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...AND MORE





### **COMMANDER'SCORNER** MESSAGE FROM COL. ALAN DODD

#### FEWER STORMS, HURRICANES PREDICTED FOR 2014

Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna and Isaias are just some of the names lined up for the 2014 hurricane season, which officially takes place June 1 through November 30. So what's in store for us this hurricane season? The Colorado State University meteorological team is predicting a rather quiet 2014 Atlantic hurricane season with nine tropical storms, of which only three will become hurricanes and only one of those a major hurricane (category 3, 4, or 5) with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater. A tropical storm has sustained winds of 39 mph. It becomes a hurricane when its winds reach 74 mph.

"Rather quiet" only applies if it doesn't happen in your backyard. When it happens in your backyard, "rather quiet" quickly becomes "active." These predictions estimate a 20 percent chance of a major hurricane strike for the East Coast, including Florida, and a 19 percent chance along the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle to Brownsville, Texas.

Throughout our area of responsibility, in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, it's vitally important that you prepare early, to ensure a safe hurricane season. Hopefully, you've already started thinking about what you need to do for you and your family to survive a hurricane. Preparation is the key. Establish a family plan for hurricanes and create an emergency supply kit with items such as food, water and medication to get you through the first 72 hours when emergency services may not be able to provide these items for you. This issue of JaxStrong includes information about creating your plans and emergency kits.

Once a storm is forecasted to impact an area, hurricane evacuation preparations begin. One way to obtain the most current information on evacuation status is through <u>www.onewayflorida.org</u>. Should the need arise, I will encourage a liberal leave policy. In any case, fill up your gas tank, pack your bags, get medication supplies together, get some cash and be ready to go. The safety of every member of Jacksonville District and their families is one of our top priorities.

Particularly important is accountability – making sure you and your family are safe and sharing that information with your supervisor by using the calling tree method. This simply means calling your immediate supervisor (or notifying someone else in the supervisory chain if your immediate supervisor cannot be reached) to report that you are safe and provide contact information. As a last resort, contact HI USACE by dialing 1-877-448-7223 or by email at 877-Hi-USACE@USACE. We need to know that you are safe as soon as you arrive at a safe location but no later than 12 hours after a hurricane makes landfall.

Each storm is different but please take some time before the season begins to plan for you and your family. Pay attention to the forecasts and follow the instructions of your local emergency management officials. If you have any questions or need any assistance, contact our Emergency Management Branch.

El Niño is one factor leading to the quieter storm forecast for this year. However, according to the National Weather Service Forecast Office, during strong El Niños such as those that occurred in 1982-83 and 1997-98, storminess is greatly increased over Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, leading to well above average rainfall and perhaps widespread flooding. Even with less named storm activity, a wetter than average dry season will bring its own challenges for water management in south Florida. Our water managers will work closely with our scientific team and our nonfederal sponsors for all federal projects that have water management activities, to do the right thing for the taxpayers we serve.

Army Strong. BUILDING STRONG®. JaxStrong.

Alan Dodd Colonel, U.S. Army District Commander

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# ON THE COVER

Tropical Storm Ernesto, the fifth named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, made landfall in south Florida August 30, 2006, with sustained peak winds of about 45 mph. Following 2012, with 19 named storms and 2013, with 14 named storms, experts predict a quieter than usual Atlantic hurricane season this year, June 1 – November 30, 2014. (Photo courtesy of NASA on the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System website)



# Jacksonville District prepares for hurricane season BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL



Hurricane Charley caused widespread damage to homes and businesses in southwest Florida when it came ashore near Port Charlotte Friday, August 13, 2004. Charley was one of four hurricanes that hit the state that year. (USACE file photo)

Jacksonville District Emergency Management Branch Chief Aaron Stormant worries that he's starting to sound like a broken record.

Despite forecasts in 2013 calling for an active hurricane season, only two hurricanes emerged, with neither reaching major status (defined as a storm with winds greater than 111 mph). Forecasts prior to last season called for eight hurricanes.

"I feel like I keep saying it every year, that we have to guard against complacency," said Stormant. "The last hurricane hit Florida in 2005, and a lot of people have never experienced the devastation that can result from these events."

Although some people living in Florida may have forgotten how to prepare, Stormant and his assistant, Logan Wilkinson, have been putting in extra hours in preparation for the 2014 hurricane season. They've been educating state and local officials about the Army Corps of Engineers' emergency capabilities and learning about scenarios where assistance might be requested.

"It's been a busy spring," said Stormant. "We've reached out to counties in south Florida, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the South Florida Water Management District, and many other agencies, building relationships and gaining understanding of how we can work together during times of crisis."

One of the highlights for Stormant this spring dealt with earthquakes instead of hurricanes, as officials in Alaska participated in an exercise dealing with a tremor followed by a major tsunami.

"That exercise was probably the closest thing I've ever seen to replicating a realistic event," said Stormant. "As emergency managers, we must prepare for all hazards. Unless you live in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, you may not know that there is daily earthquake activity. Most of it occurs deep in the ocean, so the impacts aren't felt. However, for a big earthquake, the Corps would have a significant response role in that scenario as well."

The district's preparedness activities extend beyond the Emergency Management Branch. Selected members of the disaster Planning & Response Teams (PRTs) are scheduled for training. Jacksonville District maintains a response capability for deployment of PRTs that can provide expertise in temporary roofing and housing missions.

