



**JAXSTRONG**

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- FLAGLER BEACH PLAN WELL RECEIVED
- SMALL BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHES BIG GOAL
- ARMY VALUES: DUTY

...AND MORE



# JAXSTRONG

*jacksonville*

OUR WORK • OUR PEOPLE • OUR DISTRICT

MARCH 2014 | Volume 6 Issue 3



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

### MESSAGE FROM COL. ALAN DODD

SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS

You are making things happen in Jacksonville District. Right on the heels of the Portugués Dam dedication ceremony, we are rapidly moving forward on the Lake Worth Inlet study and the Jacksonville Harbor deepening project.

These studies outline major national benefits to be achieved through implementation of the projects, including transportation cost savings, navigation safety and increased economic efficiency.

Jacksonville District received approval to release the final Integrated Feasibility Report for the Lake Worth Inlet study in late January, which means we're making great progress. A presentation to Corps leadership at the Civil Works Review Board in Washington, D.C. clearly outlined the study details and recommended actions for the inlet. The review board approval marks a significant milestone for the study, which includes a recommended navigation improvement plan for deepening and widening Palm Beach Harbor.

The Lake Worth Inlet study examined improvements to the federal navigation project at Palm Beach Harbor, which hasn't seen any improvements in more than 50 years. The existing channel is 33 feet deep and 300 feet wide – too shallow and narrow for modern-sized vessels. The team formulated plans to widen and deepen the channel to improve ship maneuverability and safety. An improved advance maintenance plan will decrease operations and maintenance events, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$850,000 for the federal government. A Chief's Report is anticipated in April 2014. Once Congress authorizes the project and the Corps receives funding, we expect the pre-construction, engineering and design phase to take approximately 24 months, followed by a 24-month construction phase.

In late February, the district went before the Civil Works Review Board for the Jacksonville Harbor General Reevaluation Report II (GRR-II), successfully achieving another significant milestone for this project as well. We anticipate a Chief's Report in April 2014.

The GRR-II team looked at deepening the existing federal channel from a project depth of 40 feet up to a potential depth of 50 feet, with the recommended plan being 47 feet. At this point, we are hopeful that it will be included in the current version of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). There is no estimated timeframe for WRRDA passage. However, JAXPORT has agreed to fund 100 percent of the pre-construction, engineering and design phase. We plan to start this phase of the project in June 2014.

Both studies incorporated accelerated time schedules in compliance with SMART Planning procedures. This process took a total commitment by supporting team members and many long, arduous work hours. The whole district should be proud of these efforts. I know I am.

Jacksonville District is at the tip of the spear for civil works transformation in USACE and, as a result, there are high expectations – and we are delivering!

Army Strong. BUILDING STRONG®. JaxStrong.

Alan Dodd  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

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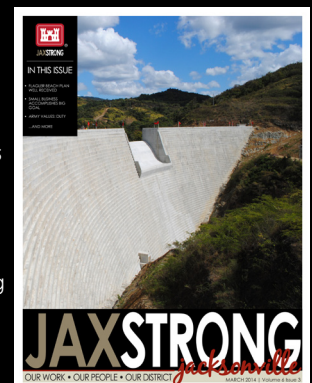
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## ON THE COVER

A view of the recently completed Portugués Dam, as it looked before a dedication ceremony held Feb. 5. The dam, located near Ponce, Puerto Rico, is designed to reduce the impacts of flooding along the Portugués River. (Photo by John Campbell)





# Jacksonville District makes history with completion of Portugués Dam

BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL



History was made Feb. 5 with the dedication of Portugués Dam, the first thick-arch roller-compacted concrete (RCC) dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' inventory. Constructed between 2008 and 2013, the project also provided unique educational opportunities to train engineers on the new technology and current dam safety practices. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Rivera Rebolledo, Puerto Rico National Guard)

"Entonces, felicidades en sus logros," (Congratulations on your accomplishments).

That was the key message from Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), to those who attended a dedication ceremony Feb. 5 celebrating completion of Portugués Dam, a \$386 million structure designed to reduce flooding impacts in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Darcy was among several high-ranking federal and Puerto Rican government officials who attended the ceremony, which was held at the top of a hill on an access road with the 220-foot high structure as a backdrop.

