

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

HEARTLAND ENGINEER



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JULY 2007



CHANGING OF COMMAND

ARMY STRONG, ENGINEER READY



1907

2007

A CENTURY OF VISION, ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE

FEATURES

THE FIFTH DECADE OF THE KANSAS CITY DISTRICT _____ 4

Dam construction era resumes in lue of cold war threat.

RECORD WATER LEVELS FLOOD OSAWATOMIE _____ 6

The summer flood of 2007 focused its wrath on the town of Osawatomie.

HARRY S. TRUMAN LAKE EXPERIENCES SECOND HIGH WATER EVENT FOR 2007 _____ 7

Truman Lake has experienced several high water events since its completion in 1979.

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL TO DISTRICT COMMANDER _____ 8

The guidon was passed to a new commander during the formal change of command ceremony.

NIGHT WITH THE ROYALS _____ 12

More than 250 Kansas City District family and friends gathered to celebrate.



DISTRICT CHANGE OF COMMAND

INSIDE THE HEARTLAND

MARATHON ON THE MIGHTY MO

Envision a river race across the entire state. You, a canoe and 340 miles of the Mighty MO.



THE EAGLE RETURN

The Eagle Soars off the Endangered Species List.



LASTWORD

UPDATE - Renovation of the Richard Bolling Federal Building.



10

11

15



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ON THE COVER: COL Michael Rossi, District Engineer and dignitaries celebrate the Kansas City District's 100 years of service to the nation. Photo by David Riffel

It is an absolute honor to join you in the Kansas City District's 100th year of service to the Nation. Susan and I, and our three children Bailey, Breanna, and Cole are thrilled to live and serve in such a vibrant and robust community, and call Kansas City home. I am eager to stretch out and meet all of you who represent the District each day, as well as our teammates from across all sectors of society, our stakeholders from Washington, DC, and our partners from the fields and streams of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

As I continue my introduction to the organization, I would like to share some initial observations. First, your reputation is strong. From our support staff here at the District Headquarters to our lake and river operators and regulators in direct contact with the public, you have established yourselves as professionals. Our planners, resource analysts, human resource specialists, project managers, and builders (to name a few) are at the top of their trade. This has manifested into trust, respect, and consistent excellence. I ask that you take a minute to reflect on what "got us here." Take stock in your accomplishments and then nurture relationships that enabled you, both internal and external. My hunch is that these relationships will be relied on again.

Second, the trust and respect we enjoy hinges on our ability to continue to deliver quality projects at cost and on time. In essence, we must fulfill our promises. The next 3-5 years will test this agency's ability to surge and meet these promises as we address National priorities like the Global War on Terrorism, Missouri River Restoration, Grow the Army, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), and caring for the environment. These requirements have doubled the Kansas City District's program, yet our workforce remains strategically lean. We must accomplish these requirements while maintaining sound business sense during a period of significant organizational change and increased accountability. Our task is to get on with it, not to stand in awe of it. Thus, we will deliver as promised while realizing the benefits of business improvements like National Security Personnel System (NSPS), Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology (ACE-IT), and Military Construction Transformation, among others. This will take our best collective efforts, and a responsible and positive outlook.

These are just a few of my expectations, and I trust they are widely shared throughout the District. In general, however, you can expect our priorities will remain meeting mission requirements, taking care of our people, and developing the next generation of Kansas City District servants. And, that these priorities will be accomplished in a positive, enriching, and respectful environment. Last, I ask that you continue to remain safe whether deployed, at home, or on duty. Each of you is an integral member of the team; we cannot do it without you.

I'm proud to be here, and committed to serving you, our partners, and our Nation. Susan and I thank you for your outpouring of support and Midwestern hospitality. We feel incredibly welcomed and privileged to consider ourselves Heartland Engineers.



COL Roger A. Wilson, Jr.



1948-1957

The fifth decade of the

Kansas City District

World Events

1948

- Flood Control Act, Section 205, authorizes Corp of Engineers to transfer funds to small flood control projects not specifically authorized by Congress and it establishes emergency fund to be expended under supervision of the Chief of Engineers, when local cooperation is obtained.
- Kansas City District completes Kanopolis dam.
- Corps of Engineers and the Department of Agriculture clarify their roles and responsibilities in a Memorandum of Understanding for a restudy of the Osage River basin.
- Work begins on the Missouri River Levee System, which was authorized in the 1944 Flood Control Act.

1949

- Soviet atomic explosion.
- Kansas City District is assigned military mobilization work at heartland Air Force bases.
- Office of the Chief of Engineers approves the use of quarry-run stone as an alternative construction method for river improvement structures.

1950

- North Korean forces launch invasion into South Korea.
- Engineering training is resumed at Fort Leonard Wood
- Congress passes Civil Defense Recovery Act. and the Korean War expansion program presents new challenges to the Kansas City District.
- Program of navigation channel improvements is scheduled for completion during fiscal year 1959.
- The Osage River basin plan, developed under guidance of a coordinating committee named by the governor of Missouri, is submitted to Congress.

1951

- The Chief of Engineers officially assigns the Kansas City District to a military mission.
- Catastrophic flood in lower Missouri basin produces discharge of 636,000 cubic feet per second at the river's confluence with the Mississippi. Extensive damages result in the nation's first \$1 billion flood.
- Greater Kansas City Flood Prevention Committee hosts Emergency Flood Conference.

