



Wilmington

District News Spring 2014



Engineer Repair Yard keeping vessels afloat

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District

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Docked at the Engineer Repair Yard located across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington, the special purpose vessel CURRITUCK, which typically works 24 hours, seven days a week, is receiving a thorough modernization upgrade.

Authorization: The Wilmington District News is an Authorized unofficial news magazine of the Wilmington District. It is published periodically in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1, under the supervision of the Public Affairs Office. It is prepared on a desktop publisher and provided electronically.

Submissions: News, features, photographs and art are solicited: publications depend on general interest as judged by the editor.

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Baker's Blog

Greetings for what will likely be my last Blog to Team Wilmington! As you are probably aware, our District Change of Command (COC) is slated for 11 July at 1000 on the Battleship USS North Carolina where I will pass the District Colors to COL Kevin Landers who is currently participating in a fellowship at Harvard University. We are changing the venue for this COC to save money and to better reflect the military tradition of the change of command. I am hopeful that many of you will be able to attend and I have enjoyed my time with you more than you will ever know. While I certainly have not gotten after everything I wanted to accomplish in the last three years, I can tell you without any reservation, I have given a 100 percent effort at trying to make Wilmington District a place that embodies our shared Vision and a place where people are motivated to come to work each day to serve. I hope this blog has been a positive attempt to communicate to the entire organization, both internally and externally through our Wilmington Online Magazine. We remain committed to continue to improve from our previous newsletters and other forms of strategic communication. Likewise, we are committed to continue to transform the way we transmit important information throughout the workforce and the greater Wilmington District Family including retirees, friends, customers and family members. The latest initiative in our District transformation is the official unveiling of a new Wilmington District Outreach Program to attract new reimbursable work. In this edition of Baker's Blog, I will focus on the Outreach Program and on the recent changes in leadership that you will see in the Division and in the District.

First, if you have not already heard, several changes in leadership have occurred and will occur throughout the South Atlantic Division (SAD) and the Wilmington District (SAW) over the Spring/Summer of 2014. Last week, we said farewell to BG Ed Jackson as he departed for an important assignment in Afghanistan. While we do not expect another General Officer to assume command until sometime in July or August, the very capable Division Deputy, COL Donnie Walker and his full staff including two new SES hires, Mr. Al Lee (Civil Works) and Dr. Larry McAllister (Military Construction) will be prepared to support the Districts and guide the Division in the interim. In the District, we also have had and will have some significant transitions. First, we have just about completed the official transition of my military deputies. Retiring after more than 26 years of impeccable service to his country is LTC Bob King, who will be staying in the Wilmington area. MAJ RJ Hughes has stepped in to assume the duties of the military deputy, so as you see him throughout the District area of operations, please introduce yourself and inform him on what you do and how you do it! We are also thrilled to welcome our new Technical Services Division (TSD) Chief, Ms Kathy Gill, who is already making a positive impact on how we deliver to our many customers. TSD will soon

become Engineering and Construction Division or (E&C) as it is called in most other Districts throughout the Corps. While no major changes will occur in the leadership of the three branches of E&C (Engineering, Construction and Planning), there will be some locally approved reorganizations within those branches that will improve our efficiency and responsiveness. Sadly, we will soon lose our Chief Counsel, Ms. Brooke Lamson to a well deserved retirement. We all wish her happiness in her future and thank her for her incredible advice and support to the District for more than 28 years. We will also lose longtime CHRA employee Rachel Thompson to retirement soon and we wish her well. She has been a stalwart performer in countless personnel actions on behalf of the District. Also retiring after many faithful years of service including multiple deployments is Administrative Assistant Claudia Holmquist who Ms. Brayman and the entire executive office will dearly miss. Finally, we are happy to welcome Mr. Harold Gilliam as our newly selected ULA Chief. He comes well recommended and we are happy to have him leading the best District ULA team in USACE. While I am profoundly sad to see some of our most experienced and effective teammates move on, I am conversely extremely proud to welcome a new and very capable team of leaders to guide the District into an uncertain future. The only thing that you can guarantee will not change in this business is that there will be change. As we plow through the upcoming transitions within these key leaders both at Division and here in the District, continue to rally around our shared District Vision which should provide stability and reduce angst: Wilmington District is a diverse, loyal, family- focused, Army Strong engineering, operations, regulatory, construction and technical services organization that takes pride in providing excellent service to customers, stakeholders and partners while also serving and inspiring the public by solving the Nation's most challenging problems with honesty, integrity and transparency!

With regard to our new District Outreach Plan, I am proud to announce that the District is now on a path to attract new customers for reimbursable work. This endeavor will not be easy and it will not come without cost, however, it cannot be delayed. We must diversify our current workload and workforce in a manner that allows us to be more flexible to respond to the uncertainty surrounding federal funding in future years. We have taken an outreach model,



Colonel Steven Baker

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District dam safety team conducts inspection

Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld, USACE, Wilmington District.

Civil engineer Zack Nichols can tell just by looking if there's anything out of the ordinary at Falls Dam. He checks to see if there's any misplaced rock embankments known as rip rap on the sloped edges of the dam, and he can tell if there's any noticeable erosion in and around the perimeter of the dam. He's part of the annual dam safety inspection team that gives a thorough inspection not only on the outside of the dam, but also on the inside of the dam's tower to check for any discrepancies that need attention to keep it operating safely and effectively.

"One of the main things we look for is slope failure," Nichols explained. "That's fairly easy to see if you're standing away from the dam and looking up. We also look at rip rap stability to see if there's any misplaced rip rap or if any of it is missing."

Nichols said that there are various indicators the dam safety inspectors look for that could affect the integrity of the structure. Erosion is a tell-tale indicator. Inspectors make note of any erosion they find and get it fixed immediately so that it doesn't get progressively worse.

