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Dredged material spews on Ocean Isle Beach as a bulldozer prepares to sculpt it to the proper elevation. (USACE photos by Hank Heusinkveld)

The residents of Ocean Isle, North Carolina pride themselves for having a picturesque, small town, but with all of the amenities of a larger coastal community.

And according to the Town of Ocean Isle's promotional video, it has "family friendly events throughout the year, waterfront dining, and a great place for bonding with family or reconnecting with friends."

Earlier this year, Ocean Isle received the title of "The South's Best Tiny Town 2018" by Southern Living Magazine. It draws tourists from major urban areas such as Wilmington and Myrtle Beach, and North Carolina Department of Transportation highway signs direct people to "Brunswick County Beaches" as a tourist and recreational area. It provides

an alternative location for recreational opportunities outside of the more heavily visited areas of Wrightsville, Kure, and Carolina Beaches.

The Wilmington District recently added to the aesthetics of Ocean Isle Beach through the Coastal Storm Risk Management project which is designed to minimize loss of life and

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Memorial Day 2018: Honor Sacrifices, Be Safe In and Around the Water

As a Soldier and leader, Memorial Day has always been a time since I was a kid to pause, and reflect on Veterans, both past, and present, who gave their lives to the Nation, their families, their buddies, and their communities. I've seen the horror of war, and its devastating effects, and I know the feeling of loss when a Soldier, Airman, Marine, and Sailor pays the ultimate sacrifice.

This Memorial Day, I encourage everyone in the Wilmington District family to take a moment to reflect on those who've experienced the loss of a Veteran who may have been a friend, acquaintance, husband, wife, brother, sister, or distant relative, and the sacrifices they've made. We owe them a moment of silence, and we must never forget their sacrifices.

Memorial Day also kicks off the outdoor recreation season. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers the public numerous

recreational opportunities here in North Carolina, and across the Nation, and we'd like everyone to be as safe as possible when in, and around the water. Drowning's, and other water-related accidents do happen, but they don't have to. The Corps offers lifejacket loaner programs at many of our recreational areas. Whether swimming or boating, pick one up and return it when you're finished. We also encourage boaters to borrow life jackets if they don't carry them in their boats. Park rangers at Corps lakes are also recommending that parents or guardians have a "designated kid watcher" to be within arms-reach of children when they're in the water. When kids are in the water make sure they only wear well-fitting lifejackets. Parents or guardians sometimes have a false sense of security when they put inflatable tubes, or toys on their kids thinking that could be a lifesaver. They're not, and they can deflate easily.



District Commander Col. Robert Clark

I truly wish each and every one of you an enjoyable Memorial Day. Have fun during your time off with family or friends. Please be safe, and please take a moment to honor our fallen.

V/r,

Robert J. Clark

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open to the public.*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

Ocean Isle Con't

property during hurricanes or other inclement weather. Wilmington District officials and the Town of Ocean Isle leaders have had a strong relationship since 2001 when the first project began, and through cooperative understanding the partnership involves listening and understanding the concerns of Ocean Isle. The Wilmington District accommodates the citizens and leadership alike through proactive dialogue. Local officials laud the fact that the benefits the project provides help keep the Town of Ocean Isle and the surrounding area economically sound.

“The Ocean Isle project is an economic generator and offers plenty of recreational opportunities,” said Navigation Project Manager Jim Medlock. “The number of people who visit Ocean Isle

helps provide a strong economy for the town, Brunswick County and the state of North Carolina. People spend money to stay in hotels or rental

homes, dine out, go to movies, use surf shops, etc., which trickles down to local businesses.”



Wilmington District Commander Col. Rob Clark is briefed on the project by Weeks Marine Project Manager Eric Price, left. Also listening to the brief are Wilmington District Project Engineer Pat Gorman, Navigation Project Manager Jim Medlock, right, and Ocean Isle Mayor Debbie Smith. Below, a bulldozer moves dredged material towards the center section of the project.



Philadelphia District's Dredge MCFARLAND Deploys to Morehead City to Clear Shipping Channel

Fully-loaded vessels leaving the Port of Morehead City can make their exit more safely after the Dredge MCFARLAND cleared the shipping channel during a six-week project after an emergency dredging mission on the Mississippi River hampered a contract the Wilmington District had with Manson Dredging Co. that prevented the company from working in North Carolina.

One of four oceangoing hopper dredges owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Corps' "minimum fleet" for national security and safe navigation, the MCFARLAND is the only dredge in the world with triple capability for direct pump out, bottom discharge and sidecasting or boom discharge.

Designed by the Corps' Marine Design Center in Philadelphia, it was built in April 1967, and honors the late Arthur McFarland, a Corps of Engineers authority on dredging. As old as it is, it's still chugging along and is ready to perform when needed. It serves in a "Ready Reserve" status, meaning it can be



As large as the vessel is, there's plenty of visibility on the bridge. Cameras and crew members act as extra eyes on the vessel.

called upon by USACE Headquarters to conduct urgent or emergency dredging. In recent years, the vessel has been called upon to dredge the Mississippi River, Morehead City, N.C. and Mobile, AL.

