



JAXSTRONG

IN THIS ISSUE

A Year in Review

- MIAMI HARBOR DEEPENING
- CIVIL WORKS TRANSFORMATION
- MILITARY, INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

...AND MORE



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM COL. ALAN DODD

TRANSFORMING CIVIL WORKS

Welcome to 2015! The Jacksonville District had a great 2014. We resolved some sticky policy issues with our non-federal sponsors on a number of projects and completed several major construction contracts. And two days before Christmas, we received the wonderful news that the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Tom Bostick, finalized reports on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and the Flagler Beach Shore Protection Project. The Chief's action clears the road for Congress to consider these reports in the future.

The approval of these reports mark a major milestone in the transformation of processes governing civil works projects in the Corps of Engineers. The CEPP effort was in its early stages when I assumed command of the Jacksonville District in 2012. We should all be proud we completed a final report on a project of this magnitude in about half the time of previous planning efforts.

The transformation of civil works is one of the most important endeavors in the history of the Corps. Congress and stakeholders have repeatedly told us our planning processes take too long. The Corps has worked to modernize the project planning program by promoting greater involvement and ownership across all levels of government, water resource stakeholders and the general public. CEPP and Flagler Beach are excellent examples of what we can do when we listen to each other and work together.

CEPP wasn't an easy project to formulate. While the general concept of moving more water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay sounds relatively simple, the diversity of stakeholders involved make it very complex. The environmental community is concerned about water quality; while the agriculture community is concerned about water supply. Recreationalists want hunting and fishing considered and conservationists want to ensure a habitat exists where deer, birds, and other animals can thrive. Everyone wants flood protection. We face the challenge of balancing all these considerations and producing a plan the majority of our stakeholders can embrace.

After we formulated the draft plan, it went through a rigorous review at multiple levels of government. Those reviews produced a lot of good discussion and debate about the road ahead. At times, it seemed like the process stalled a bit. However, everyone involved continued to press ahead and our efforts were rewarded with approval of the report a little more than three years after the initial planning discussions took place.

Of course, much remains to be done before CEPP can become reality. We continue working on the C-44 and C-43 projects, we continue our work to rehabilitate Hebert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee, and we continue our efforts to restore the Kissimmee River to its more natural path. Each of these projects create more storage in the system, so that timing and delivery of water flows can be improved for the benefit of the south Florida eco-system in general.

It was a great 2014; I look forward to working with you to make a greater 2015!

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Alan Dodd
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Jacksonville District

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Commander's Column2**
- Miami Harbor Deepening3**
- Civil Works Transformation5**
- Regulatory7**
- Ecosystem8**
- Ports11**
- Small Business13**
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day15**
- A Worthwhile Investment16**
- Congresswoman Kathy Castor Visits17**

ON THE COVER

An early 18th century cannon was found during work on the Miami Harbor Deepening project in August. District archeologist Grady Caulk led an exploration team and delivered the cannon to the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in Tallahassee.



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Miami Harbor deepening uncovers 18th century cannon



A GLD&D employee slowly lowers an early 18th century cannon onto a dock, readying it for inspection and transport. (Photo by Grady Caulk, USACE)

The discovery of an early 18th century cannon during work on the Miami Harbor Deepening project was certainly an exciting moment for crew members of the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (GLD&D) LLC Company.

Their discovery was made in August while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' contractor was working at the seagrass mitigation site located north of the Julia Tuttle Causeway in Biscayne Bay. Dredged material was used to create the mitigation site and that's how GLD&D transferred the cannon there. Dredge-work included using a 40 cubic-yard "clamshell" bucket to excavate the sea bottom. The material, along with the cannon, was loaded into barges and transported to the mitigation area. GLD&D made the cannon discovery while spreading the material and removing large debris. Soon afterwards, the contractor determined that the cannon originated from one of the harbor's turning basins; an undisclosed location for now while project construction is ongoing.

"Once we knew the cannon's origin, we temporarily stopped dredging in that area to conduct further cultural exploration," said project manager Laurel Reichold.

Corps archeologist Grady Caulk led the exploration team and also delivered the cannon to the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in Tallahassee where Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner was on hand to receive it Oct. 31.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to restore this 18th century cannon at the Department of State's conservation lab," said Secretary of State Ken Detzner. "This experience will add to our base knowledge of maritime history in the state of Florida, and it can then be shared with the public to educate about the Sunshine State's storied past."

Caulk said everyone was a bit excited and had numerous theories about the cannon and what the exploration might uncover.

MIAMI HARBOR DEEPENING (continued from PAGE 3)



Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research staff in Tallahassee carefully lower the cannon into a large vat to begin the restoration process. (Photo by Grady Caulk, USACE)

“There was a Spanish mission at the mouth of the old Miami River entrance and ships visited there often. Old dredgers also used cannons as anchors; and, since the cannon was in inoperable condition with a broken muzzle and missing button at the end – it could have been worn out and thrown overboard or possibly used as ballast for awhile,” Caulk said.

