

# 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

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**Installation Management Command**

"Soldier Ready" in time to meet the planned arrival of soldiers from Fort Knox, the district developed the Fort Benning Integration Team.

"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." 