PALMETTO CASTLE

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Cover photo by Sean McBride
Partnerships are the center of how business gets done at the Charleston District. Having excellent partnerships with stakeholders, customers, universities and other federal agencies enables us to serve our community better. Learn more about our various partnerships throughout this issue.

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From the Commander

Kon'nichiwa teammates and partners!

It is my honor to introduce myself to you as the Charleston District's 86th Commander and District Engineer! What a pleasure it is for me and my family to be here to serve the Lowcountry, the state of South Carolina and the nation.

Over the last several years, I have served overseas, from Europe, to the Middle East, and most recently in Japan where I negotiated the government of Japan's construction support to U.S. Forces. While overseas, I learned a great deal about establishing relationships and developing compromise between stakeholders, but now I am very excited to return home and apply those skills at the local level in direct support to our nation.

I've previously worked for USACE at the Honolulu District, so I have an understanding of how the District operates, which will ease my transition into command. I have been in constant communication with Charleston District leadership over the last several months and have a sense of what opportunities and challenges lay ahead in the next couple of years. I'm really looking forward to joining this close-knit family of trusted professionals who are dedicated to their community and the environment. My goal, as the commander, will be to provide an environment which continues to facilitate the outstanding performance of our District professionals. I will also look to advance our presence in the community through great work and growing our relationships with public leaders, industry professionals and interested citizens.

While I have not yet evaluated all aspects of the Charleston District, I can say that effective communication is the most difficult task within any organization. It is with that mindset that I hope to enhance communication, both within the District and with our partners, customers and stakeholders. I encourage anyone reading this that if you at any time feel you have input that would help me or our organization better serve you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. It is the views of those affected by decisions that truly can have the most impact. I want our personnel to be proud of the work they accomplish and I want our partners with whom we work to be able to depend on us to get the job done efficiently, effectively and safely.

It is my goal to spend the first few months of my command getting to know all of the Charleston District employees and our external partners. I will be traveling to see our projects and learn from our team in the field. I also want to engage with our partners to learn about your priorities and how the District can help you reach your goals. Our partnerships are what help us thrive as an organization, which is why much of this issue of the Palmetto Castle focuses on our partners on multiple levels. It will take some time to meet everyone and visit all of our projects, so bear with me, but know that I am genuinely looking forward to our time together.

The Charleston District team is one that is spoken very highly of around the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and I am truly excited to be a part of the team. It is a great honor to have been selected for this command and I take your trust very seriously.

Building Strong!

Matthew W. Luzzatto, P.E., PMP
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RAIN OR SHINE....

Article by Sean McBride and photos by Dennis Franklin

It literally took tropical storm-level rain to shut down the inaugural Public Service Recognition Week Exhibition on May 7th at Liberty Square in downtown Charleston. But rain or shine, federal employees do their job, so weeks of hard work and planning weren't going to be deterred by a few sprinkles.

The exhibition was held as part of the City of Charleston's Public Service Recognition Week, proclaimed by Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. "to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels- federal, state, county and city- as they make life better for all they serve." This powerful public outreach opportunity provided an excellent platform to educate the public about the missions of approximately 25 federal and military agencies in the Charleston area while promoting the organizations' value to the public. This was the first time federal agencies in the Charleston tri-county area came together in a joint outreach event.

As the rain began to fall outside the Fort Sumter National Monument, Rep. Mark Sanford kicked off the day with a speech about his public service and how important public servants are to the country. This was followed by a welcome from Bryan Derreberry, CEO of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Postal Service's unveiling of a new commemorative stamp of Maya Angelou, which was kept on display.

Along with the other agencies, the Charleston District showcased their capabilities and duties to Charleston citizens for the next few wet hours. Each agency set up a booth with some of the more unique equipment that enables them to do their job serving the public. For instance, SPAWAR and the 628th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight both showed off their robots. The Naval Consolidated Brig and U.S. Department of Homeland Security wooed everyone with their trained dogs. The Charleston Air Force Base Fire Department laid out all of the equipment a firefighter has to wear. The Coast Guard towed in two of their survey and rescue vessels.

"The tri-county area boasts nearly 10,000 government employees," said Capt. Marvin Jones, commanding officer of the Naval Health Clinic and military co-chair of the Federal Executives Association, who organized the event. "Today, you can see how we keep the Lowcountry safe, care for our citizens and veterans, protect our borders, defend our nation and repair aging infrastructure. Together we make the tri-county area stronger and enrich the lives of all who live here."

Recently, President Obama said, "a government of, by, and for the people is only sustained through hard work and extraordinary sacrifice of millions of citizens willing to serve the country they love." The Charleston District is just one of dozens of agencies working to improve the lives of South Carolina residents for years to come… even in the rain.

Opposite page: Rep. Mark Sanford greets the crowd.
Top Left: Robots from SPAWAR and the 628th CES/CED Explosive Ordnance Disposal were a big hit.
Top Right: A dog sniffs out the monument.
Bottom: Members of the U.S. Coast Guard proudly show off their vessel.

