District employee reaches out to Wounded Warriors

Colorado flooding—simulated and real keeps district hopping

54-year employee has served 22 commanders

# Omaha Outlook


U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

December 2013 – Vol. 1, Issue 4

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On the cover: A member of the USACE technical team surveys conditions in the Estes Park, Colo. area, which was damaged by the September 2013 floods. Fish Creek damaged a road during the flash flooding and by early October, the repairs were already underway. Photo Courtesy Federal Emergency Management Agency.


OMAHA OUTLOOK

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
1616 Capitol Ave., Suite 9000
Omaha Neb. 68102

| | |
|---|---|
| Toll free: | (800) 835-5971 |
| Email: | dll-cenwo-pao@usace.army.mil |
| Phone: | (402) 995-2417 |
| Fax: | (402) 995-2421 |
| Commander: | Col. Joel Cross |
| Deputy Commander: | Lt. Col. Mark Martinez |
| Public Affairs Chief: | Maggie Oldham |
| Managing Editor: | Kevin Quinn |
| Asst. Managing Editor: | Eileen Williamson |
| Contributors: | Cheryl Moore - Writer/Photographer<br>Harry Weddington - Photographer<br>Jennyann Noack - Graphics, Layout |

Omaha Outlook is a quarterly publication produced by the Public Affairs Office for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in accordance with AR 360-1. This publication is produced for the Omaha District workforce and external audiences including other Corps' districts and stakeholders within the Omaha District's area of responsibility. Content is aimed at highlighting what, why and how the district fulfills its mission.

This publication is available on the district's public website (www.nwo.usace.army.mil) and has a limited print circulation of approximately 500 with distribution in district offices and via U.S. Mail.

Content is prepared in accordance with the Associated Press Stylebook and the Omaha Outlook Style Guide. Contributions are welcomed and highly encouraged. However, the editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to any submitted material as deemed necessary.

The views and opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Army or the U.S. Department of Defense.

# MESSAGE *FROM DISTRICT LEADERSHIP*

**John J. Bertino**
Chief
Omaha District Engineering Division

## Mentoring and growing the engineer ranks for future is our job

Team, I am pleased to write this letter for the Outlook. The Commander plans to hand the ball off now and again to senior leaders as it enhances communication and allows for a broader discussion and exchange of ideas within the district.

As I read the last issue of the Outlook, I was struck by the article and photos of our employees "reaching out to students as future engineers," as the headline read. A vital part of our district's culture is to mentor the youth who will become our engineers for the future. It hit home to me that we need everyone's support as we continue on our mission.

Then I thought of a column written by Rodney C. Adkins, vice president of IBM's Systems and Technology Group. Adkins, who also serves on the national board of the Smithsonian Institute, recently wrote:

> *There is no doubt that to advance our economy and our society we need to create the next great technology innovations, not just consume them. That's why there is such urgency for the U.S. to develop a stronger workforce of experts in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only 5% of U.S. workers are employed in fields related to science and engineering, yet they are responsible for more than 50% of our sustained economic expansion. America desperately needs more STEM students."*
>
> *STEM-related disciplines are responsible for many of the societal innovations that make our world better. Recently, IBM's Sequoia supercomputer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory set a world record in computing speed by breaking the 16 petaflop barrier. That represents an astounding 16,000 trillion calculations per second. What could be done with that kind of computing power? Sequoia could run a simulation of how the human heart reacts to new medicine in two days instead of two years. It could provide a 40-fold improvement in the prediction of earthquakes to help provide safer evacuation routes. Sequoia is a powerful example of what American ingenuity in STEM-related disciplines can mean for the betterment of society.*

All this confirms what we in the corridors and meeting rooms of the Omaha District already know--our mentoring and recruitment efforts are essential to the nation! As we reach out to mentor, coach and recruit, we must impress upon our youth precisely how significant they are in improving our world and how meaningful and fulfilling their lives can be as a result. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is one of the few organizations that serves both the warfighter and responds to national and natural disasters in time of need. Our opportunities to serve and make a difference are unmatched -- I am extremely proud of our team, who from my perspective, bring their A-game to work every day and solve difficult problems which make the nation a better place.

In closing, I challenge all of us to take every opportunity to plant the seeds, mentor and encourage students to study STEM. We have the ability to inspire others to take on the challenges of a career in STEM as we can show them firsthand the benefits to our Nation and our military. Maybe you can serve as a mentor in the Society of Military Engineer student mentoring program.

Each and every one of us needs to be an ambassador for science, technology, engineering and math education in our youth. Listen to your children, their friends and neighbors and if they are interested or are good in science and math subjects in school, encourage them to pursue a career in STEM. It is up to us to build the engineers of the future. Keep up the great work!

Essayons—Let us try.

John Bertino

By OMAHA DISTRICT STAFF REPORT


# District employee volunteers time driving Wounded Warrior Family Support Mustang

Eric Johansen, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee in the Protective Design Center with the Omaha District spends some of his free time as a volunteer and member of the Mustang Car Club of Omaha.

Johansen is one of many Mustang club volunteers throughout the country who have been helping Wounded Warriors Family Support with its High Five Tour.

The charity is headquartered in Omaha, which allowed the Mustang club to participate with the tour three times. Johansen is one of six drivers from MCCO to participate. Members of the MCCO started the West Coast Tour in Fargo, N.D., and were the final club to drive the car from Kansas City, Mo. to Council Bluffs, Iowa at the conclusion of the West Coast Tour for Veteran's Day.

