

The

# castle

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Corps Day 2008

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U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers

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#### FRONT COVER

One-year-old Demtrius Banks, Jr., son of Shapala Banks, Real Estate Division, enjoys a snow cone at Lotts Island, Hunter Army Airfield, during the district's annual Corps Day.

Photo by Rashida Banks

#### BACK COVER

Phinizy Davis, power project manager, Thurmond Project and Dr. Gustavo Cornelius Jensen, Head of Hydro in the Environmental Management Department of Cahora Bassa Hydropower Company, Mozambique, discuss the cross sectional drawing of the Thurmond Powerplant.

Photo by Erika Nortemann



Jim Gatling, a project engineer on rest and recuperation from the Corps' Gulf Region Division, throws the first pitch during the the District's night at the Sand Gnats game.

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**Billy Birdwell**  
Chief, Public Affairs

Drought issues. Late night media calls. Climbing overhead rates. Long hours. Public meetings with concerned citizens. Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines. Am I getting too old for this?

# Why do I still do this?

I find myself thinking this from time to time. Daily frustrations can lead to doubts about one's effectiveness to this District. Does what I do really matter? Is my job really important? Who even cares?

Then I glance out of the window. In my third floor office I look across one of Savannah's historic squares. I see Americans walking about freely. I see people scurrying about on their business or lunch breaks. I see folks doing what they please without fear.

In this historic square a tall live oak reaches for the blue sky. Near the top of the tree, just about at my eye level, the branches of this oak form a hole. Several blocks beyond the square, perfectly

centered in this hole I see an American flag constantly flapping in the sea breeze coming up the Savannah River. When I see this I know why I continue. I know who it matters to that I do a good job. The American people care.

They don't know me. They don't really know what I do daily. But I know who I am and what I do. I know I work for the American people. Our nation deserves our best.

From where I sit I see the symbol of the United States of America every day. 'Old Glory' flies free and I come here every day to help keep her flying free.

## Joe Rogers named Distinguished Gallery Civilian for 2008

Joseph H. Rogers, who retired from the Savannah District in 2000 as the Chief of Engineering Division following a remarkable 31-year career, was named the 2008 Distinguished Gallery Civilian.

Rogers began his career with the Corps of Engineers at Savannah District in July 1969 as an engineer intern assigned to the Ft. Bragg Resident Office in support of the Tarheel Army Missile Plant. He also worked in the Geotechnical & HTRW Branch, and later as Chief in the Soils Section, handling a large and diverse workload, including critical civil works projects – the Richard B. Russell Dam, Falls Lake and Dam and the Cooper River Re-Diversion Powerhouse and Canal projects.

Perhaps his most pivotal role was in securing approval to proceed with the design and construction of the Russell Project which was embroiled in political controversy over the design, safety and funding.

As a member of the USACE team charged with evaluating the design strategy and providing a thorough report and recommendation to the board of consultants, Rogers worked tirelessly to ensure the investigative analysis was flawlessly performed. The board recommended approval of the Richard B.

Russell project to President Carter and the Savannah District received immediate authorization to proceed with construction of the \$638 million project which is the largest hydropower east of the Mississippi River and one of the largest pumped storage facilities in the world.

Under his leadership, the District developed a geotechnical investigative capability unmatched in the Corps of Engineers. He led the way in the acquisition of the Site Characterization and Analysis Penetrometer System, one of only three vehicles in the Corps designed for environmental investigations.

Rogers is a visionary and was one of the first to recognize the vast potential in the rapidly growing field of Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste. His involvement in the development of proposals and negotiations would have a profound and long-term effect for Savannah District in securing this significant mission. He led the way in the "team" concept of delivering projects for our customers encouraging teamwork across organizational lines. This resulted in the creation of the "HTRW Team" comprised of members Engineering Division, Programs and Project Management Division and Contracting Division. Later, he helped to secure the final accreditation



**Rogers**

for Savannah District as an HTRW Design District.

Rogers worked tirelessly to improve the efficiency of the in-house design team and was an early and ardent proponent of the Total Quality Management process. Always forward-looking and highly innovative, he expanded the mission and services of Engineering Division in several areas including establishing a section to provide creative, highly advanced and competitive CADD and GIS services.

Throughout his career, Rogers was recognized for the many program initiatives he developed that focused on employee morale, mentoring, development, and community involvement. At his retirement, he was awarded the Department of Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award and the prestigious Army Engineer Association Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.



