

# Jacksonville District Annual Report

Making Tomorrow Better



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

# Command Introduction



**Col. Jason A. Kirk, P.E.**  
**District Commander**

A Team of Professionals Making Tomorrow Better...our JAXStrong Team has had ample opportunity to make our Vision a reality over this past year.

First among our multiple efforts across our eight program areas highlighted in this Annual has been our collective Emergency Management response and recovery efforts to bring back normalcy to the destruction wrought across our area of operations by Hurricanes IRMA and MARIA. Our “EM” efforts—augmented by over 2,000 teammates from across the Corps—have ranged from supervising the installation of over 13,000 Blue Roofs to allow Floridians to stay in their homes; designing and emplacing critical interim dam safety risk reductions measures at the Lake Guajataca Dam in NW Puerto Rico to protect 70,000 downstream residents; to our leadership role in restoring electrical grid power to millions of citizens across Puerto Rico.

In the pages to follow you will see highlights from all eight of our program areas and our team’s incredible work increasing national security, energizing our economy and of course reducing [and responding] to disaster risks.

I am proud to serve alongside and lead our 830-plus civil servants that make up the JAXStrong Team. We stand ready in 2018 to continue answering our Nation’s call – engineering solutions to the toughest challenges across Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and beyond.



**Tim Murphy**  
**Deputy District Engineer**  
**for Programs and**  
**Project Management**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District had another outstanding year in 2017. We executed a program valued at \$487 million in a wide variety of activities that includes ports, flood risk management, coastal risk management, operations, ecosystem restoration, regulatory and much more.

The financial stability of the district has never looked better. Congress appears poised to make additional infrastructure investments. We are encouraged with talk to accelerate the rehabilitation of Herbert Hoover Dike near Lake Okeechobee and proposals that would make additional investments in projects to help reduce the risk and impacts from flooding in Puerto Rico.

Going forward, our challenge will be to deliver the projects that meet the expectations of the stakeholders that have placed their faith in us. Our customer-satisfaction surveys show we are doing a good job, but we also have room to improve our processes to ensure timely delivery of our programs. We look forward to hearing from our customers during our survey this year. If you should receive such a survey, please let us know how we’re doing.

I am honored to serve in this role and look forward to a successful 2018.

# Vision and Mission

## VISION

Team of Professionals  
Making Tomorrow Better

## MISSION

Deliver value to the nation by anticipating needs and collaboratively engineering solutions that support national security, energize our economy and increase resiliency



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# Jacksonville District at Work



# Navigation

Jacksonville District's Water Resources Branch is responsible for 17 deep draft harbors and 20 shallow draft harbors in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as roughly 900 miles of navigable inland waterways. District members work with the U.S. Coast Guard, port masters, the Florida Inland Navigation District, and many other state and local agencies to ensure people and commodities move safely and efficiently through the waterways.

Jacksonville District is helping to make several deep draft ports more cost-efficient and creating new opportunities for regional and national economic development. The district is engineering navigation improvements to accommodate existing and future vessel movement and resolve other navigation restriction problems.

The shipping and cruise industries continue to build larger, more efficient vessels to meet the increasing demands of the growing global economy. The 2016 Panama Canal expansion allows these larger vessels to pass through the canal, dramatically changing the transportation environment along the east coast.

The need for channel and port improvements is particularly true in the southeast, where deep ports are decades behind others nationally, as well as internationally. Most Corps of Engineers' harbor expansion projects in the southeast are deepening in the range of 45 to 50 feet to accommodate vessel growth.

In 2015 the district completed the Miami Harbor Deepening Project, the first federal navigation project in the southeast built to a 50-foot depth. In September 2017 the district awarded the first Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Project construction contract. This contract is the first of multiple construction contracts that will deepen the existing Federal channel from its current depth of 40 feet to



An aerial view of work at the Mile Point project on the near Jacksonville on the St. Johns River. This project is intended to help solve issues with cross-currents where the river converges with the Atlantic Inter-coastal Waterway.

