Oyster Castles
A new, instant habitat
On the cover....

Included in this issue are several articles pertaining to new "homes" the Charleston District has constructed. One of the more interesting "homes" is the recently completed oyster castle. Read more about this on page 10.
From the Commander

The Charleston District has entered into the last quarter of the 2012 Fiscal Year and our team is dedicated to delivering quality services to all of you: the valued customers and partners of the US Army Corps of Engineers! I would like to share with you my perspective from some key events from the past few months that highlight our outstanding District team.

In May, we were honored to host the 27th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, NC in Charleston. The leadership of both the District and the 27th EN BN participated in an open discussion concerning the mission and functions of each organization and then toured three active project sites within the local Charleston area. Read more about this on page 4.

Also in May, I had the honor to join Congressman Clyburn (SC-6), SC Sen. Matthews (SC-39), Johnnie Wright (Chairman of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency) and Bill McCall (Exec VP & COO Santee Cooper) for the official ribbon cutting of a one million gallon water tower in Orangeburg County. See page 8 for more about this great event.

In June, we hosted our annual “Corps Day” employee awards ceremony. Highlights included awarding Supervisor of the Year to Bryan Tempio for his support of Fort Jackson, Team Member of the Year (Engineering and Scientific Professional) to Brian Williams for his leadership of the Charleston Harbor Deepening (Post 45) Feasibility Study, and Project Delivery Team of the Year to the Department of State Team. Building 644.

Post 45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Feasibility Study Update: We have made tremendous progress over the past year due to our team of professionals from across the South Atlantic Division. In addition, the cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies and local stakeholders and participation in our first public comment period have been extremely productive. As announced on July 11th, we have reduced our cost and time estimates and will continue efforts to reduce them with even further coming as close as possible to the new headquarters guidance that studies will be completed in three years or less for $3 million or less with three levels of integrated review.

Our District has been supporting our nation’s efforts in Afghanistan since 2005. We are extremely proud of all of our employees that volunteer to support this mission. We currently have three employees deployed, two employees preparing to deploy and four have returned over the past quarter. These team members have performed an incredible service for our nation, for Afghanistan, and will now continue to serve our District’s customers with the same conviction here in the states.

Between now and the end of September will be an extremely busy time for Team Charleston. We will be absolutely focused on expeditiously delivering high-quality training facilities at Fort Jackson, providing base operation services to 81st Regional Support Command, negotiating and awarding contracts for all of our customers, developing plans and designs to provide outstanding water resource solutions, and to protect our environment and allow for balanced development by issuing timely individual and general permits to the citizens of South Carolina.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in the professionals of the Charleston District!

BUILDING STRONG across SOUTH CAROLINA and BEYOND!!

Edward P. Chamberlayne, P.E.
Lt. Col., U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer
edward.p.chamberlayne@usace.army.mil
"It is about a need," said U.S. Rep. James Clyburn.

"Great strides have been made to bring economic development to this county and the central part of the state," said Mr. Johnnie Wright, Sr.
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Santee Cooper and Orangeburg County hosted a 15th anniversary celebration of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency and ribbon cutting ceremony for the John W. Matthews Industrial Park water tank on Thursday, May 3 at the Matthews Industrial Park in Orangeburg County where U.S. Rep. James Clyburn was the keynote speaker.

Celebrating the completed construction of the 180 ft. water tower, Clyburn led the cutting of the ribbon. Speaker’s also highlighted the agency’s success in bringing potable drinking water to Orangeburg County and the municipalities of Bowman and Santee by drinking water from the central tap of the water tower.

“Great strides have been made to bring economic development to this county and the central part of the state,” said Mr. Johnnie Wright, Sr., chairman of both the Orangeburg County Council and the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency.

