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CORPS' SUPPORT TO FEMA INCIDENT SUPPORT BASE BRINGS DISASTER ESSENTIALS TO FOREFRONT

By Rebecca Nappi

Among the split powerlines, uprooted trees and scattered debris, a FEMA staging area sits in the heart of the island of St. Croix. Filled with strategically awaiting materials and supplies, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees at the Incident Support Base on St. Croix hustle to acquire and stage supplies for the disaster-struck Virgin Islands.

Incident Support Bases (ISB) are set up by FEMA for use in the event of a disaster. The ISB's mission is to stage supplies such as water, meals, generators, and other equipment in a zone near



At the Incident Support Base staging area on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, workers assembled critical equipment to be used for cleanup and infrastructure repair during the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. (USACE photo by Brooks Hubbard)

impacted areas. This allows emergency relievers a space to stage supplies for distribution and implementation during an ongoing disaster relief operation.

As FEMA's engineers and technical experts, the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serves multiple missions throughout a disaster and utilizes the Incident Support Base to prepare and stage for these missions.

"The ISBs are a shared

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Maj. Yanson Cox

Maj. Yanson Cox was commissioned as an Engineer Officer into the U.S. Army in 2000 from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from the Missouri Institute of Science and Technology. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Career Courses, Command and General Staff College, and Air Assault School. Major Cox is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Maj. Cox's troop assignments include Platoon Leader in the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion (Mechanized); Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 10th Combat Engineer Battalion

(Mechanized); Commander, Columbus Recruiting Company; Maneuver Advisor, 0322 Military Transition Team; Battalion Executive Officer, 2-23 Infantry Battalion and Battalion Operations Officer, 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

His staff assignments include Battalion S-4, 10th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized); Watch Officer, USACE Operations Center; Strategic Planner, HQ ISAF; Engineer Planner, I Corps; Assistant Executive Officer to the Commanding General, HQ USACE and Planning Officer to the Commanding General, HQ USACE.

His major awards and decorations include: Bronze Star with 1 OLC, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 OLC, Army Commendation Medal with 3 OLCs, Joint Service Achievement



Maj. Yanson Cox is a West Point Class of 2000 graduate.

Medal, Army Achievement Medal with 1 OLC, Air Assault Badge, and the Bronze Order of the De Fleury Medal.

The Charleston, South Carolina native is married to Jennifer Cox, and they have two daughters.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

SUPPORT TO FEMA CON'T

resource offered to USACE so that the temporary power and roofing missions requiring storage space for generators, cable, and roofing materials can be staged for use at critical public facilities,” said John Kulick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division Regional Logistics Planner.

The Corps, tasked by FEMA, has brought the temporary power, blue roof and commodities missions to life on St. Croix and has lead the staging and implementation of these resources within the ISB.

Temporary Power Staging

The Corps’ Emergency Power Planning and Response Teams bring temporary power to critical infrastructures as determined by the territory. On the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Corps is providing temporary power to schools, police and fire stations, medical facilities and other critical infrastructures throughout St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

Emergency Power Planning and Response team members from the Corps’ Memphis District worked diligently to bring generator sets to these pre-determined critical structures on St. Croix. But

bringing in hundreds of generator sets to a water-locked territory is not a simple mission.

After Hurricane Maria, St. Croix’s port terminal for large shipments became blocked by submerged shipping containers that toppled into the water during the storm. Seeing the immediate shipping of generator sets for critical infrastructures as impossible, the Corps worked with other federal agencies to airlift the generators to the ISB.

These generator sets were then prepped for quick installation on the ISB so that the generators can then quickly move to its designated area to provide temporary power to critical infrastructures throughout St. Croix.

Commodities Staging

Along with generator sets, the Corps provides logistical expertise to the combined commodities



A USACE deployed volunteer inventories items at the Incident Support Base. (USACE photo by Rebecca Nappi)

distribution that are centralized within the ISB. Commodities include water, diapers, meals ready to eat, canned food, tarps and other necessities. These commodities are staged by FEMA at the ISB for distribution throughout the island.

The Corps’ logistical technicians provided technical assistance to FEMA and the Virgin Islands Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) to assist them in strategically planning the intake and distribution of supplies to areas by need.

“The Corps basically supports other agencies as needed, it’s what we do,” said Sid Jones, Corps of

SUPPORT TO FEMA CONT

Engineers Commodities Management Expert. “We came in and helped federal agencies with a common goal to distribute water and food to survivors.”

