



Savannah District FY11 Accomplishments

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Savannah District Team:



“Congratulations on an extremely successful FY11. I am very proud of each of you because it took the entire team to execute an unbelievable program. The mighty Savannah District continues to lead the South Atlantic Division and USACE in many metrics and set examples of what GREAT looks like. We overcame many challenges—like getting the budget so late in the year, which required us to execute the program in less than four months. The phenomenal culture of the district shined through again. You demonstrated exceptional technical competence, displayed unmatched teamwork, and exhibited the never-give-up spirit. In my mind, these qualities make Savannah District the best district in USACE. These highlights and accomplishments are a direct reflection of the talented and dedicated employees we have in the Savannah District. Thank you for your hard work and support, as the district could not accomplish our mission without you!”

– Col. Jeff Hall, Commander, USACE Savannah District

What we accomplished:

We placed more than \$1.4 billion in construction during FY11.

This placement included \$1.16 billion in Military Construction (105 projects); \$270 million in Operations and Maintenance (130 projects); and \$11 million in Civil Works (8 projects).

We turned over 196 projects to customers in FY11.

The turnover included \$1.52 billion in contract value of 47 MILCON-funded projects; \$660 million in contract value for 22 BRAC-funded projects; \$300 million in contract value for 117 O&M-funded projects, and \$24 million in contract value for five Civil Works-funded projects. The District closed out 238 projects in FY11.

We executed 2,455 contract actions totaling \$1.1 billion in FY11.

Through innovative initiatives, our contracting team executed the FY11 workload on schedule. The district also supported small businesses throughout the region with \$598 million in contracting opportunities, exceeding the 35 percent small business district goal and achieving a small business goal of 51 percent!

MILITARY PROGRAM

Our team serves as the Army’s lead agency for engineering, design, military construction and real estate services at 11 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina. Our projects range from barracks, headquarters buildings and training ranges to hospitals, child care facilities and aircraft hangars.

It’s been a fast-paced, customer-driven year, but we did it! We executed a challenging workload under tight deadlines—and we delivered on time and at cost. And most importantly, we made our customers happy. Each year, military installations are surveyed to determine their satisfaction with engineering agencies that support military construction. For the third consecutive time and the fifth time in six years, the Savannah District received the **highest customer satisfaction overall score** among large districts with an overall score of 4.71 out of a possible 5.

Military Construction (MILCON) Overview:

- SAS awarded 42 of 43 MILCON projects (97 percent)
- In addition, four Unspecified Minor Military Construction projects valued at \$6.9 million
- Total awards: 46 projects valued at \$847.7 million
- Executed 160 reimbursable projects valued at \$199.1 million

Major MILCON Accomplishments:

- **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program**

We are substantially complete with the execution of the BRAC program. From FY07 through FY11, the district executed 59 BRAC projects valued at \$1.8 billion at Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart, Fort Gillem, Fort Jackson, Moody AFB, Robins AFB, and Seymour Johnson AFB. During this period, we also executed \$4.7 billion in other MILCON (non-BRAC) projects—an unprecedented workload for the Savannah District.

- **Armor School Relocation Construction – Fort Benning**

The design and construction program for the relocation of the Armor School from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning, Ga., is substantially complete. This mission involved Base Realignment and Closure-Army, and both Military Construction-Army and Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization enablers (such as the Benning Hospital and Building 4). SAS built a small city at Harmony Church, Fort Benning, and more than 160 miles of roads and trails to access the recently-completed training ranges. The program from FY07 through FY11 consisted of 66 projects with a total value of \$1.96 billion.

- **Building 4 Renovation to the Maneuver Center of Excellence HQ, Fort Benning**

This was the largest renovation project in the Army at \$168 million. The project consisted of the total renovation of Marshall Hall (Main Tower 340,000 SF, East Wing 90,000 SF, West Wing 90,000 SF). The project also included the renovation of all six floors (180,000 SF administrative area, auditorium, classrooms, a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, and a food court). A dedication ceremony was held Sept. 23, 2011 that named the facility after two Medal of Honor recipients, Spc. Ross McGinnis and Cpl. Jerry Wickam.



