal entities. If duplication of services exists, a unique value is non-existent. Subsequently, if we are able to provide a unique value that others can't, we become indispensible and needed even more. A great example of this is the value USACE provided in support of post-disaster recovery efforts in Joplin, Mo., and currently for Hurricane Sandy. Continue to refine these unique skills which provide a distinct value that others cannot.

Bold predictions of worst-case scenarios like those of Harold Camping are often wrong. In retrospect, maybe the view of Audrey Kitching is a better approach. When asked about Camping's failed prediction, Kitching stated, "If this is what they meant by the world ending in 2012, then we are on to a great start."

Thanks for all that you do for our district and the nation. I'm proud to serve shoulder to shoulder with each of you.

Respectfully,

Anthony J. Hofmann

Corps hosts Angolan Army Delegation

By Amy Phillips

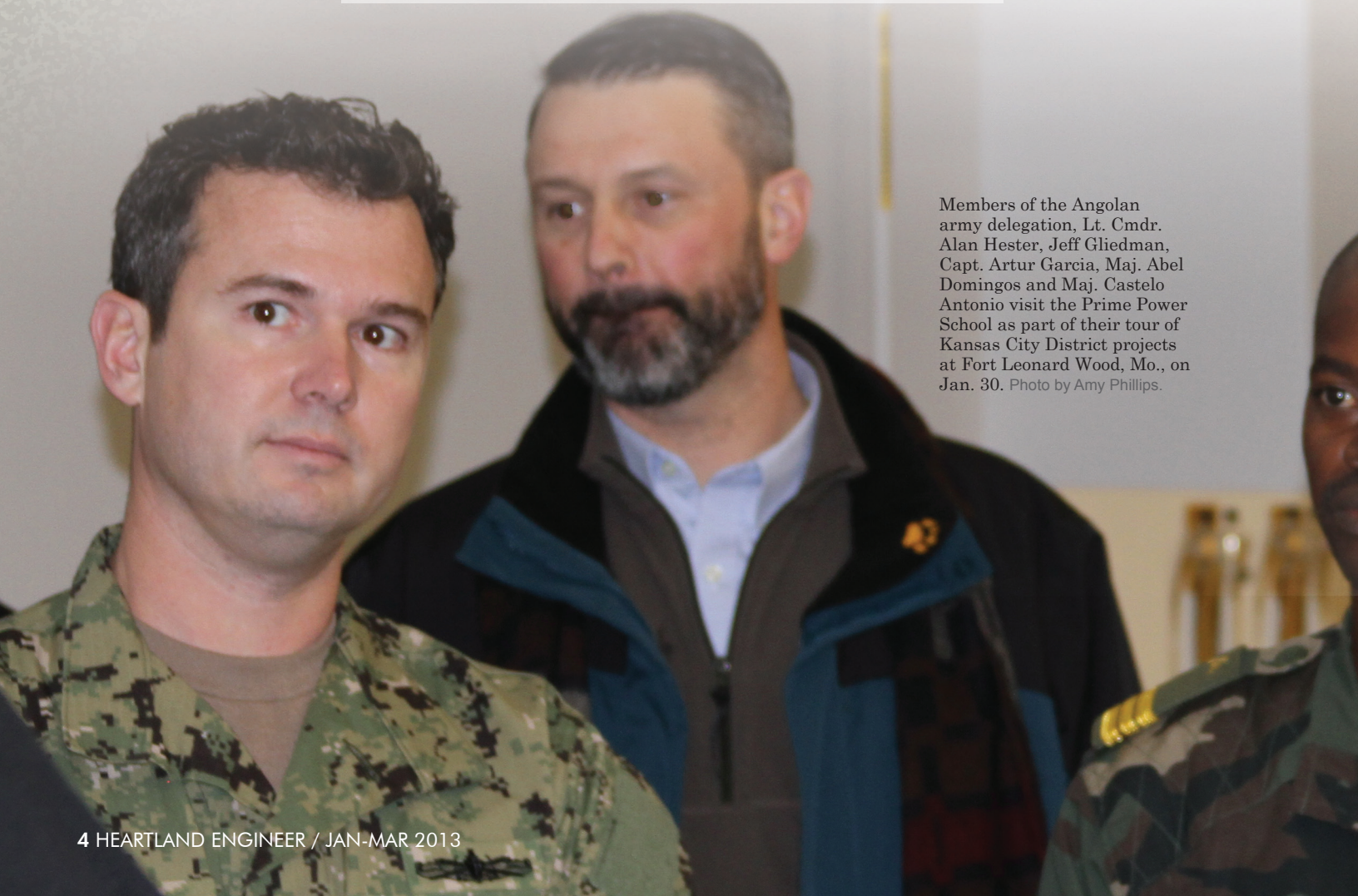
The Kansas City District had the unique opportunity on Jan. 30, 2013, to host a delegation of Angolan army soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood to demonstrate how U.S. Army Corps of Engineers incorporates engineer capability into our Army.

The delegation made up of three soldiers, Maj. Abel Domingos, Maj. Castelo Antonio and Capt. Artur Garcia, visited with our area engineers to explore how to incorporate our business model into helping build their army engineers.

The Angolan army is on a five-year plan to rebuild their army and during that process they want to build a cadre of military engineers to support the construction of military facilities and infrastructure in their country. In the past, they have relied on other countries for their engineering needs.

"The Chinese build structures in Angola, but would leave without any plan for the maintenance of the facilities," said Lt. Cmdr. Alan Hester, U.S. Embassy- Angola.

The Angolans were disappointed that the Chinese brought their own contractors, leaving no training opportunities for the local nationals.



Members of the Angolan army delegation, Lt. Cmdr. Alan Hester, Jeff Gliedman, Capt. Artur Garcia, Maj. Abel Domingos and Maj. Castelo Antonio visit the Prime Power School as part of their tour of Kansas City District projects at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on Jan. 30. Photo by Amy Phillips.

"The president of Angola approached the U.S. Ambassador and wanted to know how the Americans could help them with their need for engineers. Things proceeded from there and now they are visiting to learn how they can use our model and our training doctrine to help them build their corps of engineers," said Hester.

During their visit, Col. Anthony Hofmann, district commander, explained our various missions of civil works, environmental and military construction.

"We help to support the warfighter by building barracks and other facilities at military installations to support the world's most powerful Army," Hofmann said.

He also explained how we support other countries like Iraq and Afghanistan to help them build structures and in that we help both our economy and the world economy. We do this by construction management and the delegation was interested in how that concept works and how it might support their needs in their country especially with the use of local nationals in the construction process.

