

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER



www.nwk.usace.army.mil/pa/HeartlandEngineer.htm

JULY 2006



Taking one for the team
Col. Michael Rossi cools down at picnic

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EAST VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT — 10

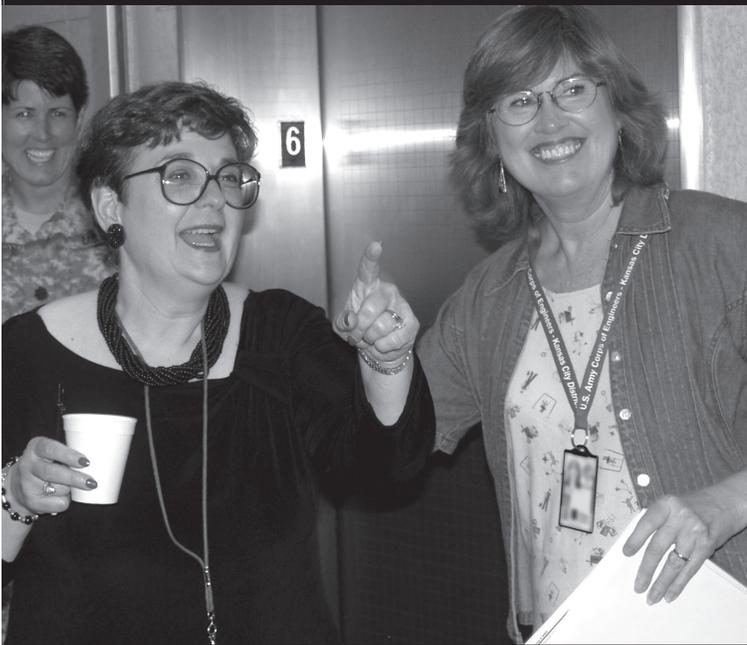
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2006 ENGINEER DAY PICNIC — 11

Hundreds of Corps employees brought their families out to Longview Lake June 9 to celebrate Engineer Day.

18 LAKES — 12

This ongoing series outlines the district's 18 lake projects. This month's columns feature Long Branch Lake and Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir.



Eileen Nistetter leads Clarissa Grill (right to left) off the elevator as she is greeted with a surprise party by friends and co-workers June 2. The day marked Grill's 40th year with the Kansas City District. It is rumored the Richard Bolling Federal Building, which houses the district office, was built around her. *Photo by Diana McCoy*

INSIDE THE HEARTLAND

NEWSWATCH

Newsbriefs from around the District and around the Corps.



PEOPLEPOWER

The effort of Lora Vacca, a real estate specialist for the district, has resulted in recognition throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



LASTWORD

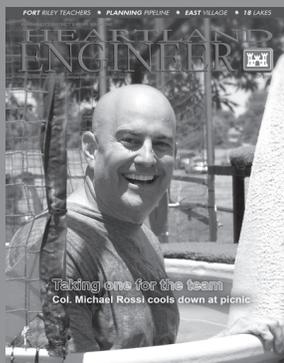
Lt. Col. Kelly Butler discusses the Kansas City District Master Calendar and encourages everyone to "stay synched."



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ON THE COVER:

Col. Michael Rossi takes a turn in the dunk tank at the 2006 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Engineer Day Picnic June 9 at Longview Lake. Other "dunkees" include Lt. Col. Kelly Butler, Maj. Matthew Little and Vincent Marsh. Photo by Scott Robben



Expeditionary Mindset

We must be willing and able to go *anywhere, anytime*



COL Michael A. Rossi

On the back cover of this month's Heartland Engineer is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Strategic Directions Poster. You'll recognize elements of the poster from various forums over the past two years.

This poster's intent is to tie these elements together in one coherent place—the “Four R's,” the *Spectrum of Operations*, *Campaign Goals and Enabling Capabilities* and the *Vision*. I've talked with you about many of these elements in our town halls and written about them in this column, always trying to bring them back to our “One Thing” in the Kansas City District—PROJECT DELIVERY. This month I'd like to spend a few moments offering some thoughts about having an *Expeditionary Mindset*—the third enabling capability.

I'm reminded of the ~~AAAO~~ motto of the Army's 39th Infantry Regiment. During fighting in Sicily, in World War II, the regiment came under the command of the legendary Col. Harry A. “Paddy” Flint, who gave the regiment its triple A-Bar Nothing slogan... Anything, Anywhere, Anytime-Bar Nothing. The regiment took great pride in the ~~AAAO~~ slogan, displaying it on their helmets and vehicles throughout the war and even today. Now, this is what I call an *Expeditionary Mindset*.

For us, an *Expeditionary Mindset* speaks directly to being *Ready* and *Responsive*. No need to elaborate on these. However, in today's environment, the Corps must be willing and able to go anywhere, anytime to be *Relevant* and *Reliable*. I don't just mean the Corps or the Kansas City District as an institution, I mean the Corps as individuals. September 11 and the Global War on Terrorism as well as Katrina, Rita, and the New Orleans Recovery have made this all too clear.

I'm proud to say that the district has answered the call and displayed a tremendous *Expeditionary Mindset*. We've had more than 80 Heartland engineers volunteer for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past three years. More than 110 deployed to hurricane relief duties throughout Mississippi and Louisiana just in the past year. Many of you have been on all three of these missions. We have indeed displayed an institutional bent to go to the action.

More is going to be asked of us individually in the future, however, as USACE culturally moves further down the *Expeditionary Mindset* road. The nation continues to turn more and more to the Army and USACE in time of crisis and our individual willingness to both train for and deploy in an emergency may well be demanded. The district has been designated as the National Water PRT and will be responsible for water distribution under the Emergency Support Function (ESF-3) nation-wide in odd-numbered calendar years (New England District will have the mission in even years). We will support the Northwestern Division as the USACE liaison to NORTHCOM and ARNORTH during all future domestic emergencies and disaster relief operations. We also have enumerated responsibilities to take over for the Seattle and St. Louis Districts if they were to become victim districts in various contingency plans.

So, lean forward and be ready. And, if you've got a minute, drop by the EOC and thank Paul Flamm and his superb team for all they do to make sure we're *Ready* and *Responsive* each and every day.