"We received a call-out mission to clear the shipping channel at Morehead City," said former Wilmington District member and

MCFARLAND Captain Mitch Tillyard. "Private contractors could not respond, so headquarters 'raised the flag' and mobilized our vessel from Philadelphia. Normally we're relegated to 70 days of dredging a year in the Delaware Bay of the Delaware River, but outside of that we're called upon along the east coast or Gulf of Mexico when there's a need and when the private contractors can't respond."

Tillyard said the MCFARLAND is a 300-foot, unlimited tonnage vessel with a shallow draft of about 16-feet and up to 23-feet depending on the type of material that's being dredged. In Morehead City's shipping



The Wilmington District's vessel BEAUFORT completes a survey in the shipping channel at Morehead City.

MCFARLAND Con't

channel, he said it's a combination of sand and lighter sand on the outer bar.

"The project channel here has shoaled in significantly to areas less than 30-feet," he explained. "This is a challenging project for us because there's always changing weather conditions. The wind is always blowing, and it's always blowing in the same direction. You have shoals that encroach from both sides of the channel."

Tillyard said that because of shifting currents, buoys had to be relocated to mark the channel where the shoals are.

"When you have shoals like that, especially in narrow channels, the vessels that are coming out of the port fully loaded had to



The MCFARLAND is one of four oceangoing hopper dredges owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Corps' minimum fleet.

worry about dragging their hulls on the bottom or scraping past the shoals. Now they don't have to worry as much because it's less dangerous because the shoals have been

cleared."

Tillyard said that he credits the Wilmington District navigation section for keeping abreast of fluctuating weather conditions.

The survey vessel BEAUFORT and its crew are home based at the Port of Morehead City and were on standby if needed by the MCFARLAND.

"Wilmington is very proactive performing conditional surveys which is surveying while we're dredging, usually one a week, maybe more," Tillyard said. "They're very helpful in doing them on demand if we need it. That information is gathered by the survey vessel BEAUFORT, processed by Wilmington District cartographers, then we'll use it on the MCFARLAND within 24 to 48 hours. We then targeted the shallow areas which makes us more efficient."



MCFARLAND Captain Mitch Tillyard points to hydrographic surveys of shoaled in areas in the shipping channel.

HESTER EARNS USACE PROCUREMENT ANALYST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Contracting's Terry Hester is a go-getter! Because of his dedication to his profession and taking initiative, he earned Procurement Analyst of the Year for USACE for Fiscal Year 2017. A U.S. Air Force veteran who worked as a crew chief and cross trained into contracting, he enjoys what he does and is always looking for ways to improve himself and his profession.

How did you earn Procurement Analyst of the Year for USACE?

I was commended for my “outstanding efforts in meeting the needs of the Commander and employees of the Wilmington District.” I like to be proactive in identifying obstacles and formulating solutions to problems which is what made me stand out when compared to my peers. Through capturing contracting lessons learned and building on past successes, I developed and used comprehensive, streamlined processes for contract establishment and contract execution that maximized existing organic human resources and limited fiscal resources. I was also cited for setting the standard for all Installation Level Procurement Analysts across the Department of the Army. Being a Veteran, I follow Army Values, and believe that customer service-focused attitude has been critical to the District's continued standing as a “first among equals.”

What is it about contracting that you like? Is it complex at times?

I really enjoy working with the amazing group of professionals in this career field. As a procurement analyst I don't get into government contracting the same way as I would if I were a contracting officer or contract specialist. My job is

more policy interpretation and analysis. This allows me to support the team when questions or issues arise. Working through these questions or issues (usually daily) can become very complex and really keeps Contracting interesting.

You've deployed with the Air Force and USACE. Are there similarities in the type of work you've done for both?

My deployments in the Air Force were actually to support the Army in Afghanistan. Now that I have deployed with USACE in support of the recovery efforts from Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I can tell you there are similarities with these deployments. In Afghanistan, I was the Construction Chief and my mission was to support the surge of troops that were projected to arrive. This meant I needed to contract to local Afghan contractors to build housing, and on a couple of occasions entire Combat Out Posts. The USVI mission, though, was



Terry Hester consults with a fellow USACE employee while deployed to the U.S. Virgin islands.

slightly differently supported as the Contracting Officer for the Temporary Blue Roof, Debris Removal, and Critical Public Facilities (CPF) missions. These missions were contingency and they offered a lot of stress.

What are your future goals as a contracting representative?

