

## Viewpoint

# From where I sit

Constructing facilities for Soldiers creates job satisfaction

**W**e'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.