



JAXSTRONG®

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 - DISTRICT SUPPORTS STEM AT LOCAL UNIVERSITY
 - ARMY VALUES: PERSONAL COURAGE
- ...AND MORE



JAXSTRONG

OUR WORK • OUR PEOPLE • OUR DISTRICT *jacksonville*

AUGUST 2014 | Volume 6 Issue 8



COMMANDER'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM COL. ALAN DODD

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The more business we generate for the Jacksonville District, the more jobs we keep for our workforce and the more economic impact we have on the geographic areas and diverse organizations we have reached out to and offered our unique engineering services for solving their complex needs.

We are making great strides in such places as Haiti. In 2010, Haiti was devastated by a massive earthquake, resulting in 230,000 deaths, 300,000 injuries, and displacement of nearly two million people. Following immediate relief efforts, the U.S. Congress provided \$1.14 billion for reconstruction to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. Of that, approximately \$651 million was specifically allocated to begin rebuilding Haiti. USAID is the lead United States government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential.

USAID called on the expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, to assist in rehabilitating and improving more than 150 kilometers of rural roads in Haiti. Poorly designed, constructed and maintained feeder rural roads (FRR) are a major constraint to agricultural development in Haiti. High transport costs and significant spoilage due to the poor condition of roads in Haiti have reduced competitiveness in domestic and regional markets.

Rehabilitation of FRR is a part of the Feed the Future program, a U.S. government effort that aims to address the root causes of global hunger by sustainably increasing agricultural productivity to meet the demand for food, supporting and facilitating access to strong markets, increasing income for the poor, and reducing malnutrition. USAID's goal for the program is to improve the condition of the roads and bridges that farmers and growers use to transport their goods to market.

The win-win is providing solutions for Haiti's problems which in turn positively impacts their economy and their citizens but it also provides work and jobs for Jacksonville District engineers and others.

The entire district has been successfully focused on finding work to keep our workforce gainfully employed and doing what our country needs them to do. Recently, additional funds were provided to our Economics Branch in Planning Division by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources to gather data for tug assist costs.

New Continuing Authority Projects in Palm Beach County are being initiated that could result in additional District studies in 2015, 2016, and 2017 and subsequent construction to help enhance our future workload. The list includes potential projects in Lake Worth Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee.

We are pursuing additional agreements with Florida agencies and foreign countries where our expertise is needed. We see potential for coordination with South Korea on coastal processes and shoreline protection. Florida ports are always looking for methods to streamline the environmental processes associated with infrastructure projects. Our District is looking into an agreement allowing regulatory employees to be dedicated to the port infrastructure projects.

Senior management and project delivery teams are focused on finding and delivering new products for new customers both inside and external to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure our future for fiscal year 2015 and beyond.

Army Strong. BUILDING STRONG®. JaxStrong.

Alan Dodd
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDER
COL. ALAN DODD

CHIEF, CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
TERRY S. HINES, APR

MANAGING EDITOR
NAKEIR L. NOBLES

DESIGN AND LAYOUT ARTIST
JENNIFER G. KNUDSEN, MFA

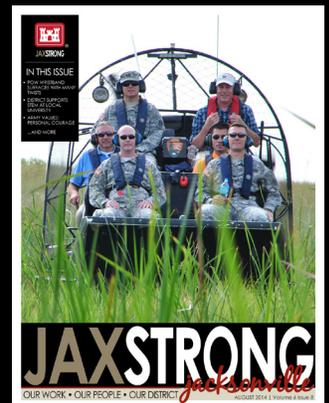
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ON THE COVER

(From top, left to right) Maj. Gen. John Peabody, deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, tours the Everglades during his visit to south Florida June 19. He was joined by Bob Johnson, director of the South Florida Natural Resources Center for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks; Shawn Benge, acting superintendent of Everglades National Park; Howard Gonzales, Jr., chief of Jacksonville District's Ecosystem Branch; Col. Alan Dodd, Jacksonville District commander; and Col. Donald Walker, South Atlantic Division commander. (Photo by Jenn Miller)



JAXSTRONG
OUR WORK • OUR PEOPLE • OUR DISTRICT Jacksonville



Deputy commanding general sees south Florida projects first-hand

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JENN MILLER



(From left to right) Col. Donald Walker, South Atlantic Division commander; Col. Alan Dodd, Jacksonville District commander; Shawn Bengé, acting superintendent of Everglades National Park; and Bob Johnson, director of the South Florida Natural Resources Center for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, discuss the Everglades with Maj. Gen. John Peabody, deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, during his visit to south Florida June 19.

