

JULY 2024



*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Community of Practice (ECOP) provides a central point to access information on all USACE environmental programs and activities. USACE supports and manages environmental initiatives across all mission areas. The ECOP provides a forum to leverage the full capacity of USACE's technical competencies across the enterprise.*

## PURPOSE

This monthly report provides a quick summary of key environmental activities from around USACE and is distributed for situational awareness.

Activities highlighted in this report are generated from bi-weekly situation reports (SITREPS) submitted by: USACE Headquarters Environmental Division, Army Regional Environmental Coordinators, USACE Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, USACE major subordinate commands, field laboratories and centers, and other USACE Headquarters directorates and offices.

## IN THIS ISSUE

### CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

- USACE Headquarters Environmental Division.
- Army Regional Environmental Coordinators.
- Engineer Research and Development Center.
- Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise.
- Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.
- Huntsville Engineering Center.
- North Atlantic Division.
- Northwestern Division.
- Pacific Ocean Division.
- South Atlantic Division.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Local cleanup event draws over 100 volunteers to remove debris dumped alongside and in river and build birdhouses to support nesting of native species.
- New technology represents significant advancement in how USACE maintains its levee and dam relief wells.
- Off-duty USACE employees assist with oil spill recovery effort in Michigan.
- Training course explains fundamental concepts of green and sustainable remediation and outlines process for incorporating into USACE environmental remediation.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

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### GOOD NEWS STORY

**USACE Environmental Professional of the Year.** On 24 JUL, HQUSACE Environmental Division announced Mr. Stephen (Eric) Kirwan as the recipient of USACE's Environmental Professional of the Year. Kirwan is a senior geophysicist for Southwestern Division (SWD)'s Regional Planning and Environmental Center (RPEC) and the South Pacific Division/Southwestern Division Range Support Center, where he is responsible for overseeing quality assurance for all Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) geophysical activities conducted within SWD. As the sole MMRP geophysicist at SWD, he currently supports more than 20 individual MMRP projects with a combined value of over \$200 million. He also serves as a mentor to technical and project managers involved with MMRP activities within the RPEC. His extensive experience with Advanced Geophysical Classification (AGC) technologies has helped modernize military munitions investigations within the RPEC and Range Support Center. Furthermore, his selfless commitment to the team has contributed greatly to SWD and the Range Support Center's ability to execute a complex and aggressive military munitions response program safely and effectively. Kirwan was selected as USACE's Environmental Professional of the Year as part of USACE's Environmental Awards Program, which recognizes teammates for their significant contributions toward protecting and preserving our environment.



### ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION (ENV DIV), HEADQUARTERS (HQ) USACE

**Army G9 Environmental Quality (EQ) Program Management Review (PMR).** On 09-10 JUL, members of the HQUSACE Army Environmental program management team briefed USACE's FY24 Army EQ program and participated in the Army EQ PMR. The Army EQ PMR was attended by representatives of Army Material Command, Installation Management Command (IMCOM), Army Environmental Command (AEC), Army National Guard, Army Reserve, G9, Surgeon General, and other Army environmental components.

**Army Reactor Council Fast Burst Reactor (FBR) Operational Review.** On 22-25 JUL, Mr. Brian Hearty, HQUSACE Deactivated Nuclear Power Plant Program (DNPPP) national program manager and Army Reactor Council (ARC) representative, participated in the annual Operational Review of the FBR and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The ARC members reviewed all areas of FBR operations, safety, radiation protection, security, nuclear surety, and decommissioning. Hearty reviewed the decommissioning and radiation protection areas and made several recommendations for consideration. The ARC approved certification of the FBR for continued operations that will keep this mission critical facility available for use.

**Environmental Advisory Board (EAB).** From 08-12 JUL, the Chief of Engineers' EAB, which is a subcommittee of the Army Science Board (ASB), attended the ASB's summer plenary session at the National Academies' Beckman Center in Irvine, California. The EAB is nearing completion of the Chief's two priority studies: one related to increasing beneficial use of dredged material, led by EAB vice-chair Dr. Eric Stein, head of the Biology Department at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project; and the other related to incorporation of nature-based solutions (NBS) into Civil Works projects, led by EAB chair Dr. Terri Hogue, Colorado School of Mines Dean of Earth and Society Programs and professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Ms. Jerica Richardson, HQUSACE Environmental Justice/Justice40 program manager, met with the EAB to discuss updates to USACE's Environmental Justice Program as context for both studies. Dr. Dimitra Syriopoulou, HQUSACE ENV DIV senior advisor, and Ms. Julie Beagle, San Francisco District ENV Planning Section chief, assisted the ASB 10 JUL with red team reviews for the NBS study. Drs. Stein and Hogue presented their findings to the full ASB 12 JUL, where the ASB approved their recommendations of Phase I and to proceed with Phase II of the two priority studies. The EAB will now finalize their reports and transmit them to LTG Spellmon. Other attendees included Ms. Mindy Simmons HQUSACE Planning and Policy DIV senior policy advisor, ENV; Dr. Kat McCain, Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) operating director; Dr. Katie Brutsche, HQUSACE Beneficial Use of Dredged Material program manager; Ms. Emma Shipley, Los Angeles District NBS and Climate Change lead; and Dr. Jen Seiter-Moser, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Environmental Lab technical director.

