

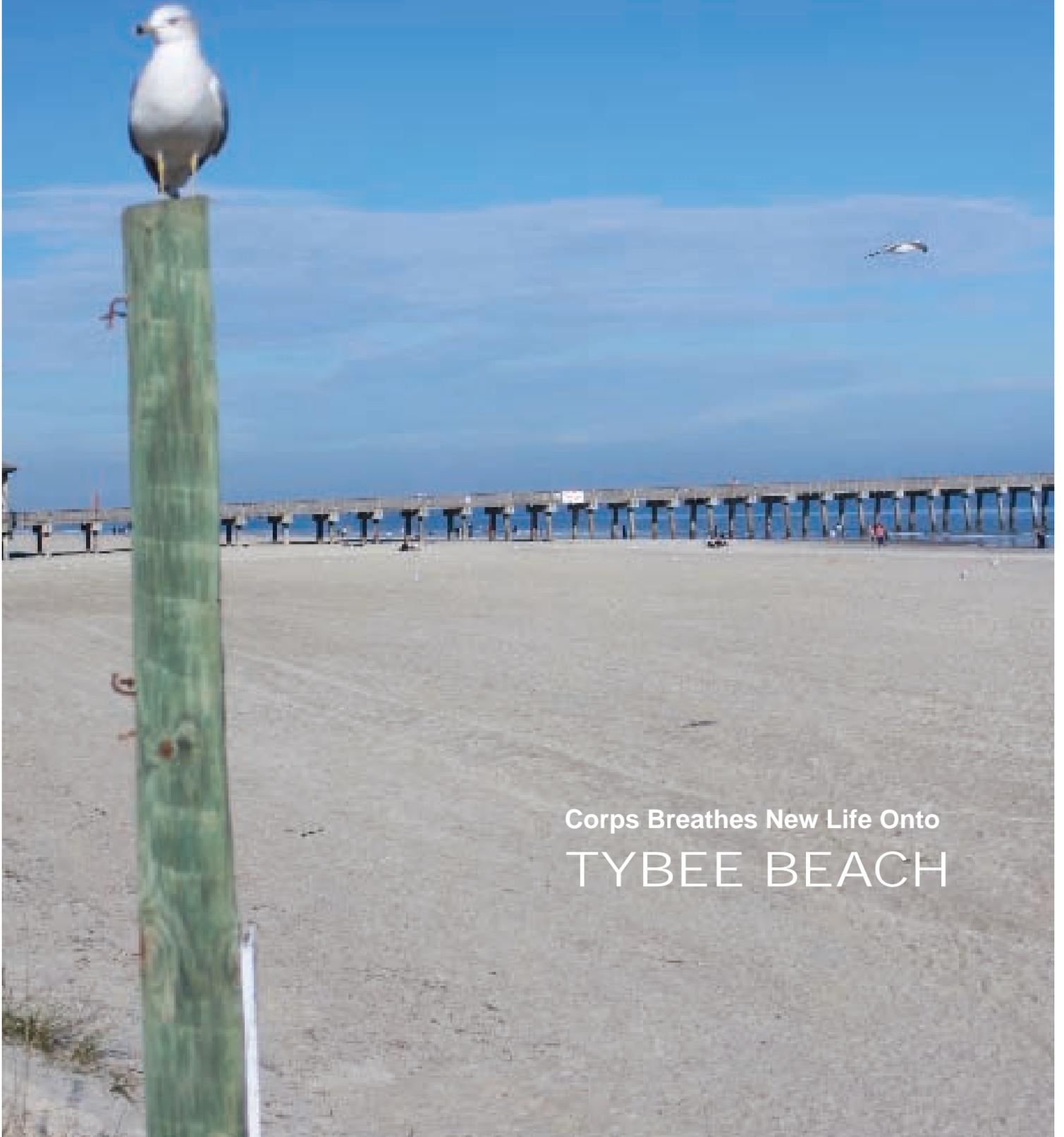


The

# castle

Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

January- April 2009



Corps Breathes New Life Onto  
TYBEE BEACH



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**FRONT COVER**

1.22 million cubic yards of sand was used to revitalize Tybee's front and Back River beach areas, resulting in a wider shoreline.

Photo by Venetia Gonzales

**BACK COVER**

Dan Parrott, former chief, Civil Programs and Project Management Division, was presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury medal by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief, Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, during a townhall meeting on January 7.

Photo by Venetia Gonzales



**Savannah District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office participated in Savannah's Martin Luther King Day Parade on Jan 19. The float was awarded first place in the "Professional Floats" Category by the Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Association Inc.**

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# Internship offers valuable career experience



**Tyrone Williams**

In May 2006, I went back to school to obtain a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning at Clemson University, with the goal of becoming a Community Planner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When I finally got my big chance to join the Corps family, I was disappointed to find out it was in the form of an internship. My first thought was that I would be gaining valuable

experience, but nevertheless, limited experience. Little did I know that the title "intern" has a different connotation at the Savannah District.