"This dam will reduce the impacts of flooding for 40,000 people," said Darcy. "Thanks to this dam, fire stations, hospitals and schools are now better protected."

Among the officials joining Darcy was the elected leader of Puerto Rico, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla; Maria Eloisa Melendez Altieri, mayor of Ponce; Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Brig. Gen. Ed Jackson, commander of South Atlantic Division and Col. Alan Dodd, commander of Jacksonville District.

The newly built dam is the final component of the Portugués and Bucana flood risk reduction project and is the first thick-arch roller-compacted concrete (RCC) dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' inventory.

"I learned yet another acronym," Darcy joked with audience members.

The RCC methodology uses a dryer style of concrete when compared to conventional means. It is transported and placed using standard earthmoving equipment owned by many construction firms.

"It would have taken us three years to complete [the project] using the common conventional concrete," said Pablo Vazquez-Ruiz, resident engineer for Portugués Dam construction. "By using RCC, we have accomplished [construction] in one third of the time."

Padilla praised the Corps for completion of the project, saying residents will no longer have to worry when heavy rains fall.

"This concern will be a thing of the past," said Padilla. "This area will now come to be a safe place of joy, to appreciate nature. We will protect it for the enjoyment of generations to come."

(CONTINUES ON **PAGE 4**)



## PORTUGUÉS DAM (continued from PAGE 3)

The Portugués and Bucana project was initially authorized by Congress in the 1970s. The project included Cerillos Dam, an earthen structure northeast of Ponce, completed in 1991. Additionally, stormwater channelization structures were constructed throughout the city, with the final structure completed in 1997.



Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), speaks at the dedication ceremony held Feb. 5 to celebrate completion of construction of Portugués Dam near Ponce, Puerto Rico. The dam is the final component of the Portugués and Bucana flood risk project, designed to reduce the impacts of flooding for people living in Ponce. (Photo by John Campbell)

Portugués Dam presented several challenges due to unique geological issues at the site. The Corps attempted to begin construction in the early 2000s, but higher than anticipated costs on a thin-arch design for the dam sent engineers back to the drawing board. After a number of years, a thick-arch, RCC design emerged. Construction began in 2008 and was completed in December 2013.

The Corps has used the project as an educational tool for its "Dam Safety University" program. The program is intended to enhance the knowledge of newer engineers on dam safety practices, as those who previously worked on Corps dam projects have retired or are nearing retirement.

"This is the first time we have used RCC technology in Puerto Rico," said Vazquez-Ruiz, "so this has served as a form of education for many engineers, students and people on the benefits and virtues of RCC technology."

Now that construction has been completed, the focus shifts to filling the reservoir and testing the dam under various loads. Jacksonville District is also working on plans to turn over operation of the dam to the local sponsor, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environment Resources, which is expected to begin operating the dam in early 2015.

For Vazquez-Ruiz, completion of the dam is very gratifying.

"I am proud that the government is providing sound protection for the people," said Vazquez-Ruiz. "I have witnessed people dying as victims of flooding. With these structures, we shouldn't see the same incidents that we've seen in the past with flooding of these rivers." ♦



Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite (2nd from right), deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, leads a VIP delegation on a tour of Portugués Dam near Ponce, Puerto Rico, following a dedication ceremony Feb. 5. Also joining the tour are (left to right) María Eloisa Melendez Altieri, mayor of Ponce; Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro García Padilla; Carmen Guerrero Perez, Puerto Rico secretary for natural and environmental resources and Brig. Gen. Ed Jackson, commander of South Atlantic Division. (Photo by John Campbell)



Pablo Vazquez-Ruiz (left), resident engineer overseeing construction at Portugués Dam, shows the dam's spillway to Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro García Padilla following a dedication ceremony celebrating completion of construction Feb. 5. The \$386 million dam is the first roller-compacted concrete dam built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Photo by John Campbell)



