Lakes & River Review

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BUILDING STRONG®

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The review is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lakes & River Review

The Lakes & River Review covers topics of interest to employees across the division.

The magazine includes stories from each of the seven districts: Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville and Pittsburgh districts. Reader input is strongly encouraged.

Please submit materials to the Public Affairs Office at DLL-LRDOR-DD-P@usace.army.mil. The phone number to the Public Affairs Office is (513) 684-3010.

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The Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Commander's Corner

Welcome to the first issue of the Lakes & Rivers Review for Fiscal Year 2014!

The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division started this quarterly digital magazine to highlight the great work we are doing across the region, as a way to recognize the value we deliver for the nation, and a way to pay tribute to some of the heroes who make it happen.

This publication is an exciting opportunity to share our experiences and communicate more effectively across the entire region.

Many of you may have heard me speak about the compelling drive we should all have to leave a positive legacy in our lives and our work. In the two years of my command, LRD has made tremendous strides in fueling the Corps' vision to provide engineering solutions for our Nation's toughest challenges, but we can always improve on communicating our achievements.

That is why this publication is so important. All of our professional employees deserve to know about the tremendous work we are delivering throughout the region and the countless - and sometimes seemingly impossible - challenges we have taken on and overcome.

I firmly believe our working professionals are what make the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division great. It is no secret that we have a tough job meeting the complex and demanding needs of this nation, but thanks to your competence and dedicated commitment to be the nation's "solutioneers," there is nothing we cannot overcome.

Brig. Gen. Margaret W. Burcham
Division Commander

All of us stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us to accomplish our missions. To honor their memory, we must build on their legacies and commit to improve on what they accomplished. For your constant and unwavering dedication, I am truly grateful.

If you have ideas for stories to put in this publication, please feel free to contact our public affairs office at (513) 684-3010 or send an email to DLL-LRDOR-DD-P@usace.army.mil.

Building Strong!

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

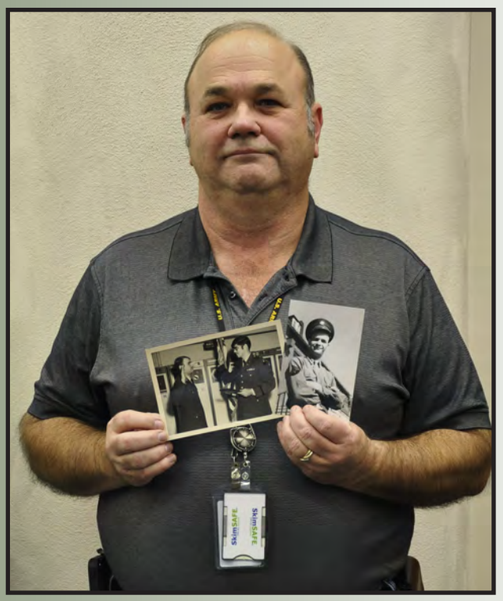
Have a Happy Holidays
&

A Happy New Year (2014) from LRD

Veterans of LRD...

(Photo by Jacqueline Tate)
In recognition of Veteran's Day, LRD Vets display military uniforms, photos, awards, certificates and other memorabilia.

(Photo courtesy of Chery Shell)
Cheryl Shell's, LRD Administrative Support Assistant, DA Photo taken in 1983.



(Photo by Jacqueline Tate)
Michael Bainer, from Water Management, displays photos of his father who served in the Korean War and World War II.

Tuscaroras Visit Buffalo District for Native American Heritage Month

Bruce Sanders
Buffalo District

November is National Native American Heritage Month. President Obama hit the nail on the head this year in his proclamation recognizing the contributions of these first Americans. "From Alaskan mountain peaks to the Argentinian pampas to the rocky shores of Newfoundland, Native Americans were the first to carve out cities, domesticate crops, and establish great civilizations. When the Framers gathered to write the United States Constitution, they drew inspiration from the Iroquois Confederacy, and in the centuries since, American Indians and Alaska Natives from hundreds of tribes have shaped our national life. During Native American Heritage Month, we honor their vibrant cultures and strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the United States and each tribal nation."