1952

- A new flood emergency frightens a "flood shy" public in the Kansas City area, at Riverside area, levees and floodwalls damaged the previous year withstand the new crests.
- Construction begins on Tuttle Creek Lake, a key unit in the Kansas River basin system.
- Kansas City District places Harlan County dam in operation.



100 YEARS OF HISTORY

1948 - 1957 *Dam construction era resumes in lue of cold war threat*

When he signed the 1944 Flood Control Act, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the nation's most comprehensive river basin development plan. The Missouri River basin portion of the plan, known as Pick-Sloan, authorized federal agencies to coordinate plans with the states to control floods, irrigate lands, develop hydroelectric power, assist navigation, supply potable water, control erosion, conserve fish and wildlife, and provide public recreation.

The vast civil works mission embodied in Pick-Sloan provided challenging opportunities for the Kansas City District. It is the foundation for the District's current water and related land resources work.

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, Division Engineer, Missouri River Division, implemented the Pick-Sloan plan on 21 March 1946, when he started a pile driver used to build the flood wall in the Kansas City bottomlands. This project was a sound decision.

There was no disputing the flood threat that existed in the industrial districts situated on the flood plain at the confluence of the Kansas River with the Missouri River. This was exactly the kind of project the 1944 Flood Control Act addressed "in the interest of national security and with a view toward providing . . . useful and worthy public works for the post-war construction program."

The Kansas City District wanted to complement urban flood protection structures with dams located upstream. Many rural interests in Kansas and Missouri opposed reservoirs permanently flooding agricultural land. The Kansas City District was at the center of dispute between the rural and the urban interests.

Before WWII, Congress approved the District's Kansas River basin plan for a series of dams above the metropolitan areas. The District began construction on the Kanopolis dam in 1940, but the war stopped it. Kanopolis was reauthorized and work resumed in 1946.

When rural interests opposed its sister project, the Milford dam, the District initiated construction on the Harlan County dam on the Republican River. The people in this south-central Nebraska area of the Kansas River watershed wanted a big dam because they had experienced a flood disaster in 1935.

Harlan and Kanopolis were pluses for the Kansas City District. Both projects provided substantial flood damage reductions before other projects authorized with them were even initiated.

The Tuttle Creek project on the Big Blue tributary stream of the Kansas River is a sad example of a project delayed by local opposition. The Kansas City District wanted the project as part of its plan for protection of downstream cities such as Manhattan, Topeka, and Lawrence, as well as the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The District had avid support from the Flood Protection Planning Committee for Greater Kansas City, which declared prophetically in 1949 that "untold suffering and the loss of many millions of dollars would be sustained" if the authorized program for the Kansas River basin was delayed.

The District had no such support for its Osage basin plans in Missouri. Local interests there favored upstream watershed treatment to reduce runoff and wanted additional features added to studies of potential projects.

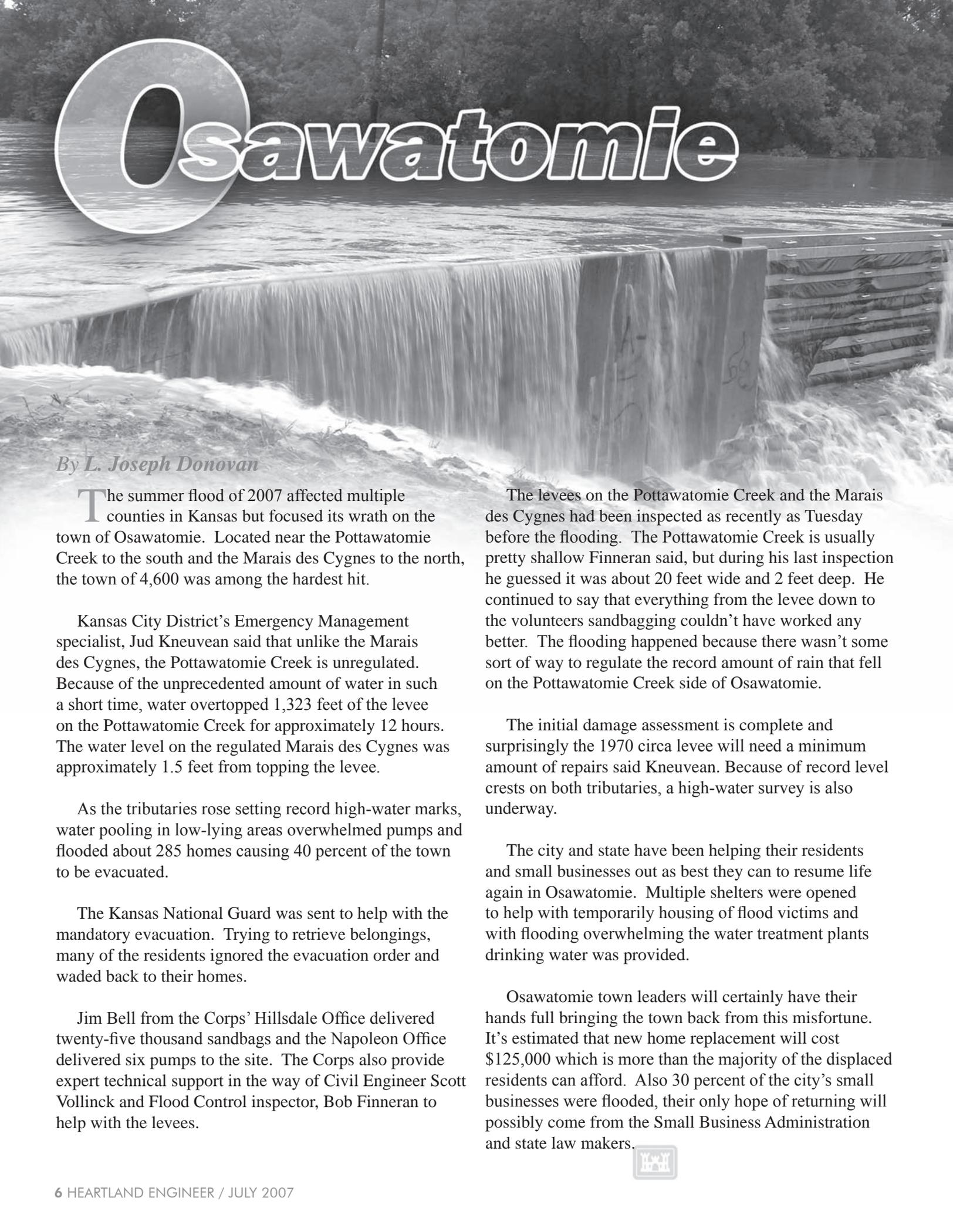
The state of Missouri protested that "No development program should be approved until it is a coordinated plan in which all of the major resources, including recreation and wildlife, have been appropriately considered and provided for in the program." The state got the restudy it wanted and the Kansas City District was allowed to broaden the parameters of its basin studies.

