

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT

# PALMETTO CASTLE

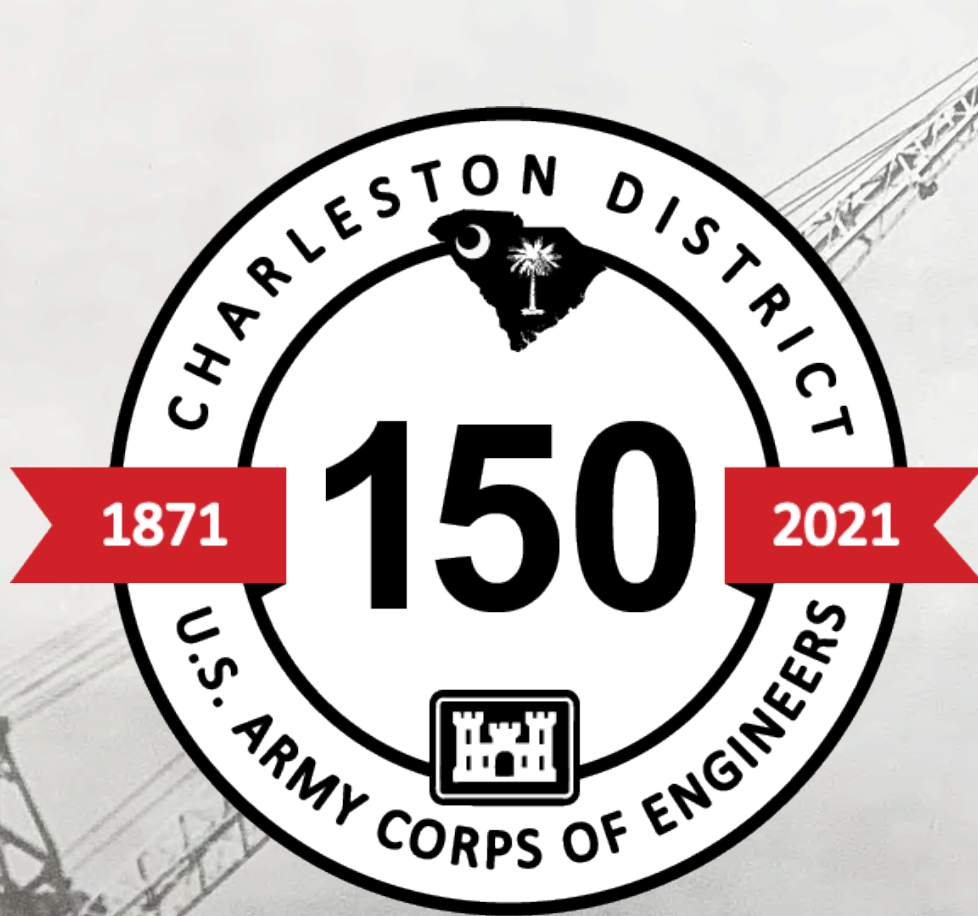
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*Celebrating 150 Years*



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## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of the Palmetto Castle pays special tribute to the 150-year history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. Since 1871, Charleston District has proudly served South Carolina and the nation, delivering world-class solutions to some of the state's toughest engineering challenges. The district has also adapted to changes in national defense requirements and, through critical infrastructure projects, helped promote economic expansion across the state and the southeastern region.

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**@CharlestonCorps**





# From the Commander

Colleagues and Partners,

Happy Spring! I love this time of year, but this particular year has an even more special meaning- the District is celebrating 150 years of serving South Carolina and the nation! With this edition, we begin a six-month celebration of our service and the impact the women and men of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District has had on the region, our towns, and our communities. It is quite a story and one we are proud to have written.

But we don't write it alone. Great partnerships are central to everything we do. We are thankful for all of you, our wonderful partners working with us along the way. A year of pandemic presence has not dampened our spirits and we thrilled to celebrate our World Class District with you in the coming pages and beyond!

The Charleston District was permanently established in March 1871, but you may be surprised to learn that the Corps has had an even longer presence here. As early as the 1820's, Army Engineer Officers oversaw the construction of Forts Moultrie, Johnson, and Sumter. In 1851, we began deepening the harbor and have maintained it ever since, currently deepening to 52 feet. While they knew this would become an economic driver for the nation (highlighted in the News and Courier in 1878), I doubt they ever imagined ships the size of the CMA CGM Brazil frequently navigating the channel, now 40 feet deeper than its natural depth in 1851.

Col. Quincy Gillmore was named the first District Engineer in 1882 and, 150 years later, I am the first female District Engineer and have the first female senior civilian by my side. That makes me proud as we celebrate Women's History Month in March.

Charged with construction of the north and south jetties, Col. Gillmore led the District in this foundational project. This brilliant engineering solution to Charleston's difficult harbor entrance stood the test of time, providing protection without needing repairs until February 2020. The repair placed jetty stone on Morris Island to stop the sand erosion that was undermining the structure. Even back then, the Corps delivered solutions to the nation's toughest engineering challenges to create a better tomorrow.

Since 1871 our team, made up of the best engineers, scientists, and professionals, greatly contributed to the growth and prosperity of South Carolina and the nation. In this special anniversary issue, we'll guide you through our history, discussing the past, present and future of the Charleston District. You'll find an overview of our history in written and timeline form on pages 8-13, quotes from our partners and stakeholders about our relationship on pages 14-19, and profiles on our biggest projects we're working on today for a better tomorrow on pages 20-23. At the end of this issue, our head civilian, Lisa Metheney, answers questions about our district's next 150 years on pages 26-27. While I'm proud to be in command, she has been here much longer than I have and will provide continuity into the future.