Understanding the complexities of the south Florida ecosystem requires time, dedication and taking the initiative to see the unique system personally. That is exactly what Maj. Gen. John Peabody, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, did during his visit to Jacksonville District's south Florida projects June 18-19, 2014.

During his two-day visit to south Florida, Peabody took a helicopter tour of the system, from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. He also met with district staff, partnering agencies and stakeholders to discuss ongoing Everglades restoration efforts, water management, regulatory matters and Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation.

"The scope, scale and complexity of the work the Corps is doing in south Florida can only truly be appreciated by getting out and seeing things first-hand," said Peabody. "The environmental value of this enormous and unique ecosystem is compelling, and the need to complete Everglades restoration projects and rehabilitation efforts of Herbert Hoover Dike is patently evident. Every agency that has a role in this effort must work together closely so we can get things done."

Accompanied by South Atlantic Division Commander Col. Donald Walker and Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan Dodd, Peabody not only met with staff and stakeholders, but also toured the ongoing construction efforts at Herbert Hoover

Dike and trekked through the Everglades by airboat, and at times, on foot.

At Herbert Hoover Dike, the 143-mile long earthen dike that encircles Lake Okeechobee, Jacksonville District staff provided Peabody with a detailed overview of the efforts under way to actively reduce the risks of a potential dike failure during high water events. Currently, the district is working on seven construction contracts to replace or remove old water control structures around the dike, which, from a structural integrity perspective, currently pose the greatest risk of failure due to the loss of embankment material into and along the culverts.

In its most vulnerable areas, between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade, 21.4 miles of concrete cutoff wall has been installed into the foundation of the dike. This cutoff wall helps reduce risk by eliminating existing piping and preventing additional internal erosion and under seepage through the dike and foundation.

"Since 2007 we have made great progress in our rehabilitation efforts to strengthen the dike and ensure it continues to protect the lakeside communities that depend on it," said Dodd. "We're working with an entire system with many interwoven components. In addition to our work at HHD, the completion of Everglades restoration projects will provide us with alternate means to store, treat and distribute water that currently flows into Lake Okeechobee."

MAJ. GEN. PEABODY VISITS (continued from PAGE 3)



(From left to right) Shawn Bengel, acting superintendent of Everglades National Park, discusses the Everglades with Maj. Gen. John Peabody, deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, during Peabody's visit to south Florida June 19. Peabody was also accompanied by Col. Donald Walker, South Atlantic Division commander; Col. Alan Dodd, Jacksonville District commander; and Bob Johnson, director of the South Florida Natural Resources Center for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.

Jacksonville District manages the Army Corps of Engineers' Everglades restoration program, which includes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the single largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. Currently, in partnership with local sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District, the Corps is actively constructing, planning and designing projects to restore this unique ecosystem.

Not only did Peabody have the opportunity to see via helicopter the Everglades restoration projects being constructed and where they are being planned, but he also had the opportunity to literally get his feet wet, touring the Everglades by airboat and stopping off onto a native tree island to explore the unique landscape.

"There is only one Everglades," said Dodd. "Time is of the essence and we are working alongside our partners to do everything we can to get projects planned, designed and built as quickly as possible."

Jacksonville District is in the process of constructing numerous restoration projects throughout the Everglades system, including the Indian River Lagoon South's C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area project, Picayune Strand Restoration project, Site 1 Impoundment project, Kissimmee River Restoration project, and also recently finished construction of the Tamiami Trail Modifications project.

Not only are projects being built, but four additional projects just received congressional authorization in June, which now makes them eligible for funding during the appropriations

process. These projects are the C-43 Western Basin Storage Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Areas and C-111 Spreader Canal Western projects.