[Maneuver Center of Excellence HQ \(Bldg 4\), Fort Benning](#)
[Click to see more photos](#)

- **FORSCOM/USARC Headquarters, Fort Bragg**

This was a complex design-build project that consisted of a 631,749 SF command headquarters building; 36,000 SF Local Processing Center; 18,000 SF Disaster Recovery Center; 15,000 SF DOIM Admin Facility, and 7,000 SF Information Technology Control building addition. The final contract amount for this project was \$304.2 million. The project was completed one day ahead of schedule, within budget, and with zero contract time growth. These facilities enabled the Army Forces Command and Army Reserve Command headquarters to relocate from Fort McPhearson to Fort Bragg to meet the BRAC deadline. A ribbon cutting was held Aug. 1, 2011, with flags waving and some very happy customers.



[FORSCOM/USARC Headquarters, Fort Bragg, N.C.](#)
[Click to see more photos](#)

- **4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Complex, Fort Stewart**

In the spring of 2011, the Savannah District completed the construction of a “mini-city” at Fort Stewart, Ga.—the \$306 million Brigade Combat Team Complex. The 457-acre project site consists of 20 barracks buildings, a dining facility, a brigade/battalion headquarters, six company operations facilities, six tactical equipment maintenance facilities, and a physical fitness center. The timing for completing this project was of the utmost importance, as the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (3rd Infantry Division) had just returned from a deployment to Iraq and came home to brand new, world-class facilities.



[4th IBCT Complex, Fort Stewart](#)
[Click to see more photos](#)

- **National Security Agency (NSA) Georgia Facility, Fort Gordon**

This \$340 million state-of-art facility is critical in providing the space needed for NSA's expanding operations throughout the world. At 500,000 SF, this secure, controlled facility was built to accommodate sophisticated data processing, communications and intelligence systems for the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center. The project included extensive site development on nearly 160 acres, including the construction of a new electrical substation and parking for more than 2,400 assigned personnel. The project was recognized as a finalist for the 2010 Intelligence Community Non-MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) Team of the Year Award for superior performance.

Centers of Standardization (CoS) Program

The Savannah District is the center of expertise in designing standard building plans for eight types of Army and Air Force facilities constructed throughout the continental United States.

FY11 Program: 70 projects totaling \$1.1 billion

The Centers of Standardization (CoS) Program creates standard designs for Army and Air Force facilities used throughout the continental U.S. The standardization of USACE processes and facilities has resulted in significant cost and time savings in executing the military construction program. Savannah District is the CoS for eight types of facilities, including Company Operations Facilities, Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities, and Brigade and Battalion Headquarters.



Savannah District is the CoS for Brigade Headquarters facilities, such as this 1st BCT HQ at Fort Stewart.

2 new CoS facilities added

Our CoS team was selected to take on two new standard designs—a General Purpose Headquarters and Air Force Weather Support Buildings. The district established a new CoS team to manage these additional standard designs.

Leaders in energy efficiencies

The CoS team develops 100 percent design solutions using in-house staff and resources. In fact, we are the first district to develop working designs that incorporate energy efficiencies as a first step in achieving compliance with the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). We completed successful demonstration projects with EISA features at Fort Campbell, Ky., for the TEMF, COF and Battalion/Brigade HQ facilities.

These designs are significant because they allow us to determine what is realistically achievable with current technology, in regards to improving mechanical system efficiencies, eliminating thermal bridging, and increasing the building's thermal barrier. We can assess these results before having to incur the additional expense of introducing alternate energy sources, which would then result in full compliance with EISA. These designs will be posted on the [CoS website](#) to serve as Adapt-Build models for other Districts developing designs for similar projects in the FY13 and out-year programs.

