



Clean Water Act News

Volunteers For Disaster Relief

In Spring of 2011, several violent storm systems created tornados that touched down all across the central plains and the southeast states. The devastation from these storms has resulted in massive property damage and loss of life. The Savannah District sent more than two dozen volunteers to aid the Federal Emergency Management Agency in clean-up and recovery efforts. These efforts included debris clean-up, safety situations, and public communications.



TUSCALOOSA, Alabama — Devastation lines the lake. Trees uprooted; foliage broken and stripped; walls and windows shattered; vehicles mangled and overturned. Photo by George Jumara

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is part of the federal government's unified national response to disasters and emergencies. The USACE assists the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency by coordinating and organizing civil works and engineering – related support. (continued on Page 2)

Regulators In Other Roles

Savannah District's Regulatory Division has provided volunteer personnel to support the Overseas Contingency Operations (formerly the Global War on Terror). The mission for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of operation is to:

Deliver infrastructure and services in support of the Iraqi and Afghan governments and the Coalition Forces' counter-insurgency operations aimed at protecting the population and neutralizing the insurgency. On order, provide sustainable development projects for the Iraqi and Afghan people that employ the populace, build skilled human capital, and promote the future stability.

The first member of Regulatory Division to deploy was Alan Miller. In 2005, Alan went to Mosul, Iraq, as a Project Manager for the Engineering and Construction Division. While there, he managed the Communication & Transportation Sector, Electricity Sector, and Public Works & Water Sector projects in the Gulf Region Division, North District. In 2007, he went to Tikrit, Iraq, as the Project/Program Manager for the Ninewa province, overseeing all USACE projects and serving as the local USACE representative to officials of US Agencies/Departments, military, and the Iraq government. He also served as the District's key representative to other Area Offices, contractors, and US State Department's Project & Contracting Office. During both of his deployments, he facilitated direct construction efforts for numerous "cradle to grave" projects, in addition to working with large Design-Build firms/military engineer units/US State Department, and Gulf Region Division Headquarters to facilitate and expedite reconstruction efforts of many other projects. When asked about his deployments, Miller says: "These were difficult missions. Not only do you work for long hours at a high operational tempo, but you are in an actual war-zone. However, I would not trade this experience for anything. The personal and professional fulfillment cannot be described."

Currently Mrs. Pat Beamon is in Afghanistan. Pat states: "I wanted a change but what change I did not know. I have met that need for a change and (continued on Page 4)

Inside this Issue:

Volunteers For Disaster Relief	1
Regulators In Other Roles	1
Regulatory Workshops	1
USACE Disaster Support	3
Emergency Permits	5

REGULATORY WORKSHOPS: Stakeholder workshops will be held in Savannah on August 30, 2011, at the Coastal Georgia Center, and in the Atlanta area on August 17, 2011, at the Maloof Auditorium, in Decatur. These sessions will discuss a variety of topics to include: Clean Water Act JD Guidance, AVATAR, 2012 NWP, Data Sheets for the 87 Delineation Manual Supplement, Section 404 Exemptions, and more.

Volunteers For Disaster Relief

(continued from Page 1)

When the call came in requesting volunteers from Savannah District, people responded in heroic fashion. Personnel from all disciplines answered the call, including several volunteers from Regulatory Division. Of the more than two dozen personnel that Savannah District ultimately sent, two were from Regulatory Division. Both Mr. Joe Rivera and Ms. Chikita Sanders work in Regulatory Division's Piedmont Branch in Morrow, Georgia.

A Hinesville, Georgia, native, Joe graduated from Valdosta State University in 2003 with a BS in Cell Biology. He has been employed by the USACE Savannah District as a Regulatory Specialist for the past 8 years. Joe was deployed to the Alabama tornado debris removal effort as a Quality Assurance Inspector. As such, he worked on various stages of the cleanup including right-of-way debris removal, stump extractions, and "calling the load" from a temporary "tower," a covered 10-foot square x 12-foot high wood structure at the debris dump entry point. He performed private property debris removal eligibility assessments under "rights-of-entry" to establish access to various properties. He was responsible for the daily/hourly monitoring of contractor operations to assure that contract requirements were being met, providing daily reports of debris removal progress, and detailing any deficiencies and observations to the quality assurance supervisor. He was also responsible for ensuring safe work practices of all contractors. Joe explained: "The position required 95% fieldwork throughout a 7-day work week and daily interaction with contractor personnel."



