

Driving: a risky business • Can you think like a fish? • Plus! District celebrates Engineer Week

The castle

Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

April 2005

**Bassmasters bag
bass for
\$600,000 in prizes
on Corps lake**





The final 12 pro Bassmasters and their non-boater partners race to their choice fishing spots on J. Strom Thurmond Lake at Clarks Hill during the CITGO Bassmasters tournament hosted by Columbia County, Ga., from March 2 through March 6.

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Driving: a risky business

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Bassmasters bag bass for \$600,000 in prizes on Corps lake

The bass were plentiful, the crowds were large, and the stakes were high March 3-6, 2005 as 308 anglers competed during the 2005 CITGO Bassmasters tournament. The tournament was held at J. Strom Thurmond Lake at Clarks Hill, Ga.



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Can you think like a fish?

The top four winners of the CITGO Bassmasters tournament tell how they won a combined \$600,000 in prize money.



The Castle

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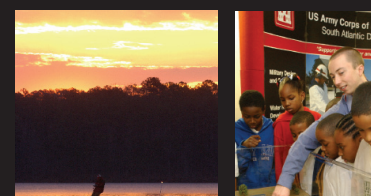
FRONT COVER

Bassmasters cast for prizes totaling \$600,000 on J. Strom Thurmond Lake, Clarks Hill.

BACK COVER

Students of Hodge Elementary experiment with the Corps' flood model.

Photos by Jonas Jordan.





Held

Driving: a risky business

In the United States, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people aged one to 39.

My many years of concern with safety issues have taught me that most people are focused mostly on safety within the walls of this building. Injuries that occur outside the workplace generally are not considered part of their primary mission. Safety is our number one mission overall. We have a great safety record, but it is only good until the next accident. Our focus on safety will be 24 hours a day year 'round.

For the last several years in the United States nearly 100,000 people have died each year in preventable incidents.

About 5,000 of these deaths occur annually in the workplace. Each year, about 18 times more people are killed in preventable incidents off the job than on the job. When we look only at workers, we find that in the U.S., workers die in preventable incidents off the job at a rate eight times greater than on the job. This statistic helps to make the cause that teammates are generally safer at work than they are away from work. I have often said that if you want to be safe in America, go to work for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District.

When we include family members of teammates, we find that about

members. Family members are an important consideration, because no matter where an injury occurs to one of your teammates or a family member, your teammates lose and our District loses.

Teammates might lose their lives, or the life of a loved one. Or they might lose some of their health or mobility. Or the emotional trauma will affect them in some way for a period of time. Even if the injury is relatively minor, the process of recovery, or the need to help treat a spouse or child, will likely cause teammates to be absent from work. Or if they are at work, they will be distracted and not fully productive. When an injury strikes, teammates lose a part of themselves.

Every two days approximately 3,000 people will die in motor vehicle-related incidents around the world. Another 15,000 people will survive a crash, but will be injured severely. Road traffic injuries kill 1.2 million people and injure or disable as many as 50 million more each year.

In the United States, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people aged one to 39. Most victims and survivors are occupants of the vehicles involved in crashes. The National Safety Council believes

the behavior of the driver. Alcohol use, speeding, and driving while distracted are important behavioral factors in the causes of crashes in our nation.

Let's take these issues personally and one at a time:

Aggressive driving

Operating a vehicle in a way that endangers other people and property—such as improper passing, weaving in and out of traffic, or following too closely—compromises the safety of both the driver and everyone around them.

These types of behaviors cause over 50 percent of all crashes.

Seemingly harmless maneuvers can be considered aggressive when performed knowingly or without regard for other drivers. These drivers can then, in turn, become aggressive. Aggressive driving can escalate into “road rage”. Road rage is a criminal offense.

Even drivers who are courteous and obey traffic laws can become targets of aggressive drivers. It's always important to stay aware, watch for aggressive drivers, and drive defensively.

a nervous, and anxious experience focused on hurrying to a destination. Don't worry about the behavior of other drivers; concentrate on driving safely.

