

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER



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OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015



Above and Beyond

INSIDE THE HEARTLAND

Commander's Notebook	3
Farewell to a Friend	4
USACE Puts Boots on the Ground	5
Recall of Legacy File Boxes from Iron Mountain	6
Happy New Year: In October?	8
Emergency Flood Inundation Maps: The FIM Cadre Experience	9
Kansas City District Works with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on New Location	10
Training Opportunities for Professional Development	12
Leaders Tour the Heartland	14
River Communication	15
The Roebling Steel History	16
Around the District	18
Giving from the Heartland	20

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Stephanie L. Hall,
N2W Program Manager
Photo Trisha Dorsey

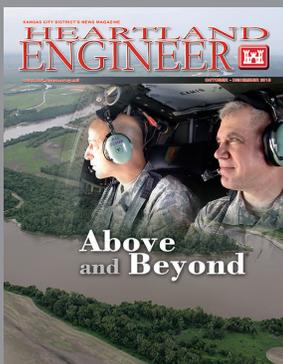
Ms. Stephanie Hall joined the Kansas City District as the new Program Manager to oversee the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involvement in the next National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's West Campus. The project will accommodate new technologies and processes that generate beneficial synergies through integration, collaboration and geospatial data immersion.

Stephanie has been in federal service for 22 years, 19 of those with the Corps. Engineering/program management is her second career after spending a short time in financial consulting.

"It's amazing to be part of this great team of experts in the Kansas City District," said Hall. "I look forward to this new opportunity."

In her position as Program Manager she will lead a team to execute over \$1 billion in planning, design, construction and operations and maintenance. She will be stationed at the Project Management office in St. Louis, Missouri.

Stephanie holds degrees in economics and civil engineering from the University of Missouri, Rolla.



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COMMANDER Col. Andrew D. Sexton / andrew.d.sexton@usace.army.mil
DEPUTY COMMANDER Maj. Arlo J. Reese / arlo.j.reese@usace.army.mil
P.A. CHIEF David S. Kolarik / david.s.kolarik@usace.army.mil
EDITOR Trisha C. Dorsey / trisha.c.dorsey@usace.army.mil
STAFF Sara H. Goodeyon / sara.h.goodeyon@usace.army.mil
DESIGNER Rusty Thomas / rusty.thomas@usace.army.mil

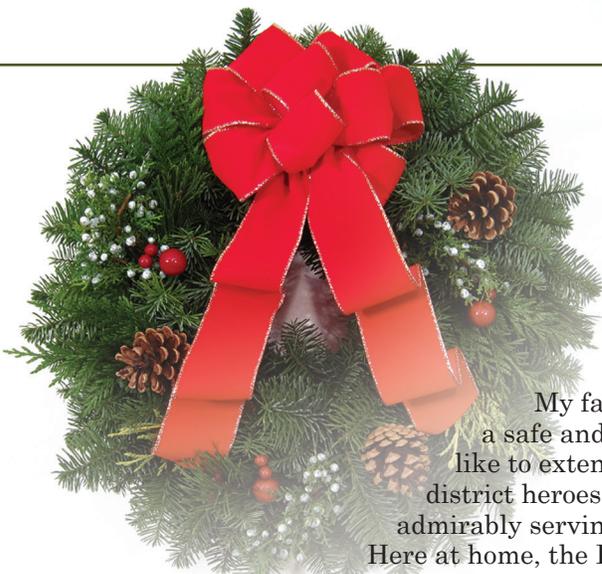
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Richard Bolling Federal Building
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone (816) 389-2000
Fax (816) 389-3434

ON THE COVER:

Brigadier General Spellmon, left, and Colonel Sexton, right, tour the Heartland from a Black Hawk helicopter in September 2015. Photo by Jud Kneuvean. River photo in background provided.



My family and I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. I would also like to extend special holiday wishes to those district heroes who are currently deployed and admirably serving our nation away from our district.

Here at home, the District Holiday Party at Pizza Bar was once again a fabulous event—thanks again to the Co-Op Club for coordinating and supporting this event. I know the various divisions and operating projects held their own luncheons and get-togethers over the holiday season. These events are special and help us to recognize and celebrate our collective accomplishments throughout the year. Enjoy the season, take some well-deserved time off to spend with your family and friends, and please remain safe in your various travels and activities. I know we'll all come back recharged as we enter 2016.

I'd like to thank Steve Iverson for his 34 years of outstanding federal service to the nation. His leadership, innovation and ingenuity have proven critical to the district's tremendous success over the years ultimately helping to shape this district's excellent reputation. Conversely, I'd like to welcome Rex Ostrander as our new Deputy District Engineer. Rex's wealth of knowledge and experience will undoubtedly help our district achieve even greater accomplishments.

I know that many of you have chosen a worthy charity and opened up not only your hearts, but your checkbooks in support of this year's Combined Federal Campaign. I'm pleased to report that again the district has proven its enduring commitment to the people, communities and causes in need of assistance. Your generosity will surely resonate throughout this season and into the New Year. I applaud your efforts and want to thank Seth Boehmer for spearheading this effort and dedicated individuals who led the various fundraisers and other events to support our goal and, ultimately, assist those in need.

Throughout my various travels engaging with our partners, customers and stakeholders, you should know that each of these groups consistently tell me about the tremendous work and support to the public that you provide. As a district, your exceptional efforts do not go unrecognized. Believe me, these groups are not afraid to voice their opinion and don't sugar-coat their thoughts and opinions. Thank you for focusing on our customers, communicating clearly and professionally with the public we serve, and ultimately representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so well. You are the district's best advocate, and we always have a chance at a positive public engagement in order to "tell our tremendous story."