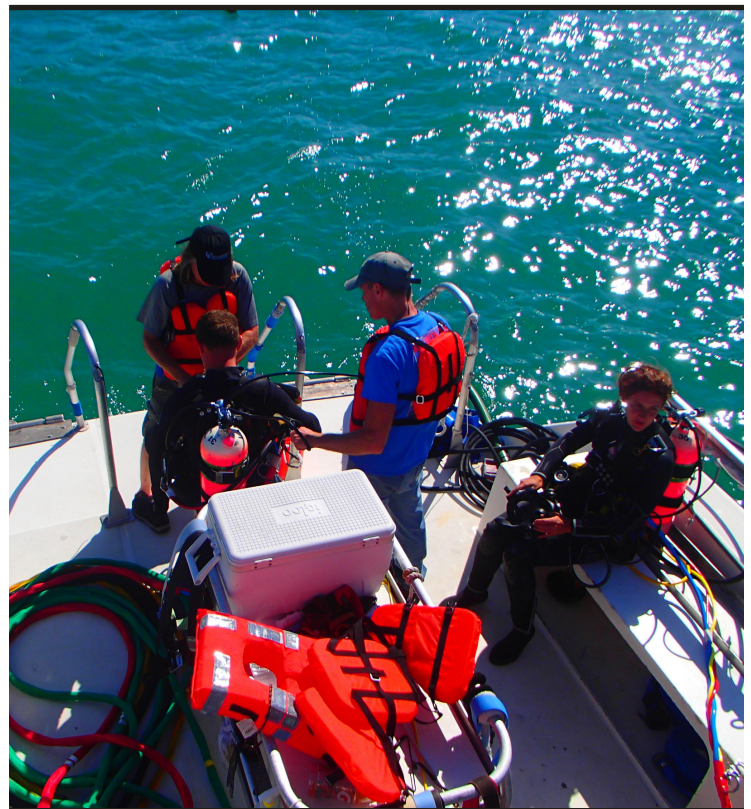
Corps employees conducted a magnetometer and side scan sonar resurvey of the turning basin area in October and identified five magnetic targets that might have represented additional shipwreck remains. The Corps then contracted a cultural resource company to conduct a diver identification of the magnetic targets to determine if the cannon was an isolated artifact or part of a shipwreck.

Five days of explorative diving in November didn't recover any related objects. The dive team found steel cable, fish traps, a modern anchor and other similar debris.

“We would have conducted data recovery mitigation if there was evidence of a potential shipwreck,” Caulk said. But, he added with a small smile, all the excitement at the site is over now. He and others look forward to learning more about the cannon.

Biscayne National Park cultural resource manager Charles Lawson found an interesting tidbit of information in the Daily Miami Metropolis dated Sept. 3, 1919: “Fourteen old Spanish cannons, recovered by Captain {James} Webster in 30 feet of water a few miles north of Careysfort Light, will be used as mooring anchors for tugs, barges and buoys while working on Government Cut.”

Learn more about artifacts found in Florida's waters at <http://dos.myflorida.com/historical>. ♦



After Corps employees conducted a magnetometer and side scan sonar resurvey, Corps' contractors followed-up by conducting diving explorations for five days in the turning basin. They didn't uncover any artifacts, related or otherwise. (Photo by Grady Caulk, USACE)

A Year in Review: Civil works transformation



At left, Brevard County North Reach segment prior to sand renourishment and, at right, following renourishment. (USACE file photos)

Nature struck powerful blows against Florida in 2012 with storm-force winds, rain and large swells that caused more than \$68 billion in damages and brought a record amount of beach restoration work to Jacksonville District. The work resulted in constructing 22 projects and in 2014 teams here ensured that more than 38.5 miles of critically eroded beaches in Florida received sand to protect upland structures.

According to coastal team members, their work couldn't have been possible without the successful partnerships and collaborative relationships established over the years with local sponsors, federal and state entities, coastal engineering firms, and more.

The team learned a lot, including flexible start and end dates work best on almost all the emergency projects. Due to the sheer number of projects and concerns with dredge availability, Coastal/Navigation Section Chief Jackie Keiser said the teams collaborated with industry and allowed them flexible dates, where possible, so they could move their dredges most efficiently. This resulted not only in the timely award of each project, but in the majority of bids coming in below the government estimate.

"The flexible start and end dates were a huge benefit to the storm response program and the right thing to do. Working with industry, we hope to continue this concept with minor changes to gain efficiencies while reducing risk," she said.

To help Florida's projects compete with the northeast for scarce dredges, the coastal team also combined projects to make them larger and more attractive to industry. Keiser said this resulted in savings of millions in mobilization costs for the sponsors and the District; a win-win savings of at least \$20 million to the program.