While engaged in restudies of its plans for tributary streams, the District pursued both levee construction and channel improvements on the main stem. In 1945, Congress approved a navigation program for the Missouri River from Sioux City to the mouth.

Improvement work consisted of "permeable dikes" to direct the flow of the river, and thereby shorten and deepen the channel to 9-foot depth. The District's engineers forced the river into the designed alignment then stabilized the banks with quarried stone.

Stabilizing the channel was popular. It protected the District's Pick-Sloan agricultural levees and helped secure private property and public infrastructures in the bottomlands.

continued on page 14



Osawatomie

By *L. Joseph Donovan*

The summer flood of 2007 affected multiple counties in Kansas but focused its wrath on the town of Osawatomie. Located near the Pottawatomie Creek to the south and the Marais des Cygnes to the north, the town of 4,600 was among the hardest hit.

Kansas City District's Emergency Management specialist, Jud Kneuvean said that unlike the Marais des Cygnes, the Pottawatomie Creek is unregulated. Because of the unprecedented amount of water in such a short time, water overtopped 1,323 feet of the levee on the Pottawatomie Creek for approximately 12 hours. The water level on the regulated Marais des Cygnes was approximately 1.5 feet from topping the levee.

As the tributaries rose setting record high-water marks, water pooling in low-lying areas overwhelmed pumps and flooded about 285 homes causing 40 percent of the town to be evacuated.

The Kansas National Guard was sent to help with the mandatory evacuation. Trying to retrieve belongings, many of the residents ignored the evacuation order and waded back to their homes.

Jim Bell from the Corps' Hillsdale Office delivered twenty-five thousand sandbags and the Napoleon Office delivered six pumps to the site. The Corps also provide expert technical support in the way of Civil Engineer Scott Vollinck and Flood Control inspector, Bob Finneran to help with the levees.

The levees on the Pottawatomie Creek and the Marais des Cygnes had been inspected as recently as Tuesday before the flooding. The Pottawatomie Creek is usually pretty shallow Finneran said, but during his last inspection he guessed it was about 20 feet wide and 2 feet deep. He continued to say that everything from the levee down to the volunteers sandbagging couldn't have worked any better. The flooding happened because there wasn't some sort of way to regulate the record amount of rain that fell on the Pottawatomie Creek side of Osawatomie.

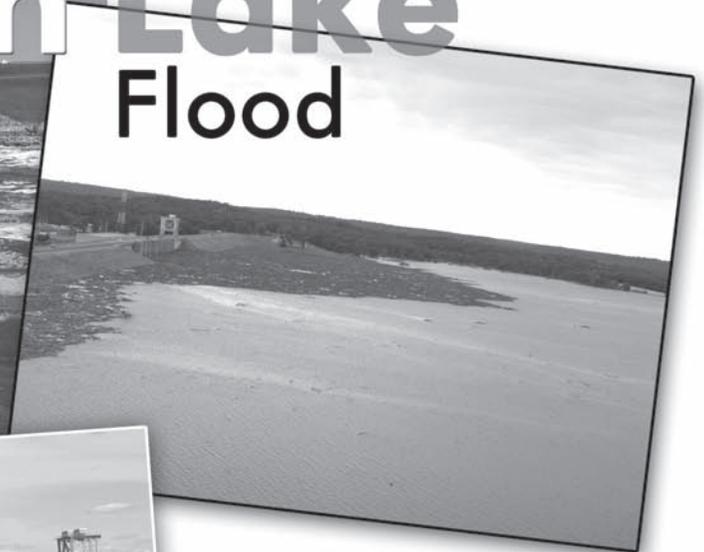
The initial damage assessment is complete and surprisingly the 1970 circa levee will need a minimum amount of repairs said Kneuvean. Because of record level crests on both tributaries, a high-water survey is also underway.

The city and state have been helping their residents and small businesses out as best they can to resume life again in Osawatomie. Multiple shelters were opened to help with temporarily housing of flood victims and with flooding overwhelming the water treatment plants drinking water was provided.

Osawatomie town leaders will certainly have their hands full bringing the town back from this misfortune. It's estimated that new home replacement will cost \$125,000 which is more than the majority of the displaced residents can afford. Also 30 percent of the city's small businesses were flooded, their only hope of returning will possibly come from the Small Business Administration and state law makers.