An integral piece of this regional water supply system, the John W. Matthews Industrial Park water tank is a $2.6 million project that delivers water to the Matthews Industrial Park and the town of Bowman. The industrial park is being developed by Orangeburg County and is named for long-time S.C. Sen. John W. Matthews Jr. The park is a vital part of the Orangeburg County Economic Development Commission’s long-range plan to bring industries and jobs to the area. The much needed safe, clean and reliable water, which this project supplies, is key to economic development and new business start-ups.

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“When people have a chance to be their best, to do their best, now that’s economic development,” remarked Matthews. “Providing infrastructure is multi-generational thinking.”

Bill McCall, Santee Cooper executive vice president and chief operating officer, praised the water agency for its long time commitment with Santee Cooper on the regional water project.

Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, thanked Clyburn and Matthews for establishing the vision and need for this project.

“The construction of this project went exceedingly well with more than 11,000 hours of accident-free quality construction, and delivered an aesthetically pleasing structure,” stated Lt. Col. Chamberlayne.

“A problem cannot be fixed, if it is ignored. This is about a solution to a problem,” stated Clyburn. “It is about need.”

Orangeburg County and the Corps of Engineers have plans to award contracts for the Goodbys Wastewater Treatment Plant and Transmission System, respectively. In the future, the agency has plans to provide water resources to Dorchester, Calhoun and Berkeley Counties.
Hurricane season kicked off June 1st and to prepare for it, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District participated in SC Emergency Management Division’s (SCEMD) full-scale exercise that was held June 5th-6th at the SCEMD’s headquarters. This exercise was designed to practice responses required after a hurricane makes landfall.

Charleston District personnel participated in the exercise by serving as Local Government Liaisons (LGLs) which assisted in the facilitation of USACE mission execution through improved communications between SCEMD and local government agencies. Under the National Response Framework, USACE is assigned as the coordinator for the Emergency Support Function #3, public works and engineering, and during disasters is the primary agency for response activities, such as ice, water and temporary power. FEMA is the primary agency for ESF #3 recovery activities and can assign USACE to assist in recovery missions such as debris management and temporary housing.

The SCEMD hurricane exercise consisted of initial damage assessments, re-entry operations for responders and residents, and the initial disaster response and recovery efforts. Charleston District personnel, Les Parker, Rusty Shelton, and Charlie Crosby, served as LGLs where they worked at the SC Emergency Operations Center with the SCEMD and the SC Army National Guard during the exercise.

“Our task for the day was to ensure that in case of a real emergency, recovery from any natural disaster would be completed as quickly as possible and that the damage to property, as well as loss of life, would be minimal,” said Shelton. “We had the opportunity to utilize our combined talents from within the Corps of Engineers to train and pro-
vide assistance to other local and state agencies. We also practiced mutual coordination with other ESF teams.”

David Warren, project manager, and Mak Araghi, budget officer, served as LGLs in the Berkeley and Dorchester County Emergency Operations Centers.

“We went out in the field with a SC Department of Transportation engineer to show him all the various known road flooding areas that become impassable in major rain events. It was a great experience to get to know the team I would be working with in the event a natural disaster occurs,” said Warren. “The Berkeley County team was well prepared and true professionals.”

During this time, Matt Foss, chief, survey section, was with the survey vessel Evans as it was being transported from the water to the pedestal where it would rest at Deytens Shipyard in the event of a hurricane.

Participating in these full-scale exercises keeps the Corps engaged with local and state agencies and helps everyone be prepared in the event of an emergency.

On a national level, several District ice mission team members attended the Evergreen Earthquake exercise in Tacoma, WA, and Albuquerque, NM. Participating in this exercise allowed team members to gain firsthand experience of how the ice mission is executed. The Charleston District is prepared to provide three million pounds of ice within 24 hours of being called upon to any U.S. state or territory in need. The ice delivery is crucial to aiding in medical issues like keeping medication cool.

“The exercise allowed for us to practice the execution of the ice mission with the contractors, FEMA and the state,” said Tracy Sanders, a facilitator at the exercise. “It gave everyone a good sense of what to expect in the event of a real disaster.”