Brevard County had two projects constructed there, which were the largest in terms of quantity and cost. About 1.65 million cubic yards of sand was placed across 13.9 miles of beach.

This was huge for both the county and the District, and it paid off high dividends. The projects not only protect infrastructure, but also help the local tourist economy. The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association named one the projects the winner of its 2014 Best Restored Beach Award.



Contractors pump sand onto miles of Brevard County beaches. (USACE file photo)

Jacksonville District leads the nation, by far, in the placement of navigation sediment on beaches.

"Emergency placement adds considerable challenge to the already daunting task," said Col. Alan Dodd, District commander. "We know that we must execute supplemental navigation projects with an even greater sense of urgency due to the immediate potential impacts to life safety, the economics associated with our ports, and in some cases – national security." For these reasons, it's commonly accepted

CIVIL WORKS TRANSFORMATION (continued from PAGE 5)



Following a shore protection project, some happy beach goers constructed a Corps-look-alike castle. (USACE file photo)

that emergency navigation sediments are disposed of in the quickest and easiest manner possible, typically offshore. But Jacksonville District isn't typical.

The district received emergency supplemental funding for nine east coast ports following Hurricane Sandy. And, on all but one of them, the district was able to capture the sand and use it for shoreline protection.

"This is not just our commitment to preserving the resource – this is also an incredible value provided to the nation. We placed approximately 1 million cubic yards of sand on Florida's beaches as a result of this commitment," Dodd said. Based on typical contract costs for these beaches, this is a value of \$28 million at no additional cost to the taxpayer.



Corps engineer James Lagroon, right, checks the sand composition at a Broward County Shore Protection Project site along with two contractors. (Photo by Susan Jackson) constructed a Corps-look-alike castle. (USACE file photo)

Did you know?

All Federal beaches are available to the public. Federal beach projects include easements, and public access and parking. This protects taxpayers who ultimately pay the bill for Federal projects.

More people visit Florida beaches than all the national and state parks combined.

Florida beaches have an annual recreational value of about \$50 billion (2013).

Florida beach tourists generate \$3.2 billion annually in Federal taxes. Less than one percent of the Federal tax revenues are spent annually to maintain Florida beaches.

Keiser said it wouldn't have been possible, especially under the timelines, without years of commitment with partners and agencies towards the goal of managing sediments regionally. "I couldn't be more proud of the result, and I think we can say that we raised the bar for the rest of the nation," she said.

The Coastal/Navigation Section will likely take on a new project soon. The Civil Works Review Board unanimously approved the Flagler County Shore Protection Project in 2014. This much needed project will protect the A1A evacuation route and the infrastructure of Flagler County, while also providing an improved environment for important species and contributing to improved recreation-related economic benefits.

While these teams were busy constructing all the rehabilitation projects, they also had their typical program of more than 30 projects to look after in the Water Resources Branch. Read all about their work on the Ports and other navigation projects on page 11. ♦

A Year in Review: Regulatory



Sindulfo Castillo (right), chief of the Antilles Regulatory Section, watches as members of a standing-room-only crowd wait their turn to speak at Regulatory Division's Sept. 25 public meeting to discuss the Coral World Ocean Park permit application. (Photo by Greg Terry)

Federal regulations define "emergency" as a situation that would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property or an immediate, unforeseen and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a period of time less than the normal time needed to process the permit application under standard procedures.

Due to the April 2014 storm that affected Florida's Panhandle, the Jacksonville District initiated emergency permitting procedures in response to conditions resulting from these storms. Cliff Payne, chief of the Pensacola permit section said, "The flooding was unprecedented. Six counties were approved for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance."

Not only was the Regulatory Division busy with emergency permitting during 2014 but for the first time in four years, the division traveled Jacksonville District's territory, from Florida's Panhandle to the Antilles, offering full days of information to stakeholders, partners, consultants and the public.

Billed as "Strategies for Success," each of the open house events featured presentations about endangered species, mitigation, alternatives analysis and indirect effects as well as programmatic overview. Each venue also included a presentation focused on issues relevant to that specific region.

Between June and September, Regulatory team members traveled to Bradenton, Duck Key, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Panama City and Orlando, Florida as well as to San Juan, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

In September, more than 250 people – some carrying signs and posters, some wearing shirts expressing their opinions, packed the Charles Turnbull Regional Library well beyond its capacity, to show favor or opposition of an application by Coral World Ocean Park to construct a nearshore dolphin enclosure. The district's Regulatory Division hosted the public meeting in September to receive comments about the controversial project.

