

The

castle

Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Engineer Day 2006

**FEST Journeys to the
Mohave Desert p.10**

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ON THE COVER

Betty Odom (left), Adrienne Nurse (right), Carolyn Heyward (not pictured), Diane Hayward (not pictured), and Renee Atkins (not pictured) perform songs from the 60's singing group Martha and the Vandellas at Engineer Day.

Photos by Jonas Jordan



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DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN HONOREE Charles M. Wash

Charles, who retired in Dec. 1995, began his career with the Corps in 1967, where he worked with the Real Estate Division in the North Carolina Area Real Estate Office in Cary. In 1982, he was selected as the District's Chief Appraiser and relocated to Savannah where he served until his retirement. During his 34 years of service, Charles was involved in all areas of real estate, including appraisal, acquisition, leasing, and management and disposal. He was the first appraiser to deploy to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where he was directly responsible for laying the foundation for appraisal values used for the negotiation of more than \$100 million in leases. He was instrumental in the development of appraisal procedures for the Homeowners Assistance Program in the early 1990's. Prior to his retirement, Charles was recognized in the Real Estate community as an expert in federal and real property appraisal techniques. He can be extremely proud of his loyal and expert service providing excellent real estate support to the Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington Districts, and the Transatlantic Program Center, CENTCOM and ARCENT. His portrait will hang in the Employee Information Courtyard at the District headquarters throughout 2006.

SEE MORE AWARDS ON PAGE 6.

Letter to the Editor

I want to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my retirement. The food was excellent and the gifts were quite a surprise. I am honored to have been a part of the outstanding work you perform. I will always be proud of the Savannah District and am thankful for the friendships I developed during my 29 years as a team member there. It is quite an adjustment from working with a staff that occupies a three story building to working on a staff totaling three people. I will always value your friendship and the professionalism you display in supporting our Nation and its soldiers. Thank you again.

Essayons, Wade Seyle

District faces change from a position of strength

Most of you are aware that the Department of Defense's Information Management/Information Technology function has been undergoing an A-76/Competitive Outsourcing study for the past 18 months.

The performance decision was announced on June 21 that the government employees' Most Efficient Organization was selected as the service provider for the Corps' IM/IT services. Approximately 1,300 federal employees at Corps locations throughout the U.S. will be affected by this decision, including our team members here. In addition to the IM/IT A-76 process, our logistics function underwent a related A-76 process in which the number of positions Corps-wide will be downsized from 554 positions to 375 positions.

Because the initial award of the IM/IT competition has been challenged by the unsuccessful bidder, this may delay the process a bit. At this point, I do not know what the final outcome of the IM protest will be, but I am dedicated to ensuring that everyone is treated fairly during this period and that the transition for IM and LM is smooth.

Regardless of the final outcome, however there will be change and we all must prepare for it. One of my goals is to keep you informed of any new developments during this process.

How will this affect us?

As a result of this process, the way we receive computer services will ultimately change. (To a lesser extent the way we receive logistics services will be different, too.) If the protest is unsuccessful and the MEO remains the service provider for the Corps, our IM/IT services will then be delivered by a combination of government and contractor staff members. If the protest reverses the initial decision, then the services will be provided completely from the private sector. Either way, it will change.

Because the MEO is smaller than the existing government organization, there will be a loss of positions. As to how many positions, I am not certain, but one thing that I am certain about it is that this change will impact the district. The way we approach the situation will ultimately affect the type of impact

it has on the district.

Our district succeeds so well because we have a talented and dedicated team. And I will do everything in my authority to ensure that the team remains strong throughout this transition.

One way that we can ensure a "soft landing" for the entire district is by looking for ways to absorb workers that may be displaced as a result of the reorganizations. We can accomplish this by moving affected or displaced workers into other positions in the district in which they qualify. The positive side of this approach will be that these team members will bring a new insight to those areas, plus they already understand the issues of Savannah District.

With any type of change, there will be a learning curve as we transition to the new way of doing business. I ask for your patience as we make these changes. The process for getting computer help may be different. Budgeting for the service may be different. Ultimately, though, the mission will go on.

When will all the change end?

My tenure here can be characterized as one of change. Since I have been commander, we have been introduced to Army Transformation, P2, A-76, regionalization, and the National Security Personnel System (NSPS)

Public Affairs Office captures journalism awards

Savannah District placed first in three categories and garnered seven overall awards in this year's Herbert A. Kassner and Keith L. Ware Print Journalism Competitions.

Craig Janhrette, visual information, took first place in the "Art and Graphics in Support of a Publication Category" after having won first place in the same category last year. Janhrette's entry went on to take first place in the MG Keith L. Ware Print Journalism Competition. First place winners of the Keith L. Ware competition go on to compete in the Thomas Jefferson Journalism competition, which is the Department of Defense's highest accolade for military journalists and broad-



COL Mark S. Held
District Commander

– just to name a few. These and other changes will continue – not to cause us all pain, but to make the U.S. Army better for America's defense.