I'm optimistic as we enter 2016, of all the challenges and opportunities we'll encounter. This year we'll complete our largest military construction project to date, the Irwin Army Community Hospital. Congratulations to all those who've had a hand in the completion of this facility. This project is a significant "Value to the Nation" as the hospital will provide a state-of-the-art healthcare facility to deserving Soldiers, veterans and their family members who've proudly served our nation. As we complete this project we're deeply entrenched with our biggest military construction project ever, the billion dollar National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency construction project. This Mega Project, led by Ms. Stephanie Hall is undoubtedly the Kansas City District's biggest project in our history. I'm confident that we've assembled the right team to accomplish this mission.

Finally, please remember the importance of winter safety. Please take time to focus on your holiday travel plans and outdoor activities. Now is also the time to prepare your home and vehicle for winter risks and hazards. Have an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

Happy Holidays



COL Andrew Sexton



Farewell to a Friend

We knew it was coming and now the day has arrived that we say farewell to our beloved Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division as he retires from a brilliant 34 year career with the federal government.

Steve Iverson has served the Kansas City District admirably and with distinction since 1990 when he transferred from the New York District where he served as the Chief of the Project Management Section.

“The Corps has been very, very good to me - I am truly fortunate to have worked for such an outstanding organization. When I graduated from South Dakota State University back in 1982, not in my wildest dreams did I picture such a wonderful career,” Iverson said.

In 1990, he transferred to the great Kansas City District and joined four other project managers in the recently formed Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. His first project assignments included the Galena, Kansas lead mining Superfund site remediation and the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works Formerly Used Defense Site. From September 1997 to June 2000, he was the Program Manager for the acquisition of the Total Environmental Restoration Contract and led the acquisition

team to award of this \$270 million contract.

In 2000, Iverson was promoted to the dual-hatted position of Chief of the Civil Works Branch and Deputy to the Chief of Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. In this position he was responsible for leading a team of project managers and program analysts and prepared project budgets and executed programs valued at about \$100 million annually.

Since 2003, he has served in the position as Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division where he is responsible for overseeing the execution of all District Programs. Under Iverson’s leadership the district has excelled in all program areas shaping the Kansas City District’s sterling reputation as one of the finest full service districts in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“The people at the district are truly the best that USACE has to offer. I am constantly amazed at the talent here at the Kansas City District and humbled to be part of this team,” Iverson said.

Iverson’s achievements over the span of his career have helped lead the district through numerous projects and programs providing a better quality of life for all the citizens and Soldiers that we serve.

Iverson said that it feels so odd to leave a place he’s worked for over the last 34 years. He stated that while he’s somewhat excited about the next chapter in his life in the private sector, he feels like he’s leaving a close friend.

“I thank everyone at the district for their assistance, camaraderie and advice over the years. You’ve been a huge part of my life. I also could not have accomplished anything without the love and support of my wife Patty and three daughters, Carly, Kelly and McKenzie!”

We wish you and your family all the best in your future endeavors and will always revere you as a close friend. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!

Steve Iverson, middle, and his wife Patty, were both awarded Certificates of Retirement from Colonel Andrew Sexton during Steve’s retirement ceremony.
Photo by Jennie Wilson



USACE Puts Boots on the Ground

By Staff Sergeant Kelly S. Carlton, Fort Leonard Wood

Eleven United States Army Corps of Engineers employees visited Fort Leonard Wood as part of their ninth annual Leadership Development Program.

The USACE program is for leadership development, which supports coaching and mentoring for a successful learning culture and enhanced leaders at all levels according to their website.

The Army training the employees receive may offer something broader.

“We are part of the Army, but a lot of folks don’t feel that,” said Jonathan Petry, the lead program manager for this year’s LDP. “You know, as a park ranger or project manager, how do you connect to the Army. We do a big mission down here, building all of the military facilities but we wanted to see what our customers, the service members and their families, go through and experience.”

During an informative presentation at his headquarters, Lt. Col. Charles Gray, commander, 31st Engineer Battalion, expressed just how connected these USACE employees are to Fort Leonard Wood.

“This is a Corps of Engineer facility we’re in. You get to see the impact of the facilities you provide, on the Soldiers who will use them,” Gray said. “You have Fort Leonard Wood right in your footprint and you get to come out and get a taste of what our Soldiers do.”

Gray continued to share with the LDP group how their reach was greater than their office.

“You’re not just sitting in a cubicle at the Kansas City

District in a design role or in a park ranger role. You are part of the Army organization. We’re all part of this big team,” Gray said.

The group lived in the barracks and dressed in Army uniforms during the two days they were here. They also ate at a dining facility, conducted a shoot house exercise, used heavy equipment simulators, completed an obstacle course and got to repel down a 45-foot wall.

“I’ve been with the Corps for 10 years and haven’t done anything like this before,” said Shannon Henry, national resource specialist park ranger at Pomme de Terre Lake in southwest Missouri. “It’s been really fast-paced and busy, but it’s interesting. I have a better appreciation for the Army and what Soldiers do on a day-to-day basis and what the Army does as a whole. I am thankful for this experience and happy I got to be here.”

The Army training at Fort Leonard Wood is the kick off to the yearlong LDP.