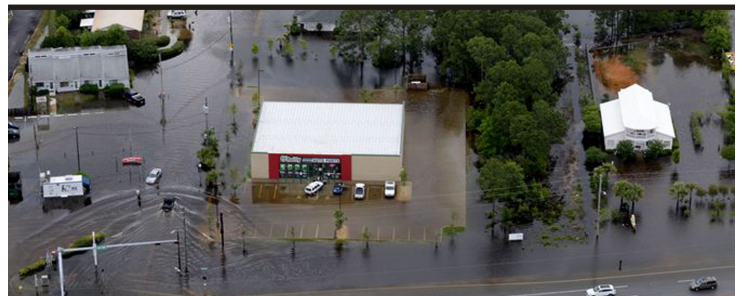
The proposed project at Coral World Ocean Park at Coki Point in St. Thomas includes constructing dolphin pens approximately 300 feet by 200 feet in Water Bay, a two-story "education center" structure adjacent to the shore, and a system on buoys, floats and lines to restrict vessel access. The project would impact 0.32 acres of coral habitat, 0.01 acres of seagrass in Porites rubble, 0.01 acres of hard bottom and 0.02 acres of scattered seagrass and coral.

Project opponents stated environmental impacts to coral, seagrass, marine life and water quality resulting from housing dolphins in the proposed enclosure will degrade Water Bay. Meanwhile proponents for the project advocated economic benefits through increased and enhanced tourism as well as educational benefits through hands-on wildlife encounters.

In recent years, it has been noted that the United States is falling behind in the number of its students who graduate with STEM degrees. A U.S. News and World Report article noted that although billions are spent each year on STEM education, America ranks 25th in math and 17th in science among industrialized nations.

Regulatory team members took an opportunity to visit the Antilles Elementary School at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. Team members discussed recycling and elements and principles of design, including line, plane symmetry, rhythm and scale and color.

Additionally, the district's Regulatory Division issued 613 Individual Permits; verified 2,607 General Permits including 25 emergency permits; completed 2,700 jurisdictional determinations; 275 mitigation site inspections; 32 mitigation bank compliance inspections among a total of 2,379 compliance actions; reviewed 2,390 projects for compliance with their permits; completed 152 enforcement/noncompliance actions; resolved two enforcement litigation cases; investigated 99 additional alleged violations, issued four new mitigation banks for a total of 65 banks and one in-lieu fee program, re-issued one Regional General Permits, and one Programmatic General Permit. ♦



Floods ravaged the Gulf Breeze area in the Florida Panhandle as a result of severe storms in April 2014. (Photo by Katie King, kking@pnj.com. Copyright 2014.)

A Year in Review: Ecosystem Restoration BY JENN MILLER



Construction continues at the S-65EX1 Gated Spillway, part of the Kissimmee River Restoration project. The structure will enable water managers to maintain river stages during extreme rain events to provide authorized flood protection to those who may be impacted by extreme rain events in the area. (USACE file photo)

From transferring the first completed Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project to resolving long-standing policy issues that will enable restoration projects to move forward, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District has performed some heavy lifting this year to keep Everglades restoration progress moving forward.

Getting Projects Built

The official transfer of the Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants Research Annex in Davie, Florida, occurred Jan. 10 when the Corps received the signed transfer letter from local sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). This not only signified the completion and transfer of the project, which will serve as a new facility to raise insects used as a biocontrol measure to manage invasive plants, but also signified the first CERP project to be completed.

"The successful transfer of this project demonstrates the Corps of Engineers' commitment to getting projects not only constructed, but also officially turned over to our local sponsors after completion," said Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan Dodd. "We have a lot of projects in the works, and we will continue to push forward in our project execution and completion goals."

Construction momentum was strong in 2014 with progress being made on numerous CERP projects, including the Indian River Lagoon-South's C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area. In July, construction was completed on the Corps' first construction contract.

Construction began on the contract in 2011 and consisted of constructing approximately seven miles of canals, access roads, staging areas, and other pieces of infrastructure needed to move forward with the larger components of the project, such as the 3,400-acre reservoir the Corps is scheduled to award the construction contract for this summer.

"Completion of this construction contract is an important step forward for the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area project," said Dodd. "We now have the foundation in place to begin constructing the larger components of the project, which when completed, will be extremely beneficial to the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon and our Everglades restoration program as a whole."

Construction progress wasn't just made on the east coast of Florida, but on the west coast as well. In October, the Corps celebrated the completion of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project's Merritt Pump Station – the first CERP construction contract to break ground. The Merritt Pump Station is a key piece of infrastructure for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project that will aid in the restoration of more than 55,000 acres of natural habitat.

"When the Corps of Engineers awarded the Merritt Pump Station construction contract in 2009, it not only marked the start of a massive restoration project here in Collier County, but it signaled the value of the important partnership we have with the South Florida Water Management District and the State of Florida," said Dodd. "The completion of the Merritt Pump



Col. Alan Dodd, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District commander, and Blake Guillory, South Florida Water Management District executive director, cut a ribbon to celebrate the completion of the Meritt Pump Station at the Picayune Strand Restoration Project Oct. 24. (Photo by Ty Erickson)



Construction was completed on the Picayune Strand Restoration project's Meritt Pump Station in October. The pump station is a key piece of infrastructure for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project that will aid in the restoration of more than 55,000 acres of natural habitat. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

Station is a clear demonstration of this partnership at work, and it's precisely this type of partnership that will further the goals and objectives envisioned in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan [CERP] over the coming years."