Although you have been introduced to these new ways of doing business, you continue to put our best foot forward. Therefore, I know that you will continue down the same path and not let this transition slow down our business process.

Bottom Line: You were a great district before these changes, you are a great district now, and you will continue to be a great district in the future!

casters. The annual contest rewards excellence and professionalism in military print and broadcast media.

Rashida Banks won first place in sports writing and second place in feature writing. Her first place sports writing entry also took third place in the MG Keith L. Ware Journalism competition.

The Castle won third place in the magazine category and the regulatory brochure "Obtaining Permits" captured second place in the "Special Achievement in Print Category."

While the Kassner Awards is a Corps-wide competition, the Keith L. Ware competition is Army-wide.

Simmons, on national team helps eliminate nuclear materials in Russia



Simmons

**BY RASHIDA BANKS
EDITOR/STAFF WRITER**

Gordon Simmons, with Savannah District's Engineering Division, has visited Russia several times during his career with the federal government, however a trip there in February held special significance – he went to help make the region and perhaps the world a bit safer.

Simmons, along with six other members of a national USACE team traveled to Russia to assess the design and construction activities related to the Seversk Plutonium Production Elimination Project (SPPEP).

Workers with the SPPEP seek to eliminate weapons-grade plutonium production in Russia. They also want to take aging nuclear reactors off line to prevent another disaster such as happened in 1986 with the meltdown of a reactor in Chernobyl.

To accomplish these goals, a design was completed to refurbish and add capacity to coal-fired generators to replace the electricity and centralized heat function currently provided by the reactors for the Seversk region, located in Siberia 1200 miles (east

from Moscow. The work is being performed by the Russian Federation with oversight and mentoring from the U.S. firm of Washington Group International under contract to the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"The [Corps'] Europe District was hired by DOE to provide an independent assessment of several key contract execution activities," Simmons said. "Europe District in turn, sought to gain additional expertise and resources from Corps team members who had previous Russia experience. Work in Russia is not only technologically different, but there also is a different cultural history within the Russian contracting and procurement communities that required intense management to bring these within the standards required in a U.S.-funded contract."

Simmons, chief of Design Branch, Engineering Division, welcomed the opportunity to be a part of the mission because of its unique character and high political significance.

"Besides the excitement of visiting a different part of the world, the fact that what we are doing may help prevent another world disaster similar to Chernobyl really motivated me to take part," said Simmons.

He was accompanied by Rick Grubb and LaRhonda McCauley from Walla Walla District, Kevin Birkett, Omaha District; George Sims, Albuquerque District; Bill Thievon, Europe District; and Asya Papanako, a private contractor.

The team's work involved reviewing the processes and procedures used by the contractors to ensure that they perform appropriately and effectively in accordance with the contract cost limitations and schedule.

"We examined six key areas of the work being performed by the Washington Group International and the pass-through of that

work being performed by the Russian Federation," Simmons said. The team reviewed subcontracting and procurement methods, implementation and use of corrective action plans, contract administration, risk management and compliance with specific DOE requirements.

"This was important because they [the National Nuclear Security Administration] have a well-defined project management process that requires an independent review at certain milestones to validate that contract processes are being done correctly," said Simmons. Workers must meet critical cost and schedule constraints in this project. Without independent assessments, the risk of not meeting these milestones increases, according to Simmons.

The team met in Germany for a week to coordinate plans before leaving for Moscow on Feb. 20. In Moscow, Simmons said that they conducted a review of the contractors' schedule, best value documents, technical criteria and other contract-related documents and receipts before returning to Germany to compile the data.

The NNSA will use the data and recommendations generated by this team as one of several decision tools in making contract corrections, if needed.

"For this report, the work is completed," said Simmons. "There are other milestones to check later in this contract, and another contract to be managed for the removal of a reactor at Zheleznogorsk. The goal for these projects is to maintain the same team of reviewers and thereby not have to recreate the learning curve each time," he said.

Simmons will return to Russia with the team as requested by NNSA for additional work. In the meantime, the team keeps in touch, waiting for the next opportunity to make the world a bit safer.



Brinson, Callahan present abstract to American Society of Civil Engineers

BY TIFFANY HOLLOWAY
STAFF WRITER



Brinson

What started out as a whim by two master planners at the District, has grown to become a proposal to colonize the moon. Susan Brinson and Rob Callahan, both District master planners presented their abstract entitled, “A

Moon is a Terrible Thing to Waste: A Case for Lunar Master Planning” at the American Society of Civil Engineers conference in Houston, Texas March 5-8.

