



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Savannah District

News Release

Corps Awards Contract for Archaeological Work on CSS Georgia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, GA. -- Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District announced today that a contract in the amount of \$375,000 was awarded to Gulf South Research Corporation of Baton Rouge, La., on May 28 to conduct archaeological investigations of the Confederate Ironclad, *CSS Georgia*. The historic wreck is located in the Savannah Harbor on the edge of the navigation channel opposite Old Fort Jackson.

The studies will determine the effects of the existing harbor navigation project upon the wreck site and identify and evaluate alternatives to mitigate or avoid these effects. The studies will also identify potential effects and mitigation or avoidance alternatives for the proposed Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. According to Corps spokesman, Jim Parker, "These studies will produce a very basic planning document that can be used to make short- and long-range decisions about the management of the wreck site, with or without channel deepening." The studies are funded by the Savannah District and the Georgia Ports Authority.

The work will be conducted by two subcontractors, Tidewater Atlantic Research of Washington, N.C., and Panamerican Consultants of Memphis, Tenn. It will consist of mapping the site using remote sensing equipment such as a multibeam hydrographic survey system, a side scan sonar and a magnetometer, as well as diver investigations. Divers will make more detailed maps of the wreck site and probe to determine the locations of buried materials, establish the length and width of the hull, and determine the depth and character of sediments at the wreck site.

The work will begin in mid-June and take about 6 weeks. The public is asked not to visit the site while work is in progress. Savannah District Commander, Colonel Roger A. Gerber

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said, "Since the contractor can only dive during the 3- to 4-hour periods around slack tide, time will be critical to them. Even minor interruptions could seriously hinder their ability to accomplish their work. Also, the environment in which they will be working can be extremely dangerous, and small boat traffic could compromise the safety of the divers."

The public is encouraged to view the site from Old Fort Jackson using binoculars. Corps of Engineers personnel are available to speak to organizations and clubs about the work.

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Media representatives wanting more information should contact Jim Parker at (912)652-5270/5279.

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