Jeff Gliedman, U.S. Army Africa, deputy chief of staff, engineer operations officer in Vicenza, Italy, said that USARAF is responsible for the military-to-military coordination and helped the Angolan army in their efforts to visit and learn from us.

"The Angolans seemed very interested in wanting to develop their capacity to what capabilities we have in our Corps of Engineers and in what is taught in our Army engineer schools," said Gliedman.

The group was also able to visit some of our construction projects during their visit. During the tour, they were able to see some of the methods that we use during construction at a barracks project; while dining in one of the dining facilities; and at the Prime Power School and Range 24.

Eric Arndt, Fort Leonard Wood area engineer, briefed them on the importance of having a plan prior to the beginning of construction.

"The base grew without a big plan in the beginning. About five years ago the installation, along with the Corps, revamped their master plan. They devised the plan so as the installation grows, it would grow in a way that would make sense," Arndt said.

It is important to always have a good plan before you start building.

Arndt also stressed the importance of sustainability and having a uniform plan. When you visit any of the installations or have a contractor working at any of the installations, there is a plan that is uniform.

The visit also had a positive impact on the resident engineers at Fort Leonard Wood.

"Activities such as this force us to study closer what we do and what has led to our success. They asked some good questions that made us think about some of the core competencies required for a successful organization and continued improvement," said Travis Lynch, resident engineer.

The Angolan army delegation began their visit at USACE Headquarters and concluded by visiting the Army Engineer School. They will also travel to Gulf Port, La., and visit with the U.S. Navy Seabees.

Leavenworth Resident Office project earns Award of Excellence

Information provided by Chuck Hyde, Chief of Operations for the Army Management Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The Kansas City District's Leavenworth Resident Office completed a project which earned a 2012 Chief of Engineers Design Merit Award for Restoration. The project, Building 465 Renovation, is home to the Army Management Staff College, one of the most important training programs offered by the U.S. Army.

It was constructed in 1929 as the United States Disciplinary Barracks hospital. This 36,000-square-foot structure was converted into a barracks in 1975 before falling vacant in 2002. In 2009, the building was targeted for transformation into classroom space in a building that complements the overall revitalization of Fort Leavenworth's historic prison district. This repurposed space brings the AMSC back under one roof in the first academic facility designed specifically to support extensive classroom use of personal computing and help instructors focus on students rather than information technology devices for the college's unique requirements.

Equipped with its own wireless network, the facility allows centralized imaging of all 300-plus students and faculty computing devices from a central location. The "virtual auditorium" connects all 14 classrooms in any combination, conference rooms, private offices, vestibule kiosks, and the Network Operations Center with full audio/visual capability. The facility is also equipped with video teleconferencing capability that allows four simultaneous high-definition connections with external sites making it possible for experts and leaders to join interactive classroom discussions from any worldwide location. Saving more than 24,000 pages of printed material annually, paperwork associated with equipment use and policy acknowledgement is now done digitally.

Technological enhancements were essential, but so was preserving the historic nature of the building. The historic renovation included a complete adaptive renovation of this building. Vacant for seven years prior to the start of this project, the building had incurred major damage. Restoration included terrazzo flooring, a central stairwell, handrails, plaster cove moldings, stone and brick veneer, windows, concrete cornice, and an entry porch framed by four Doric columns, as well as abatement and remediation of lead paint, mold, asbestos, and other hazardous materials. Frequent design meetings, reviews, pre-planning and onsite interaction made it possible to complete the project ahead of schedule to all stakeholders' satisfaction.

The final construction contract value was $16 million. In addition, the project included a $2.9 million IT package and a $750,000 furniture fixture and equipment package. The result is an historic renovation refitted to meet the future needs of AMSC.

Originally a hospital for the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, this 1929 building was renovated to become the Army Management Staff College.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos.

This repurposed space brings the AMSC back under one room in the first academic facility designed specifically to support extensive classroom use of personal computing.

CSI at Tuttle Creek

By Greg Wurst

Tuttle Creek Lake is a multipurpose facility, but is a porcine graveyard one of those purposes? In this case it is. Operations Project Manager Brian McNulty worked with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to assist them in locating a training site to bury three recently deceased hogs on a small patch of inaccessible, obscure U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land on Sept. 6. Then, after a bit of rest, on Nov. 27, 13 KBI field agents and laboratory personnel convened on the sites to exhume the animals and any other evidence that might be found on the site in true crime scene investigation style.

Dr. Michael Finnegan, retired from Kansas State University and now a consulting forensic anthropologist, gave the agents instructions on everything from laying out a grid over the graves to safely placing their shovels facing down. He explained that pigs' bodies are somewhat similar to humans especially in the skin, mass and organs. Surprising to a layman, there was very little decomposition and no odor to the buried pigs, but Finnegan said this was to be expected. He said that investigative organizations in South Dakota have also put dead pigs in a car and set it ablaze to recognize the effects car fires might have on human bodies.

Spencer Tomb, another Kansas State University professor who consults as a forensic botanist, told agents that if they found vegetative material such as leaves below a corpse that would indicate that the grave was opened sometime before the body was placed in it. The soil atop a grave would be looser and of a different composition, thereby supporting different plant life than the in situ soil.

KBI Senior Special Agent Steve Bundy also left some "clues" for the agents to find when he buried the oinkers. To emphasize the agents must dig slowly and carefully, motel keys, bottles, cigarette butts and shell casings were buried in various positions close to the "bodies." As the soil was excavated it was shaken through a sifter so that even the smallest clue would not be missed.

The 13 members of the KBI Crime Scene Response Team are all volunteers and must do their crime scene investigation work in addition to their usual duties. This was a quarterly training exercise for the team which has three field trucks acquired through drug bust confiscations that are stationed throughout Kansas at Wichita, Great Bend and Topeka. The team was called out 44 times last year.

The training session turned out to be very interesting, but the host requested that the next time KBI bury the pork in hot coals and serve it with barbecue sauce.

Agents from the KBI Crime Scene Response Team carefully excavate the Tuttle Creek "crime scene" with each bucket of soil being sifted and closely examined for clues on Nov. 27.

Dr. Michael Finnigan, a consulting forensic anthropologist, explains the importance of crime scene excavation techniques to the Crime Scene Response Team members at Tuttle Creek Lake on Nov. 27, 2012.

