

The

castle

Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

July/August 2009



Corps Day & Annual Awards Ceremony at

FORT PULASKI

CHARLES F. TRAINOR TEAM AWARD 2009
Military Project/Program/Process Team Of The Year
Renovation on Maneuver Center Headquarters (Bldg 4) Ft. Benning

Commander and District Engineer
Col. Edward J. Kertis

Corporate Communications Officer
Joyce McDonald

Editor
Rashida Banks

Staff Writers
Sandra Hudson
Rashida Banks
Mindy Anderson
Tracy Ammons

Layout
Rashida Banks

Authorization: The Castle is an authorized unofficial news magazine of the Savannah District. It is published eight times a year in accordance with provisions of Army Regulation 360-1, under supervision of the Public Affairs Office. It is prepared on a desktop publisher and printed by offset.

Circulation: 1,700 copies/issue.

Submissions: News, features, photographs and art are solicited; publication depends on general interest as judged by the editor. Direct queries to the editor: e-mail: Rashida.u.banks@usace.army.mil Phone (912) 652-5756; FAX (912) 652-5944. Mail submissions to the Public Affairs Office, Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Ga. 31402-0889. Contents, Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Army or this command. News copy is prepared in accordance with AP (Associated Press) Style Guide. All photos, unless otherwise credited, are official U.S. Army photos. For more information about the Savannah District, visit our home page at www.sas.usace.army.mil/castle/index.html

FRONT COVER

Photo of a Charles F. Trainor Team Award

BACK COVER

One of the many figures on display during the Remembrance: A Memorial Exhibit held at the Coastal Georgia Center, 301 Fann St., Savannah, Ga., from May 22 to Aug. 1, The exhibit moves to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Ave., Pooler, Ga., where it will be showcased through Aug. 15.

Photo by Tracy Ammons



Semomite

Semomite visits district, hosts townhall

Brig. Gen. Todd Semomite, the South Atlantic Division's new Commander, made his first official visit to the District June 8-10.

During his visit, Semomite hosted a townhall meeting where he discussed his command philosophy, and his plans for the Savannah District.

Semomite took command of the South Atlantic Division on May 1 after serving as Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division in New York City. Before that he served as Commanding General Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and in a wide variety of command and staff positions.

From Where I Sit: Unsung hero silently inspires.....3

By Sandra Hudson

Corps asks communities to open their eyes.....3

By Sandra Hudson

Savannah District honors Asian Pacific Americans4

By Sandra Hudson

White House ceremony recognizes local federal workers...4

New Child Development Center helps Fort Stewart prepare for hundreds of new arrivals5

By Tracy Ammons

BRAC meets BRAG with \$300 million in new construction.....6

By Tracy Ammons

Charles F. Trainor Team Awards8

District Team member of the Year Awards.....9

Corps Day at Fort Pulaski National Monument.....10

By Rashida Banks

Remembrance Memorial showcases reality of war.....12

By Mindy Anderson

Welcome to the Savannah District14

Joyce McDonald joins District as Corporate Communications Officer.....15

By Tracy Ammons





Hudson

In Honor of our unsung heroes

I heard the news while sitting at Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C. It seems the saga of Michael Jackson's death will be with us for a long time. And while I have been both a fan early on and a skeptic in recent years, amid the unfolding drama I feel indifferent to the news. That sentiment was predicated by events three days earlier at another airport. Arriving at Atlanta's Hartsfield International, with more than two hours between flights, I am in no hurry to grab my bags and dash through the cabin. Movement outside my window seat catches my eye. Stoic and in full dress uniform, an Army Staff Sergeant marches toward the baggage handler. My heart drops. This is a Hero Flight. Seated directly above the conveyor belt, I watch the long, cardboard-covered box drift slowly from the aircraft belly. The NCO, bearing his own purple heart, vigilantly renders honors. It's the only motion I can see on the silenced tarmac of one of the busiest airports in the world. Embedded in my mind's eye forever, a flag detail hovers while a crew slides the box into a special carrier.

As the Soldier signs papers and receives final instructions, the cart pulls away. The flight line returns to its harried pace.

That day, an Air Force Staff Sergeant made his final journey back home, to North Dakota. I know this because I could see his rank and destination written on the box.

This Fourth of July, in the nation's heartland, a family mourns the loss of a son.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, a nation continues taking steps closer to the Independence he helped enforce.

And here in Savannah, between the hot dogs and fireworks, I'll take a few moments to remember the unknown Airman, now a celebrity in my heart.

Sandra Hudson retired from the US Air Force in 2007, after 20 years. She spent most of her career overseas working as a broadcast journalist and served as a combat correspondent in deployments to Egypt and Iraq.

Corps asks communities to open their eyes

By Sandra Hudson
Staff Writer

The South Atlantic Division is joining the rest of the Corps in an effort to reduce senseless destruction at Corps projects. Initiated in 2006, The "Corps Watch" program allows anyone who notes vandalism, property damage or suspicious activity to report it using a centralized number.

"Similar to popular Neighborhood Watch programs," says Ryan Hartwig, Savannah District Natural Resources Program Manager, "this effort has already seen success in other divisions."

The main feature is the use of streamlined reporting.

For example, if a visitor sees graffiti or "tagging," they can simply call 1-866-413-7970, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and report it.

According to Hartwig, "This number would also be especially useful to report unauthorized clearing of timber."

"Previously, people had to wait until a project office was open or they'd just leave a message if they had a concern," he added. This delay in response often meant there was no way to catch the perpetrator. "Now, we can take action more quickly," Hartwig said.