"While the teams remain ready to go, we are also looking for people who want to step up and volunteer as well, said

#### HURRICANE SEASON (continued from PAGE 3)



Pilots in a Florida National Guard helicopter practice techniques they would use in the event of a breach at the Herbert Hoover Dike along Lake Okeechobee near Clewiston. Employees at Jacksonville District's South Florida Operations Office participated in the training as part of activities in advance of hurricane season. (Photo by Erica Skolte)

Stormant. "Whether it's the housing or roofing teams, working in the EOC [emergency operations center], or helping monitor contract performance, we have a job for every skill set."

Officials are forecasting a less active hurricane season for 2014. The prediction from Colorado State University calls for only three hurricanes, with one reaching major status. Forecasters cite a developing El Niño and relatively cool temperatures in the Atlantic as the primary reasons.

Stormant worries the below average forecast could lead to more complacency, which could have devastating consequences.

"It only takes one event, regardless of what's in the forecast," said Stormant. "Everyone needs to have a plan for what they would do; they need to define the circumstances under which they would relocate. People with response roles have to plan for care of their families as well so they can continue the mission."

Stormant says the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website (<u>www.ready.gov/hurricanes</u>) and Florida's emergency management website (<u>www.floridadisaster</u>. org) offer the best information on personal preparedness. Additional information is available from the National Hurricane Center (<u>www.nhc.noaa.gov</u>) and the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org/prepare) ◆



Hurricane Wilma bears down on Florida the day before it makes landfall in this satellite photo, taken October 23, 2005. Wilma was the most recent hurricane that passed over Florida, striking near Everglades City, passing in close proximity to Lake Okeechobee, and exiting the state near Jupiter. (Photo courtesy of NOAA)

# Corps team members live the Army Values BY ERICA SKOLTE



Mark Claudio serves the nation as a lock operator and the "face of the Corps" at the St. Lucie Lock and Dam on the Okeechobee Waterway. (Photo courtesy of Mark Claudio)

Live up to Army values. The nation's highest military award is The Medal of Honor. This award goes to Soldiers who make honor a matter of daily living — Soldiers who develop the habit of being honorable, and solidify that habit with every value choice they make. Honor is a matter of carrying out, acting, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything you do. – U.S. Army website, www.army.mil.values/

One man grew up in a small town in Virginia and the other was raised near New York City. Despite the differences in their backgrounds, they became men of remarkably similar character. Each embodies the all-encompassing Army value of honor. Many say they live all of the Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage every day.

When people talk about Jacksonville District employees Mark Claudio and Michael Rogalski, many of the same words are repeatedly used. Trustworthiness and honesty are at the foundation of any good relationship, and they are often the first words used to describe Claudio and Rogalski.

When asked to speak about themselves, both come across as grateful and humble.

Mark Claudio grew up in the small rural town of Lee Hall, Virginia, just outside of Fort Eustis. During his middle and high school years, he and his buddies spent a lot of time fishing at Fort Eustis, which was an open base at the time. It was there that he saw Army divers loading dive equipment into a van. "When I saw them that day, I knew that's what I wanted to do when I joined the Army," he said.

A year after high school, Claudio joined the Army and served about three years at Fort Hood, Texas. He did a tour in Kuwait and spent four months on a training mission under difficult desert conditions. Following that deployment, Claudio finally got to trade in talcum powder fine sand for the opportunity he had longed for since his high school days.

Though it took years of effort and persistence to find out about the program and survive the training, Claudio overcame many obstacles to make his dream of becoming an Army diver come true.



Former Army diver Mark Claudio "at home," in scuba gear, drifting along Molasses Reef near Key Largo during a vacation in Florida. (Photo courtesy Mark Claudio)

















#### ARMY VALUES: HONOR (continued from PAGE 5)

Claudio passed a rigorous two-week pre-qualification course conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. "There are tests throughout, and you've got to prove that you really want to be there. Due to the inherent dangers in diving, there is no room for cowardice. The people who make it through have heart."

Claudio graduated successfully from the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center. "In dive school, they demand a high level of maturity and courage," he said. "You must demonstrate the ability to deal with adverse conditions and meet a certain level of mental and physical ability."

Claudio joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2000 as a 21D engineer diver. Coming full circle, he ended up serving at Fort Eustis, where his journey to become a diver had begun.

Army engineer divers, who are known as "Army divers" in the field, are trained in underwater construction, salvage, demolitions, hydrographic survey, hyperbaric chamber operation, beach and river reconnaissance, bridge reconnaissance, underwater cutting and welding, side scan sonar operations, mine and countermine operations, search and recovery operations and ship's husbandry operations. Army divers use both surface supplied "hard hat" and scuba to perform their missions.

"Every single job we did was in the high risk category. There is a chance of death every time you go in the water," said Claudio. "You've got to have a high level of experience and professionalism. You work together and live together with your colleagues as a team. It is a privilege to be an Army diver."

In addition, Claudio attended the Non-commissioned Officers Academy at Fort Knox, Kentucky, one of the primary leadership development courses, and was promoted to sergeant. Claudio loves the challenges of diving and was presented with many other opportunities, but the birth of his son changed his priorities. He decided to look for a position where he could spend more time with his family.