I have recently completed a couple goals that I set out to accomplish almost five years ago. I received my Defense Acquisitions Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level III Certification (March 2018) which is the highest level of certification you can obtain. I completed my Masters of Science in Leadership (Oct 2017). I enjoy the Wilmington District and reaching for much more would take me away. So I guess my goals are work related in that I will to continue to look for efficiencies in the contracting process to better support our customer in meeting the District's mission.

USACE LAUNCHES NEW WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Every year, thousands of people in the United States mourn the loss of loved ones who could have survived if they had been wearing a life jacket while spending time on or near our nation's waters. To heighten awareness for the use of life jackets, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently launched a water safety campaign titled "Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Mourns." USACE, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers Natural Resources and Education Foundation, a non-profit foundation established to support USACE natural resources and recreation programs, developed the campaign that targets adult males.

"In the last 10 years, 88 percent of all USACE public water-related fatalities were men and 59 percent were between the ages of 21 and 60, according to data compiled by the USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety," said National USACE Water Safety Coordinator and Wilmington District Ranger Carmen Boyette. "The center also reports that 89 percent of all public water-related fatalities involved people not wearing life jackets and found that the greatest number of water-related fatalities involved people swimming in areas that are not designated for swimming. Also, 12 percent of boating fatalities involved people falling overboard."

The USACE National Operations Center for Water Safety offer these safety reminders when on or near the water:

- * A person's swimming ability generally decreases with age and regardless of how well you swim you could have to fight for your life due to conditions such as waves, current, or exhaustion. Swimming in a lake or river is not like swimming in a pool, so wearing a properly-fitted life jacket is critical.

- * Even if you think you are a strong swimmer you could drown if you fall into cold water because it causes an involuntary gasp



(or torso) reflex, so a life jacket is the only thing that can help save your life and give you time to be rescued.

- * While boating, a person can develop "boater's hypnosis," which is a condition where sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion causes fatigue and slows a person's reaction time much like the effects of alcohol. Combining this condition with the use of alcohol or drugs reduces a person's coordination, judgment and reaction time even more.

Misjudging your swimming ability, gasp reflex, boater's hypnosis, alcohol, and drug usage and thinking nothing will happen to you are just a few of the reasons why even if you think you are a strong swimmer you should always wear a life jacket. The best way to lower your risk of drowning is to wear a life jacket, so please wear it for those who love you.

Visit PleaseWearIt.com for more information.

Faces of Deployment

When Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the call went out throughout the Wilmington District for volunteers to help support emergency operations. The response from those who want to deploy has always been positive from Wilmington District employees, and more than enough experienced people signed up to offer support. For some, it was their first time to deploy. The following Wilmington District employees share their experiences and what they gained from their deployment.

Michelle Conway, Puerto Rico, ENGLink Specialist, 7 NOV 2017 - 3 MAR 2018



Why did you deploy? I deployed because I love to help people and to see the smiles on some of their faces was enough for me. I wasn't on the front line, so to speak. My job was to in-process and out-process people coming into Puerto Rico to make sure they got to their respective locations of duty. While I was deployed I was able to get out to see some of the debris sites and some of the sites where they were restoring power. I have a lot of respect for the folks down there restoring power, picking up debris, installing blue roofs, and helping with critical public facilities. A lot of days in the hot sun.

What did you get out of the deployment? My deployment gave me a sense that I was actually helping people. I saw where folks were getting power, potable water, and I saw that their infrastructure was improving. While I was not there right after the hurricane, I did deploy twice. The first deployment was in November-December timeframe and the island was still using generators, ATMs weren't working fully, cell phone service was extremely spotty, and very few businesses were open. During my second deployment in March, generators were being used less, ATMs were up and running and more establishments were open for business. I hope to be able to go back with my family, this time to enjoy the scenery.

Ros Shoemaker, USVI, Contracting, 20 OCT 2017 - 2 NOV 2017 and 8 FEB 2018- 23 MAR 2018



Why did you deploy? I volunteered to deploy because I wanted to make a difference. It was an amazing experience that I am very grateful for. I love working for USACE on navigation and dredging projects, but working during a hurricane recovery mission was so rewarding and really takes things to another level. It reminded me

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Deployment Con't

of why we do what we do and why I love my job. I've never done anything like this before and I wanted to challenge myself to get out of my comfort zone.

What did you get out of the deployment?

I learned a great deal during my deployment. Contracting is very different in a contingency environment. I deployed twice during the mission in the Virgin Islands, and each trip was a very different experience. I learned a lot about the relationship between FEMA and USACE during a disaster mission. I formed a great camaraderie with my fellow USACE employees while in St. Croix. You are away from your family and friends for so long that your co-workers become your temporary family. It was rewarding to work with individuals from other districts and learn the different ways other districts do things. The people on the islands were grateful we were there and they are extremely resilient to bounce back so quickly from such a devastating event. It was a truly great experience that I will never forget.

