



# The Palmetto Castle

Newsletter Date October 13, 2006

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHARLESTON DISTRICT**

Volume 4, Issue 1

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## NEW SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION COMMANDER VISITS DISTRICT

**By Carol Weart  
Editor**

Brigadier General Joseph (Joe) Schroedel, South Atlantic Division Commander, visited the Charleston District on September 28th and 29th. It was his first visit to the District since assuming command but he promised "I'll be back to Charleston soon. I want to visit all your projects."

BG Schroedel participated in Elmer Schwingen's Induction Ceremony and the Fall Shrimp boil prior to holding a Town Hall for the District Employees.

During the Town Hall he discussed his vision for the South Atlantic Division, his leadership style, and many other topics. He asked that he be introduced as a "Soldier, then an Engineer, in that order." When discussing regionalization, BG Schroedel



*BG Schroedel meets with members of the Save the Light Foundation near the Morris Island Lighthouse during his recent visit to the District.*

emphasized that he considers it to be "centralization, not regionalization. It's national, not local."

He is very focused on training; he met at length with former and current members of the Division Leadership Development

Program.

BG Schroedel made a point of actively engaging the District employees in his visit by asking them to discuss their top issues and how they thought the Division staff could best assist them with those issues.



*BG Schroedel addressing District Employees at the Town Hall.*

*"Remember, Deeds, Not Words."*

After the command brief, BG Schroedel received updates on many of the District's projects. He was able to visit Folly Beach, Morris Island Lighthouse, the AIWW, the proposed site of the new port at the old navy base, and the Cooper River Harbor. His tour was onboard the District's new survey boat, *The Evans*.



## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hard to believe it's mid October already! This year has really flown by because of all the great work and success throughout the district. That's more than I can say for my Red Sox – they barely broke .500 for the season – think I will cheer for the Tigers!

The success I noted above comes from lots of dedicated effort and teamwork from all our divisions. I know there are many accomplishments to mention so let me hit some of the most significant.

Kudos to all the RM staff for the hard work in assuring a smooth closeout. It was a success. Thanks to everyone that participated in any year-end closeout tasks - especially the RM and contracting personnel. I realize that folks all around the district had to process ULOs, obligations, accruals, etc. but it is the RM shop that pulls it all together. They did a great job as we were the first district to open back up for business again and opened CEFMS database on Monday morning. RM is still preparing work items, resource codes, PR&Cs, etc. in preparation for the new Fiscal year – their job never stops. Again – wonderful effort!

Along with our closeout we received good news on a number of projects. I love it when a plan comes together! Through diligent work and cooperation by Project Delivery Team (PDT) members, resource providers, SAD District Support Team (DST) and the HQ Regional Integration Team (RIT), Charleston District had an amazing list of accomplishments that came together on the last day of the fiscal year:

Edisto Island – The town's Mayor, Burley Lyons, and I signed the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement to continue next planning phase for their storm damage reduction project. This phase includes evaluation of alternatives, environmental coordination and the development of the recommended plan.

Morris Island Lighthouse – The ASA(CW) approved the Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA). The PCA is the cost share document between the government, Charleston District, and non-federal sponsor, the SC State Budget Control Board, for the construction, operation, and maintenance to stabilize the lighthouse foundation. We signed the PCA at a ceremony,

at Folly Beach, on 13 October. Members of our Congressional Delegation attended.

Pawley's Island - After receiving a beach access requirement waiver from the ASA(CW), Chief's Report has made it to LTG Strock's desk, which informs Congress of our recommended plan and requests authorization to proceed to construction.

AIWW - awarded this dike repair project for construction.

All of these projects required creativity, collaboration and commitment by all involved. A terrific team effort.

NSPS — As we gear up for the implementation of NSPS, supervisors will be attending training on Oct 18th and 19th. You'll be receiving more information about NSPS in the next issue of The Palmetto Castle.

Capping off all of these achievements was a wonderful visit by BG Schroedel, our new Division Commander on 28 and 29 September. It was a very busy and successful visit. Everything went smoothly; from the Elmer Schwingen's Induction Ceremony, to the District Town Hall meeting, to the project briefings, site and boat tours. Even the Fall Shrimp boil was a hit. BG Schroedel now has an accurate picture of the Charleston District – our talented people and our complex projects. He left here with an appreciation for what the District has been through, our capabilities for the future and a commitment to make sound decisions based on time, cost and quality. BG Schroedel said "I'll be back to Charleston soon." Thanks to everyone who had a hand in planning and executing this special event.

A new fiscal year is upon us with new projects to manage and maintain, new regional leadership to bring on board, and numerous daily operational challenges. I am excited and confident with the great team work we have shown that this will be another great year.