In 2007, Claudio took a position as a lock and dam helper at the Ortona Lock and Dam, and was promoted to a lock and dam operator.

Chester "Wayne" Sullivan, civil technician in the South Florida Operations Office in Clewiston, welcomed Claudio to the Jacksonville District. "I was working at Ortona Lock and Mark was sent there to train with me," said Sullivan. "He was always very dedicated to his work and eager to learn the best and safest way to get the job done."

"Mr. Claudio is a good man who lives the Army values. He's honest and always right there to help. Once you get to know him, you'd trust your life with him if you had to," said Jack Pasch, supervisory facilities manager, who worked with Claudio at Ortona Lock. "He always jumps on anything that needs to be done, without having to be asked. He's very conscientious and always professional."

Claudio transferred to the St. Lucie Lock and Dam in 2009. "I have an outstanding crew and we spend a lot of time with each other. I call them all my own family," said Michael Carter, St. Lucie lock and dam leader. "We are fortunate to have Mark with us. He's always there ready to assist, and he's an asset to the Corps. He's also part of the district's "Developmental Assignments Program."

"Working as a lock operator has allowed me to be home and give my kids stability. It's rewarding, and the guys I work with are amazing. They are good people and I enjoy working with them," said Claudio.

"I believe that on the most fundamental levels it is incredibly important to respect those you work with and to be loyal to your teammates. I'm speaking from my experiences of having served on an Army dive team and at the St. Lucie Lock with these stand-up guys I work with today," said Claudio. "When you strive to act with honor and integrity, your teammates will see that, and mutual respect will flow both ways. The success of any job, any project, anywhere you go, is going to boil down to the effectiveness of your team."

Claudio constantly strives to improve himself. He has been taking business courses with a focus on project management, and courses such as the Contracting Officers Representative (COR) through the Defense Acquisition University.

"Mark Claudio is a diligent worker who has been taking the opportunity to improve his professional skills through outside educational studies in business. He has been looking for opportunities within the Corps to advance and utilize his new talents," said Carl Williams, Claudio's supervisor in facilities management. "Mark works very well with the public, which can be difficult at times. Mark always maintains his composure and professionalism."

"Mark is straightforward and honest. He is a really trustworthy and solid employee to work with," said Steven Dunham, chief of the South Florida Operations Office in Clewiston. "He has performed every task assigned exceptionally well. In recognizing his honorable service, it is best to say he exemplifies and demonstrates the Army values collectively and is an excellent candidate for higher positions and responsibilities."

"Mark is a true professional who serves our nation with great honor, not only in his prior career with the Army but as a lock and dam operator. Our lock operators are our true heroes and the face of the Corps," said Jim Jeffords, chief, Operations Division. "Mark is the type of employee who serves with great pride and can be counted on in any situation."

Though his life took a very different path than Mark Claudio's, Michael Rogalski also embodies the Army value of honor.

Rogalski grew up near New York City, where he remembers seeing big buildings, highways and bridges. "I love seeing things built, I guess," he said.



Mike Rogalski, left, speaks to Pahokee and nearby community residents about the proposed Herbert Hoover Dike landside design during a public meeting. At the time, Rogalski served as the Herbert Hoover Dike project manager. (Photo by Susan Jackson)



#### ARMY VALUES: HONOR (continued from PAGE 6)



Mike Rogalski, right, briefs then-Senator Mel Martinez about Herbert Hoover Dike and updates him on the Corps' expedited rehabilitation work. At the time, Rogalski served as the Herbert Hoover Dike project manager. (Photo by Susan Jackson)

Rogalski started out with the Corps in 1994 as a co-op student and in the intern program in New York City. He then worked as a construction manager and a project manager, doing mostly construction and design work for military construction, beach restoration and flood control projects.

Rogalski joined Jacksonville District as a project manager on the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, one of the initial projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), in 2002.

"At the time, a lot of the work was new territory. It was different than what I had done before. The project started out as a Feasibility Study, and as we developed the Project Implementation Report (PIR), there was a lot more planning and policy work, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements."

Rogalski was promoted to chief of the Herbert Hoover Dike Branch in 2008, and since 2011, has served as the deputy chief of the Programs and Project Management Division.

"Don't be afraid to take on greater challenges," said Rogalski. "Continue to challenge yourself to do more."

Corps employees who work with Rogalski say he is always interested in doing the right thing, he can always be trusted and will always be honest. He doesn't play games and is straightforward.

He makes people feel that they are important enough to deserve his attention. Anyone who sends an e-mail to Rogalski always receives a reply, even if it's just a courteous "thank you" in acknowledgement. There is never a feeling that an email has disappeared into a "black hole," never to be seen nor heard from again.

"I may not always have an answer, but I always try my best to take a little bit of time to be responsive, especially when someone needs help," said Rogalski. Rogalski genuinely cares about restoring the environment we live and play in, and cares about the ultimate missions of the Corps. For him, it's much more than just meeting a schedule and executing the project.

"Never take anything for granted. Be happy and thankful for everything," Rogalski advises, "Be honest, respectful and responsible to everyone you work with, and with everyone you come into contact with in general.

"We're here to serve the citizens of Florida and carry out what Congress authorizes us to do," said Rogalski. "The best part of it is the problem-solving, with the overall goal of implementing what Congress and the president want us to do."