Deputy District Commander Maj. Michael Busby thanks Tuscaroras. **(Photo by Bruce Sanders)**

On Tuesday, November 19, Environmental Protection Specialist and Indian Nations Liaison Bill Butler once again put together an enjoyable and informative program for Native American Heritage Month. Enjoyable because caterers Rhonda Powless and her daughter Jessica of the Iroquois Kitchen served a wonderful meal of venison stew, corn wheels and all the accompanients. Informative because Bryan Printup, Milo Jacobs and Waylon Wilson from the Tuscarora Nation told us about their epic journey: the 2013 Tuscarora Migration project, a 1,300-mile, 70-day relay style event to commemorate the 300-year remembrance of the Tuscarora Migration from Fort Nooherooka near Snow Hill, North Carolina, to Lewiston, New York.

A team of indigenous youth and their supportive brothers and sisters crossed through six states, passing through North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. The event wrapped up at a finish line party where the accomplishment was celebrated with music and food.

The mission of the Tuscaroras was to migrate via running, hiking, walking, biking and canoeing utilizing the strength and spirit of native youths. The group had three main objectives:

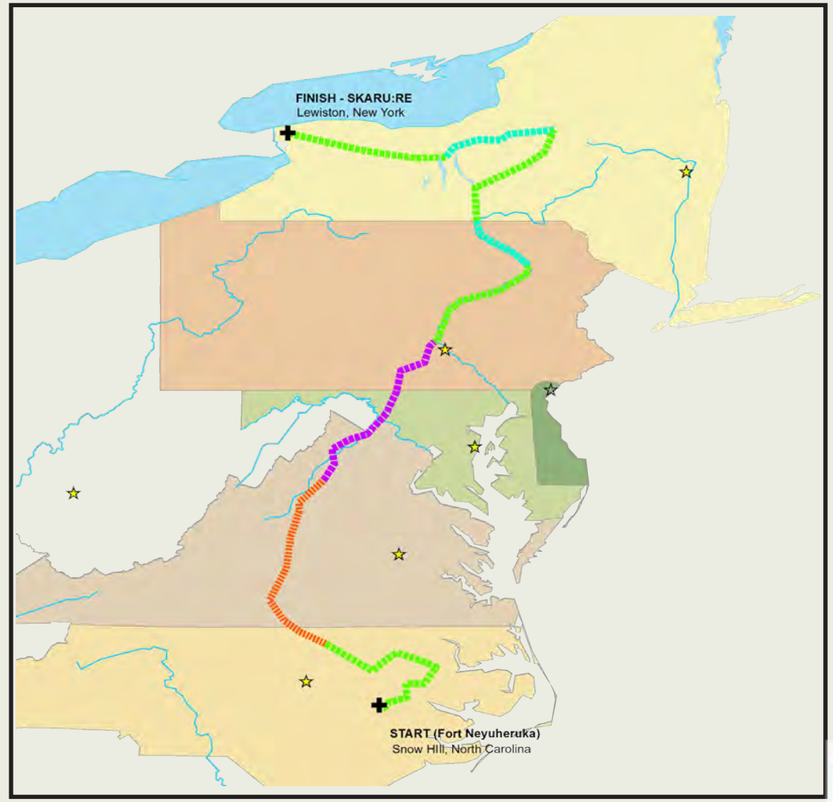
1. Share the amazing Tuscarora story of indigenous survival
2. Call attention to climate change
3. Raise awareness about the need for more "human-powered" forms of transportation.

"If I could dispel one myth about American Indians," said Bill Butler, "it would be that they are an obsolete and defeated people.

The strength of their traditions and culture perseveres and their respect for the natural world places them at the forefront as stewards of the environment and guardians for future generations."

Buffalo District Deputy Commander Maj. Michael Busby, who took part in the event and chowed-down on the venison stew, presented a certificate of appreciation to Tuscarora Migration Project on behalf of the Corps of Engineers.

Native American Heritage Month Factoid: on November 21, 2013, the Buffalo Sabres played the Philadelphia Flyers. It was the first game in NHL history where both coaches were of First Nations descent: Ted Nolan of the Sabres is an Ojibwa and Craig Berube of the Flyers is a Cree. Score: Ojibwa 1, Cree 4.



Tuscarora Migration Map. Their journey covered 1,300 miles.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Buffalo District

Great Lakes Dredging Team

By Sarah Gross
Chicago District

Dredging is vital in keeping recreational and commercial navigation channels open and ensuring safe navigation at existing harbors, shipping channels and marinas.