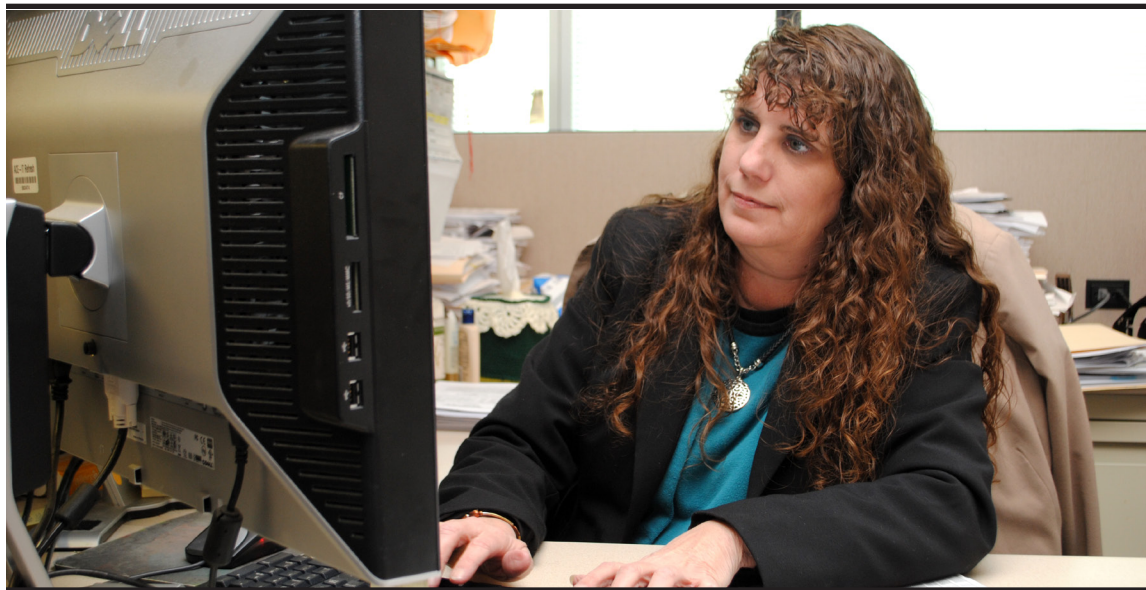
Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan Dodd (right) receives congratulations from the mayor of Ponce, Puerto Rico, María Eloisa Melendez Altieri following the dedication of Portugués Dam Feb. 5. The \$386 million dam is expected to help reduce impacts from flooding for 40,000 people living in and around Ponce. (Photo by John Campbell)





# Teamwork gets the job done in Operations Division

BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL



Budget analyst Tina Cox checks the balances remaining in various program accounts within Operations Division. Cox's personal commitment to duty includes a strong work ethic and making sure she treats taxpayer money like it is her own. (Photo by John Campbell)

*"Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team."* – U.S. Army website, [www.army.mil/values/](http://www.army.mil/values/).

In 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to spur the nation's economy, which had fallen into recession. For Tina Cox, budget analyst, and her co-workers in the Operations Division, it meant an increased workload to learn the rules of the program and find suitable projects where money could be spent in a manner that provided the best value to the American taxpayer.

"The ARRA money provided an opportunity to do a lot of small projects that we hadn't been able to do in the past," said Cox.

Ensuring the money is there to accomplish the mission is the major duty performed by Cox for the Operations Division. It's a job she loves, and it provides her an opportunity to serve her country.

"I treat the taxpayers' money as if it were my own," said Cox. "We have to accomplish the mission while doing what is right for the taxpayers."

Cox has worked at the Jacksonville District for nearly 15 years, all in the Operations Division, and clearly takes a great deal of pride in the service she provides.

"Tina is dedicated to her mission as a budget analyst and to her fellow employees," said Tim Murphy, deputy chief, Operations Division. "Her dedication is demonstrated with long hours and always being available for short-notice work, whether it's day, night, weekends or holidays."

"My mom raised me with a strong work ethic," said Cox. "If it takes you 10 hours to get the job done, then you work for 10 hours."

In addition to the strong work ethic instilled by her family, Cox says working at the headquarters of the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) also left a lasting impression.

"I was at USARC for five years, during Desert Storm," said Cox. "The soldiers were great examples of duty and selfless service."

Cox says one of the keys for success as she works with engineers and maintenance personnel is their willingness to involve her as projects are being scoped. This allows her to provide options before a course of action is chosen as opposed to developing a specific idea and then figuring out how to pay for it.

