

Develop our
Technical Expertise

Engaging the Missouri River
Management Plan

Serving Those
Who Served

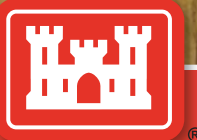


Omaha Outlook



**2017
PULL OUT CALENDAR
AND
O'PLAN UPDATE**

**IT'S A WRAP
2016**



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On the cover: Collage of 2016 Corps events and happenings, a Year in Review. (All photos by USACE/DOD)



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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 THE COMMANDER

Team,

Happy New Year!

As we all do this time of year, we've taken some time to reflect on 2016 in this issue of the Omaha Outlook. It's truly amazing to look at your accomplishments over this past year; we can all be very proud to serve with this world-class team. Please accept my sincere gratitude for all that you accomplish every day, for your commitment to our mission, for your demonstrated character in how we accomplish our mission, and amazing competence that each of you brings to our team as we solve our Nation's most challenging and complex problems. Your efforts continue to earn the respect and trust of our partners and stakeholders, as well as our Nation.



John W. Henderson
Colonel
Omaha District Commander

As you page through this edition of the Omaha Outlook, you will see the results of our strong team. None of our projects gets done without the disciplined and collaborative teamwork from great people all over this organization. We are in a greatly improved position this year to include our Mega-projects with the VA and USSTRATCOM, with the approval of our Fuels MCX, the completion of environmental work on the Yellowstone River Intake and Missouri River Management plan, the publication and resource commitments for our Hydropower Master Plan, the execution of the Cascadia Exercise, and the culmination of an enhanced 2016 Leadership Development Program.

Additionally, you have been stewards in our communities and in our professions through your service and leadership. Thank you for your contributions to Brush-Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon, Operation Santa, the Combined Federal Campaign, our many professional societies, and the multitude of excellent events that we facilitate in communities throughout the Missouri River Basin. Your voluntary service to our communities and profession adds further depth to the character of our Corps.

Looking forward, we are on track for another great year in 2017 with a robust program ahead of us and boundless opportunities to serve our Nation and communities as part of the Army. It is a great honor to serve with you all, and I look forward to accomplishing our mission together.

Essayons.

John W. Henderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Henderson".

Mandatory Center of Expertise is established & supporters recognized

An informal awards ceremony took place Wednesday, October 19, to recognize those individuals whose efforts contributed to the establishment of the Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) Program in Omaha.

The creation of a POL-MCX was approved in August by converting the existing POL Technical Center of Expertise (TCX) to a MCX. This new policy established the Omaha District as the Mandatory Center of Expertise for all USACE fuel systems projects that meet the criteria outlined in the Engineering Regulation (ER 1110-1-8167).

It is recognized by the Department of Defense as the authority for military fuel storage and delivery systems, providing an all-inclusive Design Center located in the Omaha District with a mission to design and implement military fuel storage and delivery systems that reliably provide clean, dry, fuel safety to support the U. S. Military.

Center of Expertise Program Manager, Ms. Donna Smigel, from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters was in Omaha to lead a Center of Expertise seminar at the Omaha District and received recognition for her support.

"The more your popularity grows, the more usage you obtain, then you grow into a Mandatory Center of Expertise," said Smigel.

Mr. Stacey Hirata, SES, HQUSACE, Chief, Installation Support Division, Mr. Bob Fenalason, HQUSACE, Deputy Chief, Consolidated Regional Integration Team (CRIT), and Tim Gordon, HQUSACE, POL-MCX proponent, were presented their awards in Washington, D.C. the day before.



A sustainable figure of endurance, known as "Pipeman Pete," created by Greg Etter, POL-MCX Program Manager, was given to recognize those who supported the Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants-Mandatory Center of Expertise Program. (Photo by Cheryl A. Moore, USACE PA)

Retired fuels Program Manager Jimmy Brasch, Ken Anderson, retired fuels electrical engineer, and Joe Pesek, retired fuels mechanical engineer, also received recognition, along with Joe Laird, Northwestern Division Military Program Manager, and Dick Taylor, Omaha District Deputy Director, Engineering Division, who were away on assignment in Colorado.

The POL-MCX uses its teams within the Omaha District to provide technical support, construction placement, project management, and contract administration services to meet specific military fuel storage and delivery requirements of any installation worldwide. Some of the more familiar installations include Quantico, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and Camp Ripley to name a few.

The Omaha District Mandatory Center of Expertise ensures fuel system projects are executed on time, within budget, and with assured quality to meet or exceed the fuel system commissioning requirements.

SUPPORT NATIONAL SECURITY

Requests for POL-MCX services may be submitted to the POL-MCX by telephone, by email, or in writing. "Informal communication is encouraged," said Greg Etter, Program Manager, "however, before any

reimbursable work commences the POL-MCX and the geographic district (or other Agency) will develop a mutually acceptable scope of work, schedule, and cost estimate for the efforts of POL-MCX."



Omaha District members attend a brown bag luncheon to learn about the Center of Expertise Program from Headquarters manager, Donna Smigel. (Photo by Cheryl A. Moore, USACE PA)



Donna Smigel, Headquarters USACE Center of Expertise Program Manager, is presented with a symbol of appreciation from the Omaha District Fueling Systems Mandatory Center of Expertise (POL-MCX) Program Manager Gregory Etter and a fuel task force of engineers to include from left, Jake Tieskotter, Project Manager, Jimmy Brasch, Retired Fuels Program Manager, Andy Kyhn, Mechanical Engineer, Greg Herring, Supervisory Program Manager, Eric Bausch, Civil Engineer, Nick Dubas, Structural Engineer, and Mike Merwald, Electrical Engineer. (Photo by Cheryl A. Moore, USACE PA)

100-year-old *National Park Service's* roots go deeper with U.S. Army



In 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its 100th anniversary. Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park established in 1872 by President Ulysses Grant, has close ties to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The connection between the National Park Service and USACE is one that has continued through the years.

In 1883, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assumed the role of road and bridge construction at Yellowstone National Park. Lt. Dan Kingman, who was Engineer Officer of the Department of the Platte at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, became the first USACE engineering officer to come to Yellowstone. Kingman established a philosophy for those constructing the Yellowstone National Park road system to ensure they would leave the park "as the hand of nature left

it – a source of pleasure to all who visit it."

