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Building Strong for the Nation's Soldiers and Airmen

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Savannah District

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(**Cover Photo**) Work continues on the new co-located headquarters for U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM/USARC) and U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., due to open by Sept. 15. The two major commands will move from their current locations at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Ga., to Fort Bragg as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act. The Savannah district oversees the $303 million headquarters project comprised of four buildings totaling 700,000 square feet that will provide space for 3,085 people. This 993-day, high profile project has required teamwork; clear, and open communication; and joint ownership of challenges by all parties to overcome the rapidly changing information technology environment. (**Inset**) Everett Mappin, senior construction representative, gives Savannah District Commander Col. Jeffrey Hall a status update on the project. (**Above**) Dan Davis, resident engineer, FORSCOM/USARC Project Office, Fort Bragg, N.C., thanks workers for their dedication to safety, quality, and progress, during a celebratory lunch in March. Workers have logged more than 1.3 million craft hours without a "lost time" injury since the project's groundbreaking in December 2008. *U.S. Army photos by Jim Hinnant, FORSCOM PA*

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Viewpoint

From where I sit

Constructing facilities for Soldiers creates job satisfaction

We're always looking for motivated team members to join us in the Construction Division where we oversee the daily work of building facilities for soldiers and their families. As one of the primary recruiters for Construction Division, I often get asked the question: What exactly do you do in a military construction field office? So, it gives me a lot of opportunities to explain the activities of the Fort Stewart North Resident Office and, most importantly, who our activities support.

As a resident engineer, I am responsible for the contract administration and quality assurance oversight for the construction of state-of-the-art facilities, such as barracks, operations and dining facilities, and soldier family care clinics. Sounds worthwhile but what do we really accomplish?

For the past 20 months, I have been working closely with a dedicated Project Delivery Team to complete the $302 million Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Complex at Fort Stewart, Ga. (See pages 8-9). It is a monumental construction project that will significantly increase the installation's ability to properly train and care for our war-fighters and their families.

We are poised to turnover the facilities, which represent the best of our capabilities to support soldiers. The facilities include state-of-the-art motor pools and maintenance equipment shops. In addition, they now will be working in high-quality office facilities at the company, battalion and brigade levels.

But, our mission is about more than just constructing facilities that take care of the soldiers during work hours. It is also about providing them a better quality of life after duty hours. The IBCT complex will include barracks facilities that will provide soldiers with ample space and the ability to cook entire meals and do their own laundry within their suite. There will also be a dining facility within walking distance of their barracks and a state of-the-art physical fitness center complete with a indoor pool, rock climbing wall, racquetball courts, indoor running track, saunas and numerous other amenities that help keep them combat ready.

Working in a field office provides a unique opportunity. We see our customers every day and witness the fruition of all the hard work that goes into constructing these facilities. There is a tremendous amount of job satisfaction involved when you see soldiers and their families use the childcare center or enjoy the amenities at a physical fitness center. It is very satisfying knowing that we are helping take care of the soldiers that defend our country and our freedoms. Sometimes the benefit to these soldiers gets lost in the day-to-day grind of what we do, but, it is imperative that we keep them at the forefront of our thoughts and ensure we are meeting their needs. That is my responsibility to the field office, from where I sit.

By Troy Funk, resident engineer, Fort Stewart North Resident Office

Salute to the people who make it all happen

This issue of *The Castle* magazine is a tribute to all the team members of the Savannah district who support our military mission. While not mentioned in all the articles, we salute the members of the Construction, Programs and Project Management, Engineering, and Real Estate divisions. We also salute the Contracting Division which works behind the scenes to ensure we are "Building Strong" for military members and their families. To understand the workload, it's important to know that the Savannah district contracting team executed a military construction program that grew from $600 million to more than $ 2.4 billion in three years, with no increase in staff during that time. Creative and efficient initiatives, such as Multiple Award Task Order Contracts and support from other districts, made part of it possible. The real driving factor was the dedication and commitment of the Contracting team members. They worked historic amounts of overtime (in excess of 4,500 hours) each year for the last three years. It is this perseverance and steadfastness, from contracting and all the divisions that enables the Savannah district to meet its resolute commitment to our customers—soldiers, airmen and their families.

