

PALMETTO CASILE

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Creative Solutions

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Charleston District

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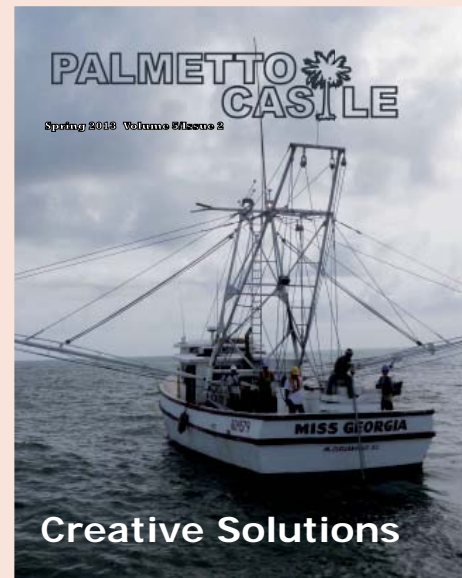


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On the cover....



Read how the Miss Georgia aided the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project on Page 10. Photo is courtesy of Athena Technologies, Inc.

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 determined by the editor.

From the Commander

Greetings from Charleston!

I hope you are enjoying your spring – Charleston has just finished shoveling out from under all of the pollen! This issue is dedicated to the tremendous progress made by our Charleston Harbor Deepening Study (aka Post 45) Team. It was a very proud moment to watch our team in action at our Public Meeting in April and at the Southeast Wildlife Expo in February as they interacted with the public, answered questions, and explained the details behind the study. See more about the highly successful Post 45 Public Meeting on page 17. Also, in this issue we detail the importance of the Charleston Harbor Confined Disposal Areas, highlight some recent innovative data collection supporting the Post 45 study, and include our first human interest story, who just so happens to be a member of the Post 45 team.

The threat of a potential Department of Defense furlough still looms over the District and could slow our support to our important military customers. At the time of publication, it seems that the furlough of some of our District employees will begin in early July and will last up to 11 furlough days, one fifth of a week, for about one quarter of the year. Although our employees who are coded as supporting our civil works and interagency customers have been recently exempted from the furlough, those that are coded supporting our military customers have not. We will continue to provide the very best support to our customers and citizens based on the resources available as we navigate through these times of fiscal uncertainty.

Despite all of this gloom and doom, our team at Fort Jackson continues to deliver world class facilities that support the training of 50,000 Soldiers annually. We continue our major renovations of several barracks and command centers and new construction of an Advanced Individual Training complex and training range. In this issue, we highlight our recent efforts in renovating the Non-Commissioned Officer Club, which was damaged last year in a fire, and Legion Pool. Fort Jackson is our top military customer and we will continue to improve our services and support in order to enable Fort Jackson to better prepare our Soldiers for the future.

Sadly, this is my last Palmetto Castle update to you. It has been an absolute honor serving as the District Engineer while supporting all of the important customers of this District, elected leaders and citizens of South Carolina. Lt. Col. John Litz is eagerly waiting to join the team



and looks forward to meeting with many of you during our transition in early July.

Please continue to keep our deployed service men and women and our deployed civilians in your thoughts and prayers. Our District recently welcomed home our safety officer, John Lindsay, from his 13 month tour in Afghanistan and one of our cost estimators, Jim Henderson, from more than two years in Afghanistan. We still have eight Palmetto Patriots deployed supporting the US Army, US Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies.

I close with thanking you again for your business, trust in our team, and patience as we sort through some of this budgetary uncertainty. We will continue to deliver high quality facilities, projects, and permits for you and the citizens of South Carolina and our nation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E Chamberlayne". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Edward P. Chamberlayne, P.E.
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Commander and District Engineer
edward.p.chamberlayne@usace.army.mil

Relaxing After a Hard Day's Work

Photos and article by Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

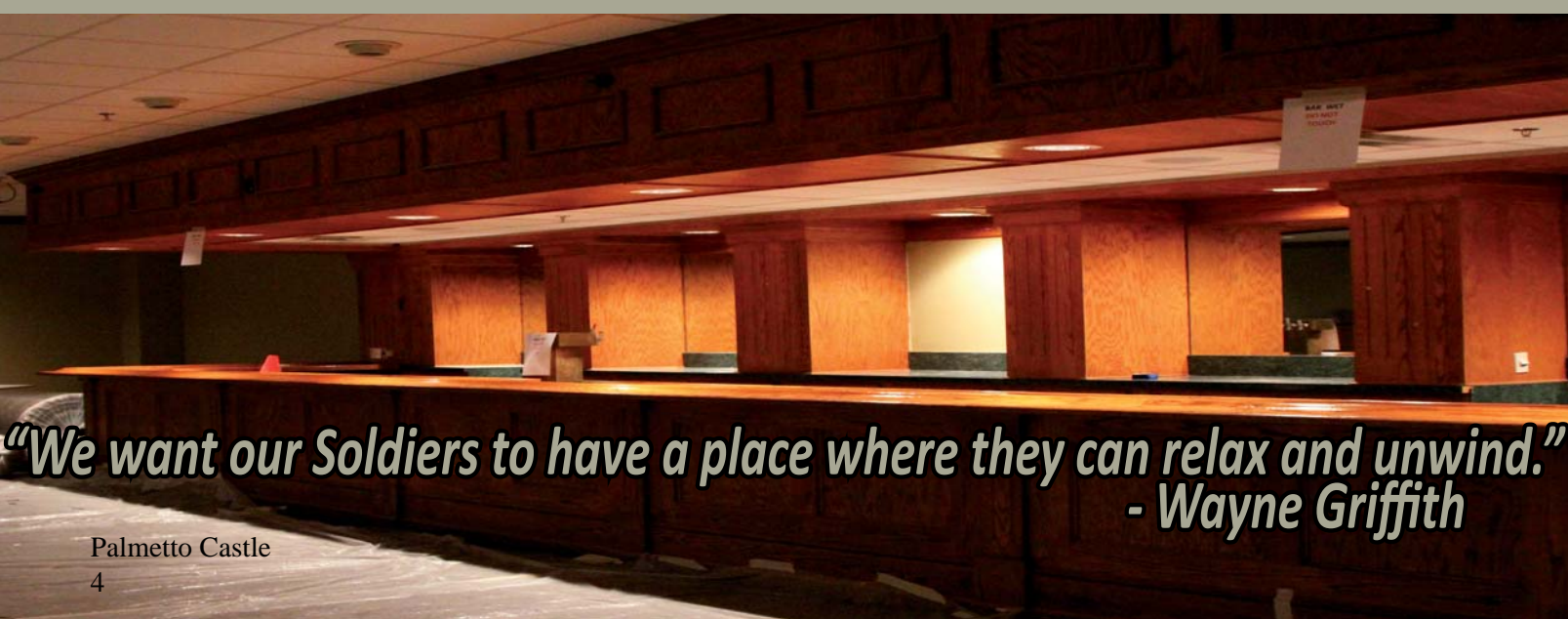
Soldiers at Fort Jackson work hard, and to provide them the reprieve they need, the Charleston District recently renovated the Noncommissioned Officers Club and the Legion Pool at Fort Jackson.