From 1891 to 1892 and from 1899 to 1906, Capt. Hiram Chittenden, a Soldier and engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, served at Yellowstone. Chittenden was in charge of notable projects including building a bridge across the Yellowstone River and installing a 100-kilowatt hydropower plant for Fort Yellowstone's facilities. The single-lane road system that was completed by the end of Chittenden's tenure led to the park officially opening to automobiles in 1915.

With easier access to the park came poachers killing animals and souvenir hunters destroying the natural features. In 1886, Yellowstone National Park sought help from the U.S. Army to preserve and protect the land. In 1890, the Army established a

permanent post at Yellowstone National Park.

The Army's presence at Yellowstone includes exploration and surveys from the 1850s to the 1880s and construction in the 1880s and 1890s. In 1886, Capt. Moses Harris and Company M, First Cavalry Regiment were detailed to Yellowstone National Park to patrol the area.

The ranger uniform, be it National Park Service, Forest Service or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, got its start with the First Cavalry's arrival at Yellowstone in 1886.

When the National Park Service was formed, many military personnel who had served in the parks accepted discharges from the Army and were appointed as rangers in the Park Service. The men who formed the first civilian ranger service brought with them

Army Scouts at a Yellowstone Geyser 1912. The ranger uniform, be it National Park Service, Forest Service or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, got its start with the First Cavalry's arrival at Yellowstone in 1886. From 1886-1916, cavalry troops were assigned at several national parks. (Photo by Yellowstone National Park Archives)

DELIVER THE PROGRAM



Hiram M. Chittenden was a graduate of West Point, a U.S. Army engineer, and a historian of the American West. He reached the rank of Brigadier General in 1910. As a lieutenant and captain in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Chittenden served as an engineer at Yellowstone National Park constructing and improving roads and bridges within the park. (Photo by Yellowstone National Park Archives)

the unofficial “ranger” uniform including the signature campaign hat.

Around the same time, Army engineering Soldiers served as park watchmen for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, policing public parks and reservations including around Washington D.C. The men worked in shifts until 2 a.m. on foot or on bicycles furnished by the U.S. Government enforcing park regulations, regulating public travel on park roads and providing information to visitors to the city.

Even before then, there are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in the St. Paul District that date back to the late 1880s. The projects were constructed mainly to support maintaining the Mississippi River navigation channel, but one can presume there were personnel who helped to manage boundary lines



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers road builders at Mammoth Hot Springs, Hotel 1880s. (Photo by Yellowstone National Park Archives)

and hunting and fishing on the lakes.

According to USACE Park Ranger Bill Jackson, the Nashville District had a number of rangers in the late 1950s and 1960s commonly called “Reservoir Rangers.”

The Flood Control Act of 1970 laid the foundation for the “modern” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Program which establishes the authority to enforce Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations that applies to Parks, Forests, and Public Property. Chapter 1 of Title 36 outlines the National Park Service’s role, and Chapter 3 outlines the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ role.

With that authority, USACE began its Park Ranger and Visitor Assistance program. The first USACE Park Ranger who was granted citation authority and to write a citation for a Title 36 violation was Mr. Wallace Halcomb in 1971 at Lake Cumberland in Kentucky for an unauthorized boat house on the lake.

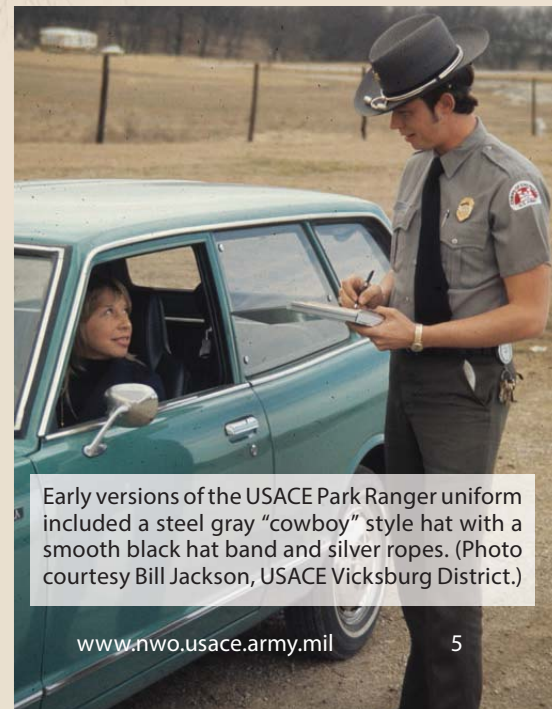
Just as the National Park Service uniform has its roots in the U.S. Army Cavalry’s role at the first national parks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uniform represents that connection.

Halcomb and five other rangers were part of the pilot program at Lake Cumberland and are also credited for the first badges for USACE Park Rangers. The badges

were purchased in 1971 through the U.S. Marshalls Service in Lexington, Kentucky and a local jeweler engraved them to say Ranger above a star and within the star were the words, “Corps of Engineers.”

The second badge design incorporated the “Corps Castle” and removed the star. The word “Ranger” was removed from badges around 1987, and the modern badge has remained unchanged since.

The USACE campaign hat band features a leather band with a leafy scrollwork and no lettering or ornaments. However, the “Corps Castle” is displayed prominently at the front of the hat. While the history of the “Corps Castle” is well documented, the history of the leaf pattern on the hat band and leather belt seems more elusive.



Early versions of the USACE Park Ranger uniform included a steel gray “cowboy” style hat with a smooth black hat band and silver ropes. (Photo courtesy Bill Jackson, USACE Vicksburg District.)

Aurora, CO VA Health Center project nears 80 percent completion; focusing on the task at hand

In mid-June, the project--12 buildings including two inpatient buildings, two clinic buildings, a diagnostic and treatment center, a research building, concourse, and energy center totaling 1.2 million square feet, and three garages for staff and visitor parking totaling 2,242 spaces--was nearly 55 percent complete.