The Crime Scene Response Team uses a grid to help catalog the exact place a clue such as a cigarette butt, shell casing or bottle cap was found in relation to other items in the pit during the KBI training exercise at Tuttle Creek Lake. Photos by Greg Wurst

Corps completes Dalbey Bottoms mitigation project

Story and photos by Amy Phillips

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District held a ribbon cutting ceremony on the Missouri River Recovery Program Dalbey Bottoms project on Dec. 7 at the mitigation site in Atchison County, Kan.

Dalbey Bottoms is one of the first shallow water habitat projects constructed in the state of Kansas and represents the largest SWH project for the district in Kansas. In 1981, the Corps estimated that more than 9,100 acres of aquatic habitat was lost in the state of Kansas as a result of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project.

Col. Anthony J. Hofmann, commander for the Kansas City District Corps of Engineers stated, "This project will go a long way towards mitigating the loss of terrestrial and aquatic habitat as a result of the Corps' Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project."

The $7.5 million construction project started with a ground breaking ceremony on May 17, 2010, but was delayed by a flood that occurred in the summer of 2011.

Top: Todd Workman (left) and Steve Adams (blue jacket), both with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, look at one of the recently constructed chutes at Dalbey Bottoms near Atchison, Kan. The chute is one of three that replaces habitat diversity lost with the construction of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project.

"The construction crews had to wait for the water levels to completely recede and the ground to dry before they could move equipment on to the site," said Seth Laliberty, project engineer. "Excavation finally began in late December 2011."

The project consists of approximately 1,600 acres from river mile 415 to 420 in Atchison County, Kan. The site has approximately five miles of river frontage. The land was purchased by the Corps from willing sellers in 2007 and 2009.

The objective of the mitigation program is to acquire, develop and preserve native aquatic, wetland and upland habitat on mitigation sites in and adjacent to the Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa, to the mouth near St. Louis, a distance of 735 river miles.

The Dalbey Bottoms project consists of three flow-through chutes stretching nearly four miles along the banks of the Missouri River. Each chute was initially constructed 75 feet wide and is designed to widen to approximately 200 feet over time. The chutes are about five feet deep under normal flow conditions. The chutes are beneficial as they create separate islands and allow for multiple connections to the Missouri River. The project will restore SWH, flood plain connectivity, native vegetation, and wetlands.

Allen Reavis (blue shirt), the mayor of Atchison, Kan., and Kirk Thompson (tan shirt), a public land manager for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism tour Dalbey Bottoms on Dec. 7. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of three chutes along the Missouri River.

The ribbon cutting ceremony consisted of a guided tour of the project and the cutting of a ribbon to commemorate the occasion. Those participating in the event included representatives from the Corps, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Missouri River Basin Advisory Committee, Atchison County and the city of Atchison as well as many members of the public. The KDWPT is the onsite natural resource management agency partner. Through a cooperative agreement the Corps provides KDWPT with funding for habitat mitigation and related operation and maintenance activities on the site.

The area was primarily in agricultural row crop production at the time of purchase and the site mitigation plan is currently under development. The site contains a variety of features such as native grasses, riparian forests, food plots, emergent wetlands and scour holes. The area provides for a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities including bird watching, hiking, hunting and fishing.

The Corps is planning another mitigation project at the Benedictine Bottoms mitigation site located north of Atchison, Kan., about five miles upstream from Dalbey Bottoms. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2013.

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District speak with Robin Jennison from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (far left) on Dec. 7, 2012, at Dalbey Bottoms. Pictured right to left: Steve Fischer, senior project manager; Col. Anthony Hofmann, commander of the Kansas City District; and Zach White, project manager.

Energy Sustainability comes to the Kansas City District

By Dennis Wallace

In an effort to reduce energy consumption $1.2 million was invested in sustainability projects at Kansas City District lakes during fiscal 2012. Lake projects receiving sustainability funding included Stockton, Melvern, Rathbun, Long Branch, Perry, Pomona and Harry S. Truman.

Examples of sustainability projects include replacement of doors and windows, new solar lights, roof replacements, installation of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, new plumbing fixtures, and replacement of interior and exterior lighting systems with new higher efficiency systems. Despite the fact that the program was not funded until March 2012, all contracts were awarded and funds obligated by Sept. 20.

The ground work for these projects began in 2011 when a project development team consisting of electrical engineer Chris Ray, mechanical engineer Jerry Leinbach, architect Mike McCollum, and cost engineer David Roberts convened to perform energy audits and develop energy conservation measures for Rathbun, Smithville and Harry S. Truman lake offices. These energy audits and proposed energy conservation measures were the basis for much of the sustainability funding requests.

The Kansas City District was selected to receive more than 12 percent of the funds allocated nationwide to fund 23 separate sustainability projects. Execution of energy sustainability funding was a district team effort. Charlie Hall serves as sustainability coordinator for the operations division, and civil engineer, Brian Turk, served as project manager for the 23 projects.

David Best, William Holt, Don Clever, Tim Eash, Gary Hadley, Charlie Hall, J.D. Kindle, Terry Osborn, Chris Ray, Thomas Seddon, Margie Slavens, Brian Turk, Lora Vacca, Kenneth Wade, and Brian Wright were recognized and received the Kansas City District Heartland Award for their dedication and teamwork to support implementation of the energy sustainability projects. The team's efforts will help reduce the use of gas, electricity, water, propane and fuel at operating lake projects.

Background: A new skylight is installed at the Harry S Truman Lake visitor center as part of the sustainability project on Oct. 29.

Middle: As part of the sustainability project at the Harry S. Truman Lake, a new HVAC unit is lowered by crane onto the visitor center on Nov. 13. Photos by James Kindle

Many other employees also contributed to the success of the energy sustainability projects. Maintenance and ranger personnel helped define contract requirements, develop scopes of work, and serve as quality assurance and contracting officer representatives.

Obligation of sustainability funds was accomplished by the contracting division awarding multiple contracts. Additionally, a vendor new to the district, SupplyCore, was used to accomplish some of the work. SupplyCore is the prime contractor for Defense Logistics Agency's maintenance, repair and operations program. For example, at Truman Lake, SupplyCore was awarded a total of $453,838 for various projects including new HVAC systems and lighting projects. These upgrades not only added to the energy efficiency of various buildings, but the sustainability funding addressed backlog maintenance concerns as the project enters its third decade of operation.