The A-Team Takes On

By Wayne Griffith and Sean McBride

When someone mentions "The A-Team," Hannibal, Face, B.A., and Murdock probably pop into your head, running from the military and helping people along the way. But what if the new A-Team was five people; Michelle Arnoult, Wayne Griffith, Mac McReynolds, Kenny Millbrook and Joe Reasoner, from the Charleston District running straight to the military to help inventory the assets at the Army buildings throughout Hawaii?

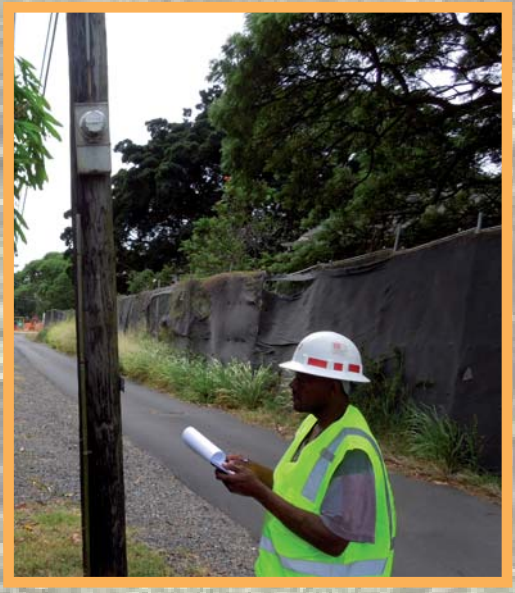
Their motives were a little different, but "The A-Team" was the nickname given to the Charleston District team that flew 16 hours to Honolulu to support a new government-wide utility monitoring program developed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program. This partnership was created to help drive down the federal government's utility costs in military and government facilities across the country.

In a global effort lead by the Huntsville District, teams from the Charleston, Kansas City and Baltimore Districts readily stepped up to the task to inventory all the assets in Hawaii at Fort Shafter and Tripler Army Medical Center. The team from Charleston had 30 days to inventory the electric, gas, water and steam meters in an endeavor that totaled more than 215 buildings. The inventory effort consisted of photo documentation, collection of nameplate data and identifying the physical location of each meter.

"The Charleston District team was open-minded and willing to take on new tasks, and they were never afraid to learn new things from others," said Dean Fukuchi, project lead for the Honolulu District, the lead local USACE District.

Not surprisingly, "The A-Team" not only met but exceeded expectations by visiting most of the buildings within two weeks. The Honolulu District was so impressed they tasked two additional sites that included the Military Reservation and East Range, which added an additional 46 buildings. The hard work and dedication of the Charleston District team members is what led to their "A-Team" nickname.

Charleston District supported the other Districts by sharing tips, lessons learned and contacts. Even though the team had years of experience heading into to project, they brought even more knowledge back. The project was an opportunity to utilize skills and knowledge in a new way and come back to Charleston better-prepared to take on the next challenge that arises, and they even brought back pineapples and macadamia nuts to share with their coworkers.



HAWAII

Opposite page left: Kenny Milbrook inspects the meters at different buildings. Right: Tripler Army Medical Center was one of the areas the group assessed. Bottom: Wayne Griffith and Michelle Arnoult compile all the data they collected.

"See With M

By Sannie Rivas

Coming all the way from Paraguay to the United States to be an exchange student at Ashley Hall, I had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks as an intern at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. Known for their innovative ideas and creativity, and their use of science and mathematics to solve problems, engineers can create a lot of different and amazing things to help the world. Each day at the Corps was a new experience. I got the opportunity to meet with different people, some of them engineers, and hear them talk about their jobs, goals, and experiences. I also spent a lot of time outside the office, where I could witness and learn even more about all the projects currently going on.

During my first week, we went to Folly Beach to look at the sand fence project. It consists of v-shaped wooden fences designed to capture wind-blown sand to create new dunes and help with the erosion issues on the island. These dunes serve as wave protection for the houses near the water when a storm comes. The project was in different phases of completion, so I saw the sections where the fences were newer and dunes smaller, as well as where the dunes were really high and with some vegetation already growing. This was something new for me because my country does not have a coast, so I have not seen work done on a beach before.

I also spent a day on-board the *SV Evans*, the Charleston District's surveying vessel, where the crew showed me how they use multi-beam sonar technology. That day, we used it to gather data on the depth of Shem Creek, which was dredged two years ago. With this technology and computer software to read the gathered data, the District can make sure that the depth is maintained at the same level so that boats can know where they can and cannot go through. Although I had heard about sonar technology before, I had not seen it in-person.

The day I enjoyed the most was my last day, where I went outside with a female civil engineer. I preferred

y Own Eyes"

being outside of the office because I could see with my own eyes how things work. I got to go out on the boat to see the dredging ship working. The machine digs the floor of the harbor under the water and removes the material at the bottom. It then pumps the material through a pipe connected to the disposal area. After a period of time, the sand and the mud will settle and the clean water will drain back to the creek.