47 feet. JAXPORT and the state of Florida advanced funds for construction of the Mile Point project, which is within the Jacksonville Harbor footprint. Mile Point Phase I included constructing and removing about 1.4 miles of training walls to reduce the effects of difficult cross-currents at the convergence of the St. Johns River with the Intracoastal Waterway. In addition to improving navigation in 2017, the project restored historic channel flow and increased marsh habitat by up to 34 acres above the required mitigation. Phase II, which starts in spring 2018, includes planting vegetation and continuing restoration of Great Marsh Island.

Throughout 2017, the district made great strides in moving the Port Everglades Improvements Project forward in the pre-construction, engineering and design phase. This project will be the first of its kind in presenting to the public underwater video of near real-time conditions throughout dredging construction. The public will also be able to anticipate and track the district's adaptive management actions as they occur.

On the west coast of Florida, the district executed an agreement for deepening and widening Tampa Harbor's Big Bend channel starting in 2018. Its scheduled completion is in 2019.

The San Juan Harbor Navigation Improvements Study team made important progress in 2017. Nearing completion of their feasibility study, the team anticipates submitting a Chief of Engineers' Report in 2018.

The Corps of Engineers invests in the maintenance of coastal and inland commercial navigation channels with emphasis on those projects that will provide the greatest economic and environmental return to the nation. These channels operate together with other federal and non-federal assets to form an intermodal transportation network. The network supports imports and exports globally through the nation's ports, as well as cargo movement within the United States.

In 2017, the district oversaw major navigation improvements exceeding \$55 million in overall operations and maintenance work. District teams also performed expedited surveys and assessments after hurricanes' Irma and Maria. A top priority was to ensure major ports could quickly and safely resume operations with minimal delay. This synchronized work with federal and local agencies allowed all Florida ports to reopen within days of the storms and saved millions in transportation delays.

The district's Water Resources Branch executes the Military Dredging Program for both Command Navy Region Southeast and the U.S. Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, Blount Island Command. In fiscal year 2017, the program executed all requested activities for a total of \$33.8 million with a realized savings of 27.8 percent.



Regional sediment management of navigation maintenance projects allows Jacksonville District to beneficially use dredged materials, supporting wildlife areas and reducing risks to beach communities.

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



Jacksonville District is the lead federal agency for the world's largest ecosystem restoration program, taking place in the southern half of the Florida peninsula. The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program starts in the Kissimmee River, south of Orlando, and continues south to Florida Bay, and includes projects authorized under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The district executed more than \$110 million as part of this program in fiscal year 2017.

## **North of Lake Okeechobee**

This past year, Jacksonville District awarded the final contract necessary to complete the Kissimmee River Restoration project. The project seeks to restore more than 40 square miles of the river's floodplain, including 44 miles of the historic river channel. The floodplain was instrumental in helping slow flows into Lake Okeechobee as a result of Hurricane Irma. The district expects to complete the project in 2020.

Jacksonville District staff continue planning efforts on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project. Plan formulation began in 2016 to identify alternatives to store water north of the lake. Planners expect to identify a tentatively selected plan in 2018.

## **East of Lake Okeechobee**

East of Lake Okeechobee, Jacksonville District continues work on the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area component of the Indian River Lagoon-South project. Construction of a 3,400 acre reservoir continues. This reservoir, when complete, will store up to 15 feet of water, or about 16 billion gallons from the basin that drains into the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Jacksonville District expects the C-44 components to be complete by 2022.

Planners continue work to formulate a slate of alternatives for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. The project aims to restore and sustain flows to the Loxahatchee River and reconnect area wetlands.

## **West of Lake Okeechobee**

We continue to provide technical oversight as our non-federal partners at the South Florida Water Management District construct features associated with the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir project. When complete, a 10,500 acre reservoir will capture water from the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) west of Lake Okeechobee and store it for dry-season releases that will help maintain an appropriate mix of saltwater and freshwater in the Caloosahatchee Estuary near Fort Myers.

Further south, near Naples, work continues on the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. Construction is complete on three pump stations that will supply drained wetlands with a source of water to restore critical habitat in the Picayune Strand State Forest. Once protection features are constructed full ecosystem restoration benefits will be realized for the project.