Building Strong for the warfighter

Savannah district managers oversee largest military construction program in district's history

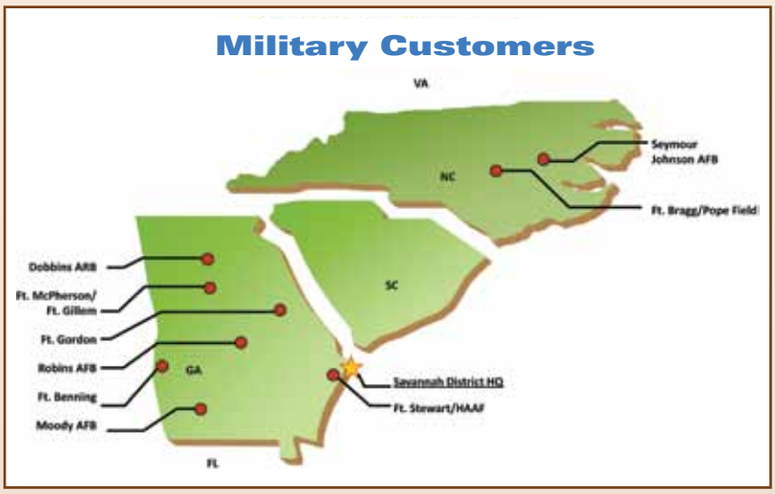
Providing the best facilities for soldiers and airmen presents challenges to any construction organization, but the Savannah district does it best according to the Army's Installation Management Command (IMCOM).

And to receive this "best in class" rating, on any given day, members of the Savannah district's military construction teams:

- collaborate with contractors to modify plans to accommodate the customer's needs
- ensure "green" building requirements are incorporated into project designs
- juggle multiple contractors on a single site to ensure that numerous building projects meet delivery dates
- consult with information technology designers to deliver quality work spaces
- coordinate road construction so that it doesn't interfere with the delivery of building supplies

These are just a few of the myriad details that make up the Savannah district's multi-billion—yes, billion dollar—military construction program at 11 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina. The district's projects range from barracks, hospitals, and family support centers to maintenance facilities, headquarters buildings, and aircraft hangars.

"The goal is to strengthen the nation's security by providing high quality military facilities where service members and their families train, work and live, "said Col. Jeffrey M. Hall, commander of the Savannah District.



"Soldiers and airmen make incredible sacrifices for our country, and we want to be sure they are provided facilities that honor their contributions to our nation."

"To achieve the goal, we try to foster a spirit of cooperation whereby the user, the installation's Department of Public Works, the designer, the contractor and the Corps all come to the table as partners," he said. "Each team member has a voice and in this way we can work hand-in-hand to meet challenges and find solutions."

Feedback from the district's customers indicates they are pleased with its effort. Each year military installations are surveyed to determine their satisfaction with engineering agencies that support military construction. In five of the past six years, the Savannah district has received the Army's highest satisfaction rating—a testament to its dedication to service members.

In another testament to customer satisfaction, last fall, IMCOM presented the district the "Installation Support Program of the Year Award," which recognizes excellence in group activities supporting the installation's public works and housing missions. IMCOM honored the district for its work at Forts Bragg and Benning for providing "exceptional engineering support in the accomplishment of our mission of improving the quality of life for our soldiers, civilians, and family members."

This issue of the Castle highlights some of the projects currently underway in Georgia and North Carolina. With space limitations, it's difficult to capture all the contributions made by team members, but it serves as a "snapshot in time" of the largest military construction program in the district's history.

Learn more at www.sas.usace.army.mil/cd/cd.html and by viewing videos on the "SavannahCorps" YouTube channel.

