

Palmetto Castle



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District

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Charleston District

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On the cover...



This issue features the Matthews Elevated Water Storage Tank, a one million gallon, composite, elevated tank. The Charleston District is ensuring the well being of the contractors and employees through numerous safety measures.

Be sure to follow us:

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<http://twitter.com/CharlestonCorps>

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Submissions:

If you would like to submit news, features, photographs or other content to be included in an upcoming edition of the Palmetto Castle, please submit to PalmettoCastle@usace.army.mil. Publication will be judged by the editor.

From the Commander

I am proud to share with all of you that we've set another record in Charleston District history! At the close of fiscal year (FY) 2011, we ended the year with more than \$322 million in project execution – an increase of more than \$20 million from last year. Additionally, our contracting division processed more than 445 contract actions and obligated more than \$129 million in new contract awards, doubling the contract actions from last FY. This is a HUGE accomplishment for the history of this District.

This issue is dedicated to the significant accomplishments of the Charleston District in FY11. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has a long standing tradition of contributing to the greatness of our nation and the Charleston District has added much to these pages of history.

Our accomplishments are equally important for our own employees to understand as well as our customers to appreciate; it isn't in our nature to "brag" but it is essential that we share our current and future capabilities of the professional, dedicated public servants of our District.

Our media is filled with reports of "gloom and doom" about our current economic climate. The Charleston District, in an ongoing effort led by Bill Stein, deputy district engineer for programs and project management, has been diversifying our client and project portfolio for several years in preparation for the future. We have partnered with many new customers to share our talents, resources and expertise.

We are very eager to continue working with Joint Base Charleston, the 81st Reserve Support Command, the U.S. Army Strategic Logistics Activity – Charleston, the Veterans Administration, the Marine Forces Reserve, the Defense Logistics Agency, the Department of Energy and the Department of State (just to name a few!!).

In addition, our support to Fort Jackson with military construction and sustainment, repair, and maintenance (SRM) is progressing exceedingly well and making a significant impact on the training and readiness of the Soldiers training at Fort Jackson. Projects include new and renovated barracks, dining facilities, a night infiltration course, battalion and company headquarters and the Army's only Drill Sergeant School.

In civil works, our #1 priority is the Post 45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Feasibility Study. In late September, we received funding from our project sponsor, the South Carolina State Ports Authority. This has allowed full-involvement by our team, with members from across the South Atlantic



Division and Headquarters USACE, to engage with our state and federal resource agencies concerning the issues and challenges ahead of us. A typical Corps feasibility study would take five to eight years but we are going to work innovatively and aggressively to complete the study as quickly as possible.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the Palmetto Castle. I look forward to working with Team Charleston and our customers and partners to make FY12 another year for the record books!

BUILDING STRONG across SOUTH CAROLINA and BEYOND!!



Edward P. Chamberlayne, P.E.
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From the DDPM

*"It's what you do now
When you don't have to do anything,
That makes you what you want to be
When it's too late to do anything about it."* - author unknown

By: Bill Stein, deputy district engineer for programs and project management

For many years, the Charleston District had a baseline workload for expenditures of about \$60 million annually. Here and there a spike would occur with a Department of Energy project or a beach renourishment project, but for the most part the workload revolved around the dredging of Charleston Harbor, Georgetown Harbor and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

The District also had various studies on small civil works projects, but it was rare when a project would make it to construction. I can remember the joy of many employees when project managers actually led projects, like Pocotaligo Swamp and the Morris Island Lighthouse, to the construction phase.

Since 2008, the District has gradually been climbing in annual expenditures to the point we are at now, and should be for the future, of an annual workload of more than \$250 million. This is a result of focused outreach efforts where District team members were educated concerning the fact that the District could work for, or with, any of the armed services or other federal agencies. We learned to seek these agencies out, inquire about their needs and requirements and then discuss how we may be able to assist them.

Outreach efforts began in 2003 and have brought the District new customers which include the Marine Force Reserves,



Joe Bryant, SC State Ports Authority, talks with Bill Stein at a recent meeting.

Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Veterans Administration, National Nuclear Security Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, Joint Base Charleston, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Revitalization and Marketing Command, National Parks Service, South Carolina National Guard, 81st Regional Support Command, Department of State, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center and Army Strategic Logistics Activity-Charleston.

By gaining this work, the District has been able to increase and diversify the workforce and provide exciting opportunities and a variety of career paths for team members.

Having these numerous customers, providing them one-on-one service, having an expanded and multi-disciplined staff and having developed an extremely talented workforce is where the District wanted to be.....and now is! Our goal now is to continue on a path to excellence.

"Excellence - the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer" - Rick Patino.



Charleston District presents a refund check for \$32,074 to Patriot's Point Development Authority, following completion of the cofferdam study earlier this year.

Under Budget: Saving Taxpayers Money!



The Corps refunded \$1.1 million to Horry County, Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach for the beach renourishment project.

2011: Another Record Year in the Charleston District's History

By: Glenn Jeffries

The Charleston District is proud to share our accomplishments in yet another record year. Expenditures increased more than \$20 million from FY11. Contracting actions doubled during this time. Our 210 employees have taken great pride in providing our customers with innovative, resilient and sustainable engineering solutions. We hope you enjoy a glimpse into our past year as we reflect on our successes.

CIVIL WORKS

- Charleston Harbor
 - Signed the Federal Cost Share Agreement in June for the Post 45 Charleston Harbor Deepening feasibility study which initiated the study. Estimated cost of the study is between \$18-\$20 million which is being cost shared 50-50
 - Article published in Port Technology International magazine's autumn issue, titled "Navigating the Post 45 Feasibility Study at the Port of Charleston," reaching 60,000 global readers
 - Cover story of the Charleston Regional Business Journal in July on Post 45, titled "A Complex Undertaking," as well as coverage in seven other print and television pieces keeping the public informed of this high-profile project



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne, with several Corps partners, at an agency engagement meeting.

- Spoke at the Exchange Club of Charleston and the Carolinas Chapter of the Association of Women in the Metals Industry about the feasibility process for the Post 45 feasibility study
- Spoke at the 38th annual South Carolina International Trade Conference updating port stakeholders on Post 45 study
- Held a drop-in event where more than 20 stake-

holders, customers and local, state and federal agency leaders attended in an informal setting to express issues and viewpoints on civil works projects and other topics

- Executed a \$4.5 million dike raising project at Clouter Creek at the south and highway cells allowing for additional capacity for both operations and maintenance users as well as private users at this key disposal area



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne and SCSPA's Jim Newsome sign an amendment to the feasibility cost sharing study.

