

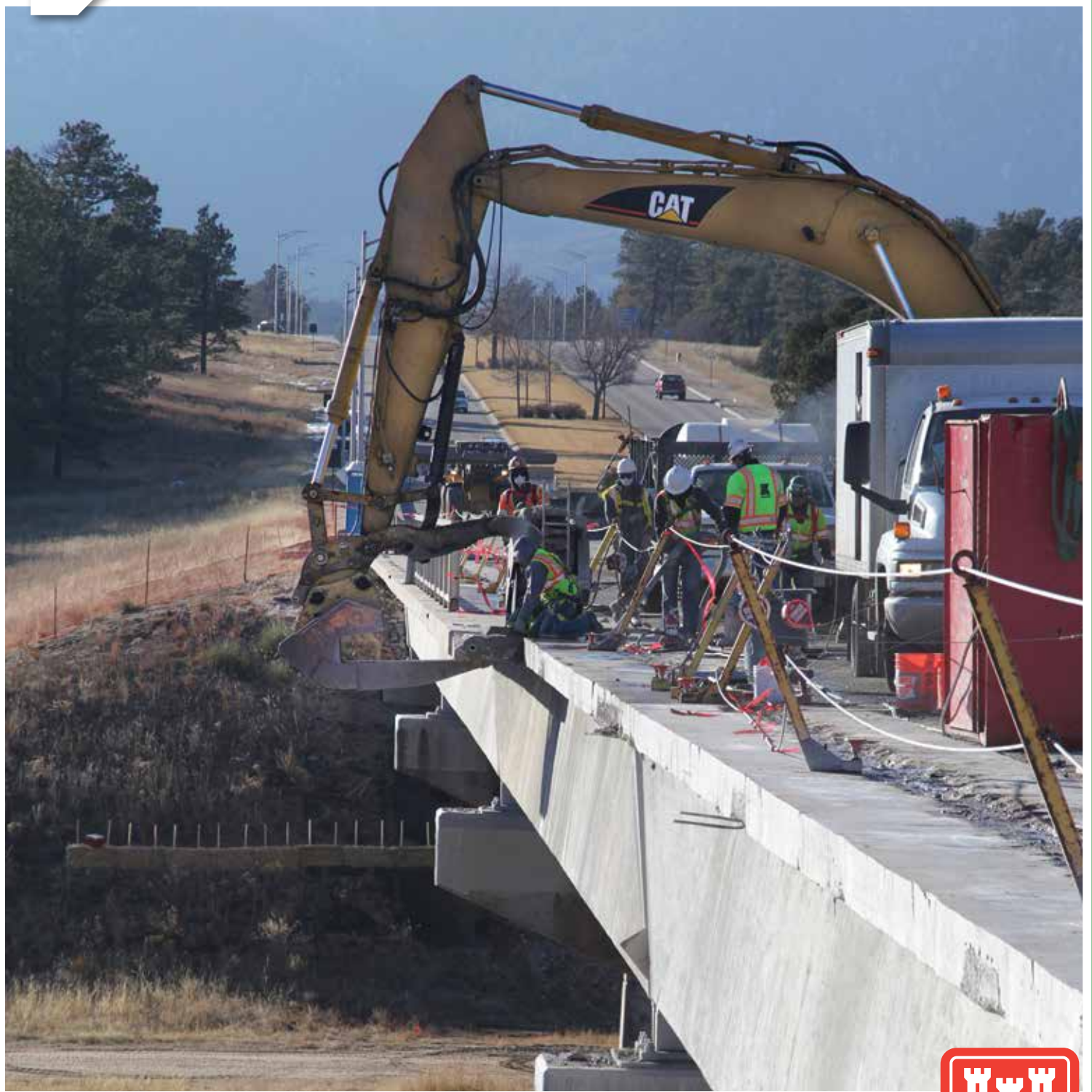
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Facilities and Equipment
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Omaha Outlook





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On the cover: The Omaha District is overseeing the re-decking of two bridges at the Air Force Academy. Photographer Harry Weddington's photo essay (P. 8-9) shows how it's done...(U.S. Army Photo by Harry E. Weddington)



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Teamwork ensures bright future for Omaha District

Time moves swiftly. As my final summer with the team nears, I see only success in the future for the District. I will briefly reflect on one reason the future is so bright -- our teamwork.

During my time here, we re-looked at who we are, reviewed our mission and how we go about accomplishing that mission using our Army Values. We've taught first line leaders to lead and put our best practices into that process. We have spoken about remaining highly relevant as a district by intensely investing in our people. Finally, we defined and committed to a Standard -- The Omaha Standard. It is set and it's here to be met. Today, we see tangible results.

Looking across the district at our thousand or so projects, what catches my attention is how we go about formulating effective teams to accomplish our mission. Our continued commitment to working together with other agencies, customers, partners and interest groups, is the very key to our future existence. It is vital that we take pride in our accomplishments, for they lead us to many other opportunities to succeed -- especially as partners, stakeholders and customers witness our abilities and fierce desire to meet the Omaha Standard.