Jason Ward, hydrologist, Savannah District explains to Romas Kamanga, Elenestina Mwelwa, and Christopher Nthala, of the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd., and Dr. Lindsey Beevers, lecturer in hydraulic engineering and river basin development at UNESCO-INE Institute for Water Education, how the Savannah River compares to other coastal plain rivers in Georgia.

# African hydropower authorities tour Savannah River Basin

**By Rashida Banks**  
Staff Writer

A delegation of hydropower authorities from Africa's Zambezi River Basin visited the Savannah District June 25 as part of a ten-day tour to share information about ecologically sustainable river basin management.

Funded by a partnership between the Corps and the Nature Conservancy, the visit provided a forum for water managers from Africa and the United States to share information and discuss lessons learned from the Sustainable Rivers Project (SRP) in order to help water managers address challenges faced in the Zambezi River Basin.

"Our goal is to create examples for the rest of the world," said Andy Warner, senior advisor for water management, the Nature Conservancy. "We are not only looking to share our experiences and successes, but also our challenges and solutions."

The SRP is a collaboration between the Corps of Engineers

and the Nature Conservancy designed to define and implement environmental flows through adaptive reservoir management, while meeting a range of other human needs such as hydropower generation, flood risk management, and water supply. The SRP currently involves work on 36 Corps dams in eight basins across the U.S. - including the Savannah.

The primary focus of the visit was on the Savannah River where managers face sustainable development challenges similar to those in the Zambezi River Basin, such as hydropower development, management of flood risk, floodplains, fisheries, and water supply and water quality; maintenance and development of infrastructure; conjunctive dam operations; and conservation of ecosystem services, wetlands, and biological diversity.

During the meeting at the District, Isreal Phiri, manager, Office for promoting Private Power Investment, Zambia Ministry of Energy and Water Development, gave an overview of the Zambezi River Basin and discussed some of the water resources management challenges associated with the basin as well as



current strategies and solutions.

In comparison to the Savannah River Basin, the Zambezi River Basin is much larger, covering 1500 miles across eight countries, making water management in the basin difficult due to various competing interests, said Phiri.

In addition to meetings in Washington DC and Georgia, the delegation also toured the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, J. Strom Thurmond Dam, and multiple points of interest within the basin such as the river floodplain, harbor, estuary, barrier island, and the city of Atlanta.

“The value of partnerships has been shown here,” said Ele-nestina Mwelwa, senior manager in charge of the Environment and Social Affairs Unit, ZESCO. “This is a little step, but it is in the right direction,” said Mwelwa of the visit.



PHOTO:(TOP) Shelly Lakly, Ph.D, state director, Georgia Chapter, The Nature Conservancy and Col. Edward J. Kertis, commander, Savannah District talk during the study exchange meeting at the district headquarters in Savannah.



LEFT: Steve Wynn, power project manager, J. Strom Thurmond Project discusses an aerated turbine with Forpu Njikam, Department of the Army civil engineering intern and Dr. Joerg Hartmann, dams initiative leader, World Wide Fund for Nature, Germany.

RIGHT: Andy Warner, senior advisor for water management, the Nature Conservancy participates in a roundtable discussion about water resources management with hydropower authorities from Africa's Zambezi River Basin and the Savannah District.





## **Supervisor of the Year Keith Crowe**

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Keith Crowe is the Operations Project Manager at the Richard B. Russell Project. Crowe has built trust between himself and each of the project team members by holding one-on-one sessions to foster better understanding and mutual respect. He supports and encourages his employees' training and developmental assignments and has been a strong supporter of the employee recognition and awards programs. As the new Operations Project Manager, he sets many goals that deal directly with taking care of team members and developing their leadership skills and making sure they are recognized for their accomplishments. He is a well-respected leader in the District and is known as a mentor and supportive role model.



## **Team Member of the Year, Engineering and Scientific, Diego Martinez**

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Diego Martinez is Chief in the Army Section, Military Programs and Project Management Branch. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Military Program grew from \$500 million to more than one billion dollars. The Army portion was \$713 million, representing the largest Army construction program in the Corps, and the largest the District has ever executed. Diego led the team that awarded 95 percent of the Army program, 100 percent of the Army BRAC program, and 100 percent of the Operations and Maintenance projects. The Army programs were awarded despite a volatile and saturated construction market. Due to his leadership, management skills, and customer focus, the Savannah District received the IMCOM Installation Support Program of the Year award for support to Ft. Bragg for the second time in three years.