Callahan said that he has always been interested in the moon so when he saw an article in the Engineer Update about how new research proposals by the Corps were selected by NASA he was intrigued. Callahan and Brinson had discussions about it all the time. So when she saw an announcement about sending in abstracts for the ASCE, it

was only natural that they write about master planning on the moon.

“One thing led to another,” said Brinson. There are three main reasons for master planning on the moon according to Brinson. Explorers must “ensure” the development is logical, because after all development on the moon will be expensive. They must have the ability to forecast any challenges so there are few ‘band-aids.’ Finally having a plan will ensure that the lunar city will evolve into a place where people will want to stay.”

Callahan said that the year 2009 marks 100 years since Daniel Hudson Burnham completed the first modern city plans for Chicago. “We would like a comprehensive plan to be completed by the year 2009. This would be a fitting tribute to Daniel Burnham. This would be a celebration of that milestone in our progress as a nation.”

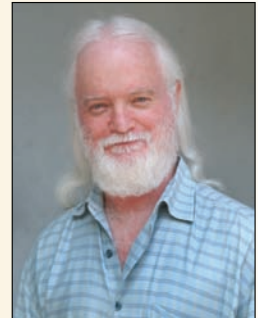
Brinson and Callahan summarized how to plan a city on the moon in five steps in their presentation. “First, determine where you’re at presently in your knowledge base and in the planning process. Second, determine where you want to get to and establish goals and set milestones for reaching one. Third, consider alternative ways to get from here to there and select the preferred alternative. Fourth, begin to execute the plan

and monitor the progress of events. Finally, correct your course as necessary to insure the goals that were initially established are the ones that are being achieved, or as new information becomes available, change goals as needed to address the new reality.”

After the presentation, a NASA representative, said, “I love it.” They have been invited to speak at the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center as well as a high school class here in Savannah.

“We had a lot of fun doing research and putting the presentation together,” said Callahan.

“I hope our proposal becomes reality,” said Brinson.



Callahan



Tommy Hill, chief Real Estate Division, along with community leaders from the Coastal Empire, sign joint lease agreement that will bring both military and civilian air traffic to Fort Stewart’s Wright Army Airfield.

Joint-use lease agreement brings military, civilian air traffic to Ft. Stewart airfield

The Savannah District and community leaders from the Coastal Empire came together May 4 to sign a joint use lease agreement that will bring both military and civilian air traffic to Fort Stewart’s Wright Army Airfield.

On hand to sign the joint lease agreement were Tommy Hill, chief, Real Estate Division, Hinesville Mayor Thomas J. Ratcliffe, Jr., Liberty County Commission Chairman John D. McIver, and Liberty County Development Authority Chairman Allen Brown.

Fort Stewart Director of Public Works Michael Biering represented the Garrison at the signing and talked about the benefits of a joint-use agreement.

Charles F. Trainor Team Awards

MILITARY PROJECT TEAM OF THE YEAR

Brigade Combat Team Complex Ft. Bragg, North Carolina (FY05)

This \$136M project, the largest FY05 MILCON project in SAD, involved the design and construction of temporary, relocatable, administrative and barracks facilities for the Soldiers of the 4th BCT, 82nd Airborne Division. The transformation of the Army into a modular force compounded with the return of Soldiers from Afghanistan, and the shortage of facilities at Ft. Bragg converged into an urgent requirement for the BCT Complex to be completed by June 1, 2006. Despite significant time constraints, funding, procurement, site, and legal challenges, the PDT awarded the project in July 2005 at full scope and a substantial amount of the construction has been completed. The successful execution of this project has allowed Soldiers to return from overseas deployments to exceptional administrative and barracks facilities. The customer and user feedback has been exceptionally positive.

The 82nd Airborne Division is extremely satisfied with the timeliness of this fast-paced project, as well as the overall quality of the facilities. This project illustrates Savannah District's capability as a flexible organization, able to quickly adapt to changing requirements while still delivering a high quality product that delights the customer.

SPECIAL PROJECT TEAM OF THE YEAR CITGO/ESPN Bassmasters Tournament Team J. Strom Thurmond Lake at Clarks Hill



ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM OF THE YEAR EPA Technical Support Team

The EPA Technical Support Team provided EPA Region IV with a wide range of assistance on projects using in-house technical expertise. Their support included technical guidance, development of standard operating procedures, data reviews, project planning and field investigations. The team provided technical support for EPA Quality Assurance Project Planning, five-year reviews and Targeted Brownsfields Assessments. During the past year, this team performed five-year reviews at six Superfund Sites where contamination remains at levels which prevent the unrestricted use of the site.