Truman Lake Flood



By Danny L. Sandersfeld

Truman Lake experienced two high water events during the 2007 recreation season. The second event hit soon after the lake elevation was nearly back to normal after the first event. During the second flood event the lake crested at 730.32msl (feet above mean sea level) or about 24 feet above normal pool. The highest lake elevation Truman experienced was in October of 1986 when the elevation rose to 738.72msl.

Truman Lake has experienced several high water events since its completion in 1979 but this event was unusual because of the huge amount of debris washed into the lake. Approximately 35 acres of debris, mostly logs and other vegetation, compacted up against the dam. Because of the currents from the flood waters being released through the tainter gates and the generators the debris brought into the lake area

was drawn to the dam. The debris did not cause any problems with the release of water through the tainter gates or the turbines. Both intakes for these structures are located far below the floating debris. Approximately 56,000 cubic feet per second of flood water was released during the height of the release. Corps officials intend to contract the pick up and removal of the debris.

The debris and the high water attracted many visitors to the dam. Most were in awe of the large floating debris field and seeing the many facilities such as playgrounds, boat ramps, and other structures inundated by the high water. There were so many sightseers observing the flood event and the debris field that Corps officials asked the public to exercise extra caution when driving on the dam or within park areas because of the congestion.

The high lake elevation impacted all of the recreation areas on Truman Lake. Some of the Corps facilities had to be closed to the public. Many of the Corps managed boat ramps were closed but four high water boat ramps designed for such events provided boaters with lake access. These ramps are located at Truman State Park, Shawnee Bend, Berry Bend, and Talley Bend Parks.

Clean-up has been underway since the lake started receding. Debris left by the flood water in the campgrounds, beaches and boat ramps has been pushed into piles which Corps managers will burn during the winter months. Each campsite has been evaluated for repairs such as replacing gravel, cleaning or repairing electrical pedestals, and replacing amenities. Also, some roadways had to be repaired or patched. The beaches will need to be inspected for safety, reset buoy lines and test the water for quality before those facilities can be re-opened.





U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, Kansas City District bids farewell to district commander

For the 41st time since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Kansas City District was established in 1907, the guidon was passed to a new commander during a formal change of command ceremony. Col. Roger A. Wilson Jr., assumed command of the district on July 9, 2007, succeeding Col. Michael A. Rossi.

During his speech to the district, Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Gregg F. Martin said, "Several weeks ago you celebrated 100 years of vision, achievement and service for this District. Today, we recognize your outgoing commander, Col. Mike Rossi, for exemplifying those very same ideals and standards."

Brig. Gen. Martin added that Col. Rossi has proven to be a man with a mission and a passion . . . a great Soldier, a fervent patriot, and a fearless leader. And the Corps has prospered under Col. Rossi's leadership. Through the leadership of Mike Rossi, this district continues to field some of the largest numbers of Corps volunteers to serve overseas.

The Liberty Memorial Museum in Kansas City, Mo set the stage for a memorable ceremony. Since its opening in 1926, the museum remains the only monument in North America dedicated exclusively to those who offered and gave their lives in World War I. "That type of sacrifice continues today and touches every corner of our nation, our Army, and the Corps," said Brig. Gen. Martin.

"Every time there is a roll-call of USACE Civilians in the sand, this division, and this district in particular, routinely rises to the top of those who answer the call. Right now a dozen heroes of this heartland district are overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan – thanks to the support provided by this command."
– Brig. Gen. Martin.

Currently nearly a dozen Heartland Engineers are serving voluntary tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the reconstruction missions of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. This is in addition to those who have served in hurricane recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast here in the United States.

"During Col. Rossi's tenure, more than 225 members of the Kansas City District answered the call to deploy - - - and I salute you all. And, those of you here at home have worked extra long and hard to keep our core missions on track. Thank you!" – Brig. Gen. Martin.

The district carries a long tradition throughout the heartland in both civil works and military missions. Kansas City District was established in 1907 to improve navigation on the Missouri River. Before its establishment, the Corps' presence in the region involved snagging and clearing operations to remove debris in the Missouri River.

continued on page 14



MISSOURI

340

Marathon on the Mighty MO

By Jennie Wilson

Photos by John Skelton

Envision a river race across the entire state. You, a canoe and 340 miles of the Mighty MO lapping at your back as you trek eastward toward St. Louis. In the true spirit of essayons, two of our district's own took the challenge in the 2nd Annual MR340, an endurance race down the Missouri River starting at Kaw Point and ending in St. Charles. They battled wind, rain, bugs and the scorching sun and lets not forget those stinking barges!

Organizers Scott Mansker and Russ Payzant tout, "This ain't no Momma's boy float trip." The MR340 is the longest kayak and canoe river race in the world. Participants are required to reach their destination in 100 hours or less exclusively by paddle power. The race started at 8 a.m., on July 24, and ended exactly at noon on July 28. Racers competed in five categories: men's solo, men's tandem, women's solo, women's tandem and mixed tandem. There were nine check-in points along the way.

Under the team name "*Espirit de Corps*", Cody Wheeler and Neil Bass took the plunge, Lewis and Clark style, by carrying all of their own gear down river. Many of the other participants had crews carrying their food and supplies for them to each check point. The dynamic duo preferred to haul their equipment in case of emergencies during their journey down stream.