## **South of Lake Okeechobee**

Jacksonville District is working to validate assumptions made in a report to Congress when the Central Everglades Planning Project was authorized. This project allows for construction of features that will improve conveyance of water from Lake Okeechobee to points south. It also calls for degrading levees in Water Conservation Area 3 and increasing capacity of water control structures that will improve flow toward Everglades National Park.

The district continues planning efforts on the Western Everglades Restoration Project that seeks



to reestablish sheetflow across the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation while maintaining existing flood protection. A tentatively selected plan is expected in 2019. Additionally, Jacksonville District staff are providing technical assistance on the South Florida Water Management District's study for a reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area which was authorized by the Florida legislature for water storage south of Lake Okeechobee.

### **Southern Everglades**

Jacksonville District continues construction on features associated with the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod

Waters) and C-111 South Dade projects. These features will allow water managers to send more water into Northeast Shark River Slough in Everglades National Park while providing flood mitigation for property owners in the area. Additionally, operational testing is underway to develop an intergrated water control plan for the southern portion of the system.

Construction is substantially complete for the L-31E flow-way components of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project near Miami. This project helps improve the ecology of Biscayne Bay and nearby wetlands.



Construction continued during 2017 at the C-111 South Dade project near Homestead, Fla. When finished, this project will restore hydrologic conditions to a more natural state while maintaining existing levels of flood protection for property owners in the area.

# Coastal & Flood Risk Management



Two Jacksonville District inspectors walk a portion of the Herbert Hoover Dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee in September following Hurricane Irma. Jacksonville District staff help reduce flood risk by conducting regular inspections on the Herbert Hoover Dike and other levees in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Half of Americans live within 50 miles of the coast, and weather-related disasters have tripled in the last 30 years. This fact wasn't lost on citizens after Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated portions of Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands this past year.

Jacksonville District constructs and maintains over 30 percent of the nation's coastal risk management projects. The program includes 25 projects in 17 counties, which protect billions of dollars of infrastructure on more than 134 miles of Florida shoreline.

The goal of federal shore protection projects is to reduce risk and promote coastal resilience. Engineered beaches are designed to erode from natural storm and wave action over time which helps protect land-side infrastructure such as roads, utilities, businesses and homes.

Jacksonville District nourished ten miles of eroded beach **at the Duval County Shore Protection Project**. They also rebuilt dunes devastated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The completed work played a significant role in reducing damages to communities when Hurricane Irma passed through.

The Miami Beach erosional hotspots was completed March 2017, and is a part of the overall **Miami-Dade County Shore Protection Project**.

A number of contracts for shore protection projects

were awarded this year, with construction kicking-off in fiscal year 2018. Projects include St. Johns, Pinellas, Dade, Nassau, St. Lucie, and Martin counties.

Jacksonville District leads the way for the South Atlantic Division as the Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Center of Expertise. Managing sediment on a regional scale results in significant cost savings and environmental benefits.

Sand placement using material dredged from the Intercoastal Waterway and the St. Augustine Inlet was placed on the most critically eroded areas of Vilano Beach for the very first time using RSM practices.

Vilano Beach residents received welcome news after the Chief of Engineers signed the **St. Johns County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study**. The Chiefs Report now awaits action by Congress. The recommended plan includes approximately three miles of beach and dune renourishment within Vilano Beach and a small portion of South Ponte Vedra Beach.

## **Inland projects reduce flooding risk...**

Jacksonville District's Flood Risk Management projects include reducing the level of flood risk through shore protection projects on Florida's coastline, as well as increasing the level of protection for major metropolitan areas in

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Inland projects ensure dam and levee safety to reduce flooding risk. Flood risk management projects avoid \$8 of damages for each \$1 invested. Corps projects have prevented over \$500 billion in damages (2004-2013).

Jacksonville District has oversight of over 30 levee systems that reduce flooding impacts and provide other water resource benefits for people, businesses, critical infrastructure, and the environment.

Six sponsors in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are primarily responsible for operations and maintenance of over 900 miles of levees. The Corps performs screening-level risk assessments and works with sponsors to communicate risk and develop actions that reduce that risk. Jacksonville District conducted routine (annual) inspections of 27 systems

totaling 365 miles of levees.