In May 2008, I began working as a Local Intern. By the end of my internship, I will have rotated throughout 20 departments and gained access to a wide variety of concentration areas such as: Safety, Military Construction, Geotechnical Engineering, etc.

Along with the exposure gained working in various departments, I have also had the pleasure of acquiring hands-on experience with a wide range of projects, something that many do not get the opportunity to do. In one of those projects, I participated in a controlled burn of a wooded area located on Fort Stewart. I have also participated in many projects at other construction sites, including, Fort Benning and Sunny Point, N.C. In addition, I have helped measure the contamination levels in the Savannah Harbor with members of the Hydrology Department.

Although the veteran employees have to deal with so many interns coming and going, it is from them that we gain the most valuable experience. Primarily, because they have priceless knowledge and expertise that is needed to help us to become more effective team members. Also, by working with everyone in the different sections, I have built a network of individuals to call in the future when questions arise.

Internship or Profession? From where I sit, I would say that my internship is definitely a crucial step towards my professional career, one which will continue to provide me the essentials to a promising and long career with the Corps. In May, I complete my rotation and I will begin to take on the role of a Community Planner for Engineering Division. I have met some phenomenal people during my time at the Savannah District and I look forward to working with everyone throughout my career. The Corps has definitely changed my perception of what a true professional internship is all about.

## *District employee honored for valor in Afghanistan*

**By Rashida Banks  
Editor/Staff Writer**

Wendell Hardwick, a Natural Resource Specialist at Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake, was presented with the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device on Nov. 11, 2008 during a ceremony held at Laurens County High School in Laurens, S.C.

The honor was presented to Hardwick for valorous actions in combat against a group of armed militants in Afghanistan on Sept. 5, 2007. During the time, Hardwick, who is a mobilized reservist, was on a 12 month tour with the 218th Infantry Brigade, working to train the Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP).

On that day, Hardwick's unit came under attack by an enemy force of over 150 armed militants. At one point in the battle, enemy personnel had SSG Hardwick and the other dismounts pinned down with their fires from multiple directions, according to Capt. Dean Cooke, Team Leader of Hardwick's embedded training team.

"Hardwick and his unit were able to successfully defeat the enemies and no American or ANCOP soldiers were wounded or killed in the process," said Cooke. "SSG Hardwick demonstrated tremendous personal courage, outstanding leadership, and tactical proficiency while conducting a dismounted counterattack against overwhelming enemy forces."

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth highest combat award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service. The "V" device is worn to denote participation in acts of heroism involving conflict with an armed enemy, according to Wikipedia.com

Hardwick has received numerous awards and decorations including the Combat Infantryman Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Expert Field Medical Badge Senior Parachutist Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Army Achievement Medal (6th award), Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal.



**Russell Lake National Resource Specialist Wendell Hardwick (center) was joined by his brother, David Hardwick, a veteran of the Gulf War, and his dad, George Gomes a two time Vietnam veteran, at his pinning ceremony Nov 11, 2008 at Laurens County High School in Laurens, S.C.**

# London assumes first Corps District duty in Savannah

By Jennifer Small  
Staff Writer

During his previous 16 years serving as an Army engineering officer, Lt. Col. David T. London never served at a Corps of Engineers district. But that changed on July 14, 2008, when London assumed his duties as Deputy Commander of the Savannah District.

"I've been in divisional units my entire career," London said. "It was a choice, I wanted to work with Soldiers, and learn what the Army's all about."

But after returning from a 15-month tour in Iraq as the Division Engineer Basing Officer with the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, London wanted to see another side of the Engineers branch and stay in Savannah and sought the deputy position with the Savannah District.

"I want to learn how the Savannah District supports and serves the public,"

London said. "Every day, I'm learning something new about what we do."

Though this is his first time with the Savannah District, this marks London's third duty station in the Savannah area, having previously served two tours at Fort Stewart. In fact, London met his wife, Angela, a Savannah native, on his first tour at Fort Stewart. The couple have three children: D.J., 8, Chris, 7, and Maya, 6.

When London graduated from Fort Leavenworth's School of Advanced Military Studies in 2006, he knew that he would deploy, so he requested to deploy with 3rd ID so that his family could move back to Savannah.

"When I was deployed I wanted Angela be close to her family," London said.

While deployed, London helped to establish the funding, design and constructions of the base camps that supported the Department of Defense, the Department of State and Coalition Operations in the Wasit, Babil, An Najaf and Karbala provinces in Iraq.

His military career began when the Mays Landing, N.J., native decided to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics in 1992 and was commissioned as an Engineering Officer in the U.S. Army.

"I knew West Point would give me a good education, keep me physically fit, and teach me how to lead," London said. "I really wanted to impact my world, and I knew that I'd better learn how to lead if I wanted to do that. West Point definitely did that for me."

