

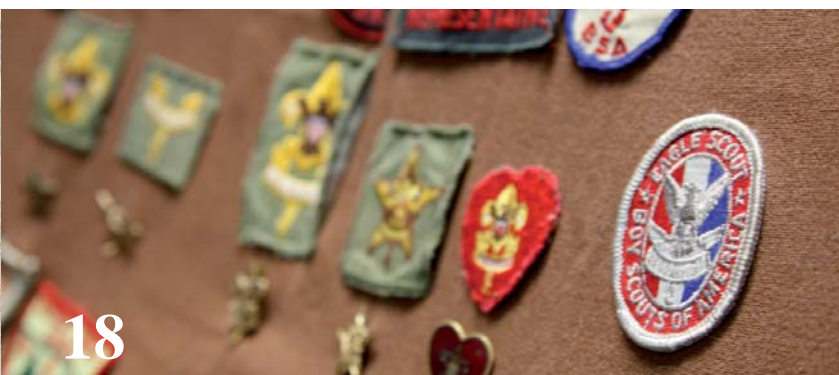
PALMETTO CASTLE

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a vast field of bright yellow sunflowers. The sunflowers are in full bloom, with large, dark brown centers and vibrant yellow petals. They are densely packed together, filling the lower two-thirds of the image. In the background, behind the field, is a thick forest of tall, green trees, likely pines or cypresses, which form a dark green backdrop for the scene.

Summer 2014 Volume 6/Issue 3

A Charleston Summer

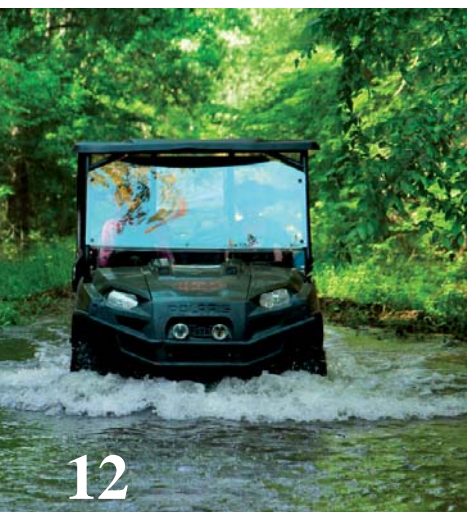
CONTENTS



18



6



12



14



4

THIS ISSUE:

From the Commander	Page 3
Serving Our Customer; No Job Too Small	Page 4
Meet the RAMbLR	Page 6
Hurricane Center	Page 8
Don't Hang Your Boat Out to Dry	Page 10
Immerse Yourself	Page 12
Rolling Over	Page 14
What Makes a Good Leader?	Page 16
Family Readiness is More Than You Know	Page 17
A Scout is...	Page 18
Palmetto Happenings	Page 22

Cover and back photos by Sara Corbett

The sunflower fields at the Charleston District's St. Stephen Powerhouse are in full bloom. The sunflowers are planted in anticipation of the upcoming dove season. When the sunflowers droop over and die, their seeds attract thousands of doves to the area.

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From the Commander

Happy summer to all of our partners and stakeholders! Summer is a great time of the year with warm temperatures and the pressures of school schedules being lifted for a bit. Families get to spend a little more time together, whether on a vacation or staying local. It is definitely one of my favorite times of the year.

The Charleston District relaxed by holding our annual "Corps Day" employee awards ceremony to recognize some of our team members' accomplishments. Highlights include Rhonda Bath, Supervisor of the Year; Dottie O'Connor, Team Member of the Year, Administrative Professional; Lonnie Nielson, Team Member of the Year, Engineering and Scientific Professional; James Choate, Team Member of the Year, Non-Engineering; John Tyson, Field Team Member of the Year; 81st Regional Support Command, Project Delivery Team of the Year; Dennis Franklin, Commander's Award for Extraordinary Achievement; and Matthew Boles, recipient of the Steel deFluery Medal.

The relaxation doesn't last long however, because when the fireworks fade the District enters the last quarter of the 2014 fiscal year and my team returns to being extremely focused on delivering high-quality services to you. Some of our activities include executing final negotiations and contract awards for all of our customers, balancing our books for end of fiscal year close out, and preparing for a public meeting in early fall to present the draft Environmental Impact Study and the draft Feasibility Report for the Post 45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Feasibility Study. Between now and the end of September, my team will be extremely busy and I thank you for the trust and confidence you have given the District. Summer also brings one of the District's missions to the forefront - preparing for the 2014 hurricane season. Our emergency management team does a great job of making sure our employees and the public are armed with information and resources to be ready for a hurricane (page 8). Our emergency response team is also trained and ready to deploy to areas impacted by hurricanes. This year's forecast calls for a normal or below-normal season, but we must remain prepared.

Every summer also brings a leadership change to the Charleston District. I want to thank Maj. John O'Brien for his dedication these past two years to the District and the region as the deputy commander. I wish him and his family good luck at their next duty station in Albuquerque, N.M. With his departure brings our new deputy commander, Maj. Nathan Molica (page 16). I know he will be a huge asset to the Charleston team. Please help me extend a warm welcome to Nate and his family.

I am extremely proud and fortunate to work in this high-per-



forming organization. In my first column, I said the Charleston District had a reputation for being incredibly responsive, technically-competent and customer-focused, and they have shown me this many times over these last 12 months.

One last summer thought - if you are on the water this summer, please expect the unexpected and wear your life jacket. It only takes an average of 60 seconds for an adult to drown and just 20 seconds for a child. In the weeks since pools have opened and the ocean's temperature has become more inviting, we have already had several drowning deaths in South Carolina. Don't let you or your loved ones become a statistic. The District has created public safety announcements that will be heard over statewide radio channels during the July 4th time frame. Please take their advice and have a safe summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Litz".