Jacksonville District is also in the process of planning the Central Everglades Planning Project, which will set the foundation for restoration efforts in the central portion of the Everglades. ♦



Maj. Gen. John Peabody, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) deputy commanding general for civil and emergency operations, was accompanied by Howard Gonzales, Jr., USACE Jacksonville District Ecosystem Branch Chief, during his visit to the Everglades June 19, 2014.

From a POW wristband, a journey surfaces with many twists

BY SUSAN JACKSON

First of a two-part series



Employees of Army Corps of Engineers contractor Gator Dredging of Clearwater, Florida, discovered a prisoner of war bracelet, pictured at right, during dredging operations at Stevenson Creek and returned the bracelet to the late officer's family. (Photo courtesy of Gator Dredging)

It was an unusual treasure the Stevenson Creek dredging contractor found – a Vietnam-era prisoner of war (POW) wristband. Employees of Gator Dredging of Clearwater, Florida discovered the bracelet when their hydraulic barge's hose sucked it from the creek during dredging operations.

"It traveled through approximately 500 yards of pipe to our processing plant and into a machine that separates waste solids, sand and water," said William Coughlin, III, chief operating officer for the company. Coughlin did some research and found the family of Maj. Glenn H. Wilson, an Air Force fighter pilot who went missing in North Vietnam in 1966 and was repatriated in 1973.

Coughlin returned the bracelet to Wilson's family, writing: "It is somehow fitting that the endurance he showed during his time in captivity is echoed by the survival of the wristband which bears his name. We are sending the wristband to you and (in) honor of the service and sacrifice Major Wilson made during his time overseas."

Born in North Hornell, New York, Wilson was commissioned a

second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1955 and immediately went on active duty. He completed pilot training in March 1957, followed by F-84F Thunderstreak advanced training and F-100 Super Sabre combat crew training. Wilson married his wife, Adlyn, in 1957 and they eventually had three children.

Wilson was flying the F-4 Phantom with the 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, South Vietnam from November 1966 until nine months later, when he was forced to eject and was taken as a prisoner of war. He spent most of the next six years in captivity at the Hoa Lo Camp, Hanoi, better known as the "Hanoi Hilton."

Wilson and 39 other prisoners were released from prison during Operation Homecoming March 14, 1973. By that time, his daughter Leslie was 14, daughter Linda was 12 and his son Tom was 10. Following his release, Wilson said his plans for the future were "to go back into the Tactical Air Command and be part of the 1st Team again." He was later promoted to lieutenant colonel and went on to serve in the Air Force for a total of 27

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 6)

POW WRISTBAND (continued from PAGE 5)

years before retiring in 1982. He died Jan. 30, 1988. Adlyn – who never remarried – passed away 25 years later, in August 2013.

Old news clips of Wilson's arrival back in the United States reveal the tears of deep emotion and smiles of freedom as the former prisoners arrived back on American soil. Navy Capt. James Stockdale, who went on to become a vice admiral and vice presidential candidate, was the senior-ranking prisoner and officer in charge at the Hanoi Hilton – and the first prisoner repatriated.



Maj. Glenn H. Wilson

"The men who follow me down that ramp know what loyalty means because they have been living with loyalty, living on loyalty, the past several years – loyalty to each other, loyalty to the military, loyalty to our commander-in-chief," he told the welcoming party.

The prisoners under Stockdale's command at the Hanoi Hilton were an unusual and remarkable group, according to the U.S. Naval Institutes' Leadership Lessons from the Hanoi Hilton written in 2009. "Instead of returning home unraveled from years of abuse, isolation, and deprivation, about 80 percent of the 591 men Operation Homecoming returned continued their military service. Many later became leaders in government, business, law or academia. Twenty-four attained the rank of admiral or general; 18 have served (or are serving) in elected or appointed political positions at both the federal and state levels. Eight received the Medal of Honor."

"It traveled through approximately 500 yards of pipe to our processing plant and into a machine that separates waste solids, sand and water"

These men were the longest-held prisoners in U.S. history, and yet studies show that the great majority returned from prison free of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). More than half of the 262 World War II and Korean War POW had symptoms of lifetime PTSD, according to an American Psychiatric Association report published in 1997. The National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (2009) estimated the lifetime prevalence of PTSD among all Vietnam veterans was 30.9 percent for men and 26.9 percent for women.

So what was so unusual about these Prisoners of War?

