

PALMETTO CASILE



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2012: The Best Year Yet
Celebrating an epic year

News Magazine of the U.S.
Army Corps of Engineers,
Charleston District

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Take a moment to check out our new interactive issue. To view an article, click on the title or on a program name in the Commander's column. Have fun!

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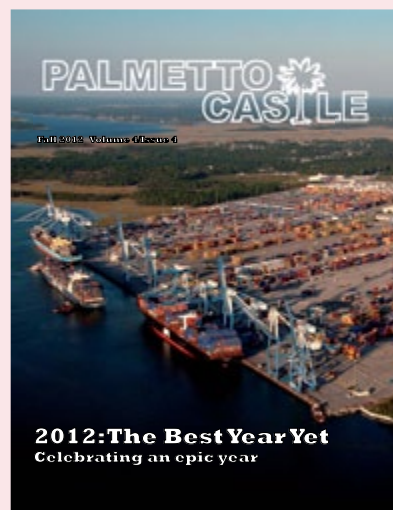
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Submissions:

If you would like to submit news, features, photographs or other content to be included in an upcoming edition of the Palmetto Castle, please submit to PalmettoCastle@usace.army.mil. Publication will be determined by the editor.

On the cover....



This issue highlights the Charleston District's fiscal year 2012 accomplishments. Learn about these projects in this issue. This photo is courtesy of the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

From the Commander

We've got a jam packed issue for your reading pleasure! The Charleston District accomplished so much this past fiscal year for our customers, stakeholders, and our nation. Please check out the center fold for our creative approach to summarize the past year's accomplishments.

Our team was able to accomplish the near impossible this year by working with our customers to develop scopes of work, design packages, and award more than \$320 million in contracts. This is an increase of more than \$200 million since last year! Our small business statistics held pace with our increase in awards with more than \$120 million going to small businesses of one kind or another.

In our Civil Works program, we were able to refine our Post 45 study schedule to complete it by September 2015 and for less than \$13 million (down from \$20 million). This amazing accomplishment was due to the ongoing transformation in civil works across USACE to reduce study timelines and focus on the studies that most benefit the nation. In June, the Charleston Harbor deepening was selected to be one of five ports in President Obama's "We Can't Wait" initiative, further emphasizing the strategic impact of our study.

Our Military program continues to thrive as we executed more than \$100 million in projects and delivered multiple facilities to include the Quad Dining Facility, Basic Training Complex III, Building 12000 Starship, Consolidated Drill Sergeant School Barracks, and Modified Record Fire Range. We also expanded our support to Joint Base Charleston and the 81st Regional Support Command through new contracts and studies.

In our Interagency and International Support program, our work continues to grow supporting our non-Department of Defense customers. Earlier this year, we transitioned our support to the Fissile Materials Disposition Program under the National Nuclear Security Administration (DoE) at the Savannah River Site. At year end, we made a critical award for DLA Distribution -- \$52 million repair project for a 43 acre roof! For the Department of State, we completed a \$10 million renovation to allow critical HR functions to move to Charleston from Washington, DC.

Our Regulatory program was busy issuing more than 400 individual permits and renewed our nationwide permits (every 5 years). Key permits issued include the Myrtle Beach 4th Avenue stormwater outfall, V.C. Summer Nucle-



ar Station, US-17 Back River Bridge, and the Managed Tidal Impoundments General Permit, all striving to balance development and the impacts to our environment.

In support of our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, we had 13 employees volunteer to support our mission there and we had three reservists deploy. Some of these employees have volunteered numerous times since this mission started in 2001 and we are all enormously proud of them and look forward to their safe return home.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve you this past year and in the future! These were some highlights, but we did a lot more than this. Please visit bit.ly/SACFY12Review to view full details on these and all of our accomplishments from this year.

Edward P. Chamberlayne, P.E.
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NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

By Bill Stein, deputy, programs and project management



"Lasting companies know how to reinvent themselves." – Mark Markkula (Apple)

The Charleston District has developed dozens of new business processes for our new work and continuously tweak them to make them better. We leverage technology and share great ideas with others. We hold District-wide after action reviews after the end of every fiscal year and sponsor strategic planning sessions to corporately set a path to our future. We hold quarterly or semi-annual line item reviews with our customers and annually request feedback, in a survey format, to grade our past year and make changes for the coming year so we can provide even better service to our customers.

"Life should not be taken for granted; indeed, we never know if we will be privileged to pass this way again." – Jim Nance (CBS Sportscaster)

The Charleston District has been in a privileged position over the past four years. Our District has been energized by a variety of new types of work by great customers who have entrusted us with their funding, projects and programs. We have developed new relationships, both internally and externally, and are extremely proud of the partnerships that have been created. The Corps presence in Charleston began in 1821 and has reinvented itself many times since then to execute assigned missions. The past four years have been a reinvention period and those of us who have been here are creating new paths to provide value to our nation. It is not business as usual and we should not take for granted the wonderful opportunities we have been given and the relationships that have been formed.