Fant, Robins Area Office garners top Air Force Award

The Air Force is another satisfied Savannah district customer. District team member Julian Fant and the Robins Air Force Base Area Office were recently recognized by the 2011 Air Force Agent Awards and Design Excellence Awards. Fant, a project engineer in the Robins AFB Area Office, was selected as the Air Force Civilian Project Manager of the Year in the "Construction Category." The Robins AFB Area Office was selected as the Division or Host Nation Agent of the Year in the "Construction Category." These awards programs recognize design excellence in Air Force planning, landscaping, architecture, engineering, interior design, and military family housing design.

A window into the delivery process

Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga.

The reconstruction of the Maneuver Center of Excellence is the largest military renovation project currently under construction in the Savannah District. *Photo by Bruce Dickinson.*

As part of the Army's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) plan, the U.S. Army Armor School, currently headquartered at Fort Knox, Ky., will move to a co-located headquarters with the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., by September 2011. The combination of the two schools forms the newly renamed Maneuver Center of Excellence. The move brings approximately 28,000 more troops, civilian staffers (from the Department of Army as well as contractors), spouses, and children to Fort Benning and the surrounding community. This number includes about 2,000 construction contractors of both small and large businesses, who are now working on Harmony Church training facilities and other Armor School structures. The large-scale (520,000-square-foot) reconstruction of the Maneuver Center is the largest military renovation project ($135 million) currently under construction in the Savannah district.

In the nomination citation for the "Installation Support Program of the Year Award," presented to the Savannah district for its work at Fort Benning, the Installation Management Command offered a "window" into the planning and coordination required for construction projects. The citation reads:

"The Maneuver Center of Excellence will turn over for occupation more than 250 buildings within 24 months. To achieve the goal, the Savannah district had to think outside the box to provide the leadership and management resources to synchronize delivery to the installation. To get the projects right the first time and set the conditions for facilities being "Soldier Ready" in time to meet the planned arrival of soldiers from Fort Knox, the district developed the Fort Benning Integration Team.

> **"To achieve the goal, the Savannah district had to think outside the box..."**
> **Installation Management Command**

"The Integration Team consists of planners, civil engineers, communication engineers, interior designers, and environmental engineers. The initial mission of the Integration Team was to provide the holistic coverage of site planning required for the development of the new cantonment area at Harmony Church. While each individual design-build contractor was responsible for his [or her] project within construction limits, the integration function looked across the program to optimize traffic/roadway interface, utility coordination, drainage and storm water, and site elevations. The district and installation identified other gaps in the design and facility delivery to include information technology and electrical interface with the modular furniture design, communication connectivity, and red-zone to end-zone coordination with the installation "Soldier Ready" team.

"This forward thinking approach to leverage additional resources for the Benning program is enabling the seamless transition from design, to construction, to installation ownership, and ultimately to the soldier who is living and working in the new facility."

"LEEDing" the way in sustainable design and construction

The Moody Dormitory project at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., received a "gold" rating for energy efficiency and environmental sustainment from the U.S. Green Building Council. The Savannah district oversaw construction of the buildings.

Sustainable design has long been a part of the Corps of Engineers' military construction program, but in recent years, the Corps' efforts to "build green" have made significant advances across the nation.

With the Army's switch to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system in 2006, construction in today's military uses the same environmental design tool as the private sector. And in today's age of environmentalism – where the drive to "go green" is sweeping the country – the Corps strives to implement better ways to provide sustainable facilities.

"We've come a long way as far as conforming to LEED standards by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)," said Judy Milton, architect and LEED expert with the Savannah district. "And we're bringing all of our construction contractors and designers along with us. It's part of how we do business now."

LEED advances in sustainability

A program of the USGBC, the LEED rating system is a point-based rating tool that uses objective, measurable criteria to promote and recognize achievement in the design, construction and operation of environmentally sustainable buildings.

A project using the LEED rating tool must meet all prerequisites and earn a specified number of credits. Credits are awarded in five areas of human and environmental health: sustainable sites, water, energy, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. A project can satisfy one of four levels of LEED achievement – bronze, silver, gold and platinum – based on the number of points earned.