Distracted driving

It only takes a second for a crash to happen. Distractions occur when drivers concentrate on something other than operating their vehicles—such as engaging in cell phone conversations.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that 25 percent of all crashes involve some form of driver distraction.

Driver who use cell phones in their vehicles have a higher risk of collision than drivers who either do not use cell phones or have lower usage while driving.

A recent NHTSA survey found that nearly 75 percent of drivers reported using their phone while driving and an estimated 60 percent of cell phone use takes place behind the wheel.

Driving safely can be challenging enough even when full attention is given to the road and its potential

hazards. Driving while operating a cell phone, adjusting the radio, or eating and drinking can be distracting and potentially dangerous.

Speeding

Speeding is a contributing factor in crashes that kill approximately 12,000 people each year. Speeding reduces the time a driver has to avoid a crash and increases the likelihood and severity of the crash.

The dangers of speeding far outweigh the travel time saved. Choosing to speed or drive too fast for traffic, road, vehicle, or driver conditions can result in not just a speeding ticket, but injury or death. Speed limits are not just guidelines; they save lives.

Drinking and driving

In 2004, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes. Alcohol was a contributing factor in 40 percent


of all motor vehicle fatalities last year. It slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment.

Alcohol affects everyone differently; there is no way to determine how many drinks will cause a person to become intoxicated. When dealing with alcohol, planning ahead is the best way to insure the safety of everyone involved.

It cannot be emphasized enough: if you are drinking, do not drive.

Choose a designated driver. A designated driver is not someone who is the most sober; it's someone who did not drink at all.

Strictly enforce a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to alcohol and the young drivers in your family. Give them the guidance they need to deal with peer pressure and make wise choices.

The safety of you and your family depends on your vigilance and being aware of the dangers we face All the time, not just at work. We plan for safety at the office, in our power plants, at our lakes and on our construction sites. Be sure you plan for safety away from work too. 

People on the Move

Arrivals

Date	Name	Office
2/22/2005	Mindy J. Rosito	CD
2/7/2005	Larry D. Boston	CD
2/22/2005	Paulanne C. Page	CD

Departures

Date	Name	Office
2/5/2005	Victor G. Walk	CD
2/19/2005	Yolanda M. Roberts	CD

Retirements

Date	Name	Office
2/1/2005	Stephen N. Bell	PM
2/1/2005	Kevin A. Kolz	PM

Promotions

Date	Name	Office
2/6/2005	Patrick J. Spoor	SO
2/6/2005	Charles H. Atkins	EN
2/6/2005	Tony C. Hackle Sr.,	OP-R
2/6/2005	Elizabeth A. Hamilton	CT
2/6/2005	David P. Jones	OP-R
2/6/2005	Kosha Karond Jones	CT
2/6/2005	Loretta E. Parris	CT
2/6/2005	Mathew Rorick	OP-R
2/6/2005	Leland R. Tenijenhuis	OP-R
2/6/2005	Donnie L. Tew II	CT
2/6/2005	Timmy A. Thomas	OP-R
2/20/2005	Natasha L. Givens	EN
2/20/2005	Jennifer A. Hunt	EN
2/20/2005	Letha M. Jones	CT
2/20/2005	Theodore C. Kientz	CT
2/20/2005	Mary K. Phillips	EN
2/20/2005	Kathryn T. Yearwood	EN

District celebrates Engineer Week



▲ Girl Scouts and their troop leaders meet with Mary Hallis Alkis one of a panel of Corps women engineers as a part of a program that teaches insight into potential careers in engineering, math and through hands on applications and teamwork. The Girl Scouts participated to earn points toward their Scout patch.



by Rashida Banks
photos by Jonas Jordan

Alex Mason always liked designing stuff and putting things together. Mason, a robotics student at Johnson High school has definite plans to attend college to become a mechanical engineer.

Unlike Alex, many students don't know what they aspire to be in life – let alone what an engineer does. The Corps changed that this year during National Engineer Week, Feb. 20-26, by reaching out to local elementary, middle, and high school students, in order to promote interest and awareness in the field of engineering.

This year the focus was on girls.