John T. Litz
Lt. Col., U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer
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Serving our Customer; N

Article and photos by Sara Corbett

Updating security systems, replacing carpeting and installing access ladders are all small projects that add up to one big project.

Two years ago, the Charleston District issued its first Job Order Contract (JOC). The JOC is the perfect vehicle for the District to award smaller projects; it allows for a large number of repair, maintenance and minor construction projects to be completed under a single contract rather than issuing individual contracts for each small project. The JOC saves time and money for the District and for the customer, Joint Base Charleston (JBC). JBC encompasses a wide range of organizations such as Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Army Strategic Logistics Agency-Charleston, Nuclear Power Training Unit, Naval Munitions Command and Mission Support Group, just to name a few. The District has done work for all of these agencies.

The five-year JOC, that was awarded to Northcon, Inc., won't exceed \$15 million, and of that amount, \$7.5 million

has been awarded on task orders with another \$2.5 million expected to be awarded by the end of fiscal year 2014.

"We anticipate that we will hit the \$15 million limit by this time next year," said Josh Mueller, contracting specialist. "Once that happens, we will set up another JOC to continue serving our customers."

The District has awarded approximately 30 task orders under the JOC that vary greatly. One order can have several small projects under it. For example, ASLAC has a lengthy list of items such as repairing overhead lighting, upgrading restrooms, constructing new offices and installing an HVAC system; the total of all these projects combined was approximately \$865,000. Other orders under the JOC can have just one project. For example, replacing rotting timber cap rails with a sturdy composite rail along the TC Dock for SDDC, which was approximately \$80,000 to replace.

"I have projects that are approximately \$640,000 to projects that are \$1.5 million," said Charlie Johnson, architect



No Job Too Small

and project manager. “No job is too big or too small for the Corps to do.”

One of the more unusual projects the District has done was relocating an antenna field for SPAWAR. While the budget wasn't very big, it required a fair amount of work.

“The site the antennas were on was re-purposed as a building site, so we moved the four antennas across the street,” said Brendan Kight, project engineer. “Before we could do anything we had to remove all the trees from the new site and grade and grub the area, which required a permit from the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control.”

Diverse contracting tools and an experienced staff give the District the ability to complete any size project and provide the best service possible to all of our customers.



Left: Kight inspects the recently replaced rails at the TC Dock.
Top Right: Kight walks around the antenna.
Middle Right: A generator the Corps installed for ASLAC.
Bottom Right: The District replaced 300 gallon fuel tanks with 1,500 gallon fuel tanks for ASLAC.



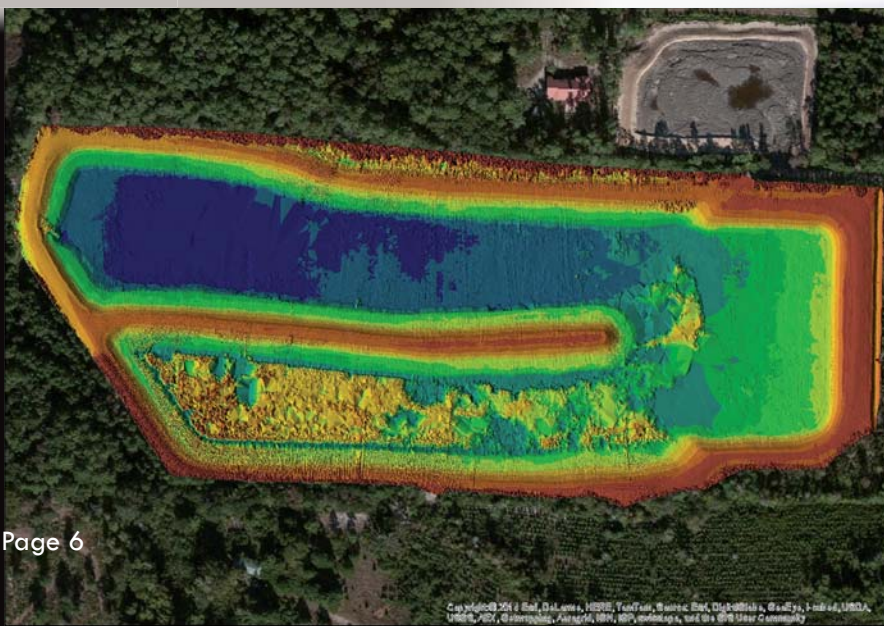
Meet the

Article by Matt Foss, survey section chief
Photos by Sara Corbett

The Charleston District's survey section is no stranger to using advanced visualization technologies to support the District's decision makers. Recently, while hosting a seafloor mapping S.T.E.M. outreach event with the College of Charleston's Marine Geology Mapping Group, the survey team was introduced to the Dynascan mobile Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping system. The District's surveyors saw significant benefits to using this technology to the support their mission.

Following the event, the team collaborated with the equipment vendor to perform a test and evaluation of the mapping system. The team mounted the LiDAR system on its 23 foot survey vessel and quickly configured the systems for operation. After a few uses, it became evident that this would be an excellent tool to aid in improving maintenance and management of District projects. Due to improved operations and cost savings from the equipment, a LiDAR system was acquired in 2013.

The need for accurate, time-sensitive topographic data arose soon after at the Morris Island disposal site in Charleston Harbor. The large and remote site posed access difficulties that would be costly to overcome using conventional methods. A traditional GPS survey of the project area would have taken several days to complete. To surmount



Top Left: Matt Boles takes the RAMbLr for a ride along Folly Beach.

Middle Left: Kenny Millbrook, Matt Foss and Matt Boles look over the data from the RAMbLr.

Bottom Left: A RAMbLr image of the completed construction of the Tidal Spoil Basin Expansion project.

Right: Matt Boles rides down the shore.

RAMbLr

these challenges, the survey crew designed and fabricated a frame to mount the LiDAR on an all-terrain vehicle. With the ATV, the team was able to complete the survey in one day, collecting significantly more data points than could have been collected otherwise. The ability to move the unit from a vehicle to a vessel, with full functionality achieved in less than an hour, was an obvious benefit. That was the official birth of the rapid assessment mobile LiDAR, or RAMbLr.