Joe says: "The ability to assist the Mobile District during their time of need was an invaluable experience. The opportunity to meet many others from within our Corps family and work with the best of our team was the highlight of this mission."

a construction and debris crew, overseeing a segregation crew, house demolitions, tree stump measurement and pickup, tree extractions, marking learners and hangers as well as monitoring private property rights-of-entries." She further explains that in college "we were required to present our research prior to graduating. These presentations from college coupled with the speaking engagements and outreach activities through the Regulatory Division has greatly prepared me for this deployment. We are in constant contact with the community and training from FAMU and Regulatory has greatly contributed to my success during this deployment. This deployment has tremendously strengthened my desire to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan with USACE and assist with those missions. A successful deployment is accomplished by a whole team. Talking to my parents and twin sister daily helps me to stay connected to the rest of the world. In addition, a special thanks is given to the Piedmont Branch for temporarily taking on additional work so that I could participate."

The Regulatory Division family, as well as the rest of the Savannah District, are proud of the sacrifice these individuals were willing to make to get this very important mission accomplished.

Chikita began her career with Savannah District as a Department of the Army Intern, after graduating with a biology major at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). She has been with the USACE for 3 years, working in both the Coastal and Piedmont Branches. About this deployment, she states: "Being among the first to arrive at my temporary duty station has allowed me the opportunity to take part in every phase of the debris cleanup mission. Within the first few days I was in a site 'tower.' Then I went on to other projects, overseeing a vegetation crew, overseeing a



Chikita states: "Participating in the 2011 Spring Tornadoes cleanup has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had since joining the Savannah District Regulatory Division three years ago."

The Corps has been engaged in disaster recovery since 1882

The Corps of Engineers received its first federal disaster recovery assignment in February 1882 when heavy floods along the Mississippi River forced thousands of people to flee their homes and seek refuge on levees and hilltops. Although Congress provided \$100,000 for recovery supplies, the Army Quartermaster Corps could not deliver the desperately needed food and tents to the shivering refugees. Chief of Engineers, Brig. Gen. Horatio G. Wright, proposed that Corps boats could deliver the supplies but noted that the vessels could not be used for disaster recovery without congressional authorization. Congress pushed through a disaster recovery bill that very day, and soon Corps vessels were steaming up and down the river, plucking people off levees and rooftops, and dispensing hundreds of tons of supplies to the needy. Over the next six weeks, Corps steamboats, snagboats, and towboats delivered hundreds of tons of desperately needed supplies to communities all along the Mississippi.



In 1906, the Corps called on its engineer troops to assist with disaster recovery efforts following the San Francisco, California, earthquake. The massive quake—measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale—struck the city in the early hours of the morning of 18 April. Roused from their beds at nearby Fort Mason, 150 men of the First Battalion of Engineers were the first troops to enter San Francisco and quickly began patrolling the devastated city to keep order. Soon after the earthquake subsided, a new danger emerged: dozens of fires were burning across the city, and with the water mains broken, the city's firefighters were powerless to stop them. Fleeing both the earthquake and the subsequent conflagration, thousands of frightened city residents descended on Fort Mason, where engineer troops worked around the clock to feed and shelter the refugees. By 19 April, fires in the city were burning out of control, and the engineers were forced to undertake a new and dangerous mission: blowing up hundreds of buildings to establish a firebreak to prevent the flames from consuming the western part of the city. Ultimately the firebreak held, and two days later the San Francisco fires were finally brought under control.

On 16 April 1947, the Corps responded to a tremendous explosion in the port of Texas City, Texas. Following a shipboard fire, a freighter loaded with 2,400 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded with a blast so intense that vibrations were felt sixty-five miles away. Fires and secondary explosions soon broke out all along the waterfront, and sixteen hours later, a second freighter loaded with ammonium nitrate also exploded. The two explosions turned Texas City into an inferno, killing five hundred people and injuring thousands more.

Immediately after the first explosion, Galveston District Engineer, Col. D. W. Griffiths, rushed to Texas City and coordinated recovery operations from City Hall. The first task was to get the fires under control and evacuate the area. During that initial frenzy of activity, Corps personnel helped remove the dead and injured, drove emergency vehicles, set up kitchens for relief workers, patrolled the harbor, and maintained an emergency communications network. Colonel Griffiths also asked the Fourth Army for reinforcements, and as other Army units arrived, Corps personnel helped integrate the incoming units with local recovery efforts already underway.

Today, the Corps retains its mission to respond to disasters—be they floods, hurricanes, tornadoes or manmade emergencies—and to assist with rescue, relief, and recovery efforts alongside other federal, state, and private organizations.

Taken from: (Historical Vignette 036)

Regulators In Other Roles

(continued from Page 1)

I am enjoying my tour. It is not a place for everyone and you have to want to be here and be committed.” As an Administrative Support Assistant, Pat works directly for District Programs Management, Army National Security Force. She shares the support of the entire Programs & Project Management Division, which consists of the Afghanistan National Army, Afghan National Police, Infrastructure and Planning, Military Construction, Program and Analysis, Project Management; and the United States Agency for International Development. There are over 115 personnel that she provides administrative support to that includes timekeeping; processing of all travel packets for Rest & Recuperation (R&R), End of Tour (EOT), Curtailments, TDY, and emergency travel. Pat also assists in overseeing the Performance Award Program by tracking, coordinating, and ensuring that awards are submitted correctly and in a timely manner before actual processing. These are just a few of her responsibilities. Pat explains: “The work day can be long and very fast paced but I just move with the flow and prioritize my work as the need arises. Since being in Afghanistan, I see the Corps’ mission is vital to this area and I am so Blessed to be a part of it all. I came to Kabul, Afghanistan, with a desire and a sincere purpose and I am accomplishing them at this very moment.”