In addition to his undergraduate studies, London holds a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla and two Masters of Military Science



London

degrees from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Through his desire to lead, London has spent most of his 16-year military career working with Soldiers, and has found a way to transfer those dealings to his day-to-day dealings with civilians at the Savannah District.

"I see everyone as a Soldier; [civilians] just come to work in different outfits," London said. "I want to help make sure they get the mission accomplished, and they do it in an environment that they want to come to every day. The people here have a passion about what they do, and I enjoy seeing that."

London said his first Corps duty has been a learning process, and one he is eager to absorb, as well as lend his talents to helping.

"I want to enable the district as much as possible," London said. "I want to help establish a good relationship with government and community leaders, and local industry, so that we [the Savannah District] have a good face to the public."

But, London says, the transition has been easy thanks to the Savannah District team members.

"When you have the folks that we have here, it's not difficult," London said. "The people here are enthusiastic, professional, and knowledgeable. Savannah District has a great reputation [throughout the Corps], and from the people I've met, it's very well deserved."



Lt. Col. London, Deputy Commander of the Savannah District, watches as his wife, Angela; son, Chris, 7; and daughter, Maya, 6, pin him during his promotion ceremony March 1 at the Savannah District headquarters. Col. Edward J. Kertis(right), Commander, Savannah District watches.

# Brosch, Wigfall complete Naval Post Graduate School



**Brosch**

**By Rashida Banks  
Editor/Staff Writer**

Contracting Officers Paige Brosch and Henry Wigfall graduated with a Masters of Science Degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Sep. 2008.

Brosch and Wigfall are among the first Army graduating class and the first two Corps of Engineers Contract Specialists to graduate since the Army started funding the degree program in 2006.

The two year program is designed to provide Department of Defense (DOD) and other federal agencies advanced concepts, methodologies, and analytical techniques necessary for successful management and contracting within



**Wigfall**

complex organizations.

Wigfall, who works with the Savannah Regional Contracting Center in Charleston, S.C., always wanted to go back to school to get his masters degree, so when he saw an announcement for the Naval Postgraduate Degree Program, he jumped at the opportunity to apply.

"I always wanted to get my Masters degree, but time didn't permit with a family and a full time job. But, this was different, said Wigfall of the program. "It allowed me to complete my coursework during my duty hours.

Brosch looked at participating in the program as a way to enhance her career.

"I wanted it to set myself apart from others in my field," said Brosch who feels that her skills are much better as

a result of completing the program. "I learned acquisition best practices from all over the Department of Defense. Our professors were extremely knowledgeable and are very involved in current DOD acquisition issues so that made a big difference in the quality of training we received."

For both, participating in the program was a huge commitment. Both had to juggle home life and a heavy workload in addition to attending class twice a week through video teleconference (VTC).

"Individually there was a lot of hard work," said Brosch. "Coordinating with our teachers and class mates through VTC was a challenge. There were plenty of times when class ended at 6 p.m. and we had go back to our desk to complete our regular work. I didn't mind the extra hours, it was part of a promise I made with my supervisor that my work wouldn't suffer because of class."

Wigfall said there were a lot of sleepless nights and research required, but in the end both agree that the support they received from upper management played an integral part in their successful completion of the program.

"It was very difficult," said Wigfall of completing the program. "I had a lot of support from family and coworkers. It has definitely made a difference in my professional and personal life."



**Alex Van Heuval**

## Leadership award named for Corps mentor

**By Sandra Hudson  
Staff Writer**

SAD Commander, Brig. Gen. Joseph Schroedel has established a new leadership award in honor of Alex Van Heuval, a former Corps employee.

Van Heuval who served as the founding Program Manager for the South Atlantic Division Leadership Development Program, has "provided leadership and invaluable mentorship to each and every member of classes since its inception in 2002," said Schroedel.

Because many of Van Heuval's students have gone on to become great leaders and now mentors themselves, Schroedel thought it was only fitting to establish the award, honoring Van Heuval's legacy of service to the Corps.

The first recipient of the award will come from this year's LDP class and will be selected by the students.



Savannah District employees grabbed their shovels and planted a young live oak, Georgia's state tree, in honor of Women's History Month.

## Tree Planting Ceremony Honors Women's History Month

By Tracy K. Ammons  
Staff Writer

Everyday in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hundreds of women work diligently to support one of the Corps' fundamental missions – protecting and preserving the natural environment.

The Savannah District recently partnered with the City of Savannah for a special tree planting ceremony celebrating these women. The ceremony went hand-in-hand with this year's Women's History Month theme – "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."

On March 26, Savannah District employees – including Deputy Commander Lt. Col. David London – grabbed their shovels and broke ground in Forsyth Park for a young live oak, Georgia's state tree. This young tree will eventually become a valued, beautiful part of downtown Savannah for generations to come.