In March 2012, an electrical fire shut down the NCO Club. The fire caused significant heat and smoke damage to the building, interior finishes and mechanical and electrical equipment, which required a total overhaul.

“To ensure the same level of comfort and amenities that the Soldiers were accustomed to at the original NCO Club, the District oversaw the installation of new lighting and new HVAC duct work and the rework of the electrical, sprinkler and sound system to the 10,000 sq. ft. building,” said Wayne Griffith, project engineer for the NCO Club renovation project. “We want our Soldiers to have a place where they can relax and unwind.”

The use of the NCO Club is abundant, from baby showers on the weekends to basic training graduation dinners every Wednesday night as well as Soldiers starting their day with a hearty breakfast and ending their Saturday nights on the dance floor at “Classic Soul Saturdays.” There are several rooms of various sizes to accommodate all the diverse uses. The main ballroom has a built-in stage and huge dance floor, while another room boasts a 50 foot wooden bar and a cozy fire place.

To keep the renovation costs low, the Corps salvaged as much of the club as they could, including using some of the original flooring, doors, chandeliers and dance floor lighting, which included the mirror balls. This \$4.2 million green project was completed in April 2013.



***“We want our Soldiers to have a place where they can relax and unwind.”
- Wayne Griffith***



Another way that Soldiers are able to relax on post is at the Legion Pool. Fort Jackson is sweltering hot during the summer and after a long day in the heat, the Legion Pool is one place to cool-off. The pool was built in 1959 and outdated. To find out exactly what needed to be updated and repaired, the Corps studied the existing pool and decided to renovate it.

“One aspect we changed was the entry,” said project manager Lee Shokes. “It is a beach-entry, so it’s slightly sloped and the depth is gradual. You start at zero feet and end at 10 feet.”

To go with the upgraded pool, the Corps also renovated the pool house. There are new benches, showers and bathrooms, and all of the plumbing and roofing was replaced. The pool will be ready for swimming by the end of June.



“Just Happy to be Here!”

By: Sean McBride

No matter what your job description is, if half of your department goes on another duty assignment, you're in for more work. It's even harder if the original staff only has two people. That's exactly what happened when one of the Charleston District's cost engineering staff members deployed to Afghanistan in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, leaving Jeff Fersner to handle the entire workload by himself.

“It was a little daunting to learn I would have to do the entire job myself,” said Fersner. “I was even doing another stint covering for someone else in the military construction division while they were deployed, so for four months, I was doing three jobs. I was actually relieved when I only had to do two jobs.”

Fersner's counterpart departed in April 2011 for a six month deployment, but extended to two years shortly after arriving. In that first fiscal year, Fersner was able to successfully satisfy the cost estimating requirements for more than 600 contract actions totaling more than \$275 million.

As the cost engineer for the entire District, Fersner works on providing quality cost estimates for all of the District's projects. Fersner's job is to look at a project and estimate what it should cost to ensure the government is getting a fair value for its money by carefully scrutinizing contract proposals. The way he puts it, he's making sure there are “no \$1,000 toilet seats.”

“The most difficult part of doing the job alone was that the timeframe was shortened,” said Fersner. “Normally, I have more time to do estimates, but I'm doing twice the amount of estimates in the same timeframe. I still have to make sure I put out a good product that I'm proud of.”