Charleston District stands prepared in the event of a disaster, but is hopeful for an uneventful hurricane season.
Meet Our:

Major John O’Brien
Deputy District Commander

What is your new position?

My job is to attend to the day-to-day, routine affairs of the District on behalf of the Commander in order to provide him with the time and flexibility to personally engage with our partners and stakeholders.

Describe your journey to the Charleston District.

I graduated from the United States Military Academy with a degree in civil engineering in 1998. Since then, I have had numerous troop assignments including units at Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Benning, GA; and Fort Stewart, GA. With these units, I deployed to Iraq three times. Along the way, I had the opportunity to attend Auburn University and earn a master’s degree in civil engineering. Following graduate school, I was assigned to the Norfolk District and worked at the Fort Lee BRAC Area Office where I helped transform a 230 acre wooded training area into the new Ordnance School Campus. During my time with the Norfolk District, I also obtained my professional engineer license. I should also mention that my journey included getting married and becoming a dad to four great kids.

What is the most unique thing you bring to the District?

As an Army officer with a previous USACE assignment, I think I bring a blended perspective of both consumer and producer. I believe this perspective will serve me well as I integrate into the District.

What is the most rewarding part of your career in the military?

Throughout my Army career, I have very much enjoyed working with talented people who are dedicated to working together to achieve success. This is also what I look forward to in the Charleston District.

Highlight a notable milestone or memory in your career.

I was amazed by what I saw when I returned to Iraq in 2010. My experience was completely different from my deployments in 2003 and 2005. The environment was so much less violent. I was struck by the atmosphere of normalcy that did not exist in that society in my previous deployments.

What goals do you hope to accomplish in your new position?

My immediate goal is to learn as much as I can about my fellow teammates, how we operate, and how we address the needs of our stakeholders and partners. Ultimately, I hope to become a valuable member of the team as we serve the nation and the state of South Carolina.
So what is Silver Jackets? Silver Jackets teams are collaborative, state-led, interagency teams, working together to develop sustainable solutions to flood risk management at the state level. The Silver Jackets team is the forum where all relevant agencies come together with the state to collaboratively plan and implement an interagency solution.

The South Carolina Silver Jackets team has been active since February 2010. In May 2012, the Silver Jackets finalized and signed the charter that documents each agency’s leadership support of the team’s mission. Active members of the South Carolina team include USACE, FEMA, SCENMD, USGS, NOAA-CSC, NOAA-NWS, SCDOT, NRCS, SCDHEC, SCDHEC-OCR, and EPA (see side bar).

Over the years, team members have collaborated and shared information pertaining to each agency’s relevant projects and studies. For example, it was essential to protect a piece of SCDOT property during an NRCS stream bank improvement of Turkey Creek in Sumter, SC, while also incorporating a small portion of a USACE flood control project. Relationships built in the Silver Jackets team fostered a smooth USACE evaluation and approval to modify the federal project to appease all agencies involved.

Keeping team members aware of interagency activities is another important part of the communication goal. USGS, in conjunction with SCDOT, has provided updates of revised regional urban flood frequency equations that will combine North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia into one set. Meanwhile, SCENR and FEMA keep the team updated on the revisions of flood insurance rate mapping and RISK-MAP activities in SC and invite team members to discovery meetings. SCDHEC-OCR also provides updates on proposed shoreline management recommendations and on their development of climate change guidance funded by NOAA. Throughout this process, USACE provided updates on their hurricane evacuation study.

Team members are made aware of conferences and workshops that each agency hosts, such as the recent “NOAA in the Carolinas” conference held in Charleston, and the “SC Association of Hazard Mitigation” conference in April. Team members are encouraged to attend and give presentations.