The team developed a guidance document which is used for all site-specific QAPP's within EPA Region IV. The QAPP prepared for the Jekyll Island TBA site was regarded by EPA as such high quality, they requested the team develop a guidance document for the preparation of QAPP's that could be used by teams throughout Region IV. The document was adopted by EPA Region VI to support their hurricane efforts. The quality of the team's products and expertise in planning and executing TBA's led EPA to request that Savannah District oversee and execute assessments which are outside the SAD area of responsibility.

Planning by the team for the 2005 CITGO/ESPN Bassmasters Tournament began in November 2004 with the goal of supporting a successful four-day tournament and establishing a Corps Water Safety exhibit area at the event held at Wildwood Park.

The CITGO Bassmasters Tournament Trail, the oldest and most prestigious pro-bass fishing tournament circuit, drew a crowd of 14,000 tournament spectators and 308 amateur and pro bass anglers. Daily television, radio and newspaper coverage of the tournament was consistently positive regarding the management of the tournament, and the outstanding fishery at Thurmond. The overwhelmingly positive feedback received from the tournament participants and spectators cinched the deal to bring the tournament back for its second year to Thurmond Lake.

The outstanding support the JST staff and the rest of the PDT provided to the many local groups and organizations was recognized time and again.



CIVIL PROJECT TEAM OF THE YEAR Savannah District Public Water Safety Team



The three multi-purpose projects, Lakes Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond, launched an aggressive water safety campaign in 2005 aimed at reducing or eliminating recreation-related accidents and fatalities. During FY05, the District had a 70 percent reduction in drownings from the previous year, and the lowest number recorded in 20 years. The success of the program is attributed to the 50,000 face-to-face contacts by rangers with the visiting public. An additional 1.5 million people were reached through the use of water safety radio Public Safety Announcements and other outreach efforts. The team collaborated to create new and innovative ways to disseminate water safety messages, and raise the level of awareness for water safety throughout the communities.

Individual Awards

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Tommy R. Hill, Real Estate Division

When asking members of Real Estate Division what they appreciate most about their Chief, responses include approachable, accessible, reasonable, fair, someone who truly listens and understands, and a strong leader. With the exception of a three-year tour with US Army Europe, Tommy has served as the Chief since 1993. He's known throughout the Corps and Army community for his technical capability and has earned the Supervisor of the Year award for providing strong leadership, commitment and support to his staff in getting the job done. His open-door policy encourages team members to offer suggestions for improvement in business processes to enhance mission accomplishment. Through his example, the team sees itself as a member of a much broader team that encompasses the Region and beyond. His philosophy molds his approach for how the Division can be a strong member of the team, supporting the organization's overall mission. Tommy's strong position on staff development has led to upward mobility and training and development opportunities.



TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR - ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC

William Lynch, Project Management Division

Bill's selection lauds his special contributions to the Richard B. Russell Powerplant Construction and Environmental Monitoring, support to the Operations and Maintenance Program, the Richard B. Russell Mitigation Lands Transfer to South Carolina, and the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study and Drought Contingency Management Plan. Through personal relationship and trust, Bill is recognized as a regional leader, professionally leading his team through discussion and agreement on many controversial issues. He has formed partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, as well as private conservation groups, such as The Nature Conservancy, that have proven to be vital links to effective management of the Savannah River Basin's water resources. Bill has a stellar career spanning 35 years of service, including 27 1/2 with the Corps of Engineers and 23 in Civil Programs. Bill is known to many as "Mr. Richard B. Russell", working tirelessly to bring the four pump back turbines on-line following years of legal battles. Bill is a "can do" team player, and has fearlessly tackled every assignment he's undertaken.

TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR - OTHER THAN ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC - Allen Williams, Construction Division

Allen's selection for this award is recognition for his contributions to the Hunter AAF Modularity Project. However, in a larger context for his performance over many years that is consistent with the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. In carrying out his duties as the lead Quality Assurance Representative, Allen is the "go to" guy in the office, mentoring less experienced staff in general construction techniques and procedures, effectively dealing with contractual lines of authority, and ensuring open communication with the contractor, customer and end user. Working 12-hour days to assure the project was delivered on time and at a level of quality consistent with permanent construction, Allen's efforts embody the principles of duty and selfless-service. His energy, enthusiasm and tenacity are contagious and he leads by example, whether it means crawling under modular units or through storm drains, his hands-on approach earned the respect and admiration of his team.