I always had the idea that civil engineers only built bridges, parking lots, or powerhouses. After spending time with them, I learned that not only do they build things, but they also have environmental projects, like Polk Swamp where they will restore the degraded ecosystem structure. When the projects are finished, they have to go back and make sure that the project is taken care of and the appropriate maintenance is done.

My brother's experience in the field of engineering at the University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil is one of the things that has encouraged me to follow in his steps. He will soon become a mechanical engineer and has always been a role model for me. My hope for the future is to have the same opportunity as he has to study in a foreign country. Now, after spending these days at the Charleston District speaking with engineers who patiently explained to me everything about what they enjoy of their jobs, the difficulties of them, and, most important of all, the impact they make in the world, I can say that this rewarding experience has helped me make the final decision of becoming an engineer.

Opposite top: Rivas explores one of the Corps' disposal sites.
Opposite middle: A survey crew member helps Rivas learn the software the Corps uses for the side scan sonar.
Opposite bottom: Dudley Patrick, project manager, meets with a customer about a potential project, giving Rivas the opportunity to learn about our capabilities.
Top right: A Regulatory project manager gives an overview of a wetland delineation.
Middle: Patrick talks with Rivas about restoring a swamp.
Bottom: Jesse Helton, planner, shows Rivas the Morris Island Lighthouse.

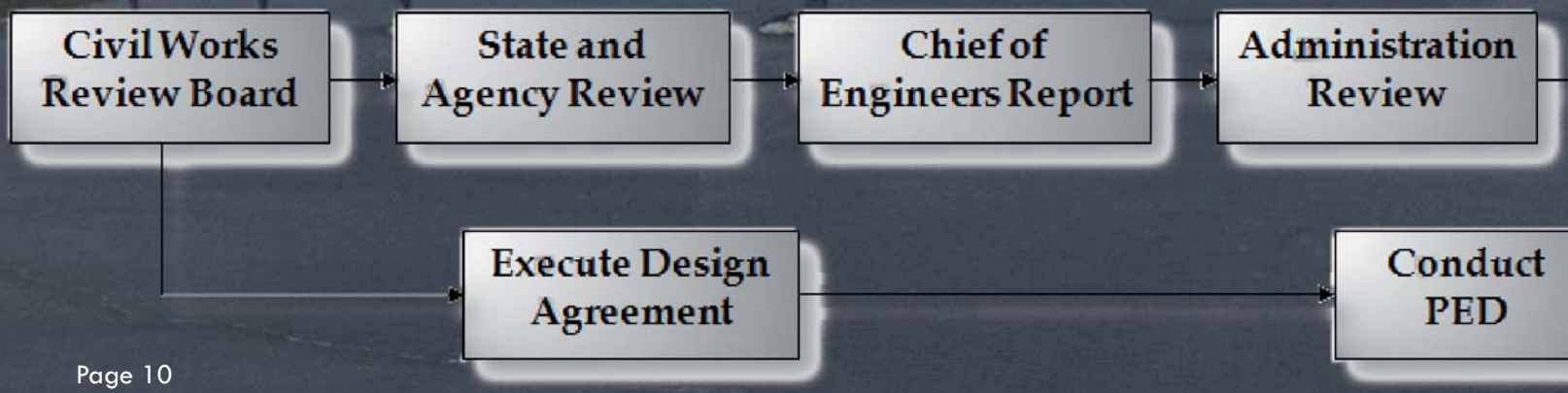
Post 45:

By Bret Walters, chief, planning and environmental branch

The Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Feasibility Study reached another major milestone when the results of the study were presented to the Civil Works Review Board in Washington, D.C., on June 25th. At the end of the meeting, the panel members, comprised of senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leaders and chaired by Maj. Gen. John Peabody, deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, unanimously agreed with the Charleston District's project delivery team's recommendation and approved the release of Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and the proposed Chief's Report. The Final Report recommends deepening portions of the federal channel to 52 feet.

The successful CWRB marks the second time a Charleston District project has set a national standard for completing studies under the Corps' new planning process. The new process, launched in 2012, is designed to complete studies faster and at less cost while producing reports that are more concise than were typically produced under the previous process. This June, the Post 45 study set the new standard by being the first study in the nation to start under the new process and achieve a successful CWRB meeting.

The Final Report now undergoes a 30 day state and agency review period, running from July 10th through August 10th. It provides an opportunity for state and federal agencies, and the public, to see how their comments and concerns were addressed in the Final Report and were used to make a more informed decision. It is also the last step in the public review process before the Record of Decision is signed, which documents completion of the National Environmental Policy Act requirements. Following the review, the Chief's Report, an abbreviated version of the Final Report that concentrates on the information needed for Congressional authorization and appropriation actions, is expected to be