The High Five Tour rallies Americans to say "thank you" and show their appreciation to our country's military families for their sacrifices.

Club members also drove the Mustang at the start of the East Coast tour driving from Omaha, Neb., to Jefferson City, Mo., and completing the final stops of the East Coast Tour in Shakopee, Minn. The 2013 Mustang will be sold at the Barrett-Jackson Auction in September 2014. The 2012 Mustang sold at the Barrett-Jackson Auction on Sept. 26, 2013 for $500,000. The 2011 Mustang sold at auction, not just once, but twice for a total of $930,000.

WWFS sponsors the annual road trip across America to raise awareness and funds for wounded warriors. The road trip includes a Mustang that will travel to more than 60 cities in 48 states covering more than 21,000 miles. High Five Tour events


invite the public to show their support for military families by signing the Mustang with messages of support to our country's veterans and their families and through collecting donations to support wounded warriors.

For 2013, Wounded Warriors Family Support pledged $500,000 toward building two 'smart homes' for deserving wounded warriors and their families in Fayetteville, N.C., and Guthrie, Okla. This year's smart home recipients are both triple amputees who were injured in IED attacks.

Retired Marine Col. John Folsom, the founder of WWFS, says the charity 'helps heal the wounds that medicine cannot'. He started the charity approximately 10 years ago as a 'pass the hat' initiative and raised $1,500 the first year. The money raised by the organization for wounded veterans has been increasing ever since.

During the last week of August, Johansen shared driving responsibilities with two other drivers from the MCCO during the WWFS High Five Tour from Shakopee, Minn. to Sturgis, S.D., for the annual Mustang Rally. They made stops in Fargo, N.D., and Sioux Falls, S.D., enroute to Sturgis. While they were with the car, they collected approximately $13,000 in donations.

Tour sponsors and local car clubs held fundraising events along the route of the 2013 tour. Highlights of their trip included leading a parade of Mustangs to the Black Hills National Military Cemetery and visiting retired veterans in the Fort Meade VA Medical Center in Sturgis. During the off-time from rally events, they toured the Black Hills and also visited Ellsworth Air Force Base and its adjacent Air and Space Museum near Rapid City, S.D. Wherever the WWFS Mustang stopped, it drew a crowd of supporters of veterans and military families.

The Wounded Warrior Family Support Mustang parked near a B-52 at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum near Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Photo courtesy of Eric Johansen.

By SENIOR AIRMAN JOSE L. HERNANDEZ,
*Minot Air Force Base Public Affairs*

# New dorm provides Airmen comfort for winter ahead

Minot Air Force Base's first snowfall brought with it good news for its youngest-tier Airmen, as the fourth and newest dormitory was unveiled during a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 23.

The dorm will provide 168 Airmen with new living quarters.

"This new dorm, as with all the new dorms, serves as a reminder of our dedication to caring for our Airmen and ensuring an improved quality of life at Minot AFB," said Lt. Col. Douglas Gilpin, 5th Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

Priced at $21 million, the dormitory's design provides 42 four-person unit modules. Each with private bathrooms and baths, including a shared living room, kitchen, washer, dryer, full size refrigerator, cook top stove and microwave.

This is in contrast to the existing and aged dorms, which provide limited shared space and only one kitchen and laundry facility for an entire building. Often times, Airmen in the old dorms were doubled up in one room, sharing one bathroom among four people.

Another unique feature of the new dormitory unveiled is its use of geothermal technologies to provide both heat and air-conditioning. This energy conservation feature allows each resident to have their own heat and air-conditioning controls.

The centralized location of the new dorms allowed for the installment of a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, a fire pit area, numerous sitting areas, a covered pavilion for outdoor cooking, and bicycle racks as well.

For Airman 1st Class Megan Mitchell, 5th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment apprentice, it is exciting to know she will be receiving keys to brand new living quarters.

Being a Sacramento, Calif., native, her move to Minot was a big change and even more so because of her arrival during a flood-stricken Minot, which was recovering from the 2011 Souris River Flood. The natural disaster negatively affected the base's housing capacity, since dorms were used as housing for all incoming Airmen, including officers.

In addition to the oil boom in North Dakota, the flood only made it more difficult for Airmen to find homes in Minot. The doubling-up of Airmen throughout the old dorms became rampant and Mitchell witnessed it first-hand.

After almost two years of living in an aged dormitory, she is looking forward to enjoying the amenities the new dorm has to offer.

"It's good to know I can have my own room, bathroom, walk-in closet and more," said Mitchell.

Renovations and construction of Minot AFB dorms has been steady since 2008, due to a $94 million investment to improve the base. In addition to new construction, the base has also been able to demolish five of its dormitories. One dormitory was also reclassified into lodging to accommodate visitor's quarters.

"Our work is not yet finished," said Gilpin.

He added his team will work through the challenges of reduced funding and sequestration to continue to advocate for construction of new dorms and the sustainment of existing dorm infrastructure. The base currently has plans to completely renovate six dorms between now and 2020.

Above: The newest Dormitory on base, Dorm 214, opened its doors to more than 160 Airmen assigned to Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Oct. 23. Base leadership joined Airmen and other guests in the unveiling of the new dorm during a ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stephanie Sauberan.