**Environmental Division Management Review (EDMR).** On 11 JUL, ENV DIV held its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 4th Quarter EDMR to discuss HQUSACE and major subordinate command (MSC) topics. HQUSACE topics included the FY24 Environmental Portfolio Oversight (EPO) budget execution summary, FY24/FY25 EPORA, FY25 Regional Environmental Acquisition Management Plan (REAMP), minimum data requirements (MDR), an update on the Contract Acquisition Workgroup (CAWG)/Environmental Enterprise Acquisition Strategy (EEAS), environmental awards update, and a Military Munitions Support Services (M2S2) briefing. MSC topics included environmental execution snapshot, environmental financial status, environmental metrics (MP12a, 14a, 15, and 19) quad, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program quad, Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) quad, data quality assurance, special topics from each MSC, and a list all contract awards occurring in SEP over \$1 million.

**Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Coordination Team.** On 01 JUL, the PFAS coordination team finalized an official response memo, concurring with a PFAS work acceptance request from the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) to conduct PFAS testing of sediment in Menominee Harbor, Lake Michigan, in support of management decisions for the Menominee Harbor Deepening Project. The PFAS coordination team supports the USACE-wide implementation of USACE commanding general LTG Scott Spellmon's PFAS Work Acceptance Policy by maintaining shared visibility of PFAS activities across USACE and working together toward a common and consistent approach and decision-making process for accepting and conducting work related to PFAS. Coordination team points of contact from Operations and Regulatory Division, Civil Works Office of Water Project Review, ERDC and the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX) came together to provide a coordinated response memo addressing the needs and concerns of their affected business lines. Signed by Mr. Thomas P. Smith, Operations and Regulatory Division chief, and coordinated with Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment) and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) staff, this response was a team effort that demonstrates the USACE Work Acceptance Policy is working as intended.

**SM-1A Fort Greely Site Visit.** On 10 JUL, MG Kimberly Colloton, HQUSACE deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations, and Dr. Christine Altendorf, HQUSACE director of Military Programs, toured the deactivated SM-1A nuclear reactor at Fort Greely, Alaska. The SM-1A project team led the tour and provided the status of the decommissioning planning and preparations that are in progress to implement the Army Decommissioning Permit in SEP. The SM-1A decommissioning project is anticipated to be completed in 2029. This work is being performed under DNPPP.

## ARMY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS (RECs)

**DoD REC Annual Meeting.** On 23-24 JUL, Army REC-West hosted the Department of Defense (DoD) REC Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado. DoD RECs from all Services and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regions gathered to discuss the DoD REC program, finalize executive summaries to be used for a briefing to HQ leadership, evaluate and streamline program procedures, discuss specific environmental topics, and assess the impacts from workforce reshaping of the Army's REC program. All DoD RECs will work together with Service Component RECs from each of the EPA regions to carry out the action items from this meeting and continue strengthening the DoD REC program.

## ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ERDC)

**2025 Sediment Transport Collaborative Laboratory Experiment Planning (SEDCOLAB).** On 15-17 JUL, nine academic partners from eight institutions met at the ERDC Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) to plan and coordinate the U.S. Coastal Research Program (USCRP) 2025 SEDCOLAB. They discussed all aspects of the CHL flumes and basin including capabilities, instrumentation opportunities, and project plans with SEDCOLAB Academic PIs. The visitors also toured ERDC's Vicksburg campus, exploring unique facilities such as the Watercraft and Ship Simulator, the Sediment Laboratory, and the Mt. St. Helens Physical Model.



**Greenhouse Enhances Research Capabilities.** ERDC boosted its research capabilities by installing a greenhouse high tunnel at the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL).



**Revolutionizing Relief Well Maintenance.** A new ERDC technology – Wellbot – represents a significant advancement in how USACE maintains its levee and dam relief wells. Using UVC-emitting lamps and mechanical brushes, the Wellbot autonomously removes biofilm and chemical scale, reducing hydrostatic pressures and enhancing structural integrity. Field tests at Townshend Dam showcased Wellbot’s effectiveness, and planned improvements will ensure reliable performance in diverse conditions. With construction costs under \$4,000 per unit and minimal operational expenses due to solar power, the Wellbot offers substantial cost savings and safety benefits compared to traditional methods that involve heavy machines, hazardous chemicals, and manual intervention.