Anyone who has worked with LiDAR can attest that its benefits cut both ways. More data can be a positive (in terms of detail provided) or a negative (when managing massive datasets). The survey crew and design engineers collaborated to develop procedures that ensure a balanced data acquisition strategy of prioritizing the collection of high-value data necessary for project design while reducing processing time.

With the integration of the RAMbLr, the team has capitalized on its newest ability by providing an efficient long-term beach monitoring solution. The South Carolina coast is characterized by wide beaches. Of these beaches, the Corps has periodic storm damage reduction projects in Myrtle Beach and Folly Beach. Using this system to collect snapshots in time of beach conditions allows scientists and engineers to understand the complicated dynamics of the sea and shore interface. Many of the natural processes on these beaches are complicated by the use of shoreline stabilization structures and the data obtained with this technology will enable improved understanding and assessment of the structures' performance. In addition to long-term monitoring, the system can be deployed quickly before and after a major storm

to estimate material lost from protective beaches. This could help in long-term planning in an era of predicted increased storms.

The system was employed during the Folly Beach shore protection project to provide condition assessments in addition to traditional quality assurance checks. The data collected with the system has been invaluable to project managers in assessing the current state of the project. The graphics generated from this data provide easy-to-read topographic maps that can be used together with local sponsor reports to document and explain before and after conditions of storm impacts on our beach projects.

The RAMbLr system continues to prove its effectiveness and efficiency on a day-to-day basis. To date, the system has been used for project design, verifying construction as-built, environmental surveys for military construction projects, flood control projects, and beach monitoring surveys. The uses for this system and the data it provides keep growing and we are confident it will increase the Corps' ability to rapidly assess and manage its current and future projects.



HURRICANE

Handy Hurricane Help

By Sean McBride

The wind is howling; rain is pouring through the windows; trees are falling down all around you! Well, hopefully you're not experiencing any of that during the next hurricane that strikes near you because you were prepared.

Hurricane season began on June 1st and runs through November 30th, so it's important to make sure you and your family are ready before a storm strikes. This season's forecast calls for 8-13 named storms, with 1-2 of them potentially turning into major hurricanes. The four most important things you can do before a hurricane are to create a family hurricane plan, build a hurricane kit, know your evacuation route information, and keep informed of developing weather situations.

Make sure you start your planning early, because it will be too late to get ready once a storm is on its way. Make sure you and your families create an evacuation plan and assemble your evacuation kit now so you are prepared. Here are some things to keep in mind when getting prepared.

- **Hurricane evacuation kit:**

- Assemble your kit well in advance of a hurricane because you might have to evacuate at a moment's notice
- If the state issues a mandatory evacuation, follow their orders and know the evacuation routes and where the evacuation centers are and which ones are pet-friendly
- Have enough food, water and supplies to last for at least 72 hours
- Water- one gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Prescription medication
- Pet food, if you have pets
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle
- Maps with evacuation routes
- Anything you need for your children, including activities
- Important documents

- **Hurricane evacuation plan:**

- Determine a meeting place and a secondary meeting place
- Have everyone's phone numbers, including out-of-town contacts, written down in case your phone dies and you have to borrow someone else's
- Put all valuables into clear, plastic bags high off the floor
- If the storm is going to affect your area badly, leave before it becomes mandatory or it will be very difficult to travel
- Have maps with the local evacuation routes clearly marked
- If you have time, board up any windows to your house that you can
- Bring any loose furniture indoors from outside that could blow away
- Turn off electricity and water

- **If you are stuck at home during a hurricane**

- Move everyone, including pets, into an interior room with no windows
- Bring your hurricane evacuation kit supplies with you
- Bring in a mattress to cover the door

HURRICANE NAMES

ARTHUR	HANNA	OMAR
BERTHA	ISAIAS	PAULETTE
CRISTOBAL	JOSEPHINE	RENE
DOLLY	KYLE	SALLY
EDOUARD	LAURA	TEDDY
FAY	MARCO	VICKY
GONZALO	NANA	WILFRED

Phone Numbers/ Websites:

Red Cross: 1-866-438-4636/RedCross.org
Public Information Phone Systems: 1-866-246-0133
S.C. Emergency Management Division: SCEMD.org
National Hurricane Center: NHC.NOAA.GOV
Traffic Information: SCTraffic.org

CENTER

Always Ready to Respond

By Sara Corbett

While hurricane season is only from June 1st to November 30th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spends all year preparing for it. To prepare for the season this year, the Charleston District's emergency management division has been busy standing up its new mission; infrastructure assessment (IA).

The IA team's primary function is to provide quick structural assessments to determine whether damaged buildings are safe for re-entry or should be restricted or prohibited. The secondary function is to evaluate structures that could be used in an emergency, such as hospitals for mass care or auditoriums for temporary housing. Finally, the team provides technical assistance such as electrical, mechanical, environmental and search and rescue support.

"After a storm has come through, all people want to do is get home and check on their house, to make sure everything is in order or to see what has been damaged," said Gilbert Dent, emergency management chief. "We have to make sure that their homes are safe to re-enter and, if they aren't, we need to be able to provide them with somewhere safe to go."

To provide this service, the District had to ensure that there were volunteers who were properly trained. The emergency management division held three recruiting sessions and were able to recruit six primary responders and six backup team members. Once the responders were selected, they had to complete several online training exercises, two tabletop exercises and an eight-hour Applied Technology Council-20 training program. ATC-20 provides the in-depth training

needed to do the assessments.

"It is vital that the responders are properly trained and prepared for this mission," said Dent. "We have to be 100 percent sure that a home is safe to enter."

There are four other districts dispersed throughout the nation that support the IA mission and the mission is rotated through those districts every year. The Charleston District will be the first to respond to an event within the South Atlantic Division and is currently fourth on the rotation of the national team.