## **Team Member of the Year, Other Than Engineering and Scientific Fields, Ken Coe**

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Ken Coe is a senior Budget Analyst, with the Resource Management Division. In February 2008, the Resource Management Budget Office was faced with coordinating the development of the District's largest operating budget ever – more than \$1 billion. There were significant obstacles and many of the key positions in the office were filled with new employees, and budget analyst positions in four out of the five offices making up the CDO budget were vacant. Within a matter of a couple of days Coe was able to develop several queries to electronically extract information that allowed computation of the data necessary to develop the budget. Through Coe's support, the District was able to pull through this remarkably challenging time. Savannah achieved the lowest rates in the South Atlantic Division. This was a win-win situation for the District, the Region, and our customers. Coe's "can do" attitude and extensive knowledge of accounting and information technology came to our rescue.



## **Student Team Member of the Year Michael Bringman**

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Michael Bringman is a Civil Engineer with the Hunter Army Airfield Resident Office. He has spent more than three years as a co-op student and eight months as a Department of Army intern. Bringman has developed into a strong Quality Assurance Representative, quickly learning the required procedures and processes to succeed. The Resident Office relies upon Bringman heavily and he has consistently taken on additional duties in order to improve his knowledge and value to the Construction Division. Bringman is a highly motivated team player with a bright future in the Army Corps of Engineers.



# Resource Management hosts open account balance training

By Rashida Banks  
Staff Writer



**Martha Coley, Resource Management, Sandra Plymale, Public Affairs, Joy Forbes, Real Estate Division, and Chung Howsare, Internal Review, watch an impromptu skit performed by Andra Homer(above) and Jesse King(below) of Resource Management Division, and Chris Green, Project Management Division (below) about the importance of effective communication when handling financial transactions in the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS).**

**R**esource Management Division hosted its annual Open Account Balance training on August 6.

The one-day training, which focuses on improving the district's financial processes, is geared towards employees who work with the Corps of Engineers Financial Management Systems (CEFMS).

"Anyone that works in CEFMS is impacting our financial statements," said Brenda Ponder, finance and accounting officer, Resource Management Division. "We are here today to share information and to introduce tools and strategies that will improve current processes as well as improve on maintaining proper documentation."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received a qualified opinion on its financial statement audit for FY 2006 and FY 2007. "The Corps is the largest Department of Defense entity to receive a favorable opinion to date and the lessons learned are being applied across the Department," said Ponder.

Employees who attended the training were able to hear from different offices who are involved in the financial process, including Contracting Division, Internal Review, and Project Management Division. In addition, they were able to share their own ideas and experiences and format solutions.

"The outstanding joint teamwork by RM, CD, IR, and PM made this training a great success," said Ponder.

Overall, the feedback received from course attendees was very good, according to Ginger Nesmith, chief, Management Accounting Section, Resource Management Division.

"Many employees said that the training was informative and fun," said Nesmith. Nesmith said that Resource Management will continue to provide employees with tools and procedures to validate open account balances.



# CORPS DAY 2008

Photos by Rashida Banks and Jennifer Small

Corps Day 2008 festivities began with the annual awards ceremony and continued with food, fun, and festivities for all.

Activities for the kids included cookie decorating, a water slide, and a cotton candy machine.

Team members watch annual awards ceremony at Lotts Island



Ruthie Paige, Logistics Mgmt. Division, prepares food for team members during Engineer Day



Mabel Ruth, Real Estate Division



Evie Miller, 3, daughter of Gwendolyn Miller, Contracting Division



Children enjoy the water slide





**Craig Wright, Resource Management  
Division and wife Melody**



**Carolyn Heyward,  
Engineering Division**



**Photo Above (LEFT to RIGHT): Jeremiah  
Odeh-Adimah, husband of Maya Odeh-  
Adimah, Regulatory Division, Morrow  
office, Jeff King, Regulatory Division,  
and Miriam Magwood former chief,  
Regulatory Division**

