



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Albuquerque District

News Release

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Corps Albuquerque District Changes Command

CORPS

ALBUQUERQUE – Steeped in tradition and abounding in military history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District will execute its 31st Change of Command ceremony out front of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District office at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 10.

District Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Bruce A. Estok, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will pass the command of the 350-employee Albuquerque District office that encompasses all of New Mexico, and parts of Texas and Colorado to incoming commander Lieutenant Colonel Kim Colloton who will be the first-ever female commander of the Albuquerque District.

Such ceremonies predate the Norman conquest of England and are a formal, symbolic passing of responsibility, authority, and accountability of command from one leader to another. The ceremony also provides the outgoing leader an opportunity to say goodbye to those who have been under his or her command, and for the new commanding officer to meet personnel.

The Albuquerque District was formed in 1935 and generates over 130 million dollars annually to the local New Mexico, Texas and Colorado economies.

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SEE ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT HISTORY BELOW

History of the Albuquerque District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

As the United States struggled in the throes of the Great Depression, a new Army Corps of Engineers District was created in New Mexico under the command of Captain Hans Kramer on August 1, 1935. Although flood control and irrigation projects in the sparsely populated region of the Canadian River in eastern New Mexico were not economically feasible, widespread unemployment in the early 1930s helped to convince President Franklin D. Roosevelt to approve the building of Conchas Dam, the District's first project.

The District was established in Tucumcari, New Mexico to construct this dam for the purposes of irrigation and flood control. As the activities increased at the site, the local economy received a much need boost. This infusion of federal funds gradually spread to include a broad area of the state. The success of this project was a major consideration in the eventual expansion of the District's boundaries to include other watersheds in the states of Colorado and Texas, as well as the rest of New Mexico.

Upon completion of the Conchas Dam project, John Martin Dam at Caddoa, Colorado, became the new focal point of District activity and on December 4, 1939, the organizational name was changed from its original name, the Tucumcari District, to the Caddoa District. Work proceeded at the project site until the John Martin Dam was 85 percent complete. This project was temporarily put on hold as the United States became involved in World War II and priorities shifted to the war effort.

In early 1942, the District headquarters was transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico and given its permanent name along with an additional mission. Switching from civil works projects to wartime activities, and with a peak workforce of 3,039 people, the Albuquerque District performed real estate and construction services in support of various military projects in the region to include work at the Los Alamos Laboratory where scientists labored in the development of atomic energy and its application to weapons.

After the war, the District resumed its civil works construction and completed John Martin Dam in 1948. Other major projects followed in the ensuing years. They are, in chronological order: Jemez Canyon Dam, Abiquiu Dam, Two Rivers Dam, and Cochiti Dam in New Mexico; Trinidad Dam in Colorado, and Santa Rosa Dam in New Mexico.

Today, the District continues regional civil works projects, as well as support for other federal agencies, real estate activities, and ecosystem restoration. In addition, it provides extensive design and construction services to three New Mexico Air Force bases and two Arizona Air Force bases: Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, Holloman Air Force base in Alamogordo, NM, Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, NM, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscon, AZ, and Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, AZ. 