Read the September issue of JaxStrong for the rest of the story. ♦

Did you know:

- U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force pilots flew the F4 during the Vietnam War.
- Nearly 800 F4 Phantoms were shot down over Vietnam during the war, more than any other fixed wing aircraft.
- Adopted by the U.S. military in 1960 as a long-range supersonic jet interceptor fighter/fighter-bomber, the F4 remained in use by the U.S. in reconnaissance and Wild Weasel (suppression of enemy air defenses) roles through the 1991 Gulf War, finally leaving service in 1996.
- Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez, Jr. was the first American pilot shot down in North Vietnam and, by the war's end, the longest-held POW there. He spent eight-and-a-half years in captivity.
- Army Col. Nick Rowe escaped a Viet Cong camp after being imprisoned in a bamboo cage for five years. He is credited for developing the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training program taught to high-risk military personnel (such as Special Forces and air crews) and the U.S. military doctrine that institutionalizes the techniques and principles to be followed by captured personnel.
- Thirty-four Americans escaped captivity during the Vietnam War.
- A total of 660 American military prisoners of war survived the war.
- There are still 1,642 personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.
- Most recently, the Department of Defense released the name of Air Force Capt. Douglas Ferguson, listed as missing-in-action in Laos on Dec. 30, 1969. Ferguson's remains were recovered April 13, 2013 and identified February 14, 2014.

Jacksonville District starts filling reservoir at Portugués Dam

BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL



Portugués Dam in Ponce in southern Puerto Rico was dedicated in February 2014. Jacksonville District closed outlets on the 220-foot structure in mid-June to begin filling the reservoir. (USACE file photo)

After dedicating the structure in February 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District began the initial filling of the reservoir at Portugués Dam in southern Puerto Rico.

Outlets were closed June 16 to allow water to collect behind the 220-foot high, roller-compacted concrete (RCC) dam located near Ponce, a city of 132,000 people along the southern edge of the island. The dam is expected to reduce impacts from flooding along the Portugués River for an estimated 40,000 people in and around Ponce.

"This is the next important milestone in making this project operational," said Laureen Borocharner, Engineering Division chief and dam safety officer. "We want to monitor the dam's response to the impoundment process and take any necessary actions to ensure long-term performance of the structure."

The water level at the reservoir was 372 feet (elevation above sea level) when filling operations began. The goal is to take the level to the top of the conservation pool, 439.8 feet, considered the normal level for the reservoir. Plans call for filling to be paused at 390 feet to conduct an inspection to ensure the dam is performing as intended.

The process is off to a slow start, with the reservoir level at 378 feet on July 11. An extended period of dry weather has resulted in little water flowing into the reservoir.

"The timing and length of this phase of testing is dependent on when the rain falls, and how much falls at one time," said Luis Alejandro, water management engineer. "We anticipate this process will last a few months at a minimum."

Jacksonville District plans to test operations for the remainder of 2014. The dam is expected to be transferred to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) by spring of 2015. DNER will operate the dam upon transfer.

The newly-built dam is the first thick-arch, RCC dam in the Army Corps of Engineers' inventory. The RCC methodology uses a dryer style of concrete when compared to conventional means. It is transported and placed using standard earthmoving equipment.

"It would have taken us three years to complete (the dam) using the common, conventional concrete," said Pablo Vazquez-Ruiz, the resident engineer for Portugués Dam construction. "By using RCC, we have accomplished (construction) in much less time."

The dam also represents the final component of the Portugués and Bucana River flood risk reduction project. That project included construction of two dams, Portugués and Cerillos, and improvements in stormwater channelization structures throughout the city. Cerillos Dam was completed in 1991 and the channelization structures were finished in 1997. ♦



The backside of Portugués Dam as water begins to collect in the reservoir. Initial filling began on June 16 with a level of 372 feet, and will continue until it reaches 439.8 feet, its maximum normal operating level. (USACE file photo)

Quiet courage has great impact BY AMANDA ELLISON

ARMY VALUES

L *Loyalty*

D *Duty*

R *Respect*

S *Selfless
Service*

H *Honor*

I *Integrity*

P *Personal
Courage*

Courage can take on many forms. Most picture the act of courage as being very obvious and easy to identify, such as a fireman running into a burning building. However, many courageous acts are often not seen unless one looks very closely. It is these quiet acts of courage, not witnessed by the masses, which oftentimes have the greatest impact.