“They will go through a college level course the rest of the year so this is one of their first experiences

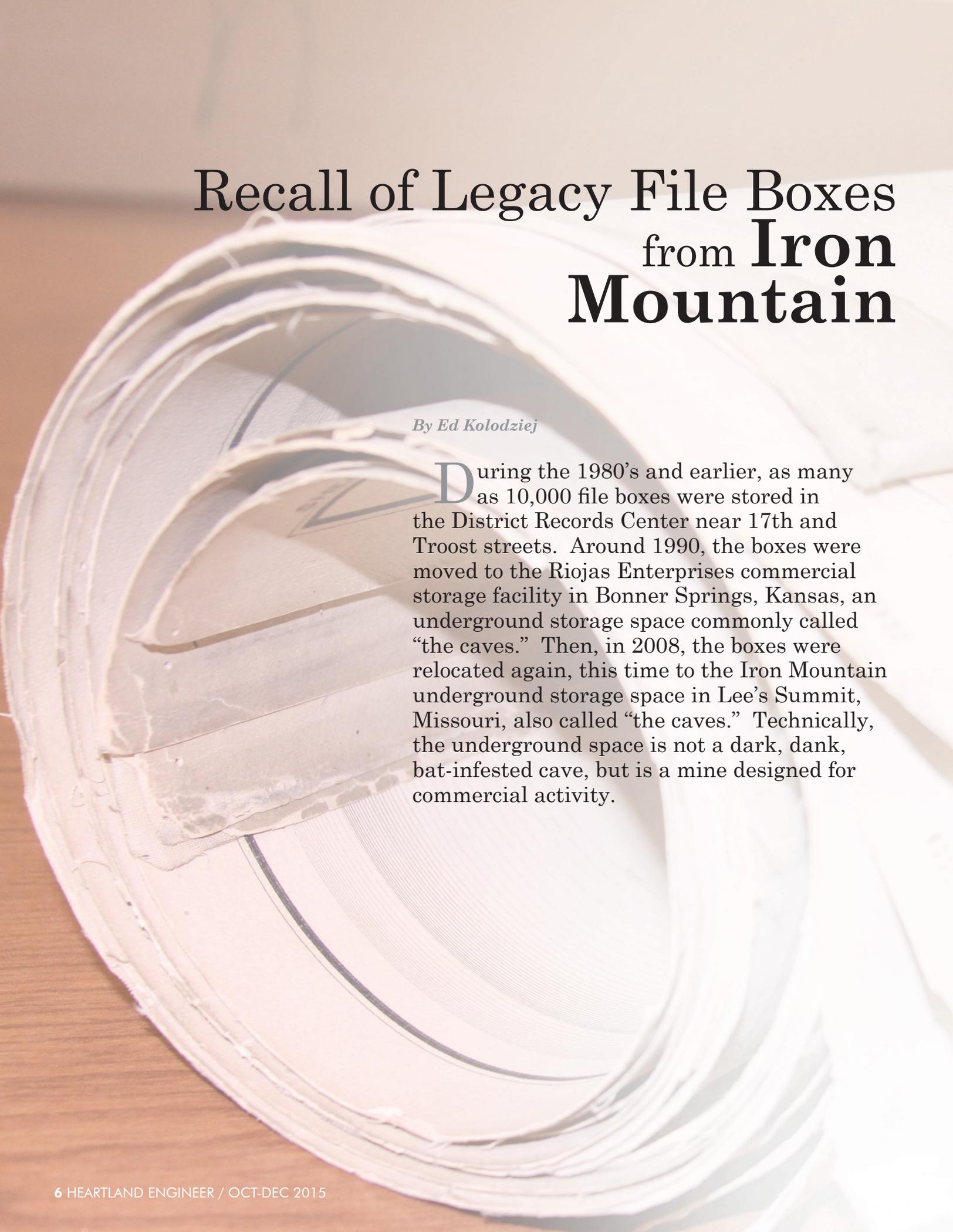
to bond with everybody, bond with their team, and with senior leaders in the district,” Petry said.

Petry spoke for the group about why the training here meant so much to the program.

“For these emerging leaders to go through this shared experience plus see what our real customers, the Soldiers, go through is why we’re here,” Petry said.



Kyle Haake repels down the 45-foot tower known as Warrior Tower, during the visit to Fort Leonard Wood. Photo provided by the Guidon



Recall of Legacy File Boxes from **Iron Mountain**

By Ed Kolodziej

During the 1980's and earlier, as many as 10,000 file boxes were stored in the District Records Center near 17th and Troost streets. Around 1990, the boxes were moved to the Riojas Enterprises commercial storage facility in Bonner Springs, Kansas, an underground storage space commonly called "the caves." Then, in 2008, the boxes were relocated again, this time to the Iron Mountain underground storage space in Lee's Summit, Missouri, also called "the caves." Technically, the underground space is not a dark, dank, bat-infested cave, but is a mine designed for commercial activity.

In 2014, the File Processing Center became the action office for the multi-year project to recall about 9,000 remaining legacy file boxes from Iron Mountain's storage to reduce the district's paper footprint at that facility. As a result, storage charges billed to the district beginning in fiscal year 17 will be reduced and the district will work toward compliance with federal records management regulations.

The recall project team includes supervisors, subject matter experts, records coordinators, File Processing Center staff and the District Records Manager. Some districts have rehired annuitants to help with the recall process since they have the prerequisite knowledge required to make accurate review and disposition decisions for the old file boxes.

For the success of the recall project, it is incumbent on supervisors to assign subject matter experts to review old boxes. Supervisors may elect themselves to fill the SME role due to the particular legacy knowledge required.