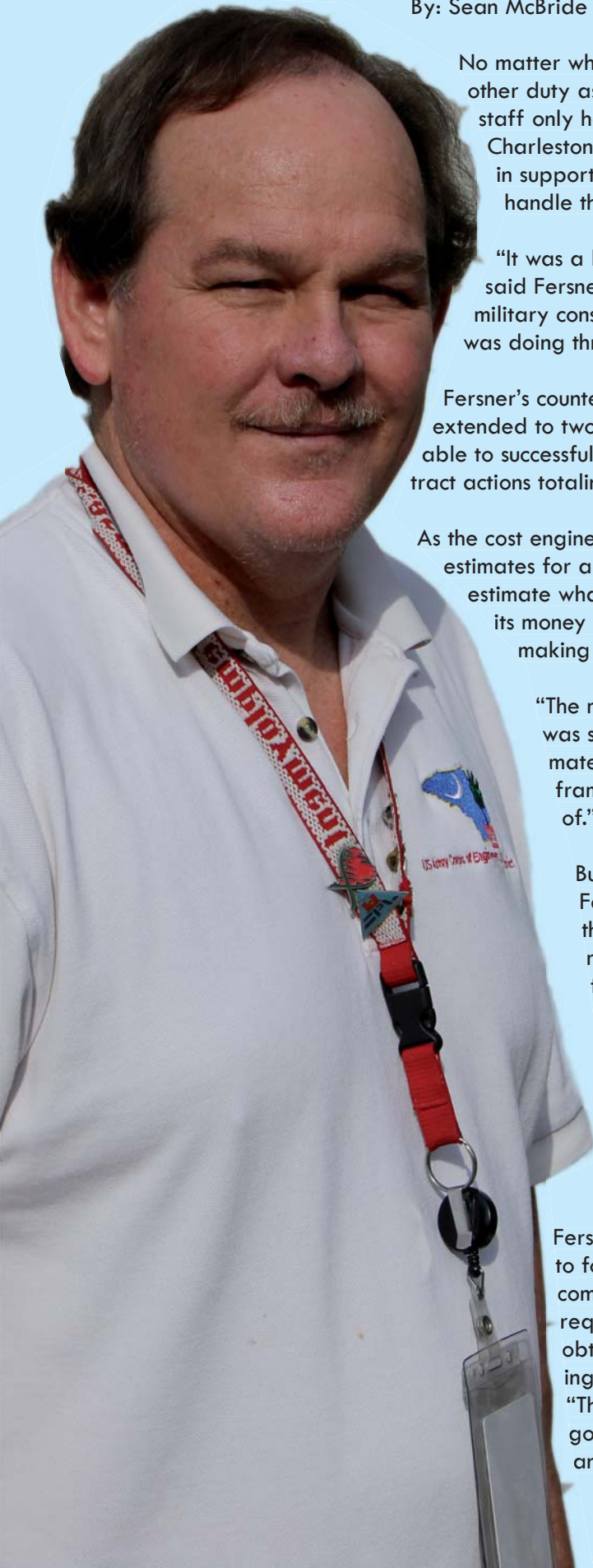
But this difficulty temporarily took a backseat, in April 2012, when Fersner was diagnosed with a serious health issue, which led to the amputation of one of his legs. The surgery, recuperation and rehabilitation time would have put most people out of commission from work for quite some time... but not Fersner. He continued to support the District by providing estimates and price analysis immediately before and after his surgery, as well as throughout his recuperation.

“I worked five hours from the hospital the day of the surgery,” said Fersner. “It helped to pass the time while I was sitting around and waiting.”

Fersner was counseled numerous times to not worry about work and to focus on his recovery, but that didn't stop him. Fersner was fully committed to keeping the work flowing through the District at the rate required to keep all projects on schedule. Fersner even went as far as obtaining notes from his doctor stating that he was capable of working during his recovery.

“The work had to get done,” said Fersner. “If I didn't do it then, it was going to be there when I got back. I have a loyalty to my coworkers and clients, and it needed to get done because the entire contract

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process would be held up without cost engineering.”

Fersner’s looking forward to having his counterpart back on the job to take some of the load off, but mostly just to be a sounding board for ideas without having to call someone at another district. He’s also ready to spend time making his famous spicy sausage balls and riding around on his boat with his wife, Mary.

“I’m just happy to be here,” said Fersner. “But I’m looking forward to taking time off now that someone else can watch the deadlines.”

Fersner continues to excel at his position, improving both the quality of his products and the relationship between his job and the project delivery teams he works for. His performance was recently recognized when he won the South Atlantic Division’s Outstanding Scientific/Professional Employee award. He also represented the District as a nominee for the Federal Executive Association’s Outstanding Scientific/Professional Employee of the Year category. He expands his skills to meet the evolving range of work the Charleston District does and truly leads by example showing that people can overcome any challenge.





“What is going on

series of ditches to drain the trapped water into the mud mixture, better known as the ditching phase. The long reach backhoe is supported on a wooden mat as it works its way down the shaky surface carving out the ditch, used during the appropriately named ditching phase. As the backhoe is working it is literally floating on the mud mixture. This is the part of the business that is called the “art of working the mud.” It takes a keen eye and years of experience to know when the mud is just right to support the equipment.



Article by David Warren and Brian Williams, project managers

When you ride over the Don N. Holt Bridge, the stretch of Interstate 526 connecting Charleston and North Charleston across the Cooper River, you probably see one of two things: a drought stricken lake with a crazy quilt of a gray-brown cracked surface or a lake that is brimming to the top. You probably also see backhoes digging and trucks driving around in circles on top of the dikes. And you probably think “what is going on down there?”

What you see down below are known as the life cycle phases of the Clouter Creek Disposal Area that is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. The life cycle begins with dredging, which is when mud and sand, also known as dredge material, is sucked from the bottom of the Cooper River and transported through a pipe and pumped into the disposal cells. During this process it looks like a lake. Over time, the mud and sand drop out of the water and the water is released at a controlled rate back into the Cooper River. Next is the drying phase, which takes about 8-12 months for the water to drain and where you see the cracked surface that has the consistency of jelly.

The Corps can begin using long reach backhoes to dig a Palmetto Castle

Finally, the last phase is diking; after several cycles of ditching the mud, the mixture is dry enough to dig out and use to make the dikes higher, which allows for more mud mixture to be put back into the cell. The trucks running around are spreading the dried mud mixture on top of the dikes to make them higher. This is a business that loves dry weather and fears hurricanes. With that, the cycle starts over again, dredging, drying, ditching and diking. The cycle allows each cell to recover and not be used constantly, extending the life of the cell.

“If we did not have these areas, we could not maintain and keep Charleston Harbor the economic engine that it is for the region,” said Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne, the district commander with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As part of the ongoing Charleston Harbor Post 45 Feasibility Study, the District is evaluating the type and amount of dredge material that could be excavated from the Cooper River during any eventual deepening and widening of the upper reaches of the harbor. In addition, data has been collected and is being analyzed that will help determine the extent to which the elevation of the dikes can be increased in the future. This information will help the District plan for the future management of the disposal area as it continues to receive annual maintenance dredge material and could receive significant quantities of deepening material.