"We work close together to get the job done," said Cox. "We have to – it's the only way."

"Operations Division is an action-oriented entity," said Murphy. "Whether it is invasive species, water management, hydrosurvey, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), multi-projects or our South Florida Operations Office, we are all focused on implementing solutions for our nation."

When asked what people should remember about duty, Cox says attitude and approach make all the difference.

"You should be dedicated to your job," said Cox. "You should take pride in getting the job done."

"Duty doesn't have to be hard or painful," said Murphy, "it can be fun and exciting. We work hard but still enjoy our mission and are excited about seeing our accomplishments in place." ♦

## ARMY VALUES

Loyalty

Duty

Respect

Selfless  
Service

Honor

Integrity

Personal  
Courage



# Corps plan for Flagler County project well received

BY SUSAN JACKSON



Idris Dobbs (second from right) discusses economics with Commissioner George Hanns, Flagler County District 5 chairman, at a public meeting held Feb. 5. In the background, Lori Hadley talks to a local resident about shoreline erosion and the Corps' berm design. (Photo by Susan Jackson)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received mostly accolades from residents of Flagler County Feb. 5 after they heard about the Corps' draft plan to increase shoreline protection.

The Flagler County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project team hosted a public meeting to present the draft integrated feasibility study and environmental assessment. Many meeting attendees, including city and county officials, complimented team members for a job well done on the study and in presenting the information.

Shoreline erosion currently threatens oceanfront infrastructure in Flagler County, including National Scenic Highway State Road A1A and public and private structures. As the only north-south hurricane evacuation route for communities along the coastline, State Road A1A is essential for public safety during evacuation events.

At the meeting, the team presented their findings and a tentatively selected plan, which provides additional armoring and protection of State Road A1A. The protection includes building a 10-foot seaward extension of the existing dune along 2.6 miles of shoreline between 7th and 28th streets in central Flagler Beach.

There are lots of reasons why the meeting was successful.

Planning Division's Marty Durkin said good preparation was the key to meeting the audience's expectations. The meeting was planned so attendees could talk to individual team members both prior to the formal presentation as well as afterwards.

"The informal discussion with the study team members is important because it allows people to get complete answers to their individual questions," explained Durkin. "People get more out of a real back and forth conversation where they aren't under the pressure of speaking into a microphone with limited time to ask their question or make their point."

Posters provided information on the project and the Corps' process, and did a good job telling the story, too, said Candida Bronson, chief, coastal and navigation section, Planning Division. Team members staffed each of the posters particular to their area of expertise.

"Having good visual aids helps the attendees form their questions and helps staff answer the questions. The fact sheet was also very important, containing many of the vital points of the project so the audience had a common base from which to raise their questions," said Bronson.

Team members were well prepared for audience concerns, too.

"The team brainstormed tough questions that were received in the past, what person would best answer a particular question, and how we should explain answers," said Bronson. "The presentation and materials were specifically made to address some of the common questions we received throughout the study process, helping to answer questions before the audience asked them."

Jason Harrah, project manager, agrees that addressing known

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 7)



**FLAGLER COUNTY** (continued from **PAGE 6**)


Marty Durkin cohesively led the audience through the study process and tentatively selected plan for the Flagler County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project. The plan was well received by meeting attendees. (Photo by Susan Jackson)

concerns is important. "You have to gauge your audience. You have to prepare yourself and anticipate what types of questions and concerns could be raised, and be prepared to answer. You also have to be willing to let the public vent their concerns and be a listener," he said.

Answering questions that are formally asked at the meeting provides transparency; it allows everyone in attendance to hear the Corps' answer rather than others' interpretations.

"I believe that having team members respond, when possible, to audience questions and comments was very valuable. It not only gave the audience a forum, but also let them know that we heard them," said Lori Hadley, Engineering Division.

Having team members available to answer questions and clarify points at the poster boards after the formal presentation was also valuable, she said. "Not everyone wants to talk openly at a microphone. This gave more reserved folks a chance to be heard and get answers as well."

Hadley said she wasn't sure that having team members available prior to the presentation added much value. "In some cases, yes, but in others the best answer was 'that will be better addressed in the presentation.'"