Prior to the IA mission, the District supported the ice mission, but, in April 2007, FEMA announced it would no longer purchase, distribute or store ice as one of the basic initial response commodities. The decision to eliminate the ice mission was based on lessons learned from past hurricane response operations and reflects FEMA's transition that relies on its relationships at the state and local levels. The 2012 hurricane season was the last season that the District supported the ice mission.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports FEMA's emergency support function (ESF) #3, public works and engineering, by coordinating and organizing the capabilities and resources to deliver services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and contracting and real estate services to prepare for, respond to or recover from a disaster.

No matter what the mission is, the District is always ready to respond.



Charleston District Health and Safety Officer John Lindsay appeared on the local morning show Lowcountry Live to discuss hurricane tips and talk about the Charleston District's role in hurricane response.

Don't hang your boat out to dry



By John Lindsay, safety officer

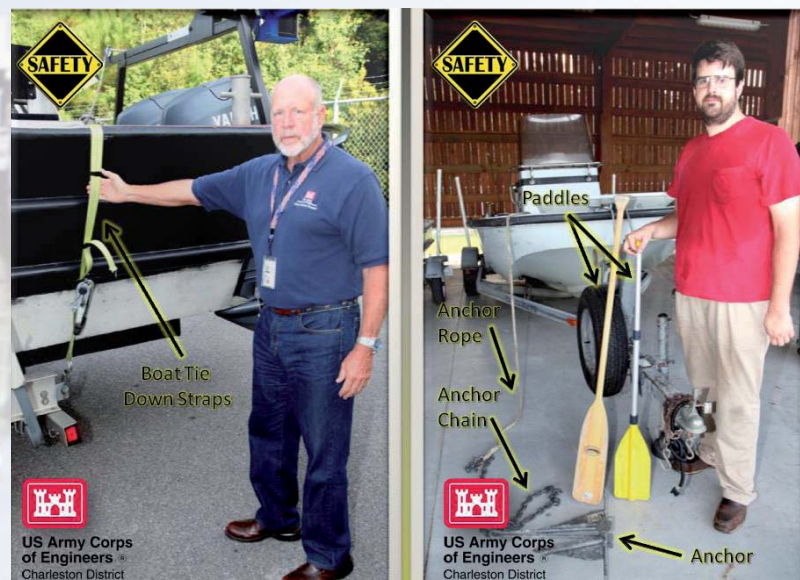
How many times have you been ready for a great day out on the water, but when you put your boat in, it wouldn't start? Or after a great day of cruising the harbor, you find yourself stranded on the side of the road with your trailer broken down. There are plenty of precautions that we can take to ensure that our day of pleasure doesn't turn into a nightmare.

Prepare your boat:

- Make sure your boat battery has a full charge
- Test your steering (sometimes they will "freeze up" from not being used)
- Start your motor in your yard with the proper flushing attachment
- If you will be out after sunset, make sure your navigation lights are working properly
- Inspect your personal protective equipment:
 - Coast Guard-approved, and properly fitted, personal floatation devices for each person on board
 - Throwable cushion or life ring
 - Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher for boats with permanent gas tanks
 - Flares for boats operating in coastal waters
 - Horn, bell or whistle

Prepare your Trailer:

- Inspect tires for wear and proper inflation, including your spare tire
- Ensure your trailer safety chains are connected to your tow vehicle
- Have proper working trailer lights
- Make sure trailer brakes have an emergency stop chain in case your trailer becomes disconnected from your tow vehicle
- Periodically make sure your trailer wheel bearings and hubs are in good shape
- Make sure your boat has a tie-down strap that keeps it secure on the trailer
- Always rinse your trailer off with fresh water if you have launched your boat in salt water



John Lindsay and Brad Schultz, small craft operator, review the different items needed to stay safe while boating.
Far left: Boaters fish along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, which the District maintains.

Immerse Yourself

Article and photos by Sean McBride

The plumes of dust flying through the air didn't seem to bother the radiant butterflies floating through the air at Goodwill Plantation nearly as much as the humans zooming around in all-terrain vehicles. I don't know if butterflies are hampered by dust, but I know that the representatives from the regulatory participating agencies and I were certainly coughing a lot.

As a member of the Charleston District's public affairs team, I don't work directly on any specific projects, but I have to be knowledgeable and informed on all of the projects that affect the public. That's why, when the District's regulatory team was visiting possible mitigation sites for the proposed Haile Gold Mine project, with representatives from other agencies and the permit applicant, I went with them to see the sites and learn about the details behind the plan to prepare for the next night's public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

Getting out in the field is the best part of my job. Most of the time, I'm stuck in front of a computer, writing articles like this one. I love that too, but being outside is wonderful. This trip was nothing short of that.

We began the day with a history lesson about Goodwill Plantation from Larry Faulkenberry, the current owner. He showed us around the property and explained what had been done in the different structures when people lived and worked on the site, performing tasks such as farming, blacksmithing and milling. The site mainly harvests timber now, but is often used to host school groups.

We then hopped aboard a fleet of ATVs and travelled into the depths of the woods. Goodwill Plantation is more than 2,500 acres of mostly woods and wetlands. We stopped at several points to hear about potential options for res-

toration and enhancement in those areas. Several of these included spots where there were opportunities to enhance the exchange of water through the wetland. I have to say, most people in my profession don't ride on ATVs through low-water crossings with rushing water lapping at their feet. But learning about ways to improve the natural flow of wetlands, all while hoping your mode of transportation doesn't stall out, is a very interesting way to spend an afternoon.

The site visit of Goodwill Plantation, which concluded with a trip up Cook's Mountain to see the final restoration spots, gave me a great perspective of the specifics of the mitigation plan for the proposed project. Now, I was truly familiar with this aspect of the project. Our regulators had visited the site a few times, but now I had first-hand knowledge to try to answer people's questions and point them in the right direction if any arose at the public hearing.