We continue our efforts to reduce risk at **Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD)**. Two contracts were awarded to replace three water control structures. We have taken action on 27 of 32 of these structures at the dike. In 2017, the district received \$68 million for restoration at HHD – which is more than one-fifth of the total national dam safety appropriations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dams.

In Puerto Rico, work continues on the **Rio Puerto Nuevo and Rio de la Plata projects** in and around San Juan to reduce flood risk in residential and industrial areas.

The district continues to execute a number of response and recovery actions in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We are fully committed to ensuring the communities of Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands recover from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.



Construction continues on a water control structure at Herbert Hoover Dike near Clewiston. Jacksonville District is replacing more than two dozen structures as part of a program to rehabilitate the dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee.

# Regulatory

Protecting the nation's aquatic resources while authorizing development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions, the Jacksonville District continues to advance its efforts to protect the waters of the United States.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for regulating structures and work in navigable waters of the U.S. under Sections 9 and 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. (including wetlands) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps also regulates the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of ocean disposal under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. The purpose of the regulatory program is to protect navigation and the nation's aquatic resources, while authorizing development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. Jacksonville District, home of the nation's largest regulatory program, had an active fiscal year. Between Oct. 1, 2016 and Oct. 1, 2017, the regulatory team delivered more than 9,500 actions to the public.

## **Emergency Permitting**

Alternative/emergency procedures are used to authorize actions or work that are considered to be emergencies, which may include, but are not limited to, the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S., and in work in navigable waters of the U.S., to include dredging to restore navigation and relieve flooding, stabilization of eroded shorelines, repair and replacement of authorized structures including docks and bulkheads, installing temporary utility lines and access roads, replacing existing roads and bridges, installing water intake structures and removal and disposal of debris in waters.

The Corps of Engineers regulations define an emergency as a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen,

and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures.

The district issued 12 emergency permits following Hurricane Matthew and processed approximately 23 actions, including five permits in response to Hurricane Irma prior to October 2017.

## **General Permitting**

General Permits are issued on a nationwide or regional basis for projects that are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual or cumulative impacts. These permits are issued for five-year periods. Of the more than 9,500 actions, 3,435 of those were general permit actions.

## **Mitigation Banking**

Nationwide, the Corps oversees nearly half a million acres of wetlands in mitigation banks. A mitigation bank is a wetland, stream or other aquatic resource areas that a banking sponsor has restored, established, enhanced or preserved. This resource area is set aside to compensate for future impacts to aquatic resources resulting from permitted activities. The bank's value is determined by quantifying the aquatic resource functions restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved in terms of credits. The Corps' goal is to have sustainable compensation that will meet the needs of the watershed in which the impacts occurred.

During FY17, the District's regulatory program processed four mitigation banks, 75 active banks and 52 banks in review.

## **Enforcement/Compliance**

Federal regulations provide authority for the Corps to respond when activities are conducted without required permits (unauthorized) and when activities are not conducted in compliance with the terms and conditions of issued Department of the Army

permits (non-compliance).

The Corps' enforcement program is based on policy of the regulation of the waters of the United States by discouraging activities that haven't been properly authorized. If a violation is suspected, steps are taken to inspect the suspected violation in a timely manner.

In FY17, the district's enforcement section resolved more than 30 cases of non-compliance and more than 40 cases on unauthorized activities.

### **Partnering**

Jacksonville District partners with various state, local and other federal entities on various programmatic initiatives to improve the efficiency of the Regulatory Program while protecting the aquatic environment and navigation. Through the district's partnering with National Marine Fisheries Service(NMFS) on JAXBO, a programmatic Biological Opinion covering

Florida, Puerto Rico, and the USVI, more than 40,000 Endangered Species Act consultations for water based activities are expected to be covered between 2017 and 2022, significantly reducing the workload of NMFS and improving the timeframes for permit decision making.

The Regulatory Division is also partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on revised programmatic keys on the Florida Bonneted Bat and Eastern indigo snake. These efforts translate into improved permitting efficiencies.

### **Balanced Decision-making**

In making its decisions, the Corps considers the value of the aquatic ecosystems involved, the views of government agencies, interest groups and 21 public interest factors. Every permit application is objectively reviewed within the same laws and regulations. The Corps is neither a proponent or opponent of any project.