- Dredged two million cubic yards in the lower reaches for \$6.2 million, completed in March by Weeks Marine
- Dredged 1.8 million cubic yards in the upper reaches for \$6.2 million, completed in March by Southern Dredging
- Awarded a \$3.1 million contract to Manson Construction to dredge 1.3 million cubic yards in the entrance channel. Work will begin in December 2011
- Awarded blanket purchase agreements (BPAs) to Salmons Dredging Corporation and Sea Walls Docks and Repairs, Inc. for emergency removal of navigation obstructions which will allow for faster response when obstructions are blocking the federal channel
- Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway
 - Awarded contract to Ashridge Inc. for \$1.3 million to replace deteriorated spillways at multiple disposal areas. Work expected to be completed in February 2012
 - Conducted the first multi-beam condition survey to allow for more accurate mapping of the shoal-

ing occurring due to reduced dredging Charleston Harbor

- Awarded a task order in the amount of \$176,000 for bioengineering for disposal area erosion control through the installation of oyster habitat structures to Aerostar Environmental Services, Inc. Work will begin spring 2012, which is based on an oyster lifecycle
- Georgetown Harbor
 - Completed all in-house design for future dike raising at Waccamaw Neck Disposal Area
 - Completed sedimentation sampling of entire harbor
- Cooper River Rediversion Project (CRRP/St. Stephen)
 - Awarded \$2 million worth of contracts for repair and improvement projects to include power plant arc flash study, replace generator breakers, elevator rehab, patrol road maintenance, digital governors, HMI upgrades, replace dewatering pumps and piping system, powerplant fencing and upgrading plant security system



Bob Perry, SCDNR, and Bill McCall, Santee Cooper, at a recent partnering session.

- Passed 600,000 fish, the majority of which were Blueback Herring and American Shad, through what is considered to be the “most important fish passage facility on the east coast” according to NOAA fisheries experts
- Facilitated two partnering sessions with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Santee Cooper which further strengthened our

outstanding relationship with these water resource partners

- Completed the most detailed biannual survey to date which collected topographic and hydrographic surveys and cross sections



Matthews Industrial Park Water Tank will provide safe drinking water to the area.

- Implemented Facility and Equipment Management System (FEMS) which enhances our capability to manage the maintenance needs and make informed decisions about equipment replacement and crew utilization
- Participated in two dam safety exercises with Santee Cooper and achieved a score of 96 on the Dam Safety Management Tools scorecard, which is one of the highest scores in the Corps nationwide
- Lake Marion Regional Water Project
 - 99 percent complete with waterline installation on Elloree-Calhoun Reach which is ahead of schedule
 - Held Matthews Industrial Park Water Tower ground-breaking with sponsor, Lake Marion Regional Water Authority
 - 64 percent complete with construction of the one million gallon Matthews Industrial Park Elevated Composite Water Tower
- USS Yorktown Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Study
 - Completed concept study under-budget for installation of cofferdam around USS Yorktown in May and were able to return \$32,000 to Patriots Point Development Authority
- Waccamaw River PAS

- Completed bathymetric survey in December 2010 which provided valuable information for watershed modeling assessments
- Folly Beach
 - Conducted pre- and post-storm surveys documenting the effects of Hurricane Irene. Print and television media coverage explained the importance of the beach renourishment process
 - Completed and received approval of limited re-evaluation report documenting the need for the next renourishment cycle
- Grand Strand
 - Executed PAS agreement with Grand Strand municipalities in July. Awarded contract in August to Coastal Carolina University under cooperative agreement for biological survey work
- Inspection of Completed Works
 - Completed 92 percent of inspections of projects prior to September to ensure sponsors were maintaining their projects properly and allowing the projects to generate the benefits expected. Other projects will be inspected when conditions such as low water or storm damage improve

MARITIME PROJECTS



A successful ribbon cutting at the new boathouse at the Lowcountry Office.

- Conducted 176 surveys, which included 110 single-beam, 34 multi-beam, seven side-scan and 25 topographic surveys
- Constructed new boathouse at the Lowcountry Office in

May which will help us protect our boats and equipment from the weather, thus prolonging their life and making them easier to properly maintain

- Assisted in the recovery of a Conex box that fell off a container ship in the federal channel which reduced the potential impact of closing off the impacted reach
- Partnered with Charleston Harbor Maritime Association to produce a comprehensive GIS navigation map that creates a common picture in the event of an emergency
- Developed newly formatted GIS maps for hydrographic condition surveys. These maps have greatly improved the way we report channel conditions to the public and our partners. See them at <http://bit.ly/SACSurveyMaps>

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

- Marine Forces Reserves
 - Awarded \$11.4 million in USACE contracts for upfit at the 411,000 square foot MARFORRES headquarters building located at the Federal City Complex, New Orleans, LA. Includes design and execution of the emergency power generation, vehicle entrance gates and computer room HVAC units. Awarded \$17.8 million for networks and communications systems design, procurement and installation for Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR). In addition, will provide all construction support with quality assurance and quality inspections
 - Facility Sustainment Restoration Maintenance (FSRM) Support
 - Provides maintenance/repair, engineering and contract support for 30 Marine Corps Reserve Centers (MCRC) through four regional contracts and also provides preventative maintenance of mechanical equipment, inspection of facilities, testing of cranes and back flow preventers, service calls for small repairs and the ability to do large repairs (i.e. replace chiller, roof). Awarded second and third year options on the existing regional contracts for \$2.81 million and executed nine specific repair task orders within those contracts for \$1 million
 - Installed Armory and Perimeter Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). Services include the installation, modification, monitoring, inspection, repair and testing of perimeter fence and armory and secure IT rooms for 145 MCRCs. Awarded

second year option on the existing national contract for \$342,000 and executed five specific repair task orders within the contract for \$200,000

- Provided boiler inspections for 16 MCRC throughout the country which included inspecting boilers and unfired pressure vessels to ensure they are safe, fully-functional and operational. Awarded second year option on the existing national contract for \$35,000
- Completed energy assessments at 30 MCRC to identify and evaluate potential energy conservation measures (ECMs) through field surveys of the facilities' existing utility systems. ECMs will be implemented through the regional maintenance and repair contracts
- Awarded \$388,000 for environmental studies and scoping document preparation for planned projects at five specific MCRCs that have been impacted by MARFORRES reorganization
- Environmental Support
 - Began developing 62 Environmental Conditions of Property (ECP) reports for various MCRC sites. Completed 30 of these to date
 - Awarded \$1.14 million contract to install or modify a reclaim vehicle wash system at various nationwide sites. Also awarded second year option on existing contract for \$660,000 to provide maintenance and repair to wash systems
- Defense Logistics Agency
 - Awarded the first year option on the facilities maintenance contract at Red River, TX for \$4.6 million which continues Sustainment Restoration and Modernization (SRM) support including scheduled preventive maintenance, large and small periodic service calls and task orders for minor repairs not to exceed \$50,000 each
 - Awarded a new facilities maintenance contract at Warner Robins, GA for \$2.7 million, which includes SRM support
 - Awarded 14 repair contracts at three Defense Distribution Depots for \$5.8 million to provide specific repairs
 - Awarded three A-E design service contracts not