STUDENT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Monique Knowles, Information Management

Monique has been a member of the Mail and Printing Section since 2001 while attending St. Leo University where she is majoring in Computer Information Systems. Monique plans to graduate in June. Her performance during this tenure has been exceptional and surpassed all elements of her performance standards. Monique's quest for knowledge has enabled her to become a valuable asset to the office, performing numerous diverse tasks. Her unique ability to quickly learn new and complex functions, demonstrates her capability for greater responsibility. Monique is an excellent communicator and is comfortable dealing with varied levels of management both within and outside the organization. She's been described as self-motivated with outstanding potential to excel in any endeavor she pursues. Her positive attitude is an enviable attribute that has enhanced her team-like spirit. She has helped instill confidence and credibility in the Mail Section through the competent execution of all her duties.

ENGINEER DAY 2006



Above: Barbara Dickerson, equal employment opportunity office, enjoys a Sticky Fingers feast.
Left: Tim Lynch, construction division, spends quality time with his daughter.



Above: Franz Froelicher, engineering division, rides his bike around Lotts Island.
Right: Jamal, son of Vicki and Jim Gatling and his friend Konner showcase their catch of the day.



Team members sign up for the Regimental Muster.



Food, fun, and entertainment pretty much sums up Engineer Day 2006 at Lotts Island. A wonderful time was had by all who were in attendance. For the kids, there was cookie decorating, the giant slide, and moon bounce. For the adults, there was volleyball, basketball, and horseshoes. But, the highlight of the entire day was the talent show.



Right: Chris Pruitt, project management, division relaxes at Engineer Day with his son Matthew. Below: Graham Garrett, son of Tami and Alan Garrett, plays Taps in honor of team members who died this year.



Above: Ed Krolikowski, Charlie McGee, Bill Montgomery, and Camille Krowlikowski, celebrate Engineer Day while deployed to Afghanistan.

Below: Brian Mock, Hunter AAF, practices his jumpshot.



Craig Janhrette, visual information, impersonates Ivan Cohen, information management during the Engineer Day Talent show.



Renee Atkins, Diane Hayward, Betty Odom, Andrienne Nurse, and Carolyn Heyward impersonate the 60's singing group Martha and the Vandellas during the Engineer Day talent show.

FEST JOURNEYS TO



Tim Lamb, Seymour Johnson AFB field office (left), Kyong Cruz, and Shane Yearwood sit outside of their vehicles and eat breakfast.



By Tiffany Holloway
Staff Writer

With a temperature of 38 degrees, on Feb. 11, in the Mohave Desert, the experience of a lifetime began for Savannah District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced as they embarked on a three-week rotation at the National Training Center located at Fort Irwin California.

"It certainly didn't feel like we were in California. We were surrounded by desert and mountains and it was extremely dusty. If you didn't know you were in California, you would probably think you were in Iraq or Afghanistan," said Tim Lamb, a project engineer, and also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The team consists of Capt. John Collins, Kyong Cruz, Tim Lamb, and Shane Yearwood. They trained with the 3rd Brigade 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Team which will deploy this summer. Lamb volunteered to be part of the FEST because it sounded interesting and he already had the military background.

"I joined the FEST because I want to help out the country," said Cruz, an electrical engineer.

The team focused on analyzing sewer, water, electrical, academic and trash, which is called SWEAT, on various towns. FEST-A teams differ from other U.S. Army Corps

Photo (Left): Kyong Cruz, Ft. Bragg special operations field office, runs electrical engineering calculations and estimates for one of the villages the FEST team performed a S.W.E.A.T. analysis for.

THE MOHAVE DESERT

of Engineers field force engineering elements because they conduct the preliminary assessments. For instance, upon completing an infrastructure assessment the FEST can contact the engineering infrastructure intelligence reach-back center for technical assistance and engineering support.

"The reach-back center was available 24-hours a day and they were very timely, which resulted in having successful missions," said Shane Yearwood.

Capt. John Collins, a project engineer at Fort Benning and the military team leader, could "translate the green-suit environment" for the team. He said that he learned how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is capable of providing infrastructure assessment while being in an exposed environment similar to Iraq.

"The main goal at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin was to assist the brigade combat teams in assessing the state of the towns for future improvements," said Yearwood, mechanical engineer in the design branch.

The "towns," were mock villages constructed in the California desert, simulating Middle Eastern communities complete with as many as 40-50 town residents who spoke Arabic and required interpreters.

Yearwood said that a day might consist of going into a town escorted by Soldiers who had secured the town. The escort was for security reasons as well as for showing respect for the town.

The Soldiers would then talk with the Iraqi police chief or any other authority figure in the town. Once the Soldier received clearance, the FEST could request the presence of an Iraqi engineer or contractor to explain the town's structure. Both parties would have an informal meeting to discuss the town's situation before the war and how it had changed. Finally the FEST would walk through to assess the town and take photos. The team conducted SWEAT analyses in five different villages.

"We had to pretend for the exercise that buildings were destroyed, even though they were really intact. There were sensors attached to the buildings that would go off to indicate which sections were 'blown up.' It was different, but after a while, I felt like I was in a real war zone," said Yearwood.