Andrea Rodriguez, the project's senior project manager, describes the construction partnership between USACE and the VA as mutually beneficial – first for Colorado veterans and their families and second because the project allows USACE to bring its construction management expertise to a significant federal agency adding health care to its project management experience.

The project, led by an approximately 30-member USACE team working collaboratively with the VA project team, is now more than 78 percent complete with inpatient and clinic buildings more than 80 percent complete.

Permanent power is available site wide, steam pipe charging began on Oct. 6, and the mechanical and electrical systems are being commissioned.

Kiewit-Turner has around 1,000 craft workers on site, and the project remains on target for its scheduled completion in early 2018.


Reception desks and cabinets are installed in the clinic buildings, and the inpatient buildings have paint on the walls, ceiling tile, counters and fixtures being installed.

"Things are beginning to look ready to receive patients, but we still have lots of work to do," said Pete Sturdivant, USACE Senior Resident Engineer for the project.

"Before the VA can serve Colorado's veterans in this facility, we have to finish construction," said Sturdivant.

"We're very focused on collaboration," said Rodriguez. "We are collocated with the VA team and believe working together can lead to better decision-making and more efficient work."

Sturdivant initiated having building teams for each of the project's 12 buildings. Each team includes project superintendents from Kiewit-Turner, VA



The quarter-mile long Concourse at the Department of Veterans Affairs Replacement Medical Center that is under construction in Aurora, Colorado serves as a central connector for clinic buildings, diagnostic and treatment centers, in-patient buildings, a chapel, and more. When complete, the 1.2 million square-foot facility and three parking garages with 2,242 spaces will serve more than 400,000 veterans and their families in the Colorado area. (Photo by Harry Weddington)

It has been nearly a year since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Omaha District awarded a \$570 million fixed price-incentive contract to Kiewit-Turner, A Joint Venture, to continue construction of the Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System Hospital in Aurora, Colorado.

The notice to proceed was issued a few days later. The project is being constructed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with Kiewit-Turner as the primary contractor.

DELIVER THE PROGRAM

building engineers, and USACE project engineers among others.

VA medical staff are part of walk-throughs with USACE managers and engineers.

Rodriguez calls it "ground-truthing." Before rooms are finished, teams ensure the rooms will meet equipment and patient care needs, from ultrasound machines to physical therapy equipment.

The building teams don't have to focus on the entire project, and representatives from all teams meet regularly to discuss issues that might be seen campus-wide.

"This is a complex medical center - as most hospitals are. Input can come from many avenues, but starting it at the building team level helps us to address it there," said Sturdivant.

"Each day we focus on the task in front of us. We know our destination, we know the roadmap. But, each day, we focus first on reaching the next stop," said Sturdivant.

When the destination is reached, more than 400,000 veterans and their families in the Colorado area will be served in a world-class healthcare facility.

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide variety of programs and services for the nation's 22

million veterans and continues to emphasize three long-term goals: increasing access to VA benefits and services, reducing the claims backlog, and eliminating veterans' homelessness. In addition, the VA has placed renewed emphasis on rebuilding trust with America's veterans, improving service delivery, and transforming the agency to empower veterans to more easily navigate VA and access their earned care and benefits.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's premiere public engineering organization, responding to the nation's needs in peace and war. USACE provides engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical services. The Omaha District manages over 1,800 projects and an annual program budget of more than \$1 billion.

Aerial photo of the 12-building Department of Veterans Affairs replacement medical center under construction in Aurora, Colorado. The entire facility has been under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' contract to Kiewit-Turner since November 2015. The project is on target for contract completion by January 2018. (Photo Courtesy Kiewit Turner)



Department of Veterans Affairs Replacement Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. Reception area of Clinic Building North which houses patient services including a large audiology clinic. Clinic buildings are scheduled to be handed to the Department of Veterans Affairs in early 2017 who will lead equipment installation. (Photo by Harry Weddington)



A Can-Do Attitude earns Zessin high honors

The invitation read: "The Secretary of Defense requests the pleasure of your company at the Department of Defense 36th Annual Disability Awards Ceremony Tuesday, the fourth of October, two thousand sixteen at two o'clock in the afternoon, Pentagon Auditorium, Washington, D.C."

Mr. Scott M. Zessin, Omaha District, is one of three Army recipients of the 2016 Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Civilian Employees with Disabilities.

Zessin, a member of the Surveys, Mapping, and GIS section of the Geotechnical Sciences and Engineering Branch has been with the district for 11 years. He began with the Corps under the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) Student in 2004.

He was accompanied to the 2016 Disability Award Ceremony, held October 4 at the Pentagon Auditorium by his senior leader Jon Kragt, Chief of Surveys, Mapping, and GIS Section, who said, "I nominated Scott for this award because he always has a great can-do attitude and is willing to take on challenging technical assignments."

Zessin, along with 17 other DOD employees, received their awards from Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter. The Outstanding DOD Service Members and Civilians with a Disability Award is the highest honor the department gives to recognize the contributions of disabled employees.

"Zessin is willing to take on challenging technical assignments," said Kragt. "Customers ask for him by name due to his outstanding work ethic, team work skills, and the quality of work."

This annual recognition ceremony is held at the Pentagon honoring outstanding servicemembers and civilian employees with disabilities for their contributions in support of the DOD mission and recognizes exemplary department organizations

for their efforts to advance a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Zessin receives many accolades from his peers and staff at the Omaha District. "Scott is providing me with exceptional support via GIS coverage, database development and tools and products for conducting the nonstructural assessment. I appreciate his efforts to provide the material requested, as the nonstructural assessment will be a much better product with his assistance," said Randy Behm, Omaha District Hydraulic Engineer.

"I would like people to know that my disability is part of who I am, but it is not what I am," said Zessin. Born and raised in Gretna, NE, he says he became disabled due to a car accident, resulting in a spinal cord injury when he was 8 years old.

He credits his parents for helping him become the hard worker that he is today. "They were hard-working devoted teachers who showed me to persevere through the trials of life," he said.

In addition to his geospatial duties, Zessin has taken on purchasing credit card duties, supporting the section and branch in purchasing supplies, equipment, repairs, maintenance, training, utility locating services and more. "He has not had any ratifications or errors while executing these additional duties," said Kragt.