**Angela Zephier, USVI,
Emergency Management, 8 SEP
- 20 NOV 2017, 20 JAN 2018 - 5
MAR 2018**

Why did you deploy? The biggest reason I deploy is I enjoy helping people and I am somewhat of an adrenaline junkie. I enjoy fast pace ops tempos, things changing



rapidly, decisions being made and executed. It doesn't matter what task needs to be done, I want to get it done and learn the most about it. Days can be mentally and physically exhausting, a continuous repeat of the day before with an occasional monkey wrench thrown in. I also enjoy traveling as much as possible. It doesn't matter where the location is, I just want to be there in the middle of it. Sometimes the location might sound as though it will be paradise...but paradise has been disturbed when you show up. It's like urban camping during a heat wave. So you really need to be self-sufficient and think outside the box. The luxuries of home, are at home. Due to the adverse conditions, surprises and everyone working so hard, I want to deploy and be their support!

What did you get out of the deployment? I got a better understanding of how USACE handles disasters. I had deployed multiply times as a "green suiter" to natural and man-made disasters. I could rock any task thrown my way in that role. As a USACE employee, there is different authorities that apply, it is a lot to learn and get accomplished. On my deployment to USVI, I was able to develop closer relationships with my co-workers, amazing people from other Districts and other government agencies. Meeting locals and learning their customs and way of life was a true heartwarming experience. Seeing how they reacted to Hurricane Maria and how quickly the island healed itself was incredible. Everyone responds and handles things differently. *USVI Strong!*

Roylance Adds GIS Expertise to Northern California Wildfires Recovery

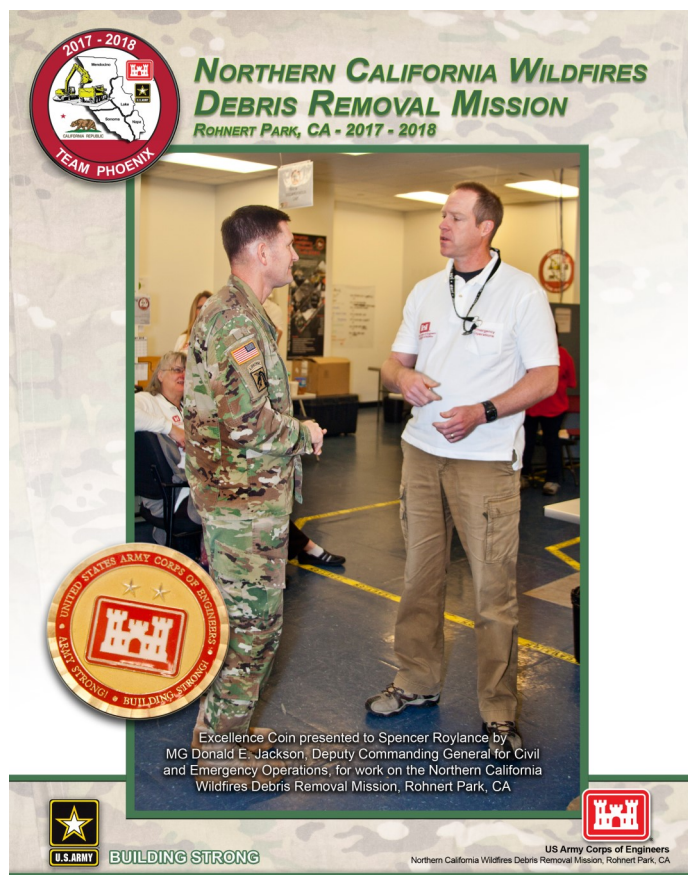
Wilmington District Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst Spencer Roylance helped provide invaluable assistance to USACE commanders and leaders during his deployment in mid-January to Northern California to support the Wildfire Debris Removal Mission.

As the Field GIS Analyst at the Sonoma Recovery Field Office (RFO) in Rohnert Park, he produced detailed maps to assist mission specialists and managers track the status of each parcel. Every parcel was grouped into a Focus Area or Zone for tracking, and the statistics changed every day. Progress was recorded on the tracker right next to the maps.

“I deployed because there was a need for GIS personnel,” Roylance said. “I had a choice between Puerto Rico and California, and I chose California. This was my first deployment, but I've worked hurricane missions locally several times.”

Roylance said that he did not really know what to expect from the deployment being the first time, but he said that he definitely had a sense of accomplishment. He enjoyed the world famous scenery of Napa and Sonoma County, but felt enormous empathy for those who lost lives and property. He filled a specific niche on a dedicated team that was focused on helping the victims of the fires resume their lives.