While distributing supplies may seem like a straight-forward undertaking, Commodities Management Experts look at the resources available to residents in areas and determine extra need of specific resources in order to give where the need is greatest. For example, those without running water require much more bottled water distribution.

Corps’ Commodities Management Experts assisted FEMA and VITEMA in planning and preparing for the various needs residents across the Virgin Islands require post Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Blue Roof Staging

The Corps’ Blue Roof mission is a free service to homeowners that provides those who suffered damage to their roofs during a disaster a 30 day fix until more permanent repairs can be made. This allows homes to be protected and families to remain in their homes while recovering from the storm.

In St. Croix, thousands of homes suffered roof damage from Hurricane Maria’s devastating winds, leaving many residents with little no cover from the sky above. The Blue Roof mission takes blue, fiber-reinforced sheeting to create a temporary roof over any damages to protect the home and the homeowners.

Working to cover thousands of roofs takes thousands of rolls fiber-reinforced sheeting needing a place to be stored upon delivery.

Corps employees at the ISB, track, cut and sort this fiber-reinforced sheeting, in order to properly and efficiently prepare for the installation of Blue Roofs.

Communications Integration

In order for the Corps’ power team, blue roof team and commodities teams to work with other federal and territory agencies located outside the ISB, communication channels need to exist. But with cell service towers and power lines down throughout the island of St. Croix, the Corps is providing communications to the ISB in order for staging agencies to obtain communications channels.

The Corps deployed one of its three Mobile Communications Vehicles to the ISB to deliver communications capabilities. The Mobile Communications Vehicle provides a full spectrum of communications that includes radio, satellite and cellular capabilities that are not currently available within St. Croix.

“The MCV supports the power team with internet connectivity and telephone service where power is interrupted and cell service in nonexistent or unreliable.” said Jason Moeller, Army Corps of Engineers DTOS Mission Specialist.

This vehicle can provide communications for up to 24 continuous hours and allows for Corps employees working on the ISB to coordinate with other agencies and fellow Corps employees outside of the ISB.

Working Together

The ISB is a visual display of how an array of missions from various federal and territorial agencies work together to strategically prepare materials and supplies in order to successfully accomplish these disaster missions.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Added Invaluable Support During Aftermath of Hurricanes

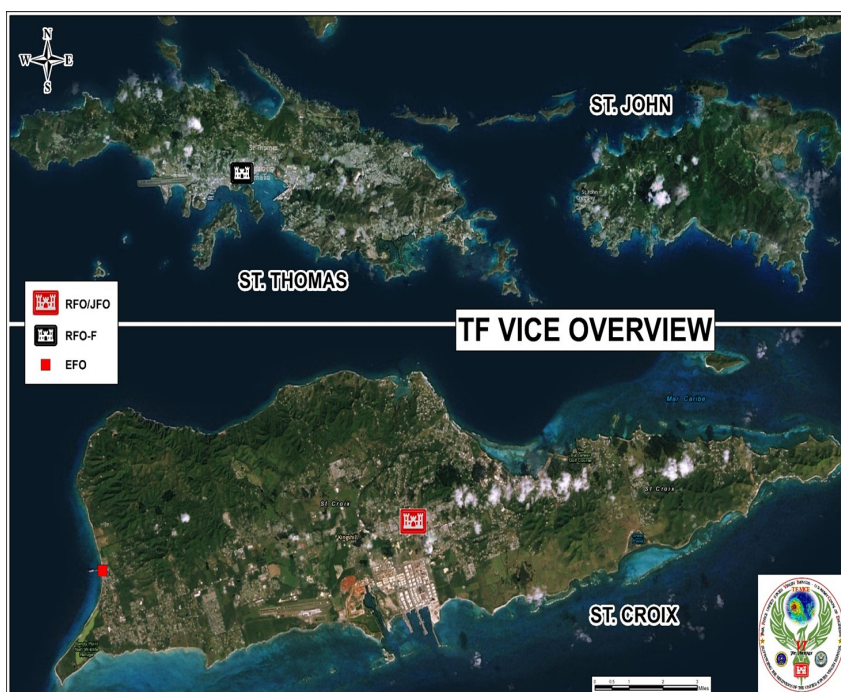
The Wilmington District's GIS team has been providing support to the U.S. Virgin Islands response/recovery effort since Hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall. Working for FEMA under Emergency Support Function #3, Public Works and Engineering, the team supported several mission areas including Temporary Roofing (aka Blue Roofs), Debris Removal, Critical Public Facilities, Infrastructure Assessment, and Temporary Emergency Power.