After a line item review with the Defense Logistics Agency- Distribution in New Cumberland, PA. (l-r) Jim Douglas, John Bianco, Bill Stein (SAC), Mary Ellen Hotovcin, Jim Whiteman (SAC), John Carson, and Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne (SAC).

Change is the process by which the future invades our lives." – Alvin Toffler (writer)

In four short years, Charleston District has gone from a \$60 million per year organization to more than \$300 million per year with many new customers. Half the people in the district are new over the past four years. There are only two supervisors in the District who were supervisors in the District in 2003. All of our offices are bursting at the seams with new talent and our employees are giving 110 percent everyday to our customers.

"Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out." – Animated quote hanging in Rep. James Clyburn's office.

The Charleston District never turns down work and exemplifies the Corps of Engineers motto "Essayons", Let Us Try. This year, the District has developed and executed its first ever Multiple Award Task Order contracts (MATOCS), Single Award Task Order contracts (SATOCS), A-E Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts, Job Order contract (JOC), Base Operations Service contract (BOS), and Facilities Services Maintenance and Repair contracts (FSRM), which enables us to expedite our business process in awarding contracts for our customers.

How do we meet our clients' versatile needs?

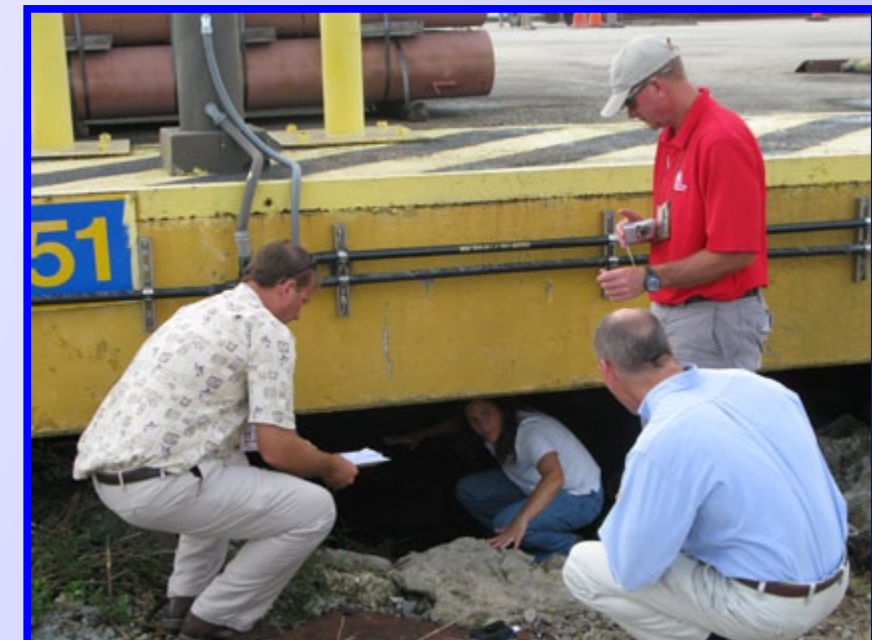
By Sean McBride, public affairs specialist

The Charleston District is a district on the rise and is continually reaching new milestones. In June 2012, the Charleston District accomplished another milestone by issuing their first ever Job Order Contract (JOC). This important award vehicle will aid in the execution of end-of-year projects for one of the District's military customers, Joint Base Charleston, which includes Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), Army Strategic Logistics Agency- Charleston (ASLAC), Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU), Naval Munitions Command (NMC), and Mission Support Group (MSG).

The even more significant note about the District's first JOC is that it was also set aside for small businesses in historically underutilized business zones (HUBZone). The five-year JOC was awarded to Northcon, Inc., located in Hayden, ID, and is not to exceed \$15 million or \$3 million/year, whichever comes first. Northcon was already performing the duties of a JOC in the Charleston area at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), so the District was very confident that they would be a trusted contractor and would be able to hit the ground running at Joint Base Charleston.

The unique aspect of a JOC is that the contract enables a large number of repair, maintenance and minor construction projects to be completed under a single contract rather than forcing the District to issue individual contracts for small projects. This results in work starting between 75-85 percent faster

than traditional contracting methods. The JOC with Northcon includes various task orders for maintenance work including repairing overhead lighting, replacing a roof, repairing a building foundation, renovating restrooms, resurfacing floors and more.