A DLA employee works on a conveyer belt, similar to one that the District recently performed maintenance work on. Photo courtesy of the Defense Logistics Agency.

to exceed \$12 million over the potential five year performance period, for general design services supporting the DLA Distribution SRM program

- Veteran's Administration
 - Augusta VAMC
 - Completed Phase Two of Building 801 Air Handling Unit (AHU)/HVAC deficiencies construction project. Continuing construction on Phase Three of Building 801 AHU/HVAC deficiencies as well as continuing construction on the buildings stair tower deficiencies. Continuing design package development to replace exterior windows and wall panels in Building 801 and 802. Awarded contract modifications for \$136,000 to support additional design requirements. Awarded a \$1.95 million construction contract for Building 801 Operation Room Suite Renovation project.
 - Design package development underway to replace Building 802 exterior wall panels
 - Charleston VAMC
 - Completed construction on the electrical vault expansion building and the electrical substation projects
 - Construction underway on outpatient mental health expansion building
 - Columbia VAMC
 - Construction underway on Intensive Care Unit Relocation project

- Design package development underway for canteen renovation. Awarded contract modification for \$10,000 to support additional design requirements
- Completed A-E task order for a Steam System Study and Analysis
- Dublin VAMC
 - Construction underway to replace Building 19's AHUs
 - Design package development underway to upgrade steam system distribution and correct electrical deficiencies
 - Construction underway on Building 8's AHU replacement
 - A-E design service support underway for construction of the chiller installation project
- Chillicothe VAMC
 - Construction underway on the boiler plant rebuild, including installation of a biomass fuel boiler



Work progresses quickly at the Charleston VA hospital.

- Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration
 - Completed construction of an Advance Tactical Training Area (ATTA) Live-Fire Shootouse Expansion project
 - Began construction quality assurance oversight and technical support and began a Value Engineering study for the Saltstone Disposal project
 - Continued design and construction oversight support

to the Pit Disassembly and Conversion (PDC) project.

- Provided construction quality assurance oversight and technical support for Salt Waste Processing Facility and the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility
- Completed a codes and standards review to sup-



Matt Foss, chief, survey section, explains how the side-scan sonar works.

port design development of the Glass Waste Storage Building project

- Completed environmental support to DOE- HQ
- Lease renewal support through SAS- RE for the DOE real property asset manager
- Department of State
 - Awarded a construction contract for \$6.7 million to support Building 644 renovation project located on the former Charleston naval base
- Shaw Air Force Base
 - Awarded contract options for environmental compliance support services including prescribed fire, GIS and environmental, technical and air quality monitoring.
- National Aeronautic and Space Administration
 - Awarded task order for applied science program- Strategic Technology Information Implementation plan
- Formerly Used Defense Sites
 - A new Restoration Advisory Board was elected at Camp Croft in Spartanburg, SC
 - Initiated a remedial investigation/feasibility study consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act

- Value Engineering (VE) Program
 - Completed four studies at a cost of \$116,000 which identified potential project savings totaling \$5.3 million. To date, \$1.7 million of the identified savings have been accepted and incorporated into projects
- Naval Weapons Station
 - Completed a \$1.6 million diking contract to increase disposal capacity of the NWS disposal area
- Army Strategic Logistics Activity-Charleston (ASLAC)
 - Awarded a \$584,000 contract to provide a hub server room upgrade (Building 318), \$327,000 contract for AFTP upgrades (Building 850) a \$366,000 contract for paving of two areas and replacing roll up doors
 - Awarded first year option for \$883,000 on the fa-



Soldiers at Fort Jackson enjoy lunch in a recently completed DFAC.

- cilities maintenance/repair contract, which includes preventative maintenance of mechanical equipment, inspection of facilities, service calls for small repairs and boilers inspections and certifications to ensure they are safe, fully functional and operational
- Awarded a contract for modification for \$318,000 in support of Army-mandated increases in facilities planning and logistics systems analysis requirements for automation of ASLAC's equipment maintenance shop processes
- Department of Defense Education Activity
 - Construction underway on security light upgrades for \$239,000 at CC Pinckney Elementary school located in Fort Jackson, SC, and Galer and Elliot Elementary Schools located in Beaufort, SC
- Fort Jackson
 - Construction completed on: Consolidated Drill Sergeant School for \$21.4 million, Starship 11000 renovation for \$59.5 million, Starship 12000 renovation for \$37 million, Dual Dining facility (serves 2400 Soldiers) for \$17 million, Building 9810 renovation for \$250,000, disabled-child accessible Boundless Playground for \$222,000, Child Development Center and Officer's Club upgrades for \$500,000 and repairs to buildings 4205, 4215, 4225, 4235 and 4210 for \$1.9 million
 - Construction underway on: Drill Sergeant School barracks for \$24 million, Night Infiltration Course for \$1.7 million, Coleman, Perez and Vanguard Gym renovations for \$4.3 million, repairs to 93 relocatable buildings for \$7.1 million, Starship 4420 renovation for \$27 million, Basic Training Complex III for \$41 million, Quad Dining Facility for \$45 million and Modified Record Fire Range for \$3.7 million
 - Construction awarded on: Advanced Individual Training Complex (demolition and construction) phase I for \$22.7 million, Basic Training Complex II Lost Scope barracks to support 550 Soldiers for \$17 million, Training Support Center for \$15 million, repairs at 1-61 barracks, DFAC and BAS for \$2 million, repairs at Building 9810, phase II for \$1.4 million, replacement of pumps and chillers on numerous buildings for \$5.1 million to reduce utility cost and consumption, Starship 5500 renovation for \$27.3 million and repairs to buildings 3285 and 3330 for \$3.8 million
 - Awarded two multiple award task order contracts (MATOC) for general construction, renovation, design build services to primarily support Fort Jackson with a contract capacity amount not to exceed \$49 million. The companies in this pool are: Military & Federal Construction Company, Lifestyle Construction Services, Group III and Osborne Construction. The first task order, for the Starship 5500 at Fort Jackson, was awarded in September to Military & Federal Construction Company in the amount of \$27 million
 - The second MATOC contract is also for general construction, renovation, design build services to primarily support national customers as well as Fort Jackson with a contract capacity amount not to exceed \$49 million. The companies in this pool are: Pentacon LLC, Military & Federal Construction Company and Lifestyle Construction Services. The first task order, for the Training Support Center at

Fort Jackson, was awarded in August to Pentacon LLC in the amount of \$15 million. The award of these MATOCs provides contracting flexibility and will provide regional support

- Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices (DRMO)
 - Construction awarded on demolition, renovations and repairs to buildings 1900, 1901 and 1916 for \$249,000
- 81st Regional Support Command
 - Service contract awarded for inventory, removal, storage and reinstallation of systems furniture in a nine state region. Total contract amount over the potential contract term of three years is not to exceed \$385, 000. Initial order awarded for the reserve center located in Peachtree City, GA for \$75,000
 - Anti-Terrorism Force Protection upgrades to Tampa Reserve Center for \$201,000
 - Building the New Equipment Fielding Facility, a vehicle maintenance facility, at Fort Jackson for \$2.8 million

REGULATORY

- Issued 367 general permits with 91 percent issued in less than 60 days. Issued 80 individual permits, completed 1,326 jurisdictional determinations, conducted 238 compliance inspections and resolved 89 non-compliance/enforcement cases
- Expedited permits in order to allow ZF Transmissions of Friedrichshafen, Germany, the authorization to construct a new \$350 million manufacturing facility at the Owings Industrial Park in Laurens. The facility will employ more than 1,200 people and manufacture more than



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne talks with Megan Desrosiers (center) and Dana Beach (right) from the Coastal Conservation League at a recent meeting.