Jacksonville District Deputy Regulatory Chief Tori White talks about rules and policies within the US Army Corps of Engineers regulatory program during a tour in early 2017. The Corps' regulatory program seeks to protect the nation's aquatic resources while providing fair and reasonable decisions on proposed activities near waterways and wetlands.

# Real Estate



The District's Real Estate Division facilitated the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps Main Station from Orlando to Tampa. This is the third facility of this type in the United States.

Jacksonville District's Real Estate Division ensures the federal government has sufficient real estate interests necessary to support the construction, operations and maintenance of both civil works and military projects. It is a full service organization, with capability to plan, map, appraise, negotiate and close a transaction.

To complete these actions, the Real Estate Division is comprised of four branches; acquisition, appraisal, management and appraisal, and the planning and control branch. Each branch works together to achieve the division's yearly accomplishments. The appraisal branch is responsible for estimating and reviewing real estate values for project planning and real estate actions and prepare economic updates for projects, which are used to calculate cost-benefit ratio.

During the course of the fiscal year, Real Estate Division completed five re-appraisals associated with the Kissimmee River Restoration project: A & G Cattle, Lykes Brothers, Chandley Point/Grape Hammock, Dougherty and Rolling Meadows. The completion of these crediting reviews with the re-appraisals amounted to approximately \$58 million in Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocations, and Disposal crediting.

The division's acquisition branch engages in tasks related to the acquisition of real property for Jacksonville District, civil works, and local cooperation projects and for the military. After three years of negotiations, the team successfully closed on the Airboat Association of Florida parcel. This acquisition of a permanent easement was a high profile action worked for a number of years and a rare instance where the Corps acquires real estate. Acquisition of the parcel is necessary for the Modified Water Deliveries to

the Everglades National Park project.

In August 2017, the Real Estate Division certified the Department of Interior had obtained the requisite for the project.

The management disposal branch issues and manages the authorizations for others to use Army-controlled real property for a variety of Congressionally-proposed purposes. This branch also handles the disposal of all civil and military real estate no longer needed by the Army. It coordinates real estate support for other agencies, including Environmental Protection Agency Superfund projects and emergency response actions by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Recruiting Program, a stand-alone mission in the management disposal branch funded by the Army, saved the government \$1.1 million dollars during 2017 when it facilitated the relocation of the Marines Main Station from Orlando to Tampa. The new facility allows the Marines to train troops and perform physical fitness tests for new recruits in one location. This is the third facility of this type in the United States. The Real Estate Division successfully completed its role in the recruiting program by executing 165 actions valued at more than \$13 million, including \$1.1 million in security upgrades.

Other accomplishments include the completion of 12 Real Estate Planning Reports and other credit package reviews and land certifications including the certification that Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources obtained the estates for the Rio de la Plata project in September 2017.

# Operations and Recreation

The Operations Division operates and maintains civil works projects throughout Florida and Puerto Rico for the purpose of navigation, flood damage reduction, environmental stewardship and recreation.

Over the past year, the division's Emergency Operations, Invasive Species Management, Multi Project, and Surveying/Mapping branches all stepped up to meet special challenges posed by Tropical Storm Hermine and hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Maria.

The Hydrographic Survey team started fiscal year 2017 with a heavy load of 31 project condition surveys in the wake of Tropical Storm Hermine and Hurricane Matthew, in addition to their regular surveying mission. They ended the year with 15 clearance surveys at ports, making it possible for the ports to reopen within one week, allowing the transportation of fuel, vital to the recovery of south Florida and Puerto Rico in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The Water Management Section provided exceptional service this year, often working seven days a week throughout the wet season, to manage the water infrastructure throughout south Florida, as we worked through hurricanes and high water issues.

Monitoring, preparation and recovery were the name of the game for the team at the South Florida Operations Office in Clewiston. Post Hurricane Irma recovery actions included reopening the Okeechobee Waterway within 48 hours, initiating repairs at critical locations, and inspecting the 143-mile long Herbert Hoover Dike for issues – often on a daily basis.