Initially the team thought about staying on the river for the entire race but discovered that they couldn't really sleep in the canoe and decided to make better use of their time by camping out every night for a few hours. Cody cooked freeze dried dinners at night. They both agreed that they brought too much food. "There are upsides about carrying your own gear, but speed wasn't one of them" said Bass. The extra gear added about a hundred pound to their vessel. "We won the barge class," Bass boasted. Cody had a 17 foot, 90 pound aluminum canoe where some of the other competitors had light weight fiberglass canoes weighing in at around 30 pounds.

Cody said the current on the river was about 2 ½ to 3 miles per hour until they approached Truman Lake where they are releasing a lot of water when their speed reached about 9 mph. They finished the race in 84:31 hours. Cody's

continued on page 14

*When thou seest an eagle, thou
seest a portion of genius, lift up thy
head!* – William Blake (1757-1827).

Did you know that the bald eagle owes its name to Middle English? In spite of popular belief bald doesn't necessarily mean follically challenged. Early American colonists named the balde eagle for its white plumage and not because they believed it to be hairless. Balde actually means "shining white".

The plight and recovery of the eagle has been attributed to many factors. After nearly four decades and the implementation of several wildlife protection acts our nation's symbol in the lower 48 states has at last recovered from an all time low. In the late 1800's hunters and livestock farmers were notorious for shooting and poisoning these raptors. In the 1970's eagles were further weakened by the use of pesticides like DDT, destruction of habitat, pollution and high voltage utility lines contributed to their near demise. With the enactment of the 1940 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the 1918 Migratory bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 the eagle once again soars south of the 40th parallel.

On June 28, 2007, at a special ceremony in Washington D.C., the Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne officially announced the removal of the bald eagle from the list of threatened and endangered species. "After years of careful study, public comment and planning, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are confident in the future security of the American Bald Eagle," Kempthorne said. "From this point forward, we will work to ensure that the eagle never again needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act."

According to Kansas City District's Wildlife Biologist Mike Watkins, "This is a great environmental success story. The



Eagle Return

The Eagle Soars off the Endangered Species List

By Jennie Wilson

eagle has rebounded to the point it can be taken off the endangered species list. The numbers have risen to the point that there are an adequate number of nesting pairs to sustain the species."

The Kansas City District is home to an impressive 498 nesting pairs, 81 more than the 417 documented left in 1963 during the eagle's all time low in the contiguous 48 states. "One of the unique things this year is a fledged in the Kansas City Metropolitan area at Blue Springs Lake. Eagles are becoming more adaptive to their environment and able to survive when at one point that wasn't the original belief of wildlife biologists. "This is a record year for the district with the number of nests and number of eaglets fledged," Watkins said.

This majestic bird has been a symbol of power, freedom and honor for more then 225 years. Adopted by the Continental Congress as the national bird on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle is the most pictured bird in all of America. The eagle appears on the presidential seal and billions of dollars of U.S. Currency.

Benjamin Franklin criticized the Continental Congress's adoption of the eagle suggesting the wild turkey would have been a better choice. In an excerpt from a letter written to his daughter, Franklin wrote, "For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral character...The Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much

continued on page 14

Night with the Royals

By Jennie Wilson

In the spirit of friendship and camaraderie more than 250 Kansas City District family and friends gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kansas City District at Kauffman Stadium. Col. Roger A. Wilson, Jr. and son Cole accepted a game ball on the field before a sold out crowd where the Royals congratulated the district on a century of service to the community.

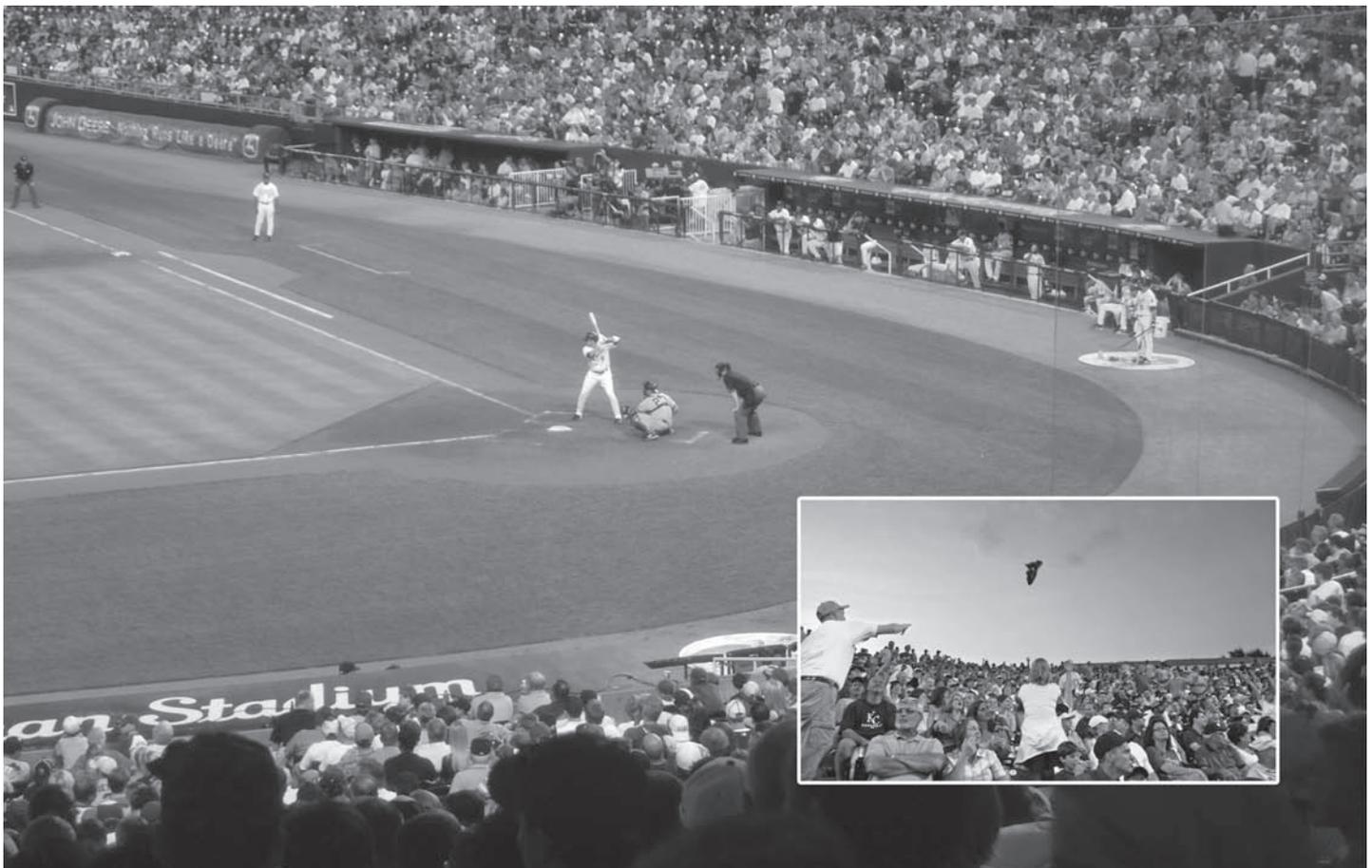
The evening included a tailgate party in lot N with lots of great food sponsored by the districts' CO-OP club and Leadership Development classes.