I could not be more excited to share with you this special anniversary issue. Enjoy!



Rachel Honderd, PMP  
Lt. Col., U.S. Army  
Commander and District Engineer  
Rachel.A.Honderd@usace.army.mil





# Celebrating 150 years of service to South Carolina and the Nation

By Sean McBride

The Charleston District traces its roots back to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' service as the nation's first army engineers. The Corps established districts at critical locations, including Charleston, in order to meet the coastal and fortification mission requirements. Now, in 2021, the Charleston District is proud to celebrate 150 years of service to South Carolina and the nation.

The first USACE presence in Charleston came in 1821, when troops were sent to the city to construct Forts Sumter, Moultrie and Johnson over a number of years. After some other one-off projects before the Civil War, a permanent USACE office was established in 1871, with Col. Quincy Gillmore serving as the first district commander.

Gillmore was charged with constructing the jetties that still line the entrance to Charleston Harbor today. The goal was to control the flow of the ebb tide to make it easier for ships to enter the harbor. He was also in charge of removing sunken Civil War battleships to make the harbor safe for ships.

This mission has carried on through the District's history, as the District is still in charge of surveying and maintaining Charleston Harbor for shipping. The natural 12-foot depth of Charleston Harbor has been deepened several times by the District and is currently on its way to 52 feet, which will make it the deepest on the east coast. At that time, any ship will be able to call on the port at any tide. This is just one example of how the District has played a critical role in the growth and prosperity of South Carolina.

After the successful construction of forts in Charleston, the District constructed Camp Jackson in Columbia in 1917. Now Fort Jackson, more than 50,000 incoming soldiers go through Basic Training here each year. Aside from a stretch at the turn of the last century, the District has handled the military construction work at Fort Jackson, having done more than \$1 billion since the mission came back in 2008. The District has completed barracks, training facilities and dining complexes for soldiers, but has also built schools, pools and other facilities for the families that live on base. The mission has a bright future as well, with dozens of projects in the works and on the books to get started soon.

The District's work extends beyond the coast and the military as well, with programs like the regulatory mission. The District's regulatory division is responsible for balancing economic development with environmental impacts by making decisions on permits for filling wetlands and waters of the United States for development. The District has worked with thousands of South Carolina citizens across the state on individual projects, as well as dozens of major corporations looking to build facilities in the area. In recent years, permits have been granted to companies like Boeing, Google, Amazon, Walmart, Volvo and the Carolina Panthers, just to name a few. The regulatory division continues to work with state partners as well, to ensure that infrastructure across the state meets the growing needs of citizens.

The emergency management team has also dealt with many natural disasters that have struck the coast of South Carolina, including recent storms like Hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Florence, as well as the largest storm to strike the state with Hurricane Hugo in 1989. As with Hugo, when the District was one of the first on the scene and developed a way to temporarily fix a bridge allowing residents back on to Sullivan's Island, District employees continue to work with federal and state agencies to determine the best possible solutions for hurricane preparedness and response. The emergency management team will continue to conduct exercises with other state and federal agencies to ensure that the best possible solutions are in place for hurricane response. Great partnerships have been central in everything we've done for 150 years as we have forged strong ties to community and agency leaders at all levels.

Going forward, the Charleston District has dozens of projects in progress, ranging from addressing coastal storm risk management to building clinics for veterans. No matter the task, the District is committed to delivering comprehensive solutions through exceptional customer service, collaboration and commitment to quality for another 150 years.