The disposal area was constructed in the mid 1980’s and is



down there?"

used on a rotating basis to receive the dredge material. The four cells are named North, Highway, Middle and South. The navigation branch has a plan through the year 2020 to manage the capacity of each cell based on the previous amount of material that is placed into each cell every year.

In 2013 alone, the disposal area has received 1.38 million cubic yards of material from the Cooper River. North Cell is currently undergoing an extensive ditching project to prepare the material in the cell for dike raising. Middle Cell is in the preliminary drying phase with ditching scheduled for fiscal year 2014 to precede dike raising. Highway and South Cells are receiving material and have a combined capacity of 6.8 million cubic yards available, enough for five years of maintenance dredging at anticipated rates. The current plan is to design the North Cell dike raising project in 2014 with the actual construction due to take place in 2015.

So when you ride over the Clouter Creek Disposal Area and look down, you are seeing the ultimate play ground for adult kids; mud, sand, big trucks, backhoes and workers going to work every day by boat. Another day in paradise? Not when you step outside and the mosquitoes find you.



A Different Catch

**First in a two-part series on the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project*

Photo and article by Glenn Jeffries, chief, corporate communications

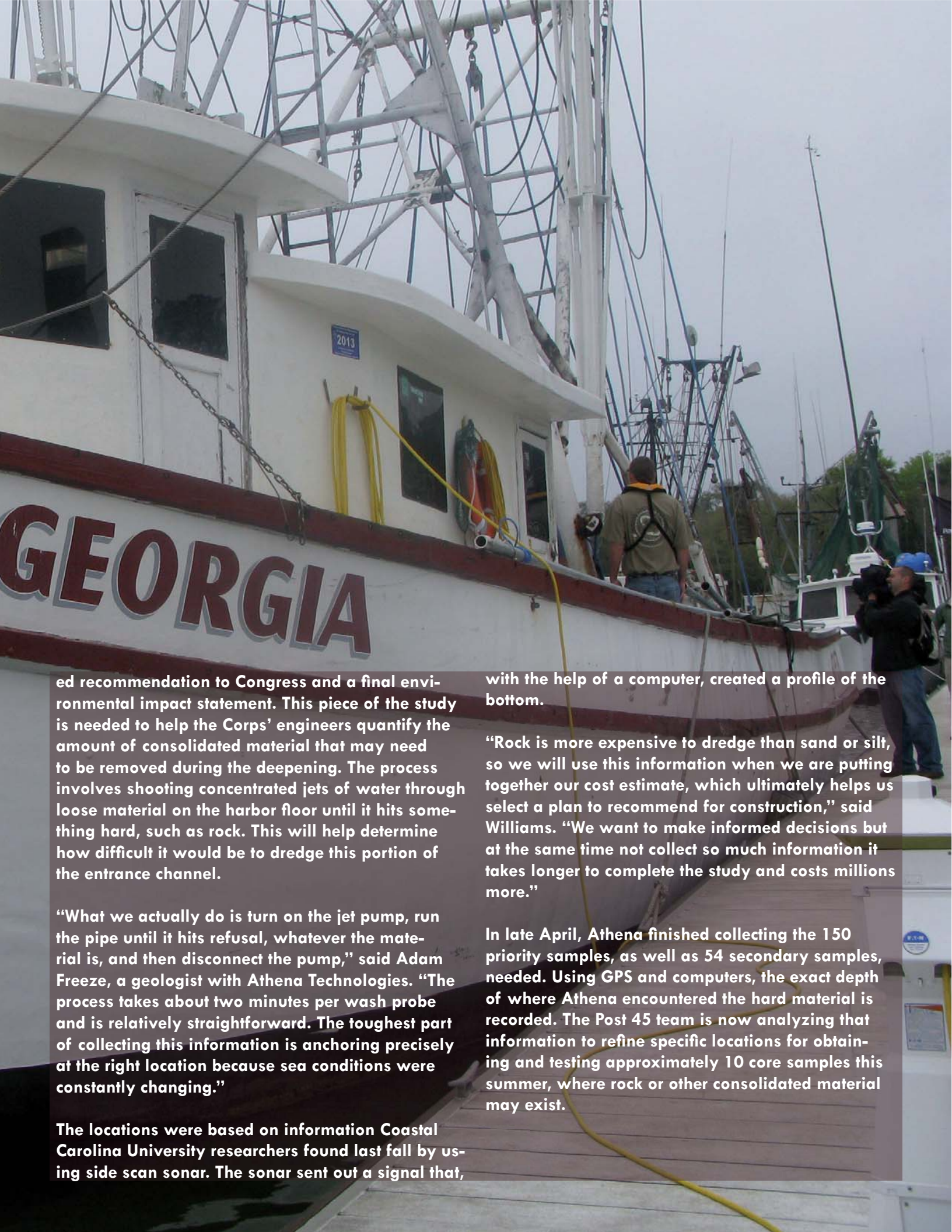
It is a beautiful sunny day in the quaint fishing village of McClellanville, SC. The moss is blowing in the majestic oak trees that lead up to the picturesque dock where the *Miss Georgia* shrimp boat is rocking back and forth in the wind. On the dock, dogs are excitedly running to and fro; a pelican is waiting on a dock post; a dolphin keeps poking her head out of the water checking on the shrimp boat's status; all of them seem to know that the activity aboard means the boat will be pulling off soon.

All of the sudden, the Charleston District's Charleston Harbor Post 45 project manager, Brian Williams, yells back at one of his team members not to forget his life jacket and hard hat, wanting to make sure his team is safely equipped to board the shrimp boat. That doesn't sound right; what would the Post 45 team have to do with this picture?

The Post 45 team contracted Athena Technologies to help gather critical data on 150 sites in the Charleston Harbor by collecting wash probes in the entrance channel to find out where hard material exists on the harbor floor. Choppy seas, coupled with the rain and wind of early spring, made this activity very challenging 20 miles offshore in Athena's pontoon boat. During the first three weeks of work, the Athena crew was only able to sink about half a dozen wash probes due to the rough conditions offshore. These conditions were jeopardizing Athena's ability to complete the work on schedule, putting the Post 45 schedule at risk of slipping.