**Synthetic Training Environment through Geospatial Data Collection.** ERDC personnel, in collaboration with the Army Geospatial Center Military Support Team, are creating a navigable 3D environment of the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Johnson. During a geospatial data collection mission at the JRTC 24, the team used UAS handheld and stationary devices to collect 3D point cloud data and high-resolution imagery at JRTC Military Operations in Urban Terrain sites. This 3D point cloud will be integrated with imagery data to develop a realistic 3D photomesh environment to support virtual training, as well as operational units conducting rotational training at JRTC.

**USCRP Visioning Workshop.** On 11-13 JUN, more than 115 coastal professionals from federal agencies, stakeholder groups and academia discussed key priorities for the next decade of coastal research (2025-2034) during the FY24 USCRP workshop. The event identified and prioritized key management challenges and high-priority science gaps. Read more [here](#).



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNITIONS CENTER OF EXPERTISE (EMCX)

**Building a Well-Supported Conceptual Site Model (CSM) Training.** On 03 JUL, James Salisbury and Molly Maxwell presented FUDS training course 417, “Building a Well-Supported CSM.” The FUDS Handbook requires a CSM, an integral outcome of a systematic planning process, to be developed for FUDS response actions and provides a framework for data collection activities to support project objectives. The course provided an overview of the CSM and highlighted the basics of CSM profiles and exposure pathways as outlined in EM 200-1-12. It also discussed readily accessible public databases and/or tools that may be used to build a well-supported preliminary CSM more efficiently. The course was attended by 26 students representing 11 different USACE districts.

**Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA) Program.** On 10-11 JUL, Katie Reed presented the DSMOA Program at the EPA Eastern Regional Environmental Restoration Partnership Summit in Philadelphia to over 100 attendees. Meeting participants included representatives from the Air Force, Army, Navy, National Guard and EPA, as well as state regulators from 38 states. Reed provided program fundamentals, the status of the Cooperative Agreement (CA) 22-24 and CA 24-26 for the eastern EPA regions, reviewed the 6 Step Process schedule, and responded to multiple questions concerning DSMOA CA development, the CA24 application process and review — particularly regarding initial funding, program roles and responsibilities, and current program challenges. These partnership meetings are vital to program success and provide an opportunity to better understand the needs of the DSMOA community.

**Environmental Liabilities Report.** On 12 JUL, on behalf of HQUSACE, Ben Wissenburg completed the Civil Works Non-FUSRAP Environmental Liabilities Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of FY24. The report includes quarterly expenditures pertaining to Civil Works contaminated sites. No new sites were added to the report this quarter.

**Introduction to Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) Training.** On 10 JUL, Carl Harms presented FUDS Training Course 415, Introduction to GSR. The course explained the fundamental concepts of GSR and outlined the process by which GSR can be considered and incorporated into USACE environmental remediation. Attendees from five different USACE districts/centers participated in the course, providing excellent feedback, questions, and engagement. A video of the course was recorded and will be available on the FUDS Training website for USACE personnel that were unable to attend but want to learn more about GSR.

**Petroleum Hydrocarbon Toxicity Values.** On 01 JUL, Dr. Judy Strawhecker received a response from EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System hotline concerning analytical methods applicable to petroleum hydrocarbons and the ability to assess noncancer health hazards and cancer risks associated with exposures to petroleum hydrocarbons. In SEP 2022, EPA released EPA/690/R-22/003F, “Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values for Complex Mixtures of Aliphatic and Aromatic Hydrocarbons.” The guidance provides toxicity information for some of the fractions and indicates EPA has reviewed and revised the analytical methods applicable to petroleum hydrocarbons. However, the revised analytical methods were not referenced in the SEP 2022 document prompting this inquiry to EPA for further information on the revised analytical methods. EPA responded by adding a downloadable PDF named “Description of TPH Analytical Chemistry Methods” to their websites for each of the TPH toxicity assessments, which can be accessed [here](#).

**Remedial System Evaluation (RSE) Site Visit.** On 11 JUN, the EMCX conducted a RSE site visit at the former Blaine Naval Ammunition Depot in Hastings, Nebraska, using a hybrid approach between the EMCX RSE team and the project delivery team (PDT) contractor-led optimization effort that occurs during five-year management periods for the site. A report compiling an independent EMCX RSE includes additional recommendations on remedy protectiveness, cost-effectiveness, technical improvement, site closure, and environmental footprint reduction and will be provided to the PDT in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY24.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Complete Training.** On 09–11 JUL, Mohammad Yassin and Leslie Martinez instructed RCRA Complete training for IMCOM in Omaha, Nebraska. The training covered



the following topics: making hazardous waste determinations, manifesting hazardous wastes, land disposal restriction notifications, generator standards, management of universal waste and used oil, and RCRA corrective actions. There were 18 students with a variety of disciplines and levels of expertise in attendance for the course.