Regaining Momentum

Through partnerships with state and local governments, the Corps has been able to work collaboratively to overcome some significant hurdles this past year that will enable Everglades restoration projects to move forward, not only in the short-term, but for years to come.

In April, Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, announced policy guidance to the Corps that has enabled the C-111 South Dade and Kissimmee River Restoration (KRR) projects to move towards completion.

"We are encouraged by these advancements with our partner, the South Florida Water Management District. Together we have found solutions to ensure that these critical projects get to

completion. We need to keep up the momentum of projects' construction in order to move the water south and improve the health of the entire Everglades ecosystem," Darcy stated.

As a result, the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District were able to amend the existing Project Cooperation Agreement for the C-111 South Dade project and are now working on the required documents to award one of the project's remaining two construction contracts. The C-111 South Dade project is designed to create a seepage barrier that will help keep the additional water, provided by the Modified Water Deliveries project, in Everglades National Park.

For the Kissimmee River Restoration project, the agreement means the Corps will now initiate construction contracts for the final legs of the backfilling and restoration efforts. To date, the Corps has completed 25 construction contracts as part of the KRR project and has restored 11 miles of the historic river channel. Currently, two construction contracts are ongoing with another construction contract scheduled to be awarded this February.

Monitoring Restoration Efforts

In coordination with the South Florida Water Management District, the Jacksonville District released the fifth edition of a comprehensive report evaluating monitoring data in the Everglades ecosystem.

The report, known as the 2014 System Status Report (SSR) was released for public comment in March and the final report was completed in August. This multi-agency report evaluates current monitoring data from different geographic regions within the Everglades ecosystem to determine if the goals and objectives of CERP are being met. The SSR incorporates data collected by the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) program for CERP, data from CERP projects, and data provided by RECOVER partners.

In addition to assisting decision-makers with the timing of planning and implementation of CERP features, the 2014 System Status Report will also provide input into the 2015 Report to Congress, required by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. Produced every five years, the intent of the Report to Congress is to inform the highest levels of the U.S. government on the progress made toward the goals and objectives of CERP.

Preparing for Future Construction Efforts

Eight Jacksonville District projects that will provide critical infrastructure to local ports and ecosystem restoration efforts in Florida received approval as part of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, which was signed into law in June. Four navigation projects and four Everglades restoration projects were included in the bill that, in total, authorized 34 Corps projects across the nation.

The four Everglades restoration projects that received authorization were the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water preserve Areas, C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir and the C-111 Spreader Canal Western projects.

"Receiving authorization for these projects demonstrates the valuable work we're doing here in Florida and the quality work the Jacksonville District continues to deliver," said Dodd. "Congressional authorization is the first step. It now makes these projects eligible for funding during the appropriations process.

ECOSYSTEM (continued from PAGE 9)


Construction was completed on the first construction contract for the Indian River Lagoon-South's C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area in July. The contract included construction of approx. 7 miles of canals, access roads, staging areas, and other pieces of infrastructure needed to move forward with the larger components of the project. (Photo by Phillips & Jordan, Inc.)

After receiving appropriations, we can then finalize designs, partnership agreements and contract actions that will enable us to start construction."

A project's inclusion in WRRDA does not guarantee funding in the appropriations process. Still, getting a project into an authorization measure is a necessary first step to acquire funding in a later spending bill. With these eight projects authorized, they now move one step closer towards implementation and open up the queue for additional projects, such as the Central Everglades Planning project, to receive authorization in a future WRRDA bill.

Planning Projects for the Future

On Dec. 23, the Chief of Engineer's Report, or Chief's Report, for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) was signed by Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, USACE Commander and Chief of Engineers. It is the culmination of a three-year planning effort involving the Jacksonville District, South Florida Water Management District and other representatives from all levels of government, stakeholder groups, and the public at large.

"This is a wonderful holiday present for everyone who has worked hard on this project," said Dodd. "We set some very aggressive goals to produce a timely report on a project so large. I'm so proud of everyone who was involved in the effort."

CEPP combines several CERP components and is designed to capture water that is currently being lost to tide and direct additional flows to the Everglades and Florida Bay. The projects optimize the use of public lands to move additional water to the south.

The Corps prepared the CEPP planning document using a pilot process designed to reduce the overall time allocated for a study of this magnitude. In prior years, plan formulation and review may have taken six years or longer. The CEPP process was complete in half that time.

"The CEPP process is an excellent example of how the Corps is executing transformation in its civil works processes" said Dodd. "We are making the planning process more modern and relevant, enhancing our budgeting capability, and improving our methods of delivery."

The CEPP report will undergo additional review by the Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Office of Management & Budget. It will be formally transmitted to Congress upon completion of those reviews. Corps crossed the finish line with delivering the final report for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). The project, which initiated in 2011, is a pilot project aimed at streamlining the Corps' planning process.