**Cookie Decorating**



**Children enjoy Cotton  
Candy at Corps Day**



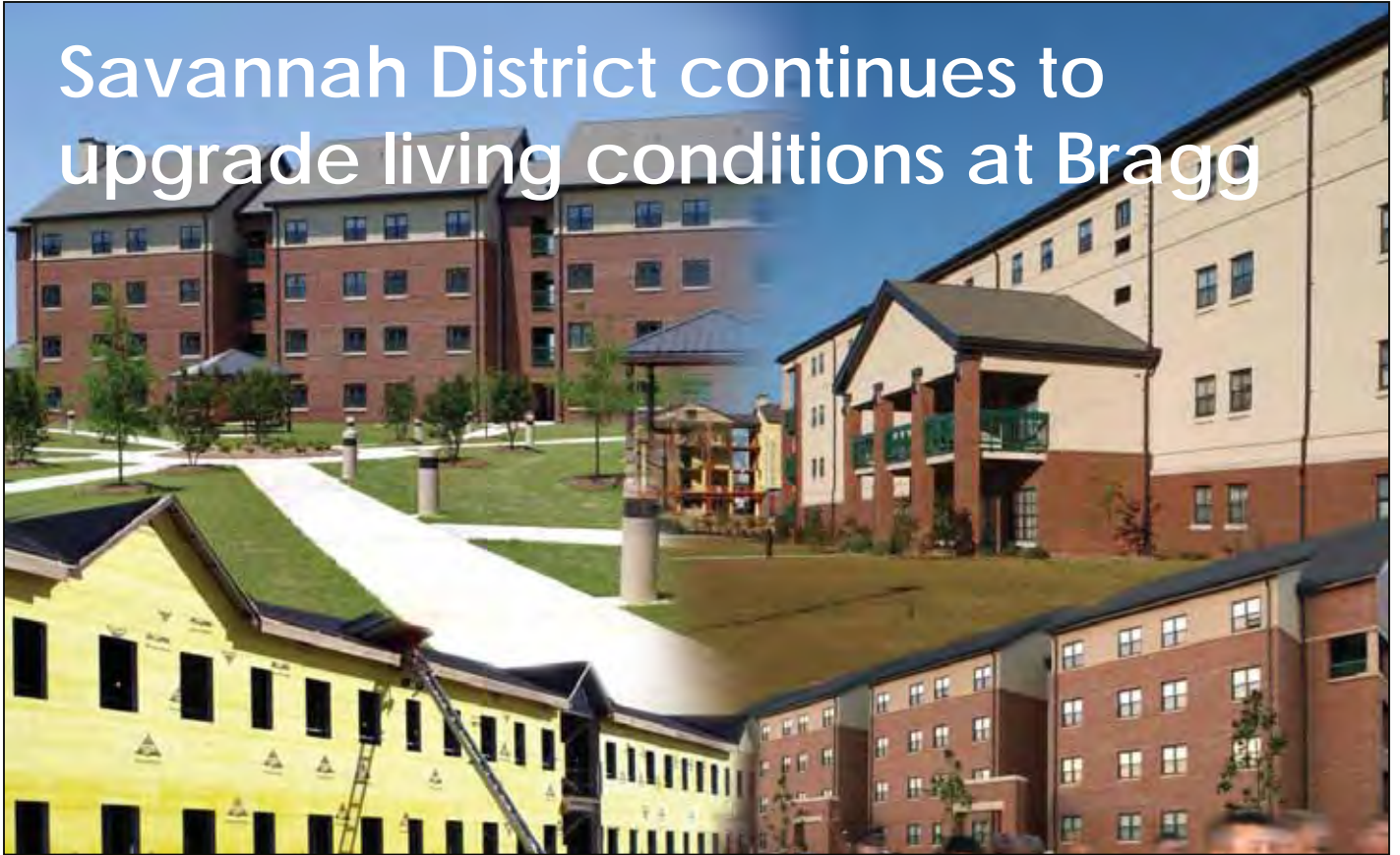
**Deante Greene, 7 son of Takesha Green, ACE-IT and  
Ri'Jhaun Maxwell, 5, grandson of Betty Neal, Engi-  
neering Division.**

**Team members receive free goodies from  
Savannah Federal Credit Union**





# Savannah District continues to upgrade living conditions at Bragg



In order to provide Soldiers at Fort Benning a higher standard of living, the Savannah District has begun transferring Soldiers from the old to new barracks. Barracks shown CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1st Brigade Barracks, SEP Barracks, and CAB Barracks at Fort Bragg.

**By Jennifer Small**  
Staff Writer

Since 1997, the Savannah District has built and renovated barracks at Fort Bragg, upgrading living for Soldiers from Korean-era barracks to the Army's standard of "one-plus-one."

The "one-plus-one" standard barracks rooms allow every two Soldiers have their own bedrooms but share a bathroom and kitchen.

However, in the aftermath of a video posted on YouTube showing poor conditions at Fort Bragg barracks, the Army, the Corps of Engineers and the Savannah District have come under fire on living conditions of Soldiers on Fort Bragg, and all installations.

The video was posted April 23 by the father of an 82nd Airborne Division Soldier who returned to Fort Bragg from a 15-month tour in Afghanistan, and showed barracks that had mold, peeling paint, plumbing problems and a bathroom drain clogged with what appeared to be sewage.