The LEED rating system also offers independent, third-party certification of LEED achievement by the Green Building Certification Institute, a sister organization to USGBC. Currently, approximately 5 percent of Corps buildings go through the formal certification process, and this number will increase in coming years.

In 2006, the Army mandated that all new construction and major renovation projects satisfy LEED silver criteria. The Air Force mandated the same policy in 2007. The majority of those projects do not seek third-party certification from USGBC. Instead, the Corps

internally validates the buildings for achieving LEED silver requirements.

"We have a significant volume of construction coming out of the Army, and the vast majority of it carries LEED silver requirements," Milton said. "The Army's commitment is important to our nation, because we're helping to transform the industry just by virtue of our demand for sustainable design and construction."

Going for Gold and Platinum

One of Savannah district's most prized sustainable projects is a Community Emergency Service Station at Fort Bragg, N.C., designed to achieve the highest LEED rating – platinum. Once certified, the fire station will become one of the elite few LEED platinum certified facilities in the federal government.

The $2.6 million, 8,300-square-foot fire station was completed in March 2011. The design incorporates mechanisms that save 35 percent more energy than a similar fire station built to code.

Now that the fire station is completed, it will receive operational monitoring during occupancy to ensure that it performs as designed.

"One of the credits for LEED platinum certification for this facility requires follow-on testing and monitoring during the first year of occupation to ensure that the facility is operating effectively as it was designed," said Greg Beers, resident engineer, Pope Resident Office, Fort Bragg, N.C. "The conditions of the facility have to be measured under use to see if it's going to actually produce better conditions and meet energy savings and other requirements for LEED credits."

The facility's LEED platinum features include low-flow water fixtures and a captured water system to collect rain water for washing fire engines and flushing toilets, reducing potable water consumption by 83 percent. The design also includes a solar water heater to offset at least 7.5 percent of total building energy costs, high-efficiency heat pumps, occupancy light sensors and an energy-efficient roof.

This Community Emergency Service Station at Fort Bragg will satisfy LEED platinum criteria – saving 35 percent more energy than a similar fire station built to code. The building was completed in March 2011. *Photo provided by Gary Poling, Project Engineer, Savannah District.*

Also included is a permanent recycling area for paper, plastic, cardboard and other household items which will enhance the building's sustainable life cycle, along with bicycle storage areas and facilities for low-emission, fuel-efficient vehicles.

Another successful "green" project is the $15.6 million Moody dormitory facility, built by the Savannah district at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Completed in February 2010, the project was just awarded gold certification by the Green Building Certification Institute.

At 46,791 square-feet, the 120-person facility serves unaccompanied enlisted airmen. Each airman gets a private room, which has a walk-in closet and a bathroom. All four suitemates share a common area furnished with couches, a TV and a complete dining area.

One of the largest energy efficient features of both projects is the geothermal ground water heating and air conditioning system. It operates at a significantly lower cost than traditional gas, oil or electric-based installations, because heat is pumped from water deep in the earth. Since water is denser than air, more heat can be pulled from water with less energy. In the summer, the process is reversed. The system draws excess heat from inside the building, and the underground piping carries the heat deep into the ground for the earth to absorb.

Additionally, the designs of both projects incorporate recycled building materials, such as wood doors, carpet and wall tiles, recycled structural steel, and metal roofing. Local suppliers provided most of the materials, reducing the amount of energy to transport them and adding a boost to the local economy.

LEED features on Savannah district military construction projects range from solar collection panels and geothermal heat pumps to high-efficiency fixtures and advanced indoor air ventilation systems. Other common LEED features include use of recycled building materials, natural landscaping and rainwater storage tanks, reflective roofs, low-odor paints and carpets, and eco-friendly lighting and mechanical systems.

For more information on LEED and the U.S. Green Building Council, visit www.usgbc.org.