Environmental Program

Savannah District's Environmental & IIS team works with a variety of military, federal and state customers to manage environmental restoration and environmental quality projects, as well as clean-up at Formerly Used Defense Sites throughout the Southeastern U.S.

Program Overview:

- Our FY11 schedule was \$67.2 million in projects, including in-house projects and contracts
- We received additional requests from our customers for more projects during the year, bringing us to a total of \$73.9 million
- Execution Rate: 110 percent

The Savannah District awarded 153 task orders (\$54.9 million) and 10 contracts under the Environmental and IIS Program. The bulk of the workload came in the final quarter of FY11, when 74 of the 153 tasks and 4 of 10 contracts were awarded. A tremendous effort was made by the district team to execute these contracts on a short schedule to meet execution goals. About 85 percent of these contract obligations were made to 8(a) small business contractors. The 8(a) Small Business Development program aims to bolster qualified minority and other disadvantaged businesses through federal contracts and other preferences.

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program

[The FUDS program](#) protects human health and the environment and improves public safety by cleaning up contaminations and munitions at former defense sites. The FUDS FY11 program was successfully completed on 27 Sep 2011, despite receiving an additional \$15.7 million in funding in the final quarter of the year. This increase in funding doubled the original FY11 budget. Additionally, the District developed and implemented the UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) educational website for children, the [UXO Safety Club](#).



[UXO Safety Clubhouse website](#)

Civil Works Program

The Civil Works program is diverse and far reaching. It includes:

- Maintaining the Savannah and Brunswick harbors to ensure that commerce has safe and adequate access to and from the Georgia coast;
- Operating and maintaining three hydroelectric dams and reservoirs along the upper Savannah River—Hartwell, Richard B. Russell and J. Strom Thurmond;
- Working in partnership with federal and state agencies to manage water resources along the Savannah River basin;
- Assisting with hurricane evaluation information

It's been a very productive year for the Civil Works Program! The team has achieved significant milestones. In FY11, we executed approximately \$75.1 million in obligations and approximately \$92 million in expenditures across the regular and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Investigations, Construction, and Operations and Maintenance appropriations.

In most budget categories, we were “green” in executing the funding provided to us by Congress. “Green” means we achieved a fiscal execution rate of more than 95 percent based on our planned obligations and expenditures.

Specific Major Project Accomplishments:

- **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP)**

The SHEP team finalized our analysis related to each harbor deepening alternative—dredging to depths from 42 to 48 feet—in detail using computer models of water and wave actions, computer-simulated ship movements, and analyzed engineering and economic data as part of the [General Re-evaluation Report \(GRR\)](#). In addition, the Savannah District has prepared an [Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#) that describes the impacts of each depth alternative. By law, we also must provide a mitigation plan for the significant environmental impacts. In other words, the Corps identifies what steps must be taken to avoid impacts, reduce impacts and replace/compensate for impacts to the environment at each alternative dredging depth.

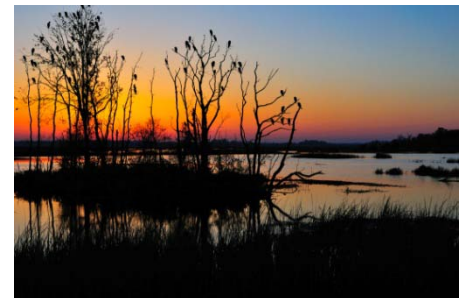


[Click to visit SHEP webpage](#)

In November 2010, the draft GRR and EIS were published for public comment and a public workshop was held to ensure that the community understood our work and the draft outcomes. During a public comment period, we received more than 3,000 comments and have addressed them all. The draft report also underwent review by experts throughout the Corps and private sector. These included the District Quality Control, Independent External Peer Review, and Agency Technical Review, all of which are complete. The GRR & EIS have been updated, and the first final version is written pending the resolution of four remaining key issues.