According to Ken Gray, Savannah District Area Engineer at Fort Bragg, the troops living in the barracks in the YouTube video came home early from Afghanistan, and hadn't put in any work orders for their barracks before reoccupying them.

"Units are stressed to put in work orders [for their barracks] prior to redeployment," he said. "There were definitely some things wrong with that building, but they left it empty for over a year. As soon as they put in the work order, it was fixed."

Despite the uproar over the video, Charlie Company 2/508 of the 82nd Airborne Division is still housed in the same barracks building. Gray said that the barracks in the video are

"near the end of their life and are to be replaced in 2010."

Gray said that the Army's Installation Management Agency is looking at implementing a "barracks manager" program, where a person will watch and manage the repair process of the facilities whether the Soldiers are deployed or not, which would help alleviate the problem of Soldiers coming home to barracks that haven't been properly mended for their arrival.

In order to give the Soldiers at Fort Benning a higher standard of living, the Savannah District has begun transferring Soldiers from the old to new barracks. However, a project of this magnitude takes time.

All awards for the Fort Bragg barracks replacement program that is transferring troops from the Korean-era barracks to the one-plus-one standard will be awarded by 2012.

At the moment, over half a billion dollars is going to construction of barracks, with the 2nd Brigade barracks phases III and IV due to be completed in January, and 3rd Brigade barracks phases I and II due to be completed in July 2009.

However, not all of the barracks were built simultaneously, so while some troops are living in the new "one-plus-one" barracks, others have to make due with the older barracks.

"We couldn't just tear down all of the barracks at once, we had to stair-step so the troops would have somewhere to live," Gray said. "It's half-and-half; about half [of the troops] are living in the new barracks, and the other half are living in the older barracks while more new barracks are being constructed."

Upon completion, the Fort Bragg barracks program will total more than a billion dollars, and will house more than 10,000 troops.



# 'Water safety is a choice that saves lives'

By Jennifer Small  
Staff Writer

We're into the dog days of summer, and there is nothing more refreshing on a hot day than a swim in one of Savannah District's three lovely lakes.

But when you head out to Lake Thurmond, Hartwell or Russell, it is important to remember water safety.

With a drought that has reached "extreme" in much of the lake areas, most of the designated swimming areas at Thurmond and Hartwell are dry, leaving people to swim in unknown areas.

"If you are swimming in an unknown swim area, be very, very cautious," said Jay Weidman, a Lake Thurmond park ranger. "The bottom drop offs are unknown, and that is when problems can occur. Even for good swimmers, when you get out deep and think there's going to be a bottom out there for you and there isn't, panic can set it."

A problem that many swimmers encounter is the difference between swimming in a pool, and in a lake.

"Even if you're really confident in your swimming abilities, swimming in a lake, open water, is very different than in a pool, with environmental factors like waves and wind" said Weidman. "People need to weigh their ability against the reality of the situation - people have to recognize their physical limitations."

Distances over water are hugely deceiving, and people often think swimming to a sandbar or island will be easier than it is.

"People look at the water and think they can swim that far," Weidman said. "But half way or two-thirds of the way across is a heck of a time to find you can't make it."

The Lake Thurmond Office has gone so far as to put signs up on a shallow spot off of the West Dam picnic area that warns swimmers to stay away.

"The low lake levels have exposed a shallow spot, and it's become a defacto island," Weidman said. "We've had people trying to swim to it, not realizing how far away it really is."

The Savannah District Lake Offices have started a program in 2008 called the "Lifejacket Loaner Program," where stands are set up at various swimming areas on Lake Thurmond and Lake Hartwell where users can borrow a lifejacket, and put it back at the end of the day.

"We're testing it at one of our beaches [at Lake Thurmond], and Hartwell has it a few of theirs," Weidman said of the Lifejacket Loaner Program. "We have loaners available for use, and it's worked fairly well. We haven't had too many of them walk, and I've seen quite a few of them being used. But, it's a personal choice for someone to put one on, or to put one on their children."

When it comes to wearing a personal flotation device, its not just putting one on that is important - it is putting on the right one.



**South Carolina law requires that all children under 12 years of age wear a U.S. Coast Guard- approved Personal Flotation Device on a boat less than 16 feet. The PFD must be fastened and of proper size for the child.**

"The gold standard is Coast Guard approved, so that's what you want to look for," Weidman. "On each PFD label it will tell you the size, and who its fits. A person not wearing the right size life jacket is a problem, and we stress to people that they make sure they are wearing the right size PFD. Just because you can fit a certain lifejacket on, doesn't mean it will support your body weight."