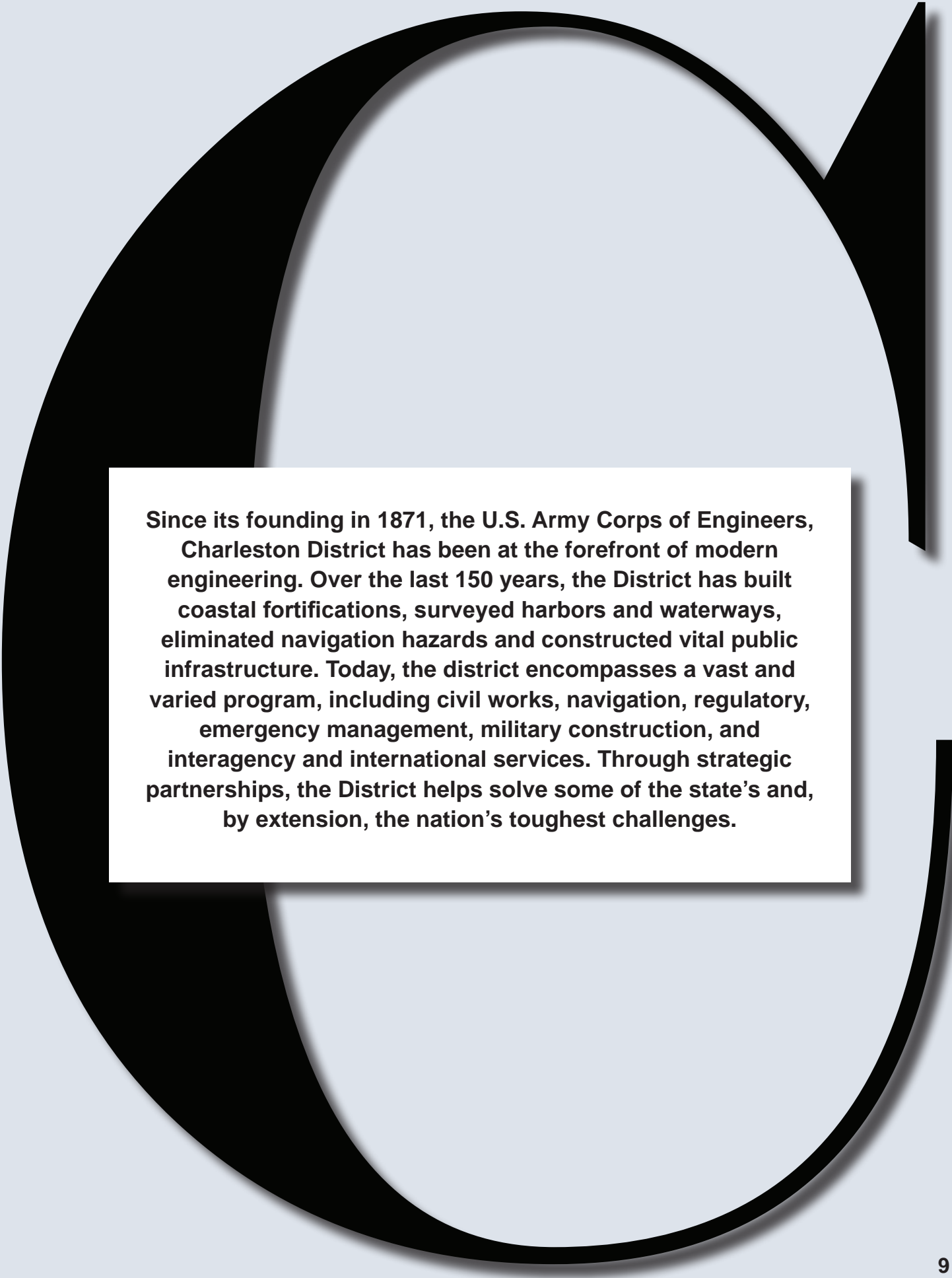
Yesterday

# Through the years 1871 - 2021

FROM THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

A Charleston District team surveys the South Carolina side of the Savannah River. The photo is undated, but due to its fragile quality, it is believed to be one of the oldest in the District's historical archive — likely dating from the late nineteenth century, just after the District was founded.





**Since its founding in 1871, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District has been at the forefront of modern engineering. Over the last 150 years, the District has built coastal fortifications, surveyed harbors and waterways, eliminated navigation hazards and constructed vital public infrastructure. Today, the district encompasses a vast and varied program, including civil works, navigation, regulatory, emergency management, military construction, and interagency and international services. Through strategic partnerships, the District helps solve some of the state's and, by extension, the nation's toughest challenges.**

**1670**

**FIRST REGIONAL  
SETTLEMENT**

English travelers make their first permanent settlement in the region on the coast. The settlement was known as Charles Towne.

**1775**

**ENGINEERS OF THE  
NEW WORLD**

The federal government creates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an expeditionary engineering team, to supervise defense fortifications. In Charleston, the British siege the harbor, demonstrating the need for stronger defense system.

**1812**

**A FORTIFICATIONS  
PROGRAM**

USACE acquires a national defense mission, known as the Fortifications Program, to build a complex coastal defense system of arsenals, armories and other fortifications that discouraged attacks on U.S. shores.

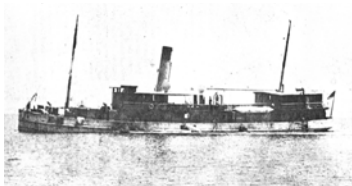
**1700**

**1800**

**1821**

**FIRST VISIT TO  
CHARLESTON**

Expeditionary USACE teams led by military officers begin making regular visits to the Charleston region to oversee the construction of Forts Moultrie and Johnson, survey other defense sites and manage erosion projects along the Charleston Harbor.



**1820s**

**FORTS MOULTRIE,  
JOHNSON & SUMTER**

Construction of Forts Moultrie and Johnson begin. The state challenges federal seizure of the harbor shoal, delaying construction of Fort Sumter until 1841. Sumter is completed in 1860. During this time, USACE surveys and help design the region's first railroad.

**1851**

**FIRST HARBOR  
DEEPENING**

Using hydraulic dredges, USACE begins expanding and deepening the Charleston Harbor. The harbor later becomes one of the nation's 17 strategic ports.





[The] commercial effect will undoubtedly be great. There will no longer be any doubt ... Charleston will soon become the receiving and distributing point for a vast section of the country now supplied by longer lines and at greater cost by Baltimore and New York. The field is open to Charleston." – News & Courier, 1878

## 1871

### CHARLESTON DISTRICT FOUNDED

USACE establishes a local office. During Reconstruction, the District expands its Civil Works program and establishes the harbor as a modern-day port, maintaining the harbor every year for 140 years.

## 1882

### NORTH & SOUTH JETTIES

To improve navigation, Col. Quincy Gillmore, the first district engineer, begins construction of the jetties along Sullivan's and Morris Islands. Gillmore also clears the harbor of Civil War debris, making the harbor more accessible.

## 1890s

### A MODERN HARBOR

During the 1890s, the District received authorizations to widen the harbor and dredge a 28-foot channel. By 1895, Charleston had a modern harbor that could admit the world's largest vessels.

## 1900

## 1914-1945

### WWI & WWII DEFENSE MISSION

In response to World War I & II, the District acquires a new defense mission and helps build new military training posts across SC: Camp Sevier (Greenville), Camp Wadsworth (Spartanburg), Camp Jackson (Columbia) and the Army Depot in North Charleston.