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## SURVIVING BREAST CANCER ~ THROUGH A HUSBAND'S EYES

**By Carol Weart  
Editor**

Tom Milne (alias "big Dog" due to his love of Old English Sheepdogs) works as the contractor Task Leader in the Information Management (IM) area of the Charleston District. He and the other contractors work for Engenius Consulting Group, Incorporated.

Tom was sitting at his desk, going about his normal duties on July 23, 2002 when he received a phone call that changed his life forever. His wife Liz called to tell him that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Tom recalls thinking, "Why her?" He later remembered that his wife's Mom had breast cancer when Liz was very young. He and his wife told their two daughters to immediately schedule mammograms for themselves — it is a hereditary disease.

That evening was a time for talking, crying and discussing at the Milne home. Tom told Liz that it was "her body and her decision." He would support whatever choices she made. Liz decided that she would rather play it safe and go with a radical mastectomy.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Liz underwent a modified radical mastectomy. Her right breast was removed along with 19 lymph nodes from under her right arm. The cancer had spread to two of those lymph nodes. On July 27<sup>th</sup> she was released from the hospital, less than 24 hours after her surgery (with two drains and pumps still inserted).

Tom felt that he could best take care of Liz by emptying the drains and measuring the fluid removed by the pumps so that she would not have to make as many trips back and forth to the hospital. He had to empty the pumps three times a day.

In August she started the chemotherapy and received chemo every third Wednesday for six months. Tom took her to all of her chemo treatments. On the other Wednesdays, Tom took his wife in for blood work and it was analyzed immediately to ensure everything was going as planned.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day after the first chemo treatment, her hair began to fall out in huge clumps and Liz decided to just shave her head. Her Oncology doctor was prematurely bald and quipped, "at least *your* hair will grow back." Tom said that Robin Crosby from the Office of Counsel made Liz some adorable hats to cover her head. Robin made her at least a dozen, and Liz always had on one of those hats.

In July of 2003, the doctor found two lumps in the left breast. They were removed and fortunately were not cancerous. The following July, she found a lump on the right side of her chest wall. It was also removed and found to be benign.

Liz joined a survivors support group that holds an annual luncheon and at last count they are "hundreds of years" cancer free. Liz is now just over four years of being cancer free. She encourages all women to schedule their yearly mammograms.

*October is becoming increasingly associated with the color "Pink" in honor of breast cancer awareness. There will be several events in the "lowcountry" that you can participate in to support breast cancer research:*

*--Paint the Town Pink: The Lowcountry Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is urging local retailers to decorate store windows with a pink theme. Window displays should include a Race for the Cure poster, be up by Friday and stay up until the date of the race, Oct. 21.*

*The grand-prize winner will get an office party provided by T-Bonz, and the runner-up will get a goody bag filled with Race for the Cure merchandise. The registration fee is \$25. See [www.lowcountrykomen.org](http://www.lowcountrykomen.org) or call 556-3343.*

*--Ace Breast Cancer Tennis Tournament: This fourth annual tennis tournament for men and women, hosted Oct. 12-15 by the I'On Club in Mount Pleasant, includes singles and doubles formats. Last year, the event drew 250 participants and raised \$30,000 for the Hollings Cancer Center. Fees range from \$45 to \$50. Those who don't play tennis can volunteer to help out. Go to [www.acebreastcancer.org](http://www.acebreastcancer.org) for more information.*

*--Kids for the Cure: The local Komen Foundation will hold Kids for the Cure 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 14 on Daniel Island. The event will include field games and entertainment during Daniel Island's Park Day. The cost is \$10. Register at [www.komenlowcountry.org](http://www.komenlowcountry.org).*

*--11th Race for the Cure: This 5K run and walk is the Komen Foundation's hallmark event. More than 110 are held across the country, and some of the events are among the 100 biggest races.*

*This year's local event will be 8 a.m. Oct. 21 on Daniel Island. The cost is \$25. See [www.komenlowcountry.org](http://www.komenlowcountry.org) or call the hot line at 556-3343.*

**(For more on Breast Cancer Awareness see page 4)**

# COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) MESSAGE FROM LTG STROCK



Corps Team,

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) was established in 1961 and authorized by the Office of Personnel Management as the only annual fund-raising drive for federal employees in the workplace. Each fall, CFC offers Corps Soldiers and Civilians in the National Capital Area a chance to lend a hand to those who are less fortunate. Appropriately, the 2006 CFC theme is "Be a Star in Someone's Life". Our HQUSACE family lives this theme every day, especially through our work in Iraq, Afghanistan, and disaster responses.