“There is a shortage of

examine the profession,” said Sherry McCumber-Kahn, an Environmental Engineer, in the Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste Section. “In particular, we have picked a day to encourage a girl to be an engineer,” she said.

Demographically, women make up 50 percent of the population, yet less than 10 percent are engineers according to McCumber-Kahn who says that those percentages are a lot higher at the Corps. “We have 16 percent women engineers at the Corps.”


Introduce a girl to Engineering or “Girl Day”, which is one of Engineer Week's flagship programs, allows thousands of women engineers – with support from their male counterparts – to mentor and share firsthand

(Continued from page 5)

district celebrated “Girl Day” by conducting panel discussions at West Chatham Middle School and Johnson High School. The all-female panel included Corps employees from various disciplines of engineering, architecture, and economics. Panelist discussed their jobs and education.

The Girl Scouts and their troop leaders met with a panel of Corps women engineers as part of a program that teaches insight into potential careers in engineering and math through hands on applications and teamwork. The Girl Scouts participated to earn points toward their Scout patch.

The district also opened its doors to 50 students from Hodge Elementary School. The students participated in hands-on, interactive displays and demonstrations by Corps engineers and scientists in the building’s lobby.

The kids really enjoyed this,” said Letitia Shuman. “It gives them an idea of what the Corps does...This is a really good age to start.” 



▲ The students of West Chatham Middle School and their teachers get first hand information about the Lower Savannah River Basin Environmental Restoration Project from Monica Simon-Dodd, Civil Engineer, Planning Division.

•Safety•

Flu, Colds can be prevented

by Mike Tustin, Chief of Safety Division
Savannah District

While the cold and flu season has, for the most part, passed by; this does not mean we’re not still susceptible to colds, the flu or other illnesses the rest of the year. Many associate the cold weather of fall and winter with illness, and feel this to be the reason that many of us get sick. In fact, the real reason is that we spend more time indoors, in closer proximity to others, which puts us at higher risk of illness.

Viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs cause flu (influenza) and colds. Flu and colds usually spread from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

HOW TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away. If you don’t have a tissue, cover your cough or sneeze, and then clean/wash your hands. Ideally you should wash your hands every time you do so.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands. When available, wash your hands – with soap and warm water – then rub your hands vigor-

and remove germs. When soap and water are not available, alcohol based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizer may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drug-stores. If using a gel, rub the gel in your hands until they are dry. The gel doesn’t need water to work; the alcohol in the gel kills the virus that cause colds and the flu.

It is especially important to wash your hands:

- Before, during and after food preparation
- Before you eat and after using the rest room
- After handling animals or animal waste
- When your hands are dirty
- More frequently when someone in your home is sick

The important thing to remember is that, in addition to colds, some serious diseases – like hepatitis A, meningitis, and infectious diarrhea – can easily be prevented if people make a habit of washing their hands. It is estimated that one out of three people do not wash their hands after using the rest room. So these tips are also important when out in public.

AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH

mouth. Germs can live for a long time (some living as long as two hours or more) on surfaces like doorknobs, desks, and tables.

When you are sick or have flu symptoms, stay home, get plenty of rest, and check with a health care provider as needed. Remember: Keeping your distance from others may protect them from getting sick. Common symptoms of the flu include:

- Fever (usually high)
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue/tiredness
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (much more common among children than adults)

PRACTICE OTHER GOOD HEALTH HABITS

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food. Practicing health habits will help you stay healthy during flu season and all year long.

This information is provided courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Savannah District Safety and Occupational Health Office.

Bassmasters bag bass for \$600,000 in prizes on Corps lake



by Rashida Banks
Photos by Jonas Jordan

The bass were plentiful, the crowds were record breaking, and the stakes were high March 3-6, as 308 anglers competed during the 2005 CITGO Bassmasters Tour at Wildwood Park, J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake at Clarks Hill.

The CITGO Bassmasters Tournament Trail, the oldest and most prestigious pro-bass fishing tournament circuit, included a public expo with sideshows, interactive games, drawings, and contests. There was definitely something for the whole family.