## 1932

### INTRACOASTAL TRAVEL

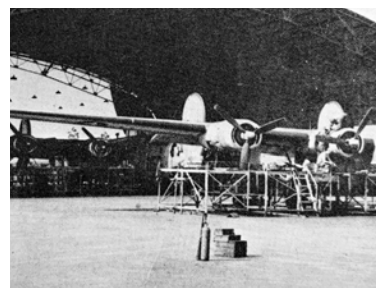
Through a system of protected coastal channels, the District constructs the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in SC, providing the state with a safe channel for military and commercial vessels. The project is completed in 1940.



## 1940

### DEFENSE WORTHY AIR- PORTS

The District builds and expands eight airports, including three Army Air Corp bases and airfields in Charleston, Columbia, Anderson, and Spartanburg. Some of these airfields have evolved into modern-day public airports.

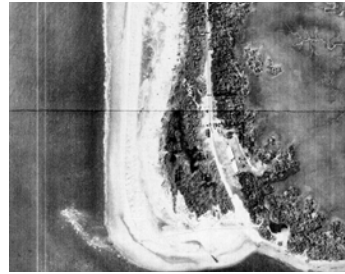




# 1968

## COOPER RIVER REDIVERSION PROJECT

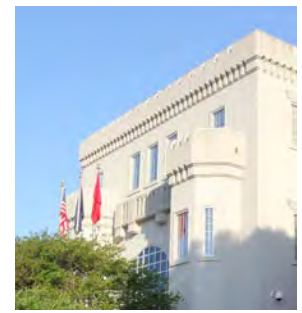
CRRP, a rediversion canal connecting Lake Moultrie to the Santee River and a hydroelectric power plant, is authorized by Congress. Today, the project reduces sedimentation in the Charleston Harbor, saving taxpayers millions in annual dredging costs. The plant also supplies power to thousands of residents, and its fish lift passes 750,000 fish every year.



# 1980-90s

## SHORELINE PROTECTION

In 1986, Folly Beach is authorized as a federal shoreline protection project. The Grand Strand area is approved as a federal project in 1996. Today, Charleston District regularly re-nourishes more than 30 miles of shoreline in Myrtle and Folly Beach.



# 2000

## MOVE TO THE CASTLE

Charleston District relocates its headquarters to a building on the Citadel campus which closely resembles the design of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers logo: a castle.

# 2000

# 1969

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

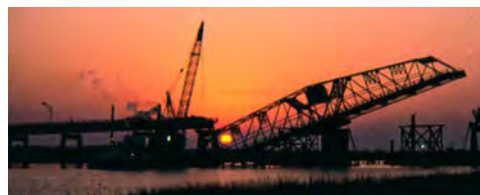
The National Environmental Policy Act was enacted into federal law, increasing the scope of the Regulatory Program. Every year, the Regulatory Division issues 100s of permits across the state.



# 1989

## HURRICANE HUGO REPAIRS

Charleston District is among the first on the scene — within 48 hours of a hurricane or natural disaster — to ensure structures and waterways are safe to reopen. Within two weeks of Hurricane Hugo, the District completes repairs to the Ben Sawyer Bridge, which had toppled into the AIWW, allowing residents on Sullivan's Island to return home.



# 2000s

## NATIONAL ICE MISSION

USACE provides disaster assistance to FEMA through temporary housing construction, contracting support and management assistance. In the early 2000s, this support expanded as the District assumes a national FEMA mission to deliver ice to areas devastated by a natural disaster. The program ends several years later, as states gradually assume the responsibility.





## 2003

### INTERAGENCY & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

IIS, a program allowing USACE to provide technical assistance to non-Department of Defense federal agencies, state and local governments, and other organizations, becomes a larger part of the Charleston District program delivery. The District portfolio includes work for the Veterans Administration, Department of Energy and Department of State.



## 2008

### FORT JACKSON MISSION

The District reassumes responsibility of military construction projects on Fort Jackson. The program covers new construction and renovation of headquarters offices, barracks, dining facilities and much more. Fort Jackson is the Army's major hub for Basic Training, training roughly half of the all incoming Soldiers and about 50,000 Soldiers every year.



## 2008

### MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

To prevent further erosion and provide structural support to Morris Island Lighthouse, a Charleston-area icon, the District constructs a cofferdam. Originally constructed a mile inland along the coast of Folly Beach, the historic lighthouse is now surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean.

## 2018

### POST 45 DEEPENING PROJECT

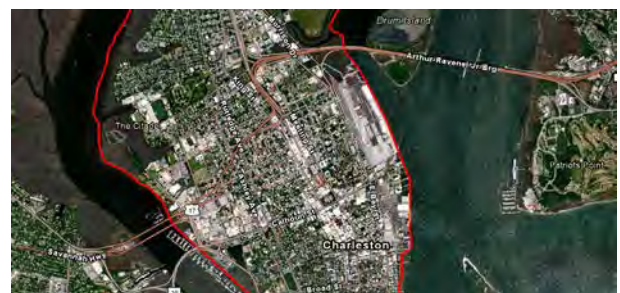
The Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project officially begins construction, taking the harbor's greatest depths from 45 to 52 feet. Once complete, the project will make Charleston the deepest harbor on the East Coast. The project begins as a feasibility study in 2011 and is the nation's first large navigation study completed under the new Civil Works SMART planning process.



## 2021

### STUDYING COASTAL STORM RISKS

Through important feasibility studies like the Charleston Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study and the regional South Atlantic Coastal Study, Charleston District investigates the risks of coastal storm events and partners with organizations at all levels to develop potential long-term solutions.



# 150 years of partnerships

The Charleston District has enjoyed tremendous success over the last 150 years. But that success could not have been achieved without the support of our partners and stakeholders. Thank you to the partners and stakeholders who reached out with the following kind words to help us celebrate our anniversary. We look forward to another 150 years of service to these organizations and many others.