Georgia and South Carolina have slightly different laws for PFDs.

South Carolina law requires that all children under 12 years of age wear a U.S. Coast Guard- approved PFD on a boat less than 16 feet. The PFD must be fastened and of proper size for the child. PFD's are not required to be worn on boats larger than 16 feet, but there must be a PFD on board that fits each person on the vessel.

In Georgia, children under 10 years of age must wear a U.S. Coast Guard- approved PFD on any moving vessel.

But safety should always come first, even if it isn't necessarily the law.

"If I'm out on a boat and have minor kids on board, I'm gonna put them in a PFD," Weidman said, adding that, "at work, out on the water, I always have my PFD on."

In the end, water safety is a choice - if you can't swim, wear a PFD, and take swimming lessons, said Weidman. In the end, it is a decision that could save your life.

# District team members travel to J. Strom Thurmond Project



**More than 35 District employees attended a one-day trip to the J. Strom Thurmond Project on July 10. Team members who attended the trip received an overview of the Thurmond Project and were given a tour of the Powerplant and some of the recreation sites.**

**By Jennifer Small  
Staff Writer**

If you have worked in the Juliette Gordon Low Federal Building for 10 years and have never been out in the field to see any of the projects you work on from your cozy cubicle, you aren't alone.

To try to stop the above scenario from being the norm, Savannah District commander, Col. Ed Kertis, organized a trip to the J. Strom Thurmond Project on July 10 for any Savannah District team member interested in seeing the civil side of the District.

Kertis, along with six Soldiers and about 30 civilians loaded a bus in the early morning to make the three-hour journey to Thurmond Lake, and returned in the late afternoon.

Kertis got the idea of taking District employees out in the field when he realized that many District employees had never seen, in person, the projects which they work on.

"In a previous assignment, the chief of counsel remarked that she'd never been to a field site, so from then on, when-

ever I went out on a site visit, I'd bring someone who had never been with me," he said. "The mission of the organization is so diverse that folks working on one side of the Corps don't know what folks on the other side do."

However, this was his first visit of this magnitude, with more than 35 people taking part.

"The people downtown [Savannah] rarely have the opportunity to see the work that they are supporting," Kertis said. "From the people who participated, I haven't gotten any negative feedback. Everyone has said that it was an eye-opening experience, and they're proud of what we do out in the field. It gave them a new appreciation for what they do in the District."

The visit began with an overview of the J. Strom Thurmond Project by Ken Dial, Thurmond Project Resource Manager, at the visitor's center. After the welcome, Dial, assistant resource manager Aaron Wahus and chief park ranger Chrissy Westerberg gave a tour of some of the recreation areas.

They first stopped at the Lake Springs day-use recreation site, the largest day-

use site in the Corps of Engineers, they continued on to Petersburg Campground, which is rated one of the top-100 camp sites in the Corps.

Next the group toured the Thurmond Power Plant, where manager Phinizy Davis led groups of district teammates throughout the facility.

For people like Marilyn Ames from the Office of Counsel, who has worked at headquarters for 17 years and never visited the field, the trip was the chance to see the projects she has worked on for so long.

"In 17 years with the Corps, a lot of my work has had to do with civil works and the projects, but I have never actually seen one of our lake or dam projects before," she said. "This was the first time I'd been out to one, and just to see it was really great; it made me appreciate what we do even more."

For the Soldiers who made the trip, it was a chance to see the side of the military, and the Corps, that they rarely see.

"This was a good opportunity for an Army guy to get exposure to the other side of our [the Corps'] mission," said Maj. Ben Bennett, a project manager on



## Former Savannah District Executive Assistant Dies

**J**ulian Laurens Carter, Sr., age 85, a former Comptroller and Executive Assistant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer, Savannah



**Carter**

District, died August 4 at Azalealand Nursing Home after a short illness.

His portrait hangs in the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees at the Savannah Office. He was a past president of the Savannah Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers and was also a designee on the Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners for the Savannah District.

Mr. Carter was born at Augusta, Georgia, raised in Anderson, SC, and lived in Savannah for the past fifty years. He was a graduate of the University of Georgia and was a member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia.

During World War II, he served in the 65th Troop Carrier Squadron, 5th U.S. Army Air Force. He served in Lae, New Guinea, Biak and Morotai Island Territories of Indonesia, Leyte and Mindoro Islands in the Philippines.