A teary-eyed Mike Reynolds stood before a crowd of about 5,000 cheering fans and onlookers at Wildwood Park as he accepted a check for \$102,000 and the trophy for CITGO Bassmaster Tour winner. He was overcome with emotion as he addressed the crowd.

"I've been dreaming about this moment all my life," said Reynolds. "This is going to change my life," he said.

The 21-year fishing veteran caught his last fish with only 10 minutes remaining in the competition to outweigh the top ranked competitor, Terry Jimmy Mize by only 5 ounces.

"This is the best of the best," said Reynolds. "To win this tournament puts me in a category now. It gives me respect from the

and 154 non-boaters that competed during the 3-day event for over \$600,000 in cash and prizes. Professional anglers on the tour also competed for top titles in bass fishing, including CITGO Bassmaster Angler of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and ultimately for a chance to compete in the 2005 CITGO Bassmaster Classic in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Anglers departed from Wildwood Park boat ramp at 6:30 and returned at 3 for a daily weigh-in. The anglers with the highest weights moved on to the next day of the competition.

"The competition is broken up into two separate divisions", said Trip Weldon, Bass Tournament Director. "The non-boaters compete only against the non-boaters. They have a three fish limit. They get that weight plus the weight of their pro partner every day," he said. "The pros can compete only against the pros and they are allowed a five fish limit. They don't share any weight with the non-boaters."

Each day a non-boater is partnered with a pro. The unique partnering and shared weight system benefits non-boaters according to David Whitaker, an angler who competed in the non-boater division. Whitaker said that although he has been bass fishing for over 40 years, he still gains valuable skills and techniques by



▲ "It's just beautiful. It's something to watch the sunrise and all the boats on the water. It's a very special event."






▲ Col. Mark S. Held, District Commander speaks to ESPN-2 host, Keith Allen, to welcome Bassmasters to the lake and invite them back next year.

▶ Here we see a young man stretching his pennies on the Corps new penny press made especially for the CITGO Bassmasters tournament at J. Strom Thurmond Lake at Clarks Hill.

◀ Fish on! This bassmaster catches a seven pound large mouth bass on Saturday morning Mar. 5 near the bank of the lake road overpass. The large mouth bass likes to hide in the weeds and grass near the bank to ambush his prey, the bait fish, as they swim by the shaded areas near the bank. When the wind is blowing against the shore, it encourages the bass to feed along the shoreline. He will cruise along mud lines looking for smaller minnows or crayfish under the cover of muddied water.

▼ Dan Bielert and Chris Baksay came to J. Strom Thurmond Lake to watch Dan's son Terry Baksay (Chris's father) compete in the CITGO Bassmasters tournament. Terry finished with 279 points toward the championship.





“It was meant to be...”

--Mike Reynolds

◀ A tearful Mike Reynolds holding up his trophy in a victory pose at the final weigh-in on March 6. “It was meant to be; it’s a miracle,” he said after winning his first-ever Bassmaster tour event. “I was supposed to catch that fish. There’s no other explanation.” He went on to explain that the fish he caught before the little one-pounder was blind in one eye, but he took the bait anyway.



▲ Corps Park Ranger Christina Westerberg entertains children by teaching them how to recognize water safety signs on the lake buoys.

▼ Aaron Wahus, Chief Park Ranger at the Lake, coordinated the event with ESPN, Columbia Co. and USACE.

(Continued from page 7)

“There is a bit of luck in everything, but with these guys [the professionals], it’s all skill,” said Whitaker. “If you put a bunch of amateurs on this lake, we would be lucky to catch 25 fish in three days of fishing. These guys are good.”

The tournament, which drew more than 14,000 spectators throughout the weekend, will have a huge impact on Columbia County says Marilyn Heure, Public Relations Manager.

“We probably are getting a million [dollars] or more in economic impact from it [the tournament]. It’s an investment to have something like this come, but the return is just massive and it lets people know what’s going on up here. So it’s a win-win thing for us,” said Heure.

The tournament was the largest event ever held at Wildwood Park and Heure says that Columbia County hopes to attract larger

get just a thousand people here, we would really have done something,” she said. “We did that on the first day. Everyday since has been bigger and bigger. We certainly hope to encourage this sort of thing in the future.”