When he is not doing all these wonderful things during his working hours, Zessin enjoys spending time outside working on projects in the yard, spending time with his wife of more than ten years, and from high school to college he has enjoyed playing wheelchair basketball for more than 20 years, currently in the men's division.

Much gratitude has been bestowed upon Zessin for his hard work and dedication to the Omaha District.

PREPARE FOR TOMORROW



Ms. Stephanie Barna, Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, presents the 2016 Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with Disability Award to Mr. Scott S. Zessin, Geographer, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, during the 36th Annual Department of Defense Disability Awards Ceremony held at the Pentagon Auditorium October 4, 2016. They are joined by Gwendolyn R. DeFilippi, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civilian Personnel, and Jon Kragt, Supervisory Civil Engineer, Omaha District. (DOD photo by Marvin Lynchard)



SIDENOTE: October marks National Disability Employment Awareness month- a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.



MRRRP

Missouri River Recovery Program

A pallid sturgeon is measured after being caught. (Photo courtesy USACE, Omaha District.)

2016 was a busy year for the Missouri River Recovery Program (MRRP) with major leaps forward for the Adaptive Management (AM) Plan and the Lower Yellowstone Fish Passage Project, including release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Lower Yellowstone and the draft Missouri River Recovery Management Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (MRRMP-EIS), in addition to ongoing work at project sites and coordination with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC).

"I am immensely proud of our Yellowstone team, under the leadership of Tiffany Vanosdall, and the MRRMP-EIS team, under the leadership of Mark Harberg, who invested their incredible talent and time over the past year to expertly complete these EIS's. These were tremendously challenging and complex achievements," said Col. John

W. Henderson, Omaha District Commander.

MRRMP-EIS

The most significant achievement for the MRRP management plan was release of the draft MRRMP-EIS this month. Release of this document represents the culmination of four years of work by Northwestern Division, Omaha District, and Kansas City District staff along with stakeholders, state representatives, and Tribal members of MRRIC.

In 2013, the Corps initiated an Effects Analysis (EA) to establish the best available science underpinning the MRRP. Based on the EA results, the Corps developed alternatives to meet the species objectives of avoiding jeopardy to the three listed threatened and endangered species on the Missouri River – the least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon. An adaptive management plan was also developed to lay out

the process and criteria for monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting management actions to encourage sustainable population levels in these species. The MRRP-EIS lays out a set of six management alternatives that could potentially be implemented over a 15-year timeframe and identifies a preferred alternative for consideration. "We believe it is valuable to identify a preferred alternative in the draft MRRMP-EIS so the public and agencies understand what we currently think is the best approach," said Mark C. Harberg, MRRP program manager. "Following public review and consultation with the USFWS, the preferred alternative may change."

Under the adaptive management plan, the Corps and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will evaluate the effectiveness of management actions to determine how well they meet objectives for the three species and conduct studies in

order to increase knowledge of what conditions have the most positive impact on the species. As the agencies gain knowledge, they can adjust management actions and program implementation to benefit the least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon.

"This adaptive management plan will ensure management actions will constantly be evaluated and adjusted to ensure they are having the intended results for the species," Harberg said.

Public comments and consultation with Native American Tribes and state and federal agencies will continue through 2017.

MRRIC Engagement

MRRIC has been a key partner in development of the MRRMP-EIS and AM Plan. Staff from the Corps, USFWS, and other agencies focused on updating MRRIC members on the development and content of the documents with emphasis on the alternatives evaluated in the MRRMP-EIS. MRRIC members have provided feedback and recommendations to the Corps and USFWS on the documents and ongoing MRRP implementation activities including the Fiscal Year 2017 Work Plan.

The committee met in February, June, August, and November for quarterly plenary sessions and held multiple work group and ad hoc group teleconferences with agency staff throughout the year. MRRIC was authorized by Congress in Section 5018 of the 1007 Water Resources Development Act and was

established by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in 2008.

Lower Yellowstone Project

The Lower Yellowstone Project also reach a significant milestone in 2016. The project involves improving passage for the pallid sturgeon and other fish at the Intake Diversion Dam. The Corps and the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) released a Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oct. 14 and a Record of Decision on Dec. 5.

In 1905, BoR began construction of the dam which irrigates approximately 55,000 acres of farm land in Montana and North Dakota. The dam also impedes upstream fish migration. The Corps and BoR selected the Bypass Channel Alternative which involves constructing a 15,500-foot-long bypass channel around the dam. The agencies expect this alternative both to effectively support fish migration and to be cost effective over time. "The Corps and Reclamation have worked hard to develop an alternative that is sustainable and beneficial to fish in the Yellowstone River. This bypass should assist our overall efforts in avoiding jeopardy to the pallid sturgeon," Henderson said.

Other Projects

As parts of its ongoing work, the MRRP held public meetings, awarded contracts for construction at Missouri River project sites.

Public meetings:

- Glendive, MT – Seek comment on the Lower Yellowstone Project

- Auburn, NE – Seek comment on the Langdon Bend Project Contracts awarded:
- Langdon Bend – Awarded to Western Contracting Corporation for mechanical top width widening of the Missouri River between river miles 530.8 and 531.4
- Deer Island – Awarded to Western Contracting Corporation for lowering or shortening existing rock structures between river miles 670.7 and 672.4 and placing approximately 1,250 tons of rip rap along the north bank at mile 670.9

Sources:

"Yellowstone Intake," Missouri River Recovery Program web site, <http://moriverrecovery.usace.army.mil/mrrp/f?p=136:16:0::NO::>

"Corps and Reclamation Release Final Environmental Impact Statement for Lower Yellowstone Fish Passage," Bureau of Reclamation web site, <https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=56907>

"Record of Decision Signed for Lower Yellowstone Fish Passage Project," Bureau of Reclamation web site, <https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=57556>

"Relationship Between the MRRMP-EIS Alternatives and the AM Plan," MRRP fact sheet.

PREPARE FOR TOMORROW

OMAHA DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

Many new hires came onboard throughout the district in 2016 and others began new career paths in other divisions within the district. Let's continue to embrace these newest team members.