Below: The new dorm that was formally occupied on Oct. 23, is the fourth dorm in a quad-complex at Minot Air Force Base. Construction on the $21 million project began in March 2012. The new dorm complex began with a 144 person dorm in Fiscal Year 2008. Construction of a 168-person dorm followed in FY 2009 dorm and another 168-person dorm in FY 2010. The four dorms are similar in design. The Omaha District prepared a master plan for the dorm complex, initiated the design development of requests for proposals and 100 percent design, advertised and awarded the contracts, and supervised/administered the construction.
The Project Manager on the first three phases was Sarah Vodicka who retired in mid-2011. The remaining project was managed by William Rafferty. The Omaha District Construction Representative for the entire project was Mike Monson from the Minot Resident Engineer Office. Photos by Mike Monson.

By EILEEN WILLIAMSON, *Omaha District Public Affairs Specialist*

# Exercising Safety:

## Bear Creek, Cherry Creek and Chatfield dams catch floodwaters while reducing flooding risks

A stalled front brings record rainfall to the Front Range of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The runoff brings a surge of water through canyons and foothills and into major population centers of central Colorado.

**A Virtual Flood**

But, this surge of water happened only in a virtual environment.

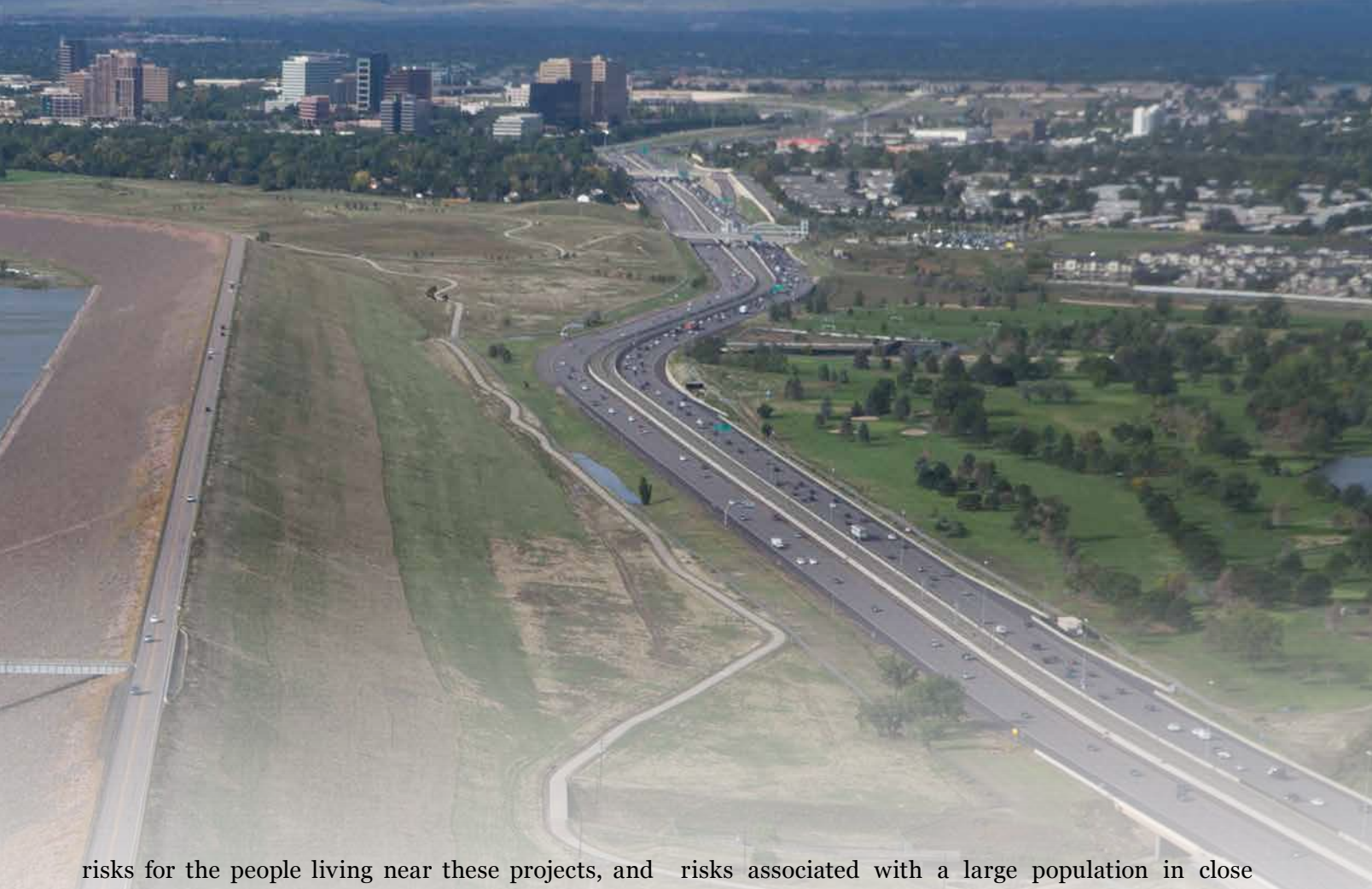
During the week of Aug. 19, several employees from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District participated in a safety exercise focused on Cherry Creek Dam and Reservoir near Denver, Colo. – or more to the point, in the middle of the Denver metropolitan area.