50 percent of the transmissions that will be utilized by BMW for their automotive operations at the nearby Greer Plant



Tracy Sanders, biologist, presents to a local school about regulatory's role in the environment.

- Issued a general permit to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) that will expedite authorization and encourage transportation projects that result in minimal impacts to aquatic resources, thereby ensuring that vital infrastructure improvements and new construction continue within South Carolina
- Determined that an Environmental Impact Statement would be required for the evaluation of a proposed gold mine for Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (a subsidiary of Romarco Minerals) near the town of Kershaw, SC. Proposed impacts include the loss of 38,775 linear feet of tributaries and approximately 161.81 acres of jurisdictional wetlands
- Continued participation as a cooperating agency on the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements being led by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the V.C. Summer nuclear facility applied for by SCE&G (Fairfield County) and the W.S. Lee facility being pursued by Duke Energy (Cherokee County). In each instance, the applicants proposed to construct two reactor units
- Developed interactive website to educate and assist the public in understanding the Corps' regulatory program. The site contains various teaching modules as well as specific contact information. The site can be found at <http://bit.ly/SACavatar>
- Guest on the NPR radio program "Your Day" with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (SCDNR) Bob Perry answering call-in questions from a state-wide audience on our regulatory mission
- Participated in the Citadel Capstone Experience for senior engineering cadets. The two-semester planning

and design project teaches students the principles of environmental permitting and includes permit preparation, review and instruction



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne takes a turn at the wheel while touring the Charleston Harbor.

- Appeared in an episode of the Charleston County "Roadwise" television program discussing the Corps' regulatory program and how it relates to impacts associated with public transportation projects
- Appeared as a guest on the television show "Prime of Life" spreading our regulatory message to a state-wide audience
- Published a revised Standard Operating Procedure for compensatory mitigation. This local guidance document was developed to assist permit applicants to prepare complete mitigation plans that are consistent with the National Mitigation Rule
- Led several training sessions for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Dillon, Sumter and Colleton counties providing instruction and technical expertise in the identification and classification of ditches to ensure NRCS field staff could accurately determine and document the limits of federal jurisdiction of waters of the United States
- Participated in 27 outreach events to educate the public on our regulatory program including Southeastern Wildlife Expo held in Charleston and Palmetto Sportsman Classic held in Columbia
- Hosted a one-day course on wetland delineation for the National Guard at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Twenty-six participants from thirteen states across the nation were provided basic instruction on the identifica-

tion and functions of wetland and water resources

- Coordinated with the Marine Corps Air Station to review and approve a mitigation bank that will ensure the USMC will have the continued capability to improve and construct infrastructure at the existing Air Base and provide reliable, cost-effective mitigation for impacts to wetlands and other waters in defense of our nation
- Participated as a cooperating agency on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement being led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for an electric transmission line to rural McClellanville to determine the least environmentally damaging option
- Mitigation bank easement transfer to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on 16,000 acre Sandy Island Mitigation Bank. The deed transfer of the largest undeveloped freshwater island on the East Coast from SCDOT to TNC places this tract in perpetual easement/management by TNC

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Nine District personnel deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq in support of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)
- ABC News featured one of our deployed civilians in a three minute piece, entitled "Working in a War Zone," on their nightly news
- Ten District personnel deployed to Alabama to support the response and recovery efforts in the wake of the 2011 spring tornadoes. To date, more than 4.4 million cubic yards of debris has been removed from the affected area



Chris Zell, engineer, deployed to Afghanistan for six months in 2011.

- Developed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ft. Jackson through our Family Readiness Program to allow our

deploying employees to use their facilities for physicals and counseling in support of OCO

- Established a Memorandum of Agreement with Joint Base Charleston enabling our employees to use the facilities at the Joint Base for pre-deployment physicals, legal advice and other services
- Held dam safety exercise to test our ability to respond to potential impacts from an earthquake. Various federal, state and local agencies, as well as South Carolina Electric & Gas, participated with us in increasing our readiness posture
- Participant in SC Emergency Management Division full-scale exercise at the state and local levels as well as SC National Guard's "Rock Drill" to test response capabilities to support the citizens of SC
- Participated in USACE National Commodities exercise in Kansas City, MO to ensure readiness of all emergency commodities and provided training to national Ice Mission project response team
- Managed HURREVAC training that ended the year with 1,012 people trained at 46 training sessions, ranging from Maine to Texas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Team approach to training, with funding and trainers provided from FEMA, NOAA, Texas and USACE. HURREVAC is a software tool used by state and local emergency managers in determining when and where evacuation orders are needed in advance of a hurricane

OTHER BUILDING STRONG ACTIONS

- Charleston District hired 24 new people, five employees retired and 12 left for other career opportunities. Two new students were hired for the summer student temporary employment program
- Completed 445 contracting actions, which is a record high and doubled last year's actions. \$130 million in contracts were awarded
- Small business goals were exceeded, creating jobs and significantly contributing to our nation's economy. The District's target was to award 40 percent of all contracts to a small business. The District more than doubled this goal and awarded 85 percent of its contracts to small businesses. Within the small business goal, there are subcategories. The small disadvantaged business goal was 18 percent, but the District went above and beyond by awarding 80 percent. The District's goal for service disabled veteran owned businesses was nine percent, however the District achieved 11 percent for

this category. Eight percent was the goal set for women owned small business, but the District exceeded this goal by awarding 49 percent. The District's goal for certified HUBZONE small businesses was 20 percent, but the District was able to double that and award 40 percent

- To increase support for small business operations, hired a small business specialist, James.A.Josey@usace.army.mil, who began work in early FY12
- Awarded three contracts for miscellaneous A/E services, not to exceed \$12 million each over a five year period to Cromwell Architects Engineers, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., and MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. primarily for DLA and MARFORRES projects
- Awarded contract for miscellaneous A/E services not to exceed \$12 million over a five year period to LS3P Associates, LTD, primarily for planning and management support services for DoD and non-DoD customers
- Awarded contract for miscellaneous A/E services not to exceed \$12 million over a five year period to Lindbergh & Associates, LLC, primarily for military construction and the support for other programs, but will also provide services for civil works programs
- Two employees selected for Charleston Regional Business Journal's "Forty under 40" award



Adam Collias, facilities management specialist, presenting to students about America's Great Outdoors.

