



**United States Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
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News Release

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PRESS ADVISORY

Wilmington District to commission survey vessel SANDERSON

WILMINGTON, North Carolina—Open channels for North Carolina shipping and recreational vessels are not ‘just there’—they are maintained through the constant vigilance of a vital fleet operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District. The district’s dredges clear or deepen channels. Survey vessels, equipped with sophisticated hydrographic equipment, read the underwater landscape, giving a clear picture of underwater hazards and needed dredging work.

Monday, November 29, the Wilmington District will commission a new survey vessel, the SANDERSON, whose mission will be to perform surveys in the shallow coastal inlets of North Carolina, intracoastal waterway reaches, and the Cape Fear River channels. SANDERSON will replace a retiring vessel, the WANCHESE.

SANDERSON will be named for William H. Sanderson, a distinguished Wilmington District staff member from 1955-1980. Sanderson was noted for the conception and design of the sidecasting dredge and self-propelled split-hull barge. He served for ten years on the world-renowned Chief of Engineers’ Marine Engineering Board, and was well known for advances in marine technology and innovative ideas for dredging techniques and equipment. A veteran of World War II, Sanderson held a B.S. in Construction Engineering from North Carolina State College.

Mr. Sanderson died on February 3, 1998. His widow, Mrs. Audrey Sanderson of Asheville, accompanied by her son William, will commission the vessel.

The survey vessel SANDERSON is a 30-foot aluminum vessel equipped with Twin 350-horsepower Yanmars engines. It has a cruising speed of 28 knots.

The event will be held at the Eagle Island Engineer Yard on November 29 at 2:00 p. m. Members of the press are invited. A TOUR OF THE SANDERSON WILL BE AVAILABLE. Please contact Penny Schmitt, (910) 251-4626 for information and directions.