Operations Division:



Thomas J. Atkins-11/14/2016, Jade M. Clabaugh-11/14/2016, Dylan J. Hickey-12/19/2016, Todd A. Hirschert-11/14/2016, Kelsey E. Jolley-9/12/2016, Kimberly J. Koupal-12/14/2016, Chris J. Kuca-12/19/2016, Brooke M. Roth-7/18/2016, Michael L. Solem-12/12/2016, Derek T. Soukup-12/19/2016, Chad D. Sykora-12/27/2016, Timothy D. Thaler-12/19/2016, John P. Derbish-5/1/2016, Michael P. Foote- 4/17/2016, Randall R. Hartz-6/26/2016, Neil E. Mansfield-7/10/2016, Tony V. Roerig- 5/15/2016, Randy L.

Swanson- 5/29/2016, Chad A. Wimer- 8/21/2016, Delane L Albers- 12/12/2016, Kenneth G. Baer-7/10/2016, Caleb S. Cruse-10/16/2016, Brooke A. Davis- 8/21/2016, Randolph S. Dixon- 1/11/2016, Ryan C. Doolittle- 9/19/2016, Travis F. Ford- 9/22/2016, Scott B. Fullerton- 8/9/2016, Bryson J. Hellmuth-5/9/2016, Adam M. Johnson- 8/22/2016, Terence J. Krcil- 8/8/2016, Abraham J. Lagunas- 6/26/2016, Ginger A. Macdonald- 6/27/2016, Mandie A. Maldonado- 7/11/2016, Darin J. McDonald- 5/2/2016, Jeremy S. Nygard- 10/6/2016, Christopher E. Olson-5/16/2016, Zachary L. Palmer- 10/3/2016, Mitchell E. Perkins- 10/30/2016, Steven K. Spicer, II-10/31/2016, and Kelly J. Tramp- 12/12/2016.



Planning, Programs & Project Management Division:

Mary M. Darling- 4/25/2016, Mark I. Wherry- 6/26/2016, Amanda L. Boucher- 4/3/2016, Melissa M. Koehler-10/3/2016, Christina Y. Luna- 10/16/2016, Scott E. Matrangos- 6/20/2016, Matthew A. Olijnek- 5/31/2016, Robin L. Puskar- 12/5/2016, Ronald J. Wieser- 7/10/2016, and Mark A. Young- 10/2/2016.

Construction Division:



Cindy M. Sand- 9/6/2016, Mark A. Fossett- 1/11/2016, Sabrina L. Gerecke- 6/12/2016, Paul C. Holcomb- 11/13/2016, Jean A. Jones- 10/30/2016, Russell J. Matthews-4/3/2016, Kalem L. McRae- 2/7/2016, Ricky Philizaire- 8/7/2016, Melissa K. Schmitz- 10/2/2016, Terry E. Stroschein- 2/21/2016, Brian M. Trzaska-7/10/2016, Jessica K. Walker- 3/20/2016, Debra B. Wallin- 7/10/2016, Robert R. Weiland-

5/29/2016, Daryl D. Williams- 7/10/2016, Kylie R. Berger- 9/19/2016, Tammie S. Bryant- 11/28/2016, Jason L. Burrell- 2/8/2016, Laura P. Cole- 9/19/2016, Timothy R. George- 5/16/2016, John C. Jaszowskiak-8/21/2016, Lindsay M. Jaszowskiak- 9/6/2016, Corey M. Jensen- 8/22/2016, Brian M. Kramer- 1/11/2016, Michael Y. Nuss- 6/13/2016, Esther M. Pritchard-2/8/2016, Luke C. Ritz- 7/25/2016, James E. Root-7/24/2016, Donald K. Townsend- 12/12/2016, and Shawn C. Madden- 10/31/2016.

PREPARE FOR TOMORROW

Project Management Division:



Craig E. Downey- 5/15/2016, Dan M. Holiday- 1/24/2016, James D. Bouvier- 8/22/2016, Brian D. Hesford- 6/13/2016, and David B. Leptien- 6/28/2016.

Contracting Division:



Monica L. Dwyer- 10/2/2016, Patrick J. Mally- 4/17/2016, Kevin S. Thomsen- 10/2/2016, Katriena R. Ver Straete- 10/2/2016, Jaimie K. Zurek- 10/2/2016, Timothy B. Boyte- 7/18/2016, Teri J. Edwards- 7/10/2016, Timothy J. Howland- 12/11/2016, Clinton E. Russell- 7/11/2016, and Mary K. Thomsen- 10/2/2016.

Engineering Division:



Matthew J. Masek- 12/25/2016, Matthew J. Nelson- 5/15/2016, Robert B. Saari- 3/20/2016, Judith M. Strawhecker- 5/1/2016, George W. Vansteenburgh- 6/12/2016, James R. Bond- 2/8/2016, Jacob D. Carter- 5/16/2016, Eric M. Dotson- 9/19/2016, Jacob T. Eckstrom- 5/16/2016, Elliott O. French- 6/20/2016, Eric D. Fritsch- 1/11/2016, Melanie J. Karst- 1/25/2016, Jonathan E. Lindeman- 9/6/2016, Elizabeth R. Lien- 1/11/2016, Samuel G. Manning- 5/16/2016, Pascual Mauricio, Jr.- 2/8/2016, David J. Merrell- 3/21/2016, Jeffrey K. Mihulka- 3/21/2016, John M. Mosier- 4/17/2016, Tyson A. Payton- 10/17/2016, Kevin J. Prince- 5/16/2016, Jamie L. Prochno- 5/16/2016, Michael A. Riggle- 1/11/2016, Antonio L. Saldana- 8/22/2016, Samuel D. Sobczyk- 3/21/2016, Jeffrey P. Slattery- 10/3/2016, Seth A. Sorensen- 5/16/2016, Wayne R. Stebelski- 9/6/2016, Lori R. Talty- 4/4/2016, Adam L. Wenck- 4/18/2016, Katherine M. Werner- 2/22/2016, and Tyler D. Wynn- 6/13/2016.