Mr. Carter was a member of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church and served on its Administrative Board and Finance Committee. He and his wife shared the treasurer responsibilities for seventeen years. He was treasurer and finance chairman of the Candler Hospital Auxiliary, a volunteer tax consultant for the elderly for the American Association of Retired Persons, and a volunteer income tax assistant for the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Carter also taught Advanced Accounting at night at Armstrong Junior College.



**Thurmond Powerplant Manager Phinizy Davis, gives district team members a tour of the Powerplant during a visit there July 10.**

the Fort Benning team. "For those of us trying to leave as much as we can about the Corps, it was a great chance to see the other side, because our next assignment could be a civil works district."

Bennett, an 11-year engineering officer, has never served on a Corps' civil works project, with most of his assignments as a combat engineer.

"What we saw out here, it's relevant in more than just the Savannah District," Bennett said of seeing the lake and dam project. "It is important for support and stability operations, such as dam projects in Iraq. Any opportunity to take the time and be exposed to it is not time wasted."

After the success of the trip to Thurmond, Kertis plans to take another group out to Fort Stewart to see a military construction site.

"I'd like this to be an annual thing," he said. "In the fall, I want to take people out to walk a construction site, so they can see what we do for our Soldiers with those billions of dollars."

For those who didn't make the trip to Thurmond, Adams urges them to get out and see the work the Savannah District does in the field.

"I'm sure there are many people, like me, who never get out of the building to see what we do," Adams said. "The whole bus should be full. I think, given the opportunity, everyone should go out to see what it is we do."

**Col. George "Thatch" Shepard, former deputy commander, Savannah District and Maj. William N. Craig, project engineer at the Ft. Bragg SOF Resident Office view a display of a mechanical governor at Thurmond Dam.**



# Spotlight on Emergency Management



By Jennifer Small  
Staff Writer

Corps inspector watches a contractor dig up dirt for the new sewer line during Hurricane Wilma.

In the wake of the floods in the Midwest, which are being called the worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Katrina, the Savannah District Emergency Management Division sent their power and housing teams to assist in disaster relief, a subject in which they are well-versed. These teams have also deployed to hurricanes in Florida and to three states after Katrina.

But what exactly is the Savannah District Emergency Management Division responsible for?

According to Division Chief Chris Klein, EM's mission is "to plan for and execute disaster response recovery."

Under the Emergency Support Function 3 of the Federal Response Plan, Savannah District provides Emergency Power Planning and Temporary Housing Response Teams, and must act on them as directed.

The Temporary Housing Team steps in when a disaster may be severe enough to warrant getting residents temporary housing, from shelter, to hotel rooms, apartments, and as a last resort, trailers. The Emergency Power Team responds when a disaster demands the need for emergency power such as generators, to keep essential public services functioning.

Savannah's EM team also executes the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies program, Catastrophic Disaster Preparedness Program, handles all Global War on Terror civilian deployments, and recruits, trains, and medically qualifies the Power and Housing Teams, and maintains the Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced (FEST-A). In addition, EM manages emergency plans for the Savannah District, such as hurricane evacuation and tornado alerts

The Division is made up of four full-time employees: Klein, Natural Manager Judy Patterson, EM specialist T.J. Tassner, who is deployed to Iraq until December, and budget analyst Renee Atkins. While Tassner is away on her one-year deployment, the other three have taken over her responsibilities, including the deployments of all of the EM teams.

In late June, Klein and Jason Okane of the Regulatory Division represented the Savannah District as the Temporary Housing Response team on a 10-day deployment to Madison, Wis., in the wake of the devastating Midwest floods.

"Thirty counties have been declared for disaster relief, and we were there to determine if a housing mission was qualified," Klein said. "We went about checking [temporary housing] resources, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency pays for, such as hotels and apartments. We went out and found that the list of resources was higher than the need, so trailers weren't needed, which was the goal."

EM also deployed an Emergency Power Planning team to Illinois.

The Corps' EM is a major supporter of FEMA, and because FEMA doesn't have engineers on its staff, the Corps is responsible for supplying them with experts in temporary housing through hurricane season.

"Last year FEMA asked the Corps for eight temporary housing subject matter experts to sit at their headquarters in Washington, D.C., for the remainder of the hurricane season, and that has carried over to this year," Klein said.

Klein said that Savannah is the lead division for the temporary housing mission in the Corps of Engineers, so he is responsible for managing the process of rotating two subject matter experts to FEMA headquarters every two weeks. These experts come from the six districts that have a housing team, with between 11 and 17 subject matter experts in rotation, including Klein.