By Tracy Robillard and Rashida Banks, Corporate Communications Office

Workers push to finish complex for returning Soldiers

Subcontractors prepare window frames for glass in the Infantry Brigade Combat Team dining facility under construction at Fort Stewart, Ga. *Photo courtesy of Savannah Morning News.*

Scores of workers push to complete a new complex at Fort Stewart, Ga., in time for the return of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from deployment later this year. The $315 million project, started in 2009, remains on schedule. Crews will finish most of the components of the complex before the unit arrives home.

Designed to accommodate 3,500 Soldiers and 950 wheeled vehicles, the complex is the largest construction project at Fort Stewart and one of the largest military construction projects for the Savannah district. The district will complete the 457-acre complex in four phases, spanning nearly two full years of construction. Contracts were awarded for six company operations facilities, six tactical equipment maintenance facilities and all necessary infrastructures. The project includes a headquarters building, dining facility, physical fitness facility, soldier family care clinic, and 20 barracks accommodating 72 soldiers in each. The physical fitness center is scheduled for completion in fall 2011 and the clinic in summer 2012.

Like all Army construction, the project will satisfy the Silver rating criteria established by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards.

Barracks

Jose Gonzalez, project integrator, Fort Stewart North Resident Office, discusses blueprints with subcontractors at the dining facility. *Photo by George Jumara*

Front view of the IBCT Headquarters Facility. *Photo by Brittany Phillips.*

Project profile:

Time allocated for construction, costs, and description

Infrastructure for overall IBCT
610 days, $48 million, 457 acres
Roads, parking, building pads, utilities in 3 phases

Company Operations Facility (COF)
610 days, $56 million, 6 Standard COFs

Tactical Equipment & Maintenance Facility (TEMF)
610 days, $46 million, 3 small and 3 medium TEMFs

Barracks
640 days, $93 million, 20 barracks accommodating 72-soldiers in each one

Headquarters
540 days, $23.5 million, 140,000 square-feet

Dining Facility
540 days, $9.8 million, Large (1,300-person) dining facility, 624 seats, 26,000 square-feet

Physical Fitness Facility
540 days, $15.9 million, 80,000 square-feet, gym with indoor pool

Clinic
540 days, $9.75 million, 40,000 square-feet, Soldier Family Care Clinic

Before and after — a barren site is transformed into a small city for 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

September 2009

March 2011

Corps constructs Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex to keep Soldiers on target

"... the demand for training is growing, requirements are growing, the training tasks have increased, and the complexity of the tasks has increased. That's a simple result of being an Army at war, an Army that had to expand and an Army that had to rapidly adapt to two theaters of operation."

Fred Weekley, Installation Range Management Officer, Fort Benning, Ga.

At 1,600 acres, the Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex on Fort Benning, Ga., answers the Army's call for transformation by bringing armor and infantry soldiers together in "real world" training scenarios. The overarching concept is that infantry and armor fight together, and therefore should live and train together.

The range includes several different targets, much like troops would encounter in ongoing Overseas Contingency Operations. The positioning of both stationary and moving infantry and armor targets, adds the element of uncertainty about the enemy realistic to warfare. The range complex provides state-of-the-art technology, diverse environments, and specialized designs—giving soldiers the best combat advantage.

The complex includes the first installation of the Digital Range Training System 2.0 software which trainers say tremendously expands the capability of the commander to capture the crew commands and vocalizations, and record commanders' videos. The system captures the orientation of the main gun-tube and the weapons systems on the combat vehicles by a stand-alone camera system which records the movements of both the vehicles and soldiers.

The Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex at Fort Benning, Ga. includes several different kinds of targets, including 35 stationary infantry target clusters (above), 11 evasive moving armor targets (bottom), and 55 stationary armor targets (not shown).

Unique challenges for a unique project

The Savannah district worked closely with Fort Benning to build and modify the range to meet the customer's diverse and sophisticated training needs. Completed in 2008 with additional modifications in 2009, the Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex is just one of the myriad projects designated as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. All construction at Fort Benning falling under the BRAC designation began in September 2007 and is scheduled for completion by Sept. 15, 2011. To date, the Corps has managed $1.16 billion in completed and contracted construction on the post.