Outfitting the *Miss Georgia* and another leased shrimp boat with pumps, hoses, computers and a GPS was a brilliant solution developed by Athena. Not only would the shrimp boats be able to counter the harsh elements, they would allow the crew to remain offshore overnight, saving valuable time coming and going out to sea each day.

The Post 45 study is on a very aggressive schedule with a target of September 2015 to have a complet-



ed recommendation to Congress and a final environmental impact statement. This piece of the study is needed to help the Corps' engineers quantify the amount of consolidated material that may need to be removed during the deepening. The process involves shooting concentrated jets of water through loose material on the harbor floor until it hits something hard, such as rock. This will help determine how difficult it would be to dredge this portion of the entrance channel.

“What we actually do is turn on the jet pump, run the pipe until it hits refusal, whatever the material is, and then disconnect the pump,” said Adam Freeze, a geologist with Athena Technologies. “The process takes about two minutes per wash probe and is relatively straightforward. The toughest part of collecting this information is anchoring precisely at the right location because sea conditions were constantly changing.”

The locations were based on information Coastal Carolina University researchers found last fall by using side scan sonar. The sonar sent out a signal that,

with the help of a computer, created a profile of the bottom.

“Rock is more expensive to dredge than sand or silt, so we will use this information when we are putting together our cost estimate, which ultimately helps us select a plan to recommend for construction,” said Williams. “We want to make informed decisions but at the same time not collect so much information it takes longer to complete the study and costs millions more.”

In late April, Athena finished collecting the 150 priority samples, as well as 54 secondary samples, needed. Using GPS and computers, the exact depth of where Athena encountered the hard material is recorded. The Post 45 team is now analyzing that information to refine specific locations for obtaining and testing approximately 10 core samples this summer, where rock or other consolidated material may exist.

Farewell to Charleston: A Look Back

It has been an absolute joy and honor to work with the outstanding professionals of the Charleston District and to assist our customers and citizens of South Carolina. Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you as we improve our nation's infrastructure, facilities, and our civil works and permitting processes.

Although this sounds trite, it is very hard to believe that almost two years have passed since I joined the Charleston District. I will take with me so many fond memories of projects, events, customer relations and the passionate employees of Team Charleston. I'd like to share some of those memories with you.

-- Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne



Regulatory:

Our regulatory division tackles some of the most controversial and complicated issues in the District. In order to better understand the issues behind our ongoing permit actions, I made numerous trips all across South Carolina to meet with both our regulatory staff and applicants. These visits were invaluable to help me make critical decisions affecting both our environment and our economy.

Memories through Pictures: Conducting a site visit in Kershaw meeting with the site staff from Haile Gold Mine Inc. just prior to opening the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement; answering questions and sharing the airwaves with Bob Perry (Director of Environmental Programs, SC Department of Natural Resources) talking a host of issues across South Carolina on Clemson University's Your Day eTV radio show.



Military Construction:

The majority of my military construction memories center on our primary MILCON customer, Fort Jackson. I took monthly trips touring the multiple projects we have completed as well as the \$150 million of active projects at Fort Jackson. Additionally, we held multiple progress meetings and site visits across the country with some of our key military customers of the US Marine Corps Forces Reserve, US Army Reserve 81st Regional Support Command, and Defense Logistic Agency Installation Support.

Memories through Pictures: Standing in front of the newly installed solar hot water heaters on top of the Quad Dining Facility; Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Quad Dining Facility with the Fort Jackson Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, and Garrison Command leadership, Col. Michael Graese and Command Sgt. Maj. Lee; inspecting progress at Basic Training Center III with David Dodds, (Chief of Construction), Matt Laws (Chief of Technical Services Division), Bryan Tempio (Resident Engineer), Jim Hanks, and John Tyson; kicking off construction to repair the 43-acre roof and HVAC system at the DLA Eastern Distribution Center with Col. Trey Jordan (Baltimore District Commander).





Civil Works:

The number one priority for me during my time in the Charleston District was expediting the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project so the majority of my memories focus on that effort. However, we also made great progress expanding drinking water distribution and wastewater distribution lines in the vicinity of Orangeburg and Santee, SC.



Memories through Pictures: One of my earliest memories was the signing of the accelerated feasibility cost share agreement with South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) CEO Jim Newsome in September 2011 – this brought over \$9 million to the team almost overnight; briefing Sen. Lindsey Graham and the SCSPA Board on our progress on the Post 45 study; conducting multiple media interviews about the harbor all over the lowcountry and IN THE harbor – pictured is Eric Egan from the Charleston Channel 4 team; celebrating the construction of the water tower providing one million gallons of clean and safe drinking water to the residents of Orangeburg with SC Sen. John W. Matthews, Jr., Rep. Jim Clyburn, Johnnie Wright (Chairman of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency), and Bill McCall (VP of Santee Cooper).





Interagency and International Support:

The Charleston District can work for ANY federal agency. However, any federal agency can take their work anywhere they want! I have been extremely proud of our customer service approach that supports a growing list of other federal agencies.

Memories through Pictures: At the ribbon cutting for the Department of State Human Resources Service Center (formerly a bowling alley!) highlighting the great construction support given by our Lowcountry Resident Engineer, Kevin Widner, and team; participating in the ribbon cutting with the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Ralph Johnson Veteran Affairs Medical Center for the new Veteran Enrichment Center; visiting continuous construction in support of the Department of Energy at the Saltstone Disposal Unit at the Savannah River Site with David Dodds, SRS Resident Engineer, Vickmary Negrón-Figueroa, Interagency and International Support PM Chief, Jim Whiteman, and SRS Quality Assurance, Virginia Jones; touring the Mixed Oxide Fuels facility with our support team to the National Nuclear Security Administration – pictured are Jim Whiteman, Stan Allison, Bill Stein.