Once assigned, SMEs review file box contents, then make disposition decisions and label each box with an appropriate disposition label placed on the box front, either to transfer the legacy files to the Federal Records Center, destroy files eligible for destruction and are no longer needed for mission purposes, or absorb mission-value files into the office's current holdings. Some files are subject to legal hold by the Office of Counsel and must be retained until the legal hold is cleared.

After SME review, the supervisor will concur or non-concur with the SMEs disposition decision for file boxes belonging to his/her office. Then the records coordinators prepare container lists and a Standard Form 135 for boxes to be transferred to the Federal Records Center. The File Processing Center provides instructions for container list preparation. The District Records Manager provides instructions for SF-135 form preparation.

The Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology District Records Manager orders file boxes from the Iron Mountain storage facility for delivery to the FPC. The ACE-IT District Records Manager also requests transfer authorization numbers from the Federal Records Center.

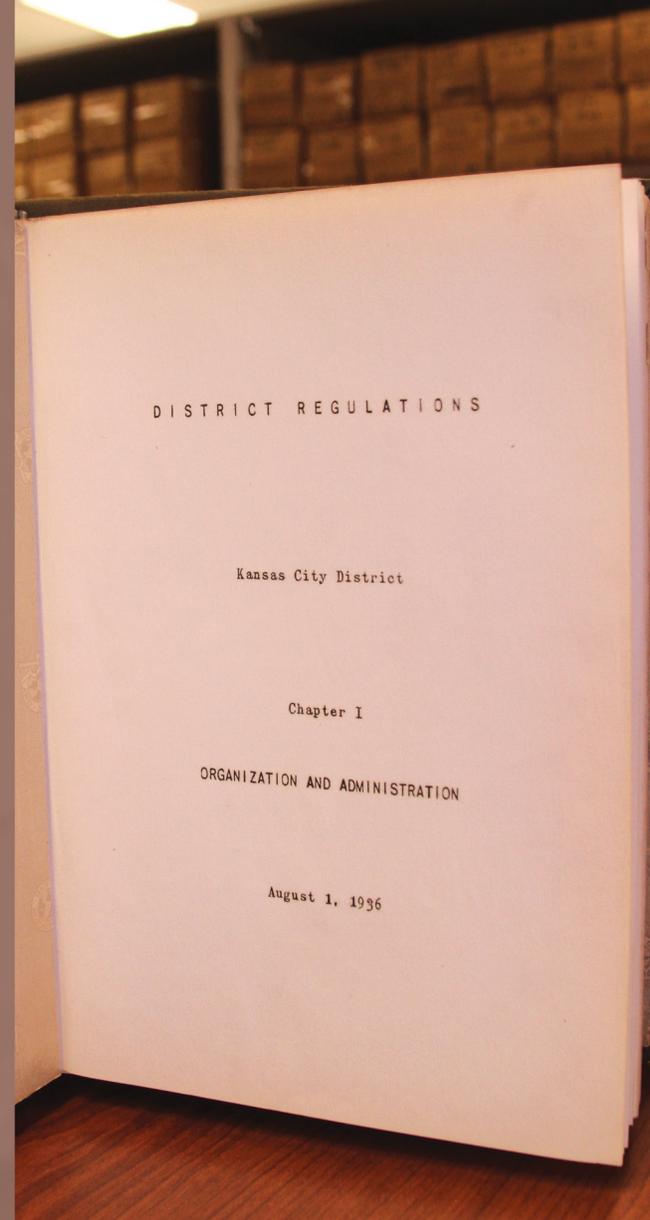
The File Processing Center project manager places file box orders with the ACE-IT District Records Manager. Then, the FPC staff receive file boxes and notify supervisors, SMEs and records coordinators of box availability for disposition review. Identifying a box's current owning office is challenging at times since many boxes show legacy office symbols that no longer exist. The FPC staff supports all offices through all steps for reviewing and processing each box, provides new empty file boxes and other supplies as needed, arranges all transfers and destructions, and prepares authorization forms for boxes to be destroyed. The FPC PM reports progress at the Monthly Management Review meetings.

Performing the review and making disposition decisions for recalled file boxes impacts district operations, since all offices must allot time to meet the demands of their roles and responsibilities for the project.

A few historic documents were found among the maps and papers recalled to date. Based on guidance from a Corps certified archivist, some historic finds could have mission value, but more than likely, information was extracted from the documents years ago, and the documents only have exhibit value today. In any case, the historic documents will be offered to the National Archives and Records Administration for appraisal to determine their value to the history of the United States.

Some notable historical finds include nine boxes of old newspaper articles documenting the Kansas City District's achievements during past decades. Also found were a 1936 Kansas City District Regulations manual and multiple drawings of the Missouri River on linen, dated 1880.

Finally, after the recall project is completed, the district will have achieved intellectual and physical control of the legacy file boxes. This achievement will support current missions, the Corps' knowledge management initiative and compliance with records management regulations.



Happy New Year: In October?

By Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Kime, 745th Senior Contingency Contracting Team Leader

A grey evening descends upon downtown Kansas City, Missouri. City Hall serves as a backdrop through the big glass windows of the Richard Bolling Federal Building. There is a sense of anticipation, excitement in the office but it's not December 31, it's September 30 and the federal government's fiscal year-end. Out on the floor, contract specialists hasten to get their documentation in order for review and signature. Tonight no one is admiring the tan façade of the neoclassical City Hall with its representations of education, law, faith and public service; instead they are focused intently on computer screens navigating the digital labyrinth of financial computer programs.