"We had to wear vests, helmets and sensors that would go off if you were 'hit.'" A team member "hit" then pulled out a card with a description of the wound. "You had to lie on the ground until someone helped you get to the hospital. We received the card shortly after we got to Fort Irwin."

Cruz got "hit." She had a neck and shoulder wound. The escort team responded immediately, evacuating the FEST, the soldiers, and two casualties from the town. Cruz was taken to a casualty treatment center by Stryker vehicle.

"That was a good exercise," said Cruz. "Even when there was a mortar attack,

which was essentially, a large fire cracker, you were thinking 'I don't want to get hit.' Your instincts kick in and you want to get out of the way," said Yearwood.

Yearwood said that according to their observer-controller, they had a successful mission.

The FEST lived with the Soldiers in tents, washed their hair with water from canteens and even ate Meals Ready To Eat like Soldiers.

"I have always supported our troops, but now it really hits home about what they go through and how great our Soldiers are," said Yearwood.

Cruz said that she had a good experience and that it helped by having good team members. She said that she would do it again.

The call to duty came to an end on Mar. 3. They were back to seeing trees and grass, and they could finally sleep in their own beds instead of their SUV's.



CPT John Collins, Ft. Benning field office and Shane Yearwood, mechanical engineer designer, use the TCE-D Tele-Engineering Kit to communicate with their reach-back center to transfer information.

District Ramping Up to Support Mass Relocation to Benning

By **Tiffany Holloway**
and **Sarah McCleary**
Staff Writers
Photos by Jonas Jordan

A flood of Soldiers and their families relocating to Fort Benning, Ga., due to Army Transformation and base closures drive the demand for new facilities on the installation – a feat the Army Corps of Engineers views as a welcome challenge. In addition to the increase in Infantry Soldiers coming to the base, the Armor School out of Fort Knox, Ky., is merging with Fort Benning under the Army's plan for a modular force.

Corps projects underway or recently completed will provide the installation with much-needed facilities and services for the 10,000-plus Soldiers and family members who will call Fort Benning home. Various facilities including a fire station, chapel, fitness center, cargo apron, consolidated health clinic, shoot houses, combined arms collective training facility, digital multi-purpose range complex, and a barracks complex comprise a portion of the major military construction projects at the home of the Infantry.

Construction of the fire station and chapel is complete. The new one-story fire station has a kitchen with dayroom that doubles for dining or recreational purposes. Sleeping quarters are part of the facility, as well as administrative offices, medical room, and an apparatus storage room with a separate room

for disinfecting the equipment.

The old fire station, built in 1937, had many of the firefighters using their sleeping rooms as offices due to lack of space. Other firemen and women slept in open bays and shared bathroom facilities. The new fire station boasts separate bathrooms for women and men, as well as more space in their living quarters.

"It's like we have died and gone to heaven," said Fire Chief Arthur Simmons. "It took a while to get funding, but Project Manager Ken Holloway worked with the Director of Public Works and was instrumental in helping us get the new fire station."

The chaplains held a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 4, 2005. Lt. Col Ron Smith, the garrison chaplain, said the chapel seats 600 and has about 2,400 visitors every week, attending Protestant, Catholic and Jewish services.

On the heels of the chapel dedication, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new fitness center was held on March 17. The new fitness center will have both a lap pool and a recreation pool, free weights, plate load and select-a-size weights, and cardiovascular equipment, such as bikes and treadmills. Other features of the new facility include a rock climbing wall, separate saunas for men and women, and family changing rooms.

Another project underway, scheduled

for completion in August, is the cargo apron located at Lawson Army Airfield.

"The cargo apron's purpose is to let airplanes load and unload their hazardous cargo," said Leroy Fedd, Quality Assurance Representative.

Fedd said that poor soil conditions and erosion have made the project a challenge. To help with erosion control, engineers developed a field material used to cover concrete piping that is acting to bridge and control the flow of a creek.

Fortunately, the consolidated health clinic has not experienced challenges during production. Construction on the clinic, a one-story building that will serve 200 patients at a time, began in May 2005. The clinic will serve approximately 37,000 visitors each year, providing x-ray, audio testing and physical therapy facilities never available before.

"The clinic will offer Soldiers one building, as opposed to several different buildings to obtain treatment," said Ronald Hodge, Quality Assurance Representative. The clinic is centrally located and provides convenient access. "We are trying to make the Soldier's life as easy as it can be."

To help Soldiers hone their combat skills, Savannah District is constructing shoot houses, a combined arms collective training facility and a digital multi-purpose range



Photo (above): Outside view of the new Chapel at Ft. Benning. (Left): Lt. Col. Ron Smith, chaplain, stands in the new chapel, which seats 600 and has about 2400 visitors every week.