- Hosted Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable Jo Ellen Darcy, where she met with South Carolina State Ports Authority, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Rep. Tim Scott, and other port stakeholders to learn more about the Post 45 project and participated in an America's Great Outdoors initiative with local middle school students who were learning about importance of conservation
- Held reception in honor of USACE Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, with more than 50 stakeholders in attendance
- Met with Gov. Nikki Haley to brief her on District's mis-

sions and how they support the state of South Carolina

- Sponsored our first safety conference, Serious about Safety, in Myrtle Beach, SC with approximately 200 attendees who learned first-hand the best safety practices used by Corps' contractors nationwide
- Graduated 12 Fort Jackson employees in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 30 hour class taught by the safety officer
- Appeared as guest on the morning television show "Lowcountry Live" celebrating Earth Day
- Continued our diversity training through various programs on Native American Indian heritage, African-American history, Women's history, Asian Pacific heritage and Hispanic heritage to enhance cultural and diversity awareness among employees
- District employee selected by Women of Color magazine as a Woman of Color Technology Rising Star
- Three District employees received the Engineer Regiment's prestigious de Fleury medal for their dedicated service
- Twitter followers grew to more than 700 which is an increase of more than 87 percent from last year. Follow at <http://twitter.com/CharlestonCorps>
- To meet the demands of new workload, configured existing office spaces for ten new employees in headquarters office
- Employee selected as runner up for the Charleston area's Federal Executive Association's Administrative Person of the Year



Stephanie McCary, biologist, receives a flu shot to keep her healthy.

- Joined South Carolina's Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Hosted the Federal Executive Association where leaders

from other federal agencies learned about the District and its mission



Students from Ashley Hall build a human arch to learn what makes a strong structure.

- Hosted 100 students from Ashley Hall School and the Charter School for Math and Science for National Engineering Week to expose them to science, technology, engineering and math
- Signed a partnership agreement with South Carolina State University renewing our commitment to work together with the goal of expanding educational and employment opportunities to qualified students
- Participated in the University of South Carolina's Partner's for Minorities in Engineering and Computer Science Week providing a hands-on wetlands presentation to 30 junior and senior students from high schools across the state to promote continued education and future careers in STEM related fields
- Provided toys to local children through the Toys for Tots program
- To promote a healthy workforce, provided more than 100 flu shots to employees at the annual health fair
- Installed new physical security access control system

Safety at Matthews Elevated Water Storage Tank Project a Priority!

By: Kevin Widner, David Dodds and John Lindsay

Safety is a major concern on any project, but the Matthews Elevated Water Storage Tank Project that is being managed by the Lowcountry Resident Office of the Charleston District has a much higher percentage of potentially catastrophic risk and exposure than most of the construction work handled by the District. The primary focus is on fall protection for contractors as well as for any employees involved in the quality assurance inspections of this free-standing, 185-foot-high structure.

The Matthews Elevated Water Storage Tank is a one million gallon, composite, elevated tank that has a high-water level approximately 180 feet above existing ground level in Cameron, SC and is a part of the \$60 million Lake Marion Regional Water System Project. This \$2.5 million facility is being constructed by Caldwell Tanks, Inc. (Caldwell) of Louisville, KY. Although this sounds like just another construction job, it is not.

“Elevated tank construction is a very specialized type of construction with some very challenging safety concerns that, although not uncommon to the construction industry, are more intense and mitigated with techniques less commonly used for other types of construction,” said Kevin Widner, the Lowcountry Resident Office’s resident engineer. “In addition to the high fall exposure, personnel are more exposed to critical environmental elements, such as wind and lightning, and all the more routine construction project hazards, such as potential of dropped or falling debris, confined workspace, etc.”

This construction site is using an array of preventative measures such as ladder climbing devices, vertical life lines, retractable life lines, a safety net, barriers, double lanyards, controlled accesses, restricted work areas, extensive training with safety visibility and more to ensure worker safety.

Caldwell Tanks, Inc. has demonstrated a strong commitment to safety. Their team has readily embraced the Corps’ Safety and Health Requirements Manual

and has worked diligently to adapt and incorporate into their operations any requirements found to be more stringent while willingly explaining and demonstrating the various aspects of their proprietary safety systems.

All employees have received the proper training in fall protection as per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Safety and Health Requirements Manual and from the OSHA construction standard. Rhodes Roberts, quality assurance technician, and Clifford Williams, civil engineering technician, are two District employees that climb this tower on a regular basis and are required to be protected from falls 100 percent of the time. They do this by wearing a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) with a double lanyard when other means of protection are not in place.

Access up the pedestal during construction is achieved via a temporary ladder with a vertical life line and rope grab to which the PFAS is hooked. Once the climber reaches the working platform, they hook their extra lanyard to an anchorage on the platform and then unhook from the rope grab and continue to alternate lanyard hooks until safely above a safety net that is hung immediately below the work platform. Once above the net, personnel are allowed to work without being tied off since a potential fall to the safety net is less than six feet.

However, if the exterior walls have not been raised for the next lift, all personnel are tied off to retractable horizontal life lines that can rotate around the center of the platform allowing movement without having to perform multiple hooking/unhooking. All work on the outside of the pedestal wall is performed by a worker using a chair suspended from a hoist dedicated for this effort while connected to an independent retractable life line. All life lines are designed to support at least 3,000 pounds and the retractable units activate in a manner that will prevent the user from falling more than two feet.

The use of the above processes provides fail-safe fall protection of all personnel ensuring that they cannot fall more than six feet at any time. When working at these heights, one needs to have confidence knowing that if the unthinkable happens, they will be protected.

The District’s goal, for both employees and contractors, is that they go home each and every day to their families without accident. This project is more than halfway complete with work above 140 feet and has incurred no incidences to date.



Folly Beach Dunes Doing their Jobs



Folly Beach dunes prior to Hurricane Irene hitting the beach.

By: Sean McBride

Hurricane Irene struck the east coast of the United States during the weekend of August 26th-28th and affected Charleston on the morning of Friday, August 26th. Overall, Irene was one of the more destructive hurricanes the east coast has seen in many years.

In the Charleston area, Irene's effects on Folly Beach were striking. The most visible effect was in the dunes, but the beach was also eroded by the elevated water levels and large waves associated with the hurricane.

Prior to Irene, the Charleston District had completed a limited re-evaluation report (LRR) that indicated Folly Beach had reached the "trigger point" for the next renourishment cycle. Completion and approval of this report made the District eligible for the fiscal year 2013 (FY13) budget to request plans and specifications and construction funds.