The Omaha District maintains multiple projects within the South Platte River basin. Among them are the Tri-Lakes projects consisting of three dams, Bear Creek, Cherry Creek and Chatfield dams, located on tributaries to the South Platte River, which runs through downtown Denver flowing north and then east through Nebraska.

Cherry Creek Dam is on Cherry Creek at its confluence with Cottonwood Creek, at the southeast edge of Denver. It was the first of the Tri-Lakes dams built to lower the risks to the Denver region from catastrophic South Platte River flooding that had plagued the area for more than 100 years. Chatfield Dam was the second dam constructed and is located southwest of Denver on the South Platte River at its confluence with Plum Creek. Bear Creek Dam was the last of the three dams. It is located on the southwest edge of suburban Lakewood at the confluence of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek.

The safety exercise was focused on Cherry Creek Dam because it has a Dam Safety Action Class rating which identifies a high urgency for action due to the potential for risk to a large population in the event of high operational releases or dam failure, although the possibility of these events occurring is extraordinarily low. More than 200,000 people live within an area that, if Cherry Creek Dam did not exist, would be prone to regular flooding.

"There are a variety of projects (dams) within the Omaha District's area of responsibility. Safety ratings aren't just about cubic yards of concrete or rolled earth used to build a dam, or the hundreds or thousands of acre-feet of water in the reservoirs behind the dams," said Natural Disaster Program Manager, Ryan Buckley. "When we look at these projects from a safety perspective, it is about improving public safety through reducing flooding



risks for the people living near these projects, and with more people living within the vicinity of the dam, the more that risk factor increases."

Working together and against each other, the Tri-Lakes dams reduce flooding risks while the reservoirs and surrounding parks are part of the appeal that brings people to the area.

**Exercising Safety**

Army Engineer Regulation ER1110-2-1156 requires the Dam Safety office to conduct annual exercises such as a tabletop exercise, a drill or a functional exercise for significant and high hazard dams to help communicate the risks associated with living in the flood plain and near the dam.

"Because the large downstream population increases the risk factor for Cherry Creek, we chose to conduct a more formal exercise focused on Cherry Creek as an interim risk reduction measure," said Dave Sobczyk, Omaha District Dam Safety Program Manager.

The Dam Safety office enlisted the help of the Omaha District Emergency Management office to prepare and conduct the exercise.

"We typically host table top exercises but wanted something that would help us communicate the real risks associated with a large population in close proximity to the dam," said Kim Thomas, Chief of Emergency Management. "We learned from the flooding along the Missouri River in 2011, that people who live near a dam can become complacent with the reduced risks and forget that flooding cannot be eliminated."

The exercise, held in Lakewood, Colo., at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Risk Management Center brought together representatives from The City of Denver, Denver County, Denver Fire Department, Denver Police Department, Arapahoe County, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, the City of Greenwood Village, Cherry Creek State Park, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with representatives from the Omaha

A round of storms Sept. 14, 2013, impacted the Cherry Creek basin causing pool elevations at Cherry Creek reservoir to enter the flood control pool. Cherry Creek peaked at a pool elevation of 5553.4 ft on Sept. 25, more than 12 feet below the record pool of 5565.8 feet in 1973. Major transportation routes and a large population, which makes up the Denver metropolitan area are located downstream from Cherry Creek Dam. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

District, the Northwestern Division and several Districts across the country.

Participants were taken through a high water scenario at Cherry Creek Dam, which was developed through the collaboration of Omaha District personnel representing offices such as Dam Safety, Emergency Management, and Water Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Readiness Support Center located in Mobile, Ala.

From discussing who is responsible for communicating what information and activity, to how to notify the public of concerns and managing evacuations, participants drew on a variety of experiences to help move through the exercise. Agencies from the Denver metropolitan area previously worked together when Denver hosted the Democratic National Convention in 2012, dealing with blizzards and conducting evacuations during recent wildfires.

**Tapping USACE Readiness Support Center**

Thomas is in the midst of an advanced Emergency Management degree program managed by the Readiness Support Center through George Washington University and developed by Dr. Steven Diaz with the center. Through this class, she learned about the center and the resources available through them for preparing the exercise.

The Readiness Support Center is part of the Mobile District; however, it serves the entire Corps.

"The RSC enables contingency responders by designing, implementing and continuously improving an educational curriculum responsive to the many requirements brought on by natural and manmade disasters and emergencies," said Nadia Taylor, Training and Exercise Manager.

The RSC provides the contingency responder training, tools and programs designed to credential and field a professional workforce, whether it is in Emergency Management, Risk Management or in a civil or military contingency.

The RSC makes every effort to meet the unique needs of each individual customer and request.

"Multimedia development is just one of our specialties," said Taylor. "We create videos, craft scenarios and simulations, create custom graphics and print products, and provide facilitation for live exercises. We also provide academically-sound expertise and comprehensive development of several distance learning programs for a wide variety of subjects."