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) team broke new ground this year while providing support to the Corps' Detroit District. The team conducted their first-ever flights over Canadian airspace at the Corps' Soo Locks in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, on the

U.S. and Canadian border, mapping the treacherous rapids downstream of the locks.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of aquatic plant management crews in the Palatka office, floating invasive plants on the St. Johns River were at the lowest levels they have been in years. Their efforts played an important part in keeping waterways open during the high water events in north Florida associated with Hurricane Irma. In addition to their field work, two Corps biologists published scholarly papers: "Understanding the value of research on hydrilla resistance to fluridone in Florida" by David Lattuca, and "Object-based classification of wetland vegetation using very high-resolution unmanned air system" by Jon Morton.

Jacksonville District's day-use and campground areas at the W.P. Franklin, Ortona, Moore Haven, Port Mayaca and St. Lucie Lock and Dam remain popular spots for recreation along the Okeechobee Waterway, with 312,000 visitors in fiscal year 2017. Park rangers and volunteers conducted 106 outreach and interpretive programs for 12,963 participants, including life-saving water safety presentations.



Thomas Spencer launches a NOVA Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with a 9-foot wingspan over Eagle Bay on the northwest side of Lake Okeechobee. This technology provides rapid acquisition of high-resolution aerial surveys to support various Army Corps infrastructure and natural resource monitoring efforts in both land and aquatic environments, such as this effort to monitor management of invasive water hyacinth.

# Corps Day Awardees

## Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program Senior Leader of the Year – Donnie Kinard



Chief, Regulatory Division Donnie Kinard was recently honored as the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program Senior Leader of the Year.

His solid commitment and selfless service to the EEO program, and his dedication to providing opportunities and professional development and leadership in support of EEO is commended.



## Professional/Analytical Employee of the Year – Brad Foster

Teammates describe Brad Foster as a self-starter, organized, time-efficient, selfless, pleasant, and calm individual.

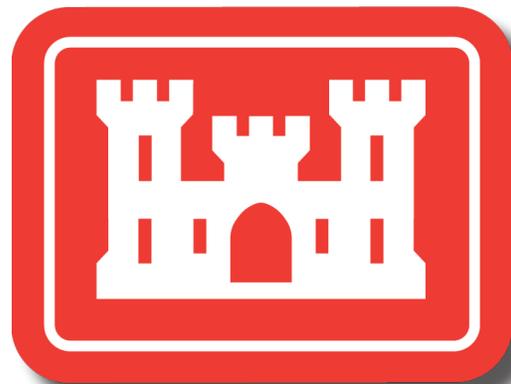
He displays an extraordinary capability in mentoring and developing junior staff of the Planning and Policy Division. Because of these outstanding qualities and his can-do attitude, Brad was named the Professional/Analytical Employee of the Year for Jacksonville District!

## Supervisor of the Year – Luis Alejandro



Some people are strictly supervisors, but it takes a special person to be considered a leader. Luis Alejandro was recently awarded and honored as the district's Supervisor of the Year.

Luis is commended for his superior performance as Chief, Water Management Section. His technical skill and leadership overcame substantial challenges following heavy El Nino rains and approaching hurricanes. He also showed excellent managerial skill in building teamwork and inspiring his team. His accomplishments have brought great credit to him, the Jacksonville District, the South Atlantic Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.





**Engineer of the Year –  
Matthew Schrader**

Our engineers are outstanding, so we couldn't choose just one person to honor this year...

Matthew Schrader was named Engineer of the Year for his exceptionally significant and unique contributions to the St. Johns County Coastal Study. His work led to a quality product, which will greatly benefit the citizens of St. Johns County. He embodies the highest qualities of an engineer and technical skill in coastal planning policy and coastal engineering.



**Technical/Support  
Employee of the Year –  
Shannetta Williams**

Our employees are the heart of our district, especially those who work in administrative support roles. We wouldn't accomplish much without their support.