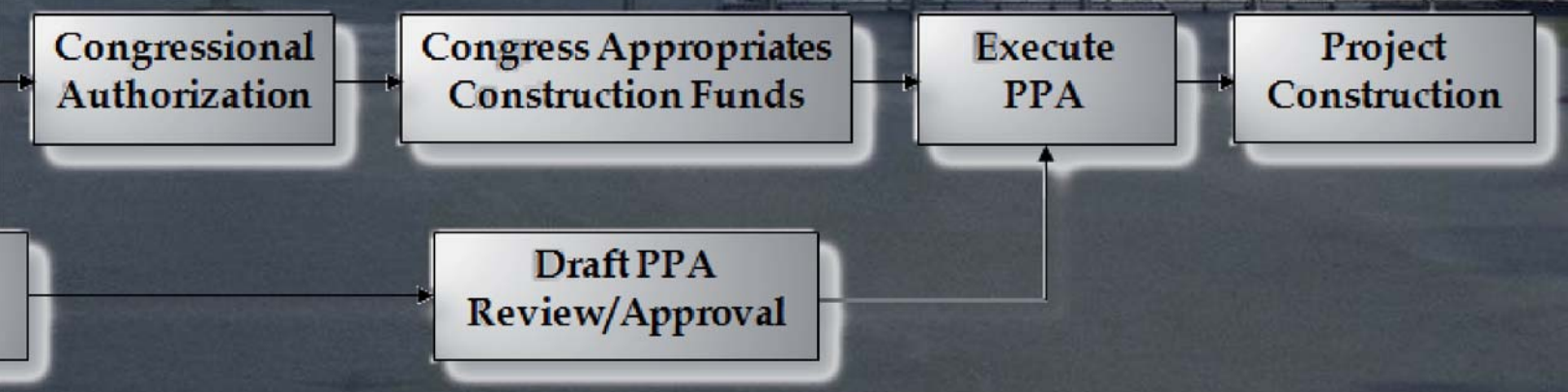
Flying Forward

finalized and coordinated through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the Office of Management and Budget before being sent to Congress for authorization and appropriation of federal funds for construction.

The Final Report looks much like the draft that was released for review last October. The final version is about 30 pages longer, due mostly to the addition of details to address comments and questions related to early stages of the plan selection process and requests for more specific information in the mitigation and adaptive management plan. Being on the leading edge of the new process meant that the team lacked examples and guidance to help balance the level of detail with the desire to produce the most concise report possible. On a large, complex navigation study like Post 45, this turned out to be one of the team's biggest challenges. The finalization of the Chief's Report will mark the end of the feasibility study phase. This is followed by the Preconstruction Engineering and Design phase. The PED phase takes the conceptual design formulated during the study and refines it into detailed plans and specifications that can be used to award a contract to construct the improvements. That process is expected to take 18-24 months and cost about $4.5 million. Federal funding has been allocated to start the PED phase and it is expected to start later this summer after a design agreement that defines the roles and cost-sharing responsibilities of the Charleston District and the South Carolina State Ports Authority is developed and signed. Once construction funds are appropriated, a project partnership agreement can be executed and construction can begin. Construction could be completed within about four to six years, depending on the availability of funding and equipment needed to complete the work efficiently.

Graphic: This shows the concurrent steps for the Post 45 project going forward to the Construction Phase.

Background Photo: A unique sight when 15 C-17s recently flew over the federal channel involved in Post 45 as part of a training exercise with Joint Base Charleston.



Creating Partnerships

Article by Sean McBride

Photos by Sean McBride, Sara Corbett and Dennis Franklin

On July 10th, Lt. Col. Matthew W. Luzzatto assumed command of the Charleston District from Lt. Col. John T. Litz, becoming the District's 86th Commander and District Engineer.

Luzzatto joins the Charleston District from his last assignment in Tokyo as the Chief of Host Nation Construction for U.S. Forces Japan. He has previously served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District as a project engineer and chief of real estate, which he believes will serve him well in his new role.

"My time with the Honolulu District gave me an understanding of how USACE operates, which will significantly shorten my learning curve as I begin my command," said Luzzatto.

Luzzatto calls his selection to command the Charleston District his greatest professional accomplishment to date and hope his knowledge and expertise will complement the already outstanding Charleston team.

"I would like [people] to know that I take my stewardship of the public's funds, environment, safety and trust very seriously," said Luzzatto. "I am looking forward to working with the District's partners to ensure the continued responsible management of these resources."

His time in Tokyo honed his skills in construction management, but Luzzatto also has a love for the environment. He believes he'll be able to merge these skills in Charleston and strive to achieve a balance between community needs and environmental stewardship.

"I am excited to begin my role as the Charleston District Commander, but I am very aware of the short time I am allowed this privilege," said Luzzatto. "As a result, I hope that the members of the District and the partners with whom we work will not hesitate to approach me with ideas and/or opportunities that support the District's mission and enhance our capabilities."

Luzzatto follows in the footsteps of many great Charleston District commanders and will have to make many difficult decisions during his tenure, but in two years, he hopes District employees can say they are proud of their accomplishments and that our partners see us as a family of trusted professionals who can be depended on to get the job done. As the flags were handed off from Litz to Luzzatto, the journey to accomplish this officially began.

Spotlight on: American Shad

By Joe Moran

Of the species that pass through the Cooper River Rediversion Project's fishlift at St. Stephen, the American shad has a storied past. State and federal agencies are working closely to help Atlantic coast populations in the future.