Art Bennett has worked in Jacksonville District since 1998, after serving in the Vicksburg District as a civil engineering technician and in the Walla Walla District as a supervisor. He currently works as a project manager in the Military, Interagency and International Services Branch (MIL-IIS) where he supports our nation's military, specifically the U.S. Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency.

In his current position, Bennett completed various electrical, mechanical design and construction projects in support of the Navy's aircraft readiness at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Bennett works day in and day out to ensure the Navy receives the needed support to fulfill its mission. Due to his efforts, the military often calls on Jacksonville District for expertise and support.

Over the course of his career, Bennett has deployed twice to support the United States' efforts in Iraq. According to Michael Omella, chief of the MIL-IIS Branch, Bennett returned from those missions a better person and project manager.

"His approach to his work in Iraq was one of true humanitarian nature and reports were he worked tireless hours to deliver a medical facility to the people of Iraq," Omella said.

When speaking of Iraq, Bennett says his greatest contribution during that time was spending one-on-one time with injured troops in the Baghdad hospital and providing hundreds of pounds of personal items to them as well as medical staff and the innocent Iraqi children injured by war.

He also worked closely with Project HOPE, the United Nations Development Program, and sponsoring governments for the construction and equipping of the 91-bed Basrah Children's Hospital, the region's only pediatric cancer treatment center.

Even though Bennett's hands were full with his work in Iraq, he made time for those with special needs and went above and beyond the call of duty. During his tour, he developed a friendship with a local Iraqi official whose son had a congenital birth defect. The diagnosis for the young boy looked very grim, and without surgery, he would likely not live very long. Through his various contacts, Bennett was able to facilitate life-saving surgery for the little boy. The child was flown to Germany for the surgery, which was a great success. The boy, whose



Art Bennett looks over plans for the Basrah Children's Hospital during his tour in Iraq as a project manager. (Photo courtesy of Art Bennett)

life was on a short path, is now a healthy and thriving teenager due to Bennett's courage in finding a way to help.

His humanitarian efforts extend far past his work in Iraq. Today, he has a new mission which is very personal and close to his heart. He has traveled to Africa to perform mission work that brings humanitarian aid, to include fresh water, clothing, medical aid, orphanage support and improved facilities to small villages in Uganda. His work in Africa is done alongside his daughter Melissa and son-in-law Ivan, who operate and manage Sunrise Children's Home. The ministry seeks to rescue and save orphaned children in southern Uganda who are starving or vulnerable.

Patrice Morey, who has worked with Bennett for the past 15 years, believes his daughter's work in Uganda is a direct reflection of the values he has instilled in his children.

"He never backs off from a challenge...ever," said Morey. "He is professional, humble, and always displays gratefulness." When Morey began working for Jacksonville District, she was the "new girl on the block" and when she needed help, Bennett was there to assist. "He was always so kind to me. I felt he was always looking out for me, and I appreciated it so much," she said.

Jacksonville District volunteers mentor students at annual STEM camp

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NAKEIR NOBLES



Regulatory Division's Tori White gives instructions for completing the two student challenges at the June 27 STEM event at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

For the second consecutive year, Jacksonville District employees volunteered at the 3rd Annual Mentoring Family and Kids, Inc. (MFK) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Camp at the University of North Florida, June 27.

The volunteers, organized by district project manager Tim Brown, interacted with approximately 200 kids during the half-day event at the university on the city's south side.

"This is an introduction to STEM," said Ronnie King II, MFK's community engagement specialist. "There are engineers here from a variety of disciplines. Ask them questions about what they do," King urged the students.

Founded in 2005, the organization focuses on educational support for under-represented students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Its mission is to provide encouragement and educational support programs that engage students and parents in meeting the urgent needs as it pertains to educational advancement and community in service.

Tori White, deputy chief of the district's Regulatory Division, served as Corps team captain and explained the two challenges to the participants.

"The object of this challenge is to build the highest tower," she said. "But remember, the end design of the tower has to support the weight of the marshmallow. You have 18 minutes to build the tallest freestanding structure that supports a marshmallow.