Incidents are routed through the Mobile District. Once a caller files a report, the "Corps Watch" rep then either notifies the project directly or contacts the local police in that area. Hartwig cautions, "This system is not meant to replace 911 for emergencies."

"Corps Watch" not only serves as a deterrent, it also pays those who call in with valuable information. "It allows us to give a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders," Hartwig said.

Under the program, the amount is 10 percent of the assessed value of the damage or loss, not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000.

"When you consider the cost to paint over graffiti, make repairs because of abuse, or even the needless damage to our environment, it's well worth it," said Hartwig.

"Corps Watch" went into effect in the South Atlantic Division, June 23rd.

Corps Watch
US Army Corps of Engineers

For information leading to the prosecution of anyone committing crimes against US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property.

Hotline
1-866-413-7970
Up to a \$1,000 REWARD!
Callers can remain anonymous.

Savannah District honors Asian Pacific Americans



By Sandra Hudson
Staff Writer

Members of the Savannah District absorbed an emotional, first-hand account of the journey of a Japanese American from confinement to validation during the Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration held in the District headquarters, May 21st.

Special guest, Seattle-based television journalist and film director Mimi Gan previewed her first, independent documentary, “With Honors Denied.”

The 15-minute film chronicles the story of Yukiha Kubo.

In 1942, the would-be salutatorian and 19 fellow seniors stared silently through locked fences while across town, crowds regaled the strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” at Seattle’s Fife High School.

Yuki was one of 110,000 Japanese Americans forced to live in 10 camps in the western half of the country in compliance with Executive Order 9066. It stated these bona fide, U.S. citizens must abandon their homes and businesses to live as prisoners, just because of their heritage.

“It’s especially important to tell this story on the east coast,” Gan said, “because so many people have never even heard about this time in our history.”

Today, a permanent reminder brings healing.

“Here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.” This quote, engraved in the National Japanese American

Memorial to Patriotism in the nation’s capital, comes from the Civil Liberties Act signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

The documentary’s conclusion finds Yuki and several classmates decked in the traditional cap and gown marching with the Fife High Class of 2002. They finally had their long-awaited graduation ceremony.

Of her career move from local TV reporter to independent film maker Gan said, “This is my passion now, my mission. I want to do projects that inform and entertain. I’ve found what I want to do. When that happens, it’s a really good feeling.”

Learn more about Gan and her project at www.withhonorsdenied.com.

White House Ceremony Recognizes Local Federal Workers *-Office of Personnel Management Celebrates Work of Coastal Georgia CFC-*

Washington, D.C. – Today, the United States Office of Personnel Management announced a record-setting level of charitable giving by Federal employees through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). At a White House awards ceremony on Friday, OPM Director John Berry presented the Coastal Georgia CFC campaign with three awards for its contribution towards a national campaign which raised nearly \$276 million in pledges to non-profit programs in 2008.

“When President Obama recently challenged Americans to give back to our communities through service, I knew that Federal workers would be among the first to respond because of our strong tradition of giving through initiatives like the Combined Federal Campaign,” said OPM Director John Berry. “Federal workers are demonstrating innovative ways to increase charitable donations, and the Office of Personnel Management is thrilled to recognize their work as it models how all Americans can contribute

to our neighborhoods and our nation.”

At the White House ceremony, Director Berry recognized the Coastal Georgia CFC for recording a 42% increase in CFC pledges in 2008 over 2007 receipts. Additionally, the campaign received an “Innovator Award” for its outreach to Federal workers at Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The White House ceremony also recognized Laurentina Watkins with a “CFC Hero” award for her work which helped the Coastal Georgia CFC meet 117% of its goal.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. Since

its inception in 1961, the campaign has raised more than \$6 billion in charitable donations.

Campaigns recognized on Friday included the Sun Country CFC (TX), Southeastern North Carolina CFC, Coastal Bend Area CFC (TX), Greater Southwest Texas CFC, Coastal Georgia CFC, Lincoln & Lancaster Counties CFC (NE), Johnson County CFC (IA), McAlister Area CFC (OK), Greater Texarkana CFC, Kitsap & Mason Counties CFC (WA), CFC of the National Capital Area, CFC of North Puget Sound (WA) and CFC Overseas. Additionally, individuals recognized at the White House ceremony included Paul Barnes (GA), Dawn Dalessio (WA), Tammy Facemire (CO), Captain Andrew Frey (CA), Vince Micone (DC), Jan Stinson (IL), Terry Smith (GA), Lt. Colonel Douglas Sudnick (MA), Jon Venuti (FL), Lory Waechter (FL), and Laurentina Watkins (GA).

For more information, visit: www.opm.gov/cfc

New Child Development Center helps Fort Stewart prepare for hundreds of new arrivals