American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) is an anadromous species. They live in salt water as adults and migrate back to the rivers where they were spawned to spawn themselves. Shad spend their first summer in freshwater and school up to move into the ocean. American shad spawned in the Santee Cooper system are known to migrate as far north as Canada's Bay of Fundy to grow into adults. A full-grown female American shad that returns to South Carolina is approximately six years old and weighs approximately six pounds. In very early spring, adult males enter the rivers first, followed by the females, to complete their life cycles. Females can release as many as 700,000 eggs.

American shad are given credit for saving General George Washington's army and, ultimately, the fate of the United States. During the Revolutionary War, Washington and his troops were spending winter near the Schuylkill River at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. That ferocious winter took its toll on the men and their food supplies were virtually gone. As the story goes, the early spring run of shad, which historically numbered in the hundreds of thousands, saved the troops from starvation. The rest is, as they say, history.

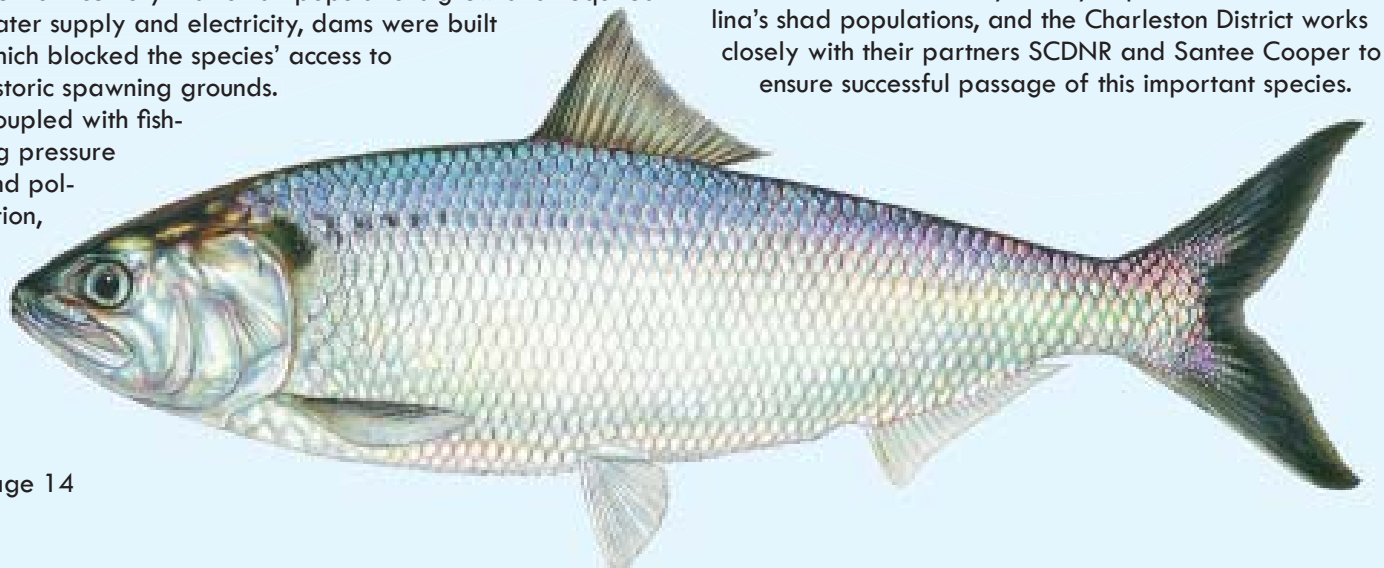
As one might expect, shad are subject to a harrowing migration. They are eaten by any number of birds and predator species in the rivers and the ocean. They also provide commercial and recreational fishermen from Florida to Maine with livelihoods and food. The fish themselves are planked or baked to dissolve the hundreds of small bones, while shad roe wrapped in bacon and pan-fried is considered a delicacy in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

American shad harvest was counted in tons at the turn of the 20th century. As human populations grew and required water supply and electricity, dams were built which blocked the species' access to historic spawning grounds. Coupled with fishing pressure and pollution, loss of habitat has reduced annual harvest to a fraction of historic levels. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission notes that commercial landings of shad and river herring reached a high of 140 million pounds in 1969, with a historic low of 823,000 pounds in 2006. Coastwide recreational landings for the species are very imprecise, since most of these species are taken in inland waters, but the recreational data collection program is designed for water anglers. Some states do collect inland statistics but trends cannot be calculated coastwide.

Since shad migrate up and down the Atlantic coast, it is easy to understand that fishing or habitat regulations passed in one state could affect every other state's shad populations. State and federal partners, working with the Commission, have implemented an American Shad Fishery Management Plan to facilitate discussion and agreement among agencies how best to manage the species and help it recover. South Carolina is a signatory to the Commission, and SC Department of Natural Resources personnel serve on the species' management board and technical committee.