"We also look at the culverts to see if they're structurally sound, and if there's no displacement of the joints of the culvert. One way that we can tell if there's a potential problem of seepage is if there's too much sand flowing through with the water on the inside of the dam. There's a sand layer that's inside the dam, and if there's too much sand coming through then we have to address that."

Nichols stated that what might look like a problem to the unknowing public is normal wear and

tear for a dam-inspecting engineer. Subtle cracks can occur in concrete and are noticeable on the top part of Falls Dam. But Nichols said the standard procedure is to monitor them to see if they progress.

"We use engineering judgment and we determined that small cracks that we found do not pose a potential problem. They weren't significant finds."

Nichols added that an effective system is in place to have eyes on each of the Wilmington District's five dams nearly every day, every hour. Park rangers patrol around the dams, and they're trained to report any obvious discrepancies to dam safety inspectors. In addition, security guards at the Wilmington District can see the dam from video cameras located on the dams.

On the inside of Falls Dam one civil engineer focused more on structural integrity. Civil engineer Donnie Osborne took on the role of structural engineer. The intake tower at Falls Dam is made of reinforced concrete. One of his roles is to look at the previous year's inspection to see if there are any changes.

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Above - Wilmington District civil engineer Zack Nichols uses a probe to check the soil surface under a layer of riprap for any signs of erosion.

Left - Inside the Falls Dam tower intake, civil engineer Donnie Osborne compares notes of last year's inspection and what he observed the day of this inspection.



Right - Wilmington District civil engineer Rick Paarfus, makes notes of his findings inside the tower intake while Daniel Emerson, another civil engineer member of the dam safety inspection team, observes the tower's inner workings.

Self-discipline and drive are key to earning Professional Engineer license

Carl Baynard received his civil engineering degree in 2009 from North Carolina State University's School of Engineering. Not content with having just a civil engineering degree a few years later, he decided to push toward earning a professional engineer license after he fulfilled the required four years as an engineer to be eligible. Although it wasn't required for his job with the Wilmington District, he was motivated by the challenge, and he knew that it would take self-discipline to study during his off time. But he committed himself to earning the license. He took the test in October, and found out in December that he passed. He then became Carl Baynard, P.E.

"It was a culmination of all my hard work at engineering school," he said. "You have to work four years before you're eligible to take the P.E. exam, and you have to check off a few other prerequisites before you're eligible to take the P.E. test. It's definitely a commitment."

Baynard's self-discipline paid off. The former U.S. Army military policeman buckled down, despite temptations to slack off, and focused on his plan.

"After you graduate college and start working you kind of slip back into not wanting to do anything else but work," Baynard said. "You just want to go home after work. You really need the discipline to do it. I studied for about six months, maybe seven, really hard for about eight to 10 hours a week."

According to the National Society of Professional Engineers, professional engineers "must continuously demonstrate their competency and maintain and improve their skills by fulfilling continuing education requirements depending on the state in which they are licensed."

- Only a licensed engineer may prepare, sign and seal, and submit engineering plans and drawings to a public authority for approval, or seal engineering work for public and private clients.

- Professional Engineers shoulder the responsibility for not only their work, but also for the lives affected by that work and must hold themselves to high ethical standards of practice.

- Licensure for a consulting engineer or a private practitioner is not something that is merely desirable; it is a legal requirement for those who are in responsible charge of work, be they principals or employees.

- Licensure for engineers in government has become increasingly significant. In many federal, state, and

municipal agencies, certain governmental engineering positions, particularly those considered higher level and responsible positions must be filled by licensed professional engineers.

- Many states require that individuals teaching engineering must also be licensed. Exemptions to state laws are under attack, and in the future, those in education, as well as industry and government, may need to be licensed to practice. Also, licensure helps educators prepare students for their future in engineering.

Baynard joined the ranks of 38 other Wilmington District engineers who earned their professional engineer licenses:

Amy L. Locklear, Oscar Pagan-Santana, Shappi Marsh, Kevin Connor, Michael J. Wutkowski, Tony Young, John Hazelton, James T. Hargrove, Larry Creech, Edward F. Dunlop, Charles L. Danley, Michael Shane Jones, Carl F. Baynard II, Catherine B. Gill, Ben D. Lackey, Jr., Greg Williams, PhD, Powell Hughes, Gregory M. Griffith, Paul Sadowski, Dennis Lynch, Nelson Mora, Nat Hermann, Vernon Crudup, Robert W. Keistler, Janelle Mavis, Robert E. Sattin, George Blackard, Jason Christopher Stiwinter, William L. Adcock III, Shannon Geoly, Laura J. Hemming Mathieu, Richard McKibben, Daniel M. Daloia, Jamie D. Measmer, Steve Jones, Kevin W. Edmonds, and Steven S. Shriver. ■



Wilmington District Breaks Ground on 3rd Special Forces Group Operations Facility

Story and photo by Jerry Green
95th Civil Affairs Brigade

A ground breaking ceremony was held August 27, 2013, at a site located in the Gen. Yarborough Complex, and when completed will be the new home for the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne).

Col. James S. Brown, commander, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), and Command Sgt. Maj. Tony L. Duncan took part in the ceremony. Joining them in the ground breaking was Col. Laura Loftus, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Col. Steven Baker, Wilmington District Commander and David J. Freitas the project manager.

"We will have a new home soon," said Brown. "Currently, we have civil affairs teams deployed in 26 countries, and when this facility is completed it will be a place the teams will be proud to come home to."

The new complex will replace the brigade's current home located on Gruber Road. The brigade moved into



the renovated warehouse in late 2005 and quickly outgrew the allowable office space and building's environmental capabilities.

"When I saw the condition of the Gruber Road site, I knew it was time to get the 95th Brigade a new facility," said Baker. "This will be a state of the art complex that will meet the growing demands on this brigade."