"We have to look for creative ways to get work done for our customers," said Anthony Josey, Charleston District's Deputy for Small Business Programs. "We have to find the best way to deliver first class products to them within their timeline."

A JOC is mutually beneficial for the contractor and the Charleston District. The contractor knows it has a standing contract to complete work with the ability to gain more work in the future. The District knows it is receiving quality work as the contractor has a financial incentive to provide a quality product in order to remain on the contract.

As previously stated, Northcon is a HUBZone small business, meaning they are in an area that has been established based on economic distress numbers set by the Small Business Administration. In order to receive this designation, the company must employ a certain number of residents from the local area. The Charleston District has set a goal of awarding 13 percent of all contracts throughout the year to HUBzone businesses. Since the exact amount of the JOC cannot be pre-determined as the contracts are awarded on-going, the District doesn't know exactly what amount

of the 13 percent is accomplished with this contract, but it is a large portion.

"The JOC is a great way of meeting the customer's needs on time and it really speaks to our versatility as a district," added Josey. "We can be as creative as the project is when it comes to contracting."

The Charleston District is proud to show off its capabilities of awarding different contract types for different projects within five mission areas. The rapid transition of the Charleston District from a primarily civil works district to a versatile district with military construction projects showcases the capabilities this entrepreneurial district brings to the USACE community.

Digging into Post 45

Article by Sean McBride, public affairs specialist

The Charleston District manages many projects in the public eye that have crucial impacts on our nation. One of the District's most prominent current projects is the Charleston Harbor Post 45 harbor deepening feasibility study.

Post 45 has been a main focus for the District's civil works program for the past year and a half and will continue to be so until its completion. This study is, and has been, at the forefront of the Corps of Engineers' efforts to transform its civil works planning process, and recent guidance from Corps headquarters and inclusion in President Obama's "We Can't Wait" initiative for critical national infrastructure projects have resulted in time and cost savings. The dedicated team of Corps personnel from Charleston and around the nation, together with our non-federal sponsor, the South Carolina State Ports Authority, is committed to delivering a quality study for less than \$13 million by September 2015.

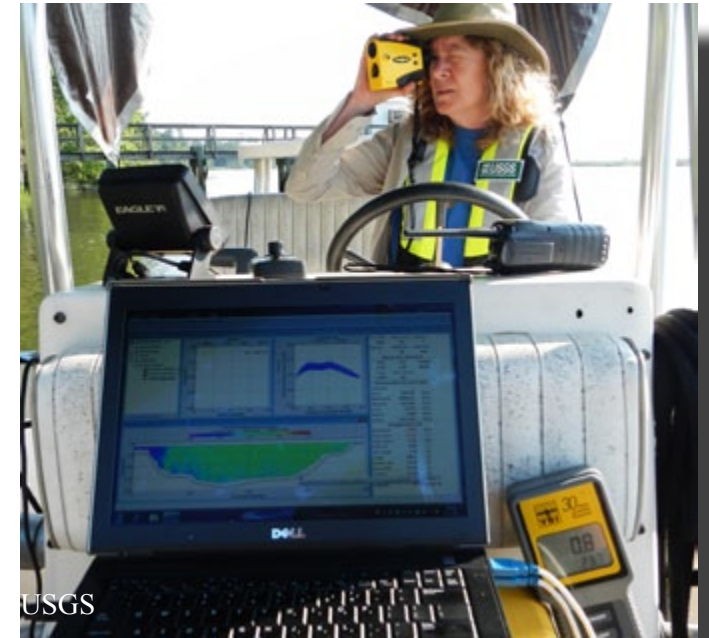
The Post 45 team is also cooperating with technical experts from outside the Corps to assist with crucial aspects of the study. This summer, the District's partners at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collected water current velocities and water quality data. This information is being used by Tetra Tech, Inc. to validate the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) model, which is being used to simulate several key parameters within the harbor under existing, future-without-project, and future-with-project conditions. Comparisons will provide the Post 45 team with a greater understanding of the potential environmental impacts resulting from increasing the channel depth and/or width. Our partners at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Marine Resources Research Institute (DNR) also began work by collecting seasonal data on benthic (bottom-surface-dwelling) organisms in early September. Since the presence and concentrations of these organisms can vary throughout the year, the

DNR team will sample three more times by the end of spring 2013.

Knowledge and resources of other private companies also aid the Post 45 team. One of these companies, ANAMAR Environmental Consulting, Inc. has begun to collect and test sediment samples from within the harbor to determine if dredging and disposal will have any negative impacts on the environment. The results of these tests will assist the Post 45 team in determining where and how sediment removed during deepening and/or widening can be disposed.