SCDNR biologists capture female and male broodstock shad at the St. Stephen fishlift and in the project's intake canal. Those fish are taken to the Jack. D. Bayless Hatchery, located on the project property, where they are stripped and eggs fertilized. The eggs are raised to fry stage at the nearby Dennis Wildlife Center, which are then stocked back into the Santee Cooper system and other rivers around the state.

The St. Stephen fishlift was specifically designed to pass American shad and another member of the family Alosidae – the blueback herring. On average, approximately 350,000 American shad pass through the fishlift during their annual spawning migrations. With the an average of 450,000 blueback herring that pass annually, the St. Stephen fishlift passes more fish than any other facility on the Atlantic coast. The facility is very important to South Carolina's shad populations, and the Charleston District works closely with their partners SCDNR and Santee Cooper to ensure successful passage of this important species.



Different, yet the Same

By Narissia Skinner, family readiness coordinator

Have you ever looked at the person right next to you and made a quick assumption on who you thought that person was? After making that assumption, how many times did you really take the time to get to know that person? We all make impressions of who we think people are by outer appearances, but if we took the chance to look at someone on the inside we may form other opinions.

"Alike" and "different" are antonyms that clearly dictate opposite descriptions. However, a great irony that I've discovered is that human beings are exactly that- alike AND different. We all come from such an array of diverse backgrounds and on the surface look different. But once we delve deep beyond the surface to our inner person, we find that we are all a lot alike.

Sure, we humans look remarkably different on the outside. Some are tall, some short. Some have blue eyes, some brown. But these different traits are very small in comparison to people as a whole. You cannot tell a person's eye color from his height and you cannot tell a person's blood type by his skin color. More importantly, you cannot tell a person's IQ, athletic abilities or future leadership potential from any external physical characteristic because, in fact, beneath the skin, we are all similar.

On the inside, I can assure you that we are all the same. Our heart, our lungs and our bones are pretty much the same from race to race, person to person, male or female. And speaking of the heart, that organ has always been representative of our thoughts, such as love and hate, passion and calm, strength and fear. Just as our hearts are genetically very similar, so are our human needs. We all really want to survive our struggles, love our families and live in peace and harmony among each other. And that is the core of who we all are. This brings me to the fact that we are all connected. Although we may have different backgrounds, or come from different places, as a people, we are all the same.

In the wake of the tragic Mother Emanuel AME shootings that took place in Charleston on June 18th, the City of Charleston has taken an intentional stance to unite in love and that includes embracing everyone for our differences, yet realizing that, after all, we all really are alike.

Diligence and Ardor

By Glenn Jeffries and Doug Bell

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought after with ardor and attended to with diligence."

-Abigail Adams in a letter to her husband, President John Adams, in 1780

Left: a map of the area being surveyed for potential sand sources.
Right: the *Coastal Explorer* is the vessel used by Coastal Carolina University to conduct the sand source research.

Abigail Adams' famous quote has certainly stood the test of time and is just as important today as it was back then.

The Charleston District holds this same value true and has once again entered into a partnership that offers an opportunity for an area professor and his students to be able to become passionate about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Coastal Carolina University offers just the type of partnership the Corps was looking for in its search for an additional sand source for future beach renourishments and in case of emergencies. Coastal Carolina professor Dr. Paul Gayes and a graduate student interested in gaining practical research experience will be helping the Corps refine their vibracoring plan to access and validate sand resource potential for future beach renourishment projects, like the one completed on Folly Beach in 2014. Vibracoring allows scientists to study layers of ocean subfloor sediment dating back to prehistoric times. This gives the District a great idea of what types of material lies on the ocean floor, and in what areas, when planning where sand will come from for future renourishments.

The areas identified for vibracoring were recommended from a study done by Coastal Carolina and the U.S. Geological Survey in 2002. A new area has been identified by the District where comprehensive geophysical survey would greatly aid their efforts to find suitable sand resources for upcoming emergencies and renourishments of Folly Beach. The additional survey data will provide new vibracoring locations offshore in an effort to maximize opportunities for additional sand resources.

The District has previously partnered with Coastal Carolina's scientists on critical environmental issues, having utilized their remarkable expertise on the Post 45 Harbor Deepening Feasibility Study. Coastal Carolina has completed extensive geophysical work in the Charleston region, from habitat mapping to framework geology studies to sand resource assessment.

Coastal Carolina, located in Conway, S.C., is home to the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetlands Studies. Led by Dr. Gayes, the center was established in 1988 and it facilitates basic and applied research within the school of Coastal and Marine Systems Science. Under Dr. Gayes, the Center has earned an international reputation for the scope and quality of its research and the innovative technical equipment it has developed.

To accomplish the work, Coastal Carolina will use their new research vessel, the *Coastal Explorer*, which was specifically designed to support the considerable geophysical instrumentation suite needed for the center's extensive research projects. The 54-foot aluminum boat is set up with six research workstations. Its water systems have a saltwater line piping water from the ocean to the cabin in order to analyze the water quality. There is also a winching system able to accommodate an 8,000-pound lift capacity for deploying heavy research equipment.