As the project manager for all range construction

at Fort Benning, Mark Puhalla directs details from concept development to construction completion and turn-over to the installation. According to Puhalla, the digital complex is one of 19 ranges built by the Savannah district in the last two years.

Steve Vaughn serves as the project engineer for the Corps' Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex. He recalls how the issue of training affected construction. "During the design phase, training standards were different than when physical construction started." Vaughn said. "As the Army upgraded their training requirements and weapons systems, we had to continually adapt to meet them."

Just getting to the site proved challenging for Vaughn, Puhalla and the rest of the project delivery team. "Many of the ranges are in remote areas of Fort Benning not previously developed," Puhalla said. "This meant building and maintaining construction trails to the sites until the permanent infrastructure of roads and utilities were built."

Responding to the customer

Fred Weekley, a 25-year Army veteran, retired nine years ago from his position as the Sergeant Major of Fort Benning's Ranger Training Brigade. Today, he's the Installation Range Management Officer overseeing 16,000 acres of ranges across Fort Benning. "We have a lot of input," Weekly said. "At the site visits, we could raise our hand when we saw an issue that needed to be fixed before it got too far down the construction road and was irreversible in the process."

Throughout the environmental issues, construction timelines, budget constraints and manpower growth issues, Weekley and the Corps team remained focused.

Thanks to careful planning, expert construction, and the ability to adapt, the complex is getting a heavy workout. The Installation Range Management team schedules 120 events per training day, and instructs 108,000 soldiers a year, compared to 70,000 nine years ago. Typically, a soldier spends between 18 and 23 days on the range depending on the type of class. This includes everything from mortars and machine guns to hand grenades and anti-armor weapons systems.

"Having served for 25 years, this is a distinct pleasure for me," said Weekley. "Every day is a good day when I can come and set conditions so soldiers have the right training and events can be executed in the right kind of range and the right kind of environment and atmosphere."

By Sandra Hudson, Corporate Communications Office

The Corps designed the range to accommodate strategically placed data relay nodes, which allow the range safety officer to digitally track the action of the crew on each combat vehicle or the movements and commands of trainees when they leave the security of the armored vehicles. *Photos by Bruce Dickinson*

Specialized facilities provide blood in support of Soldiers and families worldwide

The military has always prided itself in taking care of its own, and when it comes to providing a vital resource such as blood, it's no different.

State-of-the-art blood donor centers, such as the one the Savannah district has underway at Fort Benning, Ga., focus on the collection, processing, testing, storing, and shipping of blood specifically for the military community.

"Armed Services Blood Program blood centers are unique in that we collect blood from the military community to supply to military service members, their families, and other DOD beneficiaries," said Capt. Maschelle Hoover, interim director, Fort Benning Blood Donor Clinic. "These facilities help to keep costs down, because without them, blood would have to be purchased from an outside source. It also allows the military to take care of its own."

At 20,000 square-feet, the new Blood Donor Center currently underway at Fort Benning, Ga., will be nearly double the size of the one at Fort Bragg, N.C., and is expected to accommodate the increase of soldiers and families arriving at Fort Benning due to Base Realignment and Closure initiatives.

The district will break ground on the $7.8 million facility at Fort Benning in spring 2011 and completed a similar facility at Fort Bragg, N.C., in August 2010. Both facilities operate as a part of the ASBP, a network of more than 20 blood donor centers worldwide.

"We correspond regularly with Army, Navy, and Air Force blood donor centers and military treatment centers to determine need," said Hoover. "We all work together to get blood where it needs to go."

Blood products collected at the centers are sent overseas to help save the lives of injured or ill service members stationed in Overseas Contingency Operations. It is also supplied to military treatment facilities locally and worldwide.

At 20,000 square-feet, the new facility at Fort Benning will be nearly double the size of the one at Fort Bragg, and is expected to accommodate the increase of soldiers and families arriving at Fort Benning due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiatives.

