

JULY 2018

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Work Progressing on Wilmington Harbor Inner Ocean Bar Project



Dredged material from Smith Island Channel spews onto Caswell Beach as a bulldozer moves material around to bring it to the proper elevation to help reduce risks to oceanfront property. (USACE photo by Hank Heusinkveld)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District is responsible for maintaining the existing federal navigation channels into Wilmington Harbor to ensure operational access by both commercial and recreational vessels to port facilities. Each year, the Wilmington District manages a number of dredging contracts that remove material from the navigation channel, and handles that dredged material in a safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner that is coordinated with local stakeholders, resource agencies, and our customers at the North Carolina State Ports Authority.

“Dredging at the Wilmington Harbor Inner Ocean Bar usually occurs every two to three years, with beach-compatible

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We're 243 Years Old and Still Going Strong

Teammates,

Last month, we celebrated the Army's and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 243 birthdays. The Army's theme for the observance this year was 'Over There! A Celebration of Army Heroes from WWI to Present Day.' During the observance, the Army aimed to increase awareness of its role and mission in support of our nation. We celebrated the accomplishments of all our heroes, past and present. And each day, we honor all of our Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians – our Total Army force – and their legacy of brave service to our nation.

There are some key points that we need to remember on the Army's birthday;

- The U.S. Army is America's first national institution— established on June 14, 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed.
- Since its establishment, the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the Nation.
- Our Nation is indebted to generations of heroes from WWI to today who sacrificed everything for something greater than themselves.

- Army Soldiers and Civilians embody the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

America's Army has stood ready to serve our nation for 243 years and today, our Soldiers stand ready to meet any challenge. Just as the Army went through a big shift in technology during WWI, the Army of today is modernizing to innovate and adapt concepts, equipment and training to be ready for the next challenge. It is optimizing for interoperability with our allies and partners to strengthen alliances, attract new partners and deliver more effective coalition operations. The Army finds its strength not only in its diversity, but also in its ability to bring together people of different races, cultures and faiths who share common values like loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service and honor.

June 16 of this year had a very special meaning for me and I hope it did for you as well. It marked the 243 birthday of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, just two days after the Army's birthday. George

Washington appointed the first engineer officers of the Army June 16, 1775 during the American Revolution.

Engineers have served in combat in all subsequent American wars. As a U.S. Army engineer officer in USACE, I'm very humbled to be a part of this fantastic, diverse organization comprised of approximately 34,000 dedicated Civilians and Soldiers who deliver engineering services to customers in more than 130 countries worldwide.

You and I belong to an organization that delivers vital public and military engineering services, steps up to the plate in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, and energizes the economy and helps reduce risks from disasters. We're 243 years old, and we're still going strong.

ESSAYONS!



District Commander Col. Robert Clark

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

Inner Ocean Bar Con't

material placed alternately on either Oak Island or Bald Head Island within the approved environmental window between November 16 and April 30,” said Project Manager Pamela Castens. “This past year, no bids were received from the initial attempt to award the contract in November of 2017. In order to keep the navigation channel open and functioning for ship traffic, we considered all options available to us and determined that we needed to re-issue the contract solicitation a second time for work outside the environmental window in order to find dredges available to do the work.”

The work this summer is intended as a one-time event that was necessary due to the funding situation this past year and a lack of bidders when the job was first advertised. Castens said, monitoring of sea turtle activity and relocation of turtle nests was



Quality Assurance representative Murray Degnon, right, checks a section of pipe at the east end of Caswell Beach with civil engineer Patrick Gorman and U.S. Coast Guard officer Lieutenant Brittany Akers who's on a developmental assignment with the Wilmington District.

initiated on May 1, at the beginning of nesting season to ensure that no nests are directly impacted by sand placement operations. In addition, the contractor avoided the active bird nesting areas on the tip of the island near Fort Caswell.

“We’ve been closely monitoring environmental impacts, and the work was coordinated with the appropriate state and federal environmental

agencies to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that were included in the contract requirements,” Castens explained. “We continue to work closely with the agencies and the towns of Caswell Beach and Oak Island to update them on the status of work and coordinate ongoing requirements as work progresses.”

The project is expected to be completed by mid-summer.

American Red Cross Highlights Hurricane Preparedness, Call for Blood Donations at Annual Expo

“Preparedness is not just a personal responsibility, it is also a civic responsibility as the better prepared that people are for hurricane season and other disasters, the less reliant they will be on first responders and municipalities to deliver critical services for them.”

