

# News from the Savannah River Site

U S DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • AIKEN • SC 29808

Principal Media Contact: Lindsey MonBarren  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC  
803.952.8053  
[lindsey.monbarren@srs.gov](mailto:lindsey.monbarren@srs.gov)

DOE Media Contact: Bill Taylor  
803.952.8564  
[bill.taylor@srs.gov](mailto:bill.taylor@srs.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## South Carolina National Guard Training at the Savannah River Site

AIKEN, S.C. August 11, 2015 – The South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) 124th and 125th Engineer Companies, 122nd Engineer Battalion, used the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site (SRS) to conduct an annual training exercise, July 11-24. This exercise produced both labor benefits for SRS, as well as a training opportunity for the SCNG soldiers who completed three projects that included earthmoving, brush clearing and erosion control.

SCNG removed a failing dam at the New Fire Pond, a former farm pond that was in place prior to the creation of the Site. The dam was in need of upgrades and is not part of Site mission needs. The soldiers also improved a water runoff outfall by contouring a sediment pond to natural grade, and cleared debris caused by the 2014 polar vortex ice storm.

“These project sites were not funded or on a critical needs list; however, they would have eventually needed to be performed,” said David Bender, Director, DOE Infrastructure and Area Completion Division. “SCNG coordinated with various Site organizations to plan the training, and worked closely with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Site Services and Environmental Compliance. They helped SRS by safely completing these projects for just the cost of the materials used. The feedback we received showed that it provided some great training for SCNG soldiers and high quality work for SRS.”

For the past few years, the U.S. military has been conducting specialized training at SRS under a Joint Standard Operating



*South Carolina National Guard Engineers put their heavy equipment and earth moving skills to use during an annual training exercise at SRS recently where the soldiers performed earth moving and erosion control measures on projects at the Site.*

Procedure developed after an environmental assessment determined that the use of limited areas of the Site would not cause harm to the environment. All military training is planned in advance, involving a series of coordination meetings prior to a training event. Additionally, military members must comply with the Site safety culture and coordinate all vehicles, aircraft and equipment used. There is no military live fire training at SRS.

Military training at SRS was originally coordinated with Ft. Gordon's training command. As SCNG began using SRS for military training more frequently, they agreed to provide a full-time liaison for National Guard and other military units that desired to use some of the unique training opportunities at SRS. Tommy Stribling, an Afghanistan veteran, works for SCNG and is the full-time liaison at the Site.

"This was the first time a military unit has come to the Site and completed projects like these," said Stribling.

"SCNG asked if there were any projects for their engineer companies to perform at SRS. Many of their normal projects frequently use heavy equipment operators, so SCNG was looking for some jobs that would test the planning and leadership abilities of their company-level leadership," Stribling said. "The exercise and overall work was successful because of a large amount of cooperation across the Site. DOE and SRNS worked at selecting the sites, and ensured all SRS requirements were met. We also had a lot of help from Centerra-SRS and the SRS Operations Center."

SRNS Site Services employees Robert "Skip" Brown and Joe Ormand worked with Office of Infrastructure Services Division of DOE's Assistant Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Services to select the project sites. Brown and Ormand also worked with DOE and SCNG to coordinate training.

"Because of the quality of their leadership, the exemplary skill of these soldiers, and their incredible inventory of earth-moving equipment, SCNG has exceeded our expectations by completing this project ahead of schedule, while meeting the high standard we set for work performed on this Site," said Brown.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

Visit us on the web at [www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

SRNS- 2015 – 378