This year over 3,000 service organizations are included in the CFC Catalog of Caring. Given the diversity of these organizations, there is certainly at least one that deserves consideration for your personal contribution. With a simple payroll deduction or a one time contribution, you can assist in your own community or on the other side of the world.

See the many amazing ways your donation can help others by visiting the CFC website at: <http://www.cfcna.org/giving/giftbuys/index.php>.

More information on these and other organizations can be obtained from the Catalog of Caring and our HQUSACE CFC volunteers. Visit the HQUSACE CFC website at: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/cfc/cfc.html>.

The HQUSACE CFC "Kick Off" ceremony will take place on 5 Oct at 1100 hours in the Executive Foyer. The Washington Aqueduct ceremony will take place on 10 Oct 06 followed by HECSA/IWR/TEC on 11 Oct 06. Look for upcoming information on these and other fun campaign events.

Our goal this year is always to contact 100% of our employees along with this year's monetary goal to raise \$235,000.00. Last year we surpassed our goal and won numerous awards because of the overwhelming generosity of our Corps employees. Let's get out the word and help make this year even better.

Thank you in advance for the energy, enthusiasm and support you give this very important program.

**ESSAYONS!**

**Carl A. Strock**



### **Breast Cancer** *(continued from page 3)*

Who is at Risk?

- Women who are older. A woman over age 60 is at greatest risk. The disease is very uncommon before menopause
- Women with a family history of breast cancer. Women face a greater threat if their mother, sister or daughter had breast cancer, especially before age 40.
- Not having children or having a first child after age 30 increases the risk. Women who had their first menstrual period before age 12 or went through to develop the disease.

menopause after age 55 are more likely to develop the disease.

- Women who become obese after menopause.
- Menopausal hormone therapy also increases the risk.
- Women who are physically inactive throughout life appear to have an increased risk of breast cancer. Being physically active may help to reduce the risk by preventing weight gain and obesity.
- Women who drink alcohol. Some studies suggest that the more alcoholic beverages a woman drinks, the greater her risk of breast cancer.

## FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO FRANK JOHNS

By Carol Weart  
Editor

Frank Johns, Executive Assistant to the District Commander, retired on Friday, September 29, 2006, after more than 29 years of Civil Service.

Frank's illustrious Civil Service career began when he was asked to set up a dinner theater in Alaska in 1975. He was later offered a more permanent position in Alaska as the entertainment director for the Alaska command and he returned to Alaska for an additional two years.

Frank's other positions include assignments in Germany, Korea, Fort Ord, California, Oakland, California, and Belgium. Before coming to Charleston, Frank served as the Deputy Commander for NATO Support Activity, Brussels, Belgium, a position he held for a number of years.

As the executive Assistant, Frank was responsible for coordinating the Transi-



Workshop in Myrtle Beach, the Water Resources Workshop in Columbia, and creating tracking tools for the successful execution of our rating system.

Frank plans on returning to his true love, the theater, now that he has retired from his career in Civil Service.

## ELMER SCHWINGEN IS INDUCTED INTO GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

This year's inductee into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees came to the Charleston District in 1989 as the Chief of the Construction-Operation Division. In 2000, Elmer was selected as the Charleston District's Deputy for Programs and Project Execution.

Elmer started his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Canaveral District. He has worked in the Jacksonville District, the Huntsville Division, Saudi Arabia, and Italy, and has served on numerous Headquarters special studies. Prior to coming to Charleston, he was the Chief of Construction for the South Atlantic Division.

Elmer was chosen for this honor by a panel of current employees, many of whom worked with him. All inductees have completed thirty or more years' service., at least twenty of which was with the Corps of Engineers.



*Elmer Schwingen and his wife Lynn at the Induction Ceremony.*

# HOME FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

*From our Safety Office with information provided by the Navy Safety Center website and the National Safety Council.*

Fires and burns continue to be the third leading cause of unintentional injury death at home. In 2002 alone, 2,200 people lost their lives in home fires. Particularly at risk are the very young and the very old. Follow the safety tips listed below to protect yourself and your family.

## Smoke Detectors

- One is definitely NOT enough! Every home should be equipped with smoke detectors on every level, particularly out-side of sleeping areas.
- Ensure that your smoke detectors are tested monthly and batteries are replaced twice a year. Change batteries when you change your clocks.
- Encourage children to help test the smoke detectors. Familiarize them with the sounds of the alarm(s).