"Women are critical to the great things we do in this district and in our country," London said at the ceremony. "We plant

this tree today to honor the women who show exceptional dedication, leadership and vision to save our planet."

Also in attendance was City of Savannah Forester Bill Haws, who presented the Corps with a certificate, recognizing Savannah's newest tree as part of the city's Gift Tree Planting Program.

"Trees are very important to the City of Savannah, and we do all we can to protect them," he said. "We are proud to partner with the Corps of Engineers to bring another tree into our city while honoring women's history."

Sherry McCumber-Kahn, an environmental engineer with the district, spoke passionately about the women of the Corps and their ties to the environment.

"The women I work with locally at the Savannah District represent environmental work in all aspects," said McCumber-Kahn. "We have women dedicated to working with forestry, lakes, dams, dredging, regulatory, investigation and clean-up and many other areas that impact our environment. This is a

dynamic organization, and we all strive to maintain flexibility and willingness to address whatever environmental issues come up."

Gwendolyn Crawford, chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, also attended the ceremony. Her EEO office, along with the Special Emphasis Program Committee, coordinated and hosted the special event.

"This ceremony was a first for the Special Emphasis Program Committee, and it turned out to be a success," Crawford said. "As a woman working with the Savannah District for 28 years, this event celebrates the contributions that women have made throughout the history of this country, like preserving our natural resources and enhancing the quality of life."

"A tree planting represents a new beginning. It also represents the potential there is to do great things to preserve the earth we live on," McCumber-Kahn said. "However, it is only a starting point. We have to continue to forge our way as women and as environmentalists."

# Lake Russell Mitigation Land Receives New Facility



The new 40-stall stable and meeting facility at DiLane Plantation located in Burke County, Ga was completed in October 2008 and has been used for several field trial events.

**By Jeff Brooks  
Stringer**

A new 40-stall stable, with a meeting room and bathhouse facility was constructed on DiLane Plantation, an 8,100 acre wildlife management area purchased by the Corps in 1992.

Located in Burke County, Ga., the plantation partially fulfills the mitigation requirement for the construction and operation of the Richard B. Russell Project. It also provides the public with the rare opportunity to hunt wild bobwhite quail. The plantation has a longstanding tradition of bird dog field trials. The continued use of approximately 500 acres of the area for field trails was included as part of the mitigation agreement.

“Stables on the field trial area were

in poor condition,” said Jeff Brooks, wildlife biologist, Richard B. Russell Project.

Brooks said that in 2008 the state legislature appropriated funds for the construction of the new facility. In support of the project, the Corps approved building plans and provided environmental documentation and

disposal authority for the old stable facility.

The new stable was completed in October 2008 and Brooks said that it has already been used for several field trial events, including the Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship, the largest field trial event in Georgia.



Old stable facility at DiLane Plantation

# Corps breaths new life onto

By Rashida Banks  
Editor/Staff Writer

Photos by Venetia Gonzales and Burt Moore

**B**eachgoers will see a lot more sand as they head out to Tybee Beach this Spring as a result of the recent Beach Renourishment Project completed by the Savannah District.

The \$9.1 million project was completed 45 days ahead of schedule on December 5, 2008 and placed approximately 1.22 million cubic yards of sand along Tybee's front and back beach areas.

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock, LLC of Oakbrook, Ill., the contractor for the Corps, began the 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-a-week dredging operation on October 16, 2008.

The project involved pumping sand from a "borrow site" located approximately 1.7 miles off shore of Tybee Island. Great Lakes completed the work using a 320-foot dredge with an 11,300-h.p. motor to pump sand through 30-inch pipes and deposit it on the shores.

The purpose of beach renourishment is to provide "increased flood damage protection and recreational benefits to the residents and visitors of Tybee Island," said Hampton Spradley, project manager, Tybee Island Beach Renourishment Project.

Over time, natural forces such as winds and waves wash away the shores of Tybee Island. As a result, beach renourishment is an ongoing process that occurs on average every six to ten years. This is the sixth renourishment authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

"The additional sand on the beach helps to reduce damages caused from the storm surge by protecting the structures and infrastructure from the incoming water," said Spradley.

The renourishment required close coordination and cooperation with all local, state and federal agencies due to environmental and engineering challenges associated with the project.

For example, Spradley said that since the last renourishment in 2000, the north area of the beach had been designated as critical habitat for the piping plover, a small sand-colored, sparrow-sized shorebird that is listed on the threatened endangered species list.

Federal regulations state that you can't "harm or harass them in any way," said Spradley.

"Our big challenge was to ensure that this renourishment didn't adversely impact the plovers," said Spradley. "We had to stay out of their critical habitat as much as possible, and institute preventive measures during construction to minimize their disturbance."