**SM-1 Decommissioning Support.** On 08–12 JUL, Darrell Liles supported Baltimore District staff at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for SM-1 reactor decommissioning on behalf of the DNPPP. Liles attended project planning meetings and assisted the staff in on-site activities such as shipping waste, reviewing radiological data and performing daily quality control. This support helps ensure the completion of SM-1 decommissioning in FY26.

**Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program/Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (SERDP/ESTCP) Meeting.** On 10–11 JUL, as the SERDP/ESTCP EMCX lead, Dr. Denise Rivers participated with the technical committee on the monthly In-Progress Review meeting for a subset of projects currently funded by the programs. Nine projects were presented and included topics such as PFAS biotransformation via fungus and thermal destruction in investigation derived waste as well as field deployable oxidation-reduction potential kits and mitigation of chlorinated solvent back-diffusion and plume persistence in clay. After each day's presentations were complete, the technical committee discussed the projects and determined if action items were required to facilitate the success of the research.

**Tiger Team Review at Buxton Naval Facility FUDS.** On 12 JUL, Erin Stewart, Mike Felix, Dave Becker, and Carl Harms met with Savannah District for an update on recent work at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS in North Carolina. During the meeting, USACE geophysicists from Huntsville Center, Baltimore District and Sacramento District shared recently collected geophysics data for the FUDS site. The EMCX completed a Tiger Team evaluation of the FUDS at HQUSACE's request, and one recommendation was to use geophysical investigations to help inform future investigations. Savannah District worked with geophysicists from within USACE to quickly complete a comprehensive survey of the site.

## GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION (LRD)

**Education Outreach (LRE).** On 26 JUL, the Detroit District (LRE), in partnership with the Engineering Society of Detroit's Girls in Engineering summer program, hosted 28 middle school-aged girls from the Detroit area to discuss USACE's mission and led the group through exercises including bridge building and the hydrological benefits of wetland and flood control.



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# GIRLS IN ENGINEERING EVENT



**Event:**  
On Friday, July 26, the Detroit District, in partnership with the Engineering Society of Detroit's Girls In Engineering summer program, hosted 28 middle school-aged ladies from the Detroit area. Our staff spoke to them about the Corps of Engineers' mission, both across the Great Lakes and around the world, and led them through several exercises, including bridge building and the hydrological benefits of wetland and flood control.


**Key Take-Aways:**

- Partnering with local organizations expands our ability to reach audiences, particularly in underserved and minority communities.
- Sustained partnerships and youth outreach ensures a positive impression for the district, Corps of Engineers, and the Army, ensuring we can continue recruiting the best and brightest future engineers




**International Joint Commission (IJC) Visit to Soo Locks (LRE).** On 09 JUL, LRE welcomed a delegation from the IJC to the Soo Locks. The visitors were provided an overview of the international water management mission performed by the Lake Superior Board of Control, the importance of the Soo Locks to the nation's economy, and a New Lock overview and facility tour. Six IJC commissioners and several IJC staff members from the U.S. and Canada attended.

**Oil Spill Response (LRE).** On 15 JUL, LRE's Soo Project Office assisted the city of Sault Ste Marie and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes with an oil spill recovery effort. Off-duty Soo Project Office employees Jason Wojnaroski, Justin Proulx, Scott Aldrich, Jeff Harrington, Matt Deplonty, Matt Laitinen, Josh Fritz and Curt White were on-scene and assisted with deploying absorbent oil booms for containment within an hour of the support request. The city fire chief expressed thanks for the team's professionalism, quick action and enthusiasm to support — noting their willingness as “amazing.”



## LRD HEROES OF THE MONTH

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On the evening of 15 July 2024 Soo Project Office (SPO) assisted the City of Sault Ste Marie and USCG Sector Northern Great Lakes with an oil spill recovery effort.

The USCG initiated oil spill emergency recovery response contract services with a site mobilization time of approximately 4 hours. The wind direction started to change requiring immediate containment action to mitigate further spread into the lower St. Marys River.

SPO off-duty personnel Jason Wojnaroski, Justin Proulx, Scott Aldrich, Jeff Harrington, Matt Deplonty, Matt Laitinen, Josh Fritz and Curt White were on scene and assisted with deploying absorbent oil boom for containment within an hour of the support request.

The City Fire Chief expressed thanks for the teams professionalism, quick action and enthusiasm to support noting their willingness as “amazing”.




July 22, 2024  
Lauri/Avri Ryklegheim, Operations Manager  
Soo Locks  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Detroit District  
Re: Oil Spill Response and Support

On the evening of July 15th, 2024, the Sault Ste. Marie the department responded to a report of an 'oil sheen' observed from the St. Marys River. Initial investigations, we learned that there was a sheen noted in the Sault Ste. Marie lock area, including the Valley Camp Museum vessel under investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes.