That was the message stressed by American Red Cross officials during the annual Cape Fear Preparedness & Safety Expo held at the Coastline Convention Center in downtown Wilmington on May 19.

Jim Jarvis, the Executive Director of the American Red Cross in Wilmington, encourages the public to be as proactive as possible by building an emergency preparedness kit, making an emergency plan, and staying informed via local and regional media. And with a steady increase of people who are now calling Wilmington and southeastern North Carolina home, Jarvis said that newcomers need to educate



Ranger Victor Pillow puts together pamphlets about USACE water safety to an interested visitor at the expo.

themselves with help from the Red Cross and other agencies to be vigilant during hurricane season.

“Hurricanes, unlike other kinds of disasters, are advanced-notice events,” Jarvis said. “The most important thing that new residents can do is to pay close attention to the advice and recommendations provided to them by their local emergency management team. Specifically, if your municipality or county issues a mandatory

evacuation order ahead of the arrival of a major hurricane, heed that direction and evacuate.

Secondly, understand that most hurricane-related deaths and injuries do not occur before or during landfall, but instead occur after the storm passes from such causes as inland flooding, electrical accidents, falling tree limbs, cardiac events, etc.”

Jarvis said people can and do

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Red Cross Con't

become complacent when it comes to hurricanes or even disaster preparedness. The Red Cross uses a variety of mediums to get the message out about its services and the things that people should do to be prepared for emergencies and/or disasters.

“Among these are our Emergency Resource Library or robust social media presence on all major platforms and close partnerships with local media outlets to educate the public before, during, and after the storm,” he said.

Although the focus of the expo was on hurricane season, the Red Cross takes every opportunity to inform the public about donating blood. Each year, Wilmington District blood donors average roughly 20-22 donations during the Red Cross blood drives.

“Blood and blood products are perishable and lifesaving resources that cannot be recreated or manufactured in a laboratory or substituted for with another product,” he explained. “Approximately every two seconds in the U.S., someone needs a blood



Kara Quiros, right, regularly donates blood during the American Red Cross blood drives at the Wilmington District headquarters. SAW averages about 20-22 donors per blood drive.

transfusion. On average, the American Red Cross must secure more than 13,000 blood donations every day to meet the needs of more than 2,600 hospital patients across the country.”

If a person has never donated before, but would like to Jarvis said, it’s very easy to get started.

“We encourage the donors to come to one of our blood donation centers to donate. We will walk them through the process, help them, and comfort them during their donation, provide them with a

snack and beverage afterward, and thank them for potentially saving up to three lives through that one donation!”

If potential donors cannot come to the donation center, then they can go to the following link for more information;

www.redcrossblood.org

Enter their zip code to find a mobile blood drive near you to schedule an appointment.

DIVISION COMMANDER LEARNS MORE ABOUT ECONOMIC VALUE OF NC PORTS DURING TOUR

South Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Diana Holland toured the Port of Wilmington with Executive Director of the North Carolina State Ports Authority Paul Cozza on June 19 to get a better understanding of the economic value of the ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, and how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helps by maintaining the channels that lead to the ports. Wilmington District Commander Col. Rob Clark discussed current and future navigation projects with port officials to help keep North Carolina ports competitive along the Atlantic Coast.



Brig. Gen. Diana Holland, left, watches port operations with Executive Director of the North Carolina State Ports Authority Paul Cozza, second from left. Also observing the operations are Wilmington District Commander Col. Rob Clark, right, and NC Ports consultant Anthony Tata.



Brig. Gen. Diana Holland discusses the Corps' role in maintaining the federal channels that lead to the Port of Wilmington.

THIS AND THAT

Wilmington District Deputy for Small Business Donna Walton, left, and Jason Glazener of the Wilmington District's Environmental Section stand with Karen Baker, Chief of the Environmental Division at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C. who served as a keynote speaker for two events hosted in conjunction with the 2018 Lumbee Nation Economic Summit sponsored by the North Carolina Business Center and held at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. First, she talked with female leaders of local Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) industry at the associated North Carolina Defense Business Association's Women in Leadership Forum, where she focused her remarks on leadership, diversity, and opportunities in STEM. She also spoke at the summit luncheon about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission and its contribution to resilience, as well as further opportunities to do business with USACE. Members of the Wilmington District's small business office and planning and environmental offices supported this event.