Diligently engaging students as part of their academic training in the collection, processing and interpretation of real world geophysical data is at the heart of our STEM partnerships as the Charleston District arduously continues working with students of all ages.

Where the

By Sean McBride

10 knots or 45 knots; you never know what a day sailing on the water is going to give you. Referring to wind speed, not a tied piece of rope, no day on the water is ever the same. The wind could be gusting or the waves could be choppy, but for two sailors at the Charleston District, that's just fine.

Don Hill, chief of logistics, and David Gill, records manager, both believe that going through the wind and cutting through the water are the most peaceful moments in their lives. Their view on the best type of sailing differs, though, as Hill is a racer and Gill is a cruiser.

"When I'm racing a sailboat, I forget about everything else," says Hill. "It gets the competitive juices flowing. You become one with the boat when you're in the groove and that's a good feeling."

Hill learned how to sail from his dad but began racing sailboats about 15 years ago with the Charleston Ocean Racing Association. Through CORA, he has met dozens of new people that he competes with weekly. Hill owns his own boat and learned to drive it in order to compete in the racing series while he was competing in the racing series.

"Everyone will help you and bring you up," says Hill. "They will give you help, even in a race, until you start winning and then they shut up."

Hill finds it interesting that so many different types of people sail. He has met people from all ages, backgrounds and social statuses that would never intermix in life if not for sailing. Then they end up on the same teams and work hard to ensure they hold up their end of the team effort.

"A lot of people have the misconception that sailing is only relaxing, but it can be thrilling and intense," says Hill. "We race every Wednesday night, and there are events like Charleston Race Week where you can compete against the world's best sailors. Not many amateur sports enable you to do that."

But there are those people that do prefer the relaxing side

wind takes us

of sailing to the racing side. Like Gill, who has been sailing ever since he was in the U.S. Navy and a friend rented a boat and asked him to come along.

"I like to see where the wind takes us," says Gill. "It's all about going on the water and having a good time. A lot of people view sailing as an elitist sport, but what they don't see is people that live on boats or do it just for the love of being on the water."

Gill likens sailing to people that go golfing or watch sporting events and laughs about it lowering his blood pressure.

Both men consider sailing to have an entirely different feel compared to power boating, where Hill says you can't even hear each other talk. Gill's view is a little more profound.

"Power boaters use their boats to get where they want to go," he says. "Sailors are there as soon as they step on board."

The genuine love for the sport is evident in listening to these sailors discuss the camaraderie and helpfulness of other sailors. Gill references many books and stories of people helping others at sea, even during a race, if they are in trouble.

It's easy to get involved too. In a city that is below sea level and surrounded by water anywhere you look, sailing is a popular pastime. The College of Charleston even has a public course you can take to decide if you like sailing.

"A good way to get started, if you have any inkling to sail at all, is to take a sailing class," says Hill. "It will either get you hooked or show you that you definitely don't want to do it."

Hill and Gill are just two of the passionate sailors at the Charleston District who use sailing to break up the monotony of everyday life and do something exciting. Whether it's sailing, golfing, watching sports or any other activity, learn what you love to do and do it with passion, like these guys.

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Procurement Analyst
Business Operations and Policy
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The Charleston District's contracting office supports our partnerships year-round and is an especially highly-functioning office during our fiscal year end closeout period where they work hard to ensure contracts are finalized for the projects our customers need completed in the next year. The contracting office provides expertise in the areas of business advisory services, construction and services contracts, and commodities contracts and cooperative agreements. Additionally, the contracting office has the ability to utilize our fellow contracting staff and tools within the other contracting offices in the South Atlantic Division, ensuring our customers' needs are met with exemplary satisfaction. Please use the contracting "family tree" to determine who would be the best person to help with executing your contracting needs.

Meet Our: Scott Glass

What is your position?
Chief of Navigation

Describe your job.
I oversee the maintenance of the navigable waterways and harbors within the Charleston District. My primary responsibilities include supervision of plans and specifications for channel dredging and dredged material placement and confirming that all required dredging has been accomplished. I am looking forward to continuing to build relationships with our local, state and federal partners as we ensure that all navigation projects are successful.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?
I am very excited to be a part of a program that has such a positive effect on local, state and national interests. The navigation team's work has a direct influence on commerce, recreation and our local quality of life and that is very rewarding.

Highlight a notable milestone or memory in your career.
I had the opportunity to support recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. I was part of a team that went there right after the storm hit to assess the damage done to facilities and oversee the stabilization of facilities. It was very satisfying knowing I was an integral part of a team that helped start the long path to recovery, thereby allowing those who were directly impacted by the storm to concentrate on taking care of themselves and their families.

What goals do you hope to accomplish in your new position?
Now that the Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement has been approved by the Civil Works Review Board, I anticipate that navigation will be an essential part of the District's successful delivery of this critically important project. My goal is to ensure that navigation maintains close coordination and communication with the Post 45 team and our local partners to provide quality, timely and cost effective support to the project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, offers our deepest sympathy to the families of the nine victims and the congregation of the Mother Emanuel AME Church. We have been humbled by their forgiveness and grace and they have shown the world that love overcomes evil. Their courage, dignity and selfless compassion was a victory for all that is good. May their hearts find peace in the unity that has been demonstrated as they begin the long road toward healing.
Together, we are Charleston Strong.