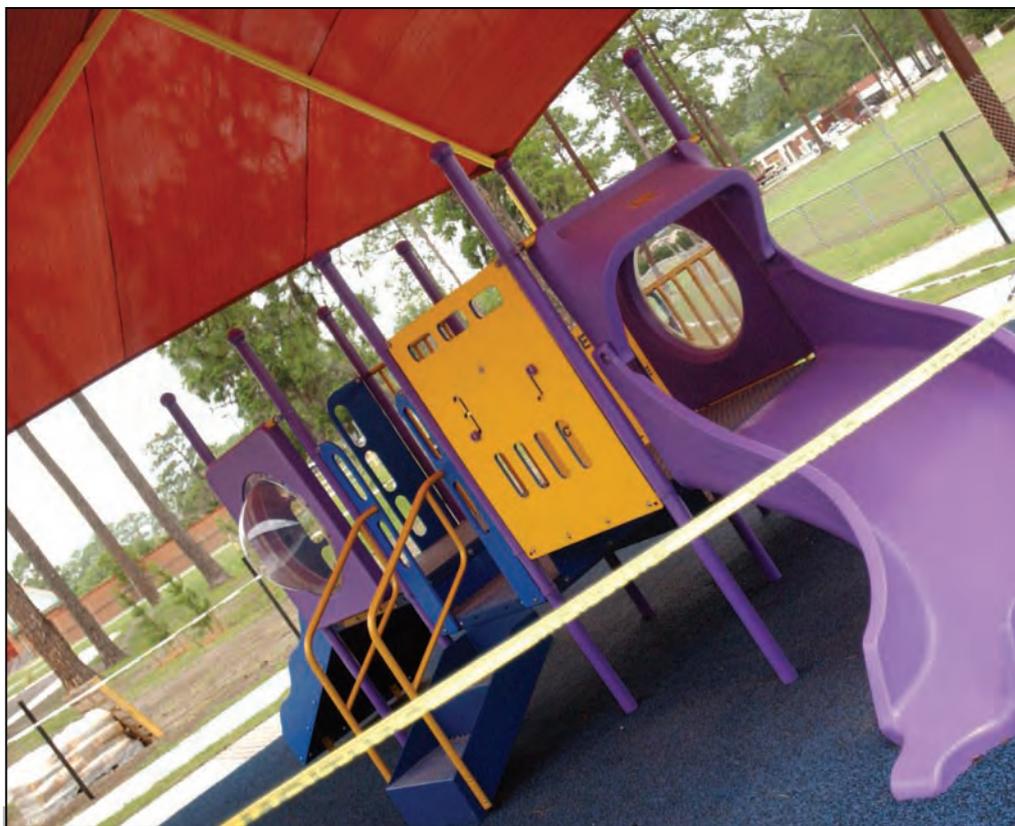
By Tracy K. Ammons
Public Affairs Intern

With 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers returning to Fort Stewart, Ga. last August, the base community is bubbling with a case of baby fever. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District is helping Fort Stewart prepare for the upcoming births by constructing a new Child Development Center.

“The troops came back in August, and they are bracing themselves at the hospital for the births this summer,” said Frank de la Sierra, project engineer. “They are expecting as many as 100 deliveries a month.”

The 20,000-square-foot Child Development Center will provide 16 classrooms for 244 children, ages 0 to 6 months up to five years old. The \$6 million design-build contract was awarded to Murrillo Modular of Carrollton, Texas in September 2007, with an occupancy date set for June 23 of this year. Once handed over, the facility should begin full operations by August.

“We have four classrooms for each age group – infants, toddlers, preschoolers and “day hops,” which are the hourly drop-off children,” de la Sierra said. “Although all classrooms will have diaper



Each classroom has a private door that leads to the playground area, where different sets of play equipment accommodate different age groups.

changing stations and cubbies, each one will have features specifically tailored to the age group, such as food prep stations for infants or arts and crafts stations for older children.”

Though the classrooms are arranged for different ages, they all have several child-safety features.

“Every room has solid vinyl floors and flat surface countertops, so everything is easy to clean,” de la Sierra said. “They have child-safe rubber baseboards, all caulking was done with edible caulk, and all outlets are 54 inches above the floor. Installation of bathroom fixtures and water fountains varies in height to accommodate different age groups. These are all Army standards for Child Develop-

ment Centers.”

The contract also includes the infrastructure for closed circuit cameras in each classroom and monitors in the front reception area.

Also part of the 3.5-acre site are several playgrounds, each suited for a particular age group, all with rubber flooring. Each classroom has its own door for playground access, which also serves as a safe fire exit.

Additionally, the facility includes a fully equipped, stainless steel and tiled kitchen, stroller storage areas, a laundry room, staff lounge and administration offices.

“As Fort Stewart expands and we gain more children, we will award more contracts in the next fiscal year for additional Child Development Centers, as well as youth centers for children over five,” de la Sierra said. “The Savannah District is proud to build strong for our local Soldiers and their families.”



Each of the 16 classrooms have solid vinyl floors and flat surface countertops for easy cleaning, as well as child-safe rubber baseboards, edible caulking and 54-inch-high electrical outlets.

BRAC Meets Bragg with \$270

By Tracy Ammons
Staff Writer

The next two years will bring a tremendous amount of work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District as it tackles one of its largest military construction projects to date – a \$270 million co-located Forces Command and Army Reserve Command headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C.

As part of the Army's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure act, the FORSCOM and USARC headquarters, currently stationed at two separate headquarters at Fort McPherson, Ga., will move under one roof into a new facility at Fort Bragg by September 2011. Although sharing one, new facility, the two commands will retain separate identities.

"This project was the largest award in the Savannah District and one of the top five largest in the Corps of Engineers for fiscal year 2008," said Catherine Bingham, senior project manager. "The Savannah District is proud to be a part of the FORSCOM and USARC transition."

700,000 square feet of new construction

Contracted to Hensel Phelps Construction Company, the project entails a command headquarters building, four information technology (IT) buildings and an energy plant – totaling nearly 700,000 square feet of new construction. When completed, the project will house nearly 2,800 personnel.

Located in the central part of Fort Bragg next to the Old Post Historic District, the headquarters will provide ample office space and meeting rooms for FORSCOM and USARC personnel. It will also include command suites, video teleconferencing areas, directorate general officer suites, operations centers, map and drawing storage, a loading dock, equipment storage and staging areas, passenger elevators and a ceremonial display lobby.