The \$16 million project is scheduled for completion in May 2015. The facility will be almost 61,000 square feet and will include the headquarters' administrative offices, conference rooms and group operations center. Special

construction includes sustainable construction features complying with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. There will be an access for persons with disabilities also.

The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) comprised of five regional battalions is responsible for training, equipping and deploying forces in 26 countries to conduct civil affairs operations. ■

Contractor Michael Neuman (left) discusses areas of the future 3rd Special Forces Group operations facility with Wilmington District Commander Army Col. Steven Baker during the start of construction. The state-of-the-art facility will consolidate the group in one location. (USACE Photo by Jerry Green)



Duke Energy coal ash spill reaches John H. Kerr Reservoir

Story by Ann Johnson
photos by Ben Lackey

Wilmington District staff is working with Duke Energy, federal, state and local government agencies to protect the health of visitors to John H. Kerr Reservoir following the Feb. 2 coal ash spill into the Dan River in Eden, N.C.

The incident was caused by a storm water pipe break at the Dan River Steam Station in Eden, N.C., which resulted in the spillage of 39,000 tons of ash and 27 million gallons of coal ash pond water. The spill spread over a 70-mile stretch from Eden to the John H. Kerr Reservoir in Boynton, Va. Coal ash is the waste left after burning coal. It may contain arsenic, mercury, lead and over a dozen other heavy metals, many of them toxic.

Since the spill occurred, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (at the request of the state of North Carolina) has been overseeing the collection of water quality and sediment samples at the spill source and several locations upstream and downstream from the spill site. Additionally, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) have been conducting their own sampling. Sampling locations include raw water intakes and finished potable water at the Danville, South Boston and Clarksville Drinking Water Treatment Plants. To date, none of the finished or raw

Below- Heavy equipment operators place riprap stone at Duke Energy's Dan River Power Plant. The stone is being placed in the interior of the coal ash retention pond to create a stable foundation to move heavy equipment in place to reach and seal the broken pipe. The broken pipe will have concrete grout placed inside to form a plug and prevent additional coal ash from escaping. (USACE photo by Ben Lackey)



water samples have shown any detection above Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels.

Shortly following the incident at the Eden station, the Environmental Protection Agency requested engineering support from the Wilmington District based on its engineering expertise with dredged material disposal. Civil engineer Ben Lackey and environmental engineer Ray Livermore consulted with Duke Energy, EPA and NCDENR officials in Raleigh, reviewing Duke Energy's plans to plug the leak, and resolve the incident.

"When we were informed initially about the situation at the Eden plan, we were under the impression the release of the contaminants was due to an issue with the containment dike," Lackey said.

"When we arrived at the site, we were told that a damaged pipe had caused the release," Lackey said. "We observed the response effort being conducted by Duke personnel and discussed potential methods of mitigating future releases of the contaminated material. We also made a recommendation of the best alternative to the EPA representative on site."

David Shaeffer provided regulatory support to facilitate permitting requirements, and continues to work with the EPA, and the states of North Carolina and Virginia on regulatory and permitting matters.

"Regulatory representatives from Norfolk and Wilmington District continue to work closely with EPA and Duke energy to ensure that all cleanup work complies with the substantive requirements of federal laws protecting aquatic resources and navigation," Shaeffer said.

John H. Kerr's lake manager Michael Womack, biologist Christopher Powell, chief of natural resources Robert Dennis, conservation manager Michael Hosey, District hydraulic engineer Tony Young, regulatory specialist David Shaeffer and other regulatory specialists from the



District have been participating in weekly meetings with the interagency task force established in response to the spill. The interagency task force was formed after North Carolina requested technical assistance from the EPA. EPA Regions 3 and 4 deployed On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) and entered into a Unified Command (UC) structure, consisting of Duke Energy, NCDENR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), to manage the incident. As a part of the unified command, EPA is providing technical assistance, including oversight, data management and sampling support. EPA's team of experts includes environmental specialists, risk assessors and data managers.

Kerr Lake officials concerned about potential coal ash contaminants finding their way into the waters around the lake's public use areas requested the EPA extend its sampling from the headwaters of the Reservoir into Kerr Lake's most popular recreation and swim areas.

"We want to be able to address the public's concerns with coal ash and its impact to recreation activities on the lake," said Kerr Lake Manager Michael Womack.

The EPA concurred and water and sediment samples were taken throughout the headwaters of the lake to include a public beach at Buffalo Park. Test results, released by the EPA on March 19, were inconclusive for the presence of coal ash within the lake.

Public health agencies from both North Carolina and Virginia are working with the Unified Command and communicating with the public on potential impacts to human health, aquatic life, and the environment. According to both health departments, the public should exercise caution when using the Dan River and/or the John H. Kerr Reservoir for primary contact purposes. River and reservoir water sampling for coal ash contaminants will continue into the immediate future. The monitored levels indicate that no illness will result from accidental ingestion of river water. However, direct contact with coal ash may cause minor skin irritation. Both VADH and NC DHHS recommend the public avoid contact with submerged or floating ash as the agencies begin long-term evaluation of coal ash spill. Direct contact with water or sediment may cause skin irritation. If coal ash is contacted, officials recommend washing off with



soap and water.

"We do not want people to avoid recreating on the lake, but rather to inform themselves of the risk associated with coal ash and take the needed precautions to minimize or eliminate any adverse impacts," Womack said.

A fish consumption advisory exists for part of the Dan River. Information for fish advisory locations, fish species, and recommendations is available at the VADH website at: www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/dee/PublicHealthToxicology/Advisories/.

The NC DHHS Division of Public Health recommends that people not consume any fish or shellfish collected from the Dan River in North Carolina downstream of the Duke Power-Eden spill site. NC DHHS is working with other agencies to collect fish downstream of the spill and will evaluate the data as it becomes available to identify when health risks associated with eating the fish are no longer a concern.