"Of all the people I know, Mike's got the integrity and the drive. What is impressive is his ability to deal with and resolve tough situations," said Timothy Willadsen, project manager for the Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project. "He has a lot on his plate, and he never stops, day after day. He's about as dedicated a person as you will ever meet."

"Mike Rogalski is well respected by his colleagues, family and friends because of his integrity, dedication, knowledge and determination. He treats everyone with respect, kindness and understanding. Mike is a true leader and mentor, and committed to implementing progress throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Karen Smith, chief, Program Management Branch. "Mike exemplifies all the Army values and Jacksonville District is very fortunate to have such an outstanding employee."

"Honor is not a destination and not a trait that all men have. However, Mr. Rogalski arrived there long ago and lives with honor every day, and I am honored to have him as my deputy," said David Hobbie, deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management. ◆

# **Celebrating Earth Day at Fort Buchanan**

DISPLAY, MATERIALS FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABILITY

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EXAMPLES OF OUR MISSION IN ACTION IN PUERTO RICO



z and Ceiba, at Fort Buchanan





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Graphic courtesy of Patrice Morey.

**GREEN CONSTRUCTION New Antilles School** 

at Fort Buchanan



Ivan Acosta (center), Planning Division and Capt. Cordon (right), deputy commander for the Antilles, shared pencils and highlighters with teachers and distributed information about Army Corps of Engineers projects in Puerto Rico at the Fort Buchanan Earth Day event April 29. (Photo by Javier Cortes)



Javier Cortes, Planning Division, distributes materials to students at the Fort Buchanan Earth Day event April 29. (Photo by Capt. J.C. Cordon)



Ivan Acosta, Planning Division, was surrounded by students at the Fort Buchanan Earth Day event April 29 as he talked with them about U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' activities in Puerto Rico. (Photo by Javier Cortes)

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# Regulatory Division introduces new mitigation bank tools

BY NAKEIR NOBLES



Debbie Wegmann, chief of Regulatory Division's Special Projects and Enforcement Branch, discusses mitigation banking at a two-day workshop in Jacksonville, hosted by the Florida Association of Mitigation Banking. (Photo by Nakeir Nobles)

At a workshop hosted by the Florida Association of Mitigation Banking (FAMB) workshop, held April 24-25 in Jacksonville, Florida, Jacksonville District's Regulatory Division provided information and introduced new Prospectus and Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) templates to nearly 50 banking representatives in attendance.

The FAMB represents entities that own and operate mitigation banks and businesses that provide goods and services to the industry.

Debbie Wegmann, chief of the Special Projects and Enforcement Branch, said the workshop was an opportunity for the Corps to discuss the role of banks in offsetting impacts associated with Department of Army permits and the banking process in general.

Jon Griffin, mitigation banking team technical lead, joined Wegmann in guiding the audience through both templates, highlighting areas of importance while providing helpful hints.

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps evaluates activities where dredged or fill material is discharged into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Permit applicants must demonstrate that every effort has been made to avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic resources to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts are unavoidable, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation as a condition of the Department of the Army permit.

Mitigation banking is the Corps' preferred method of compensatory mitigation. A mitigation bank is created when a government agency, corporation, nonprofit organization or other entity establishes, enhances, restores or preserves a wetland, stream or other aquatic resource.

The mitigation bank approval process requires submittal of a prospectus, which provides information related to the proposed bank. The Corps reviews the prospectus to determine if the proposed bank has potential. The MBI is the resulting agreement between the Corps, the bank sponsor and the landowner for the establishment, operation and use of the mitigation bank.

Wegmann said successful mitigation doesn't just happen. There is a methodology to how mitigation projects are selected, developed and maintained. "The development of a mitigation banking process is oftentimes complex and time-consuming," Wegmann said. "How you select your bank is critical."

To make the complex process consistent for applicants and reviewers, Regulatory Division developed the Prospectus and MBI templates to assist the bankers in preparing their documents.

"Documents submitted in a recognizable and consistent format should aid project managers in their review and shorten review times," she said.

"We tried to make [the template] simple to fill out," Griffin added.

After a 2011 Corps-sponsored mitigation bank workshop, FAMB president Sheri Lewin said she and Wegmann had discussed for several years the possibility of a FAMB-sponsored forum for those who work in mitigation banking to receive guidance, feedback and direction from the Corps.

Wegmann told attendees that the Corps and the bankers each have a stake in mitigation banking. "The Corps receives successful, sustainable mitigation and the bankers see a financial reward," she said.

The environmental benefits of the mitigation bank are used to compensate for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources. After a bank is Corps-certified, the bank sponsor is authorized to sell credits to permittees and then assumes full responsibility for the compensatory mitigation obligation.

Wegmann said the workshop's purpose was to share information and lessons learned, and improve consistency, predictability, efficiency and timeframes.

"We want honest feedback to identify impediments that we can work on together to shorten timeframes to be more efficient," Wegmann said.

Both Wegmann and Lewin agree the workshop was important to those within the mitigation banking community.