Many examples of great teamwork come to my mind--I'll share two.

-- Exponential growth in oil and gas development has brought many challenges to the Bakken oil field, which is centered in North Dakota. A hard working team of employees from Omaha and the Garrison project and District employees is deeply involved in the "Bakken effort". A unique team of specialists came together to respond to the increased workload. They are dedicated to protecting our nation's resources.

As I mentioned in September's Omaha Outlook, this is the year of the Omaha Standard, a mark against which we measure ourselves and our work efforts. This team is doing just that, setting and adhering to a standard. In 2014, they completed an update to the District's oil and gas policy and established a Quality Management System process to administer oil field requests for access to project lands.

They are now finalizing a process to implement a headquarters Engineering Circular promulgated in July 2014. Using these standards, the team continues to work with applicants, stakeholders, customers and the public to balance the country's need for energy development with mission requirements.

This team reviews all proposed actions that may impact Lake Sakakawea, and applies mitigation techniques to ensure the natural environment is considered prior to any approval. They took time to establish a benchmark and they continually strive to meet and exceed that mark.

-- When other nations request our assistance, we respond. The Omaha District is using our technical expertise to teach the government of Laos new, more effective methods of reservoir regulation and sedimentation. In our work with the Laos project design review Ministry of Energy and Mines, we help them develop their technical capabilities to regulate the design, construction, and operations of reservoirs as it relates to sediment management. They hope to achieve sustainability so sedimentation does not impair reservoir function and operations long term. Proper sediment management will also reduce environmental and public safety issues in the stream upstream or downstream of the reservoirs.

The team will help define how sediment is analyzed and reported in Dam Feasibility Studies and educate them on performing and developing a professional sediment analysis and review. Dan Pridal and Paul Boyd spent two weeks in March teaching a workshop on Basic Sediment Transport and Analysis in Luang Prabang and Paksan. They will also write guidance documents for the Laos ministry on reporting their studies. John Remus and Boyd return to Laos in the fall and spring to complete the mission.

Within our district boundaries or internationally, these are just two examples of great teams and leaders. It all comes back to teams and individuals who are meeting the Standard. I want each and every district employee to know I am proud of what we have done and what we will accomplish. The future of the Omaha District is bright.



Joel R. Cross

Omaha District Commander

Essayons!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel R. Cross".

Journey to a process:



Reclaiming, reconditioning land

The silhouette of oil rigs pumping through the night encompasses the North Dakota landscape.

But when an oil/gas well is no longer producing and is ready to be plugged and abandoned, the well site needs to be reclaimed and restored as close as possible to its original condition. This includes identifying, segregating, and removing contaminated soils from the site before and during the re-vegetation/re-contouring process.

The Omaha District has developed an Oil and Gas Management Plan to address current and future reclamation requirements for non-producing oil wells on USACE project lands.

In 2012 when Petro-Hunt approached the Garrison Project office, Riverdale, N.D. asking for requirements to begin reclamation of two old well sites there were

Garrison Project completed an exciting final reclamation of multiple oil well locations on the south shore of Lake Sakakawea. Hundreds and hundreds of tons of soil had been excavated to meet the high standards of the Corps. Digging into the initial project in the summer of 2014 were, from left, Lake Manager, Casey Buechler, Natural Resource Specialist, Hattie Payne, Operations Project Manager, Todd Lindquist, Midwest District Environmental/Safety Coordinator, Petro-Hunt, Western Division Manager, J. Koski Company, Sean Nolan, General Superintendent, J. Koski Company, Marty McCuskey, Vice President, J. Koski Company, Rich Noble and President, J. Koski Company, John Koski. (Photo courtesy of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers)

no USACE guidelines or standards for oil and gas reclamation. "It was definitely a learning process and an experience as far as balancing USACE and operator interests," said Hattie Payne, former Natural Resource Specialist, Garrison Project.

The Garrison Project used guidelines from the state of North Dakota, Industry Best Management Practices and other collaborative agencies such as the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Without explicit guidelines for cleaning up oil and gas facilities, Payne researched past reclamation workshops she had attended and shared knowledge from other Omaha District employees in Real Estate and Natural Resources, to include Casey Buechler, Tim Kolke, Tim Gouger, Jeff Keller, William Harlon and Ryan Newman, all of who have reclaimed well sites since the 1990's.

Older wells did not include a reclamation plan as part of the Application for Permit to Drill, so the Corps relies upon the state of North Dakota standards. Many requirements set forth for Petro-Hunt were based on existing documents such as Surface Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development; The Gold Book (BLM, 2007); NDIC Administrative Rule 43-02-03-34.1-Reclamation of

Hattie Payne, former Natural Resource Specialist, tests soil for petroleum contamination, using a photoionization detector or PID gas meter on the oil well site in the Charlson Oil Field McKenzie, Co. N.D. (Photo courtesy of Doug Hanson, Petro-Hunt L.L.C.)