Engineer officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from the XVIII Airborne Corps stationed at Fort Bragg visited the Wilmington District for Leader Professional Development. Col. Aaron Magan (fifth from left in bottom picture) is the XVIII Airborne Corps Engineer Section Chief who lead the group on the visit to Wilmington. During the visit, they learned about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the role of the Wilmington District and were briefed on a variety of topics and projects such as Coastal Storm Risk Management. Project Manager Pamela Castens (top photo) explained the Wilmington Harbor Inner Ocean Bar project, and the role of Programs and Project Management. Combat engineers primarily supervise, serve or assist as a member of a team when they are tackling rough terrain in *combat* situations. They provide their expertise in areas such as mobility, counter mobility, survivability and general engineering.



New Safety Program Focuses on the Most Vulnerable In and Around Water: Children

During the warm weather months, families across the country will be spending more time enjoying lakes, ponds, rivers and ocean beaches. Being aware of the risks those open waters pose, and taking extra precautions, can keep those outings fun and prevent the tragedy of a drowning.

Tragically, more than 1,000 children fatally drowned in 2016, the highest rate of drowning deaths since 2011. And that number severely underrepresents the scope of the problem. While 1,000 children fatally drowned, an estimated 7,000 more ended up in the emergency room (ER) because of a drowning scare. That means a minimum of 150 families a week were impacted by a tragic or frightening drowning event. Additionally, there are countless non-fatal drowning incidents that are not captured in ER data because a child is rescued on site.

Once a child has tumbled usually within minutes, “it takes 20 seconds or less for a child to slip away quietly under the water,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District water safety official Carmen Boyette. At this point, drowning victims cannot call out for help as they are struggling to keep their mouths above water.



Even in safe swimming areas, it's important to keep an eye on your kids full time. (USACE photo by Brian Stewart)

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Safety Program Con't

Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW) and Make Safe Happen, a program Nationwide, have joined forces to better understand the scope of the problem. This report focuses on drowning in open water settings. The goal is to help parents and caregivers to appreciate the nature of open water and to help families protect kids from the dangers open water poses.

While drowning in swimming pools gets significant attention, the fact is that more children and teens fatally drown in open water. There is also an alarming difference in the number of fatal drowning's in open water by gender. More than 8 in 10 fatal open water drowning victims among children 0-19 years are male. The risk also increases with age, with children ages 15-19 years making up nearly half of open water deaths.

Another disturbing disparity relates to race and ethnicity. American Indian/ Alaskan Native and Black/African American children fatally drown at higher rates than other races/ethnicities in open water, an issue that needs far more attention and preventative action.

One factor contributing to drowning may be the expectation that because a child is able to swim in a pool, he/she will be safe in open water. However, open water, which includes both natural and man-made bodies of water (including lakes, rivers,

reservoirs and retention ponds), has hidden hazards that increase the risk of drowning. These include sudden drop-offs, dangerous currents, vegetation and rocks, colder temperatures, difficult-to-judge distances, and limited visibility. These differences from the pool setting make it important that parents go to designated recreational areas whenever possible and consider the following tips:

- * **Watch kids when they are in or around water, without being distracted.** Keep young children and inexperienced swimmers within arm's reach of an adult. Make sure older children swim with a partner every time.
- * **Designate a Water Watcher.** When several responsible adults are present, choose one to watch children in or near the water for a certain period of time, such as 15 minutes. Adults can take turns with this assigned responsibility.
- * **Make sure children learn how to swim.** Every child is different, so enroll children in swim lessons when they are ready. Consider their age, development and how often they are around water when deciding if they are ready.

For the complete report, visit the following site;
www.safekids.org/research-report/hidden-hazards-exploration-open-water-drowning-and-risks-kids

Smith Digs Into the Past to Update Decades-Old Navigable Waters List

When Regulatory Project Manager Ronnie Smith began to update the Wilmington District's list of Navigable Waters of the U.S. and develop a GIS layer of navigable waters last October, he had no idea of how overwhelming the task was going to be. The last time the information had been updated was in 1965, and in a span of more than 50 years names of bodies of water have changed, and in some cases, no longer exist. Multiple Regulatory project managers have worked on updating the list, including a map over the last 20 years. Mapping technology and document resource availability have helped with the completion of this effort.