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 10)

ARMY VALUES: PERSONAL COURAGE (continued from PAGE 8)

Bennett has four other children and his eldest daughter Alison speaks highly of her dad and the courage he displays. Alison says it takes courage to take a stand for what you believe and to lead your family to the unknown, simply because you know it is the right thing to do.

"If I had to choose one act of courage I would be most proud of, it would be his courage to have faith in Jesus Christ. He [has always had] courage to raise his family to follow in those footsteps," said Alison. "It is not an easy thing to lead by example, but my father has done that."

His wife Joy has seen first-hand the courage Art displays better than anyone. "For 37 years he has demonstrated what it means to be a faithful, dedicated and loving husband and father. He has demonstrated to his children the courage it takes to provide for a family, putting our needs first," said Joy. "He has also shown strength and courage in his personal beliefs, exemplifying values, morality and a spirit of community."

When asked for an example of his own courage, Bennett says, "I have witnessed great courage as I worked alongside our military and civilian workforce who were shot at, killed or maimed by roadside bombs, and performed life-saving first aid to save others." To him, courage is demonstrated in lives that were lost or injured trying to make a better life for others.



Art Bennett with one of the girls from Sonrise Ministries in Jinja, Uganda, a humanitarian organization operated and managed by his daughter and son-in-law. (Photo courtesy of Art Bennett)

But that is just what Bennett does in his quiet way. He displays tremendous courage by making great sacrifices to help better the lives of others. Whether it is helping a little boy who is in desperate need of life-saving surgery, bringing clean water to a village in Uganda, supporting an orphanage, performing tireless work as a project manager or leading his family, Art Bennett embodies personal courage. ♦

STEM (continued from PAGE 9)

In order to complete the projects, you will need to collaborate and work in teams. Triangles, geometric shapes and patterns are staples in engineering design."

Students were to construct both a marshmallow tower and a roller coaster. Both projects encouraged student collaboration. The marshmallow project allowed teams of four 18 minutes to build the tallest freestanding structure out of 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string and one marshmallow, the latter of which had to be on top.

Thirteen-year-old Daeshavon Johnson from St. Johns County's Pacetti Bay Middle School was the mastermind behind the winning design of her team's marshmallow tower. Johnson, who enjoys math, says she wants to be a mechanical engineer.

The goal of the 30-minute rollercoaster project was to ensure students understood potential and kinetic energy. Toothpicks, tape, foam tubing and a marble were used to construct the coaster. Students were judged on the coaster height, the number of hills, loops and turns, provided the marble was able to complete the course without stopping or falling off the track.

The team with the winning coaster was led by Tamela Kinsey of Planning Division. Sixteen-year-old Antone Bradley from St. Lucie's Treasure Coast High School says his team's winning strategy was trial and error. "Lots of trial and error," Bradley said. "If something didn't work, we kept trying."

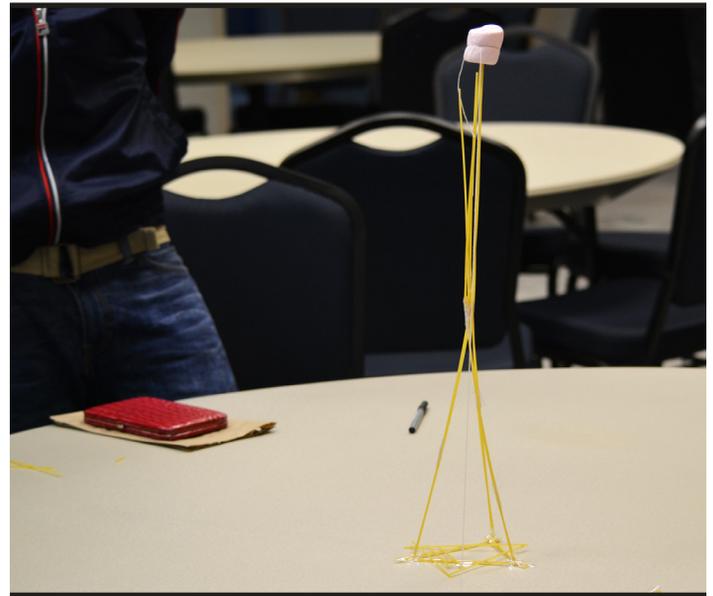


Students were tasked with designing a tower that would support a marshmallow, using only 20 sticks of spaghetti, a yard of tape and string.