- **Savannah National Wildlife Refuge**

The labor-intensive job of diverting fresh water into the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge has become easier with help from our Savannah team. The district has replaced the old wooden structures with custom-built diversion gates. At a cost of \$12.5 million, the new stainless steel structures modernize and automate the process of controlling water in the area. The gates are much easier to operate and maintain than the previous design, and most importantly, ensure adequate fresh water enters the refuge from the Savannah River. Previously, wildlife managers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could only route water to 3,000 acres of wetlands for waterfowl; with the gate improvements the water management area has doubled to 6,000 acres.



[Savannah National Wildlife Refuge](#)

It's important to note that the work, which started in May 2010 and was finished in October 2011, was awarded to a small business 8(a) contractor. The 8(a) Small Business Development program aims to bolster qualified minority and other disadvantaged businesses through federal contracts and other preferences.

- **Hydropower—Super Powered!**

- **“Pump Back” Operations**

This year marked a milestone in water management on the upper Savannah River when the Savannah team began operating three reversible turbines at the Richard B. Russell Dam near Elberton, Ga., throughout the summer. Reversible turbines allow the Corps to re-use water already stored in the reservoir system multiple times to increase hydropower production.

The reversible units differ from regular generators in that, at night, when electrical power demands are low, they can operate in reverse direction to pump water from below the dam back upstream into Russell Lake. Then, the next day when peak power demand occurs, the additional water stored overnight can be re-used to generate electricity.

The Corps operated three of the four pump back units this summer. The fourth unit will join the others next year after workers complete critical maintenance on it. The team advertised the solicitation on 23 Sep 2011 for the installation of the Main Circuit Breakers/Static Frequency Converters, which will allow full pump back capability.

Combining the output of all eight turbines at Russell Dam (four reversible and four conventional), the power plant has a capacity of 668 megawatts of clean, renewable energy, making it the largest Corps power plant in the eastern United States. In fact, the dam can supply enough electricity to meet the annual energy needs of 60,000 households.

It's really an exceptional team effort by the Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond projects, and the Hydropower Technical Center, using the Federal Power Customer Funding program, to restore generating and pump back capacity and reliability. This effort resulted in having 19 of 20 units capable of generating power and three of four pump back units capable of executing pump back operations.

- **Oxygen Injection System**

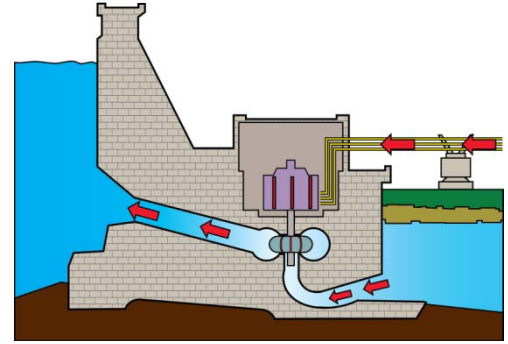
The Savannah team began operation this year of the long-awaited oxygen injection system that enhances fishing habitat along the upper portion of Thurmond Lake. Located five miles upstream from the Thurmond Dam, the oxygen system is designed to improve habitat for striped bass, a popular sportfish species that requires cooler temperatures and well-oxygenated water during the hot summer months.

The oxygen system consists of two above-ground, 20,000-gallon liquid oxygen tanks, which supply pure oxygen to a series of nine underwater diffuser tubes. Each tube was strategically placed at depths of 80 to 120 feet below the lake's surface.

Before the O2 system was installed, no more than two pump back units could be operated during summer months, as environmental studies during testing of the turbines showed that running more than two pump back units would compromise oxygen levels in striped bass habitat below the Russell Dam (in the upper reaches of Thurmond Lake). Operation of the O2 units allowed the Russell Power Plant to operate more than two pump units at a time from June to September, increasing the amount of pump storage and peak power production from the plant this summer.