At year-end the Kansas City District works to obligate all remaining funding for projects before it expires to keep the Army running on time and sustain the nation's gross domestic product.

The 745th Senior Contingency Contracting Team did its part to support the district at year-end. In 2011, the Army created positions for 315 military contingency contracting officers. There were four senior contingency contracting teams across the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, Missouri, Baltimore, Maryland, Dallas, Texas and Mobile, Alabama. The concept was to build the capability of the Army's Contracting Command to provide contracting support to construction activities.

One team member, Staff Sergeant Jonathan Long, who serves as a Contracting Officer in the Military Construction Branch,

provided reachback assistance to support the Japan District and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's procurement actions valued in excess of \$1 billion. He personally awarded \$10 million in procurements for Army recruiting stations across three states and ensured the repair of the historical Specker Chapel at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Staff Sgt. Long's previous experience while deployed with the 408th Contracting Support Brigade in Kuwait as a contract specialist for supplies and services below the Simplified Acquisition Threshold of \$150,000, provided great knowledge. "I value my experience with the Kansas City District," said Long, "I have the opportunity to award contracts above the Simplified Acquisition Threshold and execute Construction and Architect-Engineer Contracting in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 36. This is a tremendous career opportunity."

Sergeant First Class Michael McCue was responsible for successfully recapturing \$10 million in cost savings for the Formerly Utilized Remedial Action Program for environmental contamination removal at the Middlesex Sampling Plant in New Jersey. "Year-end is no different from what we do any other day of the year except that we work under a compressed schedule to include overtime and weekends," said McCue.

As the day goes on, contracting officers report their progress back to anxious project managers who hover around their cubicles discussing the nuances of funding

priorities and program milestones. Cheers of "Woo-hoo!" can be heard as another contract is awarded pushing the unobligated money total for fiscal year 2015 closer to zero. Meanwhile the civil works team nears completion on a \$12.7 million construction option to add tainter gates for flood control to the Harlan County Dam in Nebraska.

As the evening falls over downtown Kansas City, City Hall is silhouetted by the soft glow of street lights and car headlights fill the I-70 overpass. The Kansas City District can now celebrate a tremendous year-end awarding over 1,600 contracting actions valued in excess of \$346 million. It fulfilled its obligation of public service. Happy New Year! The race to obligate money is over... for now. Master Sergeant Mark McKinney is asked how year-end feels. "It's kind of like running a marathon..."

From Kansas City to Kabul, the contracting and program management professionals of the Kansas City District are delivering on-time support to the Warfighter and our nation's communities in the Missouri River Basin.

The 745th Senior Contingency Contracting Team from left to right: Sergeant 1st Class McCue, Master Sergeant McKinney, Lieutenant Colonel Kime, Staff Sergeant Long. Not pictured Lieutenant Colonel Pratt.
Photo by Trisha Dorsey



Emergency Flood Inundation Maps: The FIM Cadre Experience

USACE has a unique capability to develop forecast inundation maps during a flood event. These maps show decision makers and the public what areas and communities are at risk of flooding before flood waters arrive. This capability is critical to making sound emergency planning and emergency response decisions.

By Jason Sheeley

In May 2015 the Fort Worth District was challenged with weeks of extreme rainfall and a major flood event covering much of central and east Texas, including Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and all areas between. Flood inundation maps are an important tool during such emergencies. They help to inform USACE emergency management and water management regarding dam/levee safety decisions and are also critical tools for situational awareness and reporting at all USACE command levels. It is common for state and local emergency management officials to request technical support from USACE during emergencies to provide hydraulic models and inundation maps.

To meet the demands of internal and external inundation map information requests a USACE Flood Inundation Modeling and Mapping Cadre was activated for this event. The FIM Cadre was formed to assist with running the Corps Water Management System and hydraulic models during floods and to develop flood inundation maps from the model results. The USACE Modeling, Mapping and Consequences Production Center is responsible for managing the FIM Cadre. The Kansas City District is home of the MMC Mapping and Documentation Branch and is thus responsible for setting the inundation mapping standards used by the Cadre.

During this Texas flood event the Fort Worth District and the FIM Cadre staff worked jointly as a team to complete inundation modeling and mapping requests from the state of Texas and other federal agencies. Cadre members from Vicksburg, Jacksonville and Kansas City Districts worked virtually to assist the Fort Worth District with water management, hydraulics and geospatial staff to create rapid turnaround emergency products. In less than one week the team produced multiple inundation map scenarios for eight river basins covering over 2,400 stream miles. The Corps Water Management System, River Analysis System, the Flood Extent Simulation Model and the Modeling, Mapping and Consequences Production Center's mapping toolkit were vital tools helping the team meet the emergency flood risk management need.

Forecast Inundation Maps Produced for 2015 Texas Flood	
River System	Miles
Trinity	800
Neches	568
Sabine	514
Nueces	37
Brazos	382
Colorado	57
San Jacinto	68
Total stream miles mapped	2,426

More information about the FIM Cadre is available online at <http://prod.mmc.usace.army.mil/mmc>.

To view interactive examples of 2015 Texas Flood inundation maps visit <https://maps.mmc.usace.army.mil:9443/DataViewer/map/1521>. More than 50 flood extent and flood depth layers are posted for interactive analysis of forecast river inundation and what-if reservoir release scenarios.