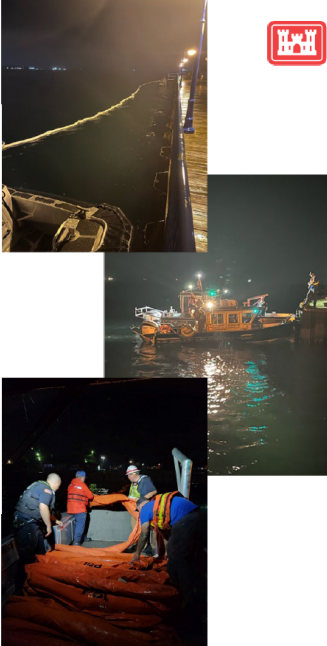
While gathering information from the U.S. Coast Guard, I contacted Jason Wojnaroski, who was at the site at the time. During the initial meeting, there was confirmation that assistance would be requested from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, however, Mr. Wojnaroski offered any assistance needed to help contain the sheen at the site that had accumulated in the area due to the flow of the river and prevailing wind conditions. The initial action was to contact a contractor for mitigation of the spill and rehabilitate the area as necessary.

As the incident evolved and weather changed, it became necessary to take measures necessary to prevent further downstream involvement with the unknown product that had accumulated in a significant amount around the Valley Camp Lake and the Valley Camp. When contractors were secured, the time for their response was being, providing the request to Mr. Wojnaroski for assistance in placement of absorbent booms and light booms in the area of the Valley Camp. Mr. Wojnaroski directed the Mr. Fritz and other personnel that with 30000 they would have the ability to assist in the boom placement. Off-duty personnel from the Army Corp of Engineers responded with a boat and barge, as well as absorbent and light booms within the hour of the request. Our personnel from the Sault Ste. Marie, under supervision and efficiently placed both booms, stopping the remedy of the unknown product into the flow of the St. Marys River. Unfortunately, I do not have the species of the unknown product, but would like to thank them for their responsiveness and quick action.

In appreciation of your efforts to help the City of Sault Ste. Marie in dealing with this situation, we sincerely thank you and your personnel for their professionalism and enthusiasm to correct the issue and assist any further. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to assist you in the future. We would be pleased to support our community. Your presence was a perfect example of a successful partnership.

Respectfully,  
  
Eric Miller  
Fire Chief  
Sault Ste Marie Fire Department

[St. Marys River oil sheen clean-up finished, source of spill still unknown – 9&10 News \(9and10news.com\)](#)



**Southern Gap High School Groundbreaking Ceremony (LRH).** On 30 JUL, Huntington District (LRH) conducted a groundbreaking ceremony of Southern Gap High School in Buchanan County, Virginia. The \$92 million project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026. It will accommodate students from the Grundy, Hurley, and Twin Valley communities. COL Jayson Putnam, LRH commander, and Bob Petersen, LRH program manager, participated in the ceremony. COL Putnam spoke to the audience about the project and recognized the efforts of all the stakeholders in making it happen. Bob Petersen was recognized as part of the ceremony for his and his team's efforts in the Southern Gap High School project.

**University Partnering (LRL).** On 16 JUL, Louisville District (LRL) partnered with the University of Kentucky during the Department of Civil Engineering's Summer Engineering Exploration Kamp (SEEK) as part of the district's engagement and recruiting initiative. LRL hosted multiple cohorts of high school seniors to show them what USACE engineers do to serve the community and the nation. The 20 incoming high school seniors attending the camp, along with camp mentors and personnel, toured the new VA Medical Center and McAlpine Locks and Dam in Louisville.

**Wabash River Cleanup (LRC).** On 27 JUL, The Wabash River Defenders hosted their annual Wabash River cleanup event with over 100 volunteers. With the assistance of Chicago District (LRC) staff at J. Edward Roush Lake, the group hosts were able to ensure adequate water levels were achieved so the event could

occur safely. The River Defenders loaded canoes with debris dumped alongside and into the Wabash River and also erected birdhouses along the river to encourage native species nesting. The event has been so successful that the River Defenders created a Wabash River Junior Defenders program to teach local 4<sup>th</sup> graders about river pollution and how they can protect their river. Since its origin in 2011, the cleanup has pulled over 174,000 pounds of debris from 19.2 miles of river.

### HUNTSVILLE ENGINEERING CENTER (HNC)

**Blasting Operations Support.** The Facilities Explosive Safety Mandatory Center of Expertise (FES MCX) provided support to the Pittsburgh District on demolition of Elizabeth Lock and Dam on the Monongahela River. Demolition is being accomplished by blasting, prompting the district to request a safety review of their blasting plan and setup. FES MCX conducted a site visit to observe barges, explosives storage, loading, and firing; and provided cross training to district staff and leadership, to ensure blasting operations, including certain nuances associated with blasting safety, were understood. Actions such as this by the FES MCX ensures appropriate safety to personnel and property while enabling districts to meet the mission.