Additionally, the Silver Jackets program has ongoing pilot studies. One such study, titled “Mapping Coastal Erosion Hazards along Sheltered Coastlines in South Carolina,” expands on recent inventory of historical shorelines and shoreline data in South Carolina. The study is looking to digitize three historical sheltered shorelines for the region and shoreline alterations, such as bulkheads, docks, and revetments. Further, the study will use a new shoreline change analysis method to determine long-term erosion rates. Then, the results will be evaluated to determine what drives erosion to certain “hot spots” and any other implications for future protection and implementation of alterations.


Interagency Teams WORKING Together

By: Sara Brown, hydraulic engineer

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South Carolina Silver Jackets team members are always looking for creative ways to cooperate with each other and leverage resources towards the common good of the state.
What is an oyster castle? An oyster castle is designed to be an instant habitat for oyster spat and growth. Oyster castle blocks are made of shell, limestone and concrete. The 12 inch by 8 inch square blocks are shaped in a tiered-structure that can interlock with each other to resist constant wave motion. It has been determined from previous studies that, in addition to providing immediate habitat for oyster growth, the placement of the castles fosters sedimentation behind them and encourages the re-growth of natural vegetation. This provides a shoreline erosion prevention benefit that is a mix of engineering and nature.

The Charleston District awarded a contract to Aerostar Environmental Service, Inc. in the amount of $178,000 to install oyster castles near the District’s disposal area just south of the Isle of Palms. On May 22nd, construction of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) Oyster Pilot Project commenced. The fully installed structure is 70 feet long by 6 feet wide and is constructed of approximately 800 blocks. The site will now be monitored for oyster recruitment and growth, the amount of sedimentation that occurs behind the castles and the degree to which vegetation is being reestablished behind the castle structure. Based on results of TNC projects, the Corps is optimistic that this type of project will provide a more cost-effective method of erosion control to protect dredge disposal areas along the AIWW while providing environmental benefits for oysters and other aquatic creatures.

According to TNC, “oyster castles provide a viable alternative substrate for oyster restoration work in South Carolina and could prove to be a valuable assessment tool to determine optimal elevations, orientations and configurations of substrate for restoration and enhancement efforts prior to deployment of large-scale projects.”

Should this project prove successful, the Charleston District will look for future opportunities to partner with entities like TNC as a way to more cost effectively utilize our operation and maintenance money for the AIWW.
“This new BTC complex will greatly enhance the Soldiers overall training experience and provide them a top notch living and training facility,” says Wayne E. Griffith, project engineer for the new Basic Training Complex 3 (BTC 3) Battalion Headquarters and Barracks.

Phase one of the Fort Jackson BTC 3 project is 99 percent complete and includes the battalion headquarters and three new barracks, a running track and a training pit. In providing a consolidated footprint, the new facilities will ensure more education and efficient training for the soldiers. The new buildings also emphasize that the Army cares about the Soldier. As soon as new trainees are moved from trailers into brand new, permanent homes with 21st century classrooms and accommodations, it will boost morale.

There is space for a sixth barrack, but it’s not in the plans yet. The battalion headquarters was awarded at approximately $5 million. With 25,500 square feet, it serves as administrative, command operations, special functions, storage, and classroom components for a training battalion. The barracks and track were under a separate contractor and cost approximately $37 million. Each barrack houses trainee soldiers and company administrative, training, and command operations with a surge capacity of 288 persons.

The most unique thing about each of the BTC 3 buildings is that they have epoxy floors made from recycled trees that require washing, but not waxing. Griffith emphasized that construction details like this are beneficial to the soldiers because less maintenance means more time to train for survival. All the barracks have spacious bathrooms off of the “sleeping bay” with a total of 48 showers and 16 sinks. Enough shower and sink space gives officers and commanders more training hours by speeding up shower time.

Along the walls there are rubber hospital guards for protection against damage. Within the barracks and headquarters there are classrooms with wall-to-wall whiteboards, separated by paneled, sliding walls made of sound proof material. Furthermore, the buildings are LEED Silver certified, with high-reflectivity rooftops for energy efficiency. The BTC 3 barracks also have a mass notification system in their entrance way that is tied to a speaker to alarm the occupants of both the barrack and the rest of the base of an emergency. The mechanical room monitors carbon dioxide and humidity levels in the barr-
racks to keep trainees in the best physical and mental health possible. Located in the center of BTC 3 is a quarter-mile track made with shock absorbent material. Pull up bars are located in a training pit made from old, recycled tires.