The public hearing went smoothly, with more than 300 people in attendance to ask questions and give their comments on the DEIS. I was able to understand exactly what people were talking about when they referred to parts of the mitigation plan because I had been there myself.

Getting out in the field is something that every public affairs or public relations practitioner needs to do to be good at their job. Whether you're representing your brand through projects such as these or you're representing a product because their company is paying you a boatload of money, you have to experience what you are representing so you can put your heart into it. No one will believe what you are saying if you're just reciting talking points from a page. You need to have immersed yourself in your work so you can give an honest and accurate answer to every question.

Besides, who doesn't want to go on a work field trip?





Top: A bridge crosses over a lake on Goodwill Plantation.

Bottom Left: Agency representatives review a site map of Goodwill Plantation.

Middle Left: Agency representatives ride through a low-water crossing on an ATV.

Middle Right: Faulkenberry shows representatives how an old corn shucker works.

Bottom Right: A view from the top of Cook's Mountain.



Rolling Over

Article by Sean McBride
Photos by Dennis Franklin

Earlier this year, the Charleston District's St. Stephen Powerhouse hydropower units hit 999,999 megawatt hours (MWH) produced on the plant revenue meter. Why is that significant? Because there is no 1,000,000 on the meter, so it rolled over back to zero.

The St. Stephen Powerhouse began operations in 1985 and this was just the sixth time that this mark has been reached. Previously, the mark was reached in 1990, 1993, 1997, 2003 and 2006.

Over the lifespan of the project, the facility has produced an average of 566 MWH per day. If you did the math, that would mean that the meter would roll over just less than every five years. But, as the numbers show, one million MWH occurs with varying frequency. That's because there were many years when there wasn't enough water flowing from the upstate, down the Santee River, through the Rediversion Canal and through the powerhouse generators to produce as many MWH.

"The number of MWH produced is directly related to how much water flows through the turbine-generators," said Jim Carter, operations project manager. "2013 was a great year for generation, due to lots of water, but for a while before that, there was hardly any water."

For comparison, in 2013, the powerhouse produced 354,411 MWH, which hadn't been produced in the previous

three and a half years combined. The reason this is significant relates to the cost of power to Santee Cooper, the power company that is supplied by the hydropower that is produced by the St. Stephen Powerhouse.

"When Santee Cooper gets power from us, they get it at low cost, because hydropower is very cost-efficient," said Carter. "When they can't get it from us, they have to get it from a more expensive source. Hydropower is basically a free energy source. Natural gas is the lowest cost replacement power when compared to coal or nuclear, but hydropower is the most environmentally friendly and low-cost overall."

The St. Stephen Powerhouse typically produces enough MWH to power 40,000 homes on the Santee Cooper power grid. That number is based on the average kilowatt hours used by a home per year versus what is produced by the powerhouse. But the value of energy produced at the powerhouse goes beyond just power. The powerhouse was built as part of the Cooper River Rediversion Project, which diverted water flow and saves taxpayers \$13-18 million per year in dredging costs in Charleston Harbor from reduced sedimentation flow through the Cooper River.

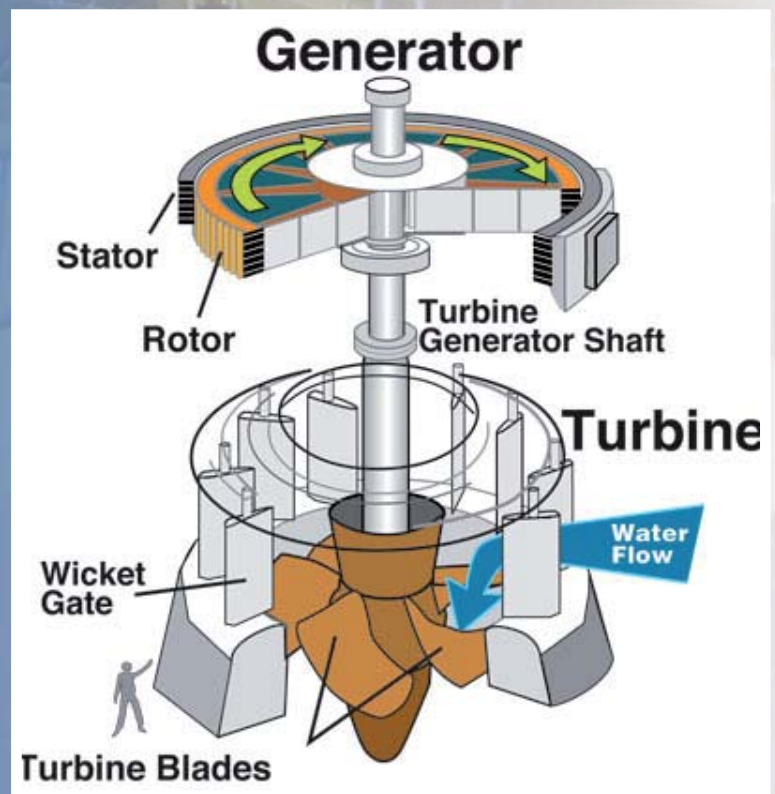
In 2035, the Charleston District is scheduled to hand control of the St. Stephen Powerhouse over to Santee Cooper as part of the original 50-year agreement that was signed. But before then, expect to see the MWH meter roll over several more times.



Year	MWH
2014	67,704
2013	354,411
2012	28,484
2011	41,821
2010	190,891
2009	194,685
2008	13,366
2007	128,952
2006	115,319
2005	266,120
2004	215,839
2003	454,717
2002	48,221
2001	15,848
2000	90,547
1999	96,810
1998	350,554
1997	307,307
1996	309,124
1995	373,670
1994	307,972
1993	273,800
1992	338,138
1991	320,474
1990	329,865
1989	313,280
1988	86,899
1987	291,622
1986	130,489
1985	149,376
Total	6,206,305



Left: A chart showing how many MWH were produced each year the powerhouse has been operational.
Top: Carter checks the reading on the MWH meter.
Right: A diagram of the inside of a generator.
Bottom: One of the generators at the powerhouse.