"The Fort Benning population is expected to increase by upwards of 28,000 as a result of BRAC," said Hoover. "The relocation is anticipated to result in an over 30 percent increase in blood donations as well as the addition of plasma collections."

District Helps Establish New Primary Care Clinic

In another effort to support soldiers' families, the Savannah district's Real Estate division has negotiated long-term leases needed to establish the Army's newest Community-based Primary Care Clinics. The clinics will provide primary care quicker and more conveniently to families of active duty soldiers.

The district will arrange leases for six of the Army's planned 17 community primary care clinics near Forts Jackson, Benning, Stewart, and Hunter Army Airfield.

The district worked closely with the Army's Medical Command to locate suitable facilities that could be remodeled to meet Army needs.

A soldier donates blood at the new Blood Donor Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., completed by the Savannah district in August 2010.
Photo by Joe Harlan

The building of the new facility is a "much anticipated" and "eagerly awaited" event for Hoover and her staff, who have been operating out of a temporary 5,700 square-foot donor center for the past two years.

"We have to pack up and transport our equipment to the various companies daily for each blood drive, because there is barely enough room in the temporary facility for staff and for production and manufacturing activities," said Hoover. "It is a huge logistical undertaking."

The design of the new facility will enable Hoover and her staff to collect, separate, process, and store blood and blood components on site.

"It will be a one-stop shop," said Hoover. "We will also have an apheresis donation area, which will allow us to draw, manufacture and distribute a much larger percentage of the rare blood types needed for fresh frozen plasma, further lowering our dependence on outside providers."

Other features will include storage for organizational vehicles for blood drives, staging and waiting areas, and blood draw stations.

"I'm excited to see this project get off the ground," said Demetrius Huddleston, Corps project manager. "The blood donation mission of the U.S. Army is an important facet of keeping our active duty military, as well as their families, safe."

The new Blood Donor Center at Fort Benning is slated for completion in May 2012 and will seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification. A program of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED rating system is a point-based rating tool that uses objective, measurable criteria to promote and recognize achievement in the design, construction and operation of environmentally sustainable buildings (see pages 6-7).

By Rashida Banks, Corporate Communications Office

Chapel attracts Soldiers and families to worship and education

Architectural features of Chapel will incorporate history of 82nd Airborne Division

Artistic rendering of the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial Chapel.

The contemporary design of the new chapel at Fort Bragg, N.C., was developed with today's soldier in mind. Slated for completion by the Savannah district in December 2011, the chapel will serve as a permanent facility for religious worship, education, and counseling in support of soldiers and their families living in the Fort Bragg community.

"The modern style of the new 82nd Division Chapel has links to the past as well," said Helane Church, project manager. "The intent is to draw in soldiers of all ages and faiths and their families to a religious and meditative atmosphere that will support everyone."

One of the most distinguishing features of the chapel will be the seven historical stained glass windows, which will be relocated from the 82nd Airborne Memorial Chapel and incorporated into the new facility.

"The windows display scenes from military operations in which the 82nd troops have participated throughout the years," said Lt. Col. Jeff Watters, 82nd Airborne Division chaplain. "It memorializes all the soldiers who gave their lives in defense of freedom during those combat operations."

The chapel will be a focal point of the area and will be adjacent to the 82nd Airborne Museum and the future 82nd Hall of Heroes.

With a seating capacity of 629, the new chapel will be twice as large as the old chapel, which dates back to 1971, and only seats 300.

"In previous years, the chapel was more troop-centric, where soldiers would march together to service and then march out, but now 60 percent of soldiers in the Army are married," said Watters. "The new chapel is designed with the family in mind."

At 22,600 square-feet, the complex will include a worship and activity center, expansion area, gathering area, lobby, clergy and staff offices, baptistery and sacristy suites, meditation and reconciliation room, kitchen, choir room, nursery, and vestibules.