Hadley said the public meeting likely went so well because it's not a particularly controversial project.

"The fact that Flagler beach needs help is basically agreed upon. The solution may not be, but there is some common ground," said Hadley. Other district projects, especially those with contested environmental impacts, are much more polarizing and sometimes create a hostile environment, she said. "I think the open, responsive way this meeting was held helped it go well. The same flexible approach might not work so well for a more controversial project." ♦



Candida Bronson (right) listens to a Florida Department of Transportation official following the presentation on the Flagler County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project at a public meeting held Feb. 5 in Bunnell, Fla. (Photo by Susan Jackson)



# Corps shares water safety messages at south Florida events

BY ERICA SKOLTE



Adam Tarplee, natural resources program manager (left) and Chris Abernathy (right) of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary partnered with Anna Stewart of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County to educate the public about water safety at the South Florida Fair. (Photo by Anna Stewart)

As the nation's largest provider of water-based recreation with an important water safety mission, one of the most effective ways for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to promote its safety message is to take it to events where it will reach the maximum audience. In south Florida, this means hitting events like the annual South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach and the FLW fishing tournament.

For many years, the Corps has maintained a strong partnership with the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County, and sharing a booth at the South Florida Fair at the Palm Beach County Fairgrounds for two weeks was a great way to pool resources and raise awareness about water safety. This year, Adam Tarplee, natural resources program manager; Chris Abernathy, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Anna Stewart, manager of the Drowning Prevention Coalition and others brought the water safety message to fair attendees.

"It's important to help people be safe, not only out on our lakes, but at home too," said Tarplee. "When we go to big events like this, it's a great opportunity for us to inform families and answer their questions in person. We answered all kinds of questions including things like how to get out of a sinking car, where to find swim lessons and pool safety barriers."

When it comes to high-stakes professional bass fishing tournaments, the FLW tour events on Lake Okeechobee are right up at the top of the heap. The name "FLW" honors Forrest L. Wood, the founder of Ranger Boats and pioneer of modern bass fishing. The Walmart FLW tour is considered to be the world's premier bass-fishing tournament circuit and the winner of this year's tour season opener on Lake Okeechobee took home \$125,000 from a tournament featuring 178 of the world's best bass-fishing anglers.

The Corps reached out to the fishermen and the fans last year, and returned for the first FLW tournament event of 2014. Park rangers Paula Bratschi and John Chassey and volunteers Carol and Herb Sones spoke with more than 530 people in a single day, Feb. 9, and distributed 496 packets that included Bobber the Water Safety Dog coloring books and other information.

"FLW is a family-friendly event, so it's a great opportunity to spread the Corps water safety message to people of all ages," said Bratschi. "We can reach local people and folks from out of town. Some of them may recreate on Lake Okeechobee, but they may also use other Corps lakes and recreation areas nationwide." ♦



Corps volunteers Carol and Herb Sones provide water safety information to families in Clewiston during the FLW fishing tournament on Lake Okeechobee. (Photo by Paula Bratschi)



# Checking in on Picayune Strand Restoration Project

PHOTOS BY JENN MILLER



Construction continues on the Faka Union Pump Station at the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Collier County, Fla. Work began on the 2,650 cubic feet per second pump station in November 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in fall 2014.

Metal rebar is enforced on the roof of the Faka Union Pump Station as part of ongoing construction efforts. Once the rebar is enforced, concrete will be poured on top to finish the roof.



Construction of the Faka Union Pump Station includes constructing a granite lined discharge basin with a weir to regulate water distribution from the pump station. ♦



# Jacksonville District receives the AbilityOne Award at small business conference

BY ERICA SKOLTE



Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick (left), commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presents the AbilityOne Award to Col. Alan Dodd, commander of Jacksonville District, at the 2013 Society of American Military Engineers Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Mo. The district was recognized for awarding \$2.9 million in contracts to AbilityOne nonprofit agencies, the second highest dollar amount awarded to AbilityOne contractors by a Corps district. (Photo by Jennie Wilson)

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented the AbilityOne Award to Jacksonville District Commander Col. Alan Dodd during the recent Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

In a letter to Dodd, E. Ballard, Executive Director and CEO of the AbilityOne Program said, "I appreciate your dedication and commitment to identifying opportunities for AbilityOne providers. Your exemplary leadership led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District to award over \$2.9 million in contracts to AbilityOne nonprofit agencies." In fact, Jacksonville District ranked second among all Corps districts in the AbilityOne/One Source category for dollars awarded.