What makes a good leader?

as told by three of the District's newest leaders



"I feel there are many components to leadership; the most important ones to me are integrity, humility, and selflessness. You need to do the right thing even when no one is looking (integrity), you should not flaunt the position, but be thankful for the opportunity (humility), and your focus should routinely concern other people and their welfare (selflessness)."

***Maj. Nathan Molica
Deputy District Commander
nathan.a.molica@usace.army.mil***

"Leadership is many different things, but one of the most important traits of a successful leader is the ability to effectively communicate goals, expectations and requirements to team members on a consistent basis."

***Brian Williams
Assistant Chief of Programs and Project
Management Division
brian.p.williams@usace.army.mil***



"A good leader takes the lead. A good leader has personality, courage, clear vision and ambition to succeed. A good leader encourages the team to perform to their optimum all the time and drives organizational success."

***Osby Mosley
Chief, Resource Management
osby.mosley@usace.army.mil***



Family Readiness is More Than You Know

By Narissia Skinner, family readiness coordinator

When you think of Family Readiness, I am sure you think it only pertains to deployed personnel and their families; however this is not the case. Family Readiness has expanded its services and support to all District personnel and their families. Recently, our Navigation Branch Chief, Brandan Scully, was on a developmental assignment with the Engineer Research & Development Center's Coastal & Hydraulics Lab in Vicksburg, Miss. He was working with researchers in the Coastal Engineering Branch to develop methods to measure and understand how navigation projects affect the performance of vessels in transit from automatic identification system data that ships normally generate while underway.

While checking on him during the four months he was gone, I asked him what he missed about home the most. His reply was, "I miss the food and the scenery in Charleston, the dedicated Charleston District staff and, of course, my lovely wife, Jessica." That was all that I needed to know to coordinate the District to gather food items specific to Charleston area. Brandan received the box and was very happy. We also sent a poster of springtime in Charleston for him to display in his new workspace that he could look at and be reminded of home. Shortly after Brandan returned home, he went on a work trip to California, during which time his house caught fire. His wife escaped unharmed, but they are currently displaced and the District lent a helping hand.

1.) What does Family Readiness mean to you?

Family readiness is about members of the Corps family being there for each other during stressful times.

2.) Can you give me specific examples of how Family Readiness has affected or supported you and your family?

I was recently away from home on a temporary assignment for a substantial period of time. I knew our fabulous Family Readiness Coordinator does a great job of putting together care packages for our deployed members, but I was surprised to receive a care package myself. I was also surprised that it had such a tremendous positive impact on my mood - knowing that co-workers were thinking about me while I was away. I wasn't expecting either.

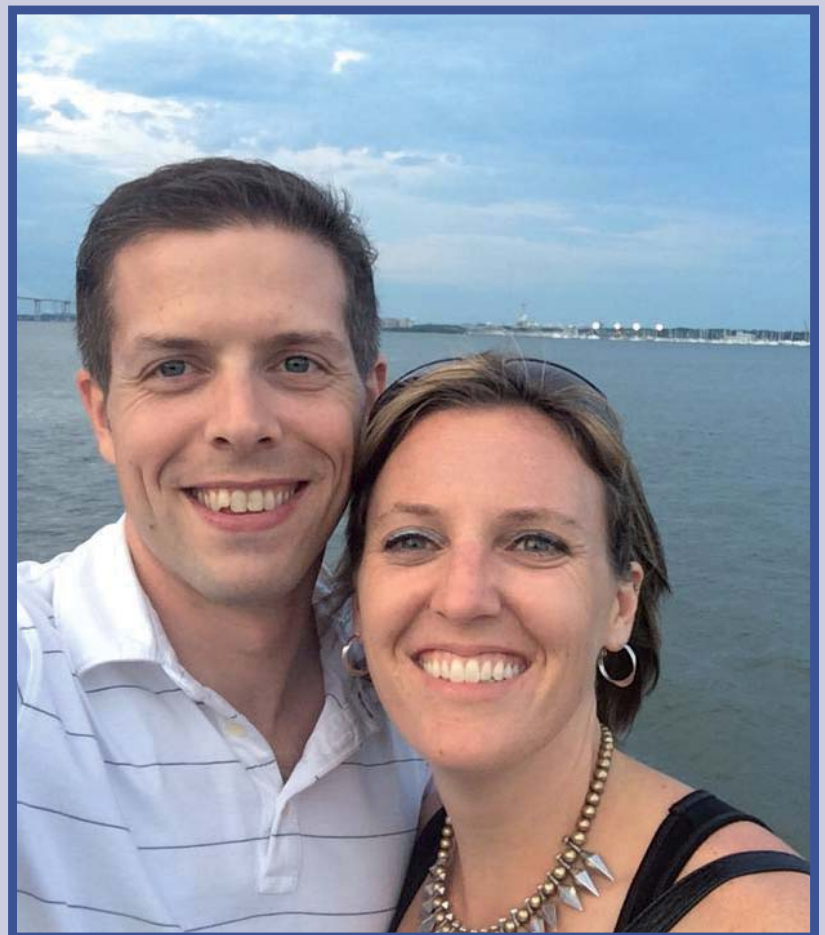
3.) Please tell me a little bit about the fire you and your family sustained.

We recently had a fire that partially damaged our home, and left us without power or water. I was in San Francisco, and my wife was home alone. Within an hour of the fire, many coworkers contacted me to see if we were ok, or if there was anything they could do to help. Some of my co-workers showed up at the house to help my wife get things under control through the day. They helped her move undamaged goods out of our kitchen, prior to the ceiling collapsing. This ultimately makes the recovery process easier, but Jess was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. She credits the Charleston District staff in particular for making it possible to get through that challenging experience.