Some of the sustainability projects at Truman Lake include: low E film coating of the project office windows, which reduce the radiant heat transfer of the sunlight; a new skylight at the Class 1A visitor center (The skylight defuses the light increasing illumination and aids in the efficiency of both heating and cooling of the building); Installation of new energy efficient HVAC units at the visitor center, maintenance building, and administration office; new lighting and skylights as well as upgrades to the exterior lighting at the maintenance building; new interior lights at the project office and the ranger office; new interior and exterior lighting and ceiling at the visitor center; replacement of doors and windows at the ranger and regulatory offices; and instant hot water heaters and low-flow toilets to be installed at the project office, ranger office and maintenance building to increase efficiency.

USACE volunteers build walkway, make moving around easier for Wounded Warriors at KAF

Story and photos by Jasmine Chopra-Delgadillo

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- American Wounded Warriors who can be rehabilitated in Afghanistan may receive care at the Warrior Recovery Center. At the facility, medical professionals provide short-term, comprehensive care, including mild traumatic brain injury/concussive care, combat stress management, musculoskeletal care and behavioral healthcare.

Although a modern, well-appointed facility, it was in need of some construction upgrades. Like the ground at most camps throughout Afghanistan, the ground between the center's residential and treatment buildings is covered with pebbles over mud and dirt. This surface is unsteady and difficult for Soldiers with lower body injuries to navigate. Enter the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a solution.

USACE volunteers quickly built a safe and sturdy wooden walkway Feb. 9, so patients can travel more easily to and from the various buildings at the center.

"No more Soldiers on crutches hobbling over rocks," said Sgt. Christopher Giddinge, a health care specialist assigned to the Warrior Recovery Center.

Giddinge, who previously served as a trauma medic in Iraq and possesses specialized training in MTBI/concussive care, strives to provide Wounded Warriors with the highest-quality care, support and facilities as possible, he said. He is coordinating more upgrades to the center for the benefit of Wounded Warriors including a putt-putt area and small gym.

During their non-duty hours, USACE personnel including Tony Carter, Nandy Perillo, Mike Rooney, John Caudill, Steve Reed, Bee Xiong, Jim Armstrong of the Kansas City District, Mark Alton, Lorenzo Lora, Bob McEchnie, Julio Arocho, Lt. Col. Stephen Bales, Perry Hubert and Doug Jamieson built the wooden walkway.

Although not all the USACE volunteers are engineers or construction representatives, each had the desire to make getting around the Warrior Recovery Center easier for wounded troops, explained Jamieson, a registered professional engineer from the state of Washington whose son is a U.S. Marine.

For Carter, a civil engineer and project management professional who deployed to Afghanistan from the USACE Wilmington District, constructing something for service members whose selfless service contributed to their injuries was the least he could do to show his gratitude, he said.

"The walkway needed to be built, so we just built it!" added Carter through a broad smile.

Constructing the walkway is just one in a series of actions USACE has taken to help make recovery for the injured troops a little bit easier. In June, USACE hosted a 5K race with about $8,000 in proceeds used to purchase shoes, shirts, reflective belts, alarm clocks, power converters, watches, DVD players and other items for patients at the center.

Wounded Warriors are also regularly invited to participate in movie and game nights at the USACE compound and are always invited to attend USACE-sponsored holiday events at KAF.

Top: Volunteers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including Jim Armstrong (foreground) and Lorenzo Lora, (background) built a safe and sturdy wooden walkway Feb. 9, so patients can travel more easily to and from the various buildings at the Warrior Recovery Center at Kandahar Airfield.

Right: Volunteers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a safe and sturdy wooden walkway Feb. 9, so patients can travel more easily to and from the various buildings at the Warrior Recovery Center at Kandahar Airfield. Although the center is a modern facility, it was in need of some construction upgrades.

Levee screenings underway

By Diana McCoy

In 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created its Levee Safety Program with the mission to assess the integrity and viability of levees and recommend courses of action to make sure that levee systems do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property and environment.

USACE subsequently launched a major effort to establish a levee safety organization, create the National Levee Database, develop a methodology for performing technical risk assessments of existing levee infrastructure, and review and revise current related policies and procedures associated with levees.

As part of the Levee Safety Program, the Kansas City District conducts inspections and screenings. Routine inspections are conducted every year on federal levees and every other year on non-federal levees, according to Geoffrey J. Henggeler, Levee Safety Program manager for the Kansas City District.

"Levee screenings are something we've started doing in the last few years," said Henggeler. "A levee screening looks at all the information we have and takes into consideration how the levee was designed and constructed. It includes an assessment of the levee's performance during past flood events."

A levee inspection identifies deficiencies or areas that may need monitoring or immediate repair. It also determines if the levee is being properly operated and maintained and its eligibility for federal rehabilitation funding in accordance with Public Law 84-99.

"The outcome of a screening is more of a measurement of a levee's expected performance during a flood event than an inspection might be," said Henggeler. "It may be that you go out and find many deficiencies on one levee, so that levee would get a poor inspection rating. But not all deficiencies are equal. One major deficiency may be worse than 100 minor deficiencies."

Levee Safety Action Classifications
Very High Urgency
High Urgency
Moderate Urgency
Low Urgency
Normal

The process for a levee screening is done in several steps. The district's project delivery team first conducts its levee screening work, which may take three to four weeks. The screening then goes through district quality control procedures, a process that may take another three to four weeks. The final Kansas City District step is a briefing with the levee safety officer, Engineering Division chief, David L. Mathews, and the non-federal sponsor. When this has been completed the LSO certifies the screening and it goes to a national cadre who conducts its own quality assurance review on the screening.

"The national cadre ensures that all the districts are doing the screenings in the same way," said Henggeler. The Corps wants to be able to compare apples to apples—or in this case, levees to levees. Whether the levee is in California or in Kansas, it should be screened based on the same criteria."

The national cadre passes on the levee screening to a levee Senior Oversight Group who reviews all the information and recommends a levee safety action classification. The classification is not final until USACE Headquarters approves it.

There are five different LSACs. The names of each class have not been finalized, but they currently range from the highest risk class, LSAC 1 – Very High Urgency, to LSAC 5 – Normal. LSACs reflect the risk presented by both expected levee performance and potential levee failure consequences. Life safety is held paramount when evaluating potential consequences.

Henggeler said Headquarters has not approved any levee screenings nationwide yet. It is a work in progress. They are developing some of the procedures for public release and how the screening findings and classifications are presented to the levee sponsor/owner, local communities, Congress, federal, state, and local emergency management agencies and other key stakeholders.

"We are starting our screenings with the federal levees that have been built by the Kansas City District over the years," said Henggeler. "We have about 60 federal levees and we have probably about a half of those at the national cadre review level or beyond."