“Being able to bring my skillsets to a very focused



Spencer Roylance receives recognition for his dedication to the wildfires mission from Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Donald Jackson, Jr.

mission of debris removal, map out the progress, and visually represent that on a map product for the Mission Manager and Debris Mission Commander was really fulfilling,” he explained. “I also brought in current satellite imagery to assist in quality assurance of the debris status. Being able to bring in an image of the fire recovery areas from the previous day

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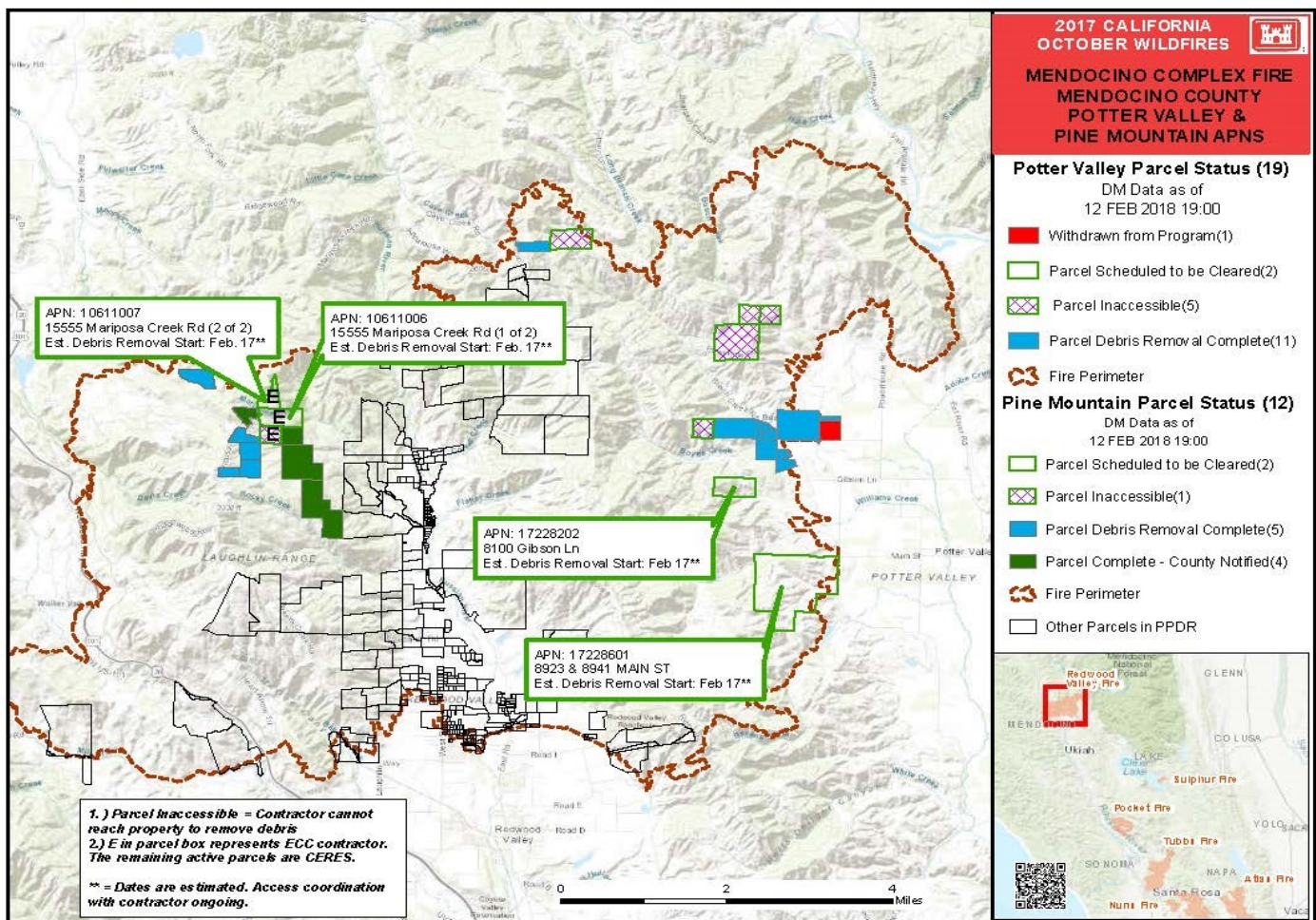
Wildfires Con't

helped the mission specialist verify the parcel status in the tracking database.”

Although Roylance played a small but significant role in the mission, he said that he caught the attention of RFO Commander and South Pacific Division Deputy Commander Col. Eric McFadden who “was quite impressed that I could task satellite images he even highlighted the point when Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency

Operations Maj. Gen. Donald Jackson, Jr. came through the RFO.”

Roylance said that the deployment broadened his view of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ role during emergency management. After adding his experience during a deployment on the other side of the country he’s entertaining the idea of possibly deploying again.



Maps such as this proved to be invaluable for pinpointing locations so that Roylance could assist mission specialists and managers.