**Quality Assurance (QA) Seeding for Guam MMRP Sites.** From 12-26 JUN, geophysicist Benton Williams travelled to Guam to conduct QA seeding in support of ongoing remediation at MMRP sites in Guam. The QA seeding team worked with on-site remediation contractors to ensure the project schedule milestones were met and the seeding firewall (mechanism to ensure QA seed locations are blind to the remediation contractors) to ensure effort was not comprised.



*A geophysicist prepares excavation for emplacement of QA seed.*



*An ordnance and explosives safety specialist confirms response of emplaced QA seed item.*

**Presentation on DoD's Data Review Process.** On 23-25 JUN, Dr. Melinda McClellan attended the DOE Consolidated Audit Program Analytical Services Program Workshop in Las Vegas. This workshop is an opportunity for DOE sites utilizing analytical services to interface with each other, laboratories, accrediting bodies, and government program representatives. Dr. McClellan presented on DoD's data review process highlighting its application to PFAS analytical data to promote a unified approach to data quality in PFAS analysis between the DoD and DOE.

**Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) Remediation at Redstone Arsenal (RSA).** Ordnance and Explosives Directorate's Chemical Warfare Design Center, U.S. Army Garrison-RSA and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity briefed DoD officials on ongoing RCWM remediation efforts at RSA. HNC is responsible for project management of the investigation and recovery of RCWM. The RSA RCWM program is estimated to be completed in 2103 at a cost of \$4.7 billion. The group included Ms. Amy Borman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment and Occupational Health; Mr. Kingston Reif, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control; and Mr. Ron Tickle, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environmental Management and Restoration. At the beginning of the tour, Borman said, "It is clear that it 'takes a village' to successfully accomplish missions like this." Read more [here](#).




## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION (MVD)

**Enhancing Partnerships at Lock and Dam 25 (MVS).** The St. Louis District (MVS) hosted the United Soybean Board at Lock and Dam 25 to discuss the importance of river projects and learn about lock operations. The Soy Transportation Coalition, with endorsement from the Soybean Board and U.S. Department of Agriculture has offered to provide \$1 million in design funds for the planned new 1200-foot lock which will significantly reduce delays and safety. Mr. Jamie Pinkham, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)), also visited Lock and Dam 25 to receive a tour of the existing lock and a brief of the planned addition.


## NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION (NAD)

**City of Boston Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study Meeting (NAE).** On 12-13 JUN, New England (NAE) project manager Jeff Herzog hosted a two-day In-Progress Review meeting to establish a shared understanding of the study City of Boston CSRM study.








### CITY OF BOSTON CSRM STUDY MEETING

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT



From 12-13 JUN, Project Manager Jeff Herzog hosted a two-day In-Progress Review meeting with USACE-internal representation from the project delivery team, ERDC, Planning Center of Expertise (PCx), MSC review team, and the HQ Office of Water Project Review. The study's non-federal sponsor (the City of Boston) also participated throughout, culminating on the second day with a boat and walking tour of the study area for USACE and COB senior leadership. This meeting established shared understanding to minimize confusion and misconceptions as we move forward through the study process.



**Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE), Bronx Zoo & Dam/Stone Mill Dam Site Visit (NAN).** On 01 JUL, representatives from New York District (NAN) and New York City Parks conducted a site visit to determine the logistics of ground and bathymetric surveys at the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Gardens. The HRE- Bronx Zoo & Dam/Stone Mill Dam Restoration Project will restore two of the 20 sites approved in the HRE Chief's Report and authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act 2020. The project will restore fish passage with natural channel design and restore riparian habitats at two locations along the Bronx River, which is the only freshwater tributary in New York City and in a highly urbanized area. Read more [here](#).

**Togo National Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Construction Celebration (NAU).** On 26 JUN, senior Togolese officials from the Ministry of Security and the National Civil Protection Agency (ANPC, based on its official name in French - l'Agence Nationale de la Protection Civile) joined leaders from the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Africa Command, North Dakota National Guard and Europe District (NAU) to celebrate the start of construction on a new National EOC to improve emergency response coordination for future natural disasters in Togo. Read more [here](#).




**Peninsula CSRM Feasibility Study (NAO).** On 26 JUL, Norfolk District (NAO) and the city of Hampton signed a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement to kick off the Peninsula CSRM Feasibility Study in partnership with the city of Hampton and neighboring municipalities. USACE received \$3 million in federal appropriations to fund the study through the Disaster Relief Act of 2019. The Peninsula CSRM Study is a comprehensive investigation of coastal storm risks and risk management solutions for the Peninsula Region. Read more [here](#).