It was the same for the loggerhead sea turtles, who typi-



**Burt Moore, Chief Dredging Section, Operations Division, stands in front of construction barricades on the first day of beach renourishment mobilization and screens the site to ensure that all safety and operational measures are in place before work begins.**

cally nest along the beach from May to Sept, according to Ellie Covington, a biologist with the District's Planning Division. Because they didn't want to harm the turtles, Covington said that they completed the beach renourishment before nesting season.

Covington, wrote an environmental assessment of the area before the dredging work began. "We considered all of the environmental factors making sure that we were in compliance with all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Policies," said Covington.

Other challenges included determining the right quality of sand for placement along the beach. "The sand underwent extensive laboratory testing to ensure suitability for placement on the beach and all the cooperating federal and state agencies had to agree on the sand quality," said Spradley.

The total project cost was shared between federal and non-federal sponsors, with 60 percent being provided by the Federal government and 40 percent provided by non-federal sponsors, such as the City of Tybee.

Tybee Mayor, Jason Buelterman was impressed with the Corps' ability to "fast track" the project.

"As soon as we got funding from Congress, the Corps staff, particularly Colonel Kertis, did a great job overcoming any obstacles to ensure that the project could be completed quickly," said Buelterman. "It[the project] turned out great."

The project is authorized for one additional renourishment scheduled for 2015.



# Tybee Beach



The work was completed using a 320-foot dredge with an 11,300-h.p. motor to pump sand through 30-inch pipes and deposit it on the shores.



After sand has been deposited on the shore and the renourishment project is complete, contractors use a tiller to level and uncompress the sand on the beach, allowing loggerhead sea turtles to nest, birds to feed, and benthic organisms to recolonize the area.



Homes and businesses along Tybee Beach were threatened by the eroded shoreline.



Dennis Lynn, Operations Division, stands on Tybee after beach renourishment project is complete. 1.22 million cubic yards of sand was used to revitalize Tybee's front and Back River beach areas, resulting in a wider shoreline.



# FLOOD FIGHTING

Emergency Management Division does more than chase hurricanes part of the year



College student volunteers assemble Rapid Deployment Flood Wall at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers test site on the Missouri River, Brownville, Nebraska.

By Chris Klein  
Chief, Emergency Management Division

When most people think of Emergency Management, they immediately think of providing support for hurricane and tropical storms. However, part of Emergency Management's job involves planning for natural disasters. When disaster strikes the time for planning is over so in the "off season" Emergency Managers aggressively pursue planning for the next incident by learning from the past. The following describes some of the planning activities that Emergency Management engages in an effort to be ready when disaster strikes:

## Preparedness activities

### Flood Mitigation

Flood protection and flood prevention are now archaic terms replaced by flood mitigation which recognizes that sometimes, despite our best efforts, the river can win the flood fight. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has historically used only sand bags in flood fighting but in recent years has tried to leverage the best of industry. The Corps has evaluated several rapid deployment systems that provide faster and more cost effective approaches to flood fighting. These systems are:

- **Rapid Deployment Flood Wall (RDFW)**  
RDFW is granular filled, plastic grid units that use horizon-

tal and vertical tabs to form a continuous structure. Test of this system revealed that RDFW's strengths are ease of construction (time and manpower), low seepage rates, high degree of reusability, ability to be raised, and the units provides height flexibility since they are eight inches high. Weaknesses include significant right-of-way required due to the placement of granular fill, high cost, and RDFW's are time consuming to remove. Upon completion of the testing, more effective methods for extracting the sand fill from the units were evaluated. As a result, access to a suction trailer will be made available to RDFW users to assist in the extraction of the sand.

- **Hesco Bastion**

Hesco Bastion containers are granular filled, permeable membrane lined wire baskets that pin together to form a continuous structure. Testing of this system revealed that Hesco Bastion's strengths include ease of construction and removal (time and manpower), low cost, high degree of reusability, and a Hesco Bastion structure can be raised if required. Hesco Bastion's weaknesses include: the need for significant right-of-way due to the addition of granular fill with machinery perpendicular to the structure, and high seepage rates. After completion of the testing, Hesco Bastion evaluated the high seepage rates and determined that these rates were the result of incorrect installation.

- **Portadam**

Portadam consists of an impermeable membrane liner that is supported by a steel frame. Portadam's strengths include ease of construction and removal (time, manpower, and equipment),

low seepage rates, no required fill, high degree of reusability, and limited right-of-way required. Portadam weaknesses include that the membrane liner punctured during the laboratory debris impact test, a Portadam structure can't be raised in a typical application, and Portadam structures are not applicable for high wind use.

Field-testing of these systems was conducted at the Vicksburg Harbor at Vicksburg, Miss.. Protocols were developed for the field tests to include construction, testing, and removal. The protocol included performance parameters (hydrostatic testing and hydrodynamic testing (overtopping)). The field testing also included the same operational parameters that were evaluated for the laboratory testing but also included footprint and right-of-way requirements, durability, adaptability to varying terrain, performance on various surfaces (freshly graded, natural vegetation (grass and weeds)) and the ability to be raised.