"I have to make sure the schedule stays staffed," Klein said, something that is difficult because, "their full time job takes precedence."

EM recruits engineers, contract specialists and construction specialists from within the District to fill their teams, including the power, temporary housing, and FEST-A teams.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Chris Klein, chief, Emergency Management Division; Judy Patterson, natural disaster manager; Renee Atkins, budget analyst, and Fredericka Bangs, acting emergency operations specialist**



# WELCOME TO THE SAVANNAH DISTRICT

## On the Move

### Arrivals

Apuya, Bayani C.	Construction
Bradley, David Franklin	Construction
Brubaker, Kerry R.	Real Estate
Copeland, JR, Ernest O.	Construction
Coyle, JR, James Joseph	Construction
Cox, Aaron W.	Operations
Davis, James F.	Real Estate
Drawdy, Joseph Christopher	Safety Office
DuPrey, Gerd C.	Security
Filion, Larry J.	Construction
Grover, Donald J.	Construction
Harrison, Pamela Evette	Construction
Herrick, JR, Joseph D.	Real Estate
Hill, Tommy R.	Real Estate
Hodges, Angela D.	Contracting
Hudson, Sandra D.	Public Affairs
Ivory, Dewayne	Construction
Johansen, Christopher H.	Operations
Jorgenson, Jon E.	Construction
Kidd, Robert C.	Safety Office
Kirkendall, Mark R.	Construction
Klein, Michael D.	Construction
Krahling, Gennetta Mae	Real Estate
Lawless, Michael V.	Real Estate
Nondorf, Pamela Sue	Contracting
Pickett, Anthony W.	Construction
Richards, Donald H.	Resource Mgmt.
Rodriguez, Latoya J.	Contracting
Rudner, Candy S.	Contracting
Russell, JR, William H.	Construction
Simpson, James B.	Real Estate
Szep, John G.	Project Mgmt.
Sundquist, Eman A.	Construction
Sundquist, Ramon M.	Construction
Theocharides, Paris	Construction
Wampler, Monteene C.	Contracting
Weaver, Scott L.	Construction
Wiggins, James M.	Construction

### Departures

Ciccarone, Michael C.	Engineering
Cook, JR, Jack C.	Construction
Magwood, Mirian J.	Regulatory
Pearce, Lee D.	Project mgmt.
Reynolds, Nicholas M.	Engineering

### Promotions

Allen, Jeremy S.	Construction
Atkins, Renee L.	Emergency Mgmt.

### Promotions Cont.

Casey, Patricia S.	Real Estate
Daniels, William E.	Construction
Forbes, Matthew S.	Operations
Funk, Elizabeth Anne	Contracting
Hillard, Elizabeth J.	Construction
Hodge, Ronald T.	Construction
Jolly, Kelly I.	Engineering
Jones, Kosha Karonda	Contracting
Kavanaugh, Richard M.	Construction
Lawson, Ingeborg A.	Contracting
Markov, John	Construction
Mize, Benjamin D.	Construction
Outlaw, Justina N.	Construction
Patchus, Tosca R.	Real Estate
Ratliff, Edward O.	Engineering
Reinhardt, Christopher D.	Contracting
Rodriguez, LaToya J.	Contracting
Rudner, Candy S.	Contracting
Sargeant, Alisa T.	Real Estate
Thomas, Kenneth W.	Construction

## New to the Corps, not to the military

Sandra Hudson comes to Savannah by way of Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada after serving 20 years as a combat correspondent in the US Air Force. She spent 15 years in Europe as a TV and radio producer for the American Forces Network and says, "It's funny that people still recognize me from my days anchoring the news."



Hudson's position at the Savannah District Public Affairs Office comes as way to meet the growing demands of social media. "People today don't wait for news to come to them," said Hudson. "They actively search for it on the internet. It's my job to let the public know about all the fantastic projects encompassed in the Savannah District. I want people to google us and hit links showing the Corps in a positive light."

In addition to internet and intranet products, Hudson will also produce traditional radio and TV stories for local stations, the Pentagon channel and Soldiers Radio and Television Service.



Phinizy Davis, power project manger, Thurmond Project and Dr. Gustavo Cornelius Jensen, Head of Hydro in the Environmental Managment Department of Cahora Bassa Hydropower Company, Mozambique, discuss a cross sectional drawing of the Thurmond Powerplant. Jessen visited the powerplant with a delegation of hydropower authorities from the Zambezi River Basin June 27.