Kansas City District Works with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on New Location

Story and photos by David S. Kolarik

The Kansas City District is working with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on plans to construct an approximately \$1 billion facility in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The Kansas City District, on behalf of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency is in the process of preparing an environmental impact statement for a new campus in the St. Louis area. The EIS will analyze potential construction and operation activities at four sites located in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The sites currently under consideration are:

- Fenton: 1050 Dodge Drive, Fenton, Missouri (southwest of St. Louis);
- Mehlville: 13045 Tesson Ferry Road, St. Louis, Missouri (south of St. Louis);
- North St. Louis City: near the intersections of Cass and North Jefferson Avenues; and
- St. Clair County: along Interstate 64, adjacent to the northeast boundary of Scott Air Force Base, Illinois (east of St. Louis)

The EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from each of the action alternatives as well as a no action alternative. The EIS will also examine the potential cumulative impacts from other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions occurring within the vicinity of the proposed project.

The district has been extremely involved and working closely with the NGA to ensure that the public is involved during this decision making process. They have jointly hosted numerous public meetings in and around the St. Louis area to include a potential location in Illinois to hear public concerns and suggestions as they relate to site location.

An Integrated Program Office was established in October 2015 and has been used for meetings during the first quarter of this fiscal year. In January, the offices will begin to be occupied by the NGA Project Delivery Team on a full time basis. In FY16 the NGA program will hire approximately 12 new positions, with a total of 85 positions envisioned at full strength in 2018.

“This is an awesome opportunity for the district and we are excited as we move forward with this project as it is the largest in our history,” said Bryan Smith, the Corps Deputy Program Director for the NGA.

All public meetings were well attended by local citizens and local and state officials to include U.S. congressmen.

Governor Jay Nixon addressed the crowd at the North St. Louis public meeting and said, “I’d like to thank the NGA and the Corps for all that you do for our nation.”

Later at that meeting, St. Louis Mayor, Francis G. Slay stated, “We are very proud to have the NGA in our community, having them here brings a tremendous sense of pride to our city.”

The NGA is headquartered in Springfield, Virginia. The St. Louis campus and its predecessor organizations have resided in the St. Louis community for over 60 years and is located near the intersection of Broadway and Arsenal streets in the city with an additional facility located in Arnold, Missouri.

The NGA is pursuing construction and operation of a modern facility in the St. Louis metropolitan area to better support its mission to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of national security. The proposed new facility will support the NGA’s current mission, improve its resiliency and address challenges associated with its current facility, including physical constraints and security requirements.

The NGA has a 3,000-member workforce that contributes to these worldwide missions on a daily basis. Some of the contributions include flight safety information for military pilots, monitoring of Global Positioning System satellite information and support for agencies such as The Federal Emergency Management Agency during natural disasters.

“Today, our work requires an updated technology infrastructure and the ability for us to operate in flexible, collaborative workspaces. Our response to world events demands that we are more agile and more timely than ever before,” said NGA spokesman David Berczek.

As a result, after several reviews, including an economic analysis, it was determined that it will be less costly, quicker and less disruptive to pursue a location for a new campus in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The anticipated date for the NGA to move to its new campus is 2021.



Top: Missouri Governor Jay Nixon addresses a public meeting in north St. Louis as to the future location of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Middle: Tom Bukoski, Deputy Program Manager, NGA Program Management Office, discusses the EIS timeline at a public meeting in St. Clair County, Illinois, on October 28, 2015.

Bottom: Laurie Farmer entertains questions from St. Louis citizens at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public meeting in St. Louis.

You see it everywhere; “Take Charge of Your Professional Development,” “Leadership Development” and “Moving Ahead in the Organization.” Now ask yourself if our agency has anything that can assist you in furthering your career.

The answer is yes and it’s called the Civilian Education System.

By Beverly Hogle

The CES is the Army’s civilian leadership program. It is an avenue for all employees to expand knowledge skills in communication, vision and problem solving skills, organization efficiency and leadership.

Targeted to your civilian grade level, CES courses are completed through a combination of 40+ hours distance learning and 80+ hours of residential classes. Focus is on the leadership competencies required as you advance through your career. You may also be able to receive equivalency credit for Professional Military Education and legacy civilian courses.

Key facts about the CES:

- The Foundation Course is required for all Army Civilians hired after 30 September 2006.
- Tuition is centrally funded. The Department of Army pays for tuition, travel and per diem.
- Employee labor is not funded; each organization must budget accordingly to ensure development of our future leaders.
- In 2012 the course requirements were moved from sequential training to attendance based on an employee’s target grade (see example diagram on page 12 to determine what level you should apply for).
- In 2012 the Army rescinded the 10 year rule to obtain equivalent course credit. Employees who have completed specific Training and Doctrine Command approved Professional Military Education or legacy civilian leader development courses at any time in the past may file a request to obtain credit towards their target CES course. Equivalent PME courses and civilian leader development courses are listed on the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System Main Menu Link.
- Employees must take the required Distance Learning Course before establishing eligibility for the residential classes.
- In 2014 the residential classes became quota driven with each district submitting an Order of Merit List to their division for consideration.
- In 2014 the timeframe to register and complete a residential class was changed from two to four years.

Be proactive in your personal and professional development and make learning a lifelong goal. Join the cadre of Kansas City District employees that are completing the Army’s Civilian Education System courses. It is not only an investment in the Army’s future BUT YOURS!

Interested in taking the first step to expand your skills? Register for a CES course online at: <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/logon.aspx?caller=1>

To learn more about training opportunities, visit the Mission Support Office Training page.