He expects to be complete with the federal levee screenings by the end of the year. Headquarters has given a deadline to have all levee screenings done by the end of Fiscal Year 2015, and Henggeler says it's going to be a challenge to meet that deadline. He said they will start screenings on the non-federal levees later this year.

"We don't actually go out to the levee as part of the screening process since we already visit them during inspections every year," said Henggeler. "But we do involve the levee sponsor in the process so that they can provide information about their levee during the screening. We share the results with them before we push it out to the national cadre."

PM-S providing value to the workforce

By Lt. Col. Chad Neidig and Timothy J. Kurgan

Timothy J. Kurgan is the chief of the Programs and Project Management Services Branch.
Photo by Trisha Dorsey

The Programs and Project Services Branch, PM-S, was officially organized in February of 2012 to provide project controls and quality management services to the Kansas City District.

The Planning, Programs and Project Management Division previously contained four branches; Project Management-Planning, Project Management-Civil Works, Project Management-Military and Project Management-Environmental. Project Controls and Consolidated Departmental Overhead were previously administered under PM-C and the district quality manager was located in the Engineering Division. Project Controls and Quality Management requirements span multiple divisions and branches, and the previous organization of these assets made the synchronization of efforts difficult. PM-S was created to centralize Project Controls and Quality Management under one branch in order to standardize business processes, maximize organizational learning, and provide program and project managers the critical support required to manage their programs and deliver projects.

The new branch, PM-S, places functions under one branch and provides an organizational structure to place additional support activities such as customer support, data management, and value engineering. This new branch places more focus on project controls and quality management and provides program and project managers with standardized processes, planning tools, and trained specialists to support the execution of their programs and projects. PM-S brings quality information to decision makers in a timely, efficient, and consistent manner. PM-S staff provide the expertise to utilize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers automated information systems such as P2/Primavera Project Manager, templates, reports, and dashboards, to help teams deliver quality projects on time and on budget. The focus on establishing effective business processes and standardized planning products aids the district in fully implementing standards. It also enhances proper use of the corporate information resulting in consistent decision making throughout the organization.

Quality Management Systems help the district ensure that we follow approved business quality procedures to routinely deliver repeatable success in project delivery. QMS is responsible and accountable for the effective implementation and monitoring of the business processes for the district's ISO 9001:2008 Registration. Additionally, the quality manager provides assistance in conducting project audits to monitor the effectiveness and use of the district business processes and leads process improvement efforts for the district through the use of Lean Six Sigma methodologies.

Project Controls provides schedule expertise, standardized scheduling processes/templates, and helps ensure project managers, resource providers, program managers, and leadership from the district to the national headquarters have the same common operating pictures for all projects and programs. Project Controls provides the district with the ability to monitor corporate information for real-time decision making. The goal of Project Controls is to assist with adherence to project management standards and data quality in P2 while maintaining a single common operating picture across the district for project execution. As a result, P2 provides a platform for meaningful discussion between team members, resource providers, and stakeholders about project execution to include work load, budgets and schedules. Project Controls has worked diligently to improve the quality and accuracy of the data in P2 and ensure managers have the confidence that their decisions are based on accurate information. The Project Controls team has created management reports based on live P2 data. Their efforts have greatly been enhanced by their ability to expertly manipulate the data through the use of the Enterprise Data Warehouse. These reporting tools provide the district with the ability to view projects through completion and identify potential issues. As a result of this visibility and the usefulness of the information, members of the district that have never been exposed to P2 are seeking information to help manage their workload and de-conflict potential problem areas. Project managers have displayed significant excitement for the usefulness of the information.

PM-S continues to focus on providing value to the district and customers through documented, repeatable and efficient business processes. They continue to strive to find better ways to display information and help the district consistently deliver quality projects.

LEED-ing the way in sustainable design and construction

By Samuel Vance

To date, the Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has delivered nine Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified projects with silver or better ratings at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Among the projects, five have achieved LEED gold. These include the Prime Power School, Permanent Party Barracks III, AIT Barracks Phase 1, Mine Detection and K-9 Kennel facilities, and the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic.

To meet customer requirements for facilities, designers are often faced with the need for innovative solutions to provide usable and maintainable systems while reducing energy usage and protecting the environment.

Top right: The Permanent Party Barracks Phase III project at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Bottom right: The AIT Barracks Phase 1 was the third project at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to attain LEED gold certification.

Background: The Prime Power School built for the U.S. Army 249th Engineer Battalion, an active-duty portion of USACE, was the first facility at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to receive LEED gold certification. Photos are Fort Leonard Wood project office file photos

The Prime Power School, an approximately $30 million project built for the U.S. Army 249th Engineer Battalion, an active-duty portion of USACE, was the first LEED gold at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. It was designed by the Kansas City District. This project made use of a constant low-flow, in-floor heating, ventilation and air conditioning design. The system, unlike conventional HVAC systems, provides rooms with constant conditioned air. Instead of chilling or heating a room within a short period of time, the system keeps air temperatures more constant and saves energy.

To achieve LEED certification, many environmentally conscience practices must be incorporated into the design and construction of a facility. The factor that helped to propel the Permanent Party Barracks III to gold was transportation. This credit had never been earned at Ft. Leonard Wood before. The objective of this credit is to reduce pollution and land impacts from automobiles. The Fort Leonard Wood Directorate of Logistics transports some 260,000 passengers via scheduled public transportation each month. The challenge was to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's requirement that transportation must be to a non-military city. Fortunately, two hydrogen powered buses travel from Rolla, Mo., to Lebanon, Mo., fulfilling this requirement. This approach did not require any additional funding but rather made use of the existing public transportation.

The AIT Barracks Phase 1 was the third project to attain LEED gold certification on the installation. Innovative features, such as solar water heating, allowed the design-build contractor to apply for LEED gold certification. Silver certification was contractually required. The solar water heating system employed the use of large solar panels on the roof. A water glycol solution is pumped through these coil-like solar panels, heating the solution. The solution then travels through heat exchangers in the mechanical room where the solar energy is transferred to domestic water. The domestic water is then stored for later use. Considering the hundreds of showers taken on a given work day, this system will produce significant energy savings for the installation over the life cycle of the facility.

The learning curve for both USACE and its customers towards sustainable design is one that takes time. USACE designers and constructors must stay abreast of emerging technologies and innovative designs to implement. A chief concern of customers is maintenance. New technologies present a "moving target" in terms of maintainability and knowledge of systems. The push towards sustainable facilities inevitably is at odds with maintenance concerns. Efforts must be made to train customers on new systems and make sensible choices on which technologies are applicable to a particular project.