Over the last 150 years, the Army Corps of Engineers has been an important player in critical projects throughout the Lowcountry such as ensuring the Charleston Harbor deepening project remains on track. South Carolina's economic future depends on getting this project done, and it wouldn't be possible without years of work by the Charleston District of the Army Corps of Engineers. I look forward to our continued work together for many years to come.

**Sen. Lindsey Graham**  
State of South Carolina



"South Carolina has depended on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 150 years, as their vital projects support and strengthen our state. Thanks to their continued work on the Harbor Deepening Project, the Port of Charleston remains one of the most competitive trade hubs on the Eastern Seaboard and a key economic engine of our state. For that and so much more, we appreciate their service and dedication. Happy 150th!"

**Sen. Tim Scott**  
State of South Carolina



I am pleased to commemorate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District 150th anniversary. The Charleston District of the Army Corps of Engineers is integral to infrastructure projects that improve the economy and enhance the quality of life in South Carolina. I have worked closely with the Corps to create and expand the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency and to deepen the Charleston Harbor, and will continue to direct funding that supports their important work. I look forward to the positive impacts they will have over the next 150 years."

**Rep. Jim Clyburn**  
SC 6th Congressional District Representative





From the deepening of Charleston Harbor to protecting South Carolinians from rising floodwaters, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District has been a vital part of Team South Carolina during my time as governor. Their deep history of partnership with the people of South Carolina cannot be understated and I know their next 150 years of service to our state will be every bit as impactful.”

**Gov. Henry McMaster**  
State of South Carolina



“From their earliest days constructing Forts Johnson, Moultrie and Sumter, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District has been on the front lines, working tirelessly not only to safeguard our city’s coastal beauty, but to enhance and ready it to adapt to our ever-changing environment. Through their outstanding work on the ongoing 3x3 Flood Risk Management Study, they have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to protecting our historic city from the threat of rising waters and ensuring that many future generations get to call Charleston home. On behalf of the city and all its citizens, I’d like to congratulate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District on 150 remarkable years of service, and to thank them for all they’ve done.”

**Mayor John Tecklenberg**  
City of Charleston



Everyone here at Fort Jackson thanks the Charleston District Corps of Engineers for all their hard work over the many years of our partnership. There have been a lot of upgrades and new construction projects and each one has included the newest technology available. We are grateful for your help in providing the right environment for the team to train and live.”

**Brig. Gen. Milford H. Beagle Jr**  
Commander, Fort Jackson



The Army Corps of Engineers has been a distinguished pillar in our region over the last 150 years, providing billions of dollars in federal investment while preserving and protecting our community's most valuable natural assets, the environment, waterways, and wetlands that make our home unique. The Corps' mission stands at the forefront, but it is the people of the Charleston District that make the agency part of the heartbeat of our community. From outreach in our schools to pioneering local partnerships, our neighbors at the Corps ensure that our place in the world will be left better for generations to come.

**Mayor Keith Summey**  
City of North Charleston



SCDOT's decades-long partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District continues to propel our state's transportation system forward. Our work to improve roads and bridges has tripled during the past few years, so the close working relationship we have developed with the Corps' dedicated District staff and leadership is as important as ever. This relationship has also proven to be vital to the citizens of South Carolina in times of natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Hugo, Joaquin, Matthew, and Florence. We thank the Corps for its continued commitment to South Carolina and the nation.

**Christy A. Hall**  
Secretary of Transportation, SCDOT



I began my career with the Department of Natural Resources almost 44 years ago, and soon began to work with Charleston District Regulatory staff on permitting for projects under my direction. Little did I know how far and how meaningful that treasured relationship would go. First from permit applications for simple water control structures and later to multimillion-dollar infrastructure, port and economic development projects, I've had the high honor to work with your staff at all levels in several different Divisions. Thank you, as every moment and every project has been unique and rewarding. The great people of the Charleston District have the distinct commitment to do everything both the right way and to the benefit of the people of South Carolina. The Palmetto State is better in so many ways because of the leadership of the Charleston District. You exceed the challenge every day!

**Bob Perry**  
Former Director, Office of Environmental Programs, SCDNR





South Carolina Ports and the Charleston District have an important and enduring partnership. Over the past 10 years, we have extensively collaborated on the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project. Our teams have worked tremendously hard to secure the necessary regulatory approvals, legislative support and funding needed to achieve a 52-foot depth in Charleston Harbor to accommodate the large container ships calling on the Port of Charleston today. Under the Army Corps' leadership and new SMART planning process, the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project has progressed more quickly than any federal deepening project to date. We are now on track to having the deepest harbor on the East Coast this year — a truly monumental and lasting achievement for South Carolina.

**Jim Newsome**

President and CEO, SC Ports



An important part of SC Commerce's mission is to ensure a balance between economic needs and environmental responsibility. Our partnership with the Charleston District plays a pivotal role in finding this balance. With uniquely different areas of expertise, our teams have worked closely over the years on permitting projects. As a result of this collaboration, we have been successful in preserving and enhancing the local environment, while also continuing to create opportunities for all South Carolinians.

**Bobby Hitt**

Secretary of Commerce



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been a critical partner of Ashley Hall for a number of years. Most especially, they have provided rich programming for us to engage our young women as part of Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, an annual event to which our students look forward with great enthusiasm. Whether the girls are learning about design by working in teams to build structures that are lightweight but sturdy or about local engineering projects, such as the deepening of the Charleston Harbor, they are immersed in fields that might ultimately be a part of their career path. They are a champion for our school and especially young women of all ages and understand the power of introducing them to strong role models who are engaged in exciting STEM work.”