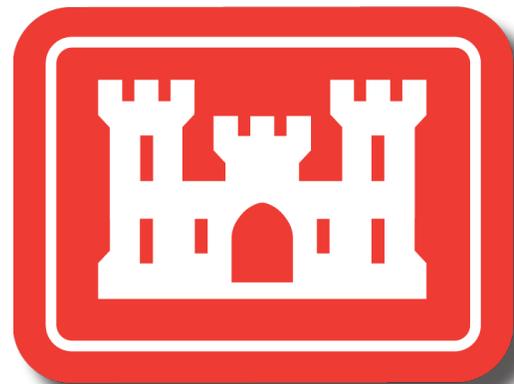
Shannetta Williams, workforce specialist, training coordinator, and lead admin support person for Planning Division received the award for Technical/Support Employee of the Year. Because of her "Do It All" attitude and excellence in performance, she is an invaluable member of the Jacksonville District team of professionals.



**Engineer of the Year –  
Dr. Edgardo Velez**

What's in a name? Our name encompasses the many outstanding engineers who continue to move our great nation forward.

Dr. Edgardo Velez recently received the district's highest honor and was named Engineer of the Year for his work as the Engineering Technical Lead for the Rio Puerto Nuevo-2D Walls project. He brought the project from concept design to award under an almost impossible schedule. His dedication and service reflects great credit on himself and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



# Emergency Management



*A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee assesses beach erosion in Florida following the passage of Hurricane Irma. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' staff from across the nation responded to Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with response and recovery efforts in the wake of Irma and Maria.*

When natural or man-made disasters or national emergencies occur, Jacksonville District's Emergency Operations Branch must be prepared to respond to these disasters. The Corps of Engineers supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in providing coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations. Jacksonville District works with its partners at the local, state, federal and tribal level to prepare for and respond to disaster or national emergency.

Since hurricanes, floods and droughts frequently occur in the district, Emergency Management staff are ready to respond. The Jacksonville District led the Corps' efforts in responding to the destruction left in the wake of Hurricane Irma which caused widespread damage in U.S. Virgin Island and the Florida Keys and Hurricane Maria that devastated Puerto Rico.

In 2017, when Hurricane Irma was moving across the Atlantic, Jacksonville District pre-positioned personnel at various locations in southern Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands in preparations for the response. When Irma struck, the storm caused major flooding and wide spread damage to homes and critical infrastructure.

Irma was the second major hurricane of the hurricane season to make landfall in the United States, following Hurricane Harvey which made land fall near Houston, Texas. Less than 10 days later, Maria followed up, causing massive destruction to Puerto Rico and near total destruction of the electrical power system.



*More than 13,000 homes in south Florida received temporary "blue roofs" after Hurricane Irma passed in September. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Temporary Roofing program is provided free of charge to qualifying home that sustained significant roof damage. The temporary roof allows residents to continue living in their home until permanent repairs can be made.*

After the hurricanes passed, the District personnel in the affected areas were able to provide vital information to the Corps team on critical infrastructure that was damaged and the assets required to respond to the Corps top three priorities: support immediate life-saving and life-safety emergency response; sustain lives with critical temporary emergency power; and initiate recovery efforts by assessing and restoring critical infrastructure.

In addition to emergency management, Jacksonville District supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission to assist Army and Defense Department in support of Overseas Contingency Operations in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq rebuilding infrastructure. Eight Jacksonville team members deployed overseas to assist in meeting the mission associated with contingency operations in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

To remain proficient and prepared, Jacksonville District staff participated in emergency management exercises held across the country, participating in six exercises involving state, local and other federal response agencies testing various response scenarios. They conducted a hurricane rehearsal with other districts in the Corps' South Atlantic Division. Emergency management staff also facilitated meetings in Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands between federal agencies and local governments.



*Natural disasters generate tons of debris that requires disposal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assisted with clearing debris in Puerto Rico and provided technical assistance to local officials on debris management in Florida following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.*

# Military Programs / IIS



The Jacksonville District is renovating a building at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, in support of the Defense Logistics Agency.

The Military/Interagency & International Services (MIL-IIS) branch is unique in its ability to provide direct and reachback support. It currently supports 18 different customers at home and abroad, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Cemetery Administration, the Defense Logistics Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, Fort Buchanan, the Army Environmental Center, and the U.S. Administration for International Development.

Contract obligations in 2017 exceeded expectations for all programs managed in the MIL-IIS branch as staff executed \$48 million in work.