District's Rangers Gather En Masse for Annual Training

By W. Kerr Scott Ranger

Jory Shepherd

Nearly 40 rangers from across the Wilmington District came together to participate in annual training which was held earlier this year at Haw River State Park in Brown Summit, N.C. The training was extended by four hours in response to rangers' concerns that there wasn't enough time to adequately address topics such as unarmed self-defense skills and Verbal Defense and Influence (formerly Verbal Judo). With the support of District Operations, the planning team, led by Natural Resources Specialist Carmen Boyette, powered ahead with setting up the training at Haw River and fine-tuning the extended agenda. Having extra time meant being able to break rangers up into smaller groups which made the scenarios more meaningful.



Rangers Rebecca Thomson, center, Ed Crowder, far left, and David Schwartz participate in a campsite scenario conducted by Ranger Dannie Laprad, right. (Carmen Boyette photo)

Several subject matter experts within the District provided the majority of training. Ranger Crystal Triplette (W. Kerr Scott Lake) is the Lead Instructor for Visitor Assistance training. Ranger Triplette, who served as a national Visitor Assistance instructor, is also a pepper spray instructor. She was assisted by Ranger Stacey Henderson (Falls Lake) who is certified in Verbal Defense and Influence. Pepper spray instructors included Dan

Laprad (Philpott), Francis Ferrell (Piedmont Ops), and Alyson Parker (John H. Kerr). Danny Martin, formerly a ranger at Philpott Lake, and currently a Patrick County (VA) Sheriff's Office investigator, taught self-defense and drug awareness. Jory Shepherd (Lakes Support) assisted with logistics and coordination of the refresher course.

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Rangers Con't

According to evaluations provided by rangers, the hands-on scenarios and culminating courtroom scene were among the favorite activities of the training. A scenario depicting an encroachment on Government property was acted out by rangers and videoed. The video was later played in the classroom and the case taken to court in a culminating scenario which showed the case from start to finish. Some rangers have not gone to court on behalf of the Government and this scenario was a good example of how court may



Danny Martin, left, demonstrates how to get out of an attacker's hold from John H. Kerr Operations Manager Michael Womack as W.K. Scott Assistant Operations Manager Wade Davis observes. (Jory Shepherd photo)



A bonfire and S'mores Party was enjoyed by rangers on the last night of training. (Jory Shepherd photo)

be conducted.

Most of the rangers stayed on-site at Haw River which permitted instructors to lead several optional nighttime activities as well.

Approaching vehicles at night on campsites or in day use parks is something our rangers are routinely faced with. How to safely approach a vehicle at night was demonstrated by Danny Martin. Also, instructors offered additional unarmed self-defense training after hours as an optional activity. Rangers also had a little time to tour the Haw River State Park area which includes hiking

trails, a small lake and disc golf course.

Many times the rangers at our lakes on patrol are the only interaction the public has with the Corps of Engineers. This is why annual Visitor Assistance Refresher is not only required by regulation but is also critical for the success of our lake projects. However, some incidents are not pleasant and may even place our rangers in dangerous situations. So the next time you see a SAW ranger be sure to thank them for keeping our parks safe!

WESTON BIDS FAREWELL TO USACE AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Susan Weston is retiring after a successful career counseling and advising U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanders, leaders, projects and issues. Her final position was here in the Wilmington District as Chief of the Office of Counsel, a position she's held since 2015. During her time at SAW she oversaw legal issues in the Kerr 216 Study, and provided reach back to Wilmington District members who deployed to the U.S. Virgin islands recovery missions. We wish her well in her retirement.

Why did you want to become a lawyer?

I never really wanted to become a lawyer. When I finally figured out what I may want to do - be an architect - I found out that I would have to redo much of my undergraduate courses and I couldn't afford to do that. I consulted with a friend who said that she decided that she wanted to go to law school. I followed her lead when I realized the potential of having a law degree which had much more earning potential and challenges as an advanced degree. That was the right decision for me, so here I am almost 40 years later.

Where did you start your career with the government?

I was in private practice in Savannah for five years before a friend called who worked for the Corps and said that they had an opening that seemed to fit my skills and that I

should apply. I was unfamiliar with the Corps of Engineers, so I told her that I didn't think I would be interested. It later occurred to me, however, that I could use my skills as a public servant in an organization that offered a variety of challenging projects and programs.

What has been your biggest accomplishment in your career?

It would seem strange to me if I only could think of one "biggest accomplishment." I think that every day I'm doing small things that are part of our larger missions that are important to the nation. I am very proud of having been a part of the Corps and the group of people who have made public service their careers. The U.S. Army Corps of



Susan Weston : "I am very proud of having been a part of the Corps and the group of people who have made public service their careers."

Engineers has important missions that make a difference to the lives of U.S. citizens every day and impact our national security interests. It's easy to forget in the hectic and sometimes dreary day-to-day tasks that we execute, but when one thinks about the many things we do and what they mean to the communities that we serve, it is a very rewarding way to spend our professional lives.

Do you have any parting words of wisdom for the Wilmington District?