As water levels in our Great Lakes reach historic lows – and the profile of dredging amplifies – a team of inter-agency leaders aims to promote the significance of advancing efficient and responsible dredging for the Great Lakes region in the face of crisis.

It's called the Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT).

"The Great Lakes Dredging Team provides an open forum for communications about dredging issues on our Great Lakes to facilitate optimal outcomes for all," said Ernie Drott, GLDT federal co-chair. Drott also serves as the chief of the Great Lakes Program Support Division under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The mission of the GLDT is to ensure dredging operations of U.S. harbors and channels throughout the Great Lakes are conducted in a timely and cost-effective manner, while seeking to secure support for dredging activities that can also achieve environmental restoration and enhancement goals.

The team was established in response to recommendations from public meetings in the early 1990s by a workgroup formed by the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration to evaluate problems and delays encountered with dredging the nation's ports.

The GLDT is comprised of representatives with expertise in varying functional areas from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Maritime Administration; Natural Resources Conservation Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Coast Guard; Great Lakes Commission; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and all of the Great Lakes states. Collectively, members bring both policymaking authority and technical expertise to the team.

Representatives from several federal and Great Lakes' state agencies gathered in Dundee, Mich., in July for the GLDT's annual meeting to discuss how the current climate – both environmental and economic – has lead to significant implications regarding Great Lakes dredging.

"We provide a neutral forum for participating local, state, tribal and federal agencies to discuss, debate, share information and consider ways that dredging and dredged material management can be accomplished in an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable way," said Tom Crane, GLDT secretariat and Great Lakes Commission deputy director.

One of the items discussed at the meeting was the Toledo-Lucas County Port, in which some of the dredged material is beneficially re-used for agricultural purposes and landfill cover. Various other applications are under study.

"Dredging is one of our port's largest challenges and opportunities," said Joe Cappel, GLDT member and Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority director of cargo development.

At Toledo, to stay open for business each year, it is necessary to dredge an estimated one million cubic yards of sediment that flow down the Maumee River into the Western Basin of Lake Erie. The port supports approximately 7,000 jobs in the Toledo region.

"Through this innovative approach, we hope to grow our beneficial-use program and work with the Great Lakes Dredging Team to seek advice and input and share our experiences with other team members," said Cappel.

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for establishing the federal standard for managing the material that is dredged.

"We are committed to the national goal of maintaining safe, efficient navigation channels, while considering the environmental impacts of dredging," said Drott.

As the capacity for placing dredged material in confined disposal facilities is finite, the GLDT takes a proactive and innovative posture toward beneficial reuse and has authored several reports on beach nourishment and open-water and upland placements.

"Dredged material management requires determining the least costly, environmentally acceptable alternative, consistent with sound engineering practices," said Scott Pickard, Corps Buffalo District ecologist.

Despite uncontrolled variables addressed during the annual meeting – such as drought conditions leading to historic lows on the Great Lakes – the team was confident in developing a work plan that identifies dredging-related issues, sets priorities for the next couple of years and presents a schedule of objectives. Subcommittees will continue to research issues and make recommendations to the team.

The Great Lakes are the largest system of fresh water in the world and an invaluable, unique resource with 610 miles of federal channel and 104 miles of federal navigation structures, including breakwaters that aid in safe passage and protect critical infrastructure during storms.

Maritime activity on the system generates over $33.5 billion in business revenue and nearly 93,000 direct jobs. Recognized as the more environmentally sound form of transport over truck and rail due to the release of significantly less harmful emissions, almost 150 million tons of commodities are moved between and within U.S. ports located on the waterways of the Great Lakes system annually.

With over 18 million cubic yards of material needed to be dredged in the system, industry and shippers have to lighten their cargo to compensate for the decreased draft. This increases the number of trips and their shipping costs.

Dredging is also required for maintenance of important facilities, such as water supply intakes, bridges and utility crossings.

Efficient dredging comes with numerous challenges, though, including funding; having the legal authority to dredge; meeting state and federal environmental standards for dredged-material placement; real estate acquisition for potential placement facilities; and ensuring the dredging schedule has minimal impact to plants and wildlife. The GLDT helps address these complexities and provides a mechanism for timely resolution of issues by maximizing inter-agency coordination.

