



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **High school students visit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to demonstrate engineering skills and learn about real-life applications**

Jacksonville, Fla. – More than 60 high school students from Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and Clay Counties will attend an Engineering Career Day event and project competition, hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, on Fri., Feb. 24. The day-long event, which is co-sponsored by the Corps and the Society of American Military Engineers, Jacksonville Post, begins at 8:30 a.m. at the district headquarters, 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville.

Students will arrive at the event in teams that have designed a water management system to simulate the challenges of providing water to meet various needs while simultaneously maintaining flood protection through typical wet and dry seasons, including hurricanes. A second spontaneous design/build problem, in which the students will build a retaining wall for flood protection purposes, will be given to the teams to complete on site.

Awards will be presented after judging by a panel that includes the Dean of Engineering at the University of North Florida, Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at University of Florida, presidents, vice-presidents and CEOs of several

local engineering firms and senior military engineers, including Maj. Erik Stor, Jacksonville District deputy commander.

The water management system and retaining wall projects mimic the water management system used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in managing Lake Okeechobee in central Florida and the Herbert Hoover Dike, the 140-mile earthen dam that surrounds the lake. Guest speaker Susan Sylvester, formerly of Jacksonville District and now a deputy department director with South Florida Water Management District, will discuss the challenges the state and federal government face in dealing with water management and flood control.

“Giving students the opportunity to use their skills in an interactive, hands-on simulation like this, and then to learn about the real-world challenges and solutions in which our engineers are involved on a daily basis is a privilege,” said Stor. “Our ultimate goal is to introduce students to engineering as a diverse and rewarding future career choice.”

For security purposes, media representatives who plan to attend must notify Barry Vorse (904-232-2236 or cell 904-614-4976) by 8:00 a.m. Friday, and will be required to present credentials at the door.

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