"It was fantastic. We are so thankful the Corps has been generous with its time, especially with this being as worthwhile as our attendees thought it was," Lewin said. •

## Dora: A look back BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL

10



The Atlantic Beach Hotel and pier were devastated by the impacts of Hurricane Dora. The storm lingered off the Atlantic coast for nearly 24 hours, allowing winds to drive the storm surge to a point 10 feet above normal tide. (Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society)

The hurricane, like so many others before and after, was supposed to make a turn and go to the northeast. It dangled off the Atlantic coast for the better part of 24 hours, trying to determine which way it wanted to go.

Finally, on Sept. 10, 1964, Hurricane Dora roared ashore, causing widespread damage in Jacksonville and becoming the only hurricane to strike northeast Florida in the 20th century.

The website at the Jacksonville Historical Society offers a detailed account of the events that occurred nearly 50 years ago: "The seas were 10 feet above normal. Many homeowners along the St. Johns were forced to flee to avoid the flooding."

The storm originated near Cape Verde and moved westward across the Atlantic. It was initially believed the storm would head for New England, but a high-pressure system forced it on a more westward track.

"At this time Dora was a large hurricane," the website continued. "Dora then slowed considerably before reaching land, and consequently the winds and tides increased slowly. The strong, long-duration, onshore winds produced unusually high tides along the entire coast."

The eye of the storm made landfall near St. Augustine in the early morning hours of Sept. 10. At landfall, winds were estimated at 110 mph. Rain was very heavy in some places – 23 inches were dumped at Mayo Clinic – but only six inches fell in Jacksonville.



Where's the road? The Main Street Bridge, some traffic lights, and some signs are all that is visible in downtown Jacksonville as the St. John's River swells from storm surge produced by Hurricane Dora. (Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society)



#### HURRICANE DORA (continued from PAGE 10)



President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Jacksonville a day after the storm passed to meet with local officials and offer federal assistance. Hurricane Dora caused \$280 million in damage, primarily from inland flooding. (Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society)

However, the storm surge pushed the St. John's River out of its banks, causing widespread flooding of many downtown properties.

After making landfall, Dora continued on its westward path. It made a hard turn to the north and back to the east in a 24-hour span, moving over southern Georgia and into South Carolina. But the storm wasn't done toying with Jacksonville just yet, as the system returned about a week later.

"This time the winds were only at the tropical storm level," the website reported. "But [the winds] confounded the recovery efforts."

Power was out for six days. Damage was estimated at around



This map shows Hurricane Dora's path in September 1964. The storm came ashore during the early morning of September 10, and exited Florida while turning to the north on September 11. (Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society.)

\$280 million. President Lyndon Johnson visited Jacksonville on Sept. 11, and the city received more than \$8 million in federal aid to help rebuild.

Despite all of the challenges, Jacksonville was still able to host a Beatles concert on the night of Sept. 10, just hours after the storm had passed. Power was supplied to the Gator Bowl through underground lines.

Dora was one of four hurricanes that would strike Florida in 1964, a pattern that would be repeated 40 years later, in 2004.

For more information on Hurricane Dora, visit the Jacksonville Historical Society's website at: <u>http://www.jaxhistory.com/</u> journal5.html. ◆

# **Progress at Kissimmee River**

Construction continues on the Kissimmee River Restoration Project at the S-65EX1 Gated Spillway. Construction of the threebay flood control structure, designed to discharge 12,000 cubic feet per second, is approximately 54 percent complete. It is being constructed adjacent to the existing S-65E structure on the Kissimmee River and 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.

The Kissimmee River Restoration Project seeks to restore parts of the Kissimmee River and surrounding floodplain, which will slow the flow of water, allowing wetland plants an opportunity to remove some of the nutrients that affect water quality. The slower flows will have the added benefit of altering the timing of water delivery into Lake Okeechobee. (Photo courtesy of Aerial Innovations, Inc. of Tampa) ◆

# Antilles students learn about harnessing nature's power

Second phase of STEM initiative takes students to project sites

BY NANCY J. STICHT

PICTURES BY LEIGH ADAMS, ANTILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



As her school bus arrives at a project site at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, a first grade student from Antilles Elementary School views the solar panels that were installed by Fort Buchanan's Environmental Division as an alternative energy source.

Antilles Elementary School students at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico had the unique opportunity to make an up-close-andpersonal visit to local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project sites, in a follow up activity to a recent classroom presentation by members of the Antilles team (please see page 3 of the May issue of JaxStrong for more on the classroom presentation). The April 22 field trip was the second phase of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative, cosponsored by Jacksonville District and the Department of Defense Education Activity, to encourage students to pursue education and eventual careers in those fields.

The first grade students visited the site of their new elementary school, where construction is currently under way. The school will incorporate 21st century school design, including alternative energy systems. A wind turbine and solar electric system will both conserve natural resources and serve as an educational tool. "Hamessing nature's power, by using energy provided by the sun and the wind, is an important component to sustainable design," said Capt. J.C. Cordon, deputy commander for the Antilles, who led the field trip to the school site and to see the wind turbines installed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the solar panels installed by Fort Buchanan's Environmental Division. "The opportunity to see these projects first-hand was a great learning experience for the students and they were interested and engaged."