Real Estate Division:



Joel S. Walker- 1/25/2016, Vincent M. Crowdy- 7/25/2016, Robert C. Daisley- 2/8/2016, Michael W. Ellard- 1/19/2016, Michael L. Pratt- 11/7/2016, Lawrence J. Willoughby- 11/14/2016, and Mark E. Young- 2/22/2016.

Maintenance Engineering Section:



Mohammed F. A. Al Soufi- 1/11/2016, Nile J. B. Limbach- 1/11/2016, Gretzkhey F. Molson- 10/4/2016, David J. Nelson- 10/3/2016, and John I. Strudl- 5/31/2016.

Others joining the Omaha Team include:



West Regional Director's Office- Jess W. Cook- 8/7/2016, Public Affairs Office- Jamie S. Danesi- 3/20/2016, Military Integration Division- Mary M. Johansen- 12/11/2016, Resource Management Office- Kristen J. Prue- 4/4/2016, and Robert E. Morris- 5/1/2016, Executive Office- Carmella A. Schroeder- 2/7/2016, and Security and Law Enforcement Office- Maira Y. Harder- 5/29/2016.

If you entered onto duty with the Omaha District in 2016, and your name has been omitted, please notify the Public Affairs office. Thank you.

Happy Retirement

SOCIAL SECURITY

Names & Dates

Thank you for your time and service

Adams K Kevin.....	05/2016	Kubik Kurt Ray.....	10/2016
Adolf Mary J.....	10/2016	Kumley Robert F.....	03/2016
Blair Susan B.....	12/2016	Kurcz Joseph R.....	04/2016
Braley Randall S.....	09/2016	Little Franklin Charles.	05/2016
Brown Paul W.....	11/2016	Louder Mark S.....	12/2016
Bryant Curtis A.....	05/2016	McGee Diane C.....	12/2016
Buckman Daryl E.....	07/2016	Michaels Robert J.....	07/2016
Cassel Margaret M.....	02/2016	Nelson Mark E.....	05/2016
Coffey John P.....	12/2016	Peters Lisa W.....	02/2016
Crane Kelly A.....	05/2016	Randall James L.....	04/2016
Daggett John E.....	06/2016	Renner Kevin K.....	12/2016
Dingman Harold E.....	12/2016	Richards Mary L.....	12/2016
Giles Robert T.....	12/2016	Sanders Velma J.....	06/2016
Gregory John B Jr.....	05/2016	Schenk Kathryn M.....	06/2016
Guirguis Amir A.....	10/2016	Sherman Terry W.....	04/2016
Hassebrook Delaine M	12/2016	Spence Myron K.....	05/2016
Hawkins John C.....	12/2016	Starner Charles E Jr....	05/2016
Hobza Jude T.....	02/2016	Terrell Karen A.....	09/2016
Hodges Jay D.....	11/2016	Thompson Thomas P...	11/2016
Jordan Mary A.....	07/2016	Totten Richard G.....	02/2016
Kohlieber Gabriele Ia..	12/2016		



Remembering our fallen teammates



Michael Donald Morrison

Michael Donald Morrison was born December 12, 1952, to Donald and Jean (Maddocks) Morrison in Creston, Iowa. He was raised in Omaha and graduated

from Westside High School in 1972. He then attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and graduated with a degree in architecture. In 1972 he started working for the National Park Service and in 1979 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On September 17, 1983, Mike married Linda Vannier at the First United Methodist Church in Omaha. The couple lived there until 1991 when they moved to Woodbine. The couple purchased Countryside Hallmark Store. Linda operated the store and Mike repaired clocks in the evening and weekends. Mike also taught CAD Graphic classes at Metro Community College since 1992.

Mike was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Woodbine. He served on various committees and most recently the chairman of the administrative board. He served at the district level on the Southwest District Trustees Building Committee. Additionally, Mike volunteered on the Woodbine Fire & Rescue and was active in the Czech Civic Alliance.

Mike died August 3, 2016, at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 63 years, seven months, and 22 days.

Mike was preceded in death by his father; sister, Linda Foster and brother-in-law, Sandy Foster. He is survived by his wife, Linda of Woodbine, Iowa; four children, Chris (Lisa) Morrison of Shelby, Iowa, Ashley (Andrew) Flater of Omaha, Nebraska, Michaelanne Morrison of Woodbine, Iowa, Lindsey Morrison of Dunlap, Iowa; three grandchildren; mother, Jean Morrison of Omaha, Nebraska; siblings, Carol (Howard) Halperin of Omaha, Nebraska, Mark Morrison of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Scott (Michael Cornelius) Morrison of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and many other relatives and friends.

Ronald Panting

Papillion man 'was living the dream' when around planes.

If anyone lived for flying, it was Ronald Panting.

The 61-year-old flight instructor from Papillion had held a pilot's license for 40 years, including a 23-year career in the Air Force and nine more years as a commercial pilot.

"He has just been obsessed with flying his whole life," said his daughter, Stephanie Panting. "It was really wonderful to see him doing what he was passionate about."

Ron Panting grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, but his Air Force career took him around the world. His last stop was with the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base in 1998, including a tour as chief of wing safety. He stayed in Nebraska with his wife, Lynne, and two children after retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2004.



In recent years, he flew as a contractor for the Army Corps of Engineers and served as a check airman for the FAA.

Panting enjoyed golf and umpired high school and college baseball games. But when he wasn't flying airplanes, he could often be found tinkering on home and vehicle projects.

"He loved seeing how things worked, he loved working with his hands," Stephanie Panting said. "When he was around planes, it was something special. He was living the dream."

Panting is survived by his wife, Lynne, of Papillion; daughter Stephanie of Washington, D.C.; and son Matthew of southern California.

Continued on pg 16

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from pg 15

Mr. James Frew

Mr. James Frew, who was a Construction Representative working at FE Warren AFB, passed away after a brave fight against cancer. Jim was 64. Jim started with the Corps of Engineers July 5, 2009. He worked as a Construction Representative on several dormitory renovation projects at FE Warren, an addition to the City of Cheyenne Water Treatment Plant, Veterans Administration Ambulatory Care Expansion project in Cheyenne, NSSTTC - Training Facility at Camp Guernsey, the renovation of Building 284 (historic building that had many uses over the years), and most recently the construction of the Fort Collins Army Reserve Center. Jim was a true professional and was respected by all. Prior to working with the Corps of Engineers, Jim worked as a carpenter and had many years of experience in the construction field.