Additionally, planning efforts have begun on the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project aims to restore and

sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwaters to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River for current and future generations. This project also seeks to restore, sustain, and reconnect the area's wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river.

Planning efforts for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration project were put on hold in 2011 and have now been restarted. The project team is in the process of re-scoping the project. Existing plan formulation data and analysis will be used in the development of a final plan, known as a Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement, to prepare for congressional authorization.

Not only are construction projects and planning efforts moving forward, but also the development of the final operating plan for the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 South Dade project. Currently, the first increment of the G-3273 and S-356 Pump Station Field Test is under development and is anticipated to begin early next year. This field test is the first step in the incremental approach to develop the final operating plan for the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 South Dade projects.

A lot was accomplished in 2014 and progress continues to be made in the Corps' restoration efforts. Twenty fourteen set the tone that the Corps will continue to do great things, even with a smaller budget than in years passed, and if the accomplishments of 2014 were to demonstrate anything, it's that momentum remains strong for Everglades restoration progress as we enter into the new year and this momentum will be built upon in 2015. ♦

Ports



The Port of Jacksonville was one of two ports included in President Obama's "We Can't Wait Initiative," launched in 2012. (USACE file photo)

Jacksonville District is responsible for 17 deep draft and 20 shallow draft harbors in Florida and the Caribbean – and it seems like teams here made progress on nearly all of them during 2014!

A large portion of the District's mission today is to help ensure Florida ports remain vital in the global marketplace.

President Barack Obama's "We Can't Wait" initiative expedited nationally significant infrastructure projects, including modernizing and expanding major ports in the United States. As a national priority, the District was challenged to reduce study schedules, using all the tools available to determine what channel improvements were needed and whether or not the nation should invest to further economic growth. Jacksonville District is meeting this challenge with great success.

Several port studies received unanimous approval from the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB), Chiefs Reports, and were also authorized in 2014.

After an intense study period, the Jacksonville Harbor Channel Deepening Project was authorized by Congress in June, and engineering and design work began on the project. The port's Mile Point project design work and collaboration continued through 2014 and it also received congressional authorization

in June. This project will improve navigation safety by reducing the impacts of ebb tide crosscurrents at the confluence of the St. Johns River with the Intracoastal Waterway. Its construction must be completed before the deepening begins. Teams also finished raising the dike on the Bartram Island disposal area in preparation for future dredging.



A major navigation study is nearly complete on Port Everglades with a Civil Works Review Board set for February 2015. (USACE file photo)

PORTS NAVIGATION (continued from PAGE 11)



In a joint effort with Jacksonville District, a team of NOAA divers later relocated corals from the Miami Harbor to a nursery site. The port is one of two Jacksonville District projects included in the administration's "We Can't Wait" initiative. (Photo courtesy of NOAA)

Both Canaveral Harbor and Lake Worth Inlet projects also received congressional authorization in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. The Canaveral Harbor project will deepen the harbor to improve navigation safety and allow passage of larger ships. The Lake Worth Inlet project will widen and deepen inlet to increase overall port efficiency and safety, and generate transportation cost savings. The Lake Worth Inlet team continues work on an economic assessment prior to beginning engineering and design.

The Manatee and Tampa harbor teams continued work on their general reevaluation reports, and they raised the dike on a Tampa harbor disposal area, too. The Tampa Harbor team also beneficially used maintenance dredging to place sand and install geotextile tubes on Egmont Key, which will help stabilize the beach and protect historic structures. The maintenance is removing shoaled sand along 17 miles of channel to improve the harbor's navigation safety.

The Port Everglades project team, with a tremendous amount of work conducted with the National Marine Fisheries Service on the environmental mitigation for corals, is preparing to present their study findings to the CWRB in February 2015.

In Miami, the harbor deepening project progressed in the outer channel and the overall project is at about 60 percent complete. Miami Harbor is the first 50-foot project in South Atlantic Division history. In addition to deepening and widening the outer channel, work also included the successful construction of artificial reefs and relocation of corals. Construction continues on the seagrass mitigation site and dredging starts in the inner channel in 2015. Full project completion is scheduled for July 2015.

