

## Viewpoint

# From Where I Sit

**“We provided our customers—war fighters and their families—with world-class facilities...”**

— Col. Jeff Hall

Unmatched teamwork, exceptional technical competence, innovative business approaches, and a never-give-up spirit. From where I sit, these are the qualities of the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. Never before have these qualities been better demonstrated than in the past five years with the team’s response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program and other military transformation initiatives.

The numbers tell the story the best:

Our military construction programs grew from \$490 million in fiscal year (FY) 2005 to a peak of more than \$2.1 billion in 2009. To view it another way, by FY 10 we had more than \$4 billion under construction or contract; in FY 11 more than \$3.5 billion. Faced with this incredible growth, the team refocused and reworked itself to meet the challenges. The phenomenal culture of the district shined through again and again. From the construction of headquarters buildings to training facilities, barracks to child development centers, hospitals to aircraft hangars, and warehouses and beyond, we provided our customers—war fighters and their families—with world-class facilities in support of their contributions to our nation’s security.

Through innovative initiatives, our contracting team met each year’s workload on schedule, executing 15,466 contract actions totaling \$8.1 billion between FY 2006-2011. The district also supported small businesses throughout the region with \$1.9 billion in contracting opportunities from FY 06-11.

The Savannah district made incredible contributions to the BRAC initiative. From FY 2006-2011, the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers military construction (MILCON) executed the facilities portion of BRAC ’05, which includes 274 MILCON projects valued at \$11 billion. Savannah district executed 60 of the 274 BRAC projects valued at \$1.8 billion.

It takes an entire team to execute this unbelievable number of military projects. Our Department of Public Works and Base Civil Engineer partners at the 11



Savannah District Commander Col. Jeff Hall (right) receives a status update on the \$24.8 million Warrior in Transition Barracks project at Fort Stewart, Ga., from Thuan Swindler, project engineer. Photo by George Jumara.

installations we support were integral to our success. I am particularly proud of the results from our customer satisfaction survey. 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 Soldiers, retirees, and their families. Our contractors—big and small—are also essential elements of these achievements.

We can never count or recognize all the efforts—behind the scenes or on the work sites—that brought us to this phenomenal endpoint. But this issue of the *The Castle* stands as tribute and partial historical record of the team’s accomplishments.

To our Savannah district construction engineers, program managers, quality assurance specialists, safety officers, contracting specialists, resource managers, real estate specialists, regulatory personnel, and many others who made it all work seamlessly, thank you for your hard work and support. From where I sit, you are the MIGHTY Savannah district. 

By Col. Jeff Hall, Commander, USACE Savannah District