The Post 45 team is also drawing on the expertise and experience from several universities. Coastal Carolina University (CCU) has been hard at work performing surveys of the harbor necessary to assess the presence of, or lack thereof, cultural and historic resources. The CCU team uses several pieces of vessel-mounted equipment to survey specific areas of the federal channel and harbor that may be impacted by deepening and/or widening. If the survey results indicate significant potential for items of cultural or historical interest, divers and/or cameras will be used to identify the items. The information gathered by CCU, as well as the recently released map of war relics done by the University of South Carolina's Institute for Archeology and Anthropology, will enable the Post 45 team to mitigate potential impacts to these resources.

All of the studies being done aid the Post 45 team tremendously in identifying the alternative that is both environmentally-acceptable and maximizes net economic benefits to the nation. The District will continue to work with our partners, resource agencies, contractors and the public to complete the feasibility study as quickly and efficiently as possible. Stay tuned as we continue to dig deeper into the Post 45 feasibility study.



Feeding 5,200 Soldiers in 90 minutes



Article and photos by Sean McBride, public affairs specialist

2012 was another huge year for the military construction program at the Charleston District. Overall, the District completed construction on five projects for \$157.8 million, got underway on two projects for \$45.2 million, and awarded contracts on nine additional projects for \$97.4 million. This was a great year for the Charleston District by providing first-class facilities for the 50,000 incoming Soldiers to Basic Training at Fort Jackson this year.

One of the most unique facilities completed on the base this year was the Quad Dining Facility (Quad DFAC). Construction on the Quad DFAC actually began at the end of FY11 and culminated with a ribbon cutting event on September 14th, 2012.

The Quad DFAC is only the second of its kind in the country and will serve as the centerpiece of a mini-campus with four battalions of Soldiers being housed, trained and educated in nearby "starship" barracks. These Soldiers have an extremely tight schedule they must live by every day, so increasing the efficiency of their meal routine was a top priority for the leadership at Fort Jackson. The adjoined two two-story dual DFACs have the capability of feeding three meals per day to 5,200 Soldiers in just 90 minutes. This efficiency allows for the Soldiers to get back to work quicker and prepare for the missions that lay ahead.

A truly unique aspect of the Quad DFAC is the installation of two sets of vacuum tube array-type solar panels, which provide a 30 percent savings in energy costs compared to standard equipment. This system has easy maintenance, simple design, and positive life-cycle cost characteristics. The system, known as the Sun Equinox, will mainly be used to produce energy associated with hot water usage within the Quad DFAC. The solar panels are a great stride forward in the push for making all of our construction projects Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifiable. Following the guidelines of LEED certifiable buildings puts the Charleston District on the forefront of design and construction of "green" facilities.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, a test meal was held in which the staff of the Quad DFAC hosted a lunch to practice procedures before opening the facility to Soldiers. Several members of the Charleston District team attended the test meal which worked out all the kinks in the system and allowed the staff to figure out and solve any issues with their procedures. Due to a successful test meal, the ribbon cutting, hosted by Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Bryan T. Roberts, was held a week later to showcase the new facility.

The Charleston District looks at the Quad DFAC as a milestone in constructing all of our projects in the most energy-efficient manner possible. The Quad DFAC was a perfect example of the amazing work completed by the Charleston District's military construction program in FY12.



Charleston District Year in Review

\$231 million in project execution
 ↑ \$200 million from FY11 in obligations

658

contracting actions =

\$320 million in new contract awards!
 (more than **2x** FY11!)

48% awarded to small businesses IS

5% above our goal!

Civil Works

NEWS 8

of news features

Speaker at:

- Coastal Engineering Research Board
- SC International Trade Conference
- Mount Pleasant Rotary Club
- Commercial Real Estate Women of Charleston
- Propeller Club of Charleston
- East Cooper Newcomer's Club



Feasibility Study Goal:
 < \$13 million
 < 4 years

Dredged



Conducted sampling and surveyed harbor floor to help guide the environmental portion of the study

Construction and Engineering



- Issued the largest non-Civil Works contract in District history for a \$52 million roof and mechanical system replacement for the Defense Logistics Agency- Distribution in Pennsylvania!
- Issued our 1st fire protection systems contract for DLA in Georgia!
- Awarded contract for a PTSD and Mental Health Research Facility at the Veteran's Administration in Charleston!



Installed "oyster castles" to control erosion and encourage oyster habitation on the AIWW

6' wide

70' long

Regulatory



- Issued 169 general permits with 93.6% issued in less than 60 days
- Issued 106 individual permits
- Completed 1,213 jurisdictional determinations
- Conducted 927 compliance inspections
- Resolved 270 non compliance/enforcement cases.