The first 20,000 entrants into Kauffman received a free George Brett "Pine Tar" game T-shirt celebrating the 24th anniversary of the famous Pine Tar game when Brett hit a homer in the 9th inning with two runs and two outs. Umpire Tim McClelland called Brett out after deciding that he had too much pine tar on his bat that initiated the famous on field fight that got Brett kicked out of the game. The controversial game ended up being postponed for two weeks where the Royals ended up the

victor in a 5 to 4 game against the New York Yankees. Announcer and 2007 National Baseball Hall of Fame winner Denny Matthews threw out the first pitch to George Brett during the Royals 100th game.

Greg Wilson Chief of Real Estate and his son Chet accompanied the Colonel on to the field for the pre-game presentations. Greg represents the many civilians who have deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "It was awesome being on the field representing the civilians who have volunteered to deploy to help the military in Iraq", stated Wilson.

Tom O'Hara and Alicia Embrey of Public Affairs entertained the crowd by throwing out a plethora of freebies' to district friends and family between the innings and during timeouts. It was a great night for the district, but sadly the Royals lost their 100th game to the New York Yankees 9-4.





continued from page 5

While the Kansas City District was fulfilling its heavy civil works mission, the international situation became grimmer. Korea erupted into war and the United States locked in competition with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The term “Cold War” to characterize East-West relations was given prominence as early as 1948. The Kansas City District’s military mission had officially ended the year previous, but with increased tensions and armed conflict it was again asked to perform work for national security.

On 25 January 1951, the Chief of Engineers issued a General Order assigning the Kansas City District to a military mission.

The District’s first engineering task was to assist the Air Force to modernize and expand its facilities at five locations in the states of Missouri and Kansas. Three of the sites had been used during WWII and required renovation and new construction to accommodate medium range bombers.

Two of the air bases for which the District provided technical engineering were to be newly built. Wichita A.F.B. was established primarily so that training in the B-47 could take place adjacent to the factory where the bomber was produced.

Whiteman A.F.B. was a Strategic Air Command training center for B-52 aircraft. The District had to construct a sensitive time-phased series of primary projects and support facilities for this critical defense facility.

Pursuing the ground war in Korea required the Kansas City District to support the reopening of ordnance works in the heartland. Deterioration

had occurred in the period of idleness between wars, especially since the plants had been designed for a short life. In addition, technical advances had been made in ordnance production. Reopening these facilities commanded a large part of the District’s workload.

The District was assigned to a variety of Army projects as well. At Fort Leavenworth, the District engineered and oversaw construction of the Command and General Staff College’s new facilities, officers’ quarters, and a new hospital. Fort Riley was virtually transformed with new facilities including regimental headquarters, a hospital, gymnasium, chapel, and living quarters. Fort Leonard Wood got new classrooms, along with a number of other improvements to the post’s infrastructure.

The Kansas City District was distracted from its focus on the military mission when in July 1951 nature erupted over the Kansas River basin. The resulting flood was a devastating disaster.

Maj. Gen. Pick, now the Chief of Engineers, was angry. In the grim reality of ruin, he charged that advocates of nonstructural solutions had created a delusion. He held them accountable for the delays in getting authorized dams built.

So did the Greater Kansas City Flood Prevention Committee. It hosted a flood control meeting to encourage action to demand a fast start to the District’s delayed reservoir plans in Kansas and Missouri.

And the Kansas City Star editorial staff weighed in. In exceedingly blunt language for a newspaper with a large farmer-reader population, the editors wrote that “Any man who

says terraces and ponds could have held the water through this sopping month of daily rains is dealing with absurdity. . . . And we are all paying an awful price for the political persuasion of absurdity.”