Ms. Beamon says: “I understand the importance of our work here, to help build and re-build facilities for job skills, education, employment, and stability.”

mental stewardship.” During her USACE career, she has gained experience in both the Planning and Regulatory programs; and now has learned the O & M program. Carol says: “My biggest take-a-way is a thorough understanding of Civil Works from all angles. In this position, I have been responsible for coordinating the O & M budget. I have also had oversight of the remaining \$78 M in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects which helped Savannah District accomplish a large amount of maintenance backlog at the power plants, dams and recreation areas at the Hartwell, Richard B. Russell and J. Strom Thurmond lake projects.” As the Savannah Harbor Expansion Study process continues, Ms. Bernstein has had the opportunity to participate in completing the Freshwater Control System at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Not only is this high profile project important to mitigation for previous Savannah Harbor impacts, but the project rehabilitated the old rice trunk structures that maintain freshwater habitat at the Refuge.

Russell Kaiser, Chief, Regulatory Division, states: “What we get in return from these other assignments is a more well rounded workforce. The experience and knowledge that come from these opportunities is priceless to a learning organization.”

In addition to these overseas operations, there are other regulators that are lending their expertise to different offices within the Savannah District. Jeffrey King, Chief, Special Projects Section, Piedmont Branch, was asked to help address responses to comments received during the public notice period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP). The request was made by the Mobile Planning Division in February 2011. “The effort has been very rewarding,” King said, “many comments have focused on issues concerning wetlands.” Jeff has taken his knowledge of coastal wetlands and applied it when addressing the public’s concerns. “Our responses have included a review of published scientific literature with additional information specific to the anticipated impacts and mitigation using a functional approach.” Jeff’s involvement with the SHEP has expanded to include the development of revised documents and participation in agency meetings. The information prepared by Jeff will be included in the Final EIS.

From September 2010 through the present, Ms. Carol Bernstein, Chief, Coastal Branch, Regulatory Division, has had the opportunity to serve as the Deputy Chief, Operations Division. Carol states: “It has been a very dynamic and challenging experience as I have come to learn the Operations and Maintenance (O & M) business lines including navigation, hydropower, recreation, water supply, flood risk management, and environ-

Emergency Permit Procedures

With the severe storm events this past spring and the current hurricane season predicting several major hurricanes to impact the US this year, it is important for Regulatory Division to be able to help out in case of a disaster. For emergencies, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) does have a permit process in place for activities that may require a Department of the Army Permit. As described in 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 325.2(e)(4), an “emergency” is a situation that would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process an application under standard procedures.



The Division Engineer has the authority to approve special processing for emergency situations. The District Engineer (DE) must determine whether an emergency permit response is warranted. If yes, the DE must recommend appropriate special permitting procedures to the Division Engineer, who will instruct the DE as to further processing of such applications. Potential applicants need to notify the DE as soon as possible by contacting their local USACE Regulatory office and should not begin any work until notified they may proceed. The applicant's notification to USACE should be in writing (email is acceptable) and include the following information:

- (1) Name of responsible party and agent representing the applicant.
- (2) Written description of the location of the activity site, to include latitude and longitude of the project center point.
- (3) Name of nearest named waterway.
- (4) Description of the situation.
- (5) Reason applicant believes the situation is an “Emergency.”
- (6) Construction methods to correct the situation:
 - (a) Would a previously existing structure or fill be replaced?
 - (b) Would there be any placement of fill in jurisdictional areas not previously filled?
 - (c) Would there be any dredging? How? Where would dredged material be deposited?
 - (d) Would a stream be filled, dredged, channelized, diverted or altered?
 - (e) Would the project be just restoring uplands that existed prior to the event?
 - (f) Would any access roads be required? If so, would they cross a stream or wetland? Would they be permanent?
 - (g) Would any detour roads be required? If so, would they cross a stream or wetland?
 - (h) Would culverts be completely replaced or installed? (Perennial stream culverts will be an arch span or embedded 20%.)
 - (i) How long will it take to complete the work in jurisdictional areas?
- (7) Quantities of materials.
- (8) Types of materials.
- (9) Source of building materials.
- (10) Preliminary drawings.
- (11) Location map.
- (12) Plan view drawings showing pre-construction situation and current proposal.
- (13) Section view drawings showing pre-construction situation and current proposal.
- (14) Photos of site.
- (15) Statement from applicant acknowledging the following:
 - (a) All mitigation, as required by USACE, will be performed.
 - (b) The work shall be performed in a manner that would avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the US, including wetlands to the maximum extent practicable.
 - (c) Should historic or cultural resources be discovered during the work, all work will immediately cease. The USACE and State Historic Preservation Division office will be immediately notified.
 - (d) No impacts will occur to federally-listed threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.
 - (e) The work will be completed in an expeditious manner.
 - (f) In areas of temporary wetland fill, the impacted area will be restored as near as possible to pre-emergency conditions.