The RSC frequently works with other Federal agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in creating and delivering training and exercises. The RSC has also worked with the

Above left: Following heavy rains which fell mid-September in Colorado, the pool elevation at the Bear Creek reservoir rose several feet. Bear Creek Dam did what it was designed to do by catching the runoff and reducing flooding risks to the hundreds of homes located downstream. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

Above right: Cherry Creek Dam Safety Exercise participants were taken through a high water scenario at Cherry Creek Dam, which was developed through the collaboration of Omaha District personnel representing offices such as Dam Safety, Emergency Management, and Water Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Readiness Support Center located in Mobile, Ala. Photo by Eileen Williamson.

private sector through collaborative research and design initiatives. For example, the RSC worked with Microsoft to create simulations for their international offices and internal and external response organizations. Multi-scenario exercises (earthquake, flood, fire, hurricane, pandemic, and terrorist attack) were prepared and facilitated for Microsoft in Mexico, Turkey and at their Seattle offices.

The Cherry Creek Dam exercise is the 11th exercise the RSC has supported this year. Previous 2013 exercises included a flood event, hurricane exercises, a terrorist event and dam safety exercises for several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Divisions and Districts and a tropical cyclone exercise for the U.S. Navy and the Independent State of Samoa.

USACE and the agencies participating with the Omaha District in the Cherry Creek Dam safety exercise, recognize that risks exist and complacency or presuming that dams protect or prevent all flooding can be dangerous to public safety.

"Through the course of the exercise, we saw first-responders treating the scenario as a real-world situation and an opportunity to learn," said Buckley. "The participants wanted to understand how we (the Corps) respond to dam safety issues and their increased awareness of these risks will be beneficial as they ensure the proper plans are in place to help protect public safety."

Unfortunately, some of the first-responder participants saw a real-world scenario unfold less than 30 days later.

**Mid-September Flooding**

Through the latter half of September and into October, Federal, State and Local officials in Colorado were responding to damages caused by flooding which followed heavy rains that fell Sept. 11 and continued into Sept. 12.

The Tri-Lakes projects are located to the south of and upstream from where much of the rain fell. However, a large amount of rain fell in the foothills of the Bear Creek basin. The pool elevation at the Bear Creek reservoir rose several feet over the following days. At 4 a.m., Sept. 15, the reservoir pool elevation surpassed its previous record elevation of 5587.1 feet, which occurred in 1995 and peaked at a pool elevation of 5607.9 ft on Sept. 22.

**Bear Creek Dam Halts Floodwaters**

At Bear Creek Lake Park, campground facilities and park infrastructure including trails, parking lots and picnic areas became inundated with floodwaters from Bear Creek and Turkey Creek.

"Bear Creek Dam did what it's designed to do," said Fred Rios, Operations Project Manager for the Tri-Lakes Projects talking about the flooding at Bear Creek Lake Park. "Nothing can prevent flooding, but the Bear Creek Dam helped reduce that risk to hundreds of homes located downstream," he added.

As the floodwaters receded from Bear Creek Lake, park patrons and volunteers who came to help clean up debris were able to see how the dam worked to reduce those risks.

"Hopefully, it also serves as a reminder to the public to have a plan," said Rios. "I pay attention to winter storm warnings and severe storm conditions to protect my family. We need people to keep that in mind when living near a dam." When living on a reservoir or downstream from a dam, residents should have a plan for potentially high pool elevations or high water releases.

Above: At 4 a.m., Sept. 15, the reservoir pool elevation at Bear Creek Dam in Colorado surpassed its previous record elevation of 5587.1 feet, and peaked at a pool elevation of 5607.9 ft on Sept. 22, shown here. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

By EILEEN WILLIAMSON, *Omaha District Public Affairs Specialist*

# Colorado flooding brings flood of attention to vital regulatory permitting program

In mid-September, heavy rains along the Front Range of Colorado's Rocky Mountains caused major flooding impacting roads, bridges and other infrastructure, with rivers carving new channels and eroding riverbanks.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District activated its Emergency Operations Center Sept. 12, anticipating requests for assistance during and following the flooding. Calls also began flooding the Denver Regulatory office near Littleton, Colo.

"Callers wanted to know what they could and couldn't do to protect or repair their properties related to the flooding," said Kiel Downing, State Regulatory Program Manager, Denver Regulatory Field Office.

When one is required, landowners must obtain Section 404 permits for work to protect and repair flood-damaged areas. Regulatory personnel worked non-stop to ensure flood-damage repair work can move forward.

"Any time material is added to or removed from Waterways of the U.S., landowners should contact the Corps so we can help determine what type of permit might be required," said Downing. "We have to ensure that the race to protect, repair and rebuild, doesn't compromise the waterways that make Colorado beautiful," he added.

Streamlined permitting authorities aided the response to the high volume of permitting requests. An average of at least 65 percent of issued permits was authorized either the same or following day. "Much of the authorized work involved flood-related activities to repair and reconstruct existing roads, bridge embankments, or to protect or repair utility structures, protect and stabilize stream banks and protect and restore intake structures," said Downing. "The permits still require the Corps to review each project but help by avoiding the need to go through the lengthy public hearing process."

Anticipating increased requests and the need to provide public support, the District augmented its existing staff with personnel from regulatory field offices and through reach-back support from regulatory project managers across USACE.

By Oct. 18, more than 170 flood-related projects had been authorized primarily via Nationwide Permits and Emergency General Permits.

Additionally, regulatory liaisons deployed to serve within FEMA's Joint Field Office as part of the USACE technical team supporting FEMA's mission and activities. The liaisons provided regulatory permitting guidance and acted as a "conduit" between the Denver Regulatory Office and FEMA JFO. To assist the USACE technical team, liaisons participated in public meetings communicating the regulatory perspective, providing permit information regarding Section 404 and fielding questions concerning the types of permitting that may be required for flood repairs.