The students will apply what they have learned in the final phase of the STEM initiative, when they design a playground that incorporates "green" technology. ◆



A conceptual drawing of the new Antilles Elementary School being built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Department of Defense Education Activity shows one of many "Learning Streets," which are part of 21st century school design. This rooftop learning street will feature wind turbines and solar panels, to both conserve natural resources and serve as an educational tool. (USACE file graphic)



Antilles Elementary School students listen as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives describe their new school, currently under construction at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

# Corps of Engineers takes the road less traveled to assist in rebuilding Haiti BY AMANDA ELLISON





Jacksonville District's Haiti Feeder Rural Road team performed a site assessment for Mahotiere Road, in the Kenscoff region of Haiti, outside Port-au-Prince. Pictured left to right are Tony Smith, Edwin Cuebas, Pierre Massena, Stephen Meyer, Crystal Markley and Edgardo Velez. (Photo by Tim Brown)

Home to a tropical paradise, a nation fights for its survival every single day. Since its inception, its people have faced insurmountable challenges and hardships; but they are fiahters and overcomers, seeking a greater future for the next generation.

Because of its natural beauty, the country is referred to in French as "La Perle des Antilles," (The Pearl of the Antilles). Sharing a border with the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Haiti is the third largest Caribbean nation, yet one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, with 80 percent of its population living in extreme poverty.

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 agriculture 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 incomes 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.

Recently, a Jacksonville District project team traveled to Haiti to begin their assessment of the road conditions.

"It can be challenging to try and take engineering methods and solutions we would utilize here in the United States and apply them in a place like Haiti where the materials, labor, construction methods and maintenance are not as standard or reliable as we are used to," said Crystal Markley, engineering technical lead for the Haiti FRR project. "It requires some creative thinking outside of the box and a focus on what longer term sustainability means in rural communities."

But Markley believes the Corps is up to the challenge and can offer viable solutions. "I think the Corps has a team of

#### HAITI (continued from PAGE 13)

professionals that have unique and varied skill sets that they bring with them to the Feeder Rural Roads project."

Markley is one of several Engineering Division representatives on the multidisciplinary project team, along with Tony Smith, Pierre Massena, Stephen Meyer and Edgardo Velez, as well as Edwin Cuebas, Construction Division and Tim Brown, Programs and Project Management Division.

The team will assist in providing appropriate, sustainable solutions to the roadway, drainage and structural features of the rural roads. An example of this is the use of a hard ford crossing in the place of enclosed culverts, which are currently used but often become clogged and blocked during large storm events. The alternative is a fortified road that will allow water to pass without significant damage to the road infrastructure. Vehicles, horses and pedestrians can cross during smaller storm events. The open crossing eliminates the concern for sizing a culvert or the need to clean it out.

In the process of accomplishing this goal, the team is also striving to build capacity in the local construction market by hiring and mentoring local firms to be able to bid on the construction contracts to complete the work. The intent is for contractors to hire locals in each of the communities, to assist in the construction of the road and bridge, thus stimulating the local economy. Jacksonville District will also assist USAID in administering contracts by providing oversight during construction.



A donkey is typical transportation for farmers carrying goods to market in Haiti. Poorly constructed roads make the journey long and tedious, and oftentimes goods spoil before they reach the market. (Photo by Tim Brown)



Campeche, a rural road in the Cul-de-Sac region of Haiti. Earthen and rock road surfaces are easily overcome by local drainage ways in low-lying areas. This example of a known water crossing will require a proposed drainage feature, most likely a ford, as part of the improvements to manage the water flowing through this area. (Photo by Crystal Markley)



Carre Four Combit, a rural road in the Cul-de-Sac region of Haiti. Pedestrians and animals are the methods of transport used to carry goods from this region to market, with occasional vehicular traffic. Roadway conditions, slope stability and existing structure encroachment are some of the issues that will be addressed in the roadway improvement project. (Photo by Crystal Markley)

"If the members of the community assist in the construction of the roads, they will also have the knowledge and skills to assist in the routine maintenance of the roads in the future," said Markley.

"When I travel to developing counties, I am always impacted by the lack of access to clean water and basic infrastructure that many people live with on a daily basis, and also how inventive they are in utilizing their environment and the few resources they do have to create a life for themselves," Markley added. "Observing what the Haitian people go through to grow produce and transport it via horse, donkey or humans on poor roads for long distances to market a few days a week is amazing. It really makes you thankful when you return to the USA and can drink safe water from the tap, flush a toilet and drive greater than 15 mph on relatively smooth, safe roadways." •

# District responds following Florida Panhandle storm BY NANCY J. STICHT



As a result of heavy rainstorms in April 2014, Scenic Highway collapsed into the bay, sending at least two trucks plummeting approximately 40 feet. The Army Corps of Engineers initiated emergency permitting procedures to aid in repair of infrastructure. Scenic Highway is expected to reopen at the end of June. (Photo by Katie King, kking@pnj.com. Copyright 2014.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District initiated emergency permitting procedures in response to conditions resulting from the April 2014 storm that affected the Florida Panhandle. The emergency permitting procedures will be in effect through October 2014.

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.

Containment, cleanup and restoration activities to address damages directly related to the storm event and involving work in waters of the United States, including wetlands, may include dredging waterways to restore navigation or relieve flooding; removal and disposal of debris; shoreline stabilization; repair or replacement of authorized docks and bulkheads; installing temporary utility lines and access roads; replacing existing roads and bridges and installing water intake and other similar structures.