When asked how construction of BTC 3 represents the Corps’ motto, “Army Strong, Building Strong”, Griffith replied that most of the team working on this project have served in the military and are personally vested in their work. They know what an integral part of the Army’s mission this building represents and how important it is to the Soldiers morale.

The final inspection for the BTC 3 phase one construction is scheduled for July 2, 2012, with a goal of having soldiers move in this November. The Corps’ BTC 3 team has done an excellent job at Fort Jackson, serving their country and our Army Soldiers by giving them the housing they deserve.
When many people think of training for Soldiers, what comes to mind is pictures of men and women in fatigues on a long run, crossing an obstacle course or firing a weapon. However, training of Soldiers includes many other aspects from what people traditionally imagine. The U.S. Army has developed a new strategy to guide efforts to train Soldiers and to cultivate agile, diverse leaders. The U.S. Army Training and Leadership Development Strategy describes this new vision and the specific goals and objectives to prepare units and leaders for full-spectrum operations including self-development; important part of these goals.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District’s former Deputy Engineer, Lt. Col. Michael Ellicott, is now responsible for keeping the 27th Engineer Battalion (27th EN BN), based out of Fort Bragg, NC, on the cutting edge of their profession by providing this type of self-development. Ellicott quickly called on his old friends in the Charleston District to help him accomplish this task and on May 2nd, the 27th EN BN spent the day at the Charleston District as one of their Leadership Development Program (LDP) sessions.

The 27th EN BN provides support to the full-spectrum of airborne engineer operations by providing construction, surveying, medical and operational functions. They are trained and equipped to deploy within 96 hours of notification and provide support to the war fight.

“As an engineer battalion it was important that they spend the day with an engineering organization to learn how another engineering command operates,” said Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne, Charleston District commander.

The day’s activities encompassed the full-spectrum of what engineers at the Corps do, using several different projects and programs to highlight these activities. The Soldiers rode aboard the survey vessel Evans to learn about the side-scan sonar that is used during conditions surveying and relating that to the types of surveying they are trained to perform. Robert Huff, a biologist in the regulatory division, gave a demonstration on wetland delineations and explained the importance of wetlands in the environment. The day ended with a trip to the Department of State building which the Charleston District is currently renovating.
Post 45 Feasibility Study Celebrates A Successful First Year

By: Sean McBride, public affairs
Photos By: Dennis Franklin, visual information

Notable First Year Highlights:
June 20th marked the anniversary of the signing of the Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement between the Charleston District and the South Carolina State Ports Authority which kicked off the feasibility phase of the Charleston Harbor Post 45 study. The feasibility study, which will determine if it is both economically beneficial and environmentally acceptable to the nation to deepen Charleston Harbor, has undergone many advancements in its first year.

On July 11th, the District hosted a stakeholder’s reception and press conference to update the public on where the project currently stands and where it is headed in the future. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued new guidance for all feasibility studies which will help streamline the planning process.

“[The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters] are scrutinizing our portfolio of planning studies to determine how we complete those studies that have the highest value to the nation, and implementing a ‘3-3-3’ rule—studies completed within three years, at a cost of $3 million or less, and involving three layers (districts, divisions and headquarters),” said Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The revised process will ensure studies are completed in less time without jeopardizing the quality of engineering, environmental and economic analysis.

All feasibility studies completed by the Corps will follow this guidance unless the project receives a waiver. Only when a waiver is received are studies allowed to be an exception. The Post 45 project is currently under review to receive a waiver. With this new guidance from Corps headquarters, it is exciting for the Charleston District to be at the forefront of this new, streamlined civil works planning process.