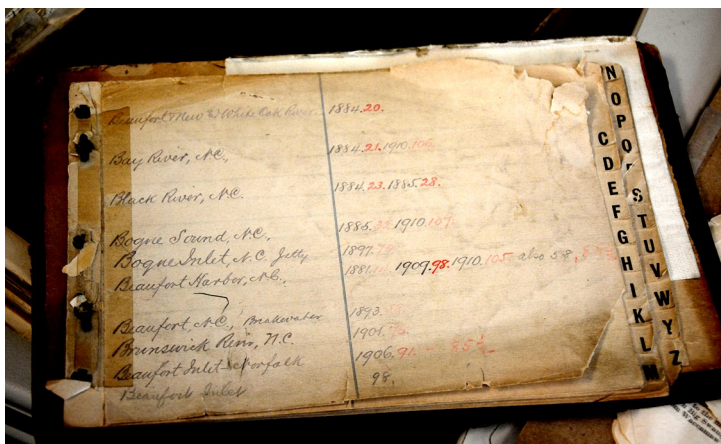
"I've been researching waters that are tidal in nature that are currently used or have been historically used for interstate commerce," Smith said. "Any work in navigable water bodies



Regulatory Project Manager Ronnie Smith looks through House of Representative documents to cross reference with Wilmington District information.

needs a permit, and every U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district is required to maintain a list of Navigable Waters of the United

States. We have a tedious project of researching information from the past to match it to current information. As easy as it is these days to simply click on a computer for instant information, Smith did not have that option. He had to gather information from a series of historic books located in the Wilmington District library dated from the 1800s titled "Reports to the Chief of Engineers." In addition, he gathered information copied from House of Representatives and Senate documents dated from between the



Old, tattered books like this hold vital information for Smith's project.

So began a

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Update Con't

1860s to the 1930s that are kept in the District office library. There were few, if any, detailed Wilmington District reports from which to verify locations that he needed for the updated list. His only solution was to cross-reference all available information.

“Looking at the list from the 1960s the letters read one thing, and the other information read another,” he explained. “It’s very inconsistent and you don’t know which information to go by. For example, the Wilmington District list doesn’t contain any landmarks for reference. It only reads ‘navigable for 32 miles’ whereas a letter from House documents reads ‘navigable for 29 miles to the bridge in Lillington.’ There are a lot more specifics in the letters.”

Smith said that the project is like working a puzzle. The old Wilmington District list has creek names that don’t exist anymore. He said they were named in the late 1800s, but then were renamed something completely different years later.

“It’s really interesting and sort of like detective work,” Smith said. “You’re trying to find names or other information that doesn’t exist anymore. I’m going back to maps from the 1800s thinking, ‘Oh! That

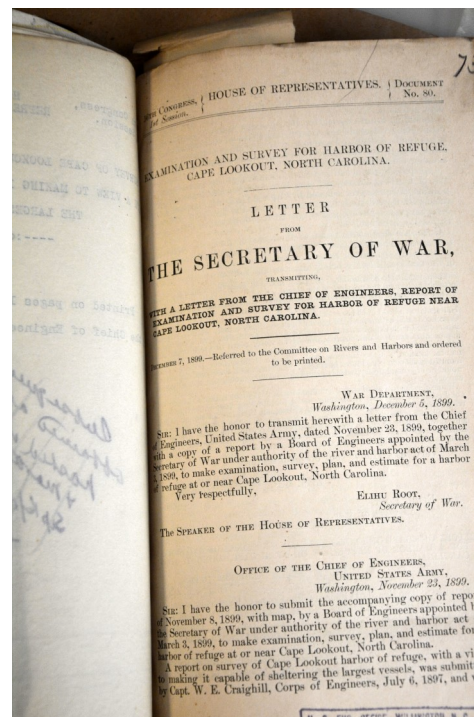
creek used to be called this, but now it’s called that.’ When I look for information in the House documents there’s a lot of good detail about the amount of commerce on these particular water bodies, the numbers of vessels that used the waterways, the width and depth. The whole point was to see if it was beneficial for commerce.”

The papers and books began piling up in Smith’s cubicle. He developed his own system of sorting the books and documents for cross referencing. He found that there was more detailed information in House documents because they described landmarks.

“One document read that the head of a navigation point was at ‘32 miles at the railroad bridge near a town.’ I then determined that the list was referencing the document because they both have the same mileage number. Now I had an identifiable location. I could then go back and look at old maps and use GIS to trace the water body and map the water to a point that was written in a letter, document or annual report.”

Smith said that the accuracy of the information from existing technology used in the past tended to be off by as much as 10 miles, but that some areas were right on the mark.

“I couldn’t imagine going out on a



This 1899 letter contains clues for Smith to cross reference.

boat and stringing along waypoints to measure the length and width of a river. For the tools that they had back then some were pretty accurate. It’s impressive.”

Smith is nearing the end of his monumental task. The end result will be an up-to-date map and accurate list of all Navigable Waters of the U.S. within the boundaries of the Wilmington District.

“The project had to be done,” Smith said. “Now we’ll be current, and all we have to do is click a mouse to make our work easier and get accurate information.”

What is in a Chief's Report?