In the aftermath of the flood of 1951, the forces of obstructionism to the District’s reservoirs were defeated. In Washington, congressional members who had been procrastinating for months over appropriations quickly voted out a budget bill with the money to accelerate the schedule for Missouri basin projects.

In October 1952, the Kansas City District initiated construction on Tuttle Creek dam and reservoir located about five miles north of Manhattan, which is situated on the Kansas River.

Another ironic timely twist of nature provided impetus to broaden support for the Kansas City District’s water resource development program. The Kansas River basin which was so tragically damaged by too much water in 1951 was plagued by a shortage of water just two years later. Drought gave credence to the value of storing water in the District’s reservoirs.

Corps lakes would become popular for their performance in flood protection, in dependability for water supply, and for recreation. The 1954 Flood Control Act authorized or reauthorized eight big dam and reservoir projects for the Kansas City District. Its dam building program was active for about five decades.

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL

continued from page 8

Today, the district manages a program in excess of \$800 million and is one of the most diverse in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, performing both civil works and military missions, and works to clean up hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste (HTRW). The district is one of five districts comprising the Northwestern Division.

The district is a diverse mix of civilian and military technical disciplines that hold degrees from undergraduate level to Ph.D. Their expertise includes a host of civilian and military disciplines, ranging from engineering to architecture, biology to chemistry, and water resources to safety. Some of the civilian and military disciplines with specialized federal government experience include contracting, sociology, legal counsel, urban and community planning, real estate appraisal and acquisition, economics, archaeology, and mobilization planning.

Col. Wilson, a native of Tennessee and South Carolina, comes to the district from his last assignment in Washington, D.C., where he served as the engineer assignment officer.

Col. Wilson is a licensed Professional Engineer. He has also attended Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Service Staff School, and the Command and General Staff College. Colonel Wilson and his wife, Susan, have three children.

Among the hundreds in attendance were: Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Gregg F. Martin; commanders from sister Corps districts; congressional, state and local representatives; representatives from Tribal Nations, Corps partners and other federal agencies; Kansas City District employees, friends and family.

MISSOURI 340

continued from page 10

mantra for the race, “we are completers not competitors.”

Only 15 boats entered last year and of those 10 finished the race. This year, through word of mouth 93 canoeists and kayakers took the challenge with people from all over the United States and Canada to compete in this year’s marathon. By Thursday afternoon only 18 competitors had thrown in the towel. West Hansen and Richard Steppe of Texas won the race Thursday morning at 4:27 a.m., after paddling non-stop for 44 hours and 27 minutes. Last year, Hansen won the event solo with a time of 53:40.

“I hope to never do it again, but I could be talked into it, but hopefully it won’t happen.” Neil said if he did it again, he’d do it in a kayak.

Cody put out a challenge to the new Kansas City District Commander, Col. Roger Wilson, Jr. to do it next year.

Everyone who finished the race received a medal, a t-shirt and exclusive bragging rights. A percentage of the proceeds from the event went to Operation Breakthrough a non-profit organization designed to help children who are living in poverty by providing safety, education, empowerment and emergency aid.



Neil Bass (left) and Cody Wheeler (right) at the end of the MR340. Photo provided



EAGLE RETURN

continued from page 11

more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America.”

The eagle’s significance in North America extends far beyond our nations early Westward colonization and considered sacred in many Native American cultures. Even today, many believe that the eagle is a messenger from the natural to the spirit world. The person who possesses an eagle feather is in a sense given the ability to talk to the Creator. The feathers and talons of the eagle are often used in traditional Native American ceremonies. Currently eagle feather law stipulates that only individuals of federally recognized tribes can obtain feathers for religious or spiritual use.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the primary Federal agency responsible for the enforcement of federal wildlife laws governing the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. Their continued involvement in wildlife preservation ensures that the eagle will continue to thrive for future generations.

Fun Facts:

- ✓ When a bald eagle loses a feather on one wing, it loses a feather on the other to maintain balance.
- ✓ The largest known eagle nest is in Florida. It’s 9 feet across, 20 feet deep and weighed over two tons!
- ✓ A bald eagle mates for life. They can live up to 25 years in the wild and over 40 years in captivity.

UPDATE

Renovation of the Richard Bolling Federal Building

It's finally here...work has started on Phase 3 of GSA's renovation of our office building. This phase of the building renovation will update electrical and mechanical systems on floors 4 through 10 and Ground, and will include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades and sealant work on the building's facade. The scope of this work aims to improve more than 356,000 square feet of office space for the Kansas City District, Social Security Administration, Health & Human Services and the Federal Occupational Health Service.

J.E. Dunn was awarded the \$72 million construction contract in early June and began work on 28 June. The modernization work will take place on the following schedule:

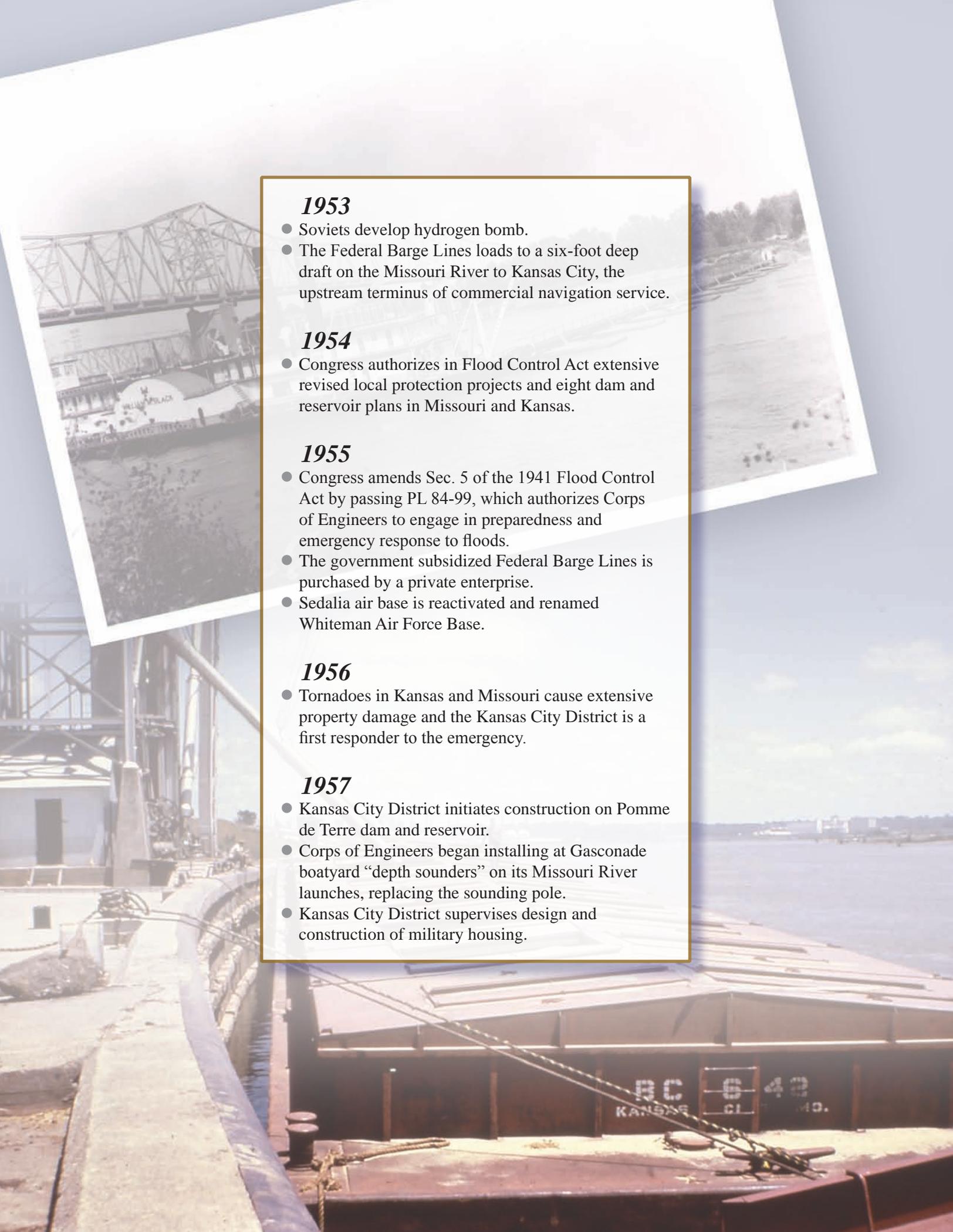
Ground floor – Jul 07 – Mar 08	Health Unit moves to Gnd Floor
10th floor – Jul 07 – Apr 08	SSA
9th floor – Feb 08 – Nov 08	SSA
4th floor – May 08 – Feb 09	Jan-Feb: OPS, PM-E, PM-C and CPAC move
5th floor – Jan 09 – Sep 09	NLT 31 Aug: PM and EC move
6th floor – Apr 09 – Dec 09	Nov-Dec: CDR, RE and G&A move
8th floor – Oct 09 – Aug 10	SSA
7th floor – Jan 10 – Oct 10	SSA

An option is under review to remodel the 13th Street entrance – if this is approved, work could take place between Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.

As part of this project, we will install new office furnishings and update our meeting spaces. All meeting rooms will be outfitted with modern audio-visual technology, including several rooms with large format, flat-panel displays.

The look of our elevator lobby areas will also be transformed using a combination of wood paneling and ceramic tile wall covering. All restrooms will be remodeled and a central vending/break room included near the elevators. There is a “night and day” difference in the look of our central lobby areas when comparing completed renovations on floors 11-18 and the floors scheduled for this phase – it will be a vast improvement in the look and style of our work areas.

The District's Relocation is being managed by a project delivery team; the Project Manager is David Glandon, who also serves as our Resource Management Officer. Periodic project updates are being published on the District's intranet bulletin board.



1953

- Soviets develop hydrogen bomb.
- The Federal Barge Lines loads to a six-foot deep draft on the Missouri River to Kansas City, the upstream terminus of commercial navigation service.

1954

- Congress authorizes in Flood Control Act extensive revised local protection projects and eight dam and reservoir plans in Missouri and Kansas.

1955

- Congress amends Sec. 5 of the 1941 Flood Control Act by passing PL 84-99, which authorizes Corps of Engineers to engage in preparedness and emergency response to floods.
- The government subsidized Federal Barge Lines is purchased by a private enterprise.
- Sedalia air base is reactivated and renamed Whiteman Air Force Base.

1956

- Tornadoes in Kansas and Missouri cause extensive property damage and the Kansas City District is a first responder to the emergency.

1957

- Kansas City District initiates construction on Pomme de Terre dam and reservoir.
- Corps of Engineers began installing at Gasconade boatyard “depth sounders” on its Missouri River launches, replacing the sounding pole.
- Kansas City District supervises design and construction of military housing.