Surface (NDIC, 2014a); Cleanup Actions Levels for Gasoline and Other Petroleum Hydrocarbons; North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH, 2006); and Industry standard best management practices (BMPs).

The company submitted a reclamation plan and they were required to clean out the drilling mud from where they drilled the well, known as the reserve pits. These well facilities were located in a relatively flat area along Lake Sakakawea. "One of the challenges was not being aware what these sites looked like pre-construction, and all the activities taking place during its use," said Payne.

One well site was drilled in 1955 and the other site in 1980, requiring an investigation to uncover the unknown about these sites. Payne pointed out that an investigation may not be needed for wells drilled more recently.

The investigation on the Petro-Hunt site revealed three live pipeline corridors running through one of the well sites, making cleanup tricky. "The lesson learned here is you will not have perfect cleanups, but acceptable clean ups," said Payne.

"Considerable quantity and funding was expended to clean up this location," said Casey Buechler, Lake Manager, Garrison Project Office.

Basic items to be taken care of when reclaiming any well pad are:

- Removal of all production equipment and piping
- Removal of all buried equipment and piping. Pipes leading off the pad shall be capped and abandoned in place at the edge of the location
- Identify soil strata or layers of the soil
- Removal of electrical power (above ground appurtenances)
- All compacted areas remaining shall be ripped to a depth of 12 inches or to a depth based on the soil borings
- If there is not a definite stockpile of topsoil on the site all retrievable topsoil on location will be piled and distributed on the disturbed area
- If there is not adequate topsoil it will need to be purchased from a certified weed-free source nearby and distributed as needed
- Install erosion control (weed-free filters, wattles)
- The disturbed area will be prepared and seeded during the appropriate time with an approved seed mix
- Present a timeline after onsite with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractor

(Continued on P. 16)

Mike Orr wins “Rock the Castle”

He received a huge tribute before superiors and peers, and accomplished something wholly significant that will have deep impacts for some time.

But Mike Orr, winner of the “ROCK THE CASTLE AWARD,” emphasizes the collaboration between he and a co-worker rather than take all the credit.

The award, presented by USACE Headquarters, recognizes excellence in contracting. Orr, Deputy Chief of Contracting for the Omaha District, says he’s pleased to receive the award, but he said development of the new USACE acquisition management process, recently implemented in the Omaha District, involved a huge assist from Robert Perkins. “He is a most computer savvy sort who helped make it smarter, more effective and cost effective,” said Orr. Various teams also provided input and assistance, he said.

The award recognizes Orr for “distinguishing himself by continually providing excellent business decisions, resolve, commitment to saving taxpayer dollars and ensuring that the USACE mission is met.

Orr led multiple cross functional teams from across the Omaha District that developed a low cost innovative solution titled the Contracting Acquisition Management system.

The CAM system tracks the acquisition, contracting and production processes of a project. The system uses the hub and spoke concept, with the hub the primary data source from which all other applications (spokes) are driven. CAM houses all contract actions by fiscal year in one consolidated system and provides real-time analysis of the entire contract workload.



CAM allows each contract action to be tracked by product line, size standard, contract specialist, contracting officer, program and/or project manager. It is an Oracle-based application with a web-based user interface.

Action initiation in CAM begins with the project manager and becomes the basis for current and projected requirements, otherwise known as the Overall Acquisition Strategy.

Below are a few of the “spokes” of CAM:

Project Acquisition Strategy Board:

This board process facilitates and increases project related information communication between Omaha District divisions to ensure all resource possibilities/capabilities are reviewed and sought out before reviewing and posting a contractual action.

District Acquisition Strategy Board:

This board is a committee chaired by the district commander and comprised of the Corporate Board. The board reviews all new Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contracts, and 8(a) program requirements against existing contract vehicles to prevent needless expenditure of resources and allows the district to



Michael C. Orr, Deputy Chief, Omaha District Contracting receives the Crystal “Rock the Castle” award from Mr. Stuart Hazlett, Directorate of Contracting at USACE Headquarters in Washington, D. C. (Photo courtesy of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Award; cites colleagues

make strategic decisions related to the future fiscal year needs. 8(a) firms are owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals). The overall aim is to prevent needless spending and redundant contract vehicles.

Compliance Review: A built-in contract compliance checklist is available for selection within the action itself in CAM. This allows the Business Oversight Board to develop training based on the findings from these checklists.

Business Clearance Coordination Record: The BCCR was developed by the Omaha District BOB to document the coordination and review of all actions greater equal to \$500,000 requiring Contracting Officer, Office of Counsel and BOB review. The Contracting Officer cannot process the award until final business clearance has been granted by the BOB Procurement Analyst or BOB Chief.

Post Award Review: A Monthly Contract/Modification review provides a real time snapshot of current acquisition trends and findings. It allows the reviewer to select random contract vehicles and measure their compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

CAM enhances contracting quality and outputs.