The result of the testing is that all three systems are now stocked in limited quantities for future use.

### P2 Project Delivery Team

The Corps has formed a Project Delivery Team to study the use of P2 for disaster work. Headquarters has asked districts who regularly respond to disasters to participate. What better division to find regular hurricane responders than South Atlantic Division (SAD)? Savannah's Emergency Management Division is a participant on the team.

### Catastrophic Disaster Response Planning - CDRP

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with state entities to develop plans for responding to both natural and man-made catastrophic disasters. The focus is on the New Madrid fault area that encompasses several states and The City of Miami Florida. FEMA has requested Corps support for

the Miami effort from SAD. The Housing portion of the effort has been tasked to Savannah District since staffing of the Temporary Housing Team is a Savannah District responsibility.

### Annual Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Review/Rewrite

Every year HQ spearheads the rewrite of our SOPs to incorporate lessons learned from the previous year. Savannah District regularly participates for the Temporary Housing portion.

### Planning and Response Team (PRT) Staffing and Training

Every Division has Planning and Response Teams (PRTs). These are temporary housing, temporary roofing, debris, emergency power and commodities. These missions were tasked to USACE as part of the National Response Plan and also include Water and Ice that are national missions. One of these PRTs is tasked down to each District. Savannah District is an exception as we have been tasked with two PRTs: temporary housing and emergency power. The EOC recruits to fill vacant positions and prepares the teams for deployment which includes training and medical certification.

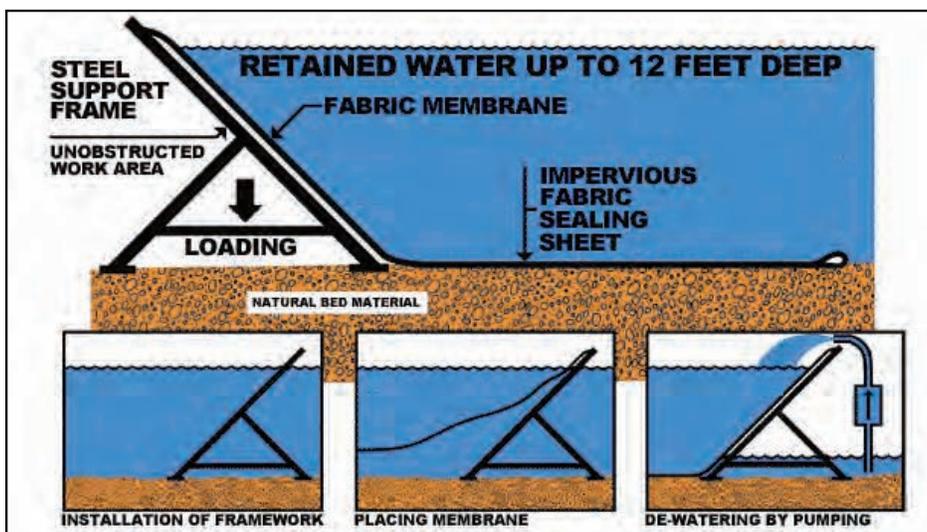
### Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST)

In addition to the PRTs, Savannah District is tasked to maintain a FEST-A Team. FEST-A supports the Army in battlefield operations as a rear component, meaning we do not fight on the front line. This team provides engineer support to the Battlefield Commander that can include the design and construction of post facilities, enemy combatant containment facilities or to simply restore critical utilities to a captured village as a goodwill gesture to the local population. The EOC recruits to fill vacancies on the team and coordinates training and medical certification.

### Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) Support

Formerly called Global War on Terror (GWOT). Team Members who volunteer and accept positions related to our country's OCO effort are deployed through Emergency Management Division (EM). EM coordinates pre-deployment requirements for all volunteers assuring a smooth deployment and tracks their return.

There is much more that Emergency Management does that is not represented above. We take a proactive approach and in some cases elect to participate where not required because we can positively impact emergency response.



Portadam is a temporary, portable cofferdam, water diversion or fluid retention system for use in open water up to 12 feet deep. Portadam is used for construction, rehabilitation, flood protection and inspection projects in rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and other retaining areas. \*Info obtained from portadam.com

# Fort Benning office prepares the way for a changing landscape



Contractors Clark-Caddell stayed within budget by sliding the open-bay Physical Training area behind the barracks. The original 3-story design located the PT bay on the ground floor.

**By Sandra Hudson**  
**Staff Writer**  
**Photos by F.T. Eyre**

The Base Realignment and Closure decision of 2005 will bring more than 30,000 new faces to Fort Benning, Ga. by September 2011. This includes not only Soldiers, family members and support staff, but the infrastructure needed to keep up with the influx.

This transfer isn't just a random shuffling of personnel, but part of the "big picture." The Army will combine its two ground forces--infantry and armor--establishing the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Koloski, the Deputy Chief of Strategic Plans Cell at Fort Knox, Kentucky is part of the advance party monitoring the process, and one of a handful of new residents making the move himself. "It's very complex. We're moving an entire city from Fort Knox to Fort Benning."