Photo (Above): Chad McCloud, civil engineer and a contractor representative discuss construction of the new Kelly Hill barracks at Ft. Benning. (Below): Leroy, Fedd, construction representative, inspects the exhaust venting for the fire engines at the new firestation. The new one-story firestation, which replaces the old firestation built in 1937, comes complete with a kitchen, dayroom, sleeping quarters, administrative offices, a medical room, and an apparatus storage room.

complex allowing Soldiers to train in modern facilities with state-of-the-art equipment.

The District is also building much-needed barracks for the 3rd Brigade Combat Infantry Division, housing 144 Soldiers per complex. Each Soldier will have a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen in the new facility. "The barracks complex will also include a brigade headquarters and two battalion headquarters with company operations facilities,"

said Rich English, Resident Engineer.

The increase in the Corps' responsibilities at Fort Benning as it transforms to a full-spectrum force require an increase in administrative staff, from 35 to 115 at the peak of construction according to Joe Caggiano, Assistant Chief of Construction Division. "Savannah District will be engaged in an extremely robust workload over the next several years in order

to provide quality facilities for the deserving Soldiers and their families," said Tim Morris, Corps Senior Project Manager for Fort Benning. "Funding for military construction at the base will climb from \$50 million to more than \$300 million each year for the next three years."



ON THE MOVE

New Arrivals

Cheek, Shirley K.
 Cheek, Warren M.
 Clark, Timothy L.
 Cook, Matt S.
 Hall, Stephanie L.
 Meyers, Florence Jean
 Porter, Patricia H.
 Tillman, Christopher L.
 Torchia, Linden J.
 Wilkins, Michael

CPAC
 Engineering
 Construction
 Engineering
 Project Mgmt.
 Safety Office
 Construction
 Construction
 Construction

Departures

Burgess, Edgar E.
 Huff, Frank D.
 Marlow, Lavina G.

Construction
 Operations
 Construction

In 2005, Hurricane Frances rushed onto the shores of Daytona Beach, Fla., causing millions of dollars in damage.

When a hurricane strikes, will you be VICTIM OR SURVIVOR?

Photo by Jonas Jordan

In the late 1960s New England, two kids pressed their noses against the living room picture window as a hurricane approached. As the wind increased, the trees began to bend and branches started to break. The two kids watched debris fly by with no thought that the window could break and cause injury. After the storm passed the power lines and trees were down blocking vehicle traffic.

The two kids in the storm form a small picture of what you might encounter if you choose not to evacuate ahead of a land-falling hurricane. "After Hurricane Katrina passed over New Orleans last year, the people who failed to leave spoke about the lack of services and the difficult living conditions," said Chris Klein, chief, emergency management division. "No power means no air conditioning; no ATM access and the grocery stores will be closed. Debris means that you cannot escape unless you cut your way out with a chain saw," said Klein, who has deployed many times to assist with hurricane response and recovery efforts.

"These days it's difficult to turn on the Weather Channel or local news without seeing some discussion about hurricane safety and preparation that we didn't have years ago," said Klein.

As a result, Klein said that more information is now available to tell us how to plan for and behave during a hurricane to keep us safe.

So what is a person living in a hurricane-prone area to do? How do people plan? When do they evacuate? Thinking through these issues before hurricane season will help you to avoid panic.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON HEATS UP

Purchase a battery operated television. "We rode out Hurricane Frances in the Jacksonville area where we lost power for 24 hours. We had a radio, but every time the meteorologist pointed to the map and said, 'hey look at this' we obviously had no idea what he was talking about. A small television would have made a difference," said Klein.

Batteries and flashlights. Every household has flashlights that either don't work or batteries that are dead. Replace them. The "plug in" rechargeable type tend to die also. Check them periodically.

Get Flood Insurance. The normal homeowners insurance policy will typically cover wind and rain damage but not flood damage. Flood insurance can be inexpensive in areas where it is not required. Remember, the Hurricane Katrina storm surge went inland 18 miles. There is typically a 30 day wait period from the time you apply for flood insurance to the time it goes into affect. While waiting for a hurricane to approach, is not the time to apply for coverage.

Stock water and food. Plan on not being able to heat the food. The rule of thumb on water is 1 gallon per person per day. "After the storm passes, you may be working to recover which will cause you to drink more water. Even if you don't work, the aftermath of the storm typically brings higher humidity, and you will be drinking more water than normal simply sitting in the humidity without air conditioning," said Klein.

Build Your Hurricane Kit. Include all

suggested items such as flashlights and a first aid kit.

Pre-identify an evacuation location. Choose a place with plenty of hotel rooms. Identify a hotel and keep the phone number before hurricane season. Make a reservation before you evacuate.