To the maximum extent possible, the Army Corps of Engineers will process permits under the Nationwide Permits Program (NWP) and/or existing Regional General Permits (RGP), which authorize projects that are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual or cumulative impacts. For those actions that do not qualify for authorization under the NWP/RGP, applications will first be reviewed to determine qualification as an emergency, and then processed following a streamlined procedure in coordination with other federal agencies and

#### PANHANDLE STORM (continued from PAGE 15)



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.)



Scenic Highway collapsed into the bluffs and bay following severe rainstorms and flooding in April 2014. (Photo by Katie King, kking@pnj.com. Copyright 2014.)

the state of Florida. It is anticipated that most permit applications may be processed within 24-48 hours.

To date, Regulatory's Pensacola permit section has verified nearly 30 Nationwide Permits for work that includes bank stabilization and infrastructure repairs. The impacted counties' top priority projects, such as roadwork and repairs to associated infrastructure, have been completed or are in progress, reported Clif Payne, chief of the Pensacola permit section.

"The flooding was unprecedented," said Payne. "Six counties (Esambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington and Holmes) were approved for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance."

Andrew Kizlauskas, chief of the Panama City permit section, reported that Florida Department of Transportation road repair projects have qualified for Nationwide Permit authorizations and that no other emergency permits had been requested for projects related to flood damages.

Further information and designated points of contact for each county are available on Jacksonville District's website at: <u>http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/</u> <u>Regulatory/PublicNotices/tabid/6072/Article/484582/</u> april-2014-storm-event-emergency-permittingprocedures.aspx. ◆

# **Hurricane Preparedness**

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is prepared and ready to respond as part of the federal government's unified national response to disasters and emergencies. In any disaster, the Army Corps of Engineers' top priorities are:

- Support immediate emergency response priorities;
- Sustain lives with critical commodities, temporary emergency power and other needs; and
- Initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

During natural disasters and other emergencies, the Army Corps of Engineers can respond in a number of ways, to include providing engineering expertise to local and state governments in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, providing drinking water and ice, cleaning up debris, providing auxiliary power to critical infrastructure and making repairs to and providing temporary housing or roofing.

Every year, the Corps sends hundreds of people to respond to disasters around the world. When disasters occur, it is not just one local Corps district or office that responds. Personnel and other resources are mobilized across the country to carry out the response missions. More than 40 specially trained response teams are ready to deploy to perform a wide range of missions. •



A bird's eye view of Port Charlotte, which was severely impacted by Hurricane Charley, one of four major storms to strike Florida during the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season. When conditions warrant, Operation Blue Roof provides temporary roof coverings until permanent repairs can be made. (USACE file photo)



Neither palm trees nor sailboats were a match for the 185 mph winds of Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. The fourth Category 5 hurricane of the season, Wilma was rated the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever, followed by Hurricanes Rita (#4) and Katrina (#7), which also occurred in 2005. (USACE file photo)



A long line of vehicles make their way to safer ground in advance of an impending hurricane. Always follow the instructions of local emergency officials and evacuate when asked to do so. (USACE file photos)



# "Diversity is at the heart of America's strength."



# American Red Cross "Safe and Well" website

The American Red Cross "Safe and Well" website provides a way for you to register yourself as "safe and well" following domestic disasters. From a list of standard messages, you can select those that you want to communicate to your family members, letting them know of your well-being. Concerned family and friends can then search the list of those who have registered. Successful search results will display a loved one's first and last name, the "safe and well" message(s) selected and an "as of" date. For more information, please visit the American Red Cross website at: <u>https://safeandwell.communityos.</u> org/cms/index.php.



Photo courtesy of American Red Cross website

# Hurricane preparedness resources

#### www.ready.gov

- Also available in Spanish version, www.listo.gov
- Includes pages to help children prepare

www.disasterassistance.gov

American Red Cross:

http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane

Federal Emergency Management Agency: <a href="http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate">http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate</a>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php">http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php</a>

National Hurricane Center: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php

National Weather Service: <u>www.nws.noaa.gov</u>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/hurricanes/">http://www.epa.gov/hurricanes/</a>

Center for Disease Control: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/

U.S. Food and Drug Administration: http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ ucm076881.htm

# Employee Accountability Hotline Information

In the event of a natural or manmade disaster, or a catastrophic event that results in evacuation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accountability system for all USACE employees is 1-877-Hi-USACE (1-877-448-7223). The hotline is staffed 24/7 by the USACE Operations Center (UOC) to receive calls from employees when they are unable to reach their supervisor or report for duty due to an evacuation.

The Hi-USACE system enables employees to call the number and provide contact information so that the chain of command is informed of personnel status. The system is simple – employees call the number and leave a message, including at a minimum:

- Complete Name (spell last name);
- Telephone number, with area code, where you may be reached;
- Address at current location; and
- Home district, job title, and supervisor's name.

When a USACE employee leaves a message on the 1-877-Hi-USACE system, the on-duty watch officer logs and transcribes the message and notifies the appropriate supervisor, district emergency manager and division emergency manager. The UOC will investigate calls to the hotline, so Hi-USACE is to be used only in emergencies. This does not replace the need to use local calling trees or alert rosters in accordance with district policy.