Jim served his community as a member of the Masons and Shriners. He enjoyed riding his Harley and visiting his grandchildren in Texas. Jim was getting ready to retire and move to Texas to be closer to his grandchildren.



Ms. Jennifer McQueen

Ms. Jennifer McQueen, Senior Resident Engineer for the USSTRATCOM C2F Resident Office.

Jennifer served in this position for the past three years. She passed away MAY 10 2016, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Please join me in extending our condolences and prayers to her husband Keith, their family, and to her teammates at the Fort Crook Area Office.

Jennifer's service to our Nation and our District was exemplary. She possessed unparalleled work ethic and competence which inspired all with whom she served. Prior to her last assignment, Jennifer was the Resident Engineer at Buckley AFB, CO; she also served as a Project Manager and Project Engineer in Cheyenne, WY and Omaha, NE. Jennifer's passing leaves a hole in our ranks and a tremendous burden of sorrow for her family and for her teammates that will not soon heal. Reflect on the distinguished service of Jennifer McQueen and her many contributions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our Nation.

McQueen, Jennifer Sue Feb 5, 1960 - May 10, 2016 Age 56. Jennifer graduated from the University of Illinois, where she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta. She went on to become a licensed Professional Civil Engineer with a Masters in Business Administration. She worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for over thirty years, most recently as the STRATCOM Resident Engineer at Offutt Air Force Base. Jennifer enjoyed traveling to national parks and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Preceded by parents William and Sondra Gullett. Survived by husband Keith; daughters Sara Young, Jaclyn McIntosh; stepdaughters, Jennifer Leigh Memolo (Sean), Laura Michele Smith (Dustin); grandchildren, Morrissey Memolo and Winry Smith; sister Julie Jacobson (Jerry); brother William Gullett (Michelle); nieces and nephew Jenna, Jake, Madison, Katherine, Anna and Emma.

Tom Sanders

Mr. Thomas Sanders, who served as our mailroom clerk passed away unexpectedly in his sleep June 16. Tom was 60 years old. Please join me in extending our condolences to his wife Tammy, their family, and to the ACE-IT team.

Tom's day-to-day duties brought him in contact with the entire team here in Omaha, and he will be greatly missed. Before working for the Omaha District Tom worked for the United States Postal Service for 34 years from which he retired in 2013. Prior to this he served our country in the U.S. Navy. Locally he was an active member of the Ralston community and as served with MECA and the Ralston Arena. Sports was in his blood as he was an avid Husker fan and enjoyed many of our district team nights out with the Lancers -- many times as he worked part time at the Arena.



Check it out!

Did you know there is someone ready to assist you with creating, documenting and presenting? Your local Visual Information Specialists specialize in four core areas: graphic design, photography, videography and audio visual services. Learn more about VI capabilities in the latest issue of Visual Information, an informative newsletter powered by ACE-IT. View a copy on the water cooler home page today! or @ <https://aceit.usace.army.mil/Support/visualinfo/Pages/default.aspx>

VISUAL INFORMATION
An informative newsletter powered by ACE-IT

4 CORE FUNCTIONS: VIDEO, GRAPHIC, PHOTO, AUDIO VISUAL

Request our services today!



Video

Baltimore VI Specialist Receives Beacon Award

The American Recreation Coalition recently recognized Baltimore District Visual Information Specialist David Gray with its Beacon Award for Innovative Use of Technology to Improve Visitor Experiences. The award was presented to Mr. Gray (Continued on pg. 3)



Graphics

New England Chiefs of Engineers

VI Specialist Brian Murphy was recently commissioned to create a graphic for the New England District executive office. The graphic representing all of the Chief of Engineers with New England roots is a computer illustration produced in a style (Continued on pg. 2)

VI SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

Name: **Vance Harris** Location: **Memphis, TN**



BFA- Bachelor of Fine Arts
Major: Illustration, Commercial Art & Advertisement

Memphis College of Arts

What do you like most about VI?

Working at the Corps as a Visual Information Specialist is a means to satisfy my burning desire to create or do what I love to do: produce VI projects that incorporate photography and graphic design.

(Continued on pg. 4)



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

On my regular Visual Information covering diverse VI topics. Or in our vocabulary. Simply put in the local VI site capabilities the local VI site capabilities through an enterprise resource our professionalism. As the years with the Corps of Engineers through an exceptional recruiting Team has made to the USACE and enhancing the USACE image and enhancing the USACE image We are the Corps, Essayons!

USACE CIO/G6 Virtual Leadership

The Visual Information of VI Specialists in Baltimore District USACE CIO/G6

This virtual employment on advertisement of selection an

Meggie

Wendy

The Visual Information quarterly publication and designed by VI 5 promote the VI Teams capabilities

Designer: Jeremy Bell, Visual Information Specialist, Omaha District Jeremy.G.Bell@usace.army.mil

Editor: Mark McInerney, Visual Information Service Manager, ACE-IT Mark.McInerney@usace.army.mil

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Omaha, NE 68102

BUILDING STRONG®

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Omaha District



Putting a bow on the 2016 accomplishments for Omaha District during a reception at the home of the District Commander were members of our current military cadre, Corporate Board members, past District Commanders, and SAME Board members. Military members shown are, from top of stairs to the landing, Sgt. 1st Class John Hickman, Master Sgt. Glenda Canty, Capt. Jason Ackermann, Maj. Chris Thomas, Lt. Col. Arlo Reese, Maj. Thane Startzell, Capt. Ryan Hignight, and Col. John Henderson. Military members not shown are, Lt. Col. Thomas Lutz, Lt. Col. Michael Sexton, Capt. Dan Terbilcox, Capt. Allison Barton, Capt. Ericka Collins (deployed), Capt. Morgan Kuchan (deployed), Capt. Justin McMillan, Capt. Sarah Yates, Capt. (P) Brian Gulley, and 1st Lt. Aneesa Cook. (Photo by Amy Henderson)

Operations Plan **UPDATE**

Six featured accomplishments from 2016

Currently at 72% complete

SEP16: USACE Chief of Staff Signs ER 1110-1-8167

Project achieved Platinum certification!