## Fire Extinguishers

- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen (one rated for grease fires and electrical fires.)
- It's a good idea to keep fire extinguishers near the furnace, garage, and anywhere else a fire may start. These extinguishers are affordable, life-saving equipment for your home.
- Make sure every able-bodied member of the family is trained and familiar with the proper way to use the fire extinguishers. If you must use an extinguisher, make sure you have a clear way out in the event you can't put out the fire.

## Flammables

- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach and out of sight of children!
- Smoking is dangerous! No one should ever smoke in bed. Make sure that cigarettes/cigars are extinguished properly before dumping ashes.
- Avoid grease build-up in the kitchen and on appliances. Cooking fires are common. Don't leave food cooking on stove-tops unattended.
- If a fire should occur, suffocate it with a pot/pan lid or a cookie sheet, or close the oven door.
- Around the holidays, Christmas trees are a primary concern. Consider using an artificial tree that is labeled "flame resistant." If you do use an evergreen, water it daily to keep it from drying out. Make sure to inspect stringed lights and window ornaments annually for deterioration.
- Dispose of materials from fireplaces and grills in non-flammable containers.
- Never put children to sleep in "day" clothes. Fire-retardant sleepwear can make a difference in burn outcomes.

## Electrical Safety and Heat Sources

- Make sure your electrical system is not being over-taxed. This can cause a fire. Do your lights dim or flicker when extra appliances are plugged in? If you have questions or concerns, consult a certified electrician.
- Inspect wires. If you find any worn or exposed wiring from appliances, discontinue their use immediately! A fire is imminent!
- Space heaters can be dangerous if not used correctly. Make sure yours will automatically shut off if tipped over. Consult the operating instructions to make sure you are using space heaters, gas fire places, and other heat sources as intended by the manufacturer. Keep all flammable materials away from heat sources! If there are young children in the house, make sure space heaters and hot water heaters are inaccessible.
- Chimney fires are common. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually. Keep appliances unplugged when not in use.

## Escaping a Fire

- Keep bedroom doors shut while sleeping. If you think there is a fire, feel the door and knob for heat before opening.
- Have an escape route for each area of the home and a designated meeting place outside.
- Draw a map-one that's easy for all members of the family and visitors to understand.
- When planning for a family with young children, be sure to teach them not to hide from fire or smoke and to go to firefighters who are there to help them.
- All children should be familiar with the ideas of "crawling underneath the smoke" to escape a fire. "Stop, drop and roll" is another safety principle that must be ingrained into children's minds.
- Multi-storied buildings are of special concern. Ensure that everyone is familiar with how to use an escape ladder if necessary.
- Make sure every sleeping room has two means of escape in the event of a fire. Windows provide a secondary means of escape. Ensure they are in proper working order, are not painted shut, and guards are able to be disengaged in case of fire and escape is necessary through that window.
- Everyone must understand that once you escape, you must never reenter a burning building-no matter what you might have left behind.
- Call emergency responders (911) from a neighbor's house.
- Make sure to practice your escape plan periodically. It will be easier to remember in case of an emergency.
- Young children should know their street address and last name (and, of course, how to dial 911).
- After you've planned for the family, don't forget the pets. Alert firefighters about your pets. Don't rely on window or door decals to alert firefighters-such decals are often found to be outdated. In the event your pet suffers from smoke inhalation, rush the animal to the vet.

# Palmetto Proceedings

*News you should know*

## Congratulations:

Isn't it great when a plan comes together! Plan your work and then execute what you said you would do. That is what Charleston District did in our Civil Works mission area in FY06. Through diligent work by Project Delivery Team (PDT) members, pro-active guidance and follow through by resource providers and total collaboration with our SAD District Support Team (DST) and the HQ Regional Integration Team (RIT), Charleston District had an amazing list of year end accomplishments that came together on the last day of the fiscal year:

- **Edisto Island** - LTC Fleming and Mayor Lyons signed the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement that allows us to continue into the next planning phase of this storm damage reduction project. This phase includes evaluation of alternatives, environmental coordinations and the development of the recommended plan.

- **Morris Island Lighthouse** - The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, ASA(CW) provide approval for LTC Fleming to sign the Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA).

The PCA is the cost share document between the government, Charleston District, and non-federal sponsor, the SC State Budget Control Board, for the construction and operation & maintenance of the recommended plan. In this case, stabilizing the lighthouse foundation. We will be having an official PCA signing ceremony, most likely at Folly Beach, on 13 October. Members of our Congressional Delegation are scheduled to attend.

- **Pawley's Island** - Following previously receiving a beach access requirement waiver from the ASA(CW), The Chief's Report has made it to LTG Strock's desk for signature.

- **AIWW** - Awarded this dike repair project project for construction.

All of these projects required creativity, collaboration and commitment by all involved. Thanks to all those who made these as well as other accomplishments during FY06 happen.