# State Offices and Agencies of Emergency Management

#### Florida Division of Emergency Management

2555 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100 (850) 413-9969 (850) 488-1016 FAX floridadisaster.org

#### Georgia Emergency Management Agency

935 East Confederate Ave SE P.O. Box 18055 Atlanta, Georgia 30316-0055 (404) 635-7000 (404) 635-7205 FAX www.gema.state.ga.us

#### Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency

P.O. Box 966597 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00906-6597 (787) 724-0124 (787) 725-4244 FAX http://www2.pr.gov/ Directorios/Pages/InfoAgencia. aspx?PRIFA=021

#### Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management - VITEMA

2-C Contant, A-Q Building Virgin Islands 00820 (340) 774-2244 (340) 774-1491

# **Disaster Supply Kit**



# Jax Facts: How well do you know Jacksonville District?

BY NANCY J. STICHT



Congratulations to **Danette Goss**, **Engineering 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 May issue of JaxStrong. (Photo courtesy of Danette Goss)

- 1: How did the new survey vessel Florida II save 50 percent of the cost for a recent job near Stuart?
  - A: Highly advanced equipment on board made it possible to perform multiple scanning methods concurrently. (New survey boat arrives in Jacksonville District, pg. 10)
  - 2: The 2014 draft System Status Report evaluates data from different systemwide geographic regions, including Lake Okeechobee, the Northern Estuaries, and Southern Coastal Systems.
    - A: Greater Everglades (Draft Everglades System Status Report available for public review, pg. 15)
  - 3: Students at the Antilles Elementary School in Puerto Rico will use what they learned about STEM from the Antilles team to do what?
    - A: Design a playground. (Antilles team reaches out to elementary school students, pg. 3)
  - 4: What Army value is defined by putting the welfare of others before your own?
    - A: Selfless service. (Employees put others before themselves, at home and abroad, pg. 5)
  - 5: What is Jacksonville District doing at Mile Point? A: Working to make a cross-current issue safer for navigation. (Fifth grade students take on Jax Port deepening debate, pg. 13)

- 6: What was found by a snorkeler in Flamenco Bay on the island of Culebra?
  - A: A 100-pound unexploded bomb. (Munitions item found at Culebra one week before spring break, pg. 8)
- 7: What is the name of the newest 26-foot survey boat acquired by Jacksonville District?
  - A: SB-48. (New survey boat arrives in Jacksonville District, pg. 10)
- 8: What are two ways in which the Corps will protect aquatic species during Jacksonville Harbor deepening?
  - A: Crews will stop all in-water work when manatees, turtles and other marine life enters the area; blasting will only occur during winter months when manatees are less likely to be in the St. Johns River. (Fifth grade students take on Jax Port deepening debate, pg. 13)
- 9: Where in the world is Tim Brown? Name three places where he has contributed his time and talents to help others.
  - A: Afghanistan, New Jersey (post-Hurricane Sandy) and Haiti. (Employees put others before themselves, at home and abroad, pg. 5)

#### 10:When does Summer Solstice begin?

A: June 21 (COL Dodd's column, pg. 2)





# **SAFETY:** it takes all of us

1



Week 1: Prevent prescription drug abuse Week 2: Stop slips, trips and falls

Week 3: Be aware of your surroundings

Week 4: Put an end to distracted driving

#### Across

- 4. Adding handrails, maintaining good housekeeping and cleaning up \_\_\_\_\_\_ will help minimize the risk of falls.
- 5. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ walking and remain alert for any surface changes.
- 6. Take \_\_\_\_\_ breaks every 15 minutes when working or playing outdoors.
- 7. Hands-free devices do not reduce cognitive distraction to the \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Store \_\_\_\_\_ objects close to the floor.

#### Down

- 1. To prevent UV damage, wear a hat and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Keep medications in their original
- 3. Wear the proper personal \_\_\_\_\_\_ equipment for your environment.
- 5. Tell other people not to call you when they know you are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Carrying extra pounds can cause an extra strain on your \_\_\_\_\_.



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Answer Key:

7. Back	уубэН.8
5. Driving	7. Brain
3. Protective	6. Water
2. Container	5. Distracted
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nwoQ	Across
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# **Regulatory Open House 2014**



You're invited to the Regulatory Division's 2014 Open House at a location near you! Join our team as we share program developments and other topics of interest in your area and throughout our region.

#### OPEN HOUSE DATES AND LOCATIONS | 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Wednesday, June 25 | Sarasota Courtyard Downtown Bradenton 100 Riverfront Drive, Bradenton, FL

Wednesday, July 9 | Marathon Hawks Cay Resort Florida Keys 61 Hawks Cay Blvd., Duck Key, FL

Friday, July 11 | Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach 3030 Holiday Drive, Ft Lauderdale, FL

Monday, July 28 | Jacksonville Marriott Jacksonville 4670 Salisbury Rd, Jacksonville, FL

Stay Connected www.saj.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory /jacksonvilledistrict

#UOH14

Wednesday, July 30 | Panama City Bay Point Wyndham 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, Panama City Beach, FL

Friday, August 1 | Orlando Orlando Airport Marriott 7499 Augusta Nat'l Drive, Orlando, FL

Thursday, August 7 | San Juan San Juan Marriott 1309 Ashford Avenue, San Juan, PR

Wednesday, September 3 | USVI Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library 4607 Tutu Park Mall, St. Thomas, VI



US Army Corps of Engineers® Jacksonville District



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

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