Completed Missouri River Management Plan: Dec 2016

Complete Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone Intake

Project on track for Jan 2018 completion.

Fully exercise Cascadia Disaster Response

Build the Dam Safety Production Center

Developed a comprehensive, feasible, efficient strategic plan for hydropower in Mar 2016

Increase Veteran and Wounded Warrior Initiatives at career fairs

Training Tracker streamlined on internal information channels

END STATE

Deliver innovative, resilient, and sustainable solutions to DoD and the Nation.

Deliver enduring and essential solutions using effective strategies.

Deliver support that responds to, recovers from, and mitigates disaster impacts to the Nation while ensuring sustainable operations.

Build resilient People, Teams, Systems, and Processes to sustain a diverse culture of collaboration, innovation, and participation to shape and deliver strategic solutions.

OPLAN Task

Milestones

3.4 Create hydropower rehabilitation strategy; pursue customer funding

1. Developed a comprehensive, feasible, efficient strategic plan for hydropower in Mar 2016
2. Program and secure predictable funding for sustainment: June 2016
3. Set risk-informed decisions and communications: Sep 2016

4.4a Increase outreach to improve diversity and engagement with Wounded Warriors, Reserve Officer's Training Corps and Science Technology Engineering Mathematics initiatives

1. Increase Veteran and Wounded Warrior Initiatives at career fairs: Sep 2016
2. Increase military outreach and partnership with STEM, ROTC: Sep 2016
3. Met NWD annual objectives (4, 1, 1, 4)- during 2nd QTR. Currently have 3 soldiers at FT Carson we are assisting with transition.
4. additional event planned for Aug 10 (HIRING OUR HEROES Career Fair, UNO)

4.4b Deliberate leader development, growth of technical expertise, and enhancement of formal employee sponsorship/on-boarding programs

1. Conduct an Air Barrier Prospect Course, four instructors from Engineering and Construction Divisions
 - Sustainability Prospect Course, one instructor from Engineering Division
 - Maintained 24 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited staff district wide
 - Submitted Design-build contract for Aviation Support Battalion Hangar Project at Fort Carson for USACE Sustainability Award. Project achieved Platinum certification!

OPLAN Task

Milestones

1.1b Deliver the new U.S. Strategic Command Control Facility at Offutt Air Force Base

Reoccurring

1. Currently at 72 percent complete
2. 2000 linear feet of mold infested duct work has been removed

1.1d Achieve Master Center of Expertise certification for Omaha District Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant's (Fuels) Technical Center of Expertise.

1. -1 Aug2016- Received USACE Management Action Group Approval
2. -3 AUG16: Maj. Gen. Stevens, approved POL-MCX
3. -15 SEP16: USACE Chief of Staff signs ER 1110-1-8167

1.3 Design and construct environmentally/operationally sustainable projects.

1. Conduct an Air Barrier Prospect Course, four instructors from Engineering and Construction Divisions
 - Sustainability Prospect Course, one instructor from Engineering Division
 - Maintained 24 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited staff district wide
 - Submitted Design-build contract for Aviation Support Battalion Hangar Project at Fort Carson for USACE Sustainability Award. Project achieved Platinum certification!

2.2 Develop Missouri River Management Plan and Continuing Authorities Program opportunities.

1. Completed Missouri River Management Plan: Dec 2016
2. Execute CAP Program: Sep 2016
3. Completed: Draft Mgmt Plan was posted on 16 Dec 2016 for public and agency review as planned.
4. Completed: Successfully executed very large FY16 CAP program advancing 17 projects as scheduled and obligating 95.2%.

3.4 Create hydropower rehabilitation strategy; pursue customer funding

1. Develop a comprehensive, feasible, efficient strategic plan: Mar 2016
2. Program and secure predictable funding for sustainment: June 2016
3. Set risk-informed decisions and communications: Sep 2016

2.3a Complete Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone Intake project in support of project to facilitate species recovery and jeopardy avoidance on the Missouri River.

1. Complete Yellowstone Intake EIS and Record of Decision identifying solutions for fish passage while maintaining irrigation: Nov 2016
 - Completed: Yellowstone Intake EIS and Record of Decision completed as schedule. Final EIS was posted on 21 Oct and ROD was signed on 2 Dec 2016.

2.3b Procure and execute Aurora Veterans Hospital contract.

1. Ensure VA Hospital is meeting patients functional needs: Jan 2018
2. Project on track for Jan 2018 completion.

3.1a Fully exercise Cascadia Disaster Response; maintain Emergency Support Function team readiness; fully support response efforts with Interagency, State, and Regulatory partners

1. Exercise Readiness during Cascadia Disaster Response: June 2016
2. Maintain ESF Team Readiness: Report Monthly during C&S
3. Support Response Efforts: Report Monthly during C&S and Coordinated deployments
4. Conducted 23-25Mar Cascadia Exercise to finalize NWO Plans
5. Process of revising NWO Cascadia Operations Plans published NLT 1May2016

3.3 Build the Dam Safety Production Center to execute modifications to reduce risk to life safety within North West Division

1. Provide technical leadership and support within NWD other Divisions: Mar 2017
 - Additional staff have been hired for work. Hiring actions will continue.
 - Cherry Creek Dam Safety Mod Study (DSMS) continuing to progress toward tentatively selected plan.
 - DSPC continues to provide technical assistance to Alaska District for the Moose Creek DSMS. Moose Creek will also be presented to DSOG in February of 2017.



ESSAYONS

USACE

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Omaha District

■ Payday
 ■ Holiday
 ■ End of Pay Period

2016 Leave year ends January 7, 2017

(Use or Lose Time must be Used or Forfeited)

2017 Leave year begins January 8, 2017

2017 Leave year ends January 6, 2018 26 Leave Periods

2017 Pay year ends December 9, 2017 26 Pay Periods

JANUARY

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