Time/Cost Savings: Deficiencies identified during the course of a BCCR and Compliance Reviews are addressed before release of a contractual action resulting in compliant contract documents. Review and remedy present a time cost savings by reducing future administrative contract amendments and modifications. The BCCR and CAM enable the Omaha District to provide a more accurate representation of overall chargeability.

CAM allows the tracking and monitoring of total acquisition lifecycle. It tracks different types of actions and their projects cradle to grave.

Costs: Specific data elements enable the contracting division to determine how long it takes and the true cost for the different types of procurement actions.

Customer Satisfaction: Each action marked awarded in CAM generates an e-mail to the Program and/or Project Manager prompting them to participate in a customer survey. This allows contracting to receive feedback and in-turn improves the overall process.

Upon reviewing CAM, the USACE Directorate of Contracting, Program Evaluation Division, working with Army Contracting Command, tasked Orr with designing and developing an enterprise wide version of CAM for full USACE deployment.

Working with USACE headquarters, Orr tackled one of the U.S. Army's biggest challenges in regards to Contracting oversight. According to John Jacobson, Omaha District Chief of Contracting, who nominated Orr for the Award, Orr also labored tirelessly as he created a pilot USACE Prospect Oversight Course.

USACE has since adopted it as a mandatory course for all business oversight contracting professionals. "His involvement and contributions made this course a resounding success," said Jacobson.

CAM was implemented in the Omaha, Seattle and Portland Districts.

Complete Northwestern Division deployment has begun. Orr received a Commanders Award for Civilian Service, and was cited for exceptional service as Acting Chief of Contracting Division for the Seattle District during a 120-day stint ending last November.



Colonel John G. Buck, Commander, Seattle District presents a Commanders Award to Michael C. Orr, Deputy Chief, Omaha District Contracting following his temporary duty to the Seattle District office in 2014. (Photo courtesy of Seattle District U. S. Army Corps of Engineers)

As new barracks, facilities are turned over, 4th CAB troops look to “Do great things”



New barracks, located in Fort Carson, Colo., have been constructed in close proximity to Butts Army Airfield. The dorm-style buildings are comprised of 370,156 square feet, and are equipped with individual bathrooms and kitchenettes. The recreational areas situated behind the barracks buildings have facilities for sports, barbecuing and indoor community recreation.



A major part of keeping troops ready for long combat missions is to keep them comfortable while training at their home post.

The fateful day when U.S. Army enlistees initially sign on the dotted line, volunteering everything, up to and including their own life, they have many lifestyle changes to expect. State-side civilian life, compared to what they'll endure in basic combat training and later in the field, is very cozy. An enlisted soldier can anticipate spending more than a couple nights sleeping on the dirt, in a muddy foxhole, or even up against a tree if only to catch a few winks between guard duty shifts.

And then there's the food: cadences sung marching to the chow hall leaves troops with low expectations: "They say that in the Army the food is mighty fine; a roll fell off the table and killed a friend of mine!"

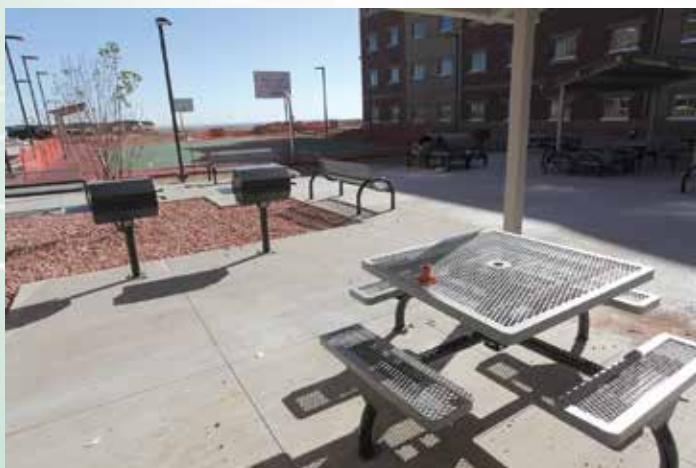
The indoor recreational facility, located behind the dorm-style barracks, will give residents a communal area to enjoy things like movies and video games. (Photos by Harry Weddington.)

Field chow that's formulated for shelf life and mission expedience can never compare to a home-cooked meal, tailored specially for a dinner guest.

"It's been a tough 10-13 years. Our soldiers have been at war this whole time," said Vince Turner, Chief of Military Construction for the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "You have to realize that many of these troops at Fort Carson have been deployed four, five, maybe six times."