Among the permits issued, are permits with the Colorado Dept. of Transportation to repair and restore the 50 bridges and more than 200 miles of highways damaged or lost to the flooding. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper established a Dec. 1, target date for completing repairs.

Col. Joel R. Cross, Omaha District Commander, applauded the collaborative efforts and hard work put forth by Corps personnel and the responding agencies.

"These are dedicated individuals who demonstrate a commitment to duty and selfless service," said Cross. "They are working together with a common goal to contribute to Colorado's recovery."

Martha Chieply, Omaha District Regulatory Branch Chief, emphasized the effective coordination among agencies. To help streamline interagency coordination procedures, Denver Regulatory Office personnel developed a programmatic agreement, in coordination with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, for flood-related repair work. Additionally, emergency Endangered Species Act consultation procedures were used to improve coordination times with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Interagency state and Federal resource agencies came together quickly to address proposed dredging operations and emergency authorizations. A 'win-

Flood damage around the town of Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 20, 2013. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deployed personnel to Colorado under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for assessing and evaluating the safety of drinking water and wastewater systems in the affected areas. If a system proves semi-operational or nonoperational, team members include recommendations on ways to bring the system back up to operational status. Photo by Gary Sasse.

win' situation allowed impacted waterways, clogged with flood sediments, to be restored by removing sediment to provide fill material for repairs," said Chieply.

Additional efforts improved processes for ensuring permits and requests for information received a timely response. Alternate (Emergency) Permit processing procedures were developed with approval delegated from Northwestern Division Commander to Omaha District Commander. These procedures were later modified to include dredging operations to obtain fill material for flood-related roadway and infrastructure repairs and authorities to respond to potential downstream flooding impacts in Nebraska along the South Platte and the Platte rivers.

Among the authorizations issued, the removal of Idylwilde Dam in the Big Thompson Canyon will provide up to 100,000 cubic yards of material for reconstructing U.S. Highway 34. Other permits and notifications include a request to dredge Longmont Reservoir to help restore a major component of the City's water supply, requests to perform bridge and culvert repairs in Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park and along North Turkey Creek and several projects to remove sediment and debris in Weld, Boulder and Larimer counties.

For nearly 600 residential road crossings in Boulder and Jefferson counties impacted by flooding, the regulatory staff has been assisting with determining permitting needs to repair and replace those crossings.

By EILEEN WILLIAMSON,
*Omaha District Public Affairs Specialist*

# From rainfall to flooding and disaster response

It began with a simple notification the morning of Thursday, Sept. 12.

"The Omaha District is currently monitoring flash flooding in and around the Boulder, Colo., area due to heavy rainfall over the past 12 hours. We have been in contact with the State of Colorado and they do not need any assistance at this time. Additional heavy rainfall is forecast for this afternoon and evening. The Tri-Lakes Projects in Denver (Chatfield, Cherry Creek, and Bear Creek Dams) are not experiencing any issues at this time. No issues have been noted at the PL 84-99 projects (federally constructed, locally operated flood risk reduction projects such as dams and levees) either as they are located outside the flash flood warned areas."

The rain continued to fall and that afternoon, the Kelly Road Dam, a PL 84-99 dry dam in the Aurora, Colo., area experienced spillway flows over its primary and secondary spillways. By that evening, the District's Emergency Operations Center activated to a Level 2, emergency watch. The next day, the activation escalated to Level 3, with 11-hour operations.

The Northwestern Division received a Regional Activation mission assignment from FEMA under the National Response Framework to provide a Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader to lead the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' public works and engineering mission (ESF #3). These personnel deploy to the area of need and provide assistance to the state as mission assignments are issued by the State through FEMA.

Gina Webber from the Northwestern Division and Matthew Krajewski from the Omaha District deployed to Denver FEMA Region 8 under the regional activation mission assignment.

Also, under a separate mission assignment, a power supply team and the 249th emergency power team deployed from the Walla Walla District. Teams from Portland and Seattle were placed on standby to potentially provide support for debris removal and infrastructure assessments at water and waste water treatment plants that had been inundated or impacted by the floodwater.

As the surge of floodwater began to make its way toward Nebraska, requests for assistance from the State of Nebraska filtered into the Emergency Operations Center to provide technical assistance in advance of higher stages on the South Platte River.

As the power supply mission ended, on Sept. 18, the State of Colorado identified a need for technical assistance to aid in assessing water and wastewater facilities that had been damaged by the flood. An infrastructure assessment team from the Seattle District, augmented by a water/wastewater expert from the Omaha District, mobilized to the Colorado Joint Field Office where they were briefed on their mission and coordinated their operations. The team received a mission assignment from FEMA to provide technical expertise and assistance to the State of Colorado Department of Health and Environment to assess and evaluate drinking water and waste water systems in the areas affected by the flooding. Teams comprised of personnel from

CDPHE, USACE and the Environmental Protection Agency traveled to several sites evaluating the water plants as well as the infrastructure leading to and leaving from the plants. This effort marked a unique mission under the ESF #3 banner and was well received by the State of Colorado.