- **Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study**

The comprehensive study will address the current and future needs of the basin for flood risk management, hydropower, water supply and water quality, fish and wildlife management, recreation, and other water resource related issues. The federal share of the study—\$ 493,000—must be matched by the states of Georgia and South Carolina, the non-federal sponsors for the work. In an “out-of-the box” solution, the Savannah team coordinated with the sponsors and HQ USACE to add The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as a non-federal sponsor to the study. The



Pump back turbines allow the Corps to re-use water to generate hydropower



addition of TNC will allow the study to resume in FY12 and examine current needs of the basin and determine operational changes needed to better operate the three-reservoir system.

- **Drought Operations**

The Final Savannah River Basin Emergency Level 4 Drought Operations Environmental Impact Statement and Standard Operating Procedure are complete for a decision with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The finding followed a four-month study by the Savannah team and addressed comments from state and federal natural resource agencies and the general public.

- **Water Supply**

The Innovations for Water Supply and Management “Hedgehog” received \$100,000 to conduct an Aquifer, Storage, and Recovery Site Selection Study. (The term “Hedgehog” is from the book *Good to Great* and it signifies a part of the organization’s core mission.)

- **New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam**

The Savannah team coordinated with HQ USACE to transmit the contributed funds Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to the Assistant Secretary of Army (Civil Works). It will be used to update the Section 216 Report to repair and rehabilitate the lock and dam and transfer ownership to the City of North Augusta. The MOA was signed by HQ USACE on 28 September 2011.

- **Flood Risk Management**

Silver Jackets teams are collaborative state-led interagency teams, working together to reduce flood risk at the state level. Through the Silver Jackets program, the Corps, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, additional federal, state and sometimes local and Tribal agencies provide a unified approach to addressing a state’s priorities. This year the Georgia Silver Jackets Team was awarded \$100,000 to conduct a Flood Inundation Mapping Project for the Chattahoochee River Basin under this program. HQ USACE funded 12 projects nationwide.

- **Hurricane Evacuation Study and Training**

The Savannah team developed storm surge maps and evacuation zones for the coastal counties of Georgia. In addition, the district conducted hurricane evacuation training for a FEMA training course for the Southeast states, trained individual counties in Florida, trained the state of South Carolina, and two employees from the Charleston District.

Real Estate Program

Our full-service real estate team continued its exceptional service this year. The team buys, manages and sells land for both military and federal government use. The diverse workload spans a broad spectrum from management of recreational lake areas and timber harvesting to leasing military recruitment stations. It also includes land acquisition and property management overseas.

Military Leases & Acquisitions

- Acquired 21 leases in support of our overseas mission at \$2.6 million in annual rent
- Executed \$12 million for military recruiting facilities
- Processed lease amendment for expansion for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle facility in Kuwait with a total lease value of \$36 million annually
- Executed four major leases for the Army Medical Command that provide off-post medical facilities for soldiers and their families at Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart, and Fort Jackson, totaling approximately \$900,000 in annual rent
- Processed the transfer of approximately 10 acres of land and buildings to the Veterans Administration at Fort McPherson for a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action, valued at approximately \$12.5 million
- Acquired 15 acres of land for the Macon Army Reserve Center, totaling \$1.35 million
- Acquired four tracts totaling 16.5 acres at Shaw AFB for the North Gate Acquisition totaling \$427 million

Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP)

The Real Estate team also has the unique responsibility to administer the [Homeowners Assistance Program \(HAP\)](#). One part of the program assists eligible service members and federal civilians, including non-appropriated fund employees, who face financial loss when selling their primary residence homes under specified conditions. We have oversight for the eastern U.S. and Europe. This year the HAP team processed a record number of HAP benefit payments for **2,340 applicants totaling \$352 million in benefits.**



Forestry Mission

The Forest Resources section administered 121 new timber harvesting contracts and generated \$7.8 million for the military forestry program and \$1.5 million for the civil forestry program.

Regulatory Program

The Regulatory Division evaluates permit applications from developers, communities and private citizens who plan construction or excavation near streams and wetlands in the state of Georgia. The team also oversees one of the most robust mitigation banking programs in the nation. Mitigation banks are streams, wetlands or other aquatic areas that have been restored, established, enhanced, or preserved. These lands are used to generate credits that are sold to permittees as compensation for any environmental impacts associated with a USACE permit.