The Virginia Department of Health (VADH) recommends that local fish consumers follow the existing advisory for mercury and PCBs (no more than two meals per month for certain fish species). Based on pending results, VDH will determine whether existing fish consumption advisories need to be updated. Catch-and-release fishing remains safe

Virginia's environmental evaluation of the Dan River following the coal ash spill in North Carolina continues to focus on potential long-term effects on water quality and aquatic life in the river. Sampling results of the treated drinking water for Virginia localities that use the Dan River

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(3 photos below) EPA sampling teams collect sediment from John H. Kerr Reservoir's high public use areas to test for coal ash contaminants. Virginia and North Carolina health officials have reviewed results of recent water and sediment chemical analyses and say John H. Kerr Reservoir is safe for usual recreational activity. In recent sampling for presence of coal ash in lake sediments, none of the sediment samples collected at the John H. Kerr Reservoir, which straddles Virginia and North Carolina, show the presence of coal ash or evidence of metals associated with coal ash. (USACE Photos)



Ice Storm 2014

USACE Photos by Hank Heusinkveld

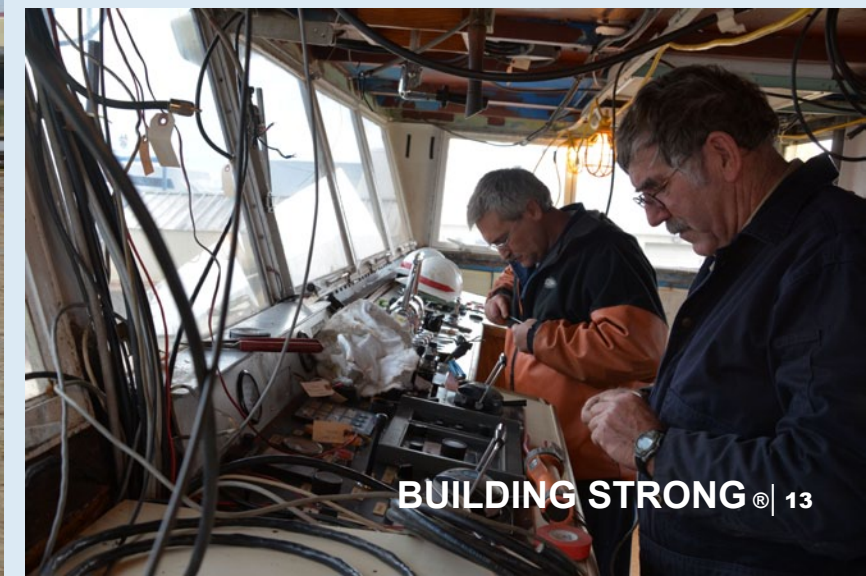
The headquarters building of the Wilmington District was not immune from the effects of the ice storm that hit the region Feb. 12. No major damage was reported. Logistics Management folks scrambled to move the vehicle fleet from underneath trees. The ice accumulation was too much for coastal sea pine and other trees, and their branches began bending and breaking within the compound. Power went off a few times, but the emergency generator kicked in as needed. The following images were taken from within the Wilmington District headquarters compound on Feb. 12. ■



Engineer Repair Yard works to keep vessels afloat

USACE Photos by Hank Heusinkveld

The Wilmington District's dredge fleet has a year-round, grueling schedule that adds wear and tear from shallow-draft dredging or picking up all kinds of debris. Docked at the Engineer Repair Yard located across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington, the special purpose vessel CURRITUCK, which typically works 24 hours, seven days a week, is receiving a thorough modernization upgrade. The debris vessel SNELL is also getting a thorough inspection before heading out on numerous missions. The work on the vessels was completed on Feb. 28. ■



African American History month celebrates Civil Rights Act

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

This year's National African-American History Month observance celebrates 50 years since President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, the Defense Department's director of diversity management and equal opportunity noted in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Clarence A. Johnson added that the commemoration, which begins tomorrow, also offers the opportunity to recognize contributions African-Americans have made to national defense.

"This country was founded on hopes, dreams and aspirations," Johnson said. "The hopes, dreams and aspirations of African-Americans have contributed to the nation and the [Defense Department]," he said.

The Civil Rights Act, signed July 2, 1964, was "landmark legislation" that outlawed discrimination based on race, gender and national origin, he said, and DOD has led the way in creating diversity in the workplace.

"From the Civil Rights Act through today, we continue on that diverse journey," he added. "We look for the best and brightest to serve our country."

The Civil Rights Act is important to DOD because of the department's "respect for each [person] in military uniforms and in the civilian workplace," Johnson said, and African-Americans "have contributed mightily" to the service of the nation since the Revolutionary War.

According to DOD sources:

-- African-American active-duty enlisted members and

commissioned officers serving today across the services number 223,378 members or about 16.3 percent of the active force;

-- African-Americans serving as commissioned officers today number 18,470 members across the services, comprising 8.4 percent of the U.S. military's commissioned officer ranks;

-- There are 3,518 African-American warrant officers serving across the military services today; and

-- African-American enlisted troops serving today constitute 201,390 members across the services or 17.8 percent of the enlisted force.

On the civilian employee side of DOD, African-American employees in grades GS-13 through GS-15 and the Senior Executive Service have increased, Johnson noted.

Even with more African-Americans serving DOD as in uniform and as civilian employees, Johnson said, recruitment for both groups continues. DOD and the military services are in the third year of putting a diversity and inclusion strategic plan into place, he added.

The plan will enhance three areas, Johnson explained: leadership commitment to sustain and make diversity efforts accountable, outreach to inform the community about DOD's mission for potential service members and civilian employees, and an "inreach" strategy to develop DOD personnel professionally.

The Defense Department is committed to a diverse workforce, Johnson said.