By Sept. 28, the teams had completed nearly 30 assessments finding damaged or destroyed intake and distribution lines; inoperable pumps, motors and electrical equipment that were submerged or removed by floodwaters; and other impacts to the plants, which left customers without water or sewer service. Team members provided reports and recommendations to the State of Colorado concerning the affected areas for restoring operations to provide safe drinking water and operable sanitary systems to customers.

In late September, once the flood waters receded, a Stream Team, made up of hydraulic engineers, geotechnical engineers, and civil site engineers, deployed as part of a multi-agency effort to develop technical solutions for the rehabilitation of rivers and streams that changed course as a result of the flooding. Many of these streams were adjacent to state highways or other roads that were washed out by the flooding. Other areas that were adjacent to the streams were public or private properties that were either destroyed or were in danger of collapsing due to the force of the water. The team began by working with state and local authorities to identify priority areas that were impacted by the flooding. They also coordinated with state and federal officials on potential repair strategies.

As property owners returned to their properties and began to evaluate potential repairs, the Denver area regulatory office began to process the large influx of permit requests for work in or near streams that required for post-flooding response and repairs. The Omaha District focused its efforts to address the emergency requests. Additionally, a liaison from the regulatory team joined the Stream Team to help answer questions at public meetings and in the JFO focused on regulatory requirements and adhering to the Clean Water Act.

With the immediate damages and impacts assessed, the mission evolved to the National Disaster Recovery Support Function. The NDRF mission is fairly new and designed to help mitigate the effects of a disaster to help prepare for a future event. The program is akin to a long term planning study with the end result being a fully recovered community with enhancements to lessen impacts from future events. Historically, this effort has taken numerous months to complete and involves coordination with federal agencies, state agencies, and local communities. The end result is a plan that the community can use to leverage what state or federal assistance may be available for recovery efforts.

Flood damage is shown around the city of Boulder, Colo., Sept. 19, 2013. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has deployed personnel to Colorado under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the assessments and evaluation associated with ensuring the safety of drinking water and wastewater systems in the affected areas. Photo by Michael Peele.

Opposite page left to right: Near Estes Park, Fish Creek experienced significant erosion which damaged an adjacent roadway, several locations where roadways crossed the creek and a sewer line was washed away. The Denver Regulatory Office authorized the much needed repair of the sewer lines and roadways along Fish Creek; The 2nd Ave bridge in Lyons, Colo., was impacted as high flows on the St. Vrain River forced the river from its channel flowing through a park and ball field, washing out parts of 2nd Avenue as well as impacting the 2nd Avenue bridge before returning to its natural channel. Regional General Permit 96-07 is being used to authorize larger flood related repair projects not covered under the Nationwide Permits. The Denver Regulatory Office developed RGP 96-07 for flood related activities in Colorado. Activities still require review from the Denver Regulatory Office. Photos by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

By CHERYL MOORE, *Omaha District Public Affairs Specialist*

# Dedicating 54 years to a single division

As January approaches, so does the anniversary for one of the most dedicated employees to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Real Estate Division.

Fifty-four years ago, Jan. 25, 1960, a young Rita Mangen began her civil service career at Offutt Air Force Base. The young Clerk Stenographer, GS-3 worked for a Colonel. Mangen recalls having a huge lack of typing experience and "the boss" wouldn't allow making erasure marks on anything. "Part of the job interview included a typing test," she chuckled. "I must have won because I got the job."

Following that initial entry into working for the government, she interviewed for another job that would carry her through 54 years in the same district. Mangen says, "I was most fortunate to hear about a job opening with the Corps of Engineers. In my interview I asked if you could make erasures and the answer was yes." She explained that she felt very fortunate to get hired by the Corps. "I, however, brought with me my slightly-below-successful typing skills," she added.

She started with the Planning and Control Branch of the Omaha District on March 6, 1960, as a Clerk Stenographer, GS-3, receiving her first promotion to a GS-4 on March 29, 1964, in the Real Estate Division Appraisal Branch. Mangen reiterated how fortunate she felt coming to work in the Appraisal Branch, saying the Appraisers were all wonderful people. "The Chief, George W. Kern, was an Attorney," she said. "And I learned about legal documents and contracting."

Mangen described how they wrote their own Notice to Proceed letters for the Appraisal Contracts and how everything had to be exact because it was a legal document. "I was beginning to catch on and become a better employee," she said smiling.

This 'better' employee continued growing her skills and in October 1966 she was promoted to Secretary, GS-5, still a part of the Real Estate Division Appraisal Branch. This opened the door for more advanced responsibility a few years later when she was promoted to Office Management Assistant, GS-7 on May 30, 1971.

Planting a solid foundation in the Real Estate Division, her vast experience in the Appraisal Branch prepared Mangen for her next position as

a Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, GS-7 in the Planning and Control Branch, where she had initially started working. Mangen said, "Of all the jobs I had with the Corps (all in real estate), I believe I was best at this job." She explained how she brought with her the experience of reviewing and assembling legal documents, allowing her to record the Acquisition and Disposal activities of the division as necessary.

The Omaha native donned a new hat in March 1982 and a promotion as Supervisory Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, GS-9. Mangen said, "As Supervisor Chief of the Control Section I entered the financial arena and have continued with different aspects ever since." A few years later she was once again promoted to Supervisory Realty Specialist, GS-11 after a temporary promotion for 90 days in this position.

The Real Estate Division reorganized and the Planning and Control Branch and the Appraisal Branch merged into the Technical Services Branch. "Both branches I had worked in merged into one branch,"Mangen said.