~~AAAO~~

Col. Mike Rossi

DISTRICT RECEIVES JOURNALISM AWARDS

All members of the Kansas City District public affairs staff earned awards during the annual public affairs journalism competition held in February by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense.

The program recognizes military and civilian-employee print and broadcast practitioners for journalistic excellence in furthering the objectives of the Department of the Army internal-information program.

The district won five awards, including three of possible six individual writing categories, given throughout the Corps. Winning entries included: Eric Cramer, first place for story series; Diana McCoy, first place for photojournalism; Diana McCoy first place for commentary; Tom O'Hara, second place for commentary; Heartland Engineer, third place for special achievement in print media.

First place entries were forwarded onto the Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards Competition which is sponsored by the Secretary of the Army. The district won one first place award in story series, which went to Eric Cramer.

First place entries from the Keith L. Ware Awards are forwarded on to the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Awards, and to win, entries must make an important contribution to the internal information objectives of the armed forces and must meet the highest standards of production, execution and professional excellence.

Eric Cramer was awarded with first place for his Medal of Honor Story series, which can be viewed at <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/smith/resources/index.html>.

CORPS EMPLOYEES WIN COMPETITION FOR IT WORK

The Army Corps of Engineers on June 21 announced that an in-house team won a public-private competition for about 1,100 information management and technology jobs. Details of the winning bid were not made public, but loss of some jobs is considered likely.

The award comes two years after the start of the competition, carried out under the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-76 rules, and ends delays stemming from two internal Army

reviews conducted after the agency reached a preliminary decision.

According to the announcement, one private sector offer competed with the agency's "most efficient organization" team, which proposed reorganizing the work. The winning team offered to complete the work for \$447.3 million during a one-year phase-in period, one year of operations and four one-year option periods.

Gordon Taxer, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 97, an AFL-CIO affiliate, said the in-house bid proposed a collaboration between federal employees and a contractor. Matt Biggs, IFPTE's legislative director, identified that contractor as Northrop Grumman Corp.

Details of the proposed collaboration, including the balance of federal and contract employees, have not been announced, but Taxer said reductions in the workforce were likely.

George Halford, a spokesman for the Army Corps, was not aware that details of the employee bid were publicly available, and could not confirm whether a contractor was part of the plan.

According to a Web site hosted by the Army Corps, the agency's in-house bid involves an unusual setup in which employees would be selectively hired into the new organization based on "competitive reassignment," as well as through a priority placement system that includes other Corps employees.

This would make employees performing jobs other than those encompassed in the competition eligible for positions in the restructured organization, change how preferences based on criteria such as veterans status and years-in-service are taken into account, and limit the positions available for reassignment.

Management will "get to handpick who they want without regard to others who may be better qualified, or may be a higher priority in the RIF process," Taxer said.

Halford, the Corps spokesman, said the plan "matches jobs to people and skill sets, as opposed to placing people based on seniority and the criteria that are under a RIF."

"The easiest way to think of it is a hiring process, where you have the jobs and people go apply to them by priority placement and submitting their résumés," Halford added. "It's a pull system, as opposed to a push system."

At town hall meetings held nationwide June 21 to inform employees of the competition result, Army Corps officials laid out the next steps. The losing bidder has until mid-July to decide whether to file

a protest of the award decision with the Government Accountability Office. If that deadline passes without a protest, the Army Corps will announce the final award decision and publish details of the plan; a protest would extend the time before full details are released.

When this competition began, it was described as encompassing 1,350 jobs at 45 locations, making it the largest public-private competition held by the Defense Department under a 2003 revision to the A-76 rules. In May, an Army Corps official said a hiring freeze and attrition have brought the number of affected employees to about 1,100.—*Jenny Mandel, Government Executive*

CALL TO RETIREES

The Heartland Engineer is now available online. It can be accessed at www.nwk.usace.army.mil. Click on "Organization," then "Public Affairs," then "Heartland Engineer."

In an effort to improve our retiree database by adding email addresses to alert retirees of unique opportunities, please contact the Public Affairs Office.

Also, if you would like to be taken off the mailing list and receive a notification by email each month when the newest issue is published, please contact Diana McCoy in Public Affairs at (816) 389-3485 or e-mail her at diana.mccoy@usace.army.mil.

PEOPLEPOWER

People Power is a monthly column designed to highlight the outstanding accomplishments or human interests of a district employee. Supervisors and peers are encouraged to nominate team members to be featured in an upcoming issue of *Heartland Engineer*.

Nominations should include a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishment and contact information for the person submitting the nomination. Nominations should be submitted by the 15th of the month for consideration for the next issue.

Nominations should be sent to:

PEOPLEPOWER
c/o Public Affairs Office
700 Federal Building
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
or e-mailed to:
thomas.a.ohara@usace.army.mil

Kansas City employee creates Corps-wide aid for real estate specialists

Lora Vacca, a real estate specialist with the Kansas City District, works on the RE.Net system she created. The net provides a forum to allow real estate professionals to seek advice from each other throughout the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Photo by Eric Cramer

The effort of one Kansas City District real estate specialist is making life easier for real estate throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lora Vacca modeled the “Unofficial RE.Net” e-mail network after the Natural Resource Management Ranger net she used while a Corps park ranger. She missed having a way to share information so applied the same principle as a means for real estate professionals to trade information, lessons learned and other quirks of the real estate trade.

Although Vacca’s information network started out as an “unofficial” system, it has gained recognition by being put on the Real Estate Community of Practice intranet site.

“It’s still unofficial, a peer to peer exchange of information that I hope everyone feels comfortable using. “We have a statement on the RE.net home page asking people to go through their immediate chain of command before implementing any process they may receive over the RE.net.”

The function of the RE.Net is simple. Corps real estate employees can sign on by contacting Ms. Vacca to be added to the e-mail network or by visiting the Real Estate Community of Practice intranet site at <https://hqintra1.hq.usace.army.mil/re.net/index.asp?page=0>.

Questions are diverse such as:

1. Has anyone established guidelines or factors to estimate FMV (fair market value) indicators for communication tower sites and / or antenna space on towers, using income indicators other than through a full appraisal? In other words, any tables of charges or other standardized methodologies that make sense?