These port project teams tackled new processes and overcame barriers to meet critical milestones, and they continue to persevere on a multitude of projects. While working on port projects, they were also making plans and preparing designs to clear navigation channels and get critical sand on heavily eroded federal beaches. Corps surveyors and others were working nearly everywhere on Florida's coastline! Read more about these teams' epic efforts in the Shore Protection article on page 5. ♦



Dredged material from Tampa Harbor maintenance is beneficially used on Egmont Key, which is severely eroding. The sand placement will help protect cultural resources on the island. (USACE file photo)

A Year in Review: Small business office

BY ERICA SKOLTE
PHOTOS BY JENNIE WILSON



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had the opportunity to engage with more than 1,700 attendees at the annual Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Corps representatives included (left to right) Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan M. Dodd; Chief, Small Business, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Grace Fontana; Chief, Small Business, Charleston District, Rose Smalls; Charleston District Commander, Lt. Col. John T. Litz; Chief, Small Business, Wilmington District, Donna Walton; Regional Contracting Chief, South Atlantic Division Directorate of Contracting, Laura Eichhorn; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick; Chief, Small Business Savannah District, Leila Hollis; Chief, Small Business, Jacksonville District, Beth Myers; Chief, Small Business, Mobile District, Linda Spadero; South Atlantic Division Assistant Associate Director of Small Business, LaShone Goodman-Cooper; Savannah District Commander, Col. Tom Tickner.

During 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District Small Business Office invested in contractors and businesses, hoping the return on investment would pay off in a big way.

It is a very simple investment strategy. If the Corps reaches out to teach contractors about the contracting process and how to do better proposals, the Corps should receive better proposals from more knowledgeable firms, and everybody wins.

The Small Business office continues to reach out at annual events such as Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference, but also held a number of targeted pre-proposal conferences and training events during this year.



Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan M. Dodd actively reached out to many of the attendees at the annual Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

"Not only do pre-proposal conferences benefit industry, but they also directly benefit the government by promoting a common understanding of the procurement requirements, the solicitation terms and conditions and the evaluation criteria," said the Jacksonville District Deputy for Small Business, Beth Myers. "In addition, it provides an opportunity for prime contractors and subcontractors to meet and develop relationships or teaming agreements that may improve contract performance."

"These events are of great value to both the contractors and the federal government. When we provide detailed information about our requirements to potential offerors and answer their questions, their feedback helps us to improve the solicitation," said Myers. "When the contract requirements are clear, it helps potential offerors to provide the best solutions to the government."

A pre-proposal conference was held for the Vegetative Management and Restoration Services procurement, primarily to support the work of the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This Single Award Task Order Contract, or 'SATOC,' valued at \$40 million, is an important tool for vegetative management and a 100 percent set-aside for small business concerns. Representatives from several branches worked together to provide information and were on hand to answer contractor's specific questions. Contract specialist Beau Corbett provided an overview of the solicitation requirements while biologist Jeremy Crossland presented an overview of the scope of vegetative management services. Myers, spoke about small business requirements and let small business contractors know where they can find additional information regarding opportunities.

SMALL BUSINESS (continued from PAGE 13)



Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan M. Dodd and Beth Myers, Deputy for the Office of Small Business Programs, spoke one-on-one with several different small groups at the annual Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in a process similar to "speed dating."

Approximately 40 individuals representing small businesses and their large business partners learned how to submit a winning proposal at the Jacksonville District's first ever pre-proposal event for Architect-Engineering Services. The project is a Small Business set-aside and two contracts should result from this acquisition.

"This is a great opportunity for Small Business firms to learn what the government is expecting to see in their proposals," said Myers. "The event was also a chance for small business owners to network and learn about requirements for the acquisition process, which can be daunting for small businesses lacking expertise."

The Construction Contractor Submittal Training held at the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Jacksonville was another highly successful event, attended by approximately 28 small disadvantaged businesses firms.

"As a result of this training, our small businesses will be better prepared and know what is expected of them as they seek to acquire contracts and fulfill our requirements," Myers said. "We received feedback that the training was outstanding. The Small Business Administration asked if we were willing to take this training on the road to other areas."

Mile Point Industry Day was another successful event where the Corps provided information to 75 contractor representatives to prepare them to bid on the complex and challenging contract for the Mile Point Reconfiguration project in Jacksonville Harbor.

During the annual Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, more than half of the 1,765 conference attendees represented small businesses. Small Business chiefs represented each of the five districts at the South Atlantic Division booth, providing businesses with information about projects throughout the southeast.

The Corps provided several presentations, and Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan M. Dodd and Myers also spoke one-on-one with several different small groups in a process similar to "speed dating."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, met with several small businesses, including Brockington and Associates. This Florida women-owned

small business was awarded a contract valued at \$1.2 million to conduct an extensive archeological investigation of 15 prehistoric sites in Water Conservation Area 3 and Everglades National Park in the Everglades. This work supports the Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP) and will provide baseline information for assessing the potential effects of future projects.

Mike Omella, chief of Military/Interagency and International Services Branch represented the Corps at the Veteran's Administration's Small Business Engagement Conference in Atlanta.

"Several thousand veterans, disabled veterans, and other contractors attended," Omella said. "The Corps world-wide was well-represented."

"Pre-proposal conferences are where we can really get into the weeds of the solicitation requirements," said Myers. "When we educate our contractors, it not only benefits them, but it also benefits the government and ultimately the people we serve. Going to conferences and holding pre-proposal meetings where we can interact with people are valuable investments."