Jacksonville District manages the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The district's FUDS program is the fourth largest in the Corps - executing \$18 million in 2017, and obligating 235 percent of its fiscal year 2017 baseline funding level. The accomplishments of the FUDS team are also reflected in the number of contract task orders awarded and closures achieved. Of the 19 FUDS contract actions awarded in fiscal year 2017, four were new, previously unscheduled awards. The FUDS team was able to close out 20 projects, surpassing the 16 originally scheduled.

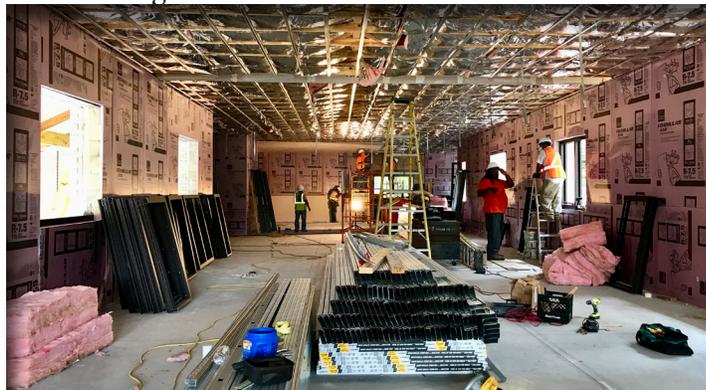
The integration of innovative technologies into our

ongoing remediation activities helps the Corps to clean up sites faster and at a reduced cost. Advanced geophysical classification (AGC) techniques and equipment such as the MetalMapper enable the project team to identify and characterize buried items with a higher degree of accuracy, reducing the need to dig up every anomaly detected. MetalMapper data helps identify the location, depth, size and symmetry of a target, which is then compared to the "signature" in a library of known objects. Harmless debris such as rebar or cans can be left in the ground, while likely munitions can be better identified and removed.

This technology is projected to reduce the total project cost by up to 60 percent, when compared to more traditional geophysical approaches.

The MetalMapper is being used on the Remedial Investigation underway at the Fort Pierce Naval Amphibious Training Base in Florida, and the Time Critical Removal Actions on the island of Culebra in Puerto Rico, where 1,300 munitions were removed in 2017.

The National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Devils Garden Restoration Construction Contract awarded in August was the first NRCS construction contract for the Jacksonville District, and is expected to set the stage for future NRCS restoration goals.



Construction of a new building to house administrative staff at the Florida National Cemetery is underway in Bushnell, Florida. Completion is expected in summer of 2018.

Work is currently underway on the Mosquito Slough NRCS wetland restoration project (WRP), intended to restore the hydrology and habitat function of previously impacted wetlands within 213 acres of a privately owned 412 acre property. Runoff water will be retained on site, rather than discharged offsite to Mosquito Creek. Construction activities include the rehabilitation of existing berms and dikes, installation of ditch plugs, construction of new berms, dikes and culverts, as well as a water control structure.

Using a Customer Account Management approach, the MIL/IIS program provides excellent support to a broad range of customers in four distinct business components: military, interagency support, environmental projects, and international infrastructure and water resources related projects.



Members of the Antilles Elementary School Student Council celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the Antilles Elementary School, accompanied by Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Director Thomas Brady, District Superintendent Dr. Emily Marsh, Community Superintendent Dr. Donato Cuadrado, Jacksonville District Deputy Commander LTC Timika Wilson, Jacksonville District Chief of Construction Steven Duba, and the school's Puerto Rico Parrot mascot.



An Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Technician collects data with a MetalMapper, an innovative time and cost-saving technology, during a remedial investigation at the Fort Pierce Naval Amphibious Training Base, a Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). Integration of advanced geophysical classification (AGC) techniques enables the project team to identify and characterize items buried under the ground with a higher degree of accuracy, reducing the need to dig up every anomaly detected. Harmless debris such as rebar or cans can be left in the ground, while likely munitions can be better identified and removed.

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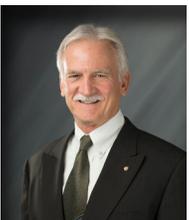
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# Jacksonville District

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