Community Relations:

The tremendous support by our District to the surrounding community has humbled me over the past two years. For a District that is relatively small, we have a huge positive impact on the public we serve. Whether it is the Feds Feed Families program, the Combined Federal Campaign, Toys for Tots, blood donations, Stand Down Against Homelessness, or donating winter coats to needy families in Afghanistan, our District contributes a great deal to our local community.

Memories through Pictures: Giving a Memorial Day speech to veterans from the VFW and American Legion; supporting Trident United Way's Day of Caring with my Deputy Commander Maj. John O'Brien by cleaning trash from a local marsh along the harbor in Charleston; receiving the Above and Beyond award on behalf of the District from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for our support of Staff Sgt. Walter Gordon during his deployment overseas; making a donation to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program with my kids, Glenn Jeffries, Sean McBride, and Storm Team 2's Rob Fowler.



Post 45 101: Educating the Public & Students

Article By Sean McBride, public affairs specialist
Photos By Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

As part of a continuous effort to be transparent and keep the public informed, the Charleston District held its second public meeting for the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Feasibility Study on April 30. The purpose of this meeting was to release and discuss new information that has been discovered so far and explain to the public how far along the study has come.

The meeting was held in a similar format to the public scoping meeting in December 2011, featuring displays about the environmental, engineering and economic aspects of the study where members of the public could stop by and talk to project team members. The meeting also featured a presentation from District Commander Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne about the overall progress of the study, as well as provided numerous ways for the public to comment on the study.

New to the audience at this meeting were students from Wando High School's inaugural marine biology classes who are studying Sullivan's Island and the potential impact that Post 45 may have on the barrier island. This year's classes have provided the high school with baseline data, including biological assessments of the island's beach and near-shore environment, sediment layering and beach morphology. The information they are gathering is being analyzed and will be used for comparison data for future classes. The goal is for each year's classes to build upon the previous classes' work.

On May 3, in an effort to continuously promote science, technology, engineering and math to students, the District's plan formulator, Colt Bowles, spent the day with the three classes providing them information on not only Post 45, but

also the Corps' history and their role in helping develop both the nation and South Carolina. The students had prepared a variety of questions for Bowles about the long-term effects of Post 45, how port business would be affected without dredging, how the economy and jobs would be affected, and what the harmful and helpful aspects of dredging would be.

Being transparent and engaging with the public through meetings and visiting classes, such as the ones at Wando High School, is one of the top points of the Charleston District's mission. The Corps looks forward to continued interaction with Wando High School and seeing how the class' project develops.



THE EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION AND FURLOUGH



Article by Sean McBride

As we're sure you've all heard, the federal government has been facing sequestration, resulting in budget cuts to nearly all categories of federal spending beginning on March 1. Many programs throughout the federal government are being cut or reduced. One way this has happened is through the implementation of furloughs, in which, starting July 8, government employees' work weeks are reduced by one day a week for 11 weeks. If the budgetary situation permits, the furlough period could be ended early. There is much speculation on what effects this will have on projects across the nation. Here in Charleston, approximately 65 of our employees that work on military construction projects will unfortunately face these furloughs. We sat down with Charleston District Commander Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne to discuss this issue and the effects on our projects in Charleston and beyond.

Q: Why are some employees furloughed and some are not?

A: Civil works employees are exempted from furlough because the funding that is used for civil works projects, including the salary of the people working on the projects, does not come from any of the areas within the Department of Defense appropriations. Civil Works projects are funded by the Energy and Water Appropriations Act. The majority of our personnel are civil works funded. Our personnel that are funded by DOD are impacted as the cuts that are taking place affect the DOD's budget.

Q: Why do you feel the topic of sequestration is important to the people of Charleston in regards to the Charleston District?

A: Clearly this is the most important issue facing our employees, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Defense. The reality that our country is facing massive budget cuts, future budget uncertainty, and debates over the debt ceiling has finally hit home. It is heart breaking that approximately 65 of our hardworking employees may receive a temporary pay cut in order Palmetto Castle

to reduce our deficit and, ultimately, our national debt.

Q: What is the message you want the people of Charleston to know about our actions during a sequestration period?

A: The leadership of this District, the South Atlantic Division and the Corps of Engineers are doing everything they can to advocate for our workforce and mitigate the impacts of sequestration and furlough. We are in constant communication with our military customers to better understand how our future work will be impacted, keeping in mind that these customers are also facing reduced budgets and furlough in the near future.

Q: What would you say to anyone that said "there is no way you will be able to do all the work you do now"?

A: I agree with that. Our current and future project workload will be reduced either directly or indirectly through reduced budgets from our military and interagency customers. When furloughs take place, we will obviously have fewer hours per employee per pay period to focus on project delivery, planning and execution. We will have to do less with less. That is painful to admit but this is the situation we find ourselves in. We are in the process now of determining what efforts will remain on schedule, which will be delayed and what we will no longer be able to perform. Nothing will change without close coordination with our military customers, our employees and our Corps of Engineers leadership.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say to the people of Charleston and South Carolina about how the Charleston District will maintain their state of readiness during this period?

A: We will continue to serve the citizens of South Carolina and our customers across the state and the nation to our very best ability. We pride ourselves in customer service and the ability to solve large and complex problems. We will prioritize activities and efforts across the District based on projected reduced funding and reduced work weeks. Unfortunately, we may not be able to continue operations just as before but we will keep the public and our military customers informed if changes are made.