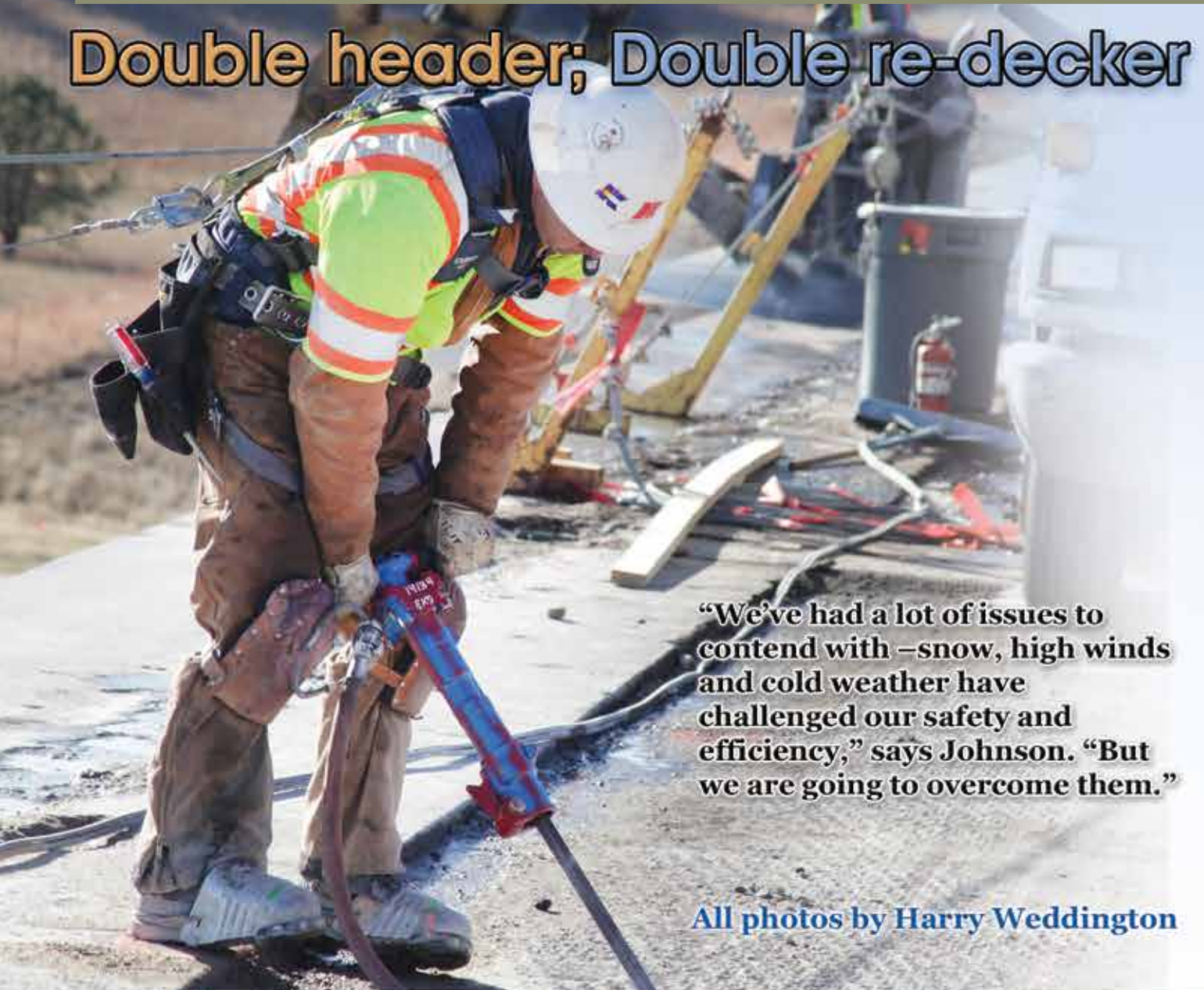
Deployments have increased in recent history. But, to counter the discomfort of time away from home for extended periods, barracks have changed drastically to help with deployment fatigue. Nowadays, junior enlisted troops can look forward to higher quality state-side billeting conditions. Gone are the days of soldiers sharing a dorm room with bunk beds and foot lockers, one communal bathroom per floor, followed by a lengthy commute to the dining facility.

This barracks construction, completed in January 2015, will house 1,200 male and female soldiers from the rank of private to sergeant. This housing construction is just one element of a larger Omaha District USACE project at Fort Carson for the recently reformed 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, which also includes dining facilities and recreational areas all built near the CAB's workplace at Butts Army Airfield.



(Continued on P. 14)

Double header; Double re-decker



“We’ve had a lot of issues to contend with – snow, high winds and cold weather have challenged our safety and efficiency,” says Johnson. “But we are going to overcome them.”

All photos by Harry Weddington

Double quick

The Northgate Bridge is comprised of two bridges inside the U.S. Air Force Academy - both are in need of being stripped down for re-decking. And as the photos show, there is a method and a challenge, for the first of the bridges - the eastbound bridge - must be complete by May to handle heavy traffic for graduation ceremonies.

“First, we remove the old deck, clean the girders and then put up forms and place rebar,” says USACE Project Engineer Melissa Johnson. “The new concrete deck will be constructed in one long day and, after the deck cures, we will place a polyester concrete overlay on top of the deck as a wearing surface. Using polyester concrete is relatively new in Colorado. The task involves a lot of coordination, between the base civil engineer; Omaha District; Union Pacific Railroad; Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Contractor, SEK JV, who is taking on the bridge rehab under a \$6.2 million contract.

