

By 1987, Col. Patete calculated that the Tulsa District was providing construction and support for the Pantex Plant, two Army and five Air Force installations, eight reserve component commands, and 102 recruiting offices. The District was now involved in \$129 million in military construction work, compared to \$8 million in civil works.

“The work we do has a direct impact on today’s armed forces — soldiers, airmen, and their families,” Patete said.

“We’re currently working on . . . a \$25 million consolidated fuel control test facility under design for Tinker Air Force Base [and] Reynolds Army Hospital, a complex project underway at Fort Sill at a total cost of \$80 million to \$85 million . . .

“Some of our recent military construction work includes a consolidated operations facility at Altus Air Force Base and a gymnasium for Sheppard Air Force Base. At Fort Sill, we have three \$20 million barracks complexes underway and are nearing completion of one of the finest physical fitness centers in the Army.

“We also provide varied military real estate assistance in Oklahoma [and] a wide variety of support services to the installations, including design assistance. The average time for complete design of an installation support project is five months, one of the fastest average times in the Corps.”⁷

What did the military program mean to the Tulsa District? The new military mission focused the Tulsa work force again on the military roots of the Corps’ history, increased its national focus even as its regional construction mission was declining, and balanced its workload to retain a strong and vital District in the Tulsa region. At a time when the District was nearly middle aged, it provided an infusion of new excitement that helped keep the it moving forward rapidly into a complex and challenging future.

In 28 years of military assignments (1941–1961 and 1981–present), the District has provided more than \$2 billion in military construction, supplies, and services — \$1.3 billion between 1939 and 1961, and another \$785 million since 1981 — a noteworthy and lasting contribution toward our nation’s military health and strength.⁸

Among new construction projects: The physical fitness center and swimming pool at Fort Sill, shown here in exterior and interior photos.