**Jill Muti**

Head of School, Ashley Hall School



The Corps of Engineers which is right in our backyard has been instrumental in the development of our future engineers at The Citadel. From speakers to capstone evaluation boards to reviewing and granting practice permits for our capstone teams, the educational experiences would not have been as rich and forward leaning without the Corps involvement. Additionally, District Commanders have eagerly served on program advisory boards based on their educational background further assisting The Citadel School of Engineering in modifying its programs to continue prepare students to solve the problems for society in the future. The Citadel is blessed to have such a wonderful partner and friend in the Corps of Engineers Charleston District to support us in our mission: Developing Principled Engineering Leaders.

**Ron Welch**

**Dean of Engineering, The Citadel**



The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' partnership within Charleston's maritime domain is reflected best by the joint efforts spanning across numerous mission sets, expanding and maintaining a safe waterway for all of its users. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Post 45 Harbor Deepening Project is the new benchmark for federal project execution, regularly demonstrating the coordination necessary to maintain a top ranked port while managing the standards essential to ensure Charleston is prepared for the next big wave of deep-draft, ultra-large, cargo ships. This coordination, along with their valued role within our Heavy Weather Advisory Group (HWAG), providing critical input for marine transportation system recovery during severe weather events, reinforces another 150 years of continued partnerships and success in the Greater Charleston Port Complex.

**Cpt. John D. Cole**

**Commander, USCG Sector Charleston**



USACE Charleston District has been instrumental in planning the Coast Guard's future growth in the Charleston area. They were especially helpful in determining the technical requirements for waterfront projects and provided exceptional customer service when conducting depth surveys at Coast Guard piers. We appreciate their focus and commitment to addressing sea level rise which affects numerous Coast Guard facilities along the coast."

**Cpt. Veronica Brecht**

**Commanding Officer, USCG Base Charleston**



“

I always appreciated the nature of our partnership with the Charleston District. We never felt the need to apologize for setting a high bar and SAC was never shy about challenging our assumptions. With both partners firmly focused on solving the problem, tiptoeing around touchy subjects and generally blowing sunshine at each other seemed wholly unnecessary. The frank and open discussions were among the most productive I've had in over 35 years in this business. Just like in a family, the depth and strength of the bond is often in inverse proportion to the social pleasantries of the conversation.”

**Jeff Johnston**

**Former Director of Public Works, U.S. Army 81st Regional Support Command**

“

For the past seven years, South Carolina has had at least one major, presidentially-declared disaster each year. The US Army Corps of Engineers has been a critical part of all our disaster operations. The USACE team has helped shore up local water utilities during floods, prevented dams from overtopping during hurricanes, and helped us plan for increased medical surge capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Charleston District is an integrated member of the State Emergency Response Team that we've come to rely on when the people of South Carolina need us most.”

**Kim Stenson**

**Director, South Carolina Emergency Management Division**

“

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District has been a tremendous mission partner to Joint Base Charleston and the local community. They have been instrumental in our ability to provide world class support to our 67+ mission partners and the accomplishment of their organizational missions.”

**Col. Marc Greene**

**Commander, Joint Base Charleston**



Be sure to check out our special 150th Anniversary website! Here, you can learn about the history of the District and see the upcoming events we have planned as part of our public celebration!

[www.sac.usace.army.mil/150](http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/150)

## Project profiles: Our biggest projects today

The Charleston District has had many influential projects over the last 150 years that continue to have an impact today. At the same time, the District is currently working on hundreds of different projects throughout Charleston, the state of South Carolina and the entire southeast. While all these projects will have a great impact on those around them, here are a few projects currently in the works that will have massive impacts on the region.



### **Charleston Harbor Post 45 Deepening Project**

Post 45 is nearing completion, with construction scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2022. This spring, there will be up to 10 dredges working in Charleston Harbor at the same time trying to get this work done. This is the largest project the District has ever taken on at more than \$500 million and has been in the works for more than 10 years. The completion of this project will mean that any container-ship can access Charleston Harbor at any tide. Charleston Harbor will be the deepest harbor on the east coast and will continue to impact jobs all throughout the state.





## Charleston Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study

The Charleston District is currently in the middle of a study looking at a possible solutions to storm risk on the downtown Charleston peninsula. The study has looked at storm surge and other risks from coastal storm events to try to determine the best possible long-term flood reduction strategy. The District released a tentative plan in the summer of 2020 and collected more than 500 comments that will be addressed in the final proposed plan in 2021. The study will make a recommendation on a future plan, but it will have to be approved and appropriated by Congress to be constructed.