Civil Works Customer Survey



"As an organization that represents businesses directly impacted by the Corps' work, I greatly appreciate the communication from the Corps."
 – Pamela Zaresk, Maritime Association of South Carolina



"It has been my pleasure to work with the Charleston Corps of Engineers for the past eight years. They are an outstanding organization that delivers quality projects on time and on budget."
 – Eric Strom, U.S. Geological Survey



"The Charleston Corps District is a highly skilled group of professionals that pay attention to their customers' needs. My questions never go unanswered."
 – Barbara Melvin, South Carolina State Ports Authority

"[Lt. Col.] Chamberlayne has done an outstanding job of seeking community partnership input on the harbor deepening project."
 – Geoff Scott, NOAA



"I can't tell you I agree with all the procedures and process [the Corps] has to follow, but I understand it's nothing personal."
 – Johnnie Wright, Lake Marion Regional Water Agency

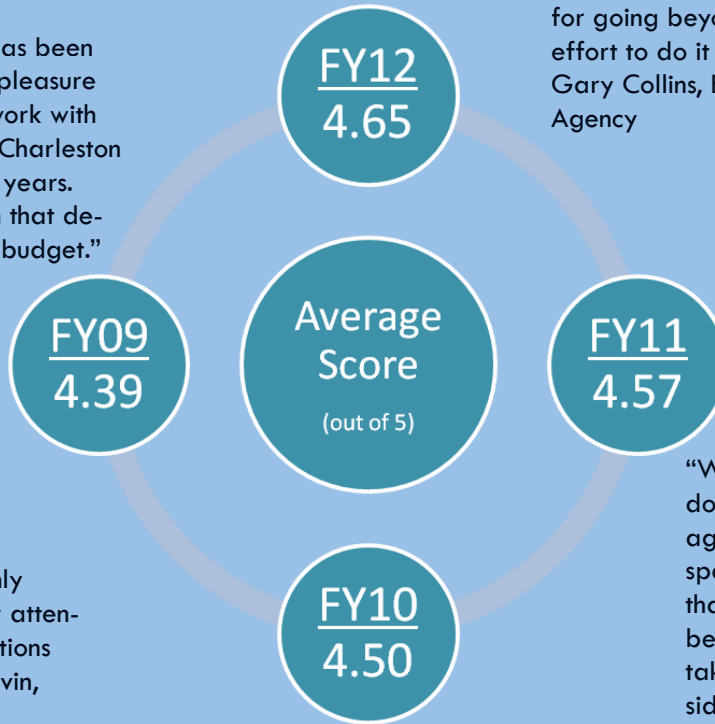


*All quotes were printed with permission from customers

We recently received the results from our annual civil works customer satisfaction survey and gained tremendous feedback. We take our relationships with our customers very seriously in order to provide them the product or service they are expecting from us. The survey gauges our customers' attitudes toward our staff, timeliness, cost, service, communication, problem solving and more. Questions are scored one to five and provide the opportunity to submit feedback. Here is a sampling of some of the very constructive feedback we received from our partners, which will help us to improve for years to come.

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"The cooperation and attitude shown to me by the Post 45 project members has been exemplary. [They] should be commended for going beyond in an effort to do it right the first time."
 – Gary Collins, Environmental Protection Agency



"While we... don't always agree on the specifics, I can always say that the Corps staff have been respectful, listened and taken our comments into consideration."
 – Jay Herrington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Response Rate

FY12
70%

FY11
92.6%

FY10
79.2%

FY09
80%

Meet Our:

Rose Smalls
Rose.Smalls@usace.army.mil

What is your position?

I am the deputy of the small business programs. This position is relatively new and was created in 2011 since small business goals are a priority to the Charleston District. I have been in this position since February and have found it very rewarding to help small businesses maximize their opportunity to do business with the Corps.

Describe your job.

The primary duty of this position is to advise and assist project managers and contracting officers with developing strategies to ensure maximum participation from contractors and subcontractors. In order to meet these goals, I meet with small businesses and contractors to learn about their capabilities and the services they provide in order to match them with a project the district may have. For example, when the District is tasked with a project, I help the District achieve its small business goals. Another aspect of my job is to provide opportunities for small businesses and large businesses to work together. I advise small businesses of upcoming projects where they can solicit large businesses for subcontracting opportunities. This situation is a win-win. In pursuit of continuing to help small businesses, I participate in the U.S. Small Business Administration, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the South Carolina Coalition for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I get excited when I am able to effectively match a small company with a project within the Charleston District and it results in a contract award. I enjoy watching small businesses succeed and grow, because as they grow, they are able to hire more people and take on more projects. All of which helps feed the struggling economy in South Carolina and ultimately the country.

Highlight a notable milestone or memory in your career.

I started in the District as a summer hire while attending the University of South Carolina. After graduating, I was hired as a secretary. I was a secretary for 16 years in different divisions, but I had attempted to move to the contracting division several times. Just as I was about to give up, a senior leader encouraged me to apply for the contracting job one more time and this time was selected! It was such a rewarding feeling, knowing that my hard work and persistence had finally paid off and I was able to move to the career field I had always wanted to be a part of.

What goals do you hope to accomplish in your new position?

My goals are to continue to serve as an advocate in support of small businesses. Small businesses sometimes struggle with submitting a winning proposal, so I have tentatively scheduled a workshop in fiscal year 2014 that will teach them how to complete a proposal package that will ultimately assist them in winning contract awards. I will continue the trend of exceeding our small business goals. Last year the Charleston District exceeded its overall small business goal by five percent.



THANKS TO ALL OF OUR MILITARY

By Narissia Skinner, family readiness coordinator

What comes to mind when you think of the month of May? Perhaps flowers blooming, graduations, the beginning of summer, or even Mother's Day. But there is another special significance for May that you may not be aware of. May marks National Military Appreciation Month. As a nation, we observe and participate in various national, cultural and social awareness events through mass media attention and traditional observances. May appropriately recognizes an entity that impacts each and every American in a significant way – the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

NMAM provides an entire month that encompasses history and recognition of our armed services with a look at the diversity of its individuals and their achievements. As we all become better educated on the historical impacts of our military, it gives us a time to reflect on those who proudly serve by showing our patriotism and love for America.

This very important month allows us to honor, remember, and appreciate all military personnel, past, present, and future, and their families. This accounts for well more than 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history.

As you go through the month of May, enjoying all of the pleasantries that this month can bring, please take a moment to stop and reflect and thank a service member for all that they have done.