"The Great Lakes Dredging Team strives to be the most effective leaders in resolving issues regarding dredging operations," said Drott. "Any proposed courses of action that change the management and availability of water must be carefully assessed, and we will continue to coordinate transparently and seek continuous feedback, so those in the region fully understand the near and long-term benefits and risks of any proposed courses of action."

For more information and to view reports, visit the GLDT website at http://glc.org/dredging/.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Chicago District

Learning the Defense Logistics Agency lingo helps build good communication

By Amanda Cruz
Detroit District

Found on site. Roll up. Representative. Capitalized. Organizational. Break out. All of these terms have one meaning in plain English, but a separate meaning when applied to Defense Logistics Agency real property assignments.

Photo by James Frisinger

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District environmental assessor Amanda Cruz, with Fort Worth District site coordinator Marjorie Courtright, were part of a bundled-up crew that worked with Defense Logistics Agency officials at Thule Air Base, Greenland, in June. The remote base north of the Arctic Circle gets one flight a week. A month later Cruz performed environmental assessments in Japan in shirt sleeves.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is supporting the DLA's efforts to comply with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, which requires auditable financial statements to improve accountability. This effort includes site visits at DLA facilities worldwide to assess environmental and facility conditions and to inventory real property. The DLA Program has created a language all its own full of acronyms and codes. After working in the program for awhile, you begin to think in these DLA terms and they become your new language. Only after training someone new to the program do you realize exactly how much you have picked up piecemeal over time in the program. As I am with the environmental team, it takes in-depth knowledge of the program to "break out" what environmental concerns apply to the DLA versus environmental concerns present at the base.

My involvement in the program started in March 2011 at a site visit to Warren Depot, Ohio. As the DLA Program closely resembled work I did in private industry – environmental liability assessments associated with multinational corporation mergers and acquisitions – I quickly became nearly full time on the DLA Program. Since that date, I have been able to visit 56 bases, in 16 states, and complete five OCONUS missions (Guantanamo Bay, Hawaii/Wake Island/Marshall Islands, Italy, Greenland and Japan).

Team sizes vary from mission to mission, as do the challenges between missions. The constant theme I've observed in the field is the absolute importance of communication at every step. In Cuba this was illustrated in the physical communication barriers we had to overcome. We had no form of field communication (cell phones or walk-talkies). In addition there are practical communication complications, which the coordinators face trying to keep 20 to 30 people following in the same direction. With the DLA Program's own language and home support from the Fort Worth District, we have found a way to work through the communication hurdles for successful mission execution.

Field conditions can be challenging: remote locations, wildlife hazards, security protocols and access restrictions. Within a one month I went from arctic blizzards in Greenland (with polar bear and rabid fox concerns) to jungle heat in Japan (with tunnels filled with bats, wild boars and possible habu snakes). Although challenging, the travel is life changing. I have been able to experience portions of our planet, for instance doing snow angels on the polar ice cap, which would have been inaccessible had I not been involved in the program.

The ability to support our troops while learning firsthand about the military culture and process is very valuable. During these visits, observation of mechanisms utilized by other disciplines to effectively accomplish the mission encouraged cross-training. This experience led to my involvement in a U.S. Customs and Border Protection assignment performing facility condition assessment work when the agency needed assistance in my home district.

My undergraduate study was completed at Michigan State University with a degree in marine biology with an emphasis in tropical ecosystem restoration. I earned a master's degree from Wayne State University in biology with an emphasis in environmental health and toxicology. Prior to coming to USACE I worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Superfund Division, and for an engineering consulting firm performing base remediation and environmental work for industrial clients.

My background along with the new DLA language proved very useful in our February mission to Kwajalein, where we had a team of four persons and a two-day visit to assess a bulk fuel farm and wharf fueling operations. Although the whirlwind site visit was brief, it was one of the most memorable assignments on the program.

The history of the Marshall Islands during World War II was awe-inspiring. Our team worked diligently from the moment we stepped off the plane. But in the evening, once project work was complete, I was still able to snorkel the reefs with the local dive master and incorporate my passion as a scuba diver and marine enthusiast.

The upcoming trip for the DLA Program to Diego Garcia will be a highlight of my career, as once again I will be able to effectively utilize education, industrial experience and DLA Program-specific skills with a small team for an effective mission. The experience one gains from DLA Program involvement is both personally and professionally enriching.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Detroit District

Doing a Good Deed

By Chuck Minsker and Brandy Acord
Huntington District

Southern West Virginia added a new city for 10 days during the summer as 40,000 Boy Scouts took part in the 2013 National Scout Jamboree at the newly-built Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve built on a 50,000-acre site near the town of Glen Jean.