Determined an Environmental Impact Statement would be required for the **Halle Gold Mine** project and initiated the process by holding a public scoping meeting with more than 300 attendees. Also launched a website and began studies and writing the EIS



Other Building Strong Actions



Launched new District website and Facebook pages!



Hired 27 new people, four employees retired and five left for other career opportunities. Hired seven new students for the summer student temporary employment program and hosted two Army cadets for a summer internship

Donated to Toys for Tots, Feds Feed Families, Combined Federal Campaign, and Stand Down Against Homelessness



Issued the first **Managed Tidal Impoundment**

general permit which authorizes routine and normal maintenance and repair activities within currently functioning tidal impoundment fields



For full details on these and all of our accomplishments, please visit bit.ly/SACFY12Review

Managing the permitting process

Article by Tracy Sanders, biologist
Photos by Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

When one thinks of historic rice fields, images of vast expanses of wetlands full of waterfowl, shore birds, and other wildlife often come to mind. When one thinks of the Regulatory permitting process, a lengthy and complicated issue often comes to mind. The Charleston District hopes to change the latter with the recent issuance of the Managed Tidal Impoundment General Permit.

Until recently, maintenance and repair activities could only be authorized by Nationwide Permits or Individual Department of the Army (DA) permits, which were used to authorize any maintenance and repair activities. In addition, no permit was available that could be applied for and issued almost immediately in an emergency situation. The limited permitting options were often problematic for landowners and managers.

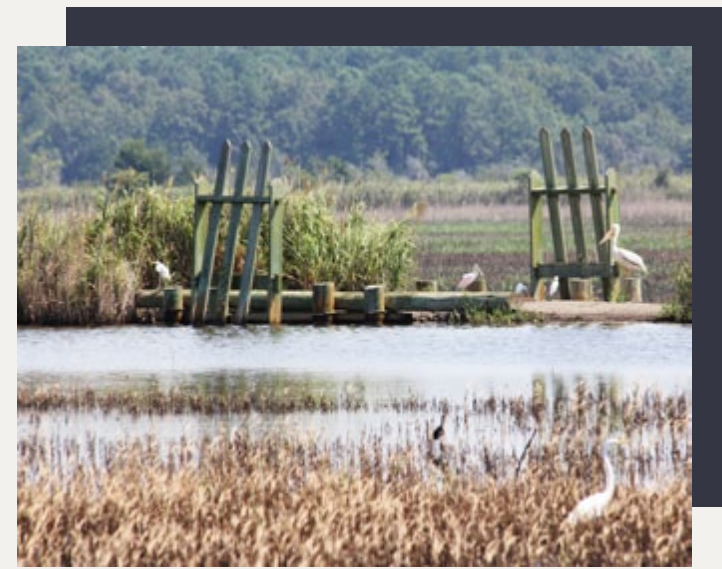
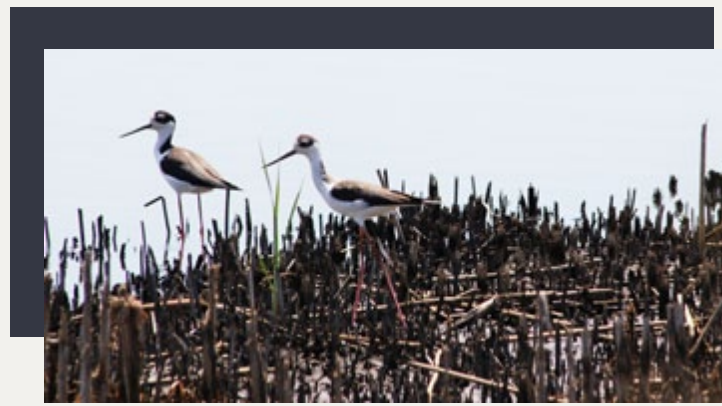
In order to address these issues, the Charleston District looked for a way to expedite the process. With input from other agencies, an idea to create a general permit was put into effect. A general permit would not only authorize routine and normal maintenance and repair activities, as well as emergency repairs, but would also create an efficient and transparent permitting process for the public.

In September 2010, during a public seminar on regulatory procedures for activities in managed tidal impoundments held at Nemours Plantation, resource agencies, landowners, managers, environmental consultants, biologists, and other members of the managed tidal impoundment community requested that the Corps develop a general permit that would specifically address routine and normal maintenance and repair activities, as well as certain emergency repairs. The Corps recognized that in order to develop a general permit that would adequately address these types of activities, those knowledgeable in management of managed tidal impoundments should be involved in the development process.

Soon after, the Corps held the first general permit development workshop and invited representatives from Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, the State Historic Preservation Office, landowners, managers, biologists, and environmental consultants to participate. The participants became known as the "Advisory Committee." The Advisory Committee was instrumental in providing the Corps with invaluable information to develop the general permit.