With new innovative ideas on the table, USACE and its contractors will continue to provide Fort Leonard Wood as well as other installations with maintainable, sustainable facilities. Not only do the facilities built serve to protect the environment, but the paradigm shift in the way facilities are designed and constructed provide true life-cycle savings to tax payers via energy savings-- win-win for all.

If it goes, is it really gone?

By Donald Thomas and Steven R. Burns

Many of the Kansas City District staff has heard about the cyber incident which affected 24 of their co-workers in July 2012. Most, however, are unaware that our incident was the "pilot" for a much larger attack involving 11 districts and more than 40 laptops and workstations across the Corps. The importance and validity of the annual Information Assurance training was exemplified in living color.

Access was gained by way of a highly sophisticated spear-phishing exploit. The user's machine had all of the appropriate patches and the antivirus was up-to-date. It appears that the employee opened a legitimate looking email from his/her chain of command and did as directed.

From this point, the exploit began working in a manner closely resembling one stage of the old Tron video game. There is a scene where the player encounters four spiders. If they are not destroyed in a timely fashion, each remaining spider becomes four. The process continues until the player is over run or all of the spiders are destroyed. Like the spider in the game, the one compromised system sought out and compromised other systems. Once the payload was distributed to the newly compromised systems, all evidence was deleted from the source machine in an effort to obscure the source and path. Fortunately, the final objective was never reached and it incurred little, if any, damage.

The story was not so happy for the folks whose machines became compromised. Once identified, their ability to communicate was blocked – preventing any data from being downloaded before the system was picked up by the information technology staff. External hard drives connected to compromised systems were confiscated as well. After running scans to capture evidence, 20 of the district hard drives were sent to "big Army" for further evaluation and never returned. All data on those systems was lost regardless whether it was corporate or personal. In some cases, this proved almost catastrophic because essential project data had been stored exclusively on the workstation or laptop.

Sadly, it took an incident such as this to drive home the importance of minimizing the amount of data stored on user's computers and ensuring that corporate data – information required to conduct day–to-day business – is appropriately stored on one of the district servers.

If it is corporate data and/or required to conduct business, please store it on the server.

K: drive on which mission files should be stored

L: drive specific to field offices for shared local data

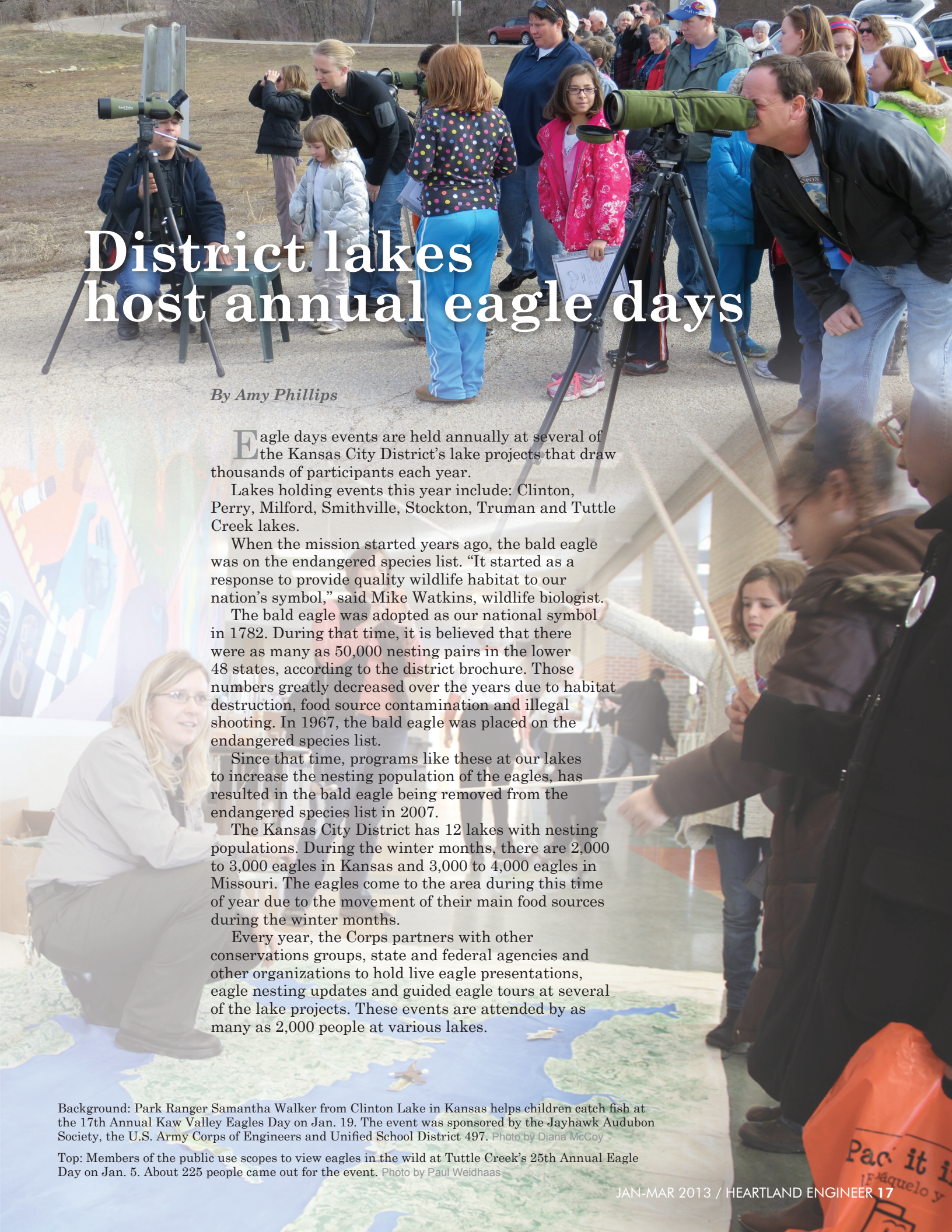
M: drive specific to field offices for Project Office GIS data

N: drive for non-project related "personal" data, e.g. .pst files, or an alternate "My Documents"

P: drive for all project related data.

After project data is downloaded to a laptop for travel, etc., it is imperative that the updated information be returned to the master project folder on the server upon return. This is not an automated process. It will require additional discipline and diligence if we are to achieve our desired goals.

Please remember that each user contributes to the overall security of the Corps network. Your persistent vigilance and dedication to the pursuit and proper implementation of Information Assurance principles are central to our continued security and success.