Consider a Generator. If you use a generator, remember never use it indoors. The generator will produce toxic fumes and may cause fire if used inside. "After Hurricane Andrew passed, the small generators available at hardware stores for under one-thousand dollars were being sold along the road for five times that much," said Klein. "If you think you may want a generator then don't wait until after the storm."

Purchase a Chest Freezer. The freezer will keep foods frozen for a long period. Fill milk jugs half full of water to allow for expansion and freeze them for use in the refrigerator when the power goes out. Turn the setting to the coldest 24 hours before landfall.

Document all your valuables. The insurance company may question your claim if you cannot provide proof of ownership. Keep sales receipts and photograph valuables.

The following are some do's and don'ts when it comes to hurricanes based on personal experience and the experience of others.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Local governments and county Emergency Management Directors or designated alternates are responsible for maintaining the emergency communication and warning



Photo by Abigail R. Minor

Thurmond Lake Employees Receive Advanced Degrees from ASU

By Rashida Banks
Editor/Staff Writer

Annette Carter and Philip Stavale, park rangers at Thurmond Lake received their Master of Public Administration degrees from Augusta State University on May 13.

Carter holds a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a major in recreation, parks management and administration. Prior to coming to the J. Strom Thurmond Project in 1994, she served as a voucher examiner for the Omaha District and as a park ranger for the Missouri River Project.

Carter is the mother of Abigail Minor, a junior at Lincoln County High School and step-mother of Jillian Carter, a freshman at the University of Georgia.

Stavale, who came to the Savannah District in March 1986, holds a Bachelors of Science degree in recreation and park administration from California State University at Sacramento. Previously, he worked for the Omaha and Sacramento Districts, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Stavale began pursuing his MPA degree in 2004.

The MPA program involved in-depth research on public organizations, human resources, government administration, and Constitutional law.

Both graduated with honors, and are members of Pi Alpha Alpha, a national honor society for Public Affairs and Administration, which requires a minimum 3.75 GPA for membership.

systems. The County Commission Chairmen and Mayors work with the Emergency Management Directors to provide uniform public information. The Emergency Management Directors are, however, the chief spokespersons during a hurricane and will oversee the release of all emergency public information. Radio and television stations will provide initial release of information and notification to allow early evacuation if necessary. In summary, listen to the local officials. If evacuation is recommended for your area, follow that guidance. It is for your protection.

AS YOU EVACUATE

Do stay off the main roads if you can. Evacuation on interstates means competing with the other traffic such as commercial, commuter and others evacuating. We saw those evacuating ahead of Hurricane Rita caught in gridlock last year. Traffic contraflow will have all lanes leaving the evacuation area but that doesn't guarantee that gridlock won't happen. The last place you want to be when the storm arrives is stuck in your car.

You have an advantage over those evacuating from other areas as you are familiar with the local roads. Try to use the back roads.

Do make arrangements for pets. Some hotels wel-

come pets. Know this in advance.

Do store food and water in your car. In case you find yourself in the car for a long time.

Do bring all important papers. This includes legal documents, insurance papers and any personal belongings proof of ownership in the way of photos or receipts. "In the past we have taken our computer CPU and left the monitor when there wasn't room in the car," said Klein.

RELEASE FROM WORK

If hazardous weather conditions or emergency situations occur, it is to the discretion of the commander to authorize group dismissals or closures. Employees should not assume that excused absences will be granted in all situations. In some instances, a liberal leave policy may be more appropriate. Every team member should carry a Hazardous Weather Event Card available from HR. Cards were distributed to all divisions. In summary, preparation for hurricane season should be completed in advance of hurricanes

forming. The objective of your preparations, if you don't evacuate, is to be totally self-sufficient for four days after the storm.

Klein said that last year during hurricane season, the governor of Florida warned people to prepare before the landfall of Hurricane Wilma.

"Some failed to heed the warning and were lacking resources after 24 hours. They became hurricane victims. Those who heeded the warnings and planned were survivors," said Klein.

Having a plan and then executing that plan will relieve the panic that results in irrational decisions that can put you and your family at risk. Be a survivor not a victim!

Additional Information can be found in the CESAS 500-1-13 "Savannah District Hurricane Notification, Evacuation and Recall Procedures" which can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/em/index.html>.

Preparedness information is available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>



U S ARMY PARACHUTE TEAM

Golden Knights

Announces its Assessment and Selection Program

Applications are found on the website. (AKA tryouts)
Click the downloads link. Applications are due by 30 Jul 06

<http://www.armygoldenknights.com>






Amber and Daniel Smith, niece and grandson of Evelyn Smith, resource management division, take a computer skills workshop during the district's annual "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day" on April 27.