"Once the need was identified, the Corps brought together a diverse group of environmental professionals to objectively evaluate and formulate the General Permit," said Mark Purcell, Wildlife Refuge Manager of the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge and a member of the Advisory Committee. "From the start, this interagency approach emphasized partnership and that was the key to success."

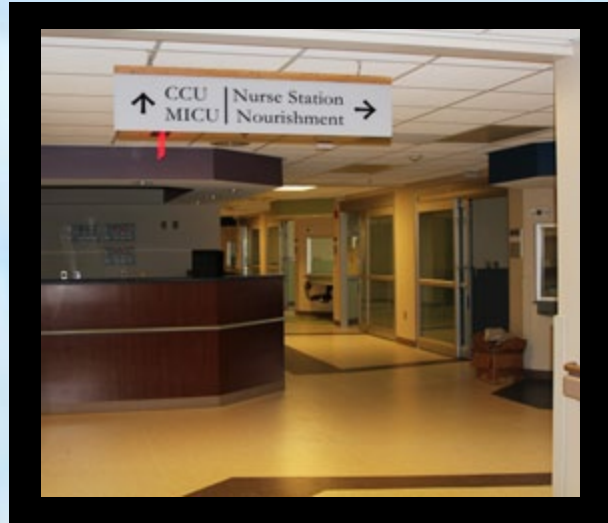
The development of the Managed Tidal Impoundment General Permit was a true partnership that involved the public and resource agencies in an advisory capacity. The Managed Tidal Impoundment General Permit, which was issued on July 10, 2012, is available on our website at <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PermittingProcess.aspx>



Preserving the rice fields also preserves a part of South Carolina history as well as local wildlife. The historic rice fields in coastal South Carolina are generally centered near the ACE Basin area along the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers, and the Georgetown area along the PeeDee, Black and Santee Rivers. While rice production in South Carolina originally began in the uplands, rice production moved to freshwater swamps in the early 1700's and eventually to tidal areas by the end of the Revolutionary War. To facilitate rice production in tidal waters, embankments with water control structures, known as trunks and spillways, were used to impound tidal waters thereby allowing for management of water levels for rice production. By the early 1900's, wealthy northerners began purchasing the rice fields and plantations. Instead of growing rice, their intention was to manage the rice fields to attract waterfowl for hunting. Today, many of these historic rice fields are still maintained and managed as habitat for waterfowl, shore birds, and other wildlife.



"From the start, this interagency approach emphasized partnership and that was the key to success," said Mark Purcell, Wildlife Refuge Manager of the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge



Article and photos by Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

The Interagency and International Support (IIS) program provides technical assistance to non-Department of Defense federal agencies on a reimbursable basis. Types of services the Corps can provide these customers include engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, and research and development assistance across the nation. This fiscal year, the Charleston District's IIS program obligated nearly \$120 million to support 90 projects.

One of the District's IIS' customers is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the Charleston District had the privilege of helping the VA recently with the relocation of their intensive care unit (ICU), which houses veterans that are the most critically injured or ill, at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC in Columbia, SC.

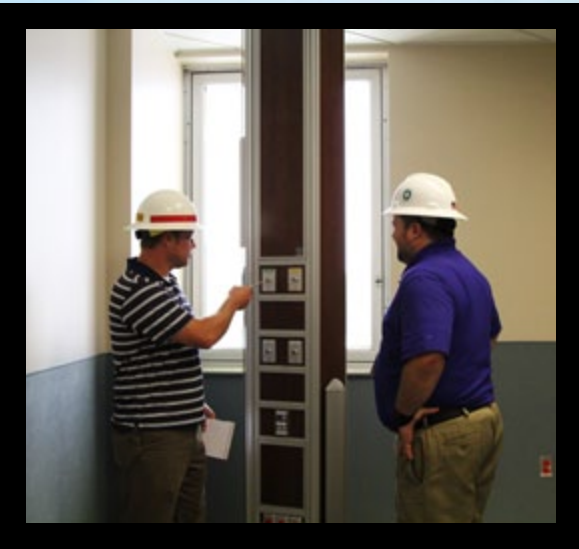
The process of the ICU relocation project was unique for the Charleston District; the District's role was to negotiate pricing, process payments, and write and submit modifications to the contractor. However the District did not oversee the day-to-day operations. The VAMC's project managers were responsible for ensuring that the daily tasks were completed. Once an item was completed, the VAMC would notify the Corps and the Corps would pay the contractor. To ensure the success of this project, the VAMC and the Corps met weekly and communicated often.