"This building will have some unique features. For example, the two command suites will each have a private terrace for

the commanders," Bingham said. "Also, the floors will be raised to accommodate an under floor air distribution system, which improves the occupant's thermal comfort by enabling them to adjust the airflow in their areas. The raised floor will allow future flexibility for the facility to be readily configured as the commands change over time."

"The entire team is focused on providing a highly efficient and inspiring environment for the high-caliber FORSCOM and USARC workforce," she added.

Meanwhile, the four information technology facilities – an Installation Processing Node, a Directorate of Information Management Administrative Building, a Control Info Tech Building and a Disaster Recovery Center – will provide state-of-the-art computer, administration, planning and operations spaces.

A new energy plant equipped with boilers, chillers, cooling towers and a loading dock will provide heating and cooling to the headquarters.

Smart design and teamwork ensure timely construction

After a ground-breaking ceremony in December 2008, construction kicked off in February 2009, as workers cleared



The FORSCOM/USARC headquarters project consists of a command headquarters building (pictured) along with four additional information technology structures and an energy plant. The entire project totals nearly \$270 million and 700,000 square feet.

Million in New Construction

the area, installed utilities and prepared the foundation. Three of the four IT buildings are slated for completion in February 2010, while the command headquarters and remaining IT facility should be finished in June 2011. Plans call for personnel to arrive shortly after, with the facility operating full-swing by September.

“Since the initial design and estimate back in 2007, we have put forth a tremendous effort to ensure the project is completed on time to exceed the customer’s expectations,” Bingham said. “The project delivery team overcame many funding, programming and scheduling obstacles to get this project awarded and underway in fiscal year 2008. It was originally scheduled for FY 09 and FY 10, but thanks to everyone’s dedication, attention to detail and teamwork, we were able to improve our original building turnover date by four months without sacrificing quality.”

Partnerships with Hensel Phelps, Fentress Architects, Giuliani Associates Architects, Inc. and other organizations have further strengthened the project’s success.

“The architects on this design team have shown a true dedication to the overall cause,” Bingham said. “We gave them our requirements and the standards we have to comply with, but if our budget allowed, they were able to add betterments – things that go above and beyond to compliment the stature of the organi-

zations working in this building.”

“They have a great architectural vision, which they have managed to tie in with Fort Bragg’s history,” she added. “The headquarters’ exterior is modeled after royal crescent architecture in England, blended with the Georgian style of the Old Post Historic District.”

As the project moves forward, the Corps team is working diligently every day to ensure safety, quality and timeliness.

“This is a fast track design-build project, and we took extensive measures up front, paying close attention to detail to get all criteria satisfied and in place ahead of time,” said Dan Davis, resident engineer. “But of course, you can’t foresee the future. Sometimes we have to make changes when things come up, and we must handle those changes quickly. But so far, we are handling them well, and we have been able to mitigate to zero-time-growth.”

Looking ahead

While the Fayetteville community anticipates the economic growth BRAC will bring to the area, Fort Bragg looks forward to the stature this project will bring to the post.

“This project will be the cornerstone

for future development in this area of Fort Bragg,” Bingham said. “The headquarters is replacing World War II era buildings. It continues Fort Bragg’s facility and infrastructure transformation and modernization, which has been so well-planned by the Fort Bragg Department of Public Works and executed by the Savannah District over the past 10 to 15 years.”



In addition to bringing natural light into the space, the design incorporates an under floor air distribution system – a low-maintenance ventilation system that allows occupants to adjust air flow to their work spaces.





CHARLES F. TRAINOR TEAM AWARDS

The 2009 Military Project Team of the Year

The Military Project Team of the Year is awarded to the Renovation of the Maneuver Center Headquarters Building 4 at Fort Benning, Ga. This project was the single largest Operations and Maintenance project executed by the Savannah District. The \$173 million dollar procurement was accomplished as a result of significant effort from a multitude of members and organizations from Fort Benning, the Savannah District and the engineering design team from H.S.M.M. In addition to the usual complexities associated with a project of this scope, the team was able to overcome further obstacles inherent with personnel relocation, swing space activities, and multiple year O.M.A. funding requirements, and phased construction.

THE TEAM:

Project Management:

Joe Savage
Tim Morris
Folke Ahlquist
Major Benjamin Bennett
Carl Corley

Fort Benning Hospital

Resident Office:
Alan Bugg
Jeff Johnson

Office of Counsel:

Connie Baran

Fort Benning:

Rick Clapp
Craig Taylor
Mike Quirion
Mike Gillette

Contracting Division:

Nina Jodell
Faye Hazelwood
Verona Mundle

The 2009 Environmental Project Team of the Year

The Environmental Team of the Year Award is presented to the Fort Bragg Environmental Project Delivery Team (PDT). By using innovative processes and procedures, the Fort Bragg Environmental PDT generated enough cost savings to award additional projects. This action greatly accelerated the Fort Bragg program making significant improvements possible, including: Installation of innovative tank systems which met the installation's requirement for no underground storage tanks and improving security at two locations, completion of urgent remediation/demolition of three buildings at FORSCOM Headquarters site, and completion of the landfill recycling project ahead of schedule and the highest quality.