"We have a dynamic opportunity to make sure diversity continues," he added, "because we see it as strength." ■

Americans celebrate black history firsts

African-American Firsts: Military

- Combat pilot: Georgia-born Eugene Jacques Bullard, 1917, denied entry into the U.S. Army Air Corps because of his race, served throughout World War I in the French Flying Corps. He received the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor, among many other decorations.
- First Congressional Medal of Honor winner: Sgt. William H. Carney for bravery during the Civil War. He received his Congressional Medal of Honor in 1900.
- General: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., 1940–1948.
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Colin Powell, 1989–1993.

African-American Firsts: Government

- Local elected official: John Mercer Langston, 1855, town clerk of Brownhelm Township, Ohio.
- State elected official: Alexander Lucius Twilight, 1836, the Vermont legislature.
- Mayor of major city: Carl Stokes, Cleveland, Ohio, 1967–1971. The first black woman to serve as a mayor of a major U.S. city was Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly, Washington, DC, 1991–1995.
- Governor (appointed): P.B.S. Pinchback served as governor of Louisiana from Dec. 9, 1872–Jan. 13, 1873, during impeachment proceedings against the elected governor.
- Governor (elected): L. Douglas Wilder, Virginia, 1990–1994. The only other elected black governor has been Deval Patrick, Massachusetts, 2007–

- U.S. Representative: Joseph Rainey became a Congressman from South Carolina in 1870 and was reelected four more times. The first black female U.S. Representative was Shirley Chisholm, Congresswoman from New York, 1969–1983.
- U.S. Senator: Hiram Revels became Senator from Mississippi from Feb. 25, 1870, to March 4, 1871, during Reconstruction. Edward Brooke became the first African-American Senator since Reconstruction, 1966–1979. Carol Mosely Braun became the first black woman Senator serving from 1992–1998 for the state of Illinois. (There have only been a total of five black senators in U.S. history: the remaining two are Blanche K. Bruce [1875–1881] and Barack Obama (2005–2008).
- U.S. cabinet member: Robert C. Weaver, 1966–1968, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Lyndon Johnson; the first black female cabinet minister was Patricia Harris, 1977, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Jimmy Carter.
- U.S. Secretary of State: Gen. Colin Powell, 2001–2004. The first black female Secretary of State was Condoleezza Rice, 2005–2009.
- Major Party Nominee for President: Sen. Barack Obama, 2008. The Democratic Party selected him as its presidential nominee.
- U.S. President: Sen. Barack Obama. Obama defeated Sen. John McCain in the general election on November 4, 2008, and was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States on January 20, 2009. ■



Shirley Chisholm



Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.



President Barack H. Obama

H. R. 7152

PUBLIC LAW 88-352

Eighty-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four

An Act

To enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employ-

Nation remembers Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Day, an influential American civil rights leader, is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States.

Martin Luther King Day, a relatively new federal holiday, is intended to promote equal rights for all Americans regardless of their background. It is a relatively new federal holiday held on the third Monday of January. Martin Luther King's most famous address was the "I Have A Dream" speech. He was an advocate of non-violent protest and became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated in 1968.

In 1968, shortly after Martin Luther King died, a campaign was started for his birthday to become a holiday to honor him. After the first bill was introduced, trade unions led the campaign for the federal holiday. It was endorsed in 1976. Following support from the

musician Stevie Wonder with his single "Happy Birthday" and a petition with six million signatures, the bill became law in 1983. Martin Luther King Day was first observed in 1986, although it was not observed in all states until the year 2000. In 1990, the Wyoming legislature designated Martin Luther King Jr/Wyoming Equality Day as a legal holiday.

Martin Luther King Day, also known as Martin Luther King's birthday and Martin Luther King Jr Day, is combined with other days in different states. For example, it is combined with Civil Rights Day in Arizona and New Hampshire, while it is observed together with Human Rights Day in Idaho. It is also a day that is combined with Robert E. Lee's birthday in some states. The day is known as Wyoming Equality Day in the state of Wyoming. ■



Women's history speaker notes the nation's homeless women veterans a growing issue

USACE story by Ann Johnson

Kimberly King, a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force, was the keynote speaker for the District's Women's History Month luncheon on Wednesday, March 26 at the Reserve Forces Center in Wilmington, N.C. King, a native of Wilmington, is currently employed with Extended Care Physicians Coastal, a geriatric and rehabilitative medical group.

King, an advocate for the nation's homeless women veterans, is affiliated with Final Salute and the Ms. Veteran America organization, to bring awareness to the growing issue of homeless women veterans. King will travel to Washington, D.C. in June as the North Carolina delegate for the Ms. Veteran America organization and will compete with other women veterans for the title of Ms. Veteran.

Women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the nation's homeless population, according to King. As of 2014, the nation's women veterans number two million.

"The number of homeless women veterans . . . tripled between 2010 and 2013," King told luncheon attendees. "One third of the more than 300,000 homeless are women veterans."

Traditional homeless shelters are generally not equipped to handle single moms with children, and the few that do accept them, place restrictions on the age limit and number of children allowed, King said.

"Traditional shelters are not accustomed to accommodating children so many homeless women veterans are living in their cars, in parks and under bridges," King said. "They are dealing with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), combat stress and have been unable to find work. . . They feel humiliated and share guilt over the feeling that they have no control over their lives."

Risk factors associated with homeless women veterans include military sexual trauma, PTSD, combat stress, and difficulty finding employment and financial hardship. One third of all women in the military and 20 percent of women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have experienced some form of sexual assault or related trauma, according to DOD's latest report, King said.

"Research shows distinctively that in the women veteran population military sexual trauma was directly linked to PTSD more than any other reason, life threatening situations, illnesses, accidents or other trauma," said King.