By Lisa Parker

A Chief's Report is provided to the President of the United States and both houses of Congress at the end of each Fiscal Year. The Chief's Report of 1875 covered river and harbor improvements, geographical explorations and surveys west of the one hundredth meridian, in California, Nevada, Nebraska, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana. Reports on Transportation-routes to the seaboard, by freight or rail, zoological reports, botanical reports, reports on the Pueblo languages of New Mexico,



Maj Gen. George Armstrong Custer. After the Civil War, Custer remained a major general in the United States Volunteers until they were mustered out in February 1866. He reverted to his permanent rank of captain and was appointed lieutenant colonel in the 7th Cavalry Regiment in July 1866.



Custer's Last Stand as depicted in this 1876 print.

reports of certain ruins of New Mexico and an annotated list of the birds of Arizona.

After the Civil War, the Corps of Engineers placed officers on the staffs of the Division and Department Commanders in the West. As staff officers they had dual missions: support field operations and collect topographical data for the Engineer Department in Washington. Engineers were assigned to survey vast tracks of land and provide detailed reports.

The reports, as follow, are fascinating to read:

*Headquarters Department of Dakota,
Office of Chief Engineer,*

Saint Paul Minn., April 28, 1875

In pursuance of instruction from the headquarters of the Military Division of the Missouri, an expedition will be organized at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory, for the purpose of reconnoitering the route from that post to Bear Butte, in the Black Hills, and exploring the country, south, southeast, and southwest of that point.

The expedition will consist of the six companies of the Seventh Cavalry now stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln: the four companies of the same regiment now at Fort Rice; Company I, Twentieth Infantry; and Company G, Seventeenth Infantry, and such Indian scouts from Forts Abraham Lincoln and Rice as the Commander of the expedition shall select.

Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, of the Seventh Cavalry, is assigned to command.

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Capt. William Ludlow, chief engineer of the department will report to Lt. Col. Custer as engineer officer of the expedition. He will be accompanied by his civil assistant and three enlisted men of the Engineer Battalion.

The personnel of this expedition consisted of ten companies of the Seventh Cavalry, one each of the twentieth and seventeenth infantry, a detachment of scouts, together with the necessary guides, interpreters, and teamsters, in all about 1000 men. The wagon train consisted of about one hundred and ten wagon and ambulances, while the artillery was represented by three Gatlings and a 3-inch rifle.

Lt. Col. Custer will return to Fort Abraham Lincoln within sixty days from the time of his departure from it.

By Command of Brigadier-General Terry O.D. Greene, Assistant Adjutant General.



"Ledger art" of a Lakota or Cheyenne warrior fighting a U.S. Cavalry Soldier during the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Several professors were also present during the expedition to record reports on the paleontology, zoology and geological findings. A photographer also accompanied the expedition as well.

The report of this expedition outlined the gold in the Black Hills, hostile Indians, and future challenges for the United States Government.

As history will dictate, Lt. Col. Custer would lose his life and his men's life at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. The Battle of the Little Bighorn, commonly referred to as Custer's Last Stand, was an armed engagement between combined forces

of Lakota, northern Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian tribes, against the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States.

The battle occurred on June 25 and 26, 1876 near the Little Bighorn River in eastern Montana Territory.

It was an overwhelming victory for the Lakota, northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, led by several major war leaders, including Crazy Horse and Chief Gall. The U.S. Seventh Cavalry, including the Custer Battalion, a force of 700 men led by Lt. Col. Custer suffered a severe defeat. Five of the Seventh Cavalry's companies were annihilated; Custer

was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew, and a brother-in-law.

Capt. Ludlow was not present at the Battle of Little Bighorn. He was transferred out earlier in the year to Carroll, Mont., to determine the latitudes and longitudes of several posts in the District of Montana.

Capt. Ludlow had a distinguished career as an Engineering Army Officer. He obtained the rank of Brigadier General and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lt. Edward Maguire, Chief Engineer,

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Chief's Report Con't

Department of the Dakota would replace Capt. Ludlow. Lt. Maguire reached the battlefield on 27 June, and while the relief force tended to the wounded and buried the dead, he mapped the field and the burial site.

All Engineer reports on the Rosebud and Little Bighorn fights are recorded in the Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers in 1876. Lt. Maguire's maps became the basis for all maps of that historical battlefield.

Lt. Maguire stated in the Report of 1876:

Of Custer's fight we at present know nothing, and can only surmise. We must be content with the knowledge gleaned from the appearance of the field, that they died as only brave men can die, and that this battle, slaughter as it was, was fought with a gallantry and desperation of which the "Charge of the Light Brigade" cannot boast. The bodies, with but few exceptions, were frightfully mutilated, and horrors stared us in the face at every step.