Until the President's budget is released in February, the District does not know what funds, if any, will be received. The estimate in the LRR for the next renourishment is approximately \$18 million total, with \$15.3 million in federal funding and \$2.7 million from the sponsor, the City of Folly Beach. This estimate was based on awarding the next renourishment contract in FY13.

On August 25th, before Irene came ashore, the District completed a pre-storm survey of Folly Beach, surveying a sampling of cross sections along the beach. After Irene passed by, the District then completed a post-storm survey of the same sample of cross sections. This information was used to develop a preliminary estimate of the amount of sand

lost due to Irene. The middle portion of Folly Beach fared better than the ends of the island, though it did experience erosion and reworking of the sand on the beach. The area near the county park, the "washout area" and the northern tip of the project were the hardest hit as these areas were already experiencing significant erosion prior to Irene. The county park had experienced damage to their concessions area and underneath the boardwalk, among other areas.

Based on preliminary estimates, it appears that approximately 300,000-350,000 cubic yards of sand were lost solely as a result of Irene. The Corps does not, however, estimate the damage done to any structures as a result of the storm as this is a local or state government responsibility.

"We find ourselves in a unique circumstance after Hurricane Irene since South Carolina as a whole sustained very little damage and thus did not have a disaster or emergency declaration," said Lisa Metheny, assistant chief of programs and project management. "While we don't know if there will be funding in the President's FY13 budget, we are hopeful we will receive funds to rehabilitate the beach as we have in the past."

As it does with all sponsors of coastal storm damage reduction projects, the District coordinated with the City of Folly Beach both before and after the storm. As Mother Nature and man continue to shape the shoreline of Folly Beach, the City and the District will continue to communicate regarding the condition of the project and the potential for future renourishment activities.

Folly Beach dunes after Hurricane Irene hit the beach. The dunes were cut in half, but prevented additional erosion.



Building at Fort Jackson on Track

By: Ashley Rogers

All around Fort Jackson, military construction projects are progressing under the guidance of the Charleston District. From newly completed projects to those just beginning, it is an exciting time for the Charleston District to be a military district!

The Consolidated Drill Sergeant School (CDSS) Barracks were completed in October and a ribbon cutting is scheduled in November for this \$23.9 million project. With 136,152 sq ft, these barracks will house 372 Soldiers. The Soldier's room will include, but is not limited to, a private sleeping area, walk-in closet, a shared bathroom and a kitchenette.



Construction of the third Basic Training Center (BTC 3) Complex, a \$41.7 million project, is well on its way after

the completion of BTC 2 in 2010. These barracks will house 288 Soldiers during their basic training at Fort Jackson. The BTC 3 Battalion Headquarters is a \$4.6 million, 23,500 sq ft project, which will house administrative, command operations, special functions, storage and classroom components for the training battalion. Both new projects are scheduled for completion next summer.

One of the newest construction projects is the Quad Dual Dining Facility (Quad DFAC), a \$43.7 million project that will feed 5,200 Soldiers per meal within 90 minutes, three times a day. The two-story, 124,780 sq ft facility will have a staff of 328 and a dining seating capacity of 2,176 Soldiers. The DFAC will be opened in April 2012. The contract for this project was awarded jointly with the renovations of the Starship Barracks 5500, 5489 and 5492.

"The Quad DFAC and BTC 3 will improve the quality of the training facilities on post, which is the main mission of our work at Fort Jackson," stated David Dodds, chief of construction. "The building renovation and installation of ventilation units in the gyms on base will provide Soldiers and civilians with a better environment for recreational exercise."

Renovations on the Perez, Coleman and Vanguard gyms, including installation of air conditioning, restoration of the racquetball rooms and new mat flooring, will provide Soldiers with better facilities for exercise and physical health. Totalling \$4.6 million in renovations, these projects are scheduled for completion in December 2011. This is just another way the Corps is aiding in the Army's "mind, body and spirit" missions.

HERE TO HELP!



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Charleston District Takes on Five New Customers

By: Sara Corbett

The Charleston District has taken on five new customers this year and is excited with the opportunities that await the District. The Corps looks forward to working with Joint Base Charleston, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston, Department of State and 81st Regional Support Command on various projects.

Joint Base Charleston (JBC) will be working with the District on several projects, including an architecture and engineering contract for a seismic study of a building, developing a request for proposal to renovate a building and two energy projects which will improve energy at various facilities on JBC. JBC merged Charleston Air Force Base and Naval Weapons Station in 2010 in accordance with congressional legislation implementing the recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Atlantic (SPAWAR) delivers higher-end Navy information technology products and services to the Naval fleet and other Department of Defense stakeholders. As the Navy's Information Dominance Systems Command, SPAWAR designs, develops and deploys advanced communications and information capabilities. To help them accomplish their mission, the District is developing a preventive maintenance plan for their buildings. Planned maintenance includes preparing specifications and cost estimates for repair items, approving or disapproving service call requests and deciding what repair work will be funded.

Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston (ASLAC) has contracted the District to complete several sustainment, restoration and modernization (SRM) projects, such as install-

ing new roll-up doors and paving storage areas. ASLAC's mission is to provide equipment maintenance to all types of Army tactical cargo.



An Army vehicle is being serviced by an ASLAC employee.

The Department of State required a building renovation that will be used to house human resource offices. This building has been renovated several times by other agencies; first it was a bowling alley and then a physical fitness building that was used by law enforcement agencies. The renovation is underway and should be completed by February 2012. The Department of State is the United States federal executive department responsible for international relations, equivalent to the foreign ministries of other countries.

The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) tasked the Charleston District to build a facility at Fort Jackson that will be used for vehicle training and maintenance. The 81st RSC provides base operations (BASOPS) support and other services as directed by Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command to customers in nine southeastern states and Puerto Rico to enable the Army Reserve to meet global requirements across the full spectrum of operations.

The Charleston District is excited to support the crucial roles these new customers have for the nation.

Support for the Palmetto Patriots

By: Carol Weart, staff action officer

Charleston District employees showed their support for their fellow employees by filling care packages for the "Palmetto Patriots" that are deployed in support of the Overseas Contingency Operations. Several care packages were sent with items ranging from candy and tea, beef jerky and Halloween themed decorations. The Charleston SAME post funded the shipment of these boxes.

The District's deployed employees have taken their selfless service spirit to heart by adopting a local Afghan school and hospital and have asked those at home to collect and send supplies such as clothes and stuffed animals for the children.