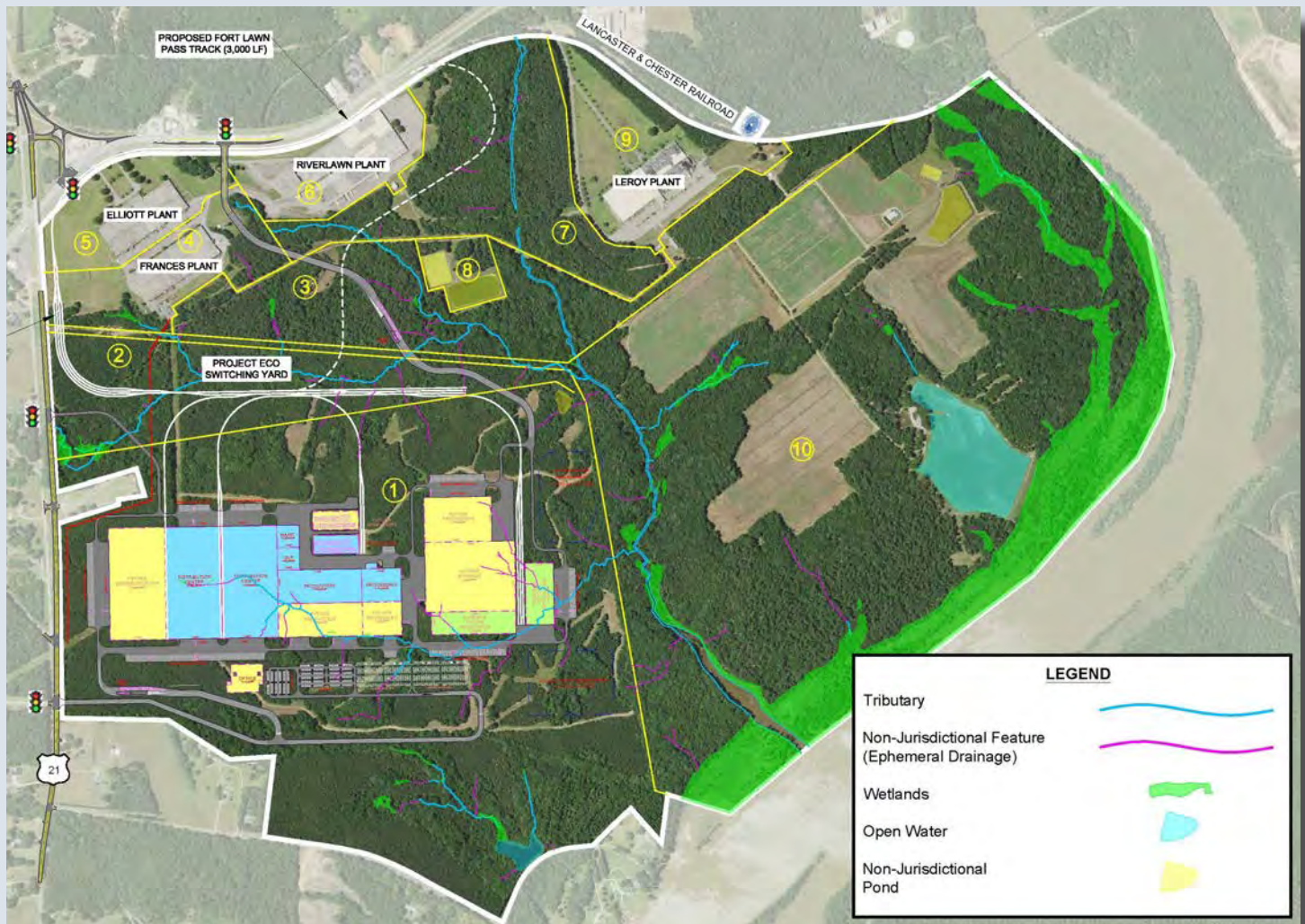
## Semmes Dam Construction

Along with the many other projects happening at Fort Jackson, the Charleston District is rebuilding Semmes Dam. The project is using the latest innovations in engineering technology to withstand severe storms and floods. The dam is environmentally sustainable and self-operational but will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. The dam will allow the refilling of Semmes Lake, which will then once again be available for recreational use by the residents of Fort Jackson.



Today

## Project Profiles: Our biggest projects today



## Regulatory

The Charleston District Regulatory Division is currently processing a permit application for a project located along the Catawba River in Chester County. The South Carolina Department of Commerce filed the application in cooperation with the business, an internationally recognized wine and spirits production and bottling company. The proposed 630-acre site would impact approximately 8,000 linear feet of federally jurisdictional tributaries and just over an acre of wetlands but would bring industry to an area in need of additional new jobs. The proposed mitigation for the project would increase the protected lands around nearby Landsford Canal State Park and would add to mitigation previously authorized for the Carolina Panthers as part of the permit issued for their new headquarters and training facility in 2020. This is one of many projects the Charleston District has worked on with the Department of Commerce through the Water Resources Development Act and there will surely be many more in the future.





## Interagency & International Support

The Interagency and International Support program works with non-Department of Defense federal agencies to complete critical projects. The Charleston District is currently working on two parking decks for the Veteran’s Administration; one in Charleston at the Ralph H. Johnson VA and one in Co- lumbia at the Dorn VA. The Charleston project will add 950 parking spaces, as well as address tidal flooding and stormwater drainage issues. The Columbia project will add 345 parking spaces by con- structing a new garage adjacent to the existing one and expanding the existing garage to four levels. Along with clinics and research facilities, these two projects for the VA are just an example of the work USACE does for other agencies to ensure they can accomplish their missions.

**150 YEARS**  
OF SERVICE TO  
SOUTH CAROLINA



**BILLIONS**  
IN FEDERAL  
INVESTMENTS



## PEOPLE



38%

62%



**1 in 4**

Employees  
are veterans



**33%**

Supervisors  
are female

**2X**

RATED  
WORLD  
CLASS

Greenville Office

Columbia Office

## PARTNERSHIPS



**40+**

LOCAL FEDERAL  
AGENCIES

**12K** EMPLOYEES

Represented through a District-  
led Federal Executive Association



### GIVING BACK

Annual events & charitable  
initiatives organized every  
year as a way to serve our  
communities