“We’ve had a lot of issues to contend with - snow, high winds and cold weather have challenged our safety and efficiency,” says Johnson. “But we are going to overcome them.”

Work on the westbound bridge will begin right after graduation and must be complete by the end of August when USAFA hosts Parents’ Weekend and football season begins.

The deck replacement work is tedious, a step-by-step challenge. It calls for:

- Full deck replacement,

- spall and crack repair,
- approach slab replacement and minor roadway construction,
- utility repair and replacement (including conduit and duct bank replacement and utility rehabilitation).

The project began Oct. 1, 2014 and is due to be complete by fall.

A Traffic Management plan was developed prior to the work beginning which accommodates morning rush hour traffic to the cadet area by providing two in-bound lanes. At 8 a.m., the traffic pattern switches back to two-way traffic across the bridge. Additionally the North Gate Bridge spans a Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse, (a federally threatened species) habitat and is a home for Cliff Swallows, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. So, extra care is required when operating in this area.

The administrative contracting officer for the job is Pete Sturdivant and the alternate administrative contracting officer is Brian Dziekonski. Johnson is the contracting officer’s representative.



What is FEM, and why

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's leading provider of hydropower. Even still, power production is only one of eight authorized purposes for Omaha District's six main-stem dams along the Missouri River. These dams, along with a system of federal and private levees, reduce flood risks for urban and agricultural property and to life and public safety throughout the Missouri River watershed. The Omaha District estimates that this system has prevented billions of dollars in damages.

For the dams to work properly, they need regular maintenance. To keep them running, each dam has a staff of electricians, mechanics and outdoor maintenance crews to do the physical work. One of the more common maintenance tasks is performing annual maintenance on

the hydropower units, each of which generate electricity for thousands of homes. To track the maintenance, USACE uses a program called Facilities and Equipment Maintenance.

"We shut down the unit, and we pull it apart to make sure it works; we drain the oil out of it for regular maintenance and replace old parts," said Rod Bergin, the senior mechanic at Fort Randall Dam in Pickstown, South Dakota, one of the six main-stem dams in the Omaha District. "FEM is a good system for tracking all these repairs. All the parts we order in FEM, and we can go through the system to see what we ordered if we need the part number."

FEM is practical not only for the mechanics and electricians doing the physical labor needed to keep the dam in operating order. It also ties into the USACE financial management system, and has proven to be an effective tool for administrators and finance experts who need to keep track of high dollar assets, such as a dam.

IBM Maximo Asset Management, used in the private sector, is the parent program of FEM, a version of Maximo designed especially for the USACE. FEM has been used in hydropower projects in the Northwestern Division since 2000 and has been moving its way east to the other divisions, integrating more and more data as more features are put to use at the projects.

"Before FEM, when I first started here they used a different program that had a lot of failures and issues. That is how Maximo/FEM came along," said Laura Hubert, the maintenance control technician at Fort Randall Dam, and the resident FEM expert. "It's great for many things. You can add and link documents to provide greater history for anything that happens down the road. You can purchase in there which helps you to get the materials cost into the program. It's a great place to capture everything: to track your costs, materials and labor against all the assets at the project."

In short, FEM records everything that the laborers need to do to keep the dams running. All tasks are written down plainly in the work orders stored in the system. The worker writes down notes on the printed work order, entering pertinent data (such as oil levels or a voltage reading) for entry into FEM, along with how much time the task took, as well as what parts were used. All the work that an electrician or mechanic does is recorded in this system.

"All of the work we do is on a FEM work order," said Bill Reiser, the senior electrician at Fort Randall. "If we're



Senior Mechanic Rod Bergin inspects a hydro-electrical generator's turbine shaft during annual maintenance of the unit at Fort Randall Dam. (Photo by Al Barrus)

is it important?

assigned a task that's not a routine work order, that helps us keep track of what may need to be done in our future preventative maintenance timelines. When we do our maintenance rounds and encounter a problem we put in a trouble report immediately to make sure it gets tracked."

Each month, the maintenance control technician at each project uses FEM to generate the regular preventative maintenance work orders for each of the maintenance crews. From there, the maintenance supervisor can schedule the regular preventative maintenance work for their employees, all while balancing hours to deal with non-routine incidental work requests called trouble reports.

A more recent integration at Fort Randall is the use of FEM to track supply purchases.

"We have started using FEM for purchase requests for a year and a half now," said Mike Schenkel, the maintenance and operations manager at Fort Randall. "It saves us time; Maximo is a lot easier to work with for purchase requests, and it's much more user friendly than other systems we've used."

The maintenance technician (or FEM Tech) has a unique position at USACE dams. They have to work with the administrative and finance staff to keep track of budgeting and accounting, and they also have to maintain records for the trades and crafts crews as well.