"The AbilityOne vision is to enable all people who are blind or living with significant disabilities to achieve their maximum employment potential, especially our wounded warriors," said Ballard. "These men and women face many challenges as they transition back into civilian life, and are meeting extraordinary obstacles, including physical injuries as well as invisible ones,

like post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury. As a nation, we cannot leave these veterans behind. Our wounded warriors have earned and deserve the right to continue service to their country through programs like AbilityOne."

"As a direct result of your commitment to the Small Business Program, we had another exceptional year," said Jackie Robinson-Burnette, chief of Small Business Programs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One of the long-standing AbilityOne contracts is for the operation of the Jacksonville District mailroom, run by Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind. Mailroom team members are blind or visually impaired and use computers to perform their jobs.

"We have been beneficial to the Corps - we keep things running smoothly and have a good record in handling mail. The fact that we have continued to be awarded contracts for more than 13 years means that the Corps is happy with our work," said Keith Yount, mailroom supervisor.

AbilityOne contracts have also benefitted the south Florida area. "Contract awards to the AbilityOne program increases job opportunities for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities, including our service-disabled veterans who transition to the AbilityOne program," said Duane Kelley, chief of the maintenance and contract quality assurance section for the South Florida Operations Office and Contracting Officer Representative (COR).

The South Florida Operations Office's AbilityOne contractor, Gulfstream Goodwill, is responsible for and provides management, planning, supervision, labor, equipment and maintenance, materials and supplies as required for the mowing and janitorial services for all government-owned facilities in the South Florida Operations Office geographical area of responsibility. Structures and facilities are located throughout central and southern Florida, from Cape Canaveral in the north to the Everglades in the south, and from the Atlantic coast in the east to the Gulf of Mexico in the west.

The contractor provides bulk trash removal, janitorial services, and general cleaning services of public use areas and government facilities. The contractor also mows, trims, edges and applies herbicides to grassed and landscaped areas. These locations include recreation areas, locks and dams, levee systems, office areas, water control structures and operations areas. Two distinctly different types of mowing are used - rough or "improved mowing" and the use of "finish mowing" equipment to achieve an appearance similar to that of a residential lawn. The second type is "levee mowing," which is routinely done on uneven ground surfaces and requires a tractor and brush mower equipment. This job includes about 150 miles of levee around Herbert Hoover Dike, which surrounds Lake Okeechobee.

"We are happy to be recognized for our efforts in awarding contracts in the AbilityOne program," said Beth Myers, deputy for Small Business Programs in Jacksonville District. "It's great to be able to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities and these contractors do much-needed work for the Corps." ♦





## National Wear Red Day: Jacksonville District team knows “The Heart Truth”



Jacksonville District team members gathered in the Prudential Building in Jacksonville, Fla. on National Wear Red Day Feb. 7, to spotlight women's heart health. (Photo by David Kimery)



Team members in the South Florida Restoration Office in West Palm Beach, Fla. wore red and showed that they've got heart on National Wear Red Day. (USACE file photo)





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

BY NANCY J. STICHT



Congratulations to **Dana Gentry, Regulatory 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 February issue of JaxStrong. (Photo by Nikki Nobles)

**1. Emergency preparedness and response is primarily the responsibility of what level of government?**

A: It's primarily a state and local responsibility; when the nature of the disaster exceeds their capabilities, the Corps may step in to help. (District welcomes middle school's First Lego® League, pg. 3)

**2. The Corps classifies a wetland based on what three factors?**

A: Vegetation, soil and hydrology (Florida wetlands among those receiving international attention, pg. 9)

**3. What is the acronym for the Army values, and what value does each letter represent?**

A: LDRSHIP: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage (Blake exemplifies loyalty, mentors team members, pg. 5)