4.) Can you offer any closing advice?

Pay it forward, and check your smoke detector batteries.

The interview with Brandan was enlightening and inspirational. You never know when Family Readiness will be there for you, but know it will be whenever you need it.



A collection of various Boy Scout patches and medals is displayed on a brown, textured surface. The items include several rectangular patches with different designs, a heart-shaped patch, and a large oval patch featuring the Boy Scouts of America logo. The text "A Scout is..." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

A Scout is...

By Sean McBride

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. That's according to the Boy Scout Law. But after comparing the experiences of the nine Eagle Scouts that work for the Charleston District, one thing is sure – a Scout is... different.

Of the nine Eagle Scouts in the Charleston District, their scouting careers took place in eight different states and one foreign country. No Scouting experience was the same for anyone. As an Eagle Scout myself, I assumed that everyone's Boy Scout troop was the same – backpacking through the mountains, extravagant trips to mountain ranges throughout the country and rigorous projects to better our community. While some had similar experiences, nothing was the same.

Take trips for example. My troop went on monthly backpacking trips through the Appalachian Mountains. We learned how to hike, orient a map, pack a backpack, cook over a fire and much more. But take Maj. John O'Brien, for example. With his father stationed abroad in the Army, he spent the first year and a half of his Scouting career in Belgium with the Boy Scouts of America's Transatlantic Council. Their trips mainly consisted of traveling Europe visiting historical sites such as the Berlin Wall when it was still in place. Then enter Caleb Brewer, whose troop in Mississippi camped on people's farming and hunting lands instead of through parks, completing their five-mile hike requirement down a gravel road. Or there's Paul Hinchcliff, whose Michigan-based troop did mostly car camping at state parks where there were rolling hills and open valleys. But as you can imagine, camping in Michigan had its own challenges.

"Camping was often bone-chilling cold with terrible sleeping bags," recalls Hinchcliff. "Every piece of equipment we had was surplus Army gear."

For the Eagle Scouts that had the opportunity to do a lot of backpacking, it was done all over the country. Brandan Scully's backpacking trips in New York taught him personal responsibility of being alone in the woods. Being in well-positioned troops in North and South Carolina, O'Brien, Chris Mims and I all traveled up and down the Appalachian Trail on many of our weekend trips. With the luxury the Appalachian Trail offers to backpackers of stretching from Georgia to Maine, even Scouts in Ohio, like Doug Green, could connect and hike parts the famous trail.

While some Scouts like Green took high-adventure trips to places like Yellowstone National Park, only O'Brien, Joe Moran and I were lucky enough to make it to take the Boy Scout pilgrimage to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. Philmont is the BSA's largest national high-adventure base with more than 214 square miles of rugged wilderness, highlighted with a hike up 12,441 feet to the pinnacle of Baldy Mountain. The various treks insert Scouts deep into the mountains where they can hike for more than 70 miles and easily see more wildlife than civilization for 10 days. O'Brien and I both went as boys, but Moran had an unfortunate delay.

"My Boy Scout council chose me to go to Philmont for free, but I got the flu two days before and couldn't go," said Moran. "When I had a son, I said, 'This is my way back into the Scouts,' and I was able to go with him when he went to Philmont and pin his medal on him when he became an Eagle Scout, which meant more to me than any experience I had as a Scout."

While hiking in Philmont, Scouts must also complete a conservation project, such as reseeding after a wildfire, erosion control or habitat improvement, to ensure that the area



thrives for future generations of Scouts. This goes in line with the Eagle Scout requirement for each candidate to complete a service project in the community, on top of the additional requirements of merit badges and skills. Eagle projects can vary in scale, but must be approved by a Board of Review. The purpose of an Eagle project is less about an Eagle candidate doing work, and more about teaching them life skills, such as leadership and project management. The candidate must plan the entire concept, obtain material donations, recruit volunteers and motivate people to work for them.

Eagle Scout projects usually have a theme of benefiting large groups of people in easily accessible places. Scully built a memorial garden at a state park. O'Brien and Green constructed bridges on trails in camping areas. Moran replaced a bathroom at a local camp. I constructed fences and renovated a boat ramp at a church campground. Mims built an amphitheatre with 40 benches at a state park. Lt. Col. John Litz put in the water and sewer lines at a Habitat for Humanity House. Brewer even got his first look at his future employer when he made a boat ramp functional again after the local sponsor allowed a Corps-constructed project to fall into disrepair.

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Opposite: Badges of all the Boy Scout ranks.

Top Left: McBride (right) stands with his father on a hike at Philmont Scout Ranch with Baldy Mountain in the background.

Top Right: Litz aboard the USS Yorktown on a trip from Tennessee as a Scout.

Bottom: Mims (second from right) poses with his family at his Eagle Ceremony.

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These life skills, along with the more tangible skills learned in Boy Scouts, put O'Brien and Litz ahead of the game when they got into the Army. For O'Brien, it was the skills of orienteering, hiking, packing a backpack, knots and teamwork that set him apart from the group.

"I already had those skills from Scouts where others had to learn them," said O'Brien. "I carried the Scout Motto of 'Be Prepared' in the Army because you can't talk your way out of being prepared; either you have the skill or material, or you don't."

For Litz, what he learned from Scouts went beyond the standard skills.

"I've been in a leadership position since I was a young kid as the quartermaster of my troop," said Litz. "Boy Scouts is a leadership lab. All of that translated directly over to the military. Scouts instilled the concept of being in charge of a small unit, but having to fit that unit into a larger organization, which is exactly like the Army."

The other District Eagle Scouts didn't have to join the Army to take their skills into the future. There were all sorts of lifelong lessons that these Eagle Scouts learned from their Scouting careers that have been invaluable to how they have grown from boys to men.

"Scouts taught me how to act like an adult and how to manage projects," said Scully. "It was the first time nobody told me what the right answer was."