Civilian employers are 60 percent less likely to hire a homeless veteran because of the fear of PTSD, King



Kimberly King, a homeless women's veteran advocate, was the keynote speaker at Wilmington District's Women's History Month luncheon on Wednesday, March 26 at the Reserve Forces Center, Wilmington, N.C. (USACE Photo by Gerald Delts)

said. "Research shows women vets are 60 percent more likely to have combat stress."

On any given night in the United States there are 55,000 homeless women veterans on the street and that number is growing daily, according to King.

As an advocate for homeless women veterans through the Ms. Veteran America organization, King's goal is to raise awareness of the plight of the nation's women veterans. A direct beneficiary of the Ms. Veteran America organization is Final Salute, Inc., one of only 10 organizations nationwide that specifically support women veterans. Final Salute, Inc. was founded by Army Captain Jaspen Boothe in 2010, and provides safe, suitable housing for female veterans.

Final Salute, Inc., provides assistance through two distinct programs - - S.A.F.E. and H.O.M.E., King said. "Safe eases financial hardships, pays rent, utilities, groceries and gives budget assistance to those in need to help keep them in their homes. This program is open to both veterans and active duty personnel.

"H.O.M.E. provides transitional housing, food, clothing, transportation, child care assistance, employment and re-integration help and other supportive services."

(continued on page 23)

New TSD Director foresees a growing mission for SAW

Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld, USACE, Wilmington District.

Catheren Gill, Wilmington District's new Technical Services Division Director, began her career as a Department of the Army intern in 1985 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after receiving her civil engineering degree from Georgia Tech. A few years later she earned her Master's Degree in civil engineering from the same institution, and earned her professional engineer license. In nearly three decades she's seen the highs and lows of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its numerous budget woes. However, she's optimistic the ups will happen again, and she said that means the Wilmington District will shift into high gear and adapt to changes.

"I see the Wilmington District as being a strong district right now with a growing mission and a growing workload with an opportunity to expand on what we're currently doing now by attracting new customers and new work because we definitely have the talent on board here," she said. "We've got a very talented workforce with strong engineers and scientists, project managers, contract specialists and a terrific support team who have a lot of experience. I see Wilmington District as being quite successful in the next decade despite budget cuts. We're not going to go away, but we're definitely going to evolve with the changing missions."

Gill said part of a successful strategy is to attract new customers and assessing what the Wilmington District has to offer.

"We will assess what our capabilities are, and see what our resources are to make sure that we don't over extend ourselves," she explained. "We will engage and meet new customers who are similar to the ones who we are currently working with as well as customers who may be outside

our traditional customer base. The District has a PDT that will put together our way forward and help us gain positive exposure for our long term future. "

Gill said exposure will be a key factor in gaining potentials customer. Currently, outreach programs are being explored to increase the Wilmington District's visibility to those potential customers who could use the Wilmington District's expertise.

"We have a strong team of professionals from many different disciplines on board who can reach out to potential customers who may need the premiere expertise and services that we provide." ■



other cracks that are benign."

Public safety is the main priority for dam safety. Osborne said that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Dam Safety Program "seeks to ensure that USACE-owned and operated dams do not present unacceptable risks to people, property, or the environment, with the emphasis on people."

"That's one thing that's beneficial to the public is that we're not retroactively sitting back waiting for anything to happen. There are implementations that are embedded in our frequencies of annual inspections and periodic inspections." ■

SAW chief of security nabs USACE anti-terrorism award

Wilmington District Chief of Security Greg Barr likes to stay 10 steps ahead when it comes to security. His proactive approach to anti-terrorism led to his being the USACE winner of the Fiscal Year 2013 Best Anti-Terrorism Program in the command.

Barr, a part-time Kure Beach police officer on weekends, believes in always being vigilant. Soft targets, he said, are the ones that are undefended and are the ones that are the least expected to get potentially hit. But constant anti-terrorism awareness by the workforce is what helps deter a possible terrorist attack, no matter how remote the possibility.

"We've had anti-terrorism exercises where we've brought in civil support teams for dam exercises," he said. "We're getting ready to do the Active Shooter exercise with help from the Wilmington Police Department. That's more of a single shooter event, but it's designed to get the workforce thinking about terrorism; 'What would I do if this happens?'"

Barr is active in the local and federal law enforcement

and security community. He has a seat on the FBI-sponsored Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) which meets quarterly in Wilmington. In addition, he's a liaison with other federal agencies, local police departments and other organizations that have influence in local anti-terrorism committees. ■



(Coal Ash continued from page 9)

federal and state standards, and there are no public health concerns with drinking water.

"In Virginia, we are focusing now on the health of the Dan River over the long term," said David K. Paylor, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. "We intend to hold Duke Energy fully accountable. It is likely that several years of monitoring will be required, and we want to ensure that people and the environment remain protected."

The John H. Kerr Reservoir is located about 110 miles downstream from the site of the break. Environmental groups have expressed concern about toxic contaminants entering the Reservoir. District water management officials continue to monitor the situation at the lake which is located both in North Carolina and Virginia. In Virginia it is called Buggs Island. District water and emergency management teams are in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., to see how they can assist the District in understanding the potential impacts of this incident on the Reservoir.

Removal operations by Duke Energy with oversight by EPA, have begun to address the material located at the outfall of the storm water management drain as it empties into the Dan River. Duke has installed a filter skirt around

an ash pile and will remove the material from the shoreline with a vacuum truck. EPA is monitoring the potential impact the melting snow had on the river and will take necessary measures if there are any significant impacts to on-going operations. The VADEQ has collected fish from the Dan River and is currently analyzing them for ash related contaminants. Those results will be reviewed by VADH when available.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources (NCDENR DWR) and the Division of Energy, Mines and Land Resources have evaluated the second storm water management drain line (36") that runs under the Primary Ash Pond. This line was sealed with a concrete plug and the discharged was stopped. NCDENR DWR is also investigating a third storm water discharge to the Dan River upstream from the ash release.