We remained two days on the field to bury the dead and burn the material left behind by the Indians, and then returned by boat with the wounded, whom have all been sent to Fort Lincoln. We are waiting in camp for instructions.

There are some conclusions which force themselves upon the mind as indubitable. They are as follows:

1st The number of Indians was underestimated from the outset of the campaign.

2nd The courage, skill, and, in short, the general fighting ability of the Indians has heretofore been underestimated and scoffed at. It has been forgotten that the Indian traders, by furnishing the Indians with the best breech loading arms, and all the ammunition they desire, have totally changed the problem of Indian warfare. Sitting Bull had displayed the best generalship in this campaign. He has kept his troops well in hand, and, moving on interior lines, he has beaten us in detail.

3rd The Indians are the best irregular cavalry in the world, and are superior in horsemanship and marksmanship to our soldiers, besides being better armed. Our regiments of cavalry are composed of men about three-fourths of whom are recruits, who have never fought with Indians. They have never drilled at firing on horseback, and the consequence is that the horses are unused to fighting as the men themselves, and become unruly in action.

4th The carbine has no sufficiently long effective range, and, considering it simply as a weapon for close encounters, it has not the advantages of a magazine gun.



Chief Red Horse fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn. He was a sub-chief of the Miniconjou Sioux.

The Trail has been kept, and observations with the sextant have been made whenever practicable.

*Very respectfully,
your obedient servant
EDW. MAGUIRE
First Lieutenant Corps of Engineers,
Chief Engineer, Department of
Dakota.*

*Brig. Gen. A.A. HUMPHREYS
Chief of Engineers, U.S.A.*

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRADUATES SHARE PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL GROWTH EXPERIENCES

Richelle Hardman

LDP is a great program that affords a lot of great opportunities to Corps employees. The program not only gave me the tools to develop myself professionally, but also personally. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and gave me other ways of thinking and seeing things. The program was a great opportunity to see the challenges and how the Corps has overcome them with relationship building, working together with other entities and strong leadership to create a great product for the customer. The skills I have learned from the program will help me develop further for my career here with the Corps. It also gave me a bigger picture of the Corps and has helped me do my job here daily. My appreciation and pride in the Corps grew throughout this program!

Dennis Moran

My interest in the Leadership Development Program happened after attending a Lunch and Learn overview session on the LDP Level 2 program by Jean Gibby. She talked about the awareness of the different types of leadership styles and how the program would help individuals gain knowledge of how districts facilitate one another. Additionally, she touched upon how the program would help individuals learn more about themselves. I knew that I wanted to grow my leadership proficiencies, improve my communication skills and that LDP would present to me the opportunity to network with individuals within both districts.

The program helped me in many ways, but I

found the 360 degree assessment to be one of the greatest benefits to me. It allowed me to reflect on others perceptions of my actions and work ethics. It helped me to further understand some of my strengths and opportunities for growth. Personally, it showed me the importance of constant, clear and concise communication with those that I work with.

The Leadership Development Program has taught me that being able to understand other people's values as well as my own, will help me to better communicate with others. I now have a greater appreciation of the importance of mentorship, and it allowed me to continue to push myself out of my comfort zone and explore new avenues. Finally, I am reminded that most people are operating at their best at any given point in time.

Heather Edwards

The opportunity to see the Corps outside of my world in Operations is what initially drew me to the Leadership Development Program. I also wanted to improve on my leadership, communication and teamwork skills to better serve the people that I work with on a daily basis. Throughout my time in the program I



Wilmington and Charleston Districts LDP graduates pose on the USS North Carolina after their graduation.

received all of that and more. Because of LDP I have gained so much respect for what we are doing throughout the Corps within both District's and have a greater appreciation for our mission and those I work for and with day in and day out. In addition, I not only learned what kind of leader I am and want to be, I also opened up my mind to how others lead, communicate and perceive information which helps me break through mental models and communicate more effectively. The Leadership Development Program has helped me through everyday life, not just professionally but personally as well. These skills that I acquired through the program help make me a better leader, team member, mother and friend. Having a greater understanding of not only how we personally think about and perceive things, but how others do as well is a powerful tool that I believe everyone can benefit from.

DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHIEF

Farewell my fellow Teammates, after eight years, three months and 15 days, my time has come to move on to the next phase of my life. I celebrated my 62nd Birthday on June 23, that was my threshold more than eight years ago when I arrived so that another Outstanding Financial Manager can have his turn at bat in leading the Resource Management mission.