Answer: In Seattle district, our appraiser uses the State DNR schedule to determine FMV for land and space within building for communication sites. Hope this helps.

2. Does anyone have experience with paintball courses on leased areas? We have a State Park that has requested to develop a course on their leased land which will be operated by a sub-lessee.

Answer: We do have a paintball field on Grapevine Lake. It is a sublease operation on one of our commercial concession lease areas. Please call me at (XXX XXX-XXXX) if you would like to discuss.

3. I am negotiating a fee acquisition in a business park. The business park has a 21 page list of covenants that run with the land. Has anyone acquired land with covenants attached? Your input is appreciated.

Answer: We have done an acquisition like this in the past. My attorney says that currently “We’ve been told we can’t accept that anymore. All such covenants have to be removed or specific waiver sought from the Attorney General.”

Vacca said the forum provides a way to keep folks from reinventing the wheel.

“Especially when it comes to generating documents. There is a variety of different actions from district to district, but the chances are someone out there has tackled it. The RE.net gives you the opportunity to find that person, ask a question, get advice and samples from people all over the Corps Real Estate Community of Practice,” Vacca said.

She said there are currently about 200 members of the voluntary RE.Net service.

“People send me their questions. I review them for content and then send them to the other users on the list. The users who have information respond. It’s wonderful how many of our real estate professionals will take the time to write a paragraph, or even include a sample of a document just to help someone out,” she said.

Rick Gardner, an experienced real estate specialist with the Tulsa District’s acquisition office, said the network is a real help to people new to the field.

“If folks run into a problem, we can save them a lot of time by directing to a source, or telling them about something we’ve done in the past,” he said. “It provides a process for sharing information, so we can give people a leg up over any hurdles they encounter.”



Fort Riley teachers receive WATER SAFETY HONORS



Fort Riley Middle School physical education instructor Don Stevens paddles a canoe during the school's water safety field trip. Stevens, who organizes the even each year, said water safety and aquatics have been part of his life since he was a child. *Photo provided*

By Eric Cramer

Four teachers from the Fort Riley Middle School, Fort Riley, Kan., have received the National Water Safety Congress Merit Award after their in-school water safety program was nominated by officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Milford Lake.

Receiving the award were physical education teachers Joanie Hayden, Janet Hoskins, Vic Garcia and Don Stevens, who have operated their water safety program for about 15 years.

Milford Lake ranger Cynthia Dierks, who nominated the teacher's water safety program, said she took action because the program is deserving.

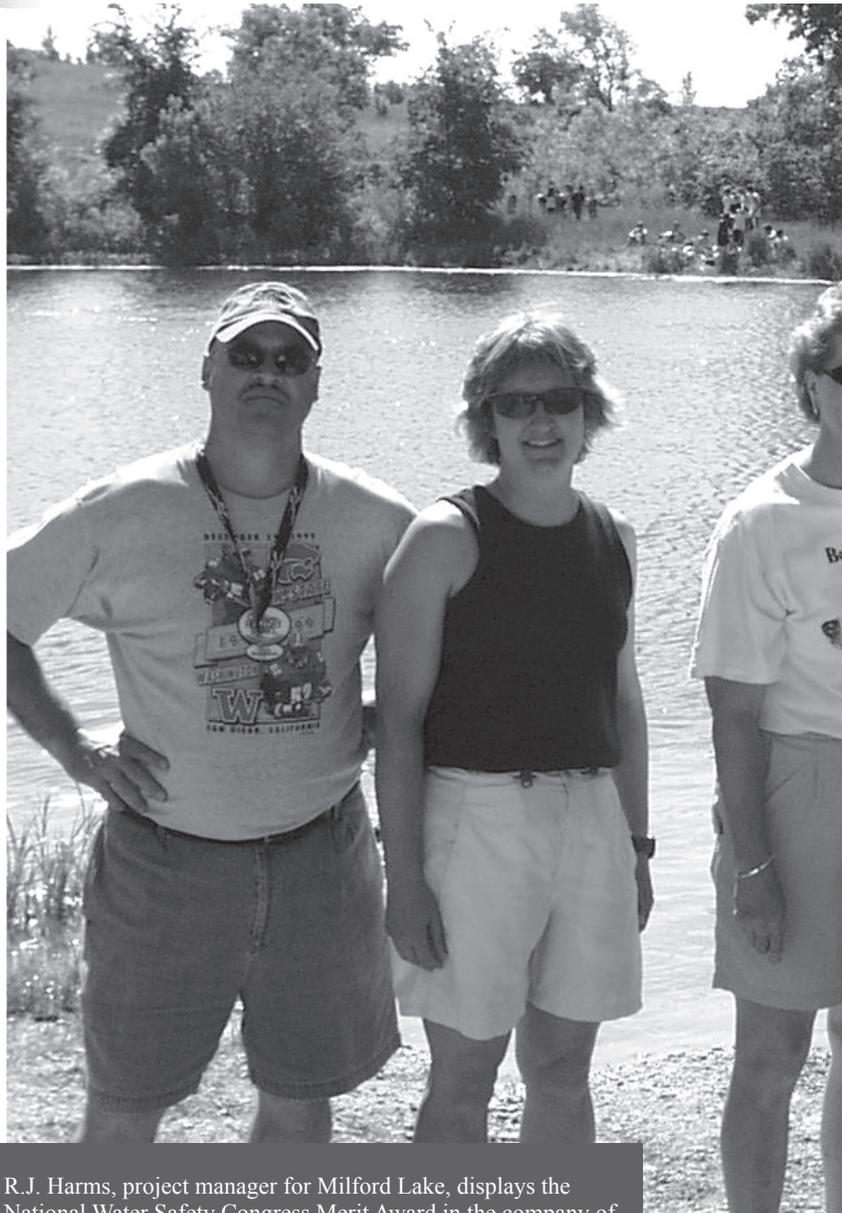
"They're dealing with kids who in many cases have no swimming skills or only limited swimming skills when they come to the program," she said. "Many of them have never been exposed to lifesaving or boating skills."

Dierks said the training is especially important for these middle-school-aged students because they are members of military families.

"Not only do they currently live next to the largest lake in Kansas, but they also have the potential to travel all over the world," she said. "I see this as making them a higher-risk population."