The Scouts took part in a wide variety of activities at the camp - hiking, camping, riding zip lines and BMX biking, to name a few - but they also wanted to give back to the community, so each Scout volunteered to take part in a local project.

It was a great opportunity for Corps lakes, including Bluestone, R.D. Bailey and Summersville, where Park Rangers eagerly lined up projects for the army of Scouts to tackle.

(Photo by Stacy Lewis)
Boy Scouts take an educational break to tour West Virginia's Summersville Dam.

Over three days beginning July 18, hundreds of Scouts braved the heat and went to work moving stone, clearing and marking trails, building fish attractors, weeding and mulching plants, and collecting trash. All the work was performed with the supervision of Park Rangers and Scout leaders.

At Summersville Lake the Scouts tackled some heavy lifting as they placed limestone along 200 feet of eroded shoreline located on a remote area of the lake that's popular with rock climbers. Four Boy Scout troops transferred 75 tons of 6-inch limestone from a small barge to the shoreline by the most efficient method possible: they threw the stones one at a time.

"Past efforts had been made to save this very popular spot from erosion caused in large part by the wave action of passing boats on the lake, but nothing on this scale or with as many resources at our disposal," said Ranger Brandy Acord. "This was the perfect opportunity to secure a wonderful recreation area for future generations to enjoy."

Blake Glover, a Boy Scout from Mechanicsville, Va., said, "We are working on stopping erosion at one of the more popular climbing spots in West Virginia. We have 35 Scouts working with us and four adult leaders."

Summersville Park Manager Toby Wood added, "My favorite Scout accomplishment was the shoreline stabilization work. The boys were transported to the worksite by boat which I think they really enjoyed. They were able to see the lake and people boating and rock climbing; I'm sure they'll remember it. The Scouts at Summersville also established, cleared and marked seven miles of trails.

"During the three days that we had Boy Scouts working on the trails with us, not only did we get a lot of work completed, but we helped expose them to all that West Virginia has to offer in terms of outdoor recreation," said Ranger Stacy Lewis.

Bluestone Lake Manager Dean Bonifacio said, "We had troops from New York City, Haiti, Wisconsin and Maine. Community service work completed at Bluestone Lake included beautification work in the Bellepoint Park area, including weeding and mulching flower beds, shrubs and trees. Their total amount of time spent working at Bluestone was approximately 120 hours."

"We were honored to have been a part of the single largest service project ever performed in the United States," said Ranger Kevin Brown.

Another project was a cleanup that spanned several thousand feet of shoreline and resulted in several truckloads of garbage being removed from some of the most visible and most used areas of Summersville Lake.

At R.D. Bailey Lake, Natural Resource Specialist Aca Ramey said, "We had troops from Michigan, Iowa, Tennessee and California. It was truly a pleasure working with these young men and women."

Projects at Bailey included removing sod and spreading 27 tons of mulch at a playground, and removing fallen shale and dirt from the service ditch along the Visitor Center Access road.

Wood said, "The planning, logistics and costs were all worth it in the end, when hundreds of ambitious young men left a lasting impression on Summersville Lake."

The Scout who probably traveled the furthest to take part in the Jamboree was named Harooa. He said, "I currently live in Saudi Arabia. Before that, I lived in Egypt, and before that, in Boston. I had other friends in my troop in Saudia Arabia who came to the last Jamboree and they said it's really fun, it's awesome, and I really wanted to come and do the same thing they did, and I told my Scoutmaster about it and he helped arrange it. Best experience ever!"

Kanawha Area Assistant Operations Manager C.J. Hamilton said, "I spent 15 minutes of a boat ride listening to two Boy Scouts talk about their experiences and their life goals. It was inspiring. I said, 'You two give me great hope. The Scouts just may be the best answer for this generation.' And without hesitation one of them said, 'Sir, the scouts have been the answer for a lot of generations.' And there I sat."

(Upper left photo by Kevin Brown) Markers are placed prominently along Summersville trails to make the path clear.