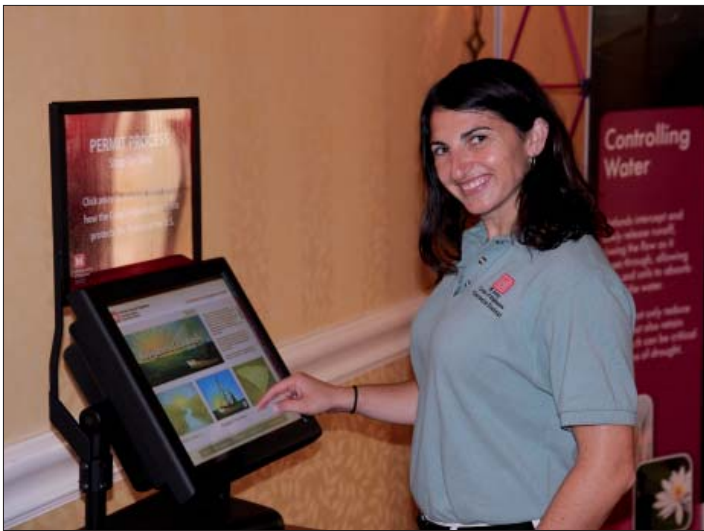
"One of the hardest things to endure while deployed to Afghanistan is the long separation from friends, co-workers and family. Receiving care packages from people back home is like Christmas and makes the distance more bearable," said Skip Haynes, project manager. "My co-workers were amazed at how many care boxes I received and would huddle around when I opened them to see what kind of goodies were inside and if I would share them with the office...which of course I did. We appreciate the thought more than you know."



Regulatory Goes Interactive

By: Tracy D. Sanders, biologist

Applying for a wetlands permit is a necessary process in order to obtain authorization for activities such as building a dock or house in a wetlands area, but is often viewed as being rather confusing. When the public contacts the Charleston District regulatory division, frequent questions include “does my property have wetlands?” “do I need a permit?” and “will I need mitigation?” Questions that the public rarely thinks to ask are “why are wetlands regulated?” and “why do I need a permit?”



Tracy Sanders showcases the new avatar at a recent public event.

In order to assist the public with the permitting process and to educate the public about the Charleston District’s regulatory program and the importance of aquatic resources, the regulatory division developed five Interactive Modules that are available on the Charleston District website. The Interac-

tive Modules are educational tools that are readily available to the public, easy to use, easy to understand, informative and interactive. With a combination of text, narrations, videos, photos and animations, the Interactive Modules have something for everyone, from school-age children to potential permit applicants.

The Interactive Modules consist of a “Home” module that has a series of maps with useful information such as regulatory office service areas, an “Intro to Regulatory” module that uses narration and videos to provide basic information about the regulatory program, a “Wetlands” module and “Streams” module with animations and buttons to provide information about wetland and stream functions and identification and a “Permitting Process” module that provides detailed information regarding the types of permits available, the permitting process and wetland mitigation. Included in the permitting process module are downloadable wetland and stream mitigation forms that were developed to assist applicants with completing the required wetland mitigation data sheets.

But the applications of the Interactive Modules extend beyond the Internet. The regulatory division has a very active outreach program and has enabled the Interactive Modules for portable use. The regulatory division has several portable touch-screen kiosks that can be used at outreach events. Look for the kiosks and the Interactive Modules at the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston on February 17-19, 2012, and at the Palmetto Sportsmen’s Classic in Columbia on March 23-25, 2012. The Interactive Modules are currently available to the public on the Charleston District website at www.sac.usace.army.mil.

Small Businesses Learn How to Work for Federal Agencies

By: Sean McBride

On August 23rd, the Charleston District participated in the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Federal Outreach to Small Business Summit in Orangeburg, SC. More than 400 small businesses and 26 buyers/representatives from seven federal agencies participated in this event. Rep. James Clyburn and DOE Secretary Dr. Steven Chu were the keynote speakers at the event geared towards helping small businesses understand how to contract with DOE and other federal agencies.

Lisa Metheney, assistant chief of programs and project management, represented the District at the event and participated in the “Meet the Buyers” session where small business representatives sat down one-on-one with her to learn about the District’s missions and how to contract with us.

Small business attendees have reached out by phone and e-mail to express their gratitude for holding this event in South Carolina.



Bill Valdez, Deptment of Energy, Jon Carson, White House Office of Public Engagement, Congressman James Clyburn, Steven Chu, Department of Energy, Marie Johns, Small Business Administration, at the Business Summit.

What We Need to Think About and How We Need to Grow

By: Mathew Laws, technical services chief

At its essence, every organization is a product of how its members think and interact. How and what they learn, as well as how they continually enhance this learning, all lie at the root of any great organization. This is the premise of the book titled "The Fifth Discipline," by Peter M. Senge, and the notion of the learning organization: the organization that can out-learn its competition will be the organization that endures.

The primary leverage for any organizational learning effort does not lie in policies, budgets or organizational charts, but in ourselves. Even creating desired results is not a sign of learning. If you strike it rich by winning the lottery, you have achieved something extraordinary, but you have done nothing to expand your capacity to win future lotteries.

This emphasis on learning, thinking and interacting makes many people in mainstream organizations feel disoriented. It means shifting their orientation and focusing their point of view from outward to inward. Looking inward is personal and can be a fearful experience.

To look inward, the first step is becoming aware of and studying the tacit truths that we take for granted and recognizing the aspirations and expectations that govern what we choose from life. Taking lessons from "The Fifth Discipline," the disciplines of personal mastery, mental models and systems thinking all help us to productively examine and change the way we think.

Changing the way we think and interact means redesigning not the formal structures of the organization, but the hard to see patterns of the interaction between people and processes. The disciplines of shared vision, team learning and systems thinking are each specifically aimed at changing interactions between people.

In the end, the premise that organizations are the product of thinking and interacting is powerful and liberating. This thinking suggests that individuals and teams can affect the most entrenched organizational barriers.

These barriers didn't emerge on the landscape like natural formations, such as mountains and rivers. They were created by individuals wishes, expectations, beliefs and habits. They remained in place because they were reinforced by various people and never challenged and, eventually, they became invisible because they were so taken for granted.

To become conscious and aware of how we think and inter-

act and begin developing capacities to think and interact in new ways, we will already have begun to make dynamic change. Those changes will ripple out around us and reinforce a sense of possibility and renewal. For learning organizations, and the Corps is one, this is a fundamental practice.

The Chinese characters that represent the word "learning" (shown in the background of this article) are a complex design of two elements side by side with each element being composed of two parts, one over the other. The first element means "to study." It is composed of two parts; the top part of the first symbol means "to accumulate knowledge," above the symbol for "a child in a doorway."

The second element means "to practice constantly" and shows a bird developing the ability to leave the nest. It too is composed of a two parts, with the bottom part representing a nest and the top part representing a bird in flight. Thus, for the oriental mind, learning is continuous and ongoing study and practice. Combining both elements of symbols into one symbol, it is interpreted to mean "mastery of the way of self improvement." This is a useful tool in looking inward and learning.

Learning in organizations in a broad sense means pursuing new information, the exploration of new ideas, the continuous testing of experience and the transformation of that experience into knowledge that is accessible to the whole organization and relevant to its core purpose.