Farewells are always hard for me especially after working with GREAT FOLKS like all you for our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Wilmington District. After arriving here I was amazed by all of the things the Corps does, and exponentially amazed by what you have done for our Nation and the Corps in the area of water resources that help and protect people as well as the recreational enjoyment of our fellow man or woman. What you did to stand up and execute our military mission in FY11; building and maintaining military complexes and sites that ensure our Nation's Special Operations Forces continue to be the best warfighters at the tip of the spear.

I want you to know I made it a point to be friendly and get to know as many of you by name as I possibly could,

especially when I saw a new face in the building or when I had a chance to go out in the field. The reason I tried to know as many of you by name is because it is impossible for us to do our mission without you; without you the mission will fail. Although the District's leaders primary tasks are to perform the mission while it may seem everything else is secondary know this is true. However, we are at our best when we take a care of people. We can never be too busy to take care of people.

I think you are the most competent, knowledgeable team around the Corps, and I thank you for having a broad view of our mission. I have witnessed your understanding of your individual job responsibilities as it relates to mission accomplishment. I am amazed by your commitment in finding better ways to do things. It's called continuous process improvement. Remember, people will follow those who are competent, prepared and well-informed in knowing what's needed to complete the job and the mission. My departing advice is to be your boss' go-to-person. I had the privilege to have a whole team of go-getters in Resource Management.



Make it a point as you go through your daily life here in the District to care for people by having a decent regard for the rights and feelings of others. My experience has been is that when you show people you care you earn their confidence, respect and loyalty. More than that, it makes you feel good and it's the right thing to do.

One final note; don't worry. This is not the last you will see or hear from me. The Wilmington District is a major part of me now. It is woven into the threads of my life's accomplishments and you are forever my FAMILY.

Mike Shaw

USACE PLANTS FIELD FOR POLLINATORS

By Sherrie Storm

Chief Park Ranger, John H. Kerr

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently planted a wildflower field in one of its 26 wildlife management areas in an effort to improve the habitat for pollinators, which have been suffering a decline in recent years.

The Corps' Conservation Biologist Billy Hoffer carefully cleared and planted a wildflower seed mixture in a four-acre open field near Clarksville, Virginia.

"This was a very labor intensive project for me," said Hoffer, who spent days

clearing, plowing, and disking the soil to a fine powder.

"But I believe it is worth the effort for our bees and butterflies and other pollinators. It will also help the songbirds by providing seeds," Hoffer explained.

Hoffer explained that the seed mixture is unlike most seeds planted for wildlife.

"This mixture, which is one developed specifically for our South Eastern-Mid-Atlantic region, contained some seeds that were so tiny they actually floated in a small cloud behind the tractor." This made it difficult to ensure placement of the seeds for maximum

survival.

"I used a cultipacker to tamp down the soil because you don't cover the seeds when they are sown," said Hoffer. A cultipacker is a heavy iron roller, with cleats, that is rolled over the soil after it has been disked to smooth and firm the seedbed.

Some of the more than two dozen flowers in the mix are Larkspur, Black-Eyed Susan, Verbena, and Butterfly Weed. The field is a test project, and will be used to determine if the Corps continues this type plantings in the future.

(Photos courtesy of USACE, Billy Hoffer)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CORPS DAY CELEBRATING USACE' 234TH BIRTHDAY



District Commander Col. Rob Clark and James Griffith, left, ceremoniously cut the cake in recognition of USACE' 234th birthday. Below, Corps Kids lead the Pledge of Allegiance with help from Joe Tyron.



Congratulations to Regulatory's Thekla Spencer for earning Team Member of the Year!



CORPS DAY CON'T



Clockwise from top left; the Dredge Spoil Band entertains the crowd. From left to right are Megan Garrett, Jonathan Bingham, Justin Bashaw, Jim Medlock, Lynne Pagano; Paul Wicker shows his daughter, Bethany, how to serve a volleyball; Emma Metcalfe, daughter of Michael and Tara Metcalfe, gets her face painted from Silas Garrett, husband of Megan Garrett; Alco O'Neal, left, and Joseph Robinson helped celebrate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 243 birthday at Hugh McRae Park.

Fruity Water Fun

By Carmen Boyette

Lakes Support

Park Rangers Susan Lane, B. Everett Jordan, and Carmen Boyette visited with kindergarten and first graders from Bonlee Elementary School at their end of the year picnic. The excitement was high as the children arrived to celebrate the end of the school year complete with ice cream sundaes. Susan and Carmen were there to provide a short water safety program, but how do you compete with end of the year distractions, the park's volleyball court that the children were using as a giant sandbox, and the squeaky call of the swings?