The Team

Project Management:

Zainul Kidwai
Lynn Nettles
Karlyn Avant

Engineering Division:

Fred Moser
Kevin Haborak
Kathleen Campbell-Miles
Jim Biddle
Tracey Tapley
Jon Coombs
Judson Smith
Matt Cook
Jim Kanady
Edward Ratliff

Contracting Division:

Kisha Weston
Inge Lawson
Brian Miles
Laney Parker

Fort Bragg (Public Works Business Center):

Steven Harris
Jason Adcock
Sid Williamson
Cardwell Smith (now retired)

Regulatory Agency:

Marti Morgan
North Carolina Environmental
Regulatory Division:
James Brown

The 2009 Civil Project Team of the Year

The Civil Project Team of the Year is awarded to the Project Delivery Team (PDT) for the Tybee Island Shore Protection Renourishment Project which provides increased flood damage protection and recreational benefits to the residents and visitors of Tybee Island. The PDT was responsible for the successful completion of the project which finished two months ahead of schedule and \$2 million dollars under budget. Due to an extremely tight project execution schedule, the project required close coordination and cooperation with local, State and Federal agencies, and worked closely with the customer and the partnering agencies to formulate a mutually beneficial and acceptable solutions. They used Innovative technology and tools while surveyors conducted geotechnical investigations to ensure high quality beach sand would be used during the renourishment. The team addressed both design functionality...and environmental preservation.

The Team

Project Management:

Hampton Spradley
Jean Anderson

Engineering Division:

Carol Ambercrombie, Lead
Designer
Mackie McIntosh

Planning Division:

Bill Bailey
Ellie Covington
Steve Calver
Judy Wood
Monica Simon-Dodd

Operations Division:

Burt Moore
Ned Durden
Paul Hayslip
Glen Bacon
Dennis Lynn

Office of Counsel:

Warren Swartz

Engineering Wilmington District:

Oweita Freeman

Charleston District:

Jeff Fersner

Real Estate Division:

John Hinely

Regulatory Division:

Mark Padgett

Contracting Division:

Julie Oliver
Laney Parker

The Special Project Team Award

The Special Project Team Award is presented to the team responsible for leading the District's efforts to ensure compliance with the Chief Financial Officer's Act. The team developed processes, S-O-P's, checklists, training and coordinating with the external auditors, Price Waterhouse and Coopers, during the 2007-2008 Corps of Engineers financial statement audits. For the first time in history the Corps of Engineers received an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements. The score is the equivalent of an audit A+. To give this achievement some perspective, it's important to note that The Savannah District has approximately \$1.5 billion dollars in assets and this greatly impacts the Corps' financial statement. The Corps was the largest Federal agency to receive an unqualified opinion from the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General for civil works financial statements during Fiscal year 2008. This decision also makes the Corps the first major Department of Defense agency to ever receive such a rating.

The Team

Resource Management:

Virginia Nesmith
Jesse King
William Craig Wright
Nati Rosario (retired)

Internal Review:

Valjean Stell-Burns
Levoyn Vaughn (retired)

Project Management:

Jean Anderson
Marty Rahn

Real Estate:

Shapala Banks
Surita Campbell

Contracting Division:

Julie Oliver

Operations Project Offices:

J. Strom Thurmond,
Richard B. Russell and
Hartwell Dam and Lake
Project

District Team Member of the Year Awards



Sherry McCumber-Kahn

Supervisor of the Year

Sherry McCumber-Kahn is Chief of Geo-technical and H.T.R.W Branch, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste Section. Her superior performance as Chief for the past year-and-a-half has been recognized throughout the Region. McCumber-Kahn and her team have contributed significantly to execution of the Corps' H.T.R.W Program and the Military Munitions Response Program, as well as to the outstanding reputation and integrity of the District. McCumber-Kahn was selected as Chief of her section in 2007 and immediately set a course to establish her Section as the leader among the H-T-R-W and M-M-R-P organizations in the South Atlantic Division. She quickly earned the respect of peers, her team, District and Division leaders, Headquarters and external groups. Sherry is an inspiration for all with whom she works and a caring leader for her team. She is a recognized leader and respected mentor in her chosen profession of environmental engineering.



Vicki Gatling

Team Member of the Year, Engineering and Scientific

Vicki Gatling serves as the Senior Project Manager, Installation Support Team for the District's Military Programs and Project Management Branch. Under her leadership in Fiscal Year 2008, the District executed the largest reimbursable program in the history of the Savannah District, with 188 projects valued at \$363 million dollars - almost \$150 million more than FISCAL YEAR 2007. This great accomplishment was due in large part to Vicki's outstanding and well-respected reputation for excellence in customer service. Two of her largest customers, Ft. Benning and Ft. Bragg, provided customer satisfaction scores of 5.0 and 4.75 respectively, out of a potential 5!



Matt Rorick

Team Member of the Year, Other than Engineering and Scientific

Matt Rorick is the rotating shift operator and acting hydropower training officer for the District's Hydropower Technical Center, which includes the Charleston and Wilmington Districts. Matt began his career with the Corps as a Hydropower Trainee and continued to excel, reaching the position of Powerplant Shift Operator. He is a confident and competent technician, and provides tremendous assistance to management, in operating and maintaining the powerplant. He is a graduate of the District's Bridge to Leadership Program, South Atlantic Division Leadership Development Program, and was named to the 2008 Emerging Leaders Program.



Christopher Brian Whitley

Student Team Member of the Year

Christopher Brian Whitley is a civil engineering co-op student with the CAB Resident Office at Fort Bragg, N.C. During his tenure, Whitley has become an integral part of the office. He has consistently taken on additional duties to improve his knowledge and value to the Construction Division. Brian is a highly motivated team player with a bright future in the U-S Army Corps of Engineers.