Team lead Trevor Lancaster deployed to St. Croix for September and October to provide support on the ground, while Wilmington District GIS teammates **Spencer Roylance**, **Scott Maners**, and **Laurel Davis** provided reachback support in the form of imagery acquisition/processing, cartographic products, and technical assistance.

The U.S. Virgin Islands presented many geographic challenges for the recovery effort. A lack of internet and mobile data connectivity from the storm damage caused the team to adapt and implement offline mapping and navigation solutions. Additionally, the USVI lacks traditional residential/commercial addressing. The team worked to overcome these challenges by using tax records and parcel data in the territory to identify locations in need of assessment or assistance. While unique in its challenges, the GIS team has been grateful for the opportunity to provide meaningful and rewarding support.



Task Force USVI and SAW Commander Col. Robert Clark, second from left, gets pinpoint information for recovery efforts from GIS maps on St. Croix.



Overhead views such as this helped speed up damage assessments, and aided in finding the areas hardest hit to commercial, private buildings and homes.

A Look Back: SAW Response to USVI



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District team members responded to the U.S. Virgin Islands of St Croix, St Thomas, and St John following the devastating impacts from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. An advanced team led by COL Robert Clark Commander of the Wilmington District quickly mobilized downrange following Hurricane Irma and less than twelve days later the team would ride out a Category Five Hurricane known as Maria.

The U.S. Virgin Islands were in the direct paths of these storms and they were devastated. More than 100,000 residents were impacted across the territory and more than 185 mile-per-hour winds ripped apart century old trees, bringing down power lines and

snapping utility poles in half and stripping all vegetation bare; and approximately 500 boats were sunk in the harbors. Critical public facilities such as airports, police stations, fire stations, schools, medical facilities and both hospitals were heavily damaged. These impacts critically prevented vital government services to the residents of the Virgin Islands.

To date, power across the Virgin Islands remains at 91 percent territory-wide. Economically, the impact losses for key industries and tourism are estimated at \$1.7 billion over the next three years. The damages for commercial facilities are nearly \$900 million and the Virgin Islands government predicts the uninsured

hurricane related damages to exceed \$7.5 billion.

More than 480 individuals from almost every USACE Division, District and Centers were represented assisting with the response and recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Federal Emergency Management Agency assigned to USACE 24 missions at approximately \$201 million. The missions have been Temporary Power, Debris Removal, Infrastructure Assessments, Temporary Blue Roof, Commodities, and Critical Public Facilities. The missions are currently ongoing and expected to be completed by late Spring weather permitting.



For more images of the hurricane recovery efforts, please turn to next page.

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USVI Con't

USACE Chief of Engineers Lieut. Gen. Todd Semonite (second from left) and Col. Robert Clark (third from right) and team depart a local helicopter on St. Croix.



249th Engineering Battalion Prime Power Sgt. Cody Schultz removes a panel on a non-working generator at the Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

SAD Commander Brig. Gen. Diana Holland congratulates (SAW's) USVI Chief of Staff Daniel Sinclair with a coin at the Incident Support Base on St. Croix.



Contracted debris removal teams worked around the clock to clear roads and downed trees that damaged numerous homes and buildings.



USACE logistics specialists prepare to unload critical materials for the temporary power mission on St. Croix.

CORPS HELPS REOPEN VIRGIN ISLANDS SCHOOLS AFTER HURRICANES

Story and photo by

Rebecca Nappi

Schools across St. Croix opened their doors for the first time since Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the island, thanks in part to temporary emergency power, temporary roofing and infrastructure assessments completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Schools throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands were not exempt from Hurricanes Irma and Maria's Category 5 destructive winds. With damaged roofs, complete loss of power, water damage and more, schools were in no shape for students.

The U.S. Virgin Islands government determined schools to be critical infrastructure, which allowed Federal Emergency

Management Agency officials to call in its engineers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to assess school building infrastructures, deliver temporary power and install temporary roofing where needed across the territory.

"You could tell from talking with them that the children really want to be back in school," said John Bartel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission Specialist for Operations. "It was so enjoyable to see them return because of our efforts."