LEADERS TOUR THE HEARTLAND

Story and photos by Trisha Dorsey

This July, Brigadier General Scott A. Spellmon assumed command of the Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Portland, Oregon. One of his initial goals was to get out and engage with the five districts under his command whose geographical footprint spans a dozen states. He didn't waste time and promptly visited the Heartland this September.

Upon Spellmon's arrival, district leadership was well-prepared and had subject matter experts from the Kansas City District in place to discuss district challenges and our recent successes in each of the areas of civil works, military construction, environmental programs and emergency management.

During a muggy, 90 degree-plus temperature week, he toured the Heartland with Col. Andrew Sexton and key staff. His initial visit was extremely busy as to provide him as much direct visibility and insight on many of the district's significant projects.

He began his Heartland tour with a helicopter flyover of several local key civil works projects and then proceeded north from Kansas City, flying over St. Joseph, Missouri, viewing Missouri River Levee System R471-460 (Elwood Levee) and L455 (South St. Joseph). These federal projects provide pertinent flood risk management benefits to the regional economy.

He then viewed a Missouri River Recovery Program site, Benedictine Bottoms near Atchison, Kansas. This

project was recently completed with the construction of two flow-through chutes to develop shallow water habitat.

As they headed back to Kansas City, they observed a 23-square mile stretch of Turkey Creek. This flood risk management project consists of approximately two miles of urban channel modification and four large diversion pipelines to intercept interior drainage.

The flyover concluded after viewing the Kansas City Levee System. The Kansas City District has undertaken a study to update and verify data on the level of flood risk management provided by this project. The majority of the recommendations published in the Interim Feasibility Report have moved forward into the design and construction phases with some already complete.

The Heartland trip continued the following day to McConnell Air Force Base and Fort Riley. The Kansas City District is designing and constructing several projects at McConnell. One of which is a massive \$147 million hanger facility that will house the incoming KC-46A aircraft next year. This tour allowed Colonel Sexton and his resident engineers to show firsthand the current status as well as the types of mega projects the district manages.

At Fort Riley, leaders were able to tour the Irwin Army Community Hospital replacement currently under construction, which will soon replace the existing 1950s era facility.

On the return trip to Kansas City, the Manhattan Levee System was in view. The federal flood risk management levee system in Manhattan, Kansas, provides protection along the Blue and Kansas rivers and provides significant flood risk management benefits to downtown.

"It's always a great opportunity to share the successes of the Heartland," said Sexton. "We have a great team that executes challenging and exceptional projects."

Top: Brigadier General Spellmon (left) and Colonel Sexton (right) view Heartland projects from the plane.

Bottom: Colonel Sexton and Fort Riley resident engineers take Brigadier General Spellmon on a tour of the replacement hospital.



River Communication

By Trisha Dorsey

The Missouri River, the nation's longest, travels over 2,300 miles from Three Forks, Montana, to join the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Missouri. For centuries, the river has served as the center of life for the inhabitants of North America's Great Plains. Following exploration and mapping by Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery in the early 1800s, the Missouri River became the gateway to the west.

Since Lewis and Clark returned from their expedition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have had very close ties to the Missouri River. Over the years the Corps has been charged by Congress to remove snags, protect banks, construct navigation channels and build flood risk management structures on the Missouri River to provide social and economic benefits to the nation.

Understanding these close ties to the river, the Kansas City District hosts an annual stakeholder barge tour on the lower Missouri River. This event provides an open forum to share project information and engage with partners and those who share similar interests. This year, the barge tour launched on September 30 from St. Joseph, Missouri to Atchison, Kansas.

Col. Andrew Sexton, district commander, opened the tour with a warm welcome followed by an introduction of speakers by Steve Iverson, Chief, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. Guest speakers for this event were Tracy Streeter from the Kansas Water Office, Rich Leonard from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Steve Johnston from the City of St. Joseph, Mo. Kansas City District staff from all Missouri River projects and programs joined the tour to engage with the nearly 100 attendees of stakeholders, congressional staff, industry professionals and key local, state and federal agency staffs.

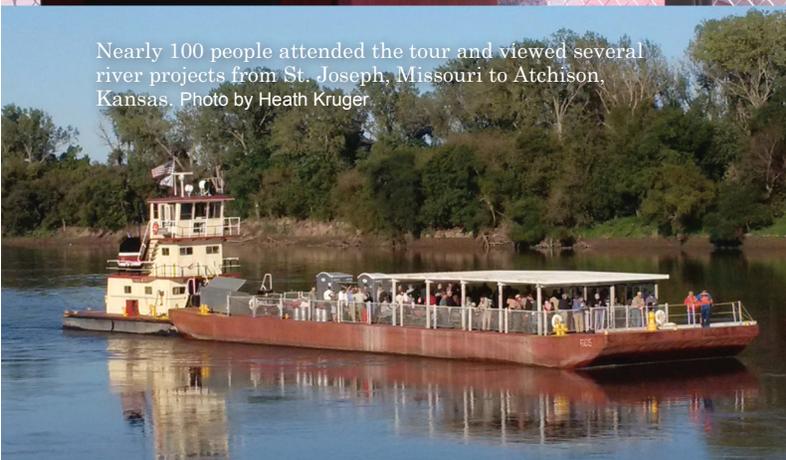
Attendees were able to view several Corps projects along the route including federal and non-federal levees, various Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project structures and the Missouri River Recovery Program's Benedictine Bottoms chute.