Recent high school graduate, Ayanna Ivey, who volunteered at the event, plans to attend the University of Central Florida in the fall. Ivey said it's great there are activities that get kids involved with STEM. "They think [STEM is] difficult. Some people think you have to be a genius to be an engineer. If you put your mind to it, anyone can do it."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the United States has become a global leader, in part, through the genius and hard work of its scientists, engineers and innovators. Yet that position is threatened because few American students pursue education in STEM fields.

Only a small percent of American high school students are interested in a STEM career. Among those who pursue a STEM major in college, only about half of those choose to work in a related career, the agency said. ♦



One of several marshmallow tower designs at the 3rd Annual STEM Camp at the University of North Florida, sponsored by Mentoring Families and Kids, Inc.



Tori White, Regulatory Division's deputy chief, measures the height of a roller coaster built by a team of participants at the 3rd Annual STEM Camp at the University of North Florida. The half-day camp was sponsored by Mentoring Families and Kids, Inc.



Volunteer Tamela Kinsey, Planning Division, helps a team of students develop a game plan to compete in the marshmallow tower challenge at the STEM camp, held at the University of North Florida, June 27.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

August 26th



“We honor the pioneers of women’s equality by doing our part to realize the great American dream.”

President Barack Obama
2013

Jax Facts: How well do you know Jacksonville District? BY NANCY J. STICHT



Congratulations to **Brittany Kato, Operations Division**, the first district team member to submit the correct answers to all ten of the following questions, based on stories that appeared in the July issue of JaxStrong. (Photo by Nakeir Nobles.)

1: What was significant about Lake Okeechobee's water level in June 2014?

A: The lake dipped to a 20-month low of 12.30 feet June 12, 2014. (Water managers prepare for wet season, page 14)

2: What is a paleochannel and what archaeological site was found in a paleochannel in the Gulf of Mexico?

A: A paleochannel is a former river channel that doesn't exist anymore because it is totally underwater. Archaeologists found a mastodon kill site in a paleochannel in the Gulf of Mexico. (Florida II provides capability to perform important archaeological research, page 5)

3: What kind of information did Jessica Spencer provide to about 100 people at the city of St. Augustine Earth Day event?

A: Recommended native alternatives to common invasive landscape plants (Out and about, page 16)

4: What step follows congressional authorization of a project?

A: The next step is funding through the appropriations process. That is followed by finalizing designs, partnership agreements and contract actions. (Congress authorizes eight Jacksonville District projects, page 7)

5: How many children will USACE volunteers reach with water safety information this year?

A: More than 49,000. (Water safety volunteers save lives, page 10)

6: What agency team recently moved into new office space in the USACE Antilles Office building in San Juan, Puerto Rico?

A: Border Enforcement Security Task Force from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (Antilles team welcomes ICE team to new home, page 16)

7: What are Jacksonville District's three campgrounds and where are they located?

A: Ortona South on the Caloosahatchee near Moore Haven; W.P. Franklin North on the Caloosahatchee about 15 minutes from the Gulf of Mexico; and St. Lucie South on the St. Lucie Canal ten minutes from Stuart. (How will you spend your summer vacation, page 8)

8: What do USACE park rangers and volunteers do?

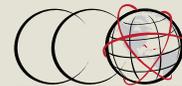
A: Rangers and volunteers facilitate safe movement into and out of campgrounds and recreational areas and educate people on the missions, roles and responsibilities of the Corps. (COL Dodd's column, page 2)

9: What Army value is defined by adhering to moral principles?

A: Integrity. (Morey's ability to communicate through graphics provides invaluable service, page 12)

10: Name at least three steps being taken to protect coral in Miami Harbor.

A: Conducted comprehensive survey of corals, constructed about 10 acres of artificial reef, transplanted healthy corals onto adjacent natural reef tracts and artificial reefs, relocating staghorn corals outside the project area, collecting and transporting fragments of corals to a permitted nursery at the University of Miami, and assessing coral health 40 days post-relocation. (Corps makes good progress on Miami Harbor project, page 3) ♦



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

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