"As the maintenance tech, you're in a unique position to communicate between the administrative staff and the maintenance crews. You need to understand what they are working with," Laura Hubert explained. "I need to have a foot in each area, knowing what each of them does. I like to go down to the powerhouse when I have time to get a concept of what they are talking about when I see a work order come in. If there's a unique thing happening they will ask me to come down and look at it so I can understand what they are doing."

Though the FEM system has been integrated even more by the maintenance technicians in USACE projects further west, such as Fort Peck Dam, it's already been a great relief to the maintenance crews at Fort Randall.

"Our FEM tech Laura is exceptional and she makes it easier for us to do our job," said Senior Electrician, Bill Reiser,

As a maintenance control technician, Laura Hubert's position requires her to understand the concepts of the hydroelectric plant at Fort Randall Dam, so that the maintenance of the facilities and equipment can be tracked and accounted for in the FEM database. (Photo by Al Barrus)

22-year veteran of the Fort Randall project. "It seems like she fixes everything, and makes sure we're tracking it."

"Our FEM tech is really important to us. She keeps everything straight for us," said Rod Bergin, senior mechanic and 18-year veteran of USACE. "When I can't find something, she finds it right away."



Electrician Connor Florey (left) assists Mechanic Bryce Stasch (right) with new cooling coils to be installed on the hydropower units at Ft. Randall Dam. (Photo by Al Barrus)

Welsh assists Deputy District Engineer, helps move key initiatives forward



Major Wade Welsh has joined the Omaha District executive office as the Deputy Chief for the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.

Welsh isn't new to the district or the Omaha area. Welsh, whose hometown is Alden, Iowa, located about an hour north of Des Moines, joined the District in April 2012 as the Deputy Project Manager for the U.S. Strategic Command Replacement Command and Control Facility project.

In this new position, Welsh is assisting Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management Division, Ted Streckfuss, with project execution for the District's Civil, Military, Environmental, and International Services programs as well as other business and strategic planning functions.

"Our district continues to execute more and more work and adding Maj. Welsh to the staff will help me to focus on organizational strategic goals: Aggressive Execution, Technical Competence, and Effective Communication. The energy afforded to the organization through the addition of a Deputy DPM is of great value," said Streckfuss.

For a district the size of Omaha, it is easy to become engulfed in the work and lose the time needed to dedicate attention to the workforce he added.

"His ability to devote full-time attention to complicated, critical tasks has been essential in moving key initiatives forward," said Streckfuss.

Army engineer officers are regularly assigned to positions within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These assignments allow officers to gain valuable experience across the breadth of the USACE organization.

"It's more than managing a construction project or contract – it's about people and managing relationships. USACE is an outstanding organization filled by teammates with amazing expertise and experience. These people provide the muscle that enables our large, complex engineering, construction, operations and maintenance firm to succeed," said Col. Joel R. Cross, Omaha District Commander.

Before joining the Omaha District, Welsh was a student at Iowa State University in Ames, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering focusing on Biorenewable Resources and Technology through the Army's Advanced Civil Schooling program. Welsh also attended the Command and General Staff College at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

Welsh's previous assignments include Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Riley, Kansas as well as two year-long deployments to Iraq.



Welsh is an avid outdoorsman and has enjoyed taking his daughters fishing at Zorinsky and Wehrspann lakes, which are dams and reservoirs constructed by the Omaha District.

"I have hunted quite a bit at several of the Corps-owned areas along the Missouri River. The look on your child's face when they reel in a fish or watch a turtle slide off a log into the water is priceless. It is great that we provide that opportunity to thousands of families each year," said Welsh.

After a month in his new position, Welsh said he is impressed with the Omaha District's responsibility for an incredible amount of work.

Having spent most of his time with the district on a project site, Welsh became very familiar with the daily challenges faced by that team.

"In this position, I have been exposed to a much greater breadth of issues faced by the district. The one thing that remains constant is that the solutions are found by the dedicated professionals within the organization. It is very apparent that the District leadership understands this and is committed to the people of the organization. Our leaders could never be involved with every action or decision. We could never be successful at our missions without the people of this district knowing and executing their jobs," said Welsh.

New barracks, facilities complete

(Continued from P. 7)

"They really are beautiful barracks," said Dean Quaranta, Fort Carson's Chief of Housing. "These new barracks are all for single soldiers, both male and female. One big improvement is that they are in close proximity to their workplace."

Decreased distance between work and home has a huge impact on time, resources and quality of life. The planning and design for the new facilities has been years in the making.

"A lot of thought and planning has gone into these," Quaranta continued. "A lot of time is saved in commuting. Where they are staying now is on the main part of the post: several miles from the airfield. These new facilities put them right next to the airfield."

The physical location of the new facilities was just one part of the vast planning and engineering process. These barracks have also been calculated to net zero electricity use through energy efficient design and on-site power generation. This was achieved through a competitive contract bidding process, which was awarded at \$94.9 million.