She said the program offered by the Fort Riley Middle School prepares the students, giving them a better knowledge of water safety and improving their chances of swimming and boating without receiving an injury or drowning.

Stevens, who organizes the program, said he started it because aquatics have always been an important part of his life.



R.J. Harms, project manager for Milford Lake, displays the National Water Safety Congress Merit Award in the company of the four Fort Riley physical education teachers who received it. Pictured are Vic Garcia, Joanie Hayden, Janet Hoskins, Don Stevens and Harms (left to right). *Photo provided*

“I’ve been involved with aquatics and water training for 17 years – it helped me work my way through college,” he said.

Stevens said between 10 and 20 percent of the students come to the course with little or no swimming experience.

“We give them a limited swimming test and determine who can swim a little, those who can swim overhand, but lack rhythmic breathing, and those who exhibit both strong movements and rhythmic breathing,” he said. “What we find is that the majority of kids who can’t swim come from families where their parents also don’t swim.”

Hayden said the program got started when the

physical education teachers applied for a “mini-grant.”

“We called our program the ‘FRMS,’ not for Fort Riley Middle School, but ‘Fort Riley Fitness and Maritime Safety,’” Hayden said.

She said the program teaches basic swimming and lifesaving skills and recommends swimming lessons from the Fort Riley swimming pool for those who need additional training.

“We finish the week of training with canoe training—how it feels when a canoe swamps, what to do when it capsizes and that sort of thing,” Hayden said. She said the lifesaving portion includes “throw and reach” options, but doesn’t turn the students into qualified lifesavers.

Chris Jones, a paraprofessional with Fort Riley Middle School, is also a graduate of the water safety program. He returned to the school system as a paraprofessional after completing school in the Fort Riley system.

“I learned how to swim from this program,” Jones said. “They taught me how to cross-stroke, and if it hadn’t been for this program, I wouldn’t know how to swim today.”

The teachers said they were surprised by the NWSC award.

“We didn’t know much about it,” Hayden said. “We were surprised and really honored.”

Hoskins said when the teachers visited the NWSC convention, they were the only educators present.

“Everyone else was in wildlife or parks,” she said. “We were learning things and brainstorming on the way home. We’re thinking about an idea where everyone who graduates from the program gets a free life jacket, something we heard about there.”



Students from Fort Riley Middle School wear personal flotation devices while canoeing at Fort Riley’s Breakneck Lake. The field trip is the students’ reward for completion of the school’s award-winning water safety program. *Photo provided*

Planning Pipeline



START



Graphic elements on these pages illustrate the planning and funding process. The civil works planning “pipeline” begins and ends every two years based on Corps planning and governmental funding. The cycle never ends, as new projects are planned and the process begins anew every two years.

OMB Provides Budget Guidance (Jan)

Funding Alloc. To Field Offices (Oct-Dec)



By Eric Cramer

A comparison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of today with the same organization 30 years ago shows fewer new projects are being planned, scheduled and completed today than in the Corps’ history.

Key to bringing a project to completion is the planning process.

Dave Combs, chief of planning for the Kansas City District, said the planning pipeline, and the legislative cycle through which projects are authorized, is important to establishing new projects, creating water resource management planning, and to having new projects in the future.

“Without ongoing planning of new projects, there can’t be real water resources projects in the future,” he said.

However, Corps experts say planning new projects is essential to getting the process started. It is a “chicken and egg” situation, in which new projects might be funded, if they were planned, but aren’t planned, because no funding is anticipated.

Under current laws and regulations, the civil works delivery process or “pipeline” begins with the identification of a problem, and follows a 21-step process that includes congressional authorization and funding to study the problem. An individual problem is then the subject of a reconnaissance study, a feasibility study, and several other legally required steps before it receives final review and authorization, and ultimately is funded and completed. Projects are usually authorized by a Water Resources Development Act, traditionally passed by Congress every two years although the most recent WRDA became law in 2000.

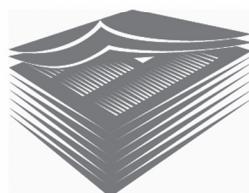
In addition to WRDA, Congress appropriates for Corps water projects through the Energy and Water Appropriations Act each year. These appropriations can come either from administration recommended appropriations or from congressional adds.

Under current water resource guidance, the process from project inception to the initiation of construction can take five to seven years, or longer if funding is delayed.

In the Corps’ most recent budget, congress authorized total expenditures of



President Signs Approp. Bill (Sep-Oct)

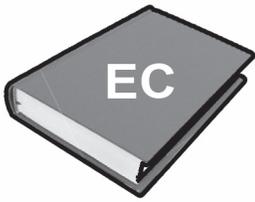


Appropriations Bills (Jul-Sep)

Cong. Hearings (Mar-Apr)



HQ Provides Budget Guidance (Mar)



District Offices Develop Program Requirements (Apr - May)



Div. & HQ Review & Approval (May-Jun)



Budget Presented to Sec. Army (Jul-Aug)



Budget Submitted to OMB (Sep)



OMB Passback (Nov)



President's Budget to Congress (Feb)



\$5.3 billion nationally—this includes the major categories of operation and maintenance, construction general, general investigations, regulatory, and general expenses and several lesser categories.

Typically, the president offers Congress a proposed budget based on after the Corps provides input.

The Congress may add to this budget recommendation, and it is common for the president's proposed budget to be lower than the amount approved by Congress in the final legislative appropriation.

"Today there's a reluctance to plan new projects, in favor of completing existing projects," Combs said. "What could happen is a gap develops where no future projects are planned, impacting new water resource development to the nation."

Corps sources indicate that the "pipeline" of continued water resource development has been dependent on new projects new start entering the pipeline to provide the future construction and operation of these public projects. The new starts then constitute the beginning of the process leading to construction and operation.

Combs said districts without any new starts eventually lose some of their expertise in planning, designing and building projects.

"It's hard to re-start a lot of these if we lose the expertise," Combs said.

Dennis Wagner, chief of planning and policy for the Northwestern Division Support Team, agrees with Combs.

"If you don't have projects in the planning phases—you have no projects to design or build, what you're left with is an operating agency that only operates and maintains the infrastructure it already owns," Wagner said. "What that would do is compromise our nation's water resources needs, or our ability to meet those needs."