Mangen continues to be a well-known asset for Omaha District employees. According to Linda Doll, Legal Secretary, Office of Counsel, "her humble manner totally masks her incredible knowledge of CEFMS and budget matters."

When you've been in real estate with the Omaha District as long as Mangen has, Doll says, "I learned that arguing with her was futile due to her vast

Above: Rita Mangen celebrates her 50th year with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District in style. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

experience, she knew what she was talking about and was always right."

Co-workers in the Real Estate Division echoed the sentiment that Mangen sees the best in everyone and always has the best advice. According to Lori Warner, "Ms. Rita's fingers can fly over a calculator like you would not believe!"

She still wears the hat of Realty Specialist, GS-11. "I have worked for 22 Omaha District Commanders," she said. Recently she celebrated her birthday and was humbled by an arranged coin presentation from Northwestern Division Commander, Brigadier General John S. Kem, in Omaha for a town hall meeting with District personnel.

From the 1960's, when the Combined Federal campaign began, the District's Operation Santa Program began and President John F. Kennedy was president, Rita Mangen began and continues her dedication and devotion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. She has even been found in places like social media, via the District's Facebook page.

To say that Mangen is the only Rita with the Omaha District is incorrect as she shares the name with a power plant operator at Garrison Dam. But to say that she is the only employee who has been with the Omaha District for 54 years is an honor. One woman, one mission, one Real-i-ty!


Clockwise from top: Rita Mangen, second row, 9th person from left, takes part in a Real Estate Division photo in August 1963; Mangen joins fellow Omaha District employees in 1973 for a celebration. Photos courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; Mangen receives some one-on-one time with Brigadier General John S. Kem, Northwestern Division Commander, as she celebrates her birthday in November 2013. Bottom left photo by Cheryl Moore.

By STEVE NEUMANN, *Senior Mechanic, Gavins Point*

# Crane operations training ensures safety compliance for Gavins Point power plant personnel

On August 26, 2013, Jim Muilenburg, a journeyman power plant mechanic from the Garrison Power Project near Riverdale, N.D., conducted crane operations training for Gavins Point Project Power Plant personnel.

The training was the result of a recent update to Engineering Manual, 385 1-1, the Safety and Health Requirements Manual, which includes new safety requirements for crane operators.

Muilenburg is an experienced crane operator and a certified U.S. Army Corps of Engineers crane trainer.

The training consisted of pre-tests to evaluate the participants' existing knowledge regarding crane operations, 24 hours of classroom instruction, a final written test and hands-on practical exercises and testing. Course topics included the USACE Engineers safety manual requirements, crane operations, crane signaling and crane rigging.

The practical exercises and testing consisted of correct crane inspection procedures and negotiating a 55-gallon barrel, converted to a test weight through a "Z" shaped maze, at a specified height from the floor. A 15-foot long 8-inch diameter PVC pipe was fitted with hoist rings and was used to practice and test the operator's ability to raise and lower the pipe from the horizontal to vertical position over a fixed point. Participants also practiced traveling with the Intake Gantry Crane and operating its main and auxiliary hoists.

During crane safety training, held Aug. 26, 2013 at the Gavins Point Dam Hydropower Plant, Lacey Gould (blue) a power plant trainee II uses a remote control handset to operate the overhead bridge crane with Mike Erickson (tan) the senior electrician giving the signals for the crane operation. Jim Muilenburg is visible in the background. Photos by Steve Neumann, senior mechanic, Gavins Point.

Operators were instructed and tested on their ability to give the correct hand signals. Participants completed practical exercises in signaling by facing away from the 15-foot pipe practice load and raising and lowering it, via hand signals provided by the signal person viewing the load.

Muilenburg concluded each exercise with an open discussion regarding any observed errors. Operational hints and pointers from Muilenburg and the more experienced operators in the plant were shared among plant personnel.

Justin Scholl, the Gavins Point Safety Officer participated throughout the training, which included the practical exercises under Muilenburg's watchful eye.

His participation, according to Scholl, would provide him with a better understanding of some of the dynamic safety issues facing power plant personnel. "I gained valuable knowledge, even as a novice operator," said Scholl.

A total of 10 individuals were trained and tested during this class, including two Gavins Point trainees.

Moving forward, the two trainees will only operate cranes with an experienced journeyman present.

"The participants were pleased with the rhythm and scope of the training, especially the hands on aspect," said Steve Neumann, Senior Mechanic at Gavins Point. "Jim did an excellent job. We really appreciate his expertise and thank him and Dale Evenson [Power Plant Superintendent, Garrison] for making this training possible."



# Brig. Gen. Kem addresses district

Top: Lt. Col. Gary J. Davis II, Deputy Chief of Contracting listens intently as Brig. Gen. John S. Kem speaks to another U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee following a town hall meeting.

Above: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District employees gather for a town hall meeting at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha.

Right: Brig. Gen. John S. Kem, Northwestern Division Commander addresses U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees of the Omaha District at the Holland Performing Arts Center Nov. 4, 2013 in a town hall meeting. Photos by Cheryl Moore.

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1616 Capitol Ave., Ste. 9000
Omaha, NE 68102

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operation Santa volunteers celebrate their 53rd year of giving at the Douglas County Health Center and the Glenwood Resource Center. Photos by Cheryl Moore.