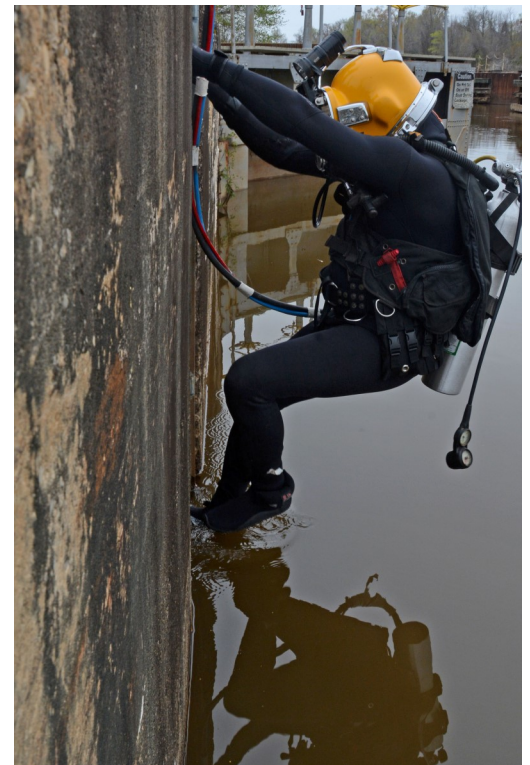
Just what I've stated above: You are actually doing important work and try to remember that. Keep in touch.

DIVE TEAM INSPECTS SAW'S CAPE FEAR LOCK AND DAMS

Divers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington (W.V.) District completed inspections in early April of Locks and Dams 1, 2 and 3 on the Cape Fear River. The divers check for wear and tear on the mechanical gear that opens and closes the locks, as well as perform routine maintenance. There are 16 members on the Huntington District Dive Team who specialize in underwater maintenance to include welding. Based in Marietta, Ohio, they travel within other USACE districts to perform maintenance on various dams, and lock and dam systems for flood control.



USACE photos by
Hank Heusinkveld



PERFECT WEATHER AT LOCK AND DAM 1 FOR ANNUAL BLUE MONDAY CELEBRATION



Warm weather was enjoyed, and there was plenty of fresh, deep fried American shad and local delicacy shad roe (left) on the menu at the annual Blue Monday festivities on April 2nd held at the Wilmington District's Lock and Dam 1 picnic area near East Arcadia and Riegelwood. American shad and other sport fish are running strong in the Cape Fear River, and Wilmington District officials encourage the public to use the facilities for picnics, fishing, and boating.



To learn more about recreational opportunities at Lock and Dam 1 contact Ranger Victor Pillow at 910-655-2605.

REACHING OUT

TEAMMATES VOLUNTEER TIME AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wilmington District members volunteered to help budding scientists and engineers on the campus of UNCW during the annual Region "O" Council for the Advancement of Minorities in Engineering (ROCAME) Jamboree on April 21. USACE recognizes the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leaders of the global marketplace, and enabling the Department of Defense and Army in the security of our Nation. The Corps is committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs that inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields. In top image Wilmington District civil engineer Hadrian-Lyle Leyco, left, watches as a student not only tosses a flying disc, but analyzes its aerodynamic abilities, velocity and motion which she'll then explain to Leyco. Bottom image left to right: Tommy Easters (guest volunteer), Shannon Geoly, Justin Bashaw, Tamara Carter Murphy, Gerry Sauls, Oweita Freeman, Hadrian-Lyle Leyco. (Photos courtesy Tony Carter)



Regulatory Project Manager Rachel Capito, left, explains the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program to an interested attendee at Wilmington's Earth Day Festival. Also on hand to explain the mission is Regulatory Project Manager Emily Greer, right.

EMPATHY, EXTRA EFFORT HELPS SAVE LIFE OF DYING PATIENT IN PUERTO RICO

"It is not often that we are called to assist with an endeavor that can have a direct effect on the life or death of another person. This was just such an effort. Because of the leadership, service and care shown by so many over these past few days, a mother/daughter/friend will be able to rest tonight without worry or the risk that the medicine she relies on every day to breathe and function will run out."

(Excerpt message forwarded by Mr. Rob Coyle, Vice President for Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceutical Company from Bruce Cox, Director of Lifecycle Management at Glaxo, Smith, Kline)

Lisa Hardman was deployed in the Readiness and Contingency Operations (RCO) supporting hurricane relief efforts in late September when she received a random call from Rob Coyle who said he was a Vice President for Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceutical Company (GSK), and stated that his company had a dilemma. A patient in Puerto Rico needed life-saving medication by Wednesday of the following week or she would die. The hospital in Puerto Rico, he said, did not have any more of the medication.

"He explained that they had an employee with the medication waiting at the airport in New Jersey trying to get a flight out to Puerto Rico, but all flights were cancelled," she said. "He inquired if there was any way or any contact he could use to try to get the

medication to Puerto Rico so they would have two possible ways to get the medicine there."