Last year, only three new projects were started in the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There was a time when any district could expect two or three new starts a year," Combs said.

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East Village development

may leave district employees without parking



By *Eric Cramer*

A development plan for the eastern portion of downtown Kansas City has prompted General Service Administration officials to collect data regarding parking for federal employees.

Throughout the week of April 24, GSA conducted a three-question survey for employees working at the Richard Bolling Federal Building, the Charles Evans Whittaker Federal Courthouse and the Federal Department of Transportation buildings, all located in downtown Kansas City, Mo.

Michael Kraxberger, director of the GSA's Kansas City North office, said the survey is designed to provide the GSA with data that can be used to partner with the city in approaching the project developers to address proposed parking solutions within the project boundaries.

"We need to let them know that there's a set number of parking spaces here that we require," Kraxberger said. "We're surveying to determine the needs of the federal employee community."

He said data collected in the survey will be presented to Kansas City government officials and to the Federal Executive Board of Kansas City.

"We have nearly 5,000 federal employees working in the city, many of them paying the city's tax to work here," Kraxberger said. "We think it's fair to ask the city what these employees receive for the taxes they pay."

He said the impetus for the survey came from a development plan for the eastern portion of downtown Kansas City called "East Village."

David Fellers, regional project executive for GSA, said the current East Village plan would develop an area bounded by Ilis W. Davis Park on the West, Charlotte on

"We have nearly 5,000 federal employees working in the city, many of them paying the city's tax to work here."

-Michael Kraxberger

the east, Eighth Street on the North and 12th Street to the south.

"If the project is built as currently proposed, it would basically eliminate all the privately-held surface parking in that area," Fellers said. "That would leave only the parking to the east of the Bolling Building, in a worst-case scenario."

He said the East Village development plan, created by East Village LLC, a firm comprised of developers from Kansas City, Mo., and Minneapolis, Minn., is designed to improve the cityscape. It would also mean the construction of a new central office facility for J.E. Dunn, a major construction contractor in the Kansas City area. Financed via a version of tax increment financing called "Super TIF," the project has been approved by Kansas City's TIF commission and by the Missouri House. It is currently awaiting approval in the Missouri Senate.

Fellers and Kraxberger said GSA and city officials hope to sway the developers with the statistics compiled in the survey.

Kraxberger said he hopes the city will include a multi-story parking garage as part of the East Village development plan.

"That's been part of our idea for a long time," he said. "We've been willing to give the 701 lot (carpool lot) to a private developer to develop a multi-story parking facility that we'd then lease, but so far we haven't found any takers."



Long Branch Lake

Home of the Dam Phenomenon

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/longbranch/longbranch_home.htm

Location of Dam: Near Macon, Mo.
 Stream/River: East Fork Little Chariton
 Miles Above Mouth of River: 78
 Storage Date: August 2, 1978
 Total Acreage: 7,590 Acres
 Lake Size: 2,430 Acres
 Dam Length: 3,550 ft.
 Yearly Visitation: 155,000

This is the 13th lake to appear in a series which will outline Kansas City District's 18 lake projects. All projects will appear in chronological order from the date they first stored water.



The surface of the dam is a popular walking spot for the local community. Large numbers of people walk the dam at the same time. *Photo by Mike Watkins*

By *Diana McCoy*

Water, one of the most valuable natural resources known to man, has been the source of many conflicts throughout the world. No man can live without it, much less the people of northeastern Missouri.

That's why the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was authorized to build and maintain a dam in Macon, Mo.

The city of Macon had a water supply reservoir, but it became less and less useful because of sedimentation and other water quality factors, so there was a desire to obtain a good water supply in the region.

"The Corps is very popular here," said Paul Sampson, operations manager for Long Branch Lake. "We are a water supply lake. We provide a valuable resource, and people are appreciative of that."

An ethanol plant in the area, one of only a few in



Visitors relax in the sun at the State Park Beach. Most visitors come from the surrounding communities of Macon, Brookfield and Kirksville.

Photo Provided

the state, is a big consumer of the water and wouldn't exist without the lake. It produces 45 million gallons of ethanol a year—an amount that would support the fuel needs of the local communities of Macon, Kirksville and Brookfield for one year.

Besides water supply, other missions for the lake include flood control, downstream water quality, recreation and fish and wildlife management.

"This is a cost-share lake, which means other agencies share in the cost of operation of the lake," Sampson said. "The Corps doesn't maintain any of the recreation areas of the project."

He said there are three park areas on the lake which are managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

"The lake gets a lot of weekend-type use from the local community," Sampson said.

He joked that people leave Iowa's Ocean (referring to Rathbun Lake) to visit Long Branch.

"Macon County is a popular destination for deer and turkey hunters," Sampson said. "Numbers of deer and turkey taken each season consistently place Macon County in the top three Missouri counties for deer and turkey. Of course, Macon County is well known for its honey, too."

Its popularity for honey is traced back to the 1800s.

"There was an old trade route called the Bee Trace which runs right through the middle of the project," said Mike Monda, natural resource specialist for the lake. "It was a divide between the Missouri River drainage and the Mississippi River drainage. The early settlers would travel that trail collecting honey because there wasn't a whole lot of other sweeteners available, and it was a valuable commodity to the pioneers."

Aside from the honey, the dam itself is very popular in the area.