"This event provided a great opportunity for relevant dialogue regarding the status of ongoing projects and initiatives and stakeholder concerns on the Missouri River," said Sexton. "The event was well attended and well received by many of our stakeholders."

Colonel Sexton welcomes attendees to the district's annual stakeholder barge tour. Photo by Trisha Dorsey



Nearly 100 people attended the tour and viewed several river projects from St. Joseph, Missouri to Atchison, Kansas. Photo by Heath Kruger



Stakeholders were able to engage with the Corps and ask questions about river projects. Photo by Trisha Dorsey



The Roebling Steel History

By Dan Hearnen

The Roebling Steel Superfund Site is located in Florence Township, New Jersey, along the Delaware River and is both an American success story and a Superfund Site. Over \$100 million has been expended by the Environmental Protection Agency in order to clean up the site to protect human health and the environment and make it available for reuse.

Roebling was once a mighty steel mill founded in 1905, which produced steel and steel wiring used to build the Brooklyn Bridge, George Washington Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge. The mill also produced elevator cables for the Empire State Building in New York City, the Chicago Board of Trade Building and the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. Nearly 2,000 employees worked at the mill, but after World War II the company began to shrink as did many steel mills at the time. The mill was sold and the gates closed for good in 1982.

Left behind were seventy buildings contaminated with process dust and exposed asbestos. Groundwater under the site is contaminated with various heavy metals including chromium, lead and copper. Over 200 acres of soil was contaminated with heavy metals such as lead. River and creek sediments were contaminated with heavy metals and hazardous oils and tars. The site was placed on the National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in 1982. In 1991, EPA Region II established an Interagency Agreement with the Kansas City District to assist with the remedial design to clean up the Roebling site.

In the years since, the Kansas City District's environmental

team, in conjunction with both the Philadelphia District and New York District, has provided pre-design investigation, design and construction management support to EPA Region II's mission for the site.

An early assignment for the Corps was supporting the removal of thousands of tons of factory-wide chemical piles, including a large volume of metals contaminated with fly-ash, within select buildings.

The Kansas City District developed Historical Structures Reports for the Roebling Main Gate House and adjacent Ambulance Garage that formed a basis for the subsequent adaptive reuse and rehabilitation design following the National Historic Preservation Act guidelines. The structures now house the Roebling Museum which opened in 2009 and features exhibits documenting the community and company's history.

The design and construction of the museum presented numerous challenges in adapting and inter-connecting three essentially separate turn-of-the-century structures given the planned public use and historic guidelines. The design also included the relocation of select artifacts from the Roebling main factory area to the museum campus. One of these artifacts, a 250,000 pound, 35 foot diameter flywheel, has become a focal point at the entrance to the museum grounds.

The Kansas City District also designed a two-foot thick soil cap and Delaware River shoreline revetment system for the Operable Unit 3 former steel slag disposal area. The cap's drainage and contour design was later revised to incorporate the placement of nearly

239,000 cubic yards of contaminated dredge sediments from the Crafts Creek and Delaware River back channel areas.

Most recently, the Kansas City and New York districts' construction teams completed the \$82 million sediment dredging and placement at the Operable Unit 3 project. The project work included shoreline revetment, wetland restoration and a protective soil cap with site restoration work that ultimately resulted in a 37-acre riverfront park. The Crafts Creek sediment dredging project construction was awarded in September 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. A subsequent remedial action contract was awarded for the back channel dredging and soil cap work.

Looking ahead, the Kansas City District will continue to support EPA Region II for the Roebling main factory area remediation effort. This will include developing a design plan for relocating the historic equipment housed in the two remaining buildings within the main factory area. The system device known as the "Prestretcher" or "Prestressing" is a method for overcoming concrete's natural weakness in tension and was initially utilized during the manufacture of cable for the George Washington Bridge (1927-1931) in New York City. This method used at the Roebling mill was the first of its kind. The relocation of the device's equipment to the Roebling museum grounds will add yet another key feature in telling the community and company's history.

Photos provided





Around the District





Giving from the Heartland - Supporting CFC

Story and photo by Trisha Dorsey

The Combined Federal Campaign, launched in 1961, is an effort to coordinate fundraising opportunities for several charitable organizations allowing federal donors to contribute through a payroll deduction system. The Kansas City District continues to support this campaign annually and has been encouraging employee participation for numerous years.

Each year a senior leader takes the charge to encourage giving while incorporating friendly competition and teamwork. In 2015, Seth Boehmer, Chief of Resource Management, along with the district's CFC Committee, led the efforts. A goal of giving \$75,000 to charities working in our community and across the nation was quickly established. Competition and teamwork efforts for monetary collection over a two-month timeframe included several events at the district office and field offices.

- *Popcorn sale*
- *Book sale*
- *Chili cook off*
- *Bake sale*
- *Halloween costume contest*
- *Silent auction*

“CFC is a great way for our district to team up and show support for local charities,” said Boehmer. “The CFC Committee has done an excellent job of organizing and staffing events to encourage participation. We encourage support through fundraising as every donation makes an impact whether it be through payroll deductions or a one-time gift.”

With over 20,000 charities to choose from, including multiple local charities and a short timeframe to donate, the district proved their excellence in giving back to the Heartland in 2015.

The CFC Committee from left to right: Roschana Ross, Ronschall Love, Seth Boehmer, Robin Corderman, Hilary Winans. Not pictured: Ed Kolodziej, Shelly Allen, Julie Forck.