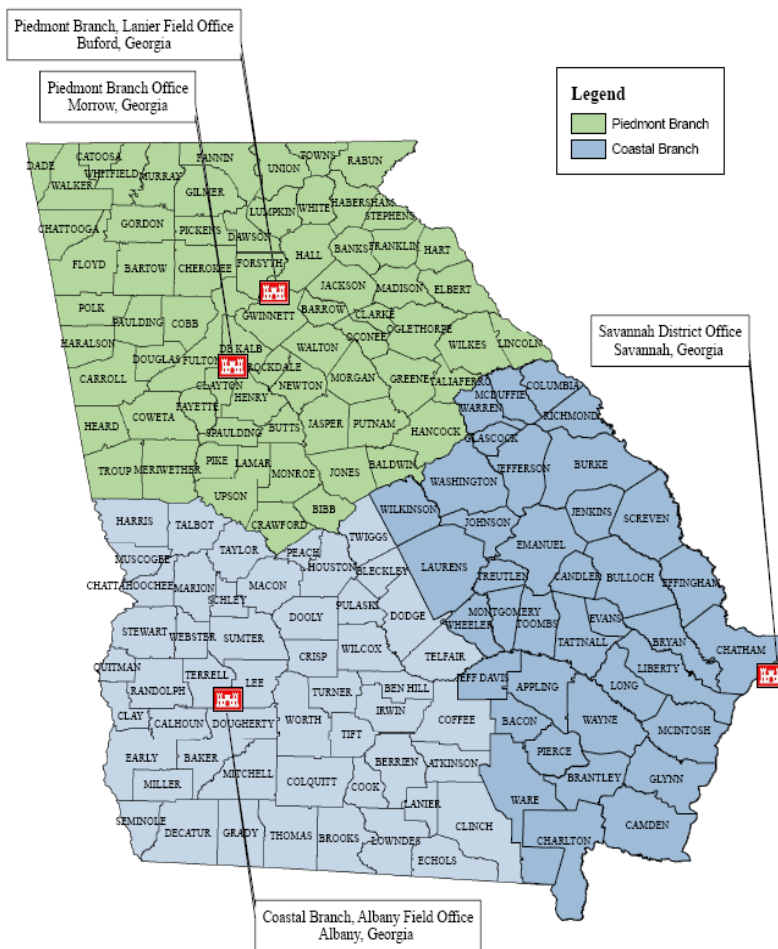
Savannah District Regulatory Offices

SAVANNAH DISTRICT OFFICE AND
COASTAL BRANCH OFFICE
ATTN: CESAS-RD OR CESAS-RD-C
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GA 31401-3640
TEL: 800-448-2402 OR 912-652-5050

ALBANY FIELD OFFICE
1104 N. WESTOVER BLVD, UNIT 9
ALBANY, GA 31707
TEL: 229-430-8566/8567

PIEDMONT BRANCH OFFICE
ATTN: CESAS-RD-P
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GA 30260-1777
TEL: 678-422-2735/2720

LANIER FIELD OFFICE
ATTN: CESAS-RD-P
P.O. BOX 528
BUFORD, GA 30515
TEL: 770-904-2365/2509/6570



Do you know your Regulatory Staff?



Ms. Sarah Wise (formerly Von Waldner) was born and raised in Richmond Hill, Georgia. She grew up across the street from the Ogeechee River and subsequently spent most of her childhood summers swimming and fishing in the river. In April 2005, Sarah began her career with Savannah District as a student-hire in Emergency Management Division. During her tenure there, she provided administrative support to natural disaster missions including the district's emergency response for Hurricane Katrina. In 2007, she accepted a position with Regulatory Division. In December 2009, Sarah graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a BS in Biology. Sarah is now Regulatory's liaison for the Georgia Ports Authority and is currently focusing on dredging projects in both the Brunswick and Savannah Harbors. However, she continues to support Emergency Management when needed. Most recently, Sarah provided administrative support for the Winter Storms Mission that occurred this past February. Her responsibilities included deploying the Temporary Power Primary Response Team to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Sarah is also a newlywed. In November 2010, she married Mr. Travis Wise of Richmond Hill, Georgia. She enjoys reading and spending time with friends and family.