**To Joe Wilson** - for his accomplishments as the vice chairman of the 2006 Sunfish World Championships. The regatta will include competitors from 16 countries and hosting the championships in Charleston is quite a coup. The event will even include an Olympic style opening ceremony with a parade of flags.

**To Tom Milne and his cub scout pack** for adopting one of Charlie Crosby's officers (Captain John Tuckwiller) in Iraq. The scouts have sent letters, e-mails and care packages to a deserving officer defending his country. Their first box contained puzzle books and beef jerky.



## Scholarship Committee News:

Boss' Day is October 16th and the Scholarship Committee thought we'd have a little fun in order to celebrate the day.

The Scholarship Committee will be administering the Boss' Day Pie in the Eye Campaign. During this campaign employees may vote, at a cost of \$1 per vote, for the boss they would most like to see get a pie in the eye on the 16th. The "polls" will be located on the first floor in the PM reception area and will open at 10 am on October 5th. The polls will remain open until 10 am on 16 October. You may vote as many times as you want for any of the bosses in the campaign. There will be a photo of each candidate and a corresponding vote collection basin.

Once the votes are tallied on October 16th, the top three vote recipients will receive the pie in the eye. We will all gather outside the building at 11am to witness the event. "Who will be doing the honors" you ask. Well that's additional fun for all. Each pie will be auctioned off to the highest bidder for the privilege of placing the pie in the eye of one of the winners.

You may vote for one or all of the following candidates:

LTC Fleming	Travis Hughes	Connie Gillette
Bill Stein	Mona Morgan	Carl Hilton
MAJ Pratt	Bruce Seltzer	Lauri Paggi
Debbie Engel	Doug Holmes	David Hubbard
Matt Laws	Tom Tullis	Kevin Widner
Tina Hadden	Joe Jones	Lisa Metheny
Don Hill	Stephen Fields	
Charlie Harbin	(Representing SAW Engineering Bosses)	

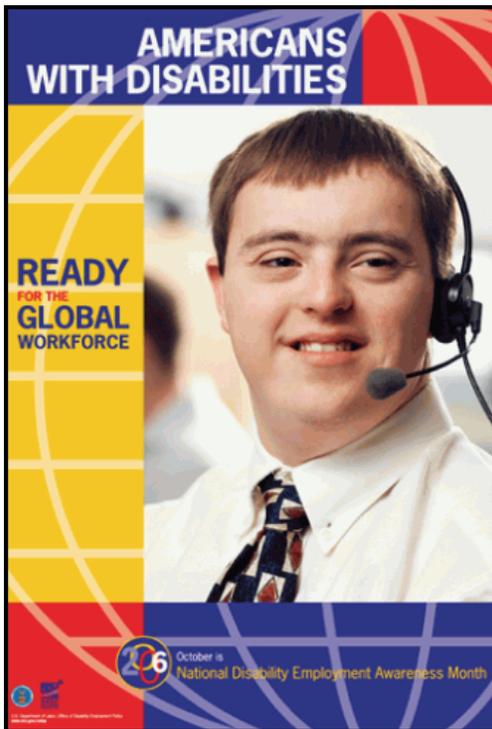
*The Scholarship Committee will make arrangements for the field offices to send in their absentee ballots. Vote early, vote often, but most importantly...Support the Scholarship Fund and VOTE!!*

# NATIONAL DISABILITIES EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS (NDEAM) MONTH RECOGNIZED

National Disability employment Awareness Month is the foundation for continued efforts to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment as well as to expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Enacted by Congress in 1945 as national "Employ the Physically Handicapped Week", the name and law were changed replacing "handicap" with "disability".

In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)."



Since 2001, the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in the U.S. Department of Labor has been responsible for planning NDEAM activities and materials to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities.

Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce"

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

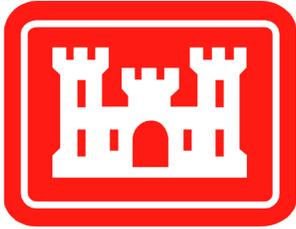


**Rose Smalls** is the September Employee of the Month. Rose has been a loyal Corps employee for over 20 years. She has been a catalyst in developing and completing the acquisition plan for the extremely important emergency ice contract. This plan was approved by SAD and HQ allowing the team to commence execution of this much needed contract. When the Contracting Office was reduced to two employees due to departures and transfers, Rose was the key in continual contracting support in meeting the District's mission. She is also a tireless supporter of the Castle Club, the Scholarship Committee, and other ceremonies and social functions in support of the District. **Congratulations Rose!**

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