In any disaster, the Corps of Engineers' three top priorities are to support immediate emergency response priorities, sustain lives with critical commodities such as temporary emergency power and initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.



Temporary emergency power was instrumental in helping to reopen schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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SCHOOLS CON'T

Providing temporary roofing, temporary emergency power and infrastructure assessment to public schools is not a usual mission function the Corps provides during its relief efforts, but after the resources for these efforts could not be established on any of the islands, the Corps was tasked with the mission.

“This is an excellent example of how the Corps works to fill the gaps during a disaster,” said Captain Eric Nowak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Task Force U.S. Virgin Islands Battle Captain.

The Juanita Gardine Elementary in St. Croix saw entire sections of roofs blown off during the storms, leaving a math classroom, bathroom, cafeteria and gymnasium with skylights to the elements. The Corps provided temporary blue roofs to these areas, allowing students and teachers to inhabit and utilize these areas until permanent repairs can be made.

The Corps Infrastructure

Assessment team completed more than 20 school infrastructure assessments that reported to the Department of Education concerning facility safety and building integrity.

Operation Blue Roof, which provides temporary roofing to homeowners with storm damaged roofs, is typically provided to private residences. But with schools in need, the Corps roofing team prioritized damaged schools that were schedule to reopen.

With temporary roof protection in place, the Corps provided temporary emergency power by installing 30 FEMA generators into the schools. This allowed schools to not only have working lights and electronics throughout their facilities, but it also allowed school cafeterias to be functional. Schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands provide students with daily hot lunches, which after a disaster for some students is their only substantial meal for the day.

“We brought in generators of all

sizes to power classrooms, cafeterias and other facilities,” said Tonya Combes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission Power Liaison. “Without power you can’t go into a classroom and properly learn because you need power for everything.”

With temporary roofs, infrastructure assessments and temporary power complete, more than 2,800 students returned to schools and education facilities across the U.S. Virgin Islands. Students and teachers in education facilities that were deemed non-functional will utilize these Corps assisted facilities. Many schools were so heavily damaged that classes from various schools will share facilities, therefore allowing students to complete their education within a timely manner.

“This non-standard mission has shown the Corps ability to adapt and overcome challenges,” Nowak said.

USACE Task Force Discusses STEM with Cancryn Students

Story and photos by Brooks O. Hubbard IV

A team of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers First Responders met with more than 100 displaced students from the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School at the Charlotte Amalie High School Ruth E. Thomas Auditorium, in Saint Thomas, United States Virgin Island, Oct. 19 to discuss how Science, Technology, Engineering and Math-STEM career fields are being utilized during the hurricane recovery effort.

USACE is working in partnership with the local, territory, and federal response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. There are more than 975 personnel engaged and coordinating with local, territory and Federal Emergency Management Agency partners in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. USACE number one priority continues to be the life, health and safety of all who were affected by Hurricanes Irma and



USACE volunteers share their knowledge of science and engineering with more than 100 students who attended the presentation.

Maria. USACE's 12 Mission Assignments from FEMA include: Temporary Power, Temporary Roofing, Debris Removal/ Technical Assistance, and Infrastructure Assessment.

"The Corps of Engineers is providing 4.7 megawatts of power -if you combine all the generation power-of just Saint Thomas, can someone guess how many I-Phones will that charge?" asked Stephen Dunbar, a USACE Local Government Liaison cadre

member with the New England District, and deployed to the Virgin Islands and worked with the Deputy Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency located in the Emergency Operations Center on St. Thomas.

The LGL role is intended to facilitate and enhance communication between USACE Planning and Response Teams and the impacted local

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STEM Con't

government. Additional responsibilities include helping the impacted local government understand the National Response Framework and how to request and receive assistance.

"I was working with the USVI governmental staff in the EOC and while talking with the Department of Education representative, Shamika Williams-Henley, I discovered she was also the school districts STEM coordinator," said Dunbar who also works with STEM programs in his district.

The hurricanes severely damaged most of the schools on the islands of St. Thomas and St. John, and the Corps was additionally requested by FEMA to provide temporary power to schools identified by VITEMA. Students from Addelita Cancryn Junior High School merged their campuses with the Amalie campus to ensure the students were accommodated with a campus.

"After talking with Steve we decided it would be great for our STEM students to talk to Corps team members about how their STEM education is assisting with the recovery," said Williams-

Henley. "I then texted several schools and the principal from Cancryn responded first."