Based on her experience working for the U.S. Air Force Reserve for 23 years, her first thought was to call the Air Force.

"I figured I work for the Army now, and they have different ways of doing things. I knew we had military flights going in and out, so I knew someone was getting on to the island."

Hardman referred the call to Stephan Vithalani in the RCO who immediately contacted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials in Washington, D.C. Mike Ganley and Brittney Hyde of FEMA linked Mr. Coyle up with medical representatives in Washington, and got Coyle an alternative carrier via the Air Force. GSK was able to get the medication to Dobbins Air Force Base for delivery.

On Monday, an employee of GSK was able to get the medication from the courier at JetBlue to get it delivered to the patient whose father retrieved the medicine shipped via the U.S. Military. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful.

"I had fretted all weekend, wondering about the patient and if they were going to be able to get the medication to her," Hardman said. "I really felt vested in the situation. I called the GSK employee back on



Lisa Hardman

Monday to see if he had been successful in contacting an alternative. He replied that he would let me know what happened. On September 26, Coyle sent me an email and let me know that the patient had received her medication and all was good."

Hardman said that for all of the stress working in the Emergency Operations Center for 30 days, it was good to know that something positive came of it. She stated that she was so relieved that the patient got her medication and would live.

"I felt so happy for the patient, relieved that whatever small part I had to play in the situation helped her and that she would live. All I can do is Thank God that we could play a small part in getting this patient the medication she so desperately needed."

Decorated Army Veteran Now Volunteers at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir

By Sherrie Storm

John H. Kerr Chief Ranger

John H. Kerr Reservoir hit the volunteer jackpot when we signed on Walter Michael “Mike” Jarman to run the day use park at Rudd’s Creek!

A retired career U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4, Mike spent 31 years serving all over the world. While his expertise was in communications systems, his most interesting assignment was at the White House. From 1975-1984, Mike served under Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, and H. W. Bush. Those were days before cell phones and computers, and one of the things he was responsible for was

setting up the communications at the hospital when Reagan was shot. He went on a world tour with Gerald Ford, and has visited all but two U.S. states. While he enjoyed working with all four

Presidents, whom he got to know personally, his favorite times were at Ronald Reagan’s ranch. At his retirement ceremony, Mike was awarded the prestigious “Legion of Merit” award for exceptionally



During his career, Army veteran Mike Jarman served under Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan and H.W. Bush.

meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. He also was awarded three Meritorious Service Medals,

four Good Conduct Medals, and two National Defense Medals.

Following his “retirement” from active duty, Mike worked for the U.S. Government as a senior network engineer.

Nowadays Mike spends his time traveling and volunteering with his little dog, Benji. His permanent home is in Florida but he loves to spend time on Kerr Lake, where he grew up. He loves the outdoors, he loves meeting people, and he enjoys the variety of daily life that volunteering with the Corps provides.



Mike Jarman volunteers his time on the lake where he grew up.

Exploring Shark Tooth Island

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has long been the most active dredging organization in the United States, as well as the primary regulator of dredging and dredged material disposal. In fulfilling its mission of developing and maintaining the nation's navigational channels and harbors, USACE dredges and disposes of about 200 million cubic yards of sediment annually in constructing, operating, or maintaining Civil Works projects.

Every year in this country, the dredging of shipping channels, harbors, waterways, canals, lakes, and reservoirs produces large



Joshua Mitchell holds a shark tooth that he found on Shark Tooth Island

quantities of valuable sediment material. Most of this dredged material is clean and suitable for

waterways, many islands were created by using dredged materials within the Cape Fear River.



A former dredged material site is now Shark Tooth Island in the Cape Fear River.

beneficial uses such as beach restoration, shore protection, agricultural purposes, and habitat enhancement.

Within the North Carolina

“In the past, we had created islands within the rivers, so we didn't have to place the material into uplands. Now it requires a permit and the rules have changed,” said Joshua Mitchell, Engineering Technician, Design & General Engineering Section.

Shark Tooth Island in the Cape

Con't on Page 21

Island Con't

Fear River was created using dredged material.

“What’s unique about Shark Tooth Island, Keg Island, and other islands in the Cape Fear River is the dredged material contains all of these fossil remains, bones and teeth, and they still can be found today,” said Mitchell. “Trees, vegetation, animals and other river species populate Shark Tooth Island, which is named for an abundance of shark teeth on the island.”

“Many locals and tourists take boats or kayaks out and explore these little islands,” said Mitchell. “Shark Tooth Island is constantly changing its shape due to the rivers ebb and flow and especially during high flows during floods. Due to the water’s interaction with the islands, their treasures are daily exposed for us to find. I highly recommend that people explore these little islands as it is a wonderful way to spend the day with your family.”



Shark Tooth Island is a popular place for both locals and tourists to try their luck at finding shark teeth.