On July 30, the Corps will be hosting their 2nd annual Sweetgrass Pulling Day for local basket makers at our St. Stephen Powerhouse. This year's pull will be in memory of Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Cynthia Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lance, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson.

Corporate Communications Office
Charleston District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
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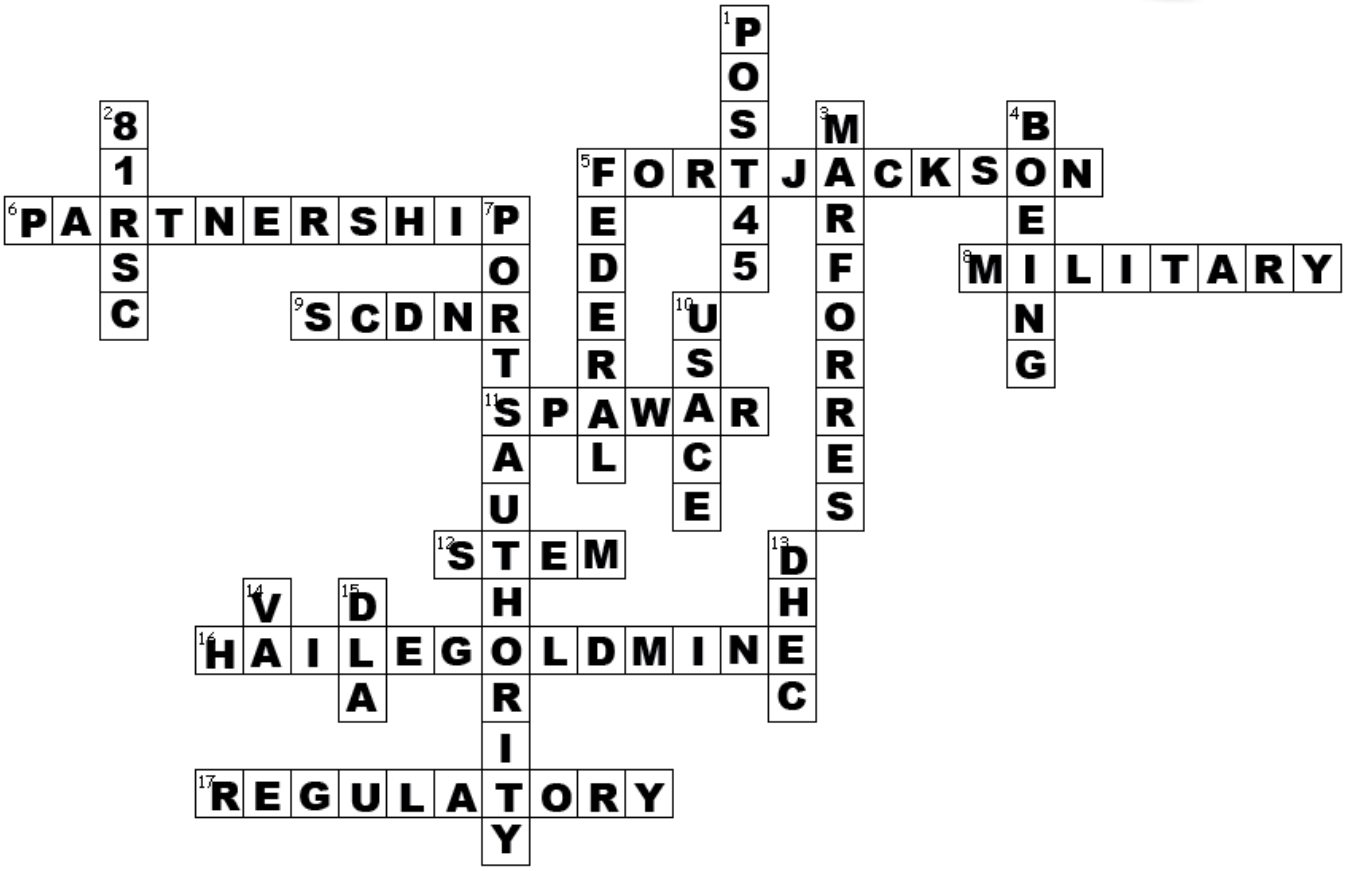
Partnerships



"The nice thing about doing a crossword puzzle is, you know there is a solution." ~ Stephen Sondheim, American composer and lyricist

Here at the Charleston District, we'll always find a solution to whatever problem we're working on, but we know that we can't always do it by ourselves. That's why we have outstanding partnerships with some great stakeholders, sponsors and federal agencies. These partners share our commitment to Charleston, South Carolina, and the nation and help us every day to complete our mission. It's impossible to name all of our partners in this crossword puzzle, but know that you are all helping us to develop and implement innovative engineering solutions to improve and strengthen the nation and we dedicate this issue of the *Palmetto Castle* to each of you.