The District has worked quickly and efficiently to expedite the process from the beginning. The event served as a great medium for relaying the important messages from the Corps. Check out some of the photos from the events.
Expedited Permit Gets Noticed

On June 13, Lt. Col. Ed Chamberlayne accepted an award on behalf of the Charleston District regulatory division’s Robin Socha. The award was presented by Marc Fetten, president of Cooper River Partners, for the work done by Socha and the regulatory team for expediting an important permit. The permit was for construction of an $85 million factory for Nexans, a high-voltage, underground cable manufacturing company, which will bring approximately 200 new jobs to Berkeley County. The individual permit was processed in less than 120 days, which is fast for a project of this size. Also present to publicly praise the District for their work were Rep. Tim Scott and SC Sen. Paul Campbell.

Congratulations to Robin Socha!

Thanking a veteran

In honor of Memorial Day, District Commander Lt. Col. Edward Chamberlayne spoke briefly as the guest speaker at an annual event hosted by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and James Island Post for the American Legion, 147.

The VFW, a nonprofit service organization, and American Legion, a brotherhood for veterans, both foster camaraderie and support of U.S. military veterans and their service.

There were about 150 former veterans and family members that attended the event, which was followed by a Coast Guard fly-over and meal with the veterans.

“I tried to relate my experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan to their war experiences in Vietnam and thanked them for their service,” says Chamberlayne.

Like us on Facebook

The Charleston District recently made another splash into the world of social media with the addition of our new Facebook fan page! By visiting us at https://www.facebook.com/CharlestonCorps you will find key insights into our projects and the other work we are doing around the state and nation. Here, we post photos of our projects so you can get an inside look at how jobs are done. We also post job announcements, news articles, information on hurricane and boating safety, and much more. So come on over and “like” our page. Join in the discussion by posting comments to our wall and let us know how we can best serve you!
Educating Engineers

The Partners for Minorities in Engineering and Computer Science workshop is a partnership between educators and businesses to provide minority high school students with cultural and academic activities and role models in engineering and computer science. Through a series of technical workshops held at the University of South Carolina, students are exposed to the sciences, which help enhance their academic skills. Since 2008, the Charleston District regulatory division has provided more than 100 junior and senior high school students with a wetlands presentation and field exercise. By interacting with the students and demonstrating both the practical application and everyday relevance of biological science, the Charleston District hopes to encourage continued education and future careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Partnering with Minorities

Each year, 30-50 seniors from The Citadel's capstone class spend some important time with the Charleston District’s regulators as part of the class’ curriculum. This partnership has been running strong for eight years and the District’s regulatory division teaches the students about the permitting process and then actually has the students fill out a permit application for their project idea so they can experience the entire process, just like they would once they graduate and are working.

The class is divided into teams to engineer the development of a hypothetical piece of land, drawing up a sitemap for their project. In the real world, the engineers would be required to get permits for carrying out their engineering projects. However, until the District’s involvement, this class was missing this crucial career skill.

Other local, state and federal agencies that help with the capstone class include SC Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Office, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and National Marine Fisheries Service.

“It’s an important experience that teaches the students they can’t engineer just anything. They have to tailor their ideas to real world demands,” says Paul Hinchcliff, biologist. “It’s great to see young students so interested in engineering and we’re glad to give them a real experience.”

During the second semester of the Capstone program, field work helps the students see how property lines are drawn and wetland boundaries decided. This picture below is of Hinchcliff on a field day exercise. The class went to an outdoor area located in West Ashley which was a perfect spot to demonstrate how uplands connect to wetlands so the students could learn firsthand from the land.
On May 22, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick became the 53rd U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Bostick serves as the senior military officer overseeing most of the nation’s civil works infrastructure, regulatory, emergency management and military construction.

Col. Donald E. (Ed) Jackson Jr. became commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division on July 16, 2012. As the South Atlantic Division Commander, Jackson oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America’s water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within a 250,000 square mile area which includes all or part of eight southeastern states.