"The contractors who presented the most energy-efficient, sustainable barracks facilities achieved better ratings in the overall proposal evaluation. Mortenson's solution provided well insulated barracks along with energy efficient building systems. To help achieve net zero energy goals, the contractor also proposed a solar array." Turner said of Mortenson, a Denver-based construction contractor known for their applications of energy efficient designs.

"The ability that our soldiers will have with these new kitchenettes inside the barracks will allow them to cook their own foods in their own homes," said Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Duchatelier, CSM of the 4th Infantry Division's 4th CAB. "It will give them a lot more autonomy so that they won't have to go out to the dining facility if they don't want to."

"Any time there's a chance for a soldier to make their life a bit more comfortable is a big boost to morale. The way the barracks and other facilities have been engineered is a great benefit to this organization," Duchatelier continued.

The 4th Infantry Division and the 4th CAB have gone through a lot of changes and reorganization in the past, according to Duchatelier who joined the

CAB staff in January 2013. The unit, along with the rest of the 4th Infantry Division, was relocated to Fort Carson, Colo., from Fort Hood, Texas. At its new home, the 4th CAB is rebuilding with new personnel, equipment and facilities, and will soon be poised to enter regular deployment rotation.

"The 4th CAB will be on a regular deployment cycle," Duchatelier added. "We will enter the cycle just as any other unit. We're looking at spending nine months to a year in theatre, and then 18 months back home. We are expecting to enter the Army Force Generation Cycle."

This deployment calendar is in great contrast to the pre-9/11 Army, which was designed to deploy troops for small and/or short duration missions. The ARFORGEN process provides a sustainable method for rotating trained and ready forces to combatant commanders.

"I think from the design standpoint you can really see that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers actually took input from the soldiers and put it into practical application," Duchatelier said in closing. "That's something that is going to be a great benefit to the Army as a whole. When a soldier is living in a place where they feel secure and comfortable, they are guaranteed to do great things."



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(Continued from P. 3)

Payne said since these facilities were very old and Texaco, (the original company), did not use liners for their operations area, tank battery, or reserve pits, it was decided that a Subsurface Soil Assessment needed to be performed to determine if soils on the surface or subsurface were impacted. She said oil and gas operations by nature can be messy.

During the assessment, contaminated areas were identified along with the parameters of the contamination. The Tank Battery location had a large amount of fill placed and it was not practical to haul it all out and bring in all new soil. “There was no reason to dispose of fill that was acceptable for recontouring,” said Payne. “It also didn’t make sense to bring in tons of foreign material if you couldn’t obtain it from a nearby source,” she said. “This was huge for company/agency relations.”

A work plan was developed for a Limited Phase II Subsurface Soil Assessment and once that was performed, a Reclamation Work Plan was developed based on those Phase II results. The work plan consisted of the sundry notices, location, geology, site safety plan, utility clearances, sample location maps and a description of how the soils would be sent to labs and analyzed.

According to Payne, the Reclamation Work Plan held much of the same basic location information but became more detailed with proposed lateral and vertical excavations of contaminated areas. Excavation methods were described along with the equipment that would be used. To ensure no contamination was left behind, field screening was used to delineate the extent of soils that were impacted based upon initial sampling analysis. Payne said any soil that exhibits visual and olfactory signs of contamination is continually screened until action levels were no longer exceeded. Lab results were also provided in the Reclamation Work Plan.

The contaminated soil was transferred and disposed at approved landfills. Payne said the subsoil was not impacted, nor were loads of new subsoil. Since topsoil stockpiles were not identified in the immediate areas, 700 loads of new certified weed-free topsoil was brought in and spread over all the locations.

Native seed mixes will be certified weed free and approved by USACE prior to application. Seed, fertilizer, and mulch will be distributed by appropriate methods as dictated by the topography on the site. Payne said, “Analysis from initial soil sampling will be used to determine fertilizer application rates.”

Now that initial work is done on the well sites and the journey to the oil and gas process is ongoing, the sites will be monitored for erosion and vegetation management for a minimum of three years.

Reclamation will be considered accomplished by USACE when vegetative cover is 90 percent weed-free, consisting of grasses and nutritious flowering plants known as forbs. “This is the last phase for our agency. Reclaiming the land restores many natural resource values such as wildlife habitat, recreation, and native plant communities. It’s our objective to return the land to a condition similar to that which existed prior to disturbance, and the company has worked hard to accomplish that objective,” said Buechler.



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Omaha District Leadership Development Class 2015 are, from left Kelly Baxter, Matthew Sutton, Ryan Vaughan, Jason Harre, Duane Hodgens, Matthew Tomanek, Jennifer Gitt, Christian Davenport, Rebecca Latka, Ryan Larsen, Lisa Durham, Andrew Anderson and Ryan Field. Not shown is David Neal. This year's class is off to a great start and will be the driving force behind 2015's Corps Day and Paint-A-Thon. (Photo by Cheryl Moore)