



MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DISTRICT TO WELCOME NEW COMMANDER ON JUNE 4

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – Col. Jeffrey M. Hall will take command of the [Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), from Col. Edward J. “Ed” Kertis, in a formal ceremony at 10 a.m., June 4.

[Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite](#), commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ [South Atlantic Division](#), will officiate at the formal change-of-command ceremony in the DeSoto Hilton Hotel in Savannah’s Historic District.

The Savannah District manages a multi-billion dollar military construction program at 12 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina, and oversees water resources and development activities in Georgia and portions of South Carolina. The District also oversees civil projects including the maintenance of the Savannah and Brunswick harbors in Georgia; dams and lakes Hartwell, Russell, and Thurmond on the Georgia-South Carolina border; and environmental and regulatory permits for Georgia. The Savannah District supports worldwide missions related to real estate, master planning, and construction of barracks and other facilities to enhance overseas contingency operations. The Savannah District traces its heritage in Savannah to 1829.

Hall comes to Savannah District from the headquarters of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Dallas, Texas, where he headed the military retailer’s \$2.5 billion capital construction program and oversaw the maintenance of 3,100 facilities in 35 countries, five U.S. territories, and all 50 states. In addition he held various engineer positions in the U.S. and overseas including Texas, New York, Oklahoma, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Iraq and Kuwait. Hall previously commanded the Corps of Engineers’ Buffalo District in New York. He holds a bachelor’s degree in geology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and master’s degrees in general administration from Central Michigan University and in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Kertis, completing the standard three-year-tour leading the Savannah district, will become the commander of the Corps of Engineers’ Pacific Ocean Division in Honolulu, Hawaii. During his tenure in Savannah he oversaw a significant growth in the military construction program and managed Savannah River basin water resources during record-breaking drought. Before commanding the Savannah District, Kertis held various engineer positions in North Carolina, New York, Belgium, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

– 30 –

Media covering this event should arrive at the DeSoto Hilton Hotel, 15 W. Liberty St., by 9:45 a.m. A brief time will be available after the ceremony for an initial interview with the new commander. Please contact the Savannah District Corporate Communications office, 912-652-5014, for details.

Official portraits of the outgoing/incoming commanders available by calling the Corporate Communications Office.