"The unforeseen use of the project is that people from

continued on page 14

Harry S. Truman Dam & Reservoir

The Flagship Lake of the District

Location of Dam: Near Warsaw, Mo.
Stream/River: Osage River
Miles Above Mouth of River: 175.1
Storage Date: February 7, 1979
Total Acreage: 165,600 Acres
Lake Size: 55,600 Acres
Dam Length: 5,000 ft.
Yearly Visitation: 1.5 million

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/harryst/hst_home.htm

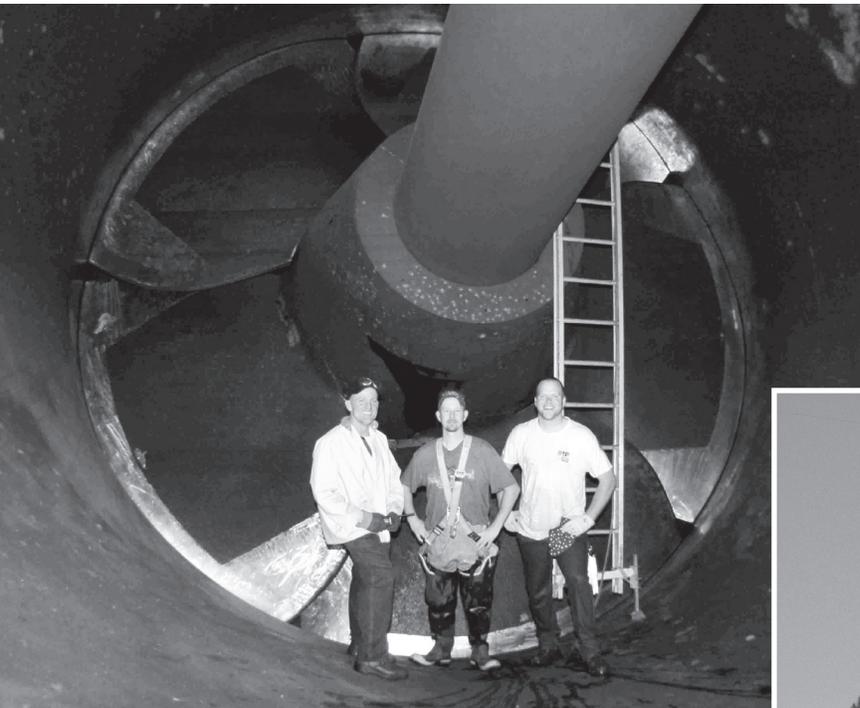
This is the 14th lake to appear in a series which will outline Kansas City District's 18 lake projects. All projects will appear in chronological order from the date they first stored water.

needs for nearly 100,000 homes. The power is managed by Southwestern Power Administration in Springfield a federal agency which markets power for Truman and other federal lakes in Missouri and neighboring states.

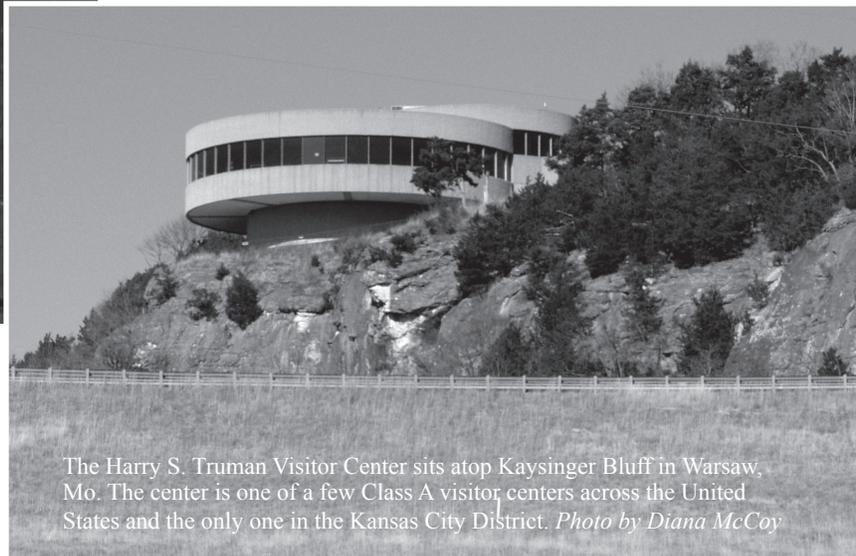
Other missions for the project include recreation and fish and wildlife management.

"There's been a lot of notoriety here," Marchi said. "Truman Lake is an outdoorsman's paradise. Fishing and hunting shows often come here to tape episodes for TV."

The project is known around the United States for its crappie and largemouth bass. More than 8,800 acres of standing timber were left in the lake to



Jack Vencill, Bryan Kilgore and Willie Salley (left to right) pose next to a 21-foot turbine at the Harry S. Truman Power Plant. The crew at Truman are performing inspections on the bulkheads that hold back the Lake of the Ozarks. Each of the six generators produce 30,000 Kilowatts of power which is distributed to six states. *Photo by Jacob Mura*



The Harry S. Truman Visitor Center sits atop Kaysinger Bluff in Warsaw, Mo. The center is one of a few Class A visitor centers across the United States and the only one in the Kansas City District. *Photo by Diana McCoy*

By *Diana McCoy*

Sitting atop Kaysinger Bluff along the Osage River in Warsaw, Mo., the visitor center at Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir allows guests to view the largest flood control reservoir in the state.

It was authorized after the Great Flood of 1951 to prevent flooding which had frequented the Osage River Basin. The basin covers parts of both Missouri and Kansas.

"We also have a hydropower mission," said Bob Marchi, operations manager. "That's kind of a unique thing in the district because we are one of only two lakes in the district who produce it."

At full power, the plant can provide the daily electrical

improve its aquatic habitat. The diversity of land types found on the project, support a wide variety of game species for hunters, such as deer, turkey, waterfowl, rabbits and quail.

"We're in a transition zone between the Ozarks and the prairie," Marchi said. "It's one of the things which make Truman so ecologically diverse."

A 200-acre off-road vehicle area is available to visitors at Cooper Creek Park, an area once strip mined.

"It's extremely popular there Because Cooper Creek is one of the few riding areas of its kind in the region," Marchi said. "It's a great place to ride because the terrain provides challenges to riders of all skill levels."

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PLANNING PIPELINE

continued from page 9

Combs said there is probably a reduced need for some civil works projects, as the projects of the 1950s, '60s and '70s have been completed.

"There may not be as many needed, but we're at a point where many of these projects need to be re-evaluated," Combs said. "In Kansas City, we're already re-evaluating the levee system for the Kansas City and Topeka metro areas, and we're looking water supply and flood control on the Kansas River, the Chariton River in Iowa and Missouri, the Grand River in Missouri and the Little Blue Valley River right here in the Kansas City area."

He said some of the ongoing evaluations are based on urban growth.

"As areas become more urban, there is more runoff, and more need for flood control," Combs said.

Wagner said counties and states are approaching the Corps with more water resources projects than it can address.

"There's more work out there than there is funding available by a large, large margin," Wagner said. "The public entities, the counties and states, are requesting our help with a lot of projects."