The 73,000-acre lake, which attracts 6 million visitors annually, has become a popular spot for fishing.

“The fishermen have really enjoyed the fact that this lake has not been heavily developed,” said Heure. “It’s just beautiful. It’s something to watch the sunrise and all the boats on the water. It’s a very special event.”

The lake received rave reviews from pros and amateurs alike. Mike Reynolds summed it up the best:

“The lake is great. It’s excellent because it has so many types of different structures,” he said. “When you fish a tournament, you just don’t see boats and other competitors around. It’s so big



Can you think like a fish?



◀ First Place winner Mike Reynolds holding up his record catch of the day on Sunday March 6. His technique was stained, shallow water using crank bait, a black and blue tube bait, chartreuse and white 3/8-ounce spinner bait with double Colorado blades.

▶ Second place winner Jimmy Mize fished in clearer water: saddle between a lake point and an island with gravel on top at a depth of 10-15 feet. He made the bass bite a watermelon finesse worm and a watermelon candy Lake Fork Ring Fry on a Carolina Rig.



by Jim Cunningham
photos by Jonas Jordan

Getting up at O-dark-thirty and driving twenty miles to a lake you have never fished before to compete for more than \$100,000 in prize money requires not only luck, but also a vast knowledge of your prey and their habits. If your living depends on how many and how large a fish you get in your boat within a limited amount of time, your knowledge of the species of fish and all his habits in all sorts of weather is paramount. For that reason, thinking like a fish could be very helpful, especially if your prey is the largemouth bass.

You will have to know what his behavior is when the temperature is below 60 degrees; where will he be? When will they spawn? Under what conditions will they spawn? When the weather changes slightly or dramatically throughout the day, what are the clues to bass behavior? These questions and many more will have to be answered in your memory and experience to make a living as a Bassmaster professional.

When you are driving to the lake, and you see cattle in a field up and actively feeding, you will know one of the rules of thumb in stalking the largemouth bass. Active cattle, active fish, downed cattle, downed fish. But all pro Bassmasters do not share your opinion. Some will call it folklore, but it has worked for you because your experience bears it out.

Earning your living as a Bassmaster pro,

on your way to the lake gives you that confidence, then you believe it.

Nature provides many signs to the Bassmaster pro. Slight changes in weather, wake moving away from the bank, and many more clues need to be noticed to help you win a tournament.

WEATHER PATTERNS

Weather patterns give you the most reliable clues to changes in the largemouth bass's environment. All bass are very sensitive to changes in environment, and when changes occur he may move from actively feeding to inactivity, or the other way around. Water temperature and light penetration affect the bass' feeding routine.

Other factors such as the clearness of the water or whether or not there are clouds overhead or disturbances in the water, even the position of the sun at a particular time of day determines how far sunlight penetrates the water. If the day is clear and the water calm and clear, you will know the bass will be much deeper than if conditions were the other way around.

In most cases the bass will move to shallow grass or under downed tree limbs, or under boat docks as the sunlight gets brighter.

Normally, bass can be found actively feeding in shallow water when the sunlight is dim or there are overcast skies.

days and late in the evening. But not all tournaments will allow you to fish both early morning and late evening. There is a time limit. So your cash of knowledge about the habits of the largemouth bass must be more detailed.

You know the bass is a predator and they instinctively feed in dim light conditions because it gives them cover over their prey: bait fish. Bass have survived in natural selection because they have instincts that give them an edge over other kinds of fish. Those instincts dictate when the bass feeds, and that is always when the odds are in his favor. He will not spend more energy in finding his meals than he will benefit from digesting them. The older the bass gets, the more he will look for injured or sick prey, or fish that cannot maneuver quick enough to avoid the huge sucking motion of the largemouth bass.