Dunbar accompanied by several civilian USACE PRT members and Soldiers continued to challenge students on their knowledge of math and their understanding of science as it relates to the recovery operation.

"Does anyone know what a Mega is?" asked Maj. Andrew Freinberg, chief of staff for the Response Field Office-Forward at St. Thomas. Freinberg explained the values of prefixes and that a mega-watt equaled 1 million watts. Armed with that knowledge students began their calculations to answer the initial question. One student was able to answer the question and was cheered on by his fellow students. The team continued to challenge the



Project Manager Steve Dunbar asks students technical questions during the presentation.

students with several additional questions providing them with a better outlook how STEM is being utilized in the Corps recovery effort.

"We may not be at home, but learning continues in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics ...THE PHOENIX CONTINUES TO RISE," commented, Dr. Lisa Hassell-Forde, the principal of Cancryn on her Facebook page.

South Atlantic Division Districts Seek Top Companies at Annual FEDCON Summit



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Chief of Environmental Division Karen Baker was the keynote speaker at the summit.

the Federal Business Opportunities website to look for government work, and the Federal Government Acquisition Regulations,” she said.

Walton completes and approves through the South Atlantic Division the conference package to include Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, and Norfolk Districts. She holds informative meetings within the Wilmington District to ensure that everyone who is involved in the conference knows what to expect. At the FEDCON 2017 conference, Walton said the Wilmington District looked for companies that can provide a variety of services and supplies to meet mission needs.

“Our audience at this conference was for the construction companies, both small and large and either military or civil works, and the Architectural and Engineering firms that can provide designs for the major Military Construction (MILCON) projects and the Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization Projects (SRM),” she said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Fort Bragg, Marine Corps Installations East, Seymour Johnson AFB, other Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps installations gathered in Wilmington in October for the annual Southeast Region Federal Construction, Infrastructure & Environmental (FEDCON) Summit.

The event focuses on networking and trade show activities that allow businesses to market their services

and products to more than 700 general contractors, specialty contractors, engineers, architects and suppliers. Wilmington District Small Business Deputy Donna Walton is the liaison for coordination between the host, the North Carolina Military Business Center, in conjunction with North Carolina Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis.

“As the Small Business Deputy I educate businesses on what the Corps needs, how to compete for federal government work, how to use

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FEDCON Con't

“We need companies that can compete for the MILCON, SRM, and Civil Works projects, and they need to have experience and the manpower to do the job, as well as the bonding capabilities needed for the project.”

Walton said that several firms at the summit are veteran-owned or hire veterans. She said that being prior service can be advantageous.

“A veteran or retired military member can be useful to the company they work for if they have the security clearances required to be able to perform on USACE jobs,” she said. “We manage construction for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg and the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point in Brunswick County. Both

locations require regular and high-level security clearances. It is also useful if we have set aside a procurement for the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

Socio-Economic category. They will need to be a SDVOSB to compete and be eligible for award of a contract.”

The Small Business Administration is responsible for determining the size standards for a company to be considered as a

small business. Walton said it depends on the North American Industry Classification System Code (NAICS) as set forth by the Small Business Administration.

“For example, under the NAICS Code 236220, which is Commercial and Institutional Building Construction, a company is considered a small business if it has \$36.5 million in gross receipts. The majority of the construction NAICS codes are in dollars and the majority of the supply NAICS codes are in number of employees.”

For more information about the Wilmington District Small Business Office go to the following link;

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Small-Business/>



FEDCON Coordinator for USACE, SAW's Donna Walton (second from right), leads a panel discussion with fellow SAD and NAD Small Business Specialists Cherie Keenze (second from left), Leila Hollis (center), and Rose Smalls (right). At left is NCMBC moderator Sue Kranes.



SAW Chief of Military Projects Sam Colella (third from left) sits on a panel to discuss military construction opportunities.

DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION MANAGERS HELP BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

In the early 1990s, the U.S. Army was transitioning to a new era after the fall of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic, commonly known as the Soviet Union. “Downsizing” was the catchphrase of the day as the Department of Defense reduced the numbers of its forces stationed in Europe. What shifted significantly was a smaller, leaner force to meet the Army’s changing warfighting doctrine.

At Fort Stewart, Georgia, Soldiers adapted to new ways of training. However, they faced a unique challenge that moved to the forefront in environmental concerns. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker made its home in Fort Stewart’s training areas and needed minimal human interference to recover from its dwindling reproduction rate. What emerged was the Army’s commitment to balancing training with environmental stewardship.