He said the picture isn't bleak for the future of civil works, but it is time for planners and districts to be aware there could be future issues.

"We've had some new starts that began years ago that are just now panning out, but we're headed for a discontinuity. That discontinuity should concern the public as well as the District," Combs said.

He said the process is necessarily complex, but is designed to protect U.S. taxpayers.

Wagner said regionalization is one means of preserving the Corps' planning ability and addressing projects that come into "the front end" of the pipeline.

"We're taking steps to address it by regionalization of planning," he said. "We hope to establish two or three planning centers within NWD, rather than going through attrition to just two or three planners here or there."

Wagner added that the division is also working within the entire Corps to provide planning services during this period where the government is funding other priorities, whether those priorities are the war in Iraq or the relief efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Our division has provided help to the South Atlantic Division on the Everglades program," Wagner said. "We're trying to

see what the overall needs of the Corps are nationwide. We're making progress to maintain the abilities in our division, so when we get through the current slow period we have the capabilities still on hand."

LONG BRANCH LAKE

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the community come out here in great numbers to walk across the dam to get some exercise," Sampson said. "We call them the dam walkers."

Monda said they use the dam because it's level, scenic and open, and it's not uncommon to have 25 to 30 people crossing the dam at the same time. School groups will come out as an activity, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol and National Guard will use the dam to train on. "A lot of people go across the dam and over to the state park," Sampson said. "They can walk anywhere from one to five miles, and the peak times are mornings and evenings."

Another trail available to visitors is a nine-mile hiking trail, and while there are many other things for visitors to do, none of it would be possible without the partnerships Sampson and his staff form with other agencies.

"One project we did was a brochure of the lake," Sampson said. "We got together with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Macon Economic Development Corporation. We all supplied input into the brochure and the money for printing costs."

Sampson said the motivation wasn't only to get more maps, but to involve other agencies so they could state their message in a common brochure.

"Without these other agencies, we wouldn't be able to accomplish a lot of our goals," Sampson said. "We used to be a small country town, but we're getting a lot of businesses coming in, and the area is populating and growing. That means we'll have the opportunity to do even more things in the future."

HARRY S. TRUMAN DAM & RESERVIOR

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Marchi said the Truman Staff is working with a local user group to improve and help manage the park, as its popularity has surpassed the resources available for

management.

"Partnerships are a big thing now," Marchi said. "We have to work with many different organizations in order to accomplish our goals here, and we really try to cultivate those relationships."

Marchi said they have a close relationship with the Osage Valley Heritage Association, who built the log cabin replica found within the visitor center complex.

"We also work with a lot civic associations and the surrounding communities," Marchi said.

These organizations, along with Truman staff make many of the annual events possible, beginning with Eagle Days in January.

"Our biggest event is Heritage Days," Marchi said. "We've been doing that for more than 20 years, and it's just huge. It was the brainchild Ed Elmore, of one of our park rangers who is no longer with us, unfortunately."

Marchi said the Elmore's idea was to preserve the old-time techniques and skills used by Missourians more than 100 years ago, such as musicians, cooking methods, pottery making, and yarn spinning. The event also offers a venue for civil war re-enactors.

"Ed began by identifying people in the area who still practiced those skills," Marchi said, "and after a few years, the popularity of the event just exploded. It's now a two-day event which draws about 20,000 people for the weekend."

Other events include a youth fishing day for special needs children, a special deer hunt for disabled hunters, a Fourth of July celebration and an active water safety program.

"We've been really fortunate because we've had about five or six different water safety rangers here who were great at reaching out to the recreating public, especially kids," Marchi said. "They not only cover Truman, but Stockton and Pomme de Terre as well."

Marchi said the Trumans staff has supported the water safety ranger program from its inception, and uses innovative ideas to get the water safety message out each year.

"Overall, this is a great lake with a great staff to run it," Marchi said. "It takes all day to drive around the place, but that's the beauty of it. Everything about Truman is big. Big water, lots of land, lots of parks and we've got a Class 'A' visitor's center (one of only a few throughout the nation). We've been called the flagship lake of the district, and when people think of the Kansas City District, they think of Truman Lake."

Synching Synching



Lt. Col. Kelly Butler discusses the Kansas City District Master Calendar and encourages everyone to “stay synched.”
Photo by Eric Cramer

I am continually amazed at how much goes on in the district on any given day, week or month. There are so many distinctly different programs and projects; so many suspenses and events. Sometimes we tend to get tunneled into our own operations that we can easily forget the overall organizational goals and elements or how we impact other programs or the need to communicate special events. So how do we ensure we synchronize, capture our yearly routine and emphasize special events? How can we make it easier for everyone to see major events and long range plans?

Thanks to Outlook and some great work by the Information Management office, we have a District Master Calendar. I encourage everyone to visit the CENWK Master Calendar and work to make it better. The intent of the calendar is to:

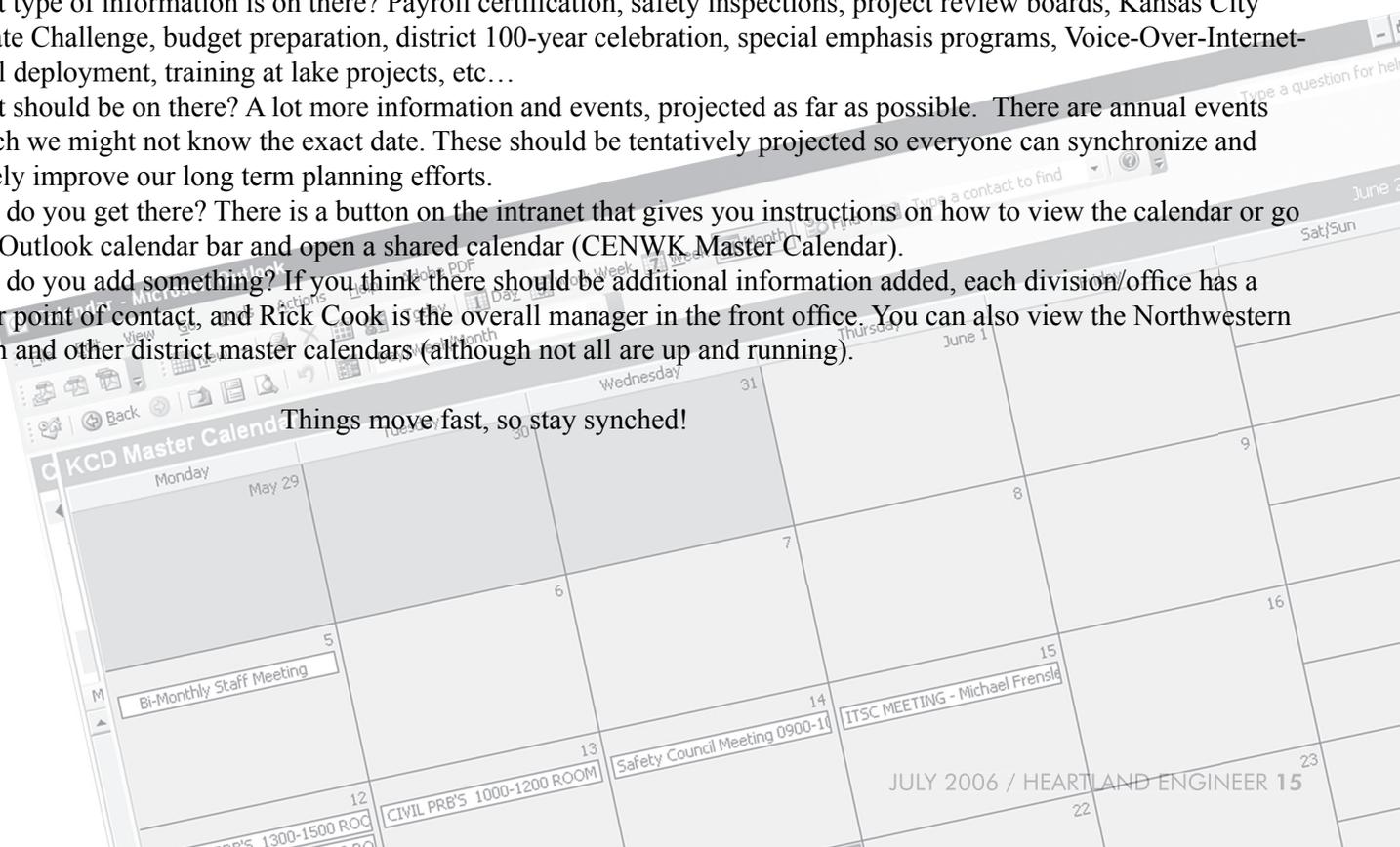
- Improve short range and long range planning
- Synchronize district events and training
- Highlight significant activities that cross divisions/offices, are relevant to higher headquarters or have significant stakeholder involvement
- Increase situational awareness
- Establish annual routine program information

What type of information is on there? Payroll certification, safety inspections, project review boards, Kansas City Corporate Challenge, budget preparation, district 100-year celebration, special emphasis programs, Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol deployment, training at lake projects, etc...

What should be on there? A lot more information and events, projected as far as possible. There are annual events for which we might not know the exact date. These should be tentatively projected so everyone can synchronize and ultimately improve our long term planning efforts.

How do you get there? There is a button on the intranet that gives you instructions on how to view the calendar or go to your Outlook calendar bar and open a shared calendar (CENWK Master Calendar).

How do you add something? If you think there should be additional information added, each division/office has a calendar point of contact, and Rick Cook is the overall manager in the front office. You can also view the Northwestern Division and other district master calendars (although not all are up and running).



Things move fast, so stay synched!



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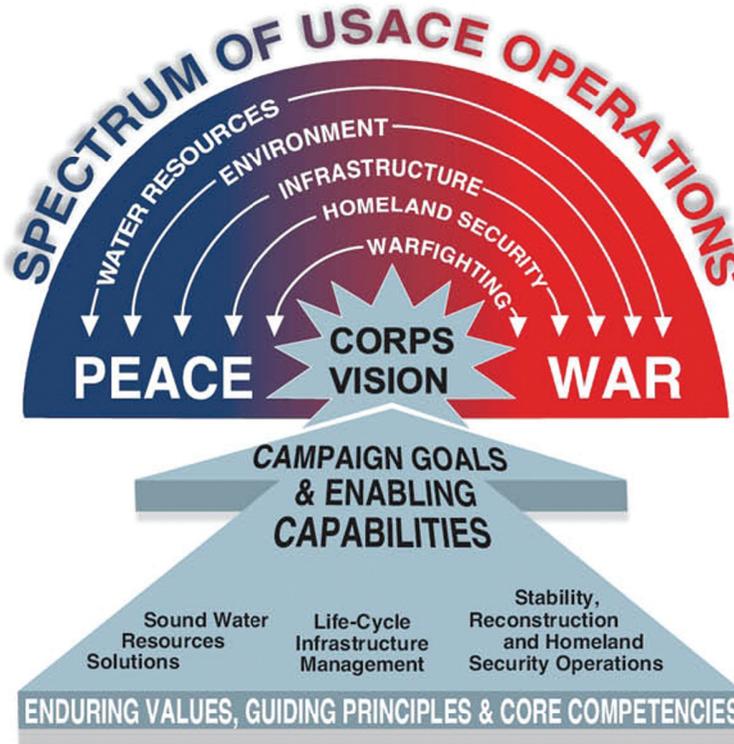
Campaign Goals

As we examined our past work and future challenges, we identified three major campaign goals to focus our efforts and help us reach our vision.

Support Stability, Reconstruction and Homeland Security Operations

Develop Sound Water Resources Solutions

Enhance Life-Cycle Infrastructure Management



A full-spectrum Engineer Force of high quality Civilians and Soldiers, working with our partners to deliver innovative and effective solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges:

- An Army Values-Based Organization
- Focused on the Mission and Those We Serve
 - Dedicated to Public Service
 - A Vital Part of the Army

Enabling Capabilities

Investing in these enablers will help us succeed in achieving our campaign goals.

1. Sustainability Ethic
2. Learning Organization
3. Expeditionary Mindset
4. Strategic Alliances
5. Consistent, Efficient & Effective Business Processes
6. World-Class Workforce
7. Interdependence
8. Flexible Acquisition Tools



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