Can you guess? You bring fruits and lots of it! For the next hour, groups of students rotated through for a quick lesson about why some fruits float and others don't, and all while comparing fruit to life jackets, individual swimming abilities, and open water swimming.

A Few Lessons Learned

Did you know that oranges float with their peeling on, but sink like a rock without it? Why? The peeling has air pockets in it! This is comparable to the foam filling inside of life jackets. Bonus – An orange's peeling is the perfect life jacket color! Bright colors work best for higher visibility!

Lemons and limes are about the same size, but a lime sinks like a lead balloon. We look a lot like our friends and may even be the same size, but that doesn't mean that everyone can swim well.

It's hard to see avocados at the bottom of a container filled with water and cocoa. Notice how easy we can see the bright color of the orange peel. Think about the water color at your favorite lake or pond. We can't see the bottom, nor what is on the bottom in terms of water hazards and if we are trying to find you in an emergency it's basically impossible.

Avocados sink too, but you can help them float by providing a floatation device. Just like we can make avocados float, there is a life jacket for everyone in various sizes and styles.

A few weeks later, Carmen received a report completed by Safe Kids Worldwide called "Hidden Hazards an Exploration of Open Water Drowning and Risks for Children." This report concepts were covered that day with our floating and sinking fruit, and the hazards of open water.

The report notes that the risk for open water drowning increases as children age with the greatest age at risk are teens between the ages of 15-19 years. This report reaffirms what Park Rangers and Outreach Specialists at the lakes have known for years. Water Safety begins with young children but must continue with teens and adults of all ages. While we use fun tools like "Bobber the Water Safety Dog" for children, our message becomes more thought provoking with older audiences with the "Life Jackets



Using fruits that float and sink is a good visual way to teach kids about life jackets.

Worn...Nobody Mourns" campaign.

Many of the concepts don't really change from children to adults. Open water swimming is more dangerous than swimming in a pool. The report cites limited visibility, depth distance, and drop-offs, currents, and tides, weather and seasonal differences, and water temperature. What we do know is that life jackets are the best thing to keep both children and adults safe in and around the water. For the complete report, visit the following site.

www.safekids.org/research-report/hidden-hazards-exploration-open-water-drowning-and-risks-kids

To learn more about the Corps' "Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns" visit the National Water Safety Program Site;

www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/

Memphis District Completes *Dredge Merritt* Upgrade

On June 7, the Memphis District held a Completion of Work Ceremony, celebrating the successful upgrade of Wilmington District's *Dredge Merritt*.

The vessel arrived at Memphis District's Ensley Engineer Yard on Nov. 2, 2017 to begin an overhaul to extend its service life. Work on the *Merritt* included a major re-hull in which Ensley crews removed all of the existing plating from the hull and replaced it with new steel. Re-hulling was accomplished by raising the vessel out of the water in Ensley's large floating Drydock 5801. Ensley workers also worked on the framing (the skeleton of the vessel) and replaced the potable water and marine sanitation device tanks.

At the ceremony, David Renneisen of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Marine Design Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John Crabtree, Port Captain, Wilmington District; and Memphis District Commander Michael Ellicott celebrated the completion of work and recognized the Ensley crews who worked on the *Merritt* project. Certificates of Appreciation were

presented to Ensley's Metals Unit, Shops Unit, and Yards and Docks crews, recognizing their hard work and dedication to successfully completing the 8-month long project.

The 104-foot-long *Merritt* is a side-cast dredge and typically works in the numerous inlets along the South Atlantic coast. Unlike the dredges used on the Mississippi and other inland rivers, the *Merritt* has two drag arms on each side of the vessel that operators lower into the water. The dredge

removes sediment from the bottom and pumps it through a discharge pipe outside of the channel and into the direction of the current. It can dredge to a depth of up to 20 feet. The *Merritt* is especially suited for maintenance of shallow, un-stabilized inlets where larger hopper dredges cannot operate due to strong currents and ocean environment. It often



Physical Support Branch Chief Tim Marshall is presented a picture of the *Dredge Merritt* and an organization coin by Wilmington District Port Captain John Crabtree in appreciation and recognition of the overhaul Marshall's branch completed on the *Dredge Merritt*.

works with hopper and larger side-casting dredges by constructing pilot channels across limiting shoals, and widening channels into high bank areas.

With the completion of work, the *Merritt* has a new lease on life to continue its vital inlet waterway maintenance mission.