By Rashida Banks, Corporate Communications Office

Savannah District News

Gordon Simmons heads Engineering Division

Simmons

Gordon L. Simmons became the Chief of Engineering Division for the Savannah district in February 2011. As chief, Simmons is responsible for the planning, directing, coordination, and execution of the design of the district's military, civil, and Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste program. Before assuming his current position, he was the Deputy Chief of Engineering and Chief of the Technical Specialties Branch with the district. Simmons also served in the construction quality assurance branch at the Corps' Fort Worth district, as well as in positions in design, construction and program management in Israel, Europe, Japan, and the Marshall Islands. Simmons was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1983 with a degree in Civil Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

Michael Masko joins the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Masko

Michael Masko joined the Savannah district in October 2010 as Director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Before coming to the district, Masko was the Acting Director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center in Grafenwoehr, Germany. His experience in federal service spans 24 years with the U.S. Army, Defense Contract Management Agency and U.S. Postal Service. Before entering federal service, Masko worked as a private investigator conducting civil, criminal, and domestic investigations. Masko is a U.S. Air Force brat and considers Philadelphia, Pa., home. He has both an associate and bachelor's degree in administration of justice from Temple University. Masko and his wife, Jacqueline, reside in Pooler, Ga.

Savannah District celebrates National Engineer Week

The Savannah district celebrated the 60th anniversary of National Engineer Week—Feb. 21-25 — with school presentations, science fair judging, a technical lecture, and an awards program. Members of the Engineering and Construction Divisions served as judges for the Savannah Regional Science and Engineering Fair, reviewing 50 innovative entries submitted by talented middle and high school students. The winners received U.S. Saving Bonds, provided by the Savannah Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E). Receiving high praise from students and instructors, other team members gave a series of presentations on mechanical and electrical engineering, architecture, geology and hydrology at Jenkins High School, the only engineering program in Chatham County. The district also participated in a Technical Training Conference, sponsored in part by S.A.M.E, where Col. Jeff Hall, commander of the Savannah district, gave opening remarks, and the team participated in a Building Information Modeling (BIM) panel discussion. As part of the same conference, Michael P. Wielputz, P.E., received the "James Connolly Award" in recognition of his outstanding support of the engineering profession while serving as a civil engineer with the Savannah district's Environmental and Materials Unit field office in Marietta, Ga. Wielputz was also praised for his support to mentoring young engineers.

David Gustashaw (left), structural engineer, and Kristin Froistad (right), architect, explain to a group of Jenkins High School students, the role that structural engineers and architects play in the construction process. *Photo by Brittany Phillips*

Pierce, Williams honored during Black Engineer of the Year Awards

Pierce

Williams

Two of Savannah's team members—Wilhelmina Pierce, P.E. and Charles J. Williams—were honored in February as part of the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA). The BEYA conference and awards program, sponsored by the Career Communications Group, recognizes men and women from around the country who demonstrate outstanding performance in a technical field and show great potential for shaping the future course of engineering, science, math and technology.

Pierce received the award in the category of Professional Achievement—Government. She is the resident engineer, Construction Division, in the Special Operations Resident Office at Fort Bragg, N.C., where she oversees approximately $55 million in Department of Defense medical facility construction and $11 million of construction for the Joint Special Operations Command.

Williams, who received the Modern Day Technology award, is the project engineer, Construction Division, in the FORSCOM/USARC HQ Resident Office, Fort Bragg, N.C. He leads a team that oversees the $300 million joint HQ project comprised of four buildings totaling 700,000 square feet that will provide space for 2,800 people. This 993-day, high profile project involves the movement of the headquarters of these two major Army components currently at Fort McPherson, Ga., to Fort Bragg.

Editor's Note: At the time the award was presented, the Special Operations Resident Office was a part of the Savannah district. However as of Feb. 13, the Special Operations mission transferred to the Wilmington district.

District float places first in MLK parade

The Savannah district Special Emphasis Program Committee under the auspices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office hosted two district floats in the City of Savannah's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Jan. 17. Savannah district Deputy Commander Lt. Col. David London, representatives from the EEO office, and other employees from the district rode on the floats, which won first place in the "Professional Floats" category.

Photo by Mike Hoffman