**4. To date, the longest Burmese python caught in Florida was how long? When was it captured?**

A: The python was 17.7 feet long and was captured in 2012. (And how was YOUR day at work, pg. 11)

**5. Name at least three beneficial services provided by wetlands.**

A: Water quality improvement, floodwater storage, water purification, shoreline stabilization, fish and wildlife habitat (Florida wetlands among those receiving international attention, pg. 9)

**6. How many water control structures, or culverts, is the Corps replacing or removing on Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee?**

A: The Corps is replacing or removing 32 water control structures. (2014 promises to be busy year for dike rehabilitation, pg. 13)

**7. When was the last time Jacksonville suffered a direct hit by a hurricane?**

A: 1964 (District welcomes middle school's First Lego® League, pg. 3)

**Editor's Note:** Following initial publication of JaxStrong, we were informed that the last time Jacksonville was impacted by a hurricane was by Hurricane Dora in 1964. In 1900 (the original date cited in the story), Jacksonville was impacted by an earthquake. We made the correction, but since the Jax Facts Challenge was based on information in JaxStrong at the time of publication, and all entries received cited 1900, we accepted 1900 as the correct answer.

**8. What agency is the local sponsor for the newly completed Portugués Dam, and when will it assume responsibility for operating and maintaining the dam?**

A: Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources is the local sponsor, and will assume full control of the dam in one year (2015). (COL Dodd's column, pg. 2)

**9. When we talk about getting up to 10 percent risk, water levels in Lake Okeechobee are getting higher than we can \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Release
- b) Stand in
- c) Manage
- d) Store

A: C - Manage (Corps discusses restoration progress and Lake Okeechobee management at annual Everglades Coalition Conference, pg. 7)

**10. What is the name of the study that will provide options on the remaining measures needed to reduce the risk of failure of Herbert Hoover Dike?**

A: Dam Safety Modification Study (2014 promises to be busy year for dike rehabilitation, pg. 13) ♦



# Black History Month events engage and educate BY ERICA SKOLTE



The Brain Brawl welcomed Prudential Building Teams 1 (front row) and 2 (second row), who were enthusiastic additions to the competition this year. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

This year's African American/Black History Month theme, "Civil Rights in America," highlighted the 50th anniversary of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This landmark piece of civil rights legislation outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities and women. It ended voter registration inequality and racial segregation in schools, workplaces and facilities that serve the general public.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office and the African American/Black Employment Committee held several events in observance of Black History Month.

## Opening Event

The opening event featured Dr. Alan Bliss, a University of North Florida professor who teaches a course titled "Civil Rights in America."

Before introducing Bliss, committee chair Murika Davis acknowledged the recent passing of Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid activist who served as South Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999.

"This month, let us embrace the characteristics of the leaders from the civil rights era as well as Mr. Mandela—people who had courage, who had tenacity, who were fearless, who looked out for others, who took up the charge and moved forward,"



2013 Brain Brawl champs, Contracting Division, work together to come up with a correct answer in an effort to hold on to their trophy. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

said Davis. "So as you are listening today and throughout the month, I encourage you to take up the mantle...Be fearless, display courage, cross boundaries and make a change."

Bliss acknowledged the role of the Corps in the history of the United States. "The Corps is an institution whose people and whose work I have long admired," he said. "I actually teach about the Corps and its work in most of my classes on U.S. history."

Bliss said that many believe the civil rights era took place between the 1950s and the late 1960s, with a few key players such as Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. He shared one college student's short, tongue-in-cheek summation of how many people view the civil rights movement: "Rosa Parks sat down, blacks everywhere stood up, Martin Luther King, Jr. made a speech, the laws changed, end of story." The implication was that the civil rights movement came and went; "Mission Accomplished."



Team captain Robert Rene (holding trophy) and the Engineering Division team enjoy the thrill of victory after winning the trophy. Gerald DeLoach (standing) has been the executive producer and host of the popular event for the last five years. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

Bliss stated that nothing could be further from the truth - the civil rights movement began well before the 1950s and continues for blacks and many other groups to this day, for "this is a country that was founded on the premise of offering the full and equal rights of citizenship to everyone." He cautioned that acknowledging only the contributions of the well-known personalities undersells "the hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of other people, black and white, who risked their careers, their livelihoods, their homes, their family relationships, their health, in some cases their lives."