### NORTHWESTERN DIVISION (NWD)

**Modernization of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT).** On 11 JUL, the United States and Canada reached an agreement in principle on modernization of the CRT. The agreement in principle represents a modernized regime that will benefit both countries through commitments on indigenous inclusion, ecosystem, power coordination, and flood risk management. The White House announcement can be found [here](#).

**Senior Leader Visit (NWO).** On 24 JUL, LTG Scott Spellmon, 55<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of USACE, visited the Omaha District (NWO). Spellmon received an overview of the district's mission, met with the corporate board and facilitated a townhall. Additionally, Spellmon visited Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, to see the district's efforts in rebuilding the southeastern portion of the base following the MAR 2019 flood that covered one-third of the installation with 720 million gallons of flood water.







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## CHIEF OF ENGINEERS / USACE COMMANDING GENERAL VISIT


OMAHA DISTRICT, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

**NWD Priority:** People  
**WHO:** 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of USACE  
**WHAT:** Omaha District Visit  
**WHEN:** July 24, 2024  
**WHERE:** Omaha, Nebraska  
**WHY:** Opportunity to further educate the CG on the Omaha District's mission.  
**WHAT'S NEXT:** Continue to serve as the federal engineer of choice.



**SUMMARY:**  
 LTG Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of USACE, visited the Omaha District July 24, 2024. The general received an overview of the District's mission, met with the corporate board and facilitated a townhall with the intent of increasing awareness of opportunities for USACE employees to serve in the SES. In addition, the general visited Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, to see the District's efforts in rebuilding the southeastern portion of the base following the March 2019 flood that covered one third of the installation with 720 million gallons of flood water. In addition, the district is also planning upgrades at Offutt in anticipation of the Survivable Airborne Operations Center mission's arrival.



### PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION (POD)

**Cape Yakak FUDS (POA).** On 06 JUL, Alaska District (POA) completed a remedial investigation and limited removal action work at the Cape Yakak FUDS in Alaska. Field execution was delayed for three weeks due to weather, barging and transportation issues. Located in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the site was used by the Army Air Corps between 1942-1945 as a radar and communication site.

**Huslia Tribal Meeting (POA).** On 27 JUN, POA met with the Huslia Tribe at their village located west of Fairbanks and only accessible by plane. The tribe's most pressing concern was the Aloha Creek regulatory permitting action. This permit would affect 11.4 acres of Waters of the United States by allowing the applicant to discharge fill removed for placer mining activities. This was the first in-person meeting held with the tribe in more than three years and was successful in rebuilding rapport and connections with an Alaska Native partner.



**Permafrost Tunnel Research Complex Operations Facility Groundbreaking (POA).** On 25 JUN, POA commander COL Jeffrey Palazzini joined Dr. David Pittman and COL Christian Patterson of ERDC as well as Dr. Ivan Beckman of the CRREL in celebrating the start of construction for a new operations facility at the CRREL Permafrost Tunnel Research Complex in Fox, Alaska. Spanning 4,300 square feet, the facility will include a laboratory with cold storage, garage and maintenance spaces as well as offices and a visitor area. Watch the ground-breaking ceremony video [here](#).



**US Army Corps of Engineers**



Alaska District

### Alaska District Groundbreaking Ceremony Operations Facility at Permafrost Tunnel Research Complex

**WHAT:** COL Jeffrey Palazzini, District commander, joined COL Christian Patterson and Dr. David Pittman of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center as well as Dr. Ivan Beckman of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in celebrating the start of construction for a new operations facility at the CRREL Permafrost Tunnel Research Complex.

**WHEN:** June 25, 2024

**WHERE:** Fox, Alaska

**IMPACT:** The new structure will provide important support to the project's research team, contributing to significant advances in permafrost engineering and geotechnical research. Spanning 4,300 square feet, the facility will include a laboratory with cold storage, garage and maintenance spaces as well as offices and a visitor area.

Situated on a 16-acre parcel, the Permafrost Tunnel Research Complex consists of a 650-meter-long tunnel dug into a large block of continuous permafrost.



## SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION (SAD)

**Clemson Diversion Dam Tabletop Exercise (SAS).** On JUL 24, Savannah District (SAS) conducted a dam safety tabletop exercise for the Clemson Diversion Dams, involving Clemson University, local county emergency management teams, and South Carolina Emergency Management. Approximately 50 participants engaged in discussions and worked through an emergency scenario involving a high-water event and an imminent breach of the Clemson Diversion Dam saddle dike. This exercise, required every two years since the Clemson Diversion Dams were reclassified as Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) 2 in AUGt 2023, focused on improving response strategies and coordination.