We should all ask ourselves the following questions: Do you continuously test your experiences? Are you willing to examine and challenge your sacred cows? Are you producing knowledge (the capacity to effective action)? Does your organization show capabilities it didn't have before? Is the knowledge shared? Is it accessible to all of the organization's members?

So, go make a difference, discipline yourself to learn something new each day, stretch yourself into areas foreign to you, share what you have discovered with others and work together to change something for the better.

The Charleston District held a series of seven brown bag leadership luncheons. This article's subject matter was presented as part of a those luncheons led by the District's Senior Leadership.

Large-Scale Gold Mine Project Requires EIS

By: Sean McBride

In January 2011, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to the Charleston District to fill wetlands and streams to open and operate Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County, SC. Since the proposed project would impact nearly 162 acres of wetlands and 39,000 linear feet of streams, the District Engineer determined, on July 1st, 2011, that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required for this project.



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne listens to the public's comments at the public meeting.

Since that time, the District has held an open commenting period for the public, as required by Corps regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act, and numerous federal and state agencies have reviewed and commented on the proposed project as well. The significance of the potential impacts associated with the proposed large-scale project, along with the recommendations from commenting agencies, led the District Engineer to determine that an EIS was the best course of action for the Haile Gold Mine project.

"There are significant social, economic and environmental impacts that would be associated with the project as it is currently proposed," said Dr. Richard Darden, project

manager. "We have worked closely with the applicant over the past year to evaluate their initial submission and environmental information. The initial review was helpful and led to the conclusion that, since the proposed project is likely to have significant impacts on the human environment, an EIS would best allow us to review these impacts prior to determining our final decision on the application."

The EIS will allow the District to evaluate all aspects of the project in order to make a fair, balanced and flexible permit decision. It is the Corps' duty, as the nation's environmental engineer, to carefully weigh the benefits from the project against the detriments and base the final decision on the outcome of this balancing process. The District will consider everything from environmental impacts to job creation while evaluating alternatives that would avoid or minimize the impacts of the project. The District will work with the applicant along the way to modify their permit application in order to better protect the aquatic resources of South Carolina.

On October 27th, the District hosted a public scoping meeting at the Andrew Jackson Recreation Center in Kershaw, SC, near the proposed mine site. Approximately 200 people from across the state attended to learn more about the project and offer their valuable insight.

"It was great to see everyone who came out to offer their opinions on the proposed project," added Darden. "Public input is extremely valuable to the District when we are making a permit decision. The attendees at the scoping meeting brought up a lot of good issues that we will look at and evaluate when we are going through our EIS process."

After the successful public scoping meeting, the District will now put together a detailed timeline for the EIS process which could take a year or more. Once the draft EIS has been completed, it will be made available to the public. At that time, another public meeting will be held to allow comments on the draft EIS. For more information on the project, visit www.HaileGoldMineEIS.com.

Post 45 Feasibility Study NEPA Scoping Meeting Date Set!

WHO: The Charleston District invites you to attend the Post 45 Feasibility Study National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Scoping Meeting that is open to the public.

WHAT: The meeting will be open for the public to ask questions, submit comments and to learn more about the NEPA process and the Post 45 feasibility study. This public meeting will be held in a workshop format and will not be open for oral comments. For more information on the project please visit <http://bit.ly/Post45>.

WHEN: December 13, 2011 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Mark Clark Hall, The Citadel, Charleston, SC



C O R P O R A T E

Charleston District Attends Career Fair By: Jessica Byrd



Charlie Crosby talks with a student about working in the regulatory division for the Corps.

Jessica Byrd, equal employment opportunity officer, Charlie Crosby, chief, regulatory division's south branch and Laura Boos, biologist, regulatory division participated in the 2011 Fall Career Fair at South Carolina State University in September.

A display included information about the Corps and role of biologist working in the regulatory division, how to build a resume and apply for job opportunities with the Corps and other government agencies. Approximately 75 students, recent grads, and Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets visited the table to speak with the Charleston District employees.

"We enjoyed meeting with the students and sharing with them what a great work place the Charleston District is!" said Byrd.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

By: Sara Corbett



Vickmary Negron-Figueroa talked about her Puerto Rican heritage to the Charleston District.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in October, the Special Emphasis Committee of the Charleston District hosted Vickmary Negron-Figueroa, resident engineer at the Savannah River Site. Negron-Figueroa, a Puerto Rican native, spoke about the culture, food, language and her subsequent challenges and successes as a Hispanic living in America. After her presentation, authentic potluck Puerto Rican food that was made by employees was enjoyed by everyone.

"I found Vickmary to be very informative and inspirational," said Narissia Skinner, executive secretary. "Having first-hand insight on the Puerto Rican culture left a lasting impression."

Chamberlayne Presents to SAME

By: Sara Corbett

On October 5th, Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne gave a presentation to the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Midlands Post about the Charleston District's mission which included information about the District's military program, civil works program and the Post 45 feasibility study. Since the District supports the entire state, it was nice to meet with the neighbors to the east of the District.

SAME is the premier professional military engineering association in the United States, which unites architecture, engineering, construction, facility management and environmen-

tal entities and individuals in the public and private sectors.



"I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with SAME's Midlands Post, they were engaged and asked great questions," said Chamberlayne.

CITIZEN

Storm Spotting

By: Greg Wahl, biologist

On October 18th, the Charleston District hosted a brown bag lunch in which approximately 15 employees participated. The presenter, Jonathan Lamb of the National Weather Service in Charleston, has been a general forecaster in the Charleston Office since 2005. The presentation was titled "Storm Spotter Training" and was part of the National Weather Service's (NWS) outreach program to educate the general public on their SKYWARN storm spotting effort.

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA), NWS which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the NWS.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods which in turn has saved many of lives.

The Charleston District enjoyed learning about storm spotting!



Jonathan Lamb presents to District employees on storm spotting.

The District Stands Down Against Homelessness

By: Sara Corbett

Every year, the Ralph H. Johnson Veteran Affairs Medical Center and Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina host a two day Standdown Against Homelessness event that aids homeless individuals. In its 12th year, the event offers medical and dental screenings and assistance, clothing, food, haircuts and job and legal counseling to veterans and homeless individuals.

Over the course of the two days, William Wallace, contracting, served as a personal shopper. Personal shoppers walk individuals from station to station helping them get undergarments, socks, sleeping bags and blankets. Volunteering at the Standdown Against Homelessness event was a rewarding experience.

"I really enjoyed volunteering last year, and as a veteran, I wanted to be able to give back to my servicemen," said Wallace. "This event reminds me that freedom isn't free."



William Wallace, contract specialist, escorts a veteran at the event.

TIDBITS



Team Charleston walks the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge for the annual bridge walk that promotes a healthy lifestyle.



Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne enjoyed seeing the Lowcountry and the District's projects from a bird's-eye view with Capt. Michael White, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Charleston Commander.



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