FY11 total Program Amount: \$5.3 million

Section 404 permits awarded: 722

Program Successes:

- **Successful budget execution—GREEN in all metrics**

The Regulatory Program closed out FY11 with a “GREEN” rating in all metrics. “Green” means we achieved a fiscal execution rate of more than 95 percent based on our planned obligations and expenditures.

- **Launch of online AVATAR**

The Regulatory team launched a new [interactive, web-based avatar](#) to assist customers as they complete application forms for Regulatory permits. The site uses the latest technology, animation and an avatar character similar to those used in computer games to explain the Regulatory process. The launch of the site has reduced the time for an applicant to submit a complete application.



[Click to view Regulatory avatar](#)

- **Savannah Airport Expansion Permit**

In May, the Savannah District and the Savannah Airport Commission held a signing ceremony marking the Corps' approval of a Regulatory permit application for an 890-acre expansion project at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport. The team put forth a tremendous effort to expedite the permitting process while developing a fair and balanced mitigation plan. The permit allows the development of a \$500 million expansion project by Gulfstream Aerospace that will add more than 1,000 jobs to the local Savannah economy.

P2 – Project Management Information System

Project managers throughout USACE use P2 as a standard tool to facilitate project planning, execution and management to meet requirements of the business process.

The Savannah District is ranked number one in USACE for both the Scheduled Actual Cost (99 percent) and the Baseline Summary Report (100 percent) metrics. The district maintained high-quality data to support PRB and DMR reporting, despite the conversion to a new version of the P2 software. This included creating approximately 500 Emergency Work Items during blackout of the system to ensure that project execution was not impacted. The team did an excellent job to overcome several challenges to make sure projects were tracked and executed successfully in this critical information system.

Emergency and Contingency Response

Savannah District's Emergency Management Division stands ready to deploy in response to defense operations and natural disasters, both at home and abroad. The district has one of the highest deployment rates in support of Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

FY11 Program Amount: \$1.9 million

Deployment Successes:

- **Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)**

The district deployed 28 voluntary team members to Iraq and Afghanistan during FY11 in support of OCO. To date, SAS has deployed more than 200 team members in support of OCO in Iraq and Afghanistan—one of the highest response rates in USACE. While overseas, our team members perform various roles—from resident engineers to quality assurance representatives to administrative assistants—to facilitate the construction of critical infrastructure and public facilities for these countries.

- **Alabama spring 2011 tornado recovery**

The spring tornadoes that struck Alabama and affected other areas in the Southeast created a multi-faceted response effort from various federal and state agencies, including FEMA and the Savannah District. SAS deployed 29 team members who volunteered for the relief effort. The teams managed debris clean-up, assessed safety situations, facilitated temporary housing for displaced residents and provided vital public facilities such as temporary police and fire stations.



[USACE response to Alabama tornadoes](#)

[Click for more information](#)

- **Kentucky winter 2011 ice storm recovery**

The District deployed 17 team members who volunteered to assist the USACE effort in Kentucky during the winter ice storms that struck the area.

- **Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) deployed to Iraq, June 2011**

Savannah District's 542nd Engineer Detachment, also known as a FEST team, is an 8-person Soldier and civilian team that deploys overseas with Army units and provides commanders with technical assessments, design and construction management services. The FEST [deployed this year](#) to support construction of the largest consulate in the world, which will house 1,600 employees. Their mission aids the transition as the U.S. military leaves Iraq and turns over continuing operations to the State Department.

Family Readiness Network (FRN)

Savannah District's FRN made great strides this year to build up the program and provide resources and support to the district's deployees and their families. The team hosted six events throughout the year and coordinated their first consolidated briefing (for the FEST and their family members) featuring representatives from other military resource groups. The FRN also launched several promotional materials this year, including a brochure and a new [web page](#).



The FRN briefed the FEST and family members on resources and support available to them.