You are invited!
**Please join us as we say farewell to
outgoing District Commander,
Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne
&
welcome incoming District Commander,
Lt. Col. John Litz**

**July 11, 2013
10:00 AM
The Citadel, Mark Clark Hall
Hope to see you there!**

Palmetto Happenings

Another Successful Engineer Week

Engaging and interacting with young minds to encourage them toward a path of science, technology, engineering and math is a priority at the Charleston District. The District hosted approximately 40 sixth and seventh graders from Charleston Charter School of Math and Science with the goal of promoting and encouraging an interest in STEM and to celebrate Engineer Week.

The students used the occasion to learn how the Corps' engineers and biologists help the community by developing affordable and environmentally responsible solutions to challenging problems. They participated in a wetlands practical exercise, engaged in general engineering practices, learned about the different types of plant and animal species that live in the Lowcountry, and watched an informative presentation on structural engineering as well as learned how a GPS system and Google Earth are used daily in the engineering field. The students discovered the vital contributions engineers make to the economy, environment and their everyday life.



Engaging Young Minds

Joe Moran, fish biologist, presented to approximately 4,000 students at the Berkeley County "Kids Who Care" event in March. The event gives kindergarten through sixth grade students the chance to broaden their knowledge about the science, technology, engineering and math fields. Encouraging young students to take an interest in STEM is a high priority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Charleston District.

"With the decline of interest in STEM over the last several years, I wanted to show how much fun being a biologist is," Moran said. "My goal was to show them that not only is STEM cool but those who have STEM careers are an asset to our nation and that they can make a difference."

Moran talked about his career as a fish biologist and gave an overview of several types of anadromous fish with the hopes of encouraging young minds to follow the STEM path.

STEM: The District's Priority!



Meeting with Future Engineers

Continuing a great partnership with The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina, Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne and Maj. John O'Brien spent an afternoon in March briefing Citadel sophomores and juniors about the benefits of joining the engineering branch of the Army, as well as the different opportunities the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offered.

"These cadets are at a big point in their lives where they get to choose which branch of the Army they want to dedicate their lives to," said Chamberlayne. "We were fortunate to be able to provide some insight to what the engineering path looks like, both during their service and after, so that they can make an informed decision."

The students were filled with questions about what types of educational opportunities are offered with the engineering track and how that affects their years of service. As the eager hands shot up, Chamberlayne and O'Brien were happy to inform them.



Charleston District's Memo and Distinctions

Congratulations, Forty Under 40 Winners!

Each year the *Charleston Regional Business Journal* selects 40 of Charleston's brightest and dedicated community members that are less than 40 years of age. This year, Brandan Scully, chief, navigation branch, had the honor of being selected for Forty Under 40 due to his commitment with the Corps of Engineers and several community organizations.

As the chief of the navigation branch, Scully oversees the management of federal navigation projects, which include dredging Charleston Harbor and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Scully has taken an active role in the community as he is a mentor at Burke High School and Charleston Women in International Trade. He is also a member of the Trident Tech Civil Engineering Technology Advisory Board and on the board of the Charleston Community Rowing Club, all of which earned him this great honor.

This year's nominees were honored with a reception and awards ceremony on April 11 at Alhambra Hall. Congratulations to Scully and the 2013 class of Forty Under 40.



District Employee Selected as FEA's Employee of the Year!

Chris Wright, hydrographic survey technician, was selected by the Federal Executive Association of the Greater Charleston Area's 2012 Federal Employee of the Year in the Outstanding Technician/Assistant Employee Award category. Mayor Joe Riley and Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne handed Wright this prestigious award.

As a hydrographic survey technician, Wright is responsible for surveying the Charleston District's navigation channels, which provide safe, reliable and efficient harbors and waterways for the movement of commerce, national security needs and recreation. With the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project a priority to the District and one of the President's "We Can't Wait" initiatives, the accuracy of his surveys is extremely important because it directly affects the estimated cost of the deepening. An error even on the magnitude of inches in the entrance channel could potentially increase the cost of the project by more than \$1.3 million for taxpayers and the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

The FEA Employee of the Year luncheon was held on May 2 at the Red Bank Club to honor Charleston's best and brightest federal employees. FEA is comprised of local federal agencies that meet regularly to improve communication and coordination among the agencies.

Congratulations to all the 2012 FEA Employee Award nominees and winners!



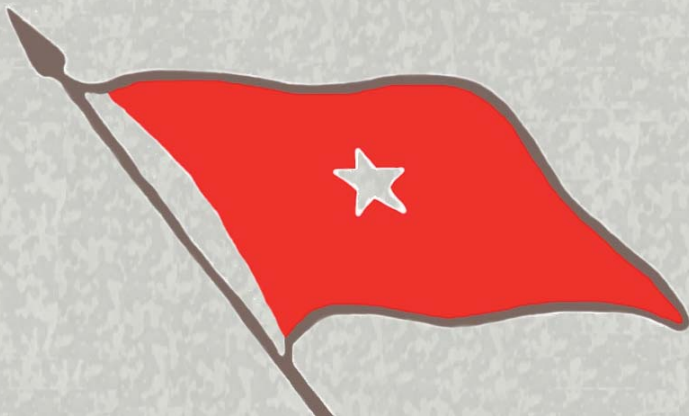
TIDBITS



Col. Ed Jackson and Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne presented Department of Natural Resources' Director of Environmental Programs, Bob Perry, with a South Atlantic Division coin for the support that SCDNR provided to the District during recent fish lift renovation at St. Stephen Powerhouse.



Rep. Jeff Duncan (right) and Lance Williams, Chief of Staff (left), of South Carolina District 3, visited with the Charleston District's Post 45 team to get an update on the harbor deepening project and how it will affect the many manufacturing companies in his area of the state.



Congratulations to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division Commander Col. Ed Jackson on his selection for promotion to Brigadier General. We look forward to seeing that one-star on you!