CORPS DAY at

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT



By Rashida Banks
Editor/Staff Writer

The Savannah District celebrated Corps Day 2009 at Fort Pulaski National Monument on June 26.

This year's location held a special significance as the fort was built by the Savannah District in 1847. General Robert E. Lee worked as a member of the Corps upon graduation from West Point, and was instrumental in planning and preparing for the construction of the fort.

Corps Day events consisted of the Annual Awards Ceremony followed by a Water Safety Presentation, activities for children, such as the moon walk, giant slide, water slide, and Coke cart. In addition to regular Corps Day activities, team members were provided free guided tours where they learned about the construction and engineering of Fort Pulaski, Civil War technology, rifled cannons, general fort life, and the Battle for Fort Pulaski in 1862.

Lunch was catered by Ken & Candi's BBQ and consisted of chopped BBQ, hotdog, hamburger, potato salad, baked beans, chips, and tea.



Dave Crampton, Regulatory Division, played TAPS on the bagpipes as district team members stood to honor the deceased members of the regimental muster.



Team members were provided with guided tours of Fort Pulaski for Corps Day. A trolley ran continuously back and forth between the Corps Day site and the Fort Pulaski Visitor's Center.



In addition to the guided tours, Fort Pulaski employees did a reenactment of a cannon firing. The monument offers daily interactive programs such as musket and soldier demonstrations.



ABOUT FORT PULASKI

Fort Pulaski was erected on Cockspar Island, a small marshy island between Tybee Island and the Savannah River, near Savannah, Ga.

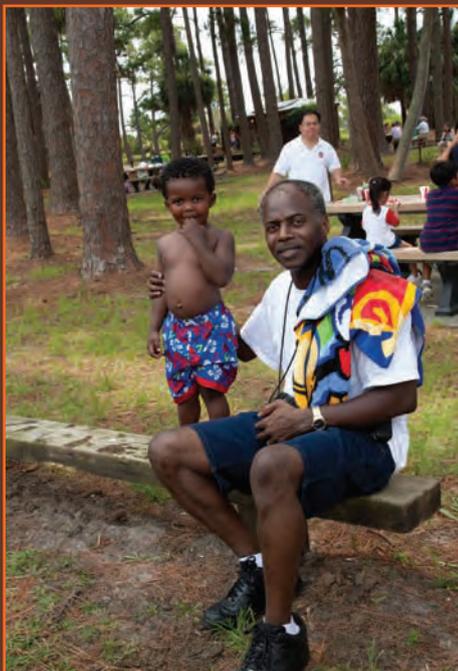
In 1829 construction of Fort Pulaski began, requiring 18 years to complete at a cost of \$1 million. An estimated twenty-five million bricks were used to construct the fort and wooden pilings were sunk seventy feet deep into the mud to support the structure.

Upon its completion, the Fort was named after Revolutionary War hero Count Casimir Pulaski.

In 1847, the Fort was considered a state-of-the-art defense system, though it fell easily to Union troops during the Civil War.

In 1924, Fort Pulaski was declared a National Monument by Presidential Proclamation.

Today, the fort is managed by the National Park Service and provides an educational and enlightening experience to those who attend.



Corps employees and their family members enjoyed a relaxing day filled with food, fun activities for the kids, and fellowship.



REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL

Showcases Reality of War

By Mindy Anderson
Staff Writer

When first introduced to the Remembrance: A Memorial Exhibit, my first question was 'what exactly is this?' It is described by Exhibit Director Merilee Bowers as "an ongoing communal artistic response to human loss as a result of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan." The fact that it is memorializing fallen service men and women in an interactive artistic manner is the pure genius of the exhibit – there is nothing like it in the world.

At first glance the exhibit appeared Native American in design. A second look revealed to me the uniqueness of each individual figure presented in exactly the same manner. Although I am attempting to present this unique exhibit to the reader using words, it is almost impossible to do so. With the accompaniment of photos with this article, my hope is the reader will gain a better understanding of this very gentle representation of the reality of war.

And so, the journey begins ---

“Each abstract figurative sculpture is left to the individual to design and construct; in this way, the memorial belongs to the masses. Its progression is influenced by the investment of each individual. In this way, the memorial continues to grow and evolve.”

- Merilee Bowers, Exhibit Director

You move through the memorial, you don't walk around it, and since it is transparent you slowly begin to focus on the grid in front of you, yet remain aware of the hundreds of tiny traces beyond the focus of your vision, little echoes of others, a multitude beyond your immediate visual grasp. The traces, the fragments of an all too recognizable figure, are suspended in time and space on the almost invisible grid, lines vertical and horizontal, precisely spaced; each fragment given their own boundary, dignity, distance; yet not isolated from the larger company of others. The tiny forms draw you in - you must read the letters, sometimes only a half expressed name, sometimes none, sometimes whole - you see the wayward random stitches barely holding yet binding, an integral part of the forms themselves woven together from the most mundane, the most simple of objects: buttons, textile fragments, organic material, and a teabag, the latter bearing the profound significance of ritual, healing and ancient culture. As focus shifts to the larger body of the work, the sheer numbers begin to creep into the conscious mind - hundreds, then thousands of figures, images, suspended as the lives of those they represent have been suspended, forever. Yet this uplifts somehow - knowing that each trace has been rendered by hand and heart and eye.

The memorial allows participants to become both creator and observer.