**Enduring District Established in Caribbean (SAA).** On 26 JUL, Task Force Virgin Islands Puerto Rico transitioned into the Caribbean District (SAA). The Caribbean District has the mission of delivering a multi-billion-dollar Civil Works program over the next decade in the region. The new organization assumed oversight of military construction projects, navigation initiatives, emergency response efforts, Interagency and International Services, among other programs. It also maintains the role as the local construction agent for other districts within the region. The district is Headquartered in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and is led by COL Charles Decker and DPM Jackie Keiser. Read more [here](#).

**Flagler County CSRM (SAJ).** On 05 JUL, dredging operations commenced at Flagler Beach with the Hopper Dredge R.B. Weeks. Dredged material is being screened for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the pipeline outfall with the Eastman Extractor 3300 machine. The screened-out shell is spread out ahead of the operations and scanned for metal detection and visual observations for MEC and UXO before being incorporated back into the beach fill. This project will provide an initial nourishment of beach fill and dune along approximately 2.6 miles of shoreline along Flagler Beach, in Flagler County, Florida. Read more [here](#).



**Map Published in ESRI Map Book (SAC).** Mr. Charlie Kaufman, a geographer in Charleston District (SAC), now has his map published in the prestigious ESRI Map Book (volume 39). The map entitled “Modeling Potential Storm Surge Impacts for South Carolina” used updated storm surge modeling from the National Hurricane Center. From this new data, a model was developed to estimate acreage impacted along with depth of water for the coastal counties of South Carolina. Graphics of this nature allow emergency managers another tool in designing evacuation zones and making preparedness decisions.

**Student Engagement (SAJ).** On 8-9 JUL, Jacksonville District (SAJ) conducted a workshop and site visit for 18 Army fellows, summer interns and DoD SMART Scholars students. Participants met with technical specialists who exchanged knowledge on Coastal Engineering 101, design maturity, and new technology in design. They also engaged with senior leadership in the district’s Engineering and Planning divisions. Additionally, they participated in a site visit of the Duval County Shore Protection Project and observed earth-moving operation and mobile surveying by the Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy.

**JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**  
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL

The Jacksonville District conducted a workshop and site visit for 18 students (Army Fellows, Summer Interns, & DoD SMART Scholars) on 8-9 July. On 8 July, technical specialists exchanged knowledge on Coastal Engineering 101, design maturity, and new technology in design. The students were also afforded an opportunity to engage with senior leadership in Engineering and Planning Divisions.

On 9 July, the students participated in a site visit of Duval County Shore Protection Project and was provided an overview of the project by Jason Harrah, Project Manager, and James McRae, Resident Engineer. They were able to observe the earth moving operation and mobile surveying by the Coastal Research Amphibious Buggy. This engagement/teambuilding event was an investment in the Corps' future sustainability.

**Key Area**  
*People*

**Tribal Listening Session (SAS).** On 25 JUL, SAS hosted a Tribal Listening Session in Oklahoma, attended by representatives from the district’s Executive Office, Regulatory and Planning divisions and representatives from two tribal governments. Topics included Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, overview of USACE’s mission areas, proposed changes to Appendix C, the modernization of Civil Works processes, and updates to the Tribal Consultation Policy. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation shared their history and discussed the importance of their tribal ancestral lands. The Cherokee Nation hosted a tour where USACE representatives were provided with a private tour of the Cherokee National History Museum. This engagement enabled district representatives to continue building trust-based relationships with the community.

**Water Safety Training (SAW).** On 11 and 18 JUL and 01 AUG, Wilmington District (SAW) Ranger Elaine Wittry and community member (volunteer) Ms. Angela White conducted water safety outreach at the Ebenezer Church Recreation Area on Jordan Lake. White’s son, Kristoffer, tragically drowned at Jordan Lake in 2023, and she is making it her mission to educate other families about the dangers of open water.



## SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION (SPD)

**Enhancing Tribal Drought Resilience and Erosion Mitigation (SPA).** On 26 JUN, Albuquerque District (SPA) held signing ceremonies for both the Abiquiu Water Storage Agreement and the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) under the Tribal Partnership Program (TPP) for the Pueblo of Isleta's Cultural Resource Preservation of Pottery Mound. The Water Storage Agreement will allow Rio Grande water storage at Abiquiu Dam. This update, crucial due to El Vado dam construction, enables concurrent storage of San Juan-Chama Project and Rio Grande System water, enhancing drought operation flexibility. In a separate signing ceremony, the Pueblo of Isleta and SPA signed a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement to address erosion at Pottery Mound, a significant cultural site. Initiated in 2014 and enabled by recent TPP changes, this first-of-its-kind project in SPD aims to preserve tribal heritage. ASA(CW) Michael Connor attended both ceremonies, recognizing their significance and the critical work USACE does to support tribal communities.



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