EPA will work with the State of North Carolina and Commonwealth of Virginia in evaluating long term cleanup options for the Dan River.

Virginia's long-term efforts will include a cooperative state and federal monitoring plan to identify impacts to bottom-dwelling organisms that form the base of the food chain in the river. The study also will identify effects on fish and possible bioaccumulation of metals in fish tissue. ■

(Dam Safety continued from page 5)

"One of the facets of the structural design is to actually implement measures to recognize fatigue, to recognize stress of the tower and so forth," Osborne said. "In a concrete structure you're definitely going to have cracking. My role as a structural engineer is to grow an efficiency and consistency. Consistency allows for greater control of efficiency to maximize the inspection time while minimizing costs. You could spend an entire day looking at cracks, but there are plenty of cracks that are not structural. As engineers we're able to recognize indicators that affect the integrity of the structure versus

Federal budget proposal includes \$49.5 million for Wilmington District

USACE story by Ann Johnson

President Obama's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 (FY15) includes funding for ongoing projects in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District.

The \$49.5 million designated for Wilmington District projects continue funding for conduct of one study, construction activities, and operation and maintenance of Federal projects. Under investigations, funding would complete feasibility studies on the Wilmington Harbor Improvements project.

The \$300,000 designated for construction funding would complete environmental monitoring for the Roanoke River Flood Risk Management project in Virginia.

The \$48.9 million operation and maintenance budget

continues work at the harbors: Wilmington, \$14.1 million; Morehead City, \$4.8 million; and other shallow draft harbors and channels including Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay (Oregon Inlet) and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The District's five lakes and dams are included in the budget with John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir in N.C. and Va. (Buggs Island) receiving \$10.7 million, Philpott Lake, Va., \$6.4 million, W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, N.C., \$3.3 million, B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake, N.C., \$1.8 million, and Falls Lake, N.C., \$1.9 million.

Like each year's presidential budget, this one begins a process that includes action by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and results in an appropriations bill to be signed before final funding amounts are known. ■

Wilmington District Authorized Projects (\$1,000s)

| Investigations | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Project Title | FY 2015 President's Budget |
| Wilmington Harbor Improvements, NC | 298 |
| Investigations Subtotal | \$298 |
| Construction | |
| Project Title | FY 2015 President's Budget |
| Roanoke River, Upper Basin Headwaters, VA | 300 |
| Construction Subtotal | \$300 |
| Operations and Maintenance | |
| Project Title | FY 2015 President's Budget |
| Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, NC | 2,600 |
| B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake, NC | 1,856 |
| Cape Fear River above Wilmington, NC | 483 |
| Falls Lake, NC | 1,909 |
| John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir, VA and NC | 10,685 |
| Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay, NC | 800 |
| Masonboro Inlet, NC | 50 |
| Morehead City Harbor, NC | 4,855 |
| Philpott Lake, VA | 6,442 |
| Rollinson Channel, NC | 550 |
| Silver Lake Harbor, NC | 300 |
| W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, NC | 3,293 |
| Wilmington Harbor, NC | 14,127 |
| Inspection of Completed Works, NC | 264 |
| Project Condition Surveys, NC | 700 |
| Operation and Maintenance Subtotal | \$48,914 |
| All Appropriations | \$49,512 |

Wilmington District receives final allocation for FY 2014 of almost \$77 million in Civil Works Appropriations for ongoing projects

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a final allocation for almost \$77 million to the Wilmington District to continue work on fiscal year 2014 (FY14) civil works projects.

These funds are to be used for work activities completed to date under the continuing resolution and to finish activities scheduled through FY14. This money is separate from the funding requested in the FY 2015

President's budget, \$49.5 million, which was summarized in a press release issued on March 4, 2014.

The FY14 funds are provided for multiple Wilmington District projects in key Corps of Engineers' critical mission areas including commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration and hydropower.

(continued on page 23)

Wilmington District Authorized Projects FY 2014 Final Funding Allocation

| Investigations | |
|---|---------------------|
| Project Title | FY 2014 Allocation |
| Neuse River Basin, NC | \$50,000 |
| Surf City and North Topsail Beach, NC | 225,000 |
| Wilmington Harbor Improvements, NC | 500,000 |
| Investigations Subtotal | \$775,000 |
| Construction | |
| Project Title | FY 2014 Allocation |
| Carolina Beach and Vicinity, NC (Carolina Beach and Kure Beach) | \$8,100,000 |
| Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay, NC | 6,500,000 |
| Wrightsville Beach, NC | 8,000,000 |
| Roanoke River Basin Headwaters, VA | 91,000 |
| Construction Subtotal | \$22,691,000 |
| Operation and Maintenance | |
| Project Title | FY 2014 Allocation |
| Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, NC | \$1,664,000 |
| B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake, NC | 1,631,000 |
| Cape Fear River above Wilmington, NC | 495,000 |
| Falls Lake, NC | 1,749,000 |
| Inspection of Completed Works, NC | 258,000 |
| John H. Kerr Lake, VA and NC | 10,786,000 |
| Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay, NC1, | 308,000 |
| Masonboro Inlet, NC | 149,000 |
| Morehead City Harbor, NC | 6,131,000 |
| Philpott Lake, VA | 5,278,000 |
| Project Condition Surveys, NC | 693,000 |
| Rollinson Channel, NC | 697,000 |
| Silver Lake Harbor, NC | 697,000 |
| W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, NC | 3,403,000 |
| Wilmington Harbor, NC | 18,515,000 |
| Operation and Maintenance Subtotal | \$53,455,000 |
| All Appropriations | \$76,921,000 |

District and state finalize long-term dredging agreement

The Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of North Carolina have finalized an agreement to again allow dredging in North Carolina's coastal waters so fishing and transportation vessels can more easily move through shallow inlets and channels.