The individual first fashions the abstract figurative sculpture to represent the fallen soldier in community with others. The figure is then joined with the communal sculpture and becomes part of the gestalt of Remembrance. The individual then re-visits the experience of creation when confronted by the collective mass of figures: he seeks out “his person,” reflects on the moments of his experiences, and shares them with others. In this way, the fallen service member is initially remembered and then continues

to be reflected upon as more people share in this collaborative artistic endeavor.

Bowers' initial intent and process of creating the memorial was to give people an arena in which they could create, in community, a meaningful, collaborative work of art that would bring awareness to those who have sacrificed their lives in the war and, in turn, move to a broader community setting.

Thus far, more than 1,500 individuals have contributed their time and energy towards this undertaking.

“After its initial conception in terms of materials, methods, and installation, the endeavor has evolved into a larger expression of empathy,” Bowers said. “Each abstract figurative sculpture is left to the individual to design and construct; in this way, the memorial belongs to the masses. Its progression is influenced by the investment of each individual. In this way, the memorial continues to grow and evolve,” the director said.

And so, Remembrance serves a multitude of purposes. In its creation, the creator reflects on the fallen service member, perhaps remembers a personal relative or friend serving abroad then begins to confront the inner turmoil that occurs during times of war. He need not experience this in isolation, as he is surrounded by a community of peers in which to process these thoughts and feelings if he chooses to do so.

This venture has also reached those whose lives have been profoundly affected by current military actions. Active duty military personnel and veterans of all wars have viewed and contributed to Remembrance. Healing, connectivity and purpose are realized through an artwork that is holistic, organic and approachable.

If you'd like to contribute to the Remembrance: A Memorial Exhibit, the Savannah District will host a Figure Creation Workshop Aug. 4, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., in the Savannah District Executive Conference Room. The exhibit will



Patty Galli, spouse of COL Donald Galli, creates a figure during the Remembrance: A Memorial Exhibit Opening May 22 at the Coastal Georgia Center in downtown Savannah. Galli added a special touch to her figure by adding an Aviation Brigade pin. Galli's figure along with other figures created by Family members from Ft. Stewart are now a permanent part of this exhibit. If interested in creating a figure to be added to this living and growing exhibit you will have an opportunity to do so. Merilee Bowers, exhibit director, will lead a Figure Creation Workshop in the Savannah District Executive Conference Room Aug. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

be at the Coastal Georgia Center, 301 Fann St., Savannah, Ga., through Aug. 1, then moves to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Ave., Pooler, Ga., where it will be showcased through Aug. 15.

For more information, contact Mindy Anderson at 912-652-5450.

SAVANNAH DISTRICT ON THE MOVE

RETIREMENTS

Corley, Kenneth C. Project Mgmt.
 Schwantes, James T. Construction
 Rosario, Natividad M. Resource Mgmt.
 Titus, Denise L. Real Estate
 Mills, Anita Project Mgmt.
 Biddle, James A. Engineering
 Coombs, Jon D. Engineering
 Krolkowski, Camille M. Engineering

PROMOTIONS

Moye, Kelly T. Resource Mgmt.
 Haymans, Janis L. Project Mgmt.
 Walker, Angeleque M. Project Mgmt.
 Ortstadt, Elizabeth Ann Engineering
 Williams, Mary-Halis engineering
 Wesemann, Douglas A. Construction
 Turner, Cynthia B. Real Estate
 Wampler, Monteene C. Contracting
 Lynn, Dennis E. Operations
 Crawford, Kenneth Operations
 Harlon, III William D. Real Estate
 Hodges, Angela D. Contracting
 Njikam, Forpu A. Engineering
 Morrill, Angel S. Operations
 Odeh-Adimah, Maya B. Regulatory
 Turner, Cynthia B. Real Estate
 Duprey, Gerd C. Security & Law
 Kanady, Jim Engineering
 Turner, Sherry Engineering