◆



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, met with several small businesses, including Brockington and Associates, a Florida Women-owned small business, at the annual Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2014 Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY



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A Day ON
NOT
A Day OFF



JANUARY 19, 2015



- ✓ Community Outreach
- ✓ Blood Drive
- Support Youth Program
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- Support Clothing Donation Drive

Volunteer Meeting TODAY!



A Worthwhile Investment BY JEAN PAVLOV

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. –Benjamin Franklin

Crystal Markley, a Jacksonville District engineer, doesn't vacation in Paris or Tahiti but uses her annual leave volunteering with Engineers without Borders (EWS-USA) to help communities in rural areas access potable water.

Markley, who received a degree in agricultural and biological engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, joined Jacksonville District in July 2010. She worked with EWB-USA to improve access to clean water and sanitation in the Nahuaterique region of Honduras.

To expand her knowledge in this area, Markley, with her own time and money, enrolled in a week long accelerated course, "Design Global, Engineer Local" about engineering's role in sustainable development. The course was offered by EWB-USA, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the University of Colorado, Boulder in conjunction with ASCE/EWB-USA's Global Engineering Conference 2014 in Panama City, Panama. The week-long course taught members about community and partner selection, cultural awareness, and the steps involved in taking a small-scale project from initial concept to long-term sustainability.

"The course was about engineering sustainable projects in developing countries," said Markley. "Topics covered included community and partner selection, cultural awareness, and tools to assist in developing a project from concept to long term sustainability," she continued. "The first three days of the course involved classroom instruction, and the final day included a field experience in community assessment in a local Panamanian community."

Against the backdrop of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal, ASCE held its Global Engineering Conference 2014 while Marley was there. Jorge L. Quijano, administrator of the Panama Canal Authority, spoke about the civil engineering challenges involved in the construction of the \$5.2 billion Panama Canal Expansion, due to be completed next spring.



A group of attendees at ASCE's Global Engineering Conference in Panama tour the Atlantic Third Lane Bridge and Lock canal expansion project, gathering at a temporary dock where new lock gates await installation. (Photo by Panama Canal Authority)

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to tour the canal," said Markley. "There was a construction tour of the Panama Canal expansion project that was a highlight for me. The Panama Canal is a Civil Engineering Landmark, celebrating 100 years in 2014, and considering the effect the expansion of the canal will have on the port and other infrastructure here in Jacksonville, I had to see it."



Current construction being performed on the Panama Canal. Tours were given of the canal as the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) celebrated the Panama Canal's 100th Anniversary. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Meredith W. B. Temple, P.E. PMP, F.ASCE, told those attending the conference what engineers can learn from the enormity of the original Panama Canal project, the design and building of it and the challenges that the initial builders faced. (USACE file photo)

There were several Corps speakers at the conference including Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who was the keynote speaker of the Industry Leaders Forum.

"Lt. Gen. Bostick talked about the Corps' involvement in the construction of the Panama Canal, and lessons in leadership from the French's attempt to build the canal," said Markley, "as-well-as how decision-making and asset management are used to drive change."

It was there Markley met Bostick. "I had the opportunity to meet the General the night before he spoke at the conference and then again right after his presentation."

"I also had a chance to speak briefly with Brig. Gen. Turner, whom I had recently met when he attended our Leadership Development Program graduation ceremony in September," said Markley.

"My desire to attend the Global Engineering course was to expand my skill set related to sustainable engineering solutions in developing countries," This skill set will enhance both my volunteer work and my professional work," Markley said. "It will not only assist me with my clean water project in Honduras with EWB-USA, but also with my work on the Haiti Feeder Rural

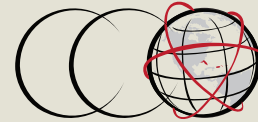


Crystal Markley from the Jacksonville Design Branch met with Lt. Gen. Bostick when she attended the Global Engineering Course/Global Engineering Conference 2014. Bostick was the keynote speaker for the Industry Leaders Forum.

Roads project that the district is working on for the United States Agency for International Development.”

Markley said the highlight of her trip Markley was having the opportunity to meet, talk with and be photographed with Bostick.

“Meeting Lt Gen. Bostick and having a chance to speak with him about why training in development engineering and sustainable engineering solutions is beneficial to me and others in the Corps of Engineers was definitely the biggest highlight.” ♦



Corporate Communications Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

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**Congresswoman Kathy
Castor visit to Egmont
Key**

Congresswoman Kathy Castor, center, smiles along with Jacksonville District members who provided a project tour recently to Castor and her staff at Egmont Key, Tampa Bay. From left, Dan Hughes, Milan Mora, Jim Lagrone, Castor, Renee Perez, Erin Duffy and Tina Underwood. The Corps team is beneficially using dredge maintenance materials to help protect the key and cultural resources there. Several park rangers and group members who support the island also toured the construction work that's already making a difference in providing shore protection and sea turtle nesting area. (Photo by Susan Jackson) ♦