## Black History Month Brain Brawl

Bliss' talk set the stage for the eagerly anticipated annual event, the Black History Month Brain Brawl. Gerald DeLoach, electrical engineer in the mechanical and electrical section, a Brain Brawl participant and team captain in the past, has been the executive producer and host of the event for the last five years.

Brain Brawl questions included those based on this year's theme, "Civil Rights in America," and highlighted important groups and events.




**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** (continued from PAGE 13)


The Regulatory Division team included, from left, Dana Gentry, Carrie Bond, Michael Ornella, Brittany Jones and captain Greg Terry. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

Last year's champions, Contracting Division, joined four other teams in the battle for bragging rights: Regulatory Division and Engineering Division as well as newcomers Prudential 1 and Prudential 2.

After fierce competition, Engineering Division team members Laureen Borochaner, Murika Davis, Quatina Austin and Robert Rene took home the trophy.

"We were behind in the beginning but we made a strong come back. Everyone on the team played an important part in our success," said team captain Robert Rene. "The beauty of the competition was that it brought out the passion and excitement in everyone. We all had tons of fun and I can't wait until we win again next year!"

"We were happy to welcome [teams from] the Prudential building, which came out in full force with two teams, to our

competition this year. The enthusiasm for the brawl was on display in abundance from both participants and spectators alike," said DeLoach. "There was a great turnout and we hope everyone joins us again next year."

"The Brain Brawl is a spirited, competitive way to enrich understanding of African American/Black History Month," said DeLoach. "We invite everyone to participate in some way, whether as a captain, a team member or in the audience. You are sure to learn something you didn't know before, and will have fun doing it!"

DeLoach plans to host the Brain Brawl again next year, and at least one team already has plans to participate. "We'll be back next year to reclaim the trophy," said Contracting Division's Carlos Clarke.



The Contracting Division team (left to right): Robert Meekie, Remi Eggers, Carlos Clarke and Tedra Thompson applauded this year's winners and passed the Brain Brawl Trophy to Engineering Division's Murika Davis, Laureen Borochaner, Robert Rene and Quatina Austin. (Photo by Ty Erickson)

**Test yourself and prepare for next year! Can you answer these Brain Brawl questions?**

1. The Niagara Movement was organized by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. W. E. B. Du Bois
  - b. George Washington Carver
  - c. Booker T. Washington
  - d. Howard Bunch
2. Granting African Americans full citizenship rights became part of the United States Constitution in the:
  - a. 13th Amendment
  - b. 1st Amendment
  - c. 14th Amendment
  - d. 2nd Amendment
3. "Abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude" was ratified in the:
  - a. 13th Amendment
  - b. 1st Amendment
  - c. 14th Amendment
  - d. 2nd Amendment
4. The NAACP was organized by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Washington and Carver
  - b. Du Bois and Washington
  - c. Walling and Ovington
  - d. Du Bois and Carver
5. The first African American woman elected to the United States Senate was:
  - a. Crystal Byrd Fauset
  - b. Shirley Chisholm
  - c. Barbara Jordan
  - d. Carol Mosley Braun
6. The first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives was:
  - a. Dr. Patricia E. Bath
  - b. Rebecca J. Cole
  - c. Shirley Chisholm
  - d. Karen Farmer
7. The first African American presidential nominee.
  - a. Shirley Chisholm
  - b. Doris A. Davis
  - c. Barbara Hancock
  - d. Mary Mcleod Bethune

**Answers:** 1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. c; 5. d; 6. c; 7. a



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## OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS WELCOME HOME

JOHN HUGHES  
WILLIAM MAY

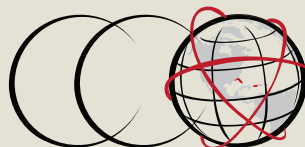
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George Cooper, South Florida Area Office area engineer (left) and Doug Wood, West Palm Beach resident engineer (right) were among those who gathered to welcome home John Hughes (center), project engineer, from his deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo by Cecilia Muzi)

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*Celebrating Women of  
Character,  
Courage,  
and*



Corporate Communications Office  
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