"It was a partnership unlike any other that the District has done, because typically the Corps oversees the day-to-day items of a project," said Shawn Boone, project manager for the ICU relocation project. "But the VAMC and the Corps worked well together to ensure this critical project was successful."

The project was a necessity for the VAMC as the old ICU was built in late 1970's. The new ICU has individual rooms and glass windows that frost with the flick of a switch that provide privacy instead of thin fabric curtains. To add a homey feel to the waiting room, the new ICU boasts a fireplace, kitchen and place to rest for families. Aside from the vast improvement in appearance, the new ICU has the latest technology and is much more efficient. The new ICU provides the comfort and care that our veterans and their families deserve.

"The VA is extremely satisfied with the outcome of this project," said Art Olson, professional engineer with the VAMC. "It was done much quicker than if the VA had done it themselves and was completed on time."

Construction for this \$5.8 million 17,000 sq. ft. project began in December 2010 and will be completed in November 2012. The Corps is proud to have assisted with a project that gives our veterans the best medical treatment.



John Lybrand-USACE



John Lybrand-USACE

Supporting America's Heroes

Living Life a Little Different

Article by Narissia Skinner, family readiness coordinator
 Photos by Jason Riharb, project engineer

The Charleston District is proud of its employees who continue to volunteer to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. To date, the District has supported more than 35 volunteers who serve in a variety of duties, including project managers, safety officers and more to facilitate construction of critical infrastructure and public facilities. This series of articles will feature the duties of different deployees and the job they do to serve two nations.

Jason Riharb deployed in January 2012 to Afghanistan Engineer District South and is currently the project engineer on three projects; two for the Afghan National Police Force and one for the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan who will be mentored through the Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Central Command. For Riharb, work there is nothing like that in the states; days are typically full of mentoring contractors and breaking through language and cultural barriers to construct structures that won't burn down or fall apart at the slightest change of barometric pressure. It's a very challenging environment for those who are used to the land of overabundance and convenience. His every move goes through a transportation coordinator to ensure his safety, and the site inspections are always accompanied by armored vehicles and a posse of extremely talented security specialists. Riharb is paired with a great team of experienced and commonsense-minded professionals. They all live, work and laugh on a small FOB (forward outlying base) which isn't too forward, or all that outlying... but none the less, it forces them to become very well acquainted with each other. It's been an interesting experience for him so far and he is thoroughly enjoying it (the pay isn't bad either!), but it's not for the faint of heart.



Permitting Nuclear Energy

By Richard Darden, PhD, biologist

South Carolina's population is growing and faces increasing energy demands and so are the utility companies that supply cost-effective power to residential and business consumers. To meet growing demands, utility companies have proposed expansion and new construction of nuclear powered electrical generating stations at two locations.

South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) and Santee Cooper have partnered to expand the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County and Duke Energy has proposed to construct the new William States Lee III Nuclear Station (Lee Nuclear Station) in Cherokee County. Each utility project must first obtain a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In addition, unavoidable construction impacts to waters of the United States must receive a Department of the Army permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To promote streamlined environmental reviews, the Charleston District and NRC have partnered to prepare environmental impact state-

ment (EIS) documents for both projects in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a law that requires federal agencies to identify the potential environmental effects of a project and to disclose those effects to the public.

The V.C. Summer Nuclear Station project involves the construction of two new nuclear reactors on the site where a single existing reactor has been operating for the past 25 years. The site sits adjacent to the Parr and Monticello Reservoirs, where the two new reactors will have ample water supply for cooling. The nuclear station employs approximately 1,300 construction workers and plans to employ

up to 3,000 people by 2015. Following completion of the Final EIS on April 16, 2011, the Charleston District issued a permit for the project on March 30, 2012, which included the nuclear station site and 396 miles of transmission lines.

The Duke Energy-proposed Lee Nuclear Station includes construction of two new nuclear reactors at a site on the Broad River in Cherokee County. A Draft EIS for this project was made available for public comment in December 2011 with a Final EIS expected in mid-2013. The proposed project will include two Westinghouse AP 1000 nuclear reactors and associated cooling towers, a 14-mile railroad spur, and 14 miles of power lines. In addition, Duke Energy proposes to impound London Creek, a tributary to the Broad River, to create a 640-acre emergency water supply reservoir to

augment water during times of drought and extreme low flow. Creation of the reservoir will flood approximately 67,000 linear feet of the London Creek ecosystem. To offset the environmental impacts of the reservoir, Duke Energy has proposed stream restoration work in two

other tracts of land within the same watershed.

Nuclear power plants provide approximately six percent of the world's overall energy and 13 percent of the world's electricity. Consistent with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the District understands the importance of nuclear power in the world and the nation, and also realizes that projects of this scale involve important environmental and safety concerns that must be addressed. For these and all projects, the District's Regulatory division strives to protect the nation's aquatic resources while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions.