District lakes host annual eagle days

By Amy Phillips

Eagle days events are held annually at several of the Kansas City District's lake projects that draw thousands of participants each year.

Lakes holding events this year include: Clinton, Perry, Milford, Smithville, Stockton, Truman and Tuttle Creek lakes.

When the mission started years ago, the bald eagle was on the endangered species list. "It started as a response to provide quality wildlife habitat to our nation's symbol," said Mike Watkins, wildlife biologist.

The bald eagle was adopted as our national symbol in 1782. During that time, it is believed that there were as many as 50,000 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states, according to the district brochure. Those numbers greatly decreased over the years due to habitat destruction, food source contamination and illegal shooting. In 1967, the bald eagle was placed on the endangered species list.

Since that time, programs like these at our lakes to increase the nesting population of the eagles, has resulted in the bald eagle being removed from the endangered species list in 2007.

The Kansas City District has 12 lakes with nesting populations. During the winter months, there are 2,000 to 3,000 eagles in Kansas and 3,000 to 4,000 eagles in Missouri. The eagles come to the area during this time of year due to the movement of their main food sources during the winter months.

Every year, the Corps partners with other conservations groups, state and federal agencies and other organizations to hold live eagle presentations, eagle nesting updates and guided eagle tours at several of the lake projects. These events are attended by as many as 2,000 people at various lakes.

Background: Park Ranger Samantha Walker from Clinton Lake in Kansas helps children catch fish at the 17th Annual Kaw Valley Eagles Day on Jan. 19. The event was sponsored by the Jayhawk Audubon Society, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Unified School District 497. Photo by Diana McCoy

Top: Members of the public use scopes to view eagles in the wild at Tuttle Creek's 25th Annual Eagle Day on Jan. 5. About 225 people came out for the event. Photo by Paul Weidhaas

District family member
sails on adventure of a lifetime

By Diana McCoy

Samantha Allen, a junior at the University of Denver, participated in SEA Semester, a study abroad program through Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Mass., for six weeks during her fall semester.

The daughter of Shelly Allen, a program analyst for the Kansas City District, Samantha, left with 19 other students from Honolulu, Hawaii, on Nov. 17 to arrive at Papeete, Tahiti, on Dec. 23 with port stops along the way.

The journey was approximately 3,000 miles.

Allen developed a research project that was tested prior to the journey and completed aboard SEA's 134' sailing school vessel, the Robert C. Seamans. The vessel is one of the most sophisticated research equipped vessels under sail in the United States.

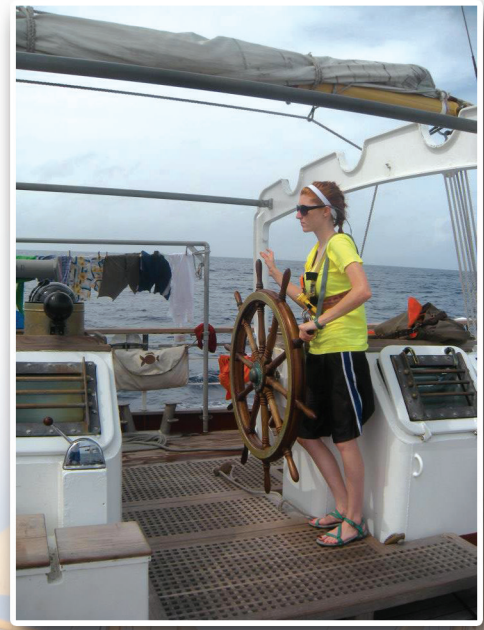
Before the trip, Allen completed the SEA Semester's six-week shore component, earning academic credit for curriculum in oceanography, nautical science and maritime studies.

During her time on the Robert C. Seamans, in addition to collecting data for a research project, Allen also helped to provide weather observations to a national database, learned to chart the course of the vessel using celestial navigation and served as the junior watch officer, taking full command of the vessel during a watch.

"When I was the junior watch officer, I was in charge of everyone on deck," said Allen. "I had to make sure everyone was doing what needed to be done, making sure boat checks and engine room checks were being done, and any sail handling was my responsibility to lead. I was the JWO during a squall—a fast-forming storm with down drafting wind. I had to work with the captain to navigate through the rain and wind and get the sails properly set."

Students took turns writing blog posts to keep their families updated on their journey—the only form of communication the students had with them. Allen wrote two of the posts.

On Nov. 22, Allen wrote, "Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. I am extremely excited because I have the pleasure of being the assistant steward tomorrow. The food has been great so far, and tomorrow will be no exception. Abby and I just finished planning our Thanksgiving lunch. We will be making two turkeys, a rice and squash dish for our vegetarians and vegans, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and green beans. Were [sic] all missing our families around this time in the trip, and we hope you all have a great Thanksgiving!"



On Dec. 11, she wrote about cleaning the Robert C. Seamans, listed their daily activities, and how breaking her habits at the journey's end would be difficult. Allen also wrote a short note to her family at the end of her post. "PS – to my fam-bam: I can't wait to see you all. Mom, I went out on the yards of the ship the other day (the t-shaped part of the mast). Also, I jumped off a 25-foot pier into the water at Christmas Island! So many stories to tell!"

"We were all very nervous while Samantha was out on the boat," said Shelly. "Not being able to talk to her every couple of days was hard. We anxiously awaited her blogs and were glad to find out with the first one that she had not suffered any sea-sickness. She got home late Christmas Eve, so we were able to enjoy time with her for about two weeks before she went back to school in Denver. The stories of what these kids endured during the six weeks were amazing."

Samantha is studying Environmental Science and hopes to become a medical examiner one day. She is looking for a summer internship in a medical examiner's office.