**OUTREACH  
AT COLLEGES  
& SCHOOLS**

**2**

**VETERAN AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTERS**

Construction and  
renovation support in  
Charleston and Columbia





## FOUNDATION OF DEFENSE

### Mid-1800s

Forts Moultrie, Johnson & Sumter

### Early 1900s

Camp Jackson (Columbia)  
Camp Wadsworth (Spartanburg)  
Army Depot (North Charleston)  
Camp Sevier (Greenville)

## READINESS

# \$1.3B

CONSTRUCTION  
SUPPORT TO FORT  
JACKSON SINCE 2008



## COOPER RIVER REDIVERSION PROJECT



750k

Fish passed  
through fish lift



40,000

Homes powered



# 45+

MILES

Water pipes placed,  
supplying clean  
water to 1000s of SC  
residents



# 300 MILES

Navigation channels  
maintained in SC



## DISASTER RESPONSE

On the scene within  
48 hours to restore  
safe navigability



# \$1.4B

Property  
protected,  
renourishing  
30 miles of  
shoreline



# 30 ACF

COVID-19  
alternate  
care sites  
assessed

## REVOLUTIONIZE



## DEEPEST HARBOR ON THE EAST COAST

Dredged Chs. Harbor  
every year for 140 years

# \$ \$1.2B

Awarded to 100s of  
small businesses  
since 2012

# 1000+

Permits & jurisdictional  
determinations per year



3x3x3 SMART  
PLANNING  
ROLE MODEL

## 1 IN 10 SC JOBS

Directly related to  
Port of Charleston

Post 45 is the 1st  
navigation study  
completed under the  
new guidelines

# 660k CUBIC YARDS



Dredged material added to  
Crab Bank, giving Pelicans  
28 acres for nesting

## COASTAL FLOOD RISK STUDIES



Investigating  
solutions for  
coastal flood risks



## 8 questions with our head civilian

Lisa Metheney has been the deputy district engineer for programs and project management since 2014. As the “head civilian,” Metheney serves as the constant face of the Charleston District as the commander and deputy commander alternate each year with their two year terms. She has worked for the Charleston District for over two decades and has been integral to the success of the District during this time. We ask her eight questions about how the District has been successful for 150 years and what the future looks like.



1

**In a few words, how would you describe the Charleston District’s 150 year history?**

Definitely impactful. Whether it is Fort Jackson, deepening the harbor, or our coastal risk management projects, we have absolutely been impactful. I’d also say we’ve been broad-reaching, because when you look at the district in the past 15-20 years, we have picked up significant regional and national programs, like the 81st Readiness Division of the Army Reserves, the Marine Force Reserves and support to the Defense Logistics Agency. They are just some of the broad-reaching and impactful missions we have.

2

**What do you think makes Charleston unique among the other USACE districts?**

I would say it mostly comes down to our people. We have a mix of people with very different backgrounds, but everybody is extremely dedicated to the mission at hand, and to providing excellent customer support to the folks we serve. Being the second smallest district in terms of employees allows us to be a little more flexible and agile than some of our sister districts.

3

**What is your favorite memory while working for the District?**

When the Chief of Engineers signed the Chief’s Report for the Post 45 Harbor Deepening Project. We were the first project to go start to finish through the new 3x3x3 process and we plowed new ground the whole way through. We completed that feasibility study and got to the Chief’s Report within 37 months, something that had been unheard of for a very long time.

4

**In three words, how would you describe the District team?**

Caring, professional, and dedicated. Those working here care deeply about the job they do, the people they work with, and the community they serve. The level of professionalism we have here, regardless if someone is an admin assistant or a division chief, is amazing.

5

**What makes this a special place to work?**

The people, that's what really keeps me coming back every day. Getting to work with the folks in this district to solve problems and make a difference each day is what makes it special for me. It doesn't just happen though. While to a certain degree it is the right mix of people and the missions we have, I also think it's all the leadership here in the district. From the commander to the branch chiefs, everyone really cares about what they do and want to feel like they have made a difference. They care so much about helping people achieve and that to me is what really makes it special. I think it's like making a stew; each of the ingredients themselves are good, but when you put them all together, they become amazing.

6

**What is something most people don't know about the District?**

Most people don't know exactly how robust the portfolio of programs and projects we have is. Most members of the public interact with us on one thing, whether it's getting a permit through regulatory, seeing the dredges in the harbor, or they have been at the beach when we're doing a renourishment. They usually only have this one narrow interaction with us. But the fact that we average \$350 million per year across all our programs and work at Joint Base Charleston and Fort Jackson, and even all the way in Barstow, California.

7

**What is your vision for the future of the District?**

I see our missions and programs being similar to the work we currently do, but adding new people to the mix to make it even better. I think we will see the district become 275 folks because I think the support we'll be called on to give will probably take that many of us in the future. We never know what the next thing mother nature will bring us is, but I think we will still be the people the state and nation call on not only to support them after a disaster, but to help them plan and develop projects that will keep those impacts reduced into the future.

8

**What does the USACE motto "Essayons" (Let Us Try) mean to you?**

I can't think of a more fitting motto for the Corps as an agency because when nobody else will tackle the problem, we say, "Hey, we'll give it a try." When the pandemic hit and they needed someone to figure out how to do Alternate Care Facilities and get them constructed in record time, they came to the Corps for that. When I think of Charleston specifically, we put the emphasis on the "us" in "Let Us Try." We are always willing to take on a new mission or do something different. And even though we may be smaller, with the synergy we have from everyone involved, we can bring a lot to solve a problem and we're not afraid to try new things.



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Charleston District  
Corporate Communications Office  
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## “Extra, extra!”

Here are a few of the feature stories we’ve been a part of in local papers. We appreciate our good working relationships with the local media to help tell the story of the work we are doing for Charleston and South Carolina.