"The biggest thing I learned was to help other people anytime I can, respect them and treat them as you want to be treated," said Green, echoing the points of the Scout Oath.

"Scouts taught me self-motivation," said Brewer. "We weren't pressured by leaders to get different ranks, so we had to take the initiative to complete them."

"Moralistic goals are driven into you," said Hinchcliff. "You come across other situations in life and you've already heard about them in Boy Scouts. Things like personal traits, spiritual beliefs and civic duties; it's the foundation of my character."

Some of the District Eagle Scouts continue their love of Boy Scouts today. The love of backpacking that Mims gained while he was in Boy Scouts has led him to continue to hike today, even leading trips with local churches into the mountains of South Carolina. To date, he has led more than 500



people on different backpacking trips.

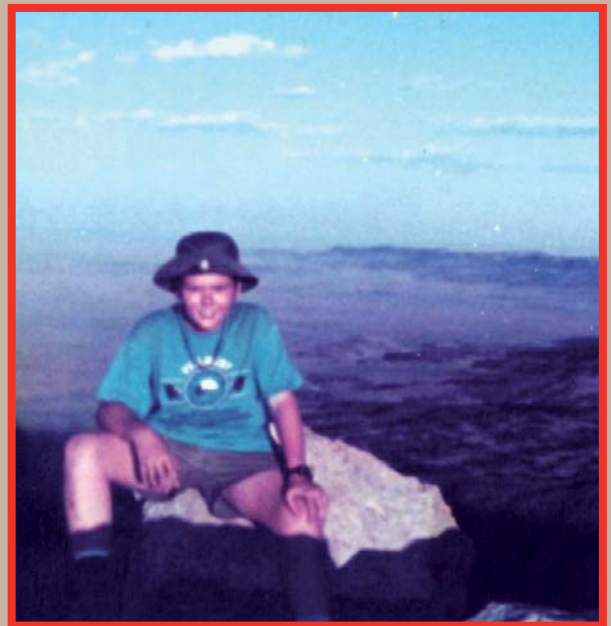
Moran stays connected with Boy Scouts through his membership in the Boy Scouts' honor society, the Order of the Arrow, and his immense collection of memorabilia. He started when he was a Scout at camp and now collects neckerchiefs, badges, uniforms, manuals and much more from National Jamborees, camps that no longer exist and events from all over the country.

"Every patch has a story, whether it is your personal story or the event's," said Moran.

Most of the District's Eagle Scouts specifically say that you get out of the Boy Scouts what you put into it. Litz and Moran agree that you don't realize what you learned in Boy Scouts until after you're out and you can look back at how everything clicks.

"Becoming an Eagle Scout means you remained focused on a goal that demands a lot of work when there are many competing interests," said Litz. "That gives you the confidence that you can reach a long-term goal and that you can accomplish other things that are long-term investments."

Scouting teaches every participant something different, whether they stay in for five weeks or five years. The Eagle Scouts at the Charleston District gained a wide variety of experiences and life lessons that helped them become the men they are today.



Opposite: An Eagle Scout's Order of the Arrow sash and Merit Badge sash.

Top: O'Brien at the top of Mount Phillips at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Middle: Moran, Brewer and McBride discuss their experiences while looking at Moran's collection.

Bottom: Hinchcliff proudly displays the badges he earned on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Palmetto Happenings

Forty Under 40 Winner

Trae Redmond, construction manager, was recently honored with the Forty Under 40 award. Forty Under 40 is an annual award given by the Charleston Regional Business Journal to 40 hardworking professionals who make a difference in Charleston, all under the age of 40. Redmond, who is also in the S.C. Army National Guard Reserve, was given the award for his work in the Charleston District's emergency management division and his community service throughout the city, including Habitat for Humanity and the Lowcountry Food Bank. In receiving the award, Redmond said, "I want to continue to be a part of something bigger than myself."

Redmond is the fourth Charleston District employee to receive the award since 2011. He has since left the District to pursue a career in the private sector. We wish him the best of luck!



Leadership Charleston Graduation



James Choate, attorney, recently graduated from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Charleston program. Leadership Charleston is a leadership course for professionals who want to strengthen their leadership skills and network with other professionals and leaders in the Charleston community. Choate's training included a two-day team building and networking retreat and once-a-month sessions, featuring panel discussions, keynote speakers, and visits to schools, the prison, the Port of Charleston, military facilities, and the S.C. Statehouse.

Choate is the sixth District employee to complete the program. Congratulations!

Fireworks Safety

The Fourth of July may have passed, but people shoot fireworks all summer long. It's important to remember to be safe when you're celebrating and watching the sky light up. Millions of fireworks are launched into the sky each summer, but many of them aren't shot by trained professionals. It's important to remember how dangerous fireworks can be. Don't allow young children to play with fireworks. Don't shoot fireworks at someone else and never try to light one that misfired. Also, make sure to have a bucket of water or hose to douse fireworks after they are shot.



Beach Safety Tips

It's summer in Charleston, so that means most people will spend a lot of time at the beach. Make sure to never swim alone and always know the conditions of the water. Make sure you know your limitations because swimming in currents and waves is much different than swimming in a pool. Smooth water between breaking waves could signal the presence of a rip current. If caught in a rip current, swim with the current until you are able to get out. Then, swim parallel to shore until you are away from the current.



239th Army Birthday

The United States Army recently celebrated its 239th birthday with events around the world showcasing our presence. The Army continues to demonstrate its incredible competence, enduring commitment and extraordinary character in defense of our nation. Competence, character and commitment are the hallmarks of all Army professionals, including those in the Corps of Engineers. The Army holds leaders and Soldiers accountable for upholding the Army Values and continues to be a responsible steward of its resources in an increasingly constrained environment. As we look back at 239 years of success, we also remember those who have given their lives in devotion and sacrifice to preserve and protect all that our nation holds dear. Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army as we move forward into the future!

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