Top: Samantha Allen (right) poses for a picture with her mother, Shelly Allen, on Dec. 25. She arrived home on Dec. 24 after a 20-hour flight. She said it was hard to adjust to being awake for more than four to six hours at a time. Photo by Shirley Reynolds

Middle: Steering: Samantha Allen steers the Robert C. Seamans during her journey from Hawaii to Tahiti. While aboard, Allen and her partner did research on cyanobacteria, comparing distribution of two different species at two different depths along their cruise track. Photo provided

Bottom: Robert C. Seamans2: The vessel, Robert C. Seamans, carried Samantha Allen and other students from colleges and universities around the world from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Papeete, Tahiti. Photo provided

AWARDS

Award for Excellence in Contracting

Customer Service:
David Best

Leadership:
Michael Dixon

Administrative Contracting Officer
Travis Lynch

Rock the Castle-Intern
Jonathan Hankin (NWD and HQ Recipient)

AED Reach Back Team
PDT of the Year: (NWD and HQ Recipient)

John Benson
Michael Coates
Scott Dandy
Nick DeGuire
Jay Denker
Todd Felger
Irvin Gray
Carmen Hopkins
Stephanie Kretzer
Scott Mensing
Roberta Newman
Eric Omundson
Richard Pinkney
Trudy Shannon
Jacob Shaw
Bryan Smith
Robert Tobias
James Workman

2011 Flood Damage Levee Rehabilitation Team
Department of Army, Superior Civilian Service Award

Robin Wankum
Robert Schoen
Linzi Boley
Jana Strait
Patrick Kline
Troy Fuemmeler

Award for Outstanding Value Engineering Accomplishment - Blue River Channel Modification Project 53rd to 63rd Street:

Heather Collins-Allen
Walter Heimbaugh
John Holm
Ron Jansen
Paul Schlindwein
Whitney Wolf
Steve Hadel
Amanda Chirpich
David Manka
Andrew Merriman

Bronze deFluery

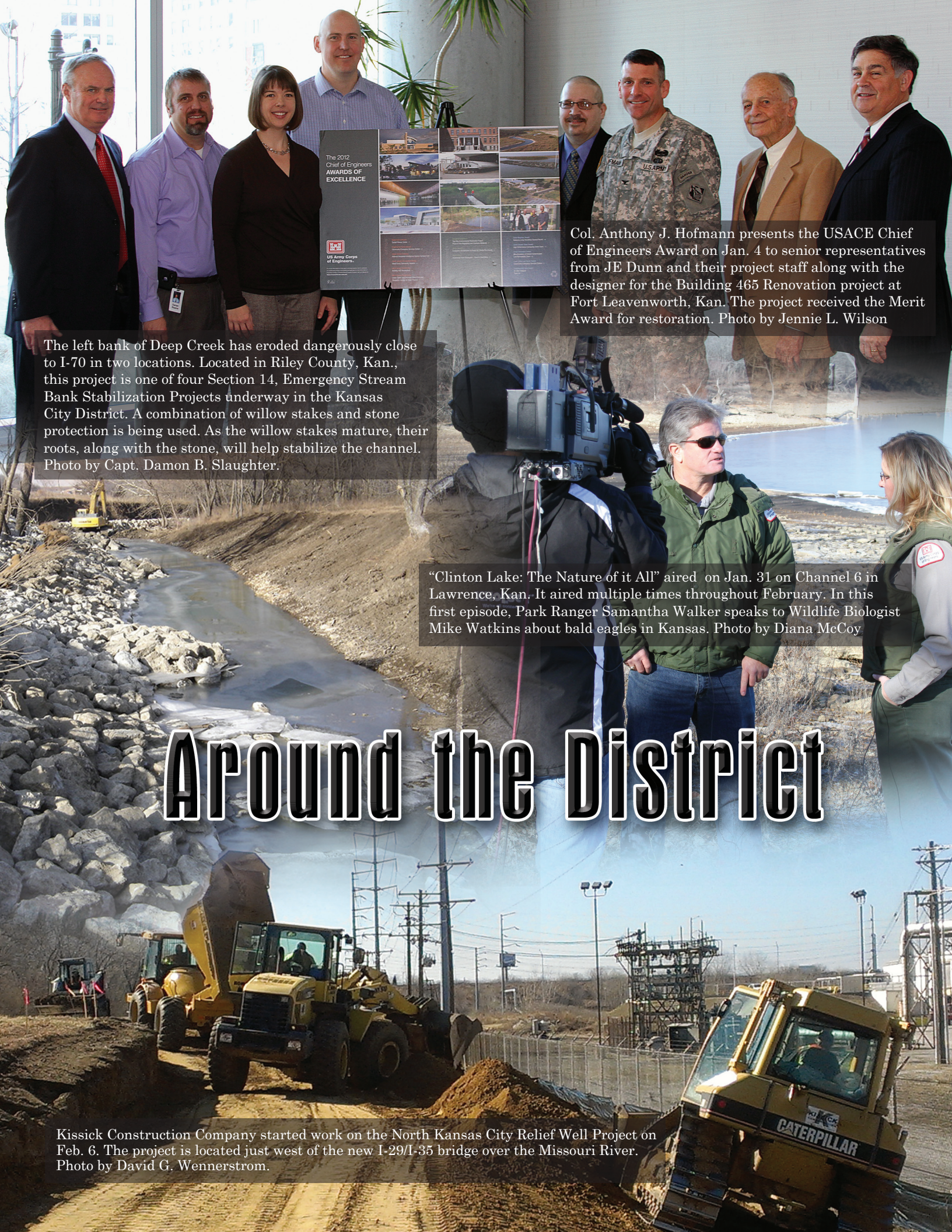
Maj. Rachel Honderd

AED Reach Back Team
PDT of the Year:

2011 Flood Damage Levee Rehabilitation Team

Col. Anthony Hofmann, District Commander, presents Maj. Rachel Honderd, deputy district commander, with the Bronze deFluery during the district awards ceremony on Jan. 22. Honderd received the award for distinguishing herself through dedicated service and an exceptionally high degree of professionalism throughout her military career since joining the U.S. Army in 1996.
Photos by Jennie Wilson

Around the District



Col. Anthony J. Hofmann presents the USACE Chief of Engineers Award on Jan. 4 to senior representatives from JE Dunn and their project staff along with the designer for the Building 465 Renovation project at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The project received the Merit Award for restoration. Photo by Jennie L. Wilson

The left bank of Deep Creek has eroded dangerously close to I-70 in two locations. Located in Riley County, Kan., this project is one of four Section 14, Emergency Stream Bank Stabilization Projects underway in the Kansas City District. A combination of willow stakes and stone protection is being used. As the willow stakes mature, their roots, along with the stone, will help stabilize the channel. Photo by Capt. Damon B. Slaughter.

"Clinton Lake: The Nature of it All" aired on Jan. 31 on Channel 6 in Lawrence, Kan. It aired multiple times throughout February. In this first episode, Park Ranger Samantha Walker speaks to Wildlife Biologist Mike Watkins about bald eagles in Kansas. Photo by Diana McCoy

Kissick Construction Company started work on the North Kansas City Relief Well Project on Feb. 6. The project is located just west of the new I-29/I-35 bridge over the Missouri River. Photo by David G. Wennerstrom.