"The consolidation marks a shift in Army thinking," Koloski said. "By combining its two ground elements, infantry and armor, the Army is not only changing doctrine, but saving money, gaining efficiencies and creating training more in

line with the way today's military fights."

One of Kolowski's new "neighbors" at Fort Benning is Amy Vaughn, the Savannah District's Senior Project Engineer for the Harmony Church and Sand Hill projects at Fort Benning. The project stands on 180 acres of undeveloped land. For Vaughn, the word "budget" is a looming priority--\$244 million.

"The biggest obstacle came at award of the contract. Early drawings showed a 3-shaped "L" concept with training underneath," said Vaughn.

This standardized blueprint simply busted the budget.

"The contractor and design team were given the option of coming up with an alternative design," said Vaughn.



George Condoyiannis, Ft. Benning's area engineer (left), looks on as Major General Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, Deputy Commanding General of Civil and Emergency Operations (center) meets Amy Vaughn, the Sand Hill senior

In a unique partnership, contractors Clark-Caddell and LS3P envisioned a two-story structure with covered training behind the facility.

“This allowed us to build all the buildings within the programmed amount,” said Vaughn. “The three-story structure cost exceeded the budget due to the force protection and stringent code requirements.”

The alternative design met the security and code prerequisites and remains standardized in terms of square footage for each resident.

Once the Corps of Engineers approved the drawings, Vaughn says the team had to overcome an additional hurdle. “It all started with a massive earth-moving effort. We had a piece of land that ranged from a large borrow-pit to a mountain.”

The contractor’s design plan balanced the site by equaling the amount of soil cut and that used as fill.

Vaughn says, “This not only minimized the impact to the existing Fort Benning roads, but also helped keep the project costs within the programmed amount.”

Georgia clay, gravel, and mortar aside, this project has far-reaching implications in the Army’s transformation.

“We train Soldiers at Fort Knox just like they do at Fort Benning,” said Kolowski. “The perfect example is the Initial Entry Training Facility being constructed on Sand Hill.”

“They have worked together since the birth of combined arms doctrine,” Kolowski said. “There will be changes come from this, but I think only good changes because you are gaining a habitual relationship in the training base now, that we’ve had in the field for a long time.”

Vaughn says she’s excited to play her part in supporting the US Army. “I’ll be able to take it all the way through close-out to final commissioning. There’s been a lot of coordination and the day we turn the keys over will be a happy day.”



The outer skin of the barracks in the Sand Hill complex consists of pre-fabricated brick walls made of composite resin. These sheets bring significant time and cost savings.

But Vaughn says that’s not the end of the story. “Then we’ll move on to the next one and that’s what I love about working for the Corps, because the next one could be so totally different.”

Military construction at Fort Benning supporting the Maneuver Center of Excellence stands as the largest project in the southeast with a total price topping \$2 billion.

To keep pace with the September 2011 Base Realignment and Closure deadline, these barracks are built in stages. For example, once contractors complete plumbing in one facility, they move on to the next.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## *"The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas"*

The Savannah District Special Emphasis Program Committee under the auspices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office sponsored a month-long celebration of in honor of Black History Month 2009.

The theme for this year's celebration focused on "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

The EEO Office setup a lobby display highlighting African American firsts in government. Other activities held throughout the month included a showing of the video "Honor Deferred," which depicts the stories of seven African-American men who deserved the Medal of Honour for their valour during WWII, but only recently received their medals - by this time six had already died.

Dr. Kalenda Eaton, Assistant Professor of African American Literature at Armstrong Atlantic State University, presented a lecture about "The Quest for Black Citizenship in America. During her lecture, Eaton elaborated on three key moments in history - the Dread Scott Decision of 1857, the Civil Rights Act of 1866, and the Compromise of 1877, which all played a part in the ongoing African American quest for full recognition as citizens in the United States.

## Leadership seeks new home for District headquarters

*In support of the Savannah District leadership's ongoing commitment to keep its valued workforce, retirees, and surrounding community informed, the following article, the first in a series, will provide up-to-date information regarding the Savannah District's proposed relocation.*



**By Billy Birdwell**  
**Chief, Public Affairs**  
**Photo by Jonas Jordan**

After almost 25 years housed in the Juliette Gordon Low Federal Building, Savannah District leadership now seeks a new home for the District with more suitable space to meet the growing mission.

The JGL Federal Building has served

the District well, but shows its age.

"There are several reasons we started looking for a new facility," said Tommy Hill, realty specialist, Savannah District Real Estate Division. "We're crowding people into spaces that just don't fit the needs of the District, for example there's poor access for our public customers and contractors vis-à-vis parking; the facility has 25 year-old utilities; the information technology infrastructure simply can't keep up with modern communication; and the HVAC system is insufficient."