(Upper right photo by Chuck Minsker) Scouts gather limestone by hand and toss it onto the Summersville Lake shoreloine, protecting it from erosion.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Huntington District

USACE makes strides at Plum Brook Ordnance Works

By Kate Newton
Louisville District

Over the past seven years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Huntington District has completed soil remediation activities in two manufacturing areas at the former Plum Brook Ordnance Works (PBOW) and soil remediation in the third and final manufacturing area, known as TNT Area A, is coming to a close.

The formerly used defense site (FUDS) located in Sandusky, Ohio, manufactured explosives in support of World War II and it's estimated that one billion pounds of nitroaromatic explosives were manufactured there during its four-year operating period in the early 1940s.

TNT Area A was one of three TNT manufacturing areas at PBOW and is the last to undergo soil remediation. The project began in January 2012 and is scheduled to be completed in May 2014. The project was divided into two phases.

Phase I of the project involved excavation of 18 areas of concern (AOCs), where approximately 17,000 cubic yards of soil were excavated. Then, it required characterization of the excavated material to determine if the soil was hazardous, soil sampling for confirmation, and closure of the excavations with backfilling and reseeding. At the completion of Phase I, there were six AOCs that could not be closed due to exceedances of risk criteria.

Phase II, which began in May 2013, called for expanding the six AOCs to identify the extent of the contamination, identify boundaries of the clean soil, and finally excavation and remediation of the contaminated soil.

"All nitroaromatic contaminated hazardous soil is remediated using an alkaline hydrolysis (AH) process," said Lisa Humphreys, USACE Huntington District project technical coordinator.

Alkaline hydrolisis is the process of adding a caustic material to hazardous soil to degrade the contaminants. The chemicals are mixed into the soil with a windrow turner.

"Once the chemicals are mixed into the soil, they start breaking down the nitroaromatic compounds to where they are no longer considered hazardous," said Humphreys.

"This is the same process that was successful with TNT Area C in remediating nitroaromatic contaminated soils and allowing the reuse of those soils on-site as backfill," said Rick Meadows, USACE Huntington District project manager.

Upon completion of the AH process, the clean soil will be returned to TNT Area A and used to backfill the six open excavations. These areas will be seeded with native prairie grasses such as indiangrass and little bluestem.

The successes at Area A mirror those at TNT Area B and TNT Area C where remediation is already complete. Area B closed out in March 2010 and Area C project closeout is anticipated by the end of December 2013.

"Remediation of the three manufacturing areas is a huge success for USACE because they not only represented the majority of the contamination for the site, but also presented the most risk to human health and the environment," said Meadows. "Alkaline hydrolysis has proven to be a viable innovative remediation technology that can now be used at other DOD facilities. Of the 16 original projects identified for PBOW, nine (including TNT Area A) will have been successfully remediated by December 2013, which puts us closer to reaching our remediation goals for unrestricted use."

Photos by Kate Newton

The Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) is managed by the Louisville District, which is responsible for all projects within Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia and Michigan. Because of Huntington District's existing involvement with Plum Brook Ordnance Works (PBOW), they continue to manage this project.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Louisville District

Nashville District reaches women-owned small business milestone

By Lee Roberts
Nashville District

Photo by Lee Roberts)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Small Business Office chief, speaks with a customer during the Small Business Training Forum March 13, 2013 at the Tennessee Small Business Center on the Avon Williams Campus at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn. The forum's focus was on women-owned small businesses. The district recently announced it has exceeded its women-owned small business goals for fiscal year 2013.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District exceeded its goal of two percent of all contractible actions for women-owned small businesses in fiscal year 2013.

Roy Rossignol, Nashville District Small Business Office chief, said the achievement is significant because the district had upwards of $200 million in total contracts – and awards went to more than 50 women-owned small businesses that accounted for about $21 million of that total.

"It gives me a good feeling that small businesses, and particularly women-owned small businesses, have the capabilities to engage and succeed in the government procurement system," Rossignol said.

According to Rossignol, the primary reason the district exceeded its two percent goal is because the women-owned small business Avisco, Inc., received a $12.6 million contract in April 2013 for the second phase of the Bear Creek Road Construction and Waterline Relocation Project at the Y12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn. This single award accounted for nearly two-thirds of the district's two percent goal for women-owned small business.

"It is also important to note that Avisco competed against several other large businesses to get this award," Rossignol said.