ARRIVALS

Eidson, Thomas L.	Construction	Adegoke, Emmanuel A.	Construction
Agan, Brian	Construction	Rivera Carlos	Construction
Bonney, James D.	Construction	Guzman-Schaffer Belinda	Construction
Deaton, Lyndsey	Construction	Garcia, Nika	Construction
Rabe, Austin	Construction	Ammons, Tracy Kay	Construction
Rose, Thomas	Construction	Derucki, Sara C.	Construction
Simons, William C.	Construction	Mckeehan, Charles H.	Construction
Smith, Brian K.	Construction	Lopez Jr, Albelardo C.	Construction
West, Timothy	Construction	Deloach, David R.	Construction
Wimberly, Taylor	Construction	Player Jr., Robert	Construction
Wynn, Timothy	Construction	Trowhill, Alan	Construction
Crapps, William H.	Construction	Gary Jr, Gregory	Construction
Lukey, Mark	Construction	Tucker, Irby T.	Construction
Wellborn IV, Marshall J.	Construction	Buck, John B.	Construction
Bides, Arthur R.	Construction	Barbee, David	Construction
Brooks, Melissa A.	Construction	Anthony, Robert A.	Construction
Cameron, Trent M.	Construction	Belle, Christie L.	Real Estate
Cato, Eric	Construction	Mosley, Angela D.	Construction
Conerly, Andrew D.	Construction	Rusden, Michael J.	Safety
Conradson, Joshua R.	Construction	Helms. Bruce A.	Contracting
Davidson, Christine M.	Construction	Leep, Danny Ray	Operations
DiMaio, Anthony	Construction	Payne, Kelsey A.	Operations
Henig, Christina M.	Construction	McGuire, Sherria	Operations
Johnson, David R.	Construction	Herrington, Haley F.	Operations
Lee, Rebecca E.	Construction	Reese Jr, James M.	Operations
Parker, Ryan A.	Construction	Alexander, Asher L.	Operations
Posey, Timothy R.	Construction	Williams, Colby T.	Operations
Robinson, Matthew D.	Construction	Brownlee, Jessica E.	Operations
Smith, Andrew R.	Construction	Huffman, John C.	Operations
Rowell, Jerry W.	Construction	Murphy, Michael S.	Operations
Culpepper Jr., Eddie	Construction	Cade, Jerome D.	Operations
Hill, Lacey A.	Construction	Johnson, Dustin G.	Operations
Page, Glenn C.	Construction	Ralph, Joseph C.	Operations
Chisolm, Kimna I.	Construction	Youngblood, Brandon C.	Operations-
Diggins, Brian F.	Construction	Hammett, Lee Ann	CPAC
Sundquist, Eman A.	Construction	Hammett, Paul P.	CPAC
Galloway, Sarah H.	Engineering	Stacy, Steven L.	CPAC
Rashidi, Reza	Engineering	Davis, Spencer Walter	Proj. Mgmt.
Walker, Tracey W.	Engineering	Farley, Flint E.	Construction
Ballard, John E.	Operations	Boatwright, Samuel	Construction
Eash, Timothy J.	Operations	Witherspoon, Brie B.	Construction
Paige, Sheila A.	Operations	Dones, Ekaterina	Construction
Dawda, Shannaan O.	Resource Mgmt.	McNeely, Frederick T.	Construction
Downing, Thomas M.	Resource Mgmt.	Peebles, JoAnn	Construction
Irwin, Gwen A.	Resource Mgmt.	Mclain, John	Construction
Taylor, Zachary R.	Resource Mgmt.	Boney, James D.	Construction
Brown, Charisse Larae	Proj. Mgmt.	Deaton, Lyndsey	Construction
Kerkhoff, Harold J.	Proj. Mgmt.	West, Timothy	Construction
O'dell, Todd B.	Engineering	Simons, William C.	Construction
Frazier, Horis Leroy	Real Estate	Wynn, Timothy	Construction
List Jr., Thomas F.	Construction	Rose, Thomas	Construction
McRae, Juan	Construction	Rabe, Austin	Construction
Jones, Matthew R.	Construction	Puana, Sheila P.	Contracting

ARRIVALS CONT.

Seawell, Matthew H.	Construction
Handy, Lauren M.	Construction
Watts Jr, David M.	Construction
Lombardo, Drew L.	Construction
Gabzdyl, Michael	Construction
Indorf, Parker D.	Construction
Power, Jessica E.	Construction
Anderson, Jeffrey B.	Construction
Randel, Ashley	Construction
Webb, Laurel M.	Construction
Tiblier, Thomas E.	Construction
Hewston, William L.	Construction
Sheffield, Rebekah E.	Construction
Jared, Penny	Construction

KUDOS

Rohan Bryan, an accounting cooperative education student with the Resource Management Division, and **Lavondra Foxx**, a student aide in the Executive Office were both recognized by Savannah State University's Honor's Committee with a bronze medal for maintaining a 3.3 GPA since their freshman year at Savannah State.

A junior accounting major, Bryan is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. He works fulltime at the Corps while attending college fulltime. He is scheduled to graduate in the summer of 2011.

A math major, Foxx works part-time and attends college fulltime. Foxx was also presented with a blue ribbon for being on the Honor Roll.



Joshua Brandon Allen

Son of Bernadette Allen, CPAC
Born March 31, 2009
7lbs. 4oz

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

Joyce McDonald joins the District as Corporate Communications Officer



By Tracy K. Ammons
Public Affairs Intern

As the world of social media—YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and blogs—continues to rise, and as the need for community and media outreach grows through web communications and e-publications, the Savannah District Public Affairs Office is determined to spread the Corps message to as many publics as possible. A new face in the district, Joyce McDonald, will work with the Public Affairs team to enhance these efforts in her new role as Corporate Communications Officer.

In her new position, Joyce will serve as the district's primary advisor for external and internal communications. She will focus on finding new ways to promote the Corps mission and its people to a wide range of audiences, while at the same time ensuring the staff is provided timely information about Corps events and operations.

Joining the Savannah District in June, Joyce brings a breadth of government public relations experience to the team. She spent the last eight and a half years as Communications Director for a component of the National Institutes of Health, where she managed and produced a wide range of online and print publications for various audiences, including technologists, health professionals, special interest and trade groups, members of Congress and the media.

Joyce also served as senior communications manager for a range of federal agencies, including the Treasury Department, Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Marshals Service. She also was the Community Relations Officer and Command Information Officer at Fort Meade, Md., as well as a public affairs specialist with the Corps of Engineers' Headquarters for three years.

In fact, Joyce began her federal service career as an intern with the Corps of Engineers while she was a journalism student at the University of Maryland. She later earned a master's degree in Public Administration from American University in Washington, D.C.

"It was at the Corps that I first learned that the work of government is accomplished by very hard-working, dedicated people, and it made quite an impression on me," she said. "I am excited about coming back to the Corps of Engineers and making a home in the Savannah District. I feel very privileged to work with so many talented people who really give it their all—every day. I look forward to communicating the great work of our district to our communities and our Nation."

One of the many figures on display during the Remembrance: A Memorial Exhibit held at the Coastal Georgia Center, 301 Fann St., Savannah, Ga., from May 22 to Aug. 1, The exhibit moves to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, 175 Bourne Ave., Pooler, Ga., where it will be showcased through Aug. 15.