Wilmington District marine biologist Teresa Russell explains the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ environmental support to the military at the FEDCON summit.

Through education and dedication, Soldiers were still able to train, yet help the woodpecker sustain its growing numbers by shying away from protected areas where the bird lived.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a significant role in supporting the Army’s environmental commitment. This year, Wilmington District biologists successfully added to the preservation of the red

cockaded woodpecker at Fort Bragg by managing complex contracts with environmental consultants who specialize in endangered species like the woodpecker.

“As biologists, we look for expert consultants with proven abilities to help sustain the populations of numerous endangered species,” said Wilmington District marine biologist Teresa Russell. “We suc-

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ENVIRONMENT CON'T



The federally protected red-cockaded woodpecker makes its home on military installations such as Fort Benning in Georgia and Fort Bragg. (U.S. Army photo)

and accounted for and mitigated for if impacts do occur,” she explained. “It’s all about finding the happy balance of providing the installation customer with the development or building that they need, while avoiding negative impacts to the environmentally sensitive areas where possible. I feel that through good communication during the design and construction phases and strong team work we are able to execute the majority of projects the installations need while keeping the impacts to environmental and cultural resources to a minimum.”

cessfully contracted a well-established environmental consultant with extensive knowledge of the nesting and reproductive habits of the red-cockaded woodpecker in various areas of North Carolina and South Carolina.”

Russell said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports military installations with in-house and contracted support for help with wetlands delineation, Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act for permitting, agency coordination support and cultural resource surveys.

“We work with the Department of Public Works (DPW) environmental managers and the installation to ensure that the protected species, wetlands and waters and cultural resources that exist within military installations are recognized and properly managed

Russell added that another success story was efforts to help an endangered plant at the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point (MOTSU) called the rough-leaf loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*).

“Each plant has a specific role that can add to the overall effectiveness of a functioning ecosystem,” Russell said. “We do a lot of paperwork in our jobs and coordinate with numerous consultants, but we also get out in the field for hands-on work with such endangered plant species like the rough-leaved loosestrife. Our backgrounds are varied in environmental science, biology and marine biology, and it adds to our effectiveness of upholding the Corps of Engineers’ Environmental Operating Principles of being good stewards of the environment.”

SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON PROACTIVE MEASURES TO HELP ENVIRONMENT

In 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and The Nature Conservancy formed a partnership and established the Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP). The SRP focuses on modifying operations at USACE dams to enhance the health and life of river ecosystems.

SRP activities are occurring in numerous river basins throughout the U.S., making it the largest coordinated effort of its kind in the world. The Wilmington District operates John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir on the Roanoke River, one of the eight original rivers in the SRP. Flood operations at John H. Kerr were recently modified to improve the health of the downstream floodplain ecosystem. At SRP sites, scientists gather data on the river flows and work with water managers to modify dam and reservoir operations.

During the National Sustainable Rivers Program meeting in Raleigh last October, officials from USACE, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other non-

governmental organizations, discussed expansion, policy, budgets and the future of SRP.

“The Wilmington District was

pleased to host the National SRP meeting and be able

to highlight the recent success on the Roanoke and the promise of SRP efforts on the Cape Fear River,” said Wilmington District water manager Ashley Hatchell. “We hope that others benefit from hearing about the success, and even challenges, that several USACE Districts shared during the meeting.”

In addition to sharing experiences, conference attendees discussed ideas for program expansion, focusing on what is required to meet the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) goal of 20 rivers by 2020. Other topics of discussion focused on ways to strengthen the program, such as finding creative solutions for



SAW Chief of Environment section Jenny Owens, right, and SAW biologist Justin Bashaw, seated to her right, listened to and contributed to topics to keep the Sustainable Rivers Program in

resources, developing a repository for information, mentoring new project site staff, and exploring policies that support SRP initiatives.

The meeting included a day field trip on the Roanoke River. Conference attendees took a tour by boat along the lower Roanoke River and led hikes through the floodplains showing examples of how altering flows from dams like John H. Kerr can result in improving ecosystem function and health. Dialogue with Wilmington District staff and outside agencies was a key component of understanding and collaborating shared information.

Printable Calendar

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☐ HOLIDAY

☐ PAY DAY

☐ PAY PERIOD ENDS