Savannah District leadership wants this move to take place as soon as possible and has two major options available to ensure the District's new home will last at least as long as the current one has. Hill and others on the District's Process Delivery Team narrowed the choices to:

- Assign existing or future office space at Hunter Army Airfield to the District; or
- Request General Services Administration to assign new space meeting current DoD standards and the District's growth needs somewhere in the surrounding community.

Hill said that the Savannah District will remain in the JGL Building for now. Several steps still need to be taken

even before the Corps of Engineers can approve a move. "We're still working with higher headquarters to determine the funding for the move. We're also working with the GSA and our own building experts to fully define our needs and space requirements."

Many criteria go into the decision to move and where, including costs, location, and security. "Funding also plays a big role," Hill said.

Col. Ed Kertis, the District Commander, met recently with representatives from the GSA to discuss that agency's design program and timelines.

"I'm pushing the staff to get us into a new and better facility as soon as possible," Kertis said. "We have a bigger mission than we did in 1985. We need a better place to complete that mission."

Planning for the new facility has just started, Hill said. "We will keep the workforce informed about changes that impact their lives."

Be sure to check-out the District Gateway and the next issue of the Castle for up-to-date information regarding the Savannah District Relocation.



# Welcome to the Savannah District

## PROMOTIONS

Forbes, Matthew S.	Operations
Hayward, Diane Mincey	Real Estate
Hayslip, Paul D.	Operations
Mack, Jonathan Lowell	Construction
Mathieu, Terrence S.	Construction
Miller, Jeremy D.	Construction
Murphy, Jennifer L.	Contracting
Page, Equilla R.	Resource Mgmt.
Ragland, Joseph F.	Construction
Skinner, Benjamin M.	Engineering
Skipper, Jay H.	Construction
Stiwinter, Jason C.	Construction
Vera, Matthew T.	Construction
Yon, Benjamin N.	Construction

## NEW ARRIVALS

McManus, Codie A.	Construction
Moody, Ronnie G.	Engineering
Pleasant, Karen T.	Construction
Poindexter, David L.	Construction
Ransom, Sonya M.	Construction
Ross, Stephen P.	Construction
Sanchez, Kevin L.	Construction
Sheall, Ivan L.	Construction
Smith, Gregory D.	Construction
Smith, Robert A.	Project Mgmt.
Thomas, Maria D.	Construction
Torchia, Hillary R.	Construction
Wallace, Jr., William	Engineering

## SEPARATIONS

Burgess, Edgar E.	Construction
Bridges, Jimmy C.	Operations
Coolidge, Conrad F.	Real Estate
Dial, Kenneth R.	Operations
Ford, Larry	Construction
Kushinsky, Denese J.	Contracting
Lewis, Thomas J.	Operations
Owens, Oronda J.	Real Estate
Prince, Thomas R.	Operations
Rigby, John W.	Project Mgmt.
Rosario, Efrain	Project Mgmt.
Vanfosen, John R.	Construction
Wimberly, Taylor L.	Construction
Gibbs, Jonathan R.	Real Estate
Gill, Briana C.	Operations
Jacobs, A. Michael	Project Mgmt.
Foxx, Leslie D.	Public Affairs

## NEW ARRIVALS

Bartham, Billy Loyd	Construction
Bass, Barbara A.	Construction
Bowling, Angela J	Engineering
Chosie, Carmen	Construction
Custer, Joe L.	Operations
Epperley, Tracey L.	Proj. Mgmt.
Gergle, Joafnne M.	Proj. Mgmt.
Gustashaw, Jr., David H.	Engineering
Holcolmb, Warren S.	Construction
King, Joseph L.	Construction
Lennane, Jason	Engineering
Mardis, Ashley N.	Construction



**Cole William Wright**  
Son of Craig Wright,  
Resource Management  
Born January 27, 2009  
9lbs. 7oz



**Malachi Anthony Bryan**  
Son of Rohan Bryan,  
Resource Management  
Born November 28, 2008  
8lbs. 15oz



**Davis Judah Ratner**  
Son of Dawn Ratner,  
Helpdesk  
Born December 18, 2008  
9lbs. 13oz



**Marleigh Mundle**  
Daughter of Verona Mundle,  
Contracting Division  
Born November 19, 2008  
6lbs. 2oz

**Note:** If you have a birth announcement of a child or grandchild, let us know and we will place it in the Castle. Send your announcement to Rashida Banks at [rashida.u.banks@usace.army.mil](mailto:rashida.u.banks@usace.army.mil).



Dan Parrott, former chief, Civil Programs and Project Management Branch, was presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury medal by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief, Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, during a townhall on January 7.

Parrott was awarded in recognition of his efforts supporting the Engineer Regiment as it performs its primary missions of mobility, counter-mobility, survivability, sustainment, and topographic engineering. Parrott retired from the District February 14.