Lt. Col. John L. Hudson, Nashville District commander, lauded the work of the entire project delivery team responsible for working with small businesses and awarding contracts.

"This is a great milestone and the work that went into facilitating the needs of women-owned small businesses and helping them to understand the procurement system is really notable and deserving of recognition," Hudson said.

Rossignol said it's difficult to achieve the women-owned small business goals because the 83 North codes."

"They are more geared toward service and supply type things," he said.

Rossignol added that it's very difficult for the Corps to find something that we can actually truly set aside for women-owned small business.

"So when we find opportunities we always try to do our best," Rossignol said. "We've had good success here in the district. Contracting does a great job identifying things that can be set aside for women-owned small businesses, and we would like to consider ourselves the women-owned small business center of excellence for the Corps of Engineers."

The statutory goal for contractible actions for women-owned small businesses is five percent, but this amount was lowered for the Nashville District because of the very large contracts that were ongoing in 2013 at Wolf Creek Dam, Center Hill Dam and Kentucky Lock.

Valerie Carlton, Nashville District Directorate of Contracting chief, said the district's Small Business Office made great strides this past year facilitating the needs of business owners. This milestone is indicative of Rossignol's efforts to reach out to customers and to help them through the process of doing business with the federal government, she added.

"Roy receives hundreds of contacts from small businesses during any given month," Carlton said. "He attends conferences and symposiums in the area at every opportunity. Roy utilizes the weekly acquisition committee meeting to provide input on the concerns of small business for use with upcoming procurements. As a result of his proactive participation, the district met its small business goals for the first time in several years."

In March 2013 Rossignol helped organize the 2nd Annual Small Business Training Forum at the Tennessee State University Avon Williams Campus, which provided extensive information about women-owned business to more than 250 business owners and managers in attendance.

He also worked very hard to advise and help businesses get into position to bid on government contracts. He helped them with the bidding process, keeping their registrations current, and identified and matched business capabilities with the district's requirements.

Rossignol said he is gratified knowing small businesses are bidding and being awarded contracts in the Nashville District.

"They (the small businesses) are succeeding and I just had a very small part of that. It's mainly their capabilities and the magic that Contracting does," Rossignol said. He stressed that the entire project delivery team with the Nashville District deserves credit for reaching this milestone.

(Photo courtesy of Y12 Photography)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District grades near the west tie in with the existing Bear Creek Road at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn., Oct. 9, 2013. AVISCO is a women-owned small business that has the contract for this project.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Nashville District

Employee receives certification

By Thomas Maier, Pittsburgh District

(Photo by Tom Maier)

This Striped Bass was caught on the Sacramento River, April 2013. Introduced to California from the East Coast in 1879, striped bass are currently considered an invasive species by many ecologists. Fishermen, however, enjoy catching and eating them!

Tom Maier, a biologist in Pittsburgh District's Planning & Environmental Branch, was recently granted status as a Certified Fisheries Professional (CFP) by the American Fisheries Society (AFS).

The AFS has advanced the conservation of fishes and aquatic resources around the world for more than a century. With almost 10,000 members, the society promotes educational, scientific, and technological development of all facets of fisheries science and management.

CFP certification must be renewed every 5 years. For more information on the AFS Professional Certification Program, see: http://fisheries.org/docs/cert_pcp.pdf

Gill netting for Walleye at Tygart Lake

By Christine Renzoni, Tygart River, Pittsburgh District

(Photo by Mike Estock)

Tygart Lake's Christine Renzoni removes a smallmouth bass from nets while WV DNR biologist Aaron holds a walleye.

On Nov.21, Tygart Lake rangers and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources gill netted for one of Tygart Lake's most sought after fish, the walleye.

Twenty-four gill nets of different mesh sizes had been placed in the lake the day before and left overnight to catch walleye hunting in the shallower shoreline waters after dark. The nets were pulled in the morning and any walleye in them were collected for further testing. All other fish that had been caught in the nets were released back into the lake.

Once all of the nets were emptied, the walleye were brought to a field processing station where they were measured, weighed, sexed, and then had their otoliths removed. An otolith is a small bone found in the inner ear of the fish. An otolith adds growth rings as a fish grows, similar to counting rings on a tree, the age of the fish can be determined by looking at the growth rings in the otolith.

The data collected from the walleye will be used by West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to make management decisions for the walleye in Tygart Lake.

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Pittsburgh District