"This agreement is critical to keeping our shallow-draft navigation channels navigable," said Tom Reeder, director of the N.C. Division of Water Resources. "Our state is heavily dependent upon these channels for the operation of our commercial and charter fishing fleets, N.C. Department of Transportation ferries and recreational boat traffic. The continued maintenance of these channels is vital to North Carolina's coastal economy."

The agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the continued maintenance dredging of North Carolina's federally authorized shallow-draft inlets and channels was finalized in mid-November. It runs through September 2017.

Due to reductions in federal funds during the last several years, the state's shallow-draft navigation channels have not been maintained to authorized depths

and dimensions. In March 2012, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started developing a long-term memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remedy the problem.

"Maintaining the navigability of the shallow-draft inlets allows the state's commercial, charter and recreational fishing fleet the access it requires to the Atlantic Ocean," said Stephen Baker, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Wilmington district. "Maintaining the federal channels used by the state's ferry vessels allows those vessels to continue predictable operations, particularly to those islands of Ocracoke and Hatteras, for which the ferries serve as a major artery for emergency response, services and commerce."

In support of the agreement, the North Carolina General Assembly created the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel and Lake Dredging fund during the 2013 session. Money from this fund will be used to provide 50 percent of the cost for dredging projects authorized under the agreement. Local governments will be responsible for providing the remaining 50 percent of the cost for a project they wish to sponsor. ■

(Baker's Blog continued from Page 3)

successfully implemented by Charleston District, and site adapted it to support customers in North Carolina. We need every employee to make this a success. As I have told you multiple times, each of you can educate people about District and USACE capabilities. SAW teammates who routinely deal with the public like Rangers or Regulators can be particularly effective in getting potential customers to think about using USACE to help solve their environmental, engineering, construction or contracting challenges. Ms. Deb Willis will be leading the charge from PM on Outreach and she is your POC for ideas or initiatives regarding outreach. We will be producing pocket guides to assist you with this conversation which will help you become even more knowledgeable about everything we do in the US Army Corps of Engineers. Likewise, PAO will be producing some short video clips to highlight current capabilities to existing and new customers. I know this is a culture change within this organization but I think it is vitally important to our stability in the future. Let us not complacently wait for the next budgetary storm; let's prepare now and get in front of it! Let's get those many other state and federal organizations that do not exist to provide engineering, construction or contracting to come to us, the "original" federal engineer to provide their services.

As I know all of you, especially those at the field sites, will not be able to join us for the Change of Command, let me say to you what I will say to the assembled masses on 11 July. Thank You! Thank you for training me and allowing me to serve as your commander these last three years. As I transition to become the Command Engineer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and your customer at Fort Bragg, I want to tell you that I greatly appreciate your relentless pursuit of excellence, your technical savvy, your professionalism, and most importantly your friendship. I will still be your neighbor in Wilmington so I am fortunate not to have to say goodbye, only – until we meet again. All the best, All the way – Keep getting after it! ■

(Woman's History continued from page 17)

Final Salute, Inc. has three transitional homes and has provided assistance to women veterans in more than 12 states.

Women have served our nation in every conflict dating back to the revolutionary war. Women found ways to serve the nation, often disguising themselves as men so they could fight in combat roles, especially during the revolutionary and civil wars, King said.

Women have served in the U.S. Army since 1775. They nursed the ill and wounded, laundered and mended clothing and cooked for the troops in camp and on campaign, services that did not exist among the uniformed personnel within the Army until the 20th Century. Women are an invaluable and essential part of the active Army and other service branches. Currently, women serve in 95 percent of all Army occupations and make up about 15.7 percent of the active Army. Women continue to have a crucial role in current operations and their sacrifices in this noble effort underscore their dedication and willingness to share great sacrifices.

To learn more about Final Salute or the Ms. Veteran America organization, you can visit these websites: <http://www.finalsalute.org> or www.msveteranamerica.org. ■

Wilmington District employees listen to Kimberly King, U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force veteran, talked about the growing population of homeless women veterans in the United States during the Women's History luncheon on Wednesday, March 26 at the Reserve Forces Center, Wilmington, N.C. (USACE Photo by Gerald Delts)



(Civil Works Appropriations continued from page 21)

"We are particularly pleased by this generous allocation in light of our nation's constrained financial resources," said Army Col. Steven A. Baker, Wilmington District commander. "This means we can move forward on two projects important to the District: the construction of a mitigation feature at Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay and coastal storm damage reduction at Carolina Beach."

The District will develop oyster reefs at the Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay project to mitigate for prior deepening of Wanchese Harbor, and will complete a periodic nourishment cycle at Carolina Beach before Federal participation expires in December 2014.

The funds Wilmington District received for the Carolina Beach coastal storm damage reduction project must be combined with non-Federal funds to meet cost share

requirements. Additionally, the District received advance funding for Kure Beach, also a cost-shared project, for its next periodic nourishment cycle. This project is scheduled for FY 2016.

Allocated funding covers work accomplished during the continuing resolution and planned activities for the rest of the fiscal year for the Investigations, Construction and Operation and Maintenance programs. Activities include continuation or completion of multiple studies and other construction actions. For operation and maintenance, \$50.5 million in funds have been allocated in FY14 for maintenance dredging at multiple North Carolina navigation projects, activities at five multi-purpose lake projects in North Carolina and Virginia, and operation of the Cape Fear River locks and dams. ■



Ranger Scott Graham of the Environmental Education Center located in the basement of W. Kerr Scott's Visitor Assistance Center in Wilkesboro, N.C. invites the public to learn about the flora and fauna that can be found in and around W. Kerr Scott Lake. While you are there, ask him about scenic overlooks that capture the lake's breathtaking beauty and the location of the best campsites. (USACE Photo)