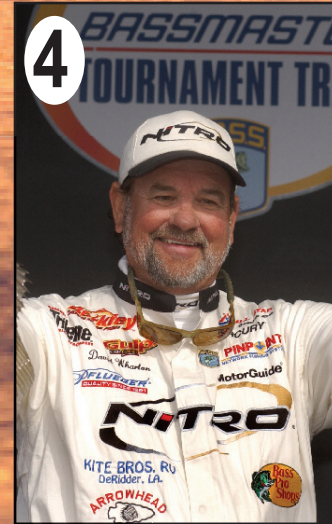
By your experience, you know a fact that almost all rookies have yet to learn: a change in wind speed and, or direction determines the behavior of the bass. When the wind disturbs the water surface, the bass move to shallow water to feed.

When the wind is blowing against the shore, it encourages the bass to feed along the shoreline. You will know that he will cruise along mud lines looking for smaller minnows or crayfish under the cover of the muddied water boiling under the wind gusts.

Other wind patterns will change the



◀ Third place winner Terry Butcher fished in dirty water at seven feet deep or less with a half-ounce chartreuse and white Red River spinner bait with Indiana blade and a small red blade and a Innovation Sweet Beaver creature bait flipped with a quarter ounce sinker.



▶ Fourth place winner David Wharton fished in a bald spot on a secondary point with hydrilla, he used a six-inch Berkley green pumpkin Power Lizard.

that the current will provide more feeding opportunities for the predator bass because it will blow the plankton out into deeper water and plankton is food for his favorite meal: bait fish.

This condition will also invite other predator fish that will compete for that food as well, so the pro will know he must lure the largemouth bass and not others. The pro will know that the right selection of bait will make the difference in his catch.

Because you are a well-seasoned Bassmaster pro, you are not only aware of the obvious changes to the habitat of the largemouth bass, but also aware of the more subtle and hidden changes. That is why you rank in the top 10 or 20 Bassmasters in the world. You know the difference in your catch and that of other anglers will be made due to your knowledge of the more subtle changes, because they will all happen during the fishing day. As a top-ranked pro you will be able to recognize the subtle changes along with the more ubiquitous obvious changes. Recognizing all these changes will enable you to stay in contact with the bass. That separates the men from the boys in pro bass fishing tournaments.

BEHAVIOR OF OTHER FISH

While you are working in deep water, along a mud line and you see a group of sunfish rushing toward a bank, or you see a

largemouth bass.

Your awareness and experience will tell you when you spot a water lily move or reeds moving near the bank, that something big in the water moved and may be feeding. You often tell stories of how you flipped your bait to an area where a lily just moved and caught that eight pounder.

BIRD ACTIVITY

When you notice large wading birds such as herons you know you will find the same favorite food as the largemouth bass because both herons and bass feed on baitfish. Diving birds or birds dropping from a tree branch to pick up baitfish or working up the bank of the lake are always signs that the favorite meal of the largemouth bass is present and food on the table.

KEEPING AWARE OF MOTHER NATURE, THE OBVIOUS AND THE SUBTLE

As a leading Bassmaster pro, you have almost a sixth sense of how competitive a tournament will be by talking with your competition or listening to what they say about technique. Because you know the reason you took the top prizes in the previous tournament was because the competition was unable to identify the hidden clues that mother nature gives all

competition is not linked to these clues is because they live in a heavily populated area or large city and have become calloused and insensitive to nature's movements and subtle hints to where fresh food lie in wait to be discovered. It has conditioned them to become insensitive to environmental stimuli and unable to focus on the job at hand: catching the largemouth bass. Living in a noisy crowded environment can dull his senses and hammer his skill to mediocrity.

You smile as you fish because you can hear the subtlest movements in the water or feel the sudden change in the temperature, or many clues that happen all at once. By instinct you quietly move your boat following the feeding bass. Some you catch are less than four pounds, and others could be the record size for that day on the lake. You know you have put in quality time with mother nature before coming to the lake, now you are in tune and catching the biggest bag and possibly the heaviest bass of the day. But you don't stop fishing until you have the limit: five bass, and all big and heavy.

You take the top prize check in front of more than a million people watching on ESPN television and more than 14,000 fans screaming in excitement. When the master of ceremonies ask you how you did it, you just smile and say, "It was meant to be," all the while knowing you did it because you are in control and a master at reading nature's



US Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division

"Supporting the Community and the Nation"

Military Design
and Construction

Water
Development