Palmetto Happenings

Charleston District Helps Feed Families

By Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

Every day, across the tri-county area, there are many members of our community who go hungry. To help address this great need, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District proudly partnered with Lowcountry Food Bank this summer through the Office of Personnel Management's Feds Feed Families program. The District doubled its goal of 250 pounds by delivering 500 pounds non-perishable food items in support of this critical program.

"I am very proud of the Charleston District for their remarkable generosity as they participated in this voluntary effort," said Lieutenant Colonel Ed Chamberlayne, Charleston District Commander. "It shows how important giving back to our neighbors and helping those in need is to us."

The Feds Feed Families nationwide program assists food banks since they are currently facing a severe shortage of non-perishable items. The goal is to collect 1.5 million pounds during the food drive campaign from Department of Defense military and civilian employees across the



nation.

The Lowcountry Food Bank collects, inspects, maintains and distributes healthy food and grocery products to more than 320 nonprofit agencies throughout 10 coastal counties in South Carolina.

Making a Positive Impact

By Sara Corbett, public affairs specialist

Trident United Way's Day of Caring gives corporations, organizations and individuals the opportunity to give back to their community by working together on projects that range from large clean-ups to reading to children.

On September 7th nearly 8,500 volunteers from around the Lowcountry participated in approximately 600 projects, including the Charleston District. Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne and Maj. John O'Brien spent the morning cleaning the marsh at Waterfront Park and cleaning, organizing and setting-up Shaw Community Center.

"You would be amazed at the unusual things we found while we were cleaning the marsh," said O'Brien. "We had a great time and it felt good for the Corps to have another avenue for making a positive impact on our environment."

The Charleston District is proud to have participated in such a great initiative and congratulations to Trident United Way for such a successful event!



Charleston District Website Gets a Facelift

By Sean McBride, public affairs specialist

The Charleston District website has recently undergone a major facelift in order to become a clean, user-friendly atmosphere for the public and our stakeholders.

All USACE websites will be migrating to the new website platform, as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law, in an effort to communicate strategically and transparently with the public. This consistent look and feel to all Corps websites means that no matter which USACE district or division website you are visiting, you will have virtually the same navigation to each part of one website as you do to the other.

The new website features the most relevant and requested information for the public and has quick links on the homepage to access certain areas. You can submit a FOIA request, view current public notices, learn about the Regulatory permitting process, how to do business with the federal government and even request a speaker. If there is information that you would like to see and it is no longer on our site, please use the contact information on that department's page to inform us. Happy surfing!

Federal Executives Association Aids Homeless Veterans

By Sean McBride, public affairs specialist

Throughout 2012, the Federal Executives Association (FEA), made up of approximately 25 federal agencies in the



"To be able to help our veterans by donating these toiletry items makes me proud to be Chairman of the FEA this year," said Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne. "This is just a small dent in the great need in Charleston, but we're happy to help in any way that we can."

Stand Down Against Homelessness is put on by the Ralph H. Johnson Veteran's Administration Medical Center in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina. The event offers free medical and dental screenings and assistance, clothing, food, haircuts, and job and legal counseling for hundreds of homeless persons in the greater Charleston area.



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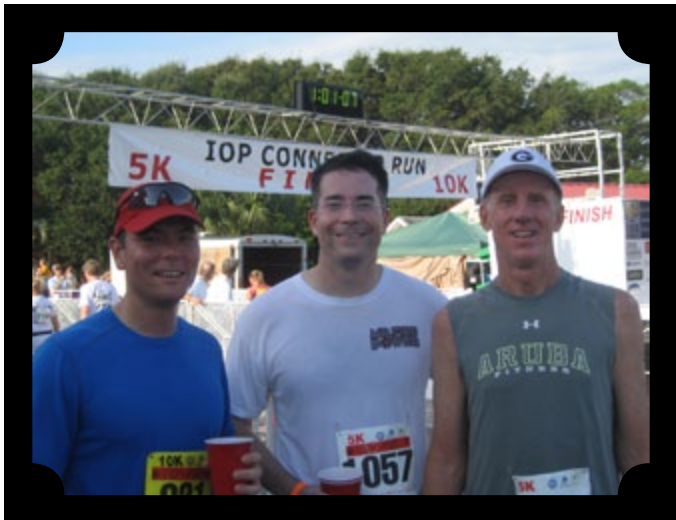
Charleston District

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TIDBITS



Recently, the leaders in our executive office lead the Isle of Palms connector race. Great job Maj. John O'Brien, Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne and Bill Stein on a good race!

