



THE TREE LINE

News for Sunland Construction & Affiliates

Gulf Coast Division

August 2018 Edition Gotta Dig-It

Your Hard Work in the Spotlight. Thanks to you for your hard work. Your professionalism and workmanship have kept jobs in the pipeline.

There are a number of jobs currently underway. If you are between jobs and are looking for a good opportunity, feel free to contact the Division Office to find out what work is available.

As we approach the end of another fiscal year in the Gulf Coast Division, we look back and reflect on the “about face” this division has made in a years’ time. We reflect on the resiliency of the employees and the support of management. Sunland is a project-orientated company, and success on any project would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our great employees within this division.

Change is inevitable and with change, opportunities are presented that may not have been present otherwise. Division 17 saw many changes over the course of fiscal year 2018. With the combination of SFS Texas and the Gulf Coast division, obstacles presented themselves but have since been overcome and the division is firing on all cylinders. The outlook for this year is a very promising one.

Early this year in March, all the PMs within the Gulf Coast project management team met and held a “team building” open discussion meeting. With the always entertaining and motivated guidance from Joe Cimbak, we reviewed lessons learned from past projects, made an Affinity Diagram & brainstormed on ways to make our division better. Our Executive team even helped and got involved.

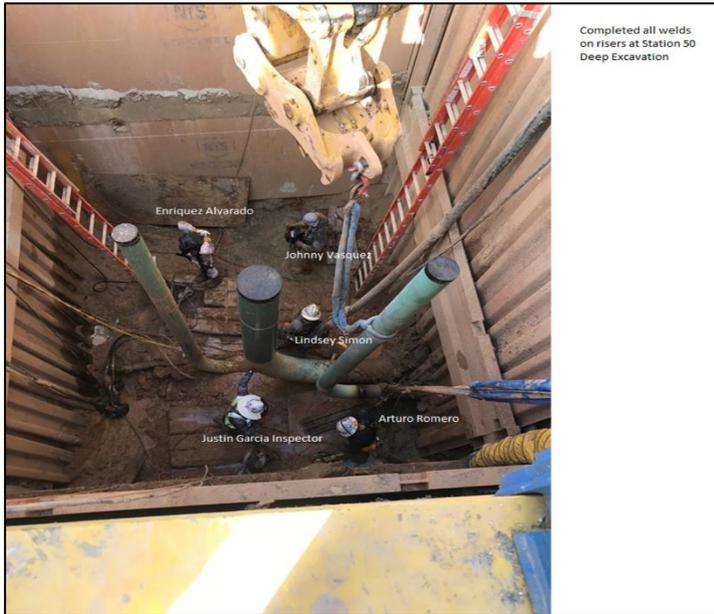
Thanks to Walter Ward for his support and insight. In this meeting, we asked that all PMs be brutally honest concerning ways to improve upon Sunland’s Project Management model. This Meeting was a huge success. Shout out to Randy Maturin and Tanner Patterson for their dedication, support and leadership during this meeting. We would also like to thank Crystal Albarado and Emili Delcambre for their help and added value to this meeting.



Left to Right: Andrew Thom, Jack Pinson, Chase Fruge, Travis Stevenson, Tanner Patterson, Emili Delcambre, Mitch Parham, Crystal Albarado, Bridger Durham, Garret Guidry, Victor Williams, Josh Watson, Jordan Deville, Kyle Vidrine and Kevin Kamata.



Project involved 4.4 miles of 8" and 1.76 miles of 16" in La Porte, TX. Project involved (3) different corridors along with a 25' deep excavation as illustrated in the picture below. Big thanks and congratulations to Luke Veillon – Superintendent, Mitch Parham – PM and all the crews involved helping make this project a success.



Crews make tie ins on (2) 8" pipelines and (1) 16" pipeline 25' deep.

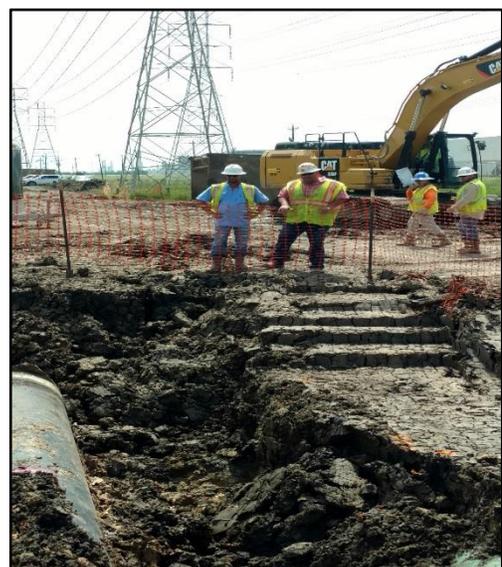


Crews get ready to pull (2) 8" pipelines and (1) 16" pipeline bundle across a corridor in La Port, TX.

Project involved 2.1 miles of 36", 2.1 miles of 14" & 1.3 miles of 18". Superintendent – Michael "Biguen" Cardwell and PM – Kevin Kamata are still currently working on this project in Pasadena, TX. This project is a very challenging project but Michael and his crews have done an excellent job thus far in ensuring this is a successful project. Thanks to Michael, Kevin and crews for all your hard work on this project.



Crew is backfilling pipe at one of the terminals on site. Pictured – Operator – Cody Oliver, Foreman – James Wedgewroth, Aldo Casiano, Victor Pena, Jose Basa, Luis Manzano & Efrain Zepada.



Superintendent Michael Cardwell and Foreman Beau Gary are discussing a 36" tie in at a bore exit.

Project consists of the installation of 291,348' (55.18 miles) of 24" pipe from LA State Hwy 3083 and terminating inside a terminal in St. James, LA. This project consists of (3) spreads – inside and outside of the Atchafalaya basin –these (2) spreads were handled by Carl Ledet and crew and the land lay portion was handled by our Eastern division under the supervision of Marty and Lance McNease. The project management team consists of Todd Ferry – PM, Jack Pinson – Field Engineer and Travis Stevenson – Field Engineer.



24" Marsh Tie-In.



Marsh Excavator Digging.



24" Push Pack.



Co-worker Connection



Mitch Parham
Project Manager
Gulf Coast Division
Division 17

Which company do you work for and how many years of service? I have been with Sunland Construction, Inc. for 7 months.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Fishing with my wife in East Matagorda Bay.

Where do you see yourself (career wise) in 10 years? I'm honestly not sure where I will be in 10 years.

What kind of music do you listen to? I enjoy a variety of music. It really depends on the current setting.

This year, what has been your biggest work-related challenge? My biggest work related challenge is managing time between an active project and estimating for future work.

This year, what has been your biggest work-related achievement? The completion of my most recent project that involved tie ins 25' deep.

If you could have dinner with anyone past or present, who would it be and why? I would have dinner with my wife and family. I have some of my best memories from past Sunday dinners.

From Our Desk to Yours

“Core Values”

I remember attending my first Soldier of the quarter competition board when I was a young Private in the United States Army. I was barely 20 years old assigned to my first duty station, Fort Greely, Alaska. My Platoon Sergeant threw a study guide at me a few months prior and said “Study Private”. I can still vividly remember the morning of the board sitting in front of the Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and all of his company First Sergeants (1SG) who made up the board. I had memorized that study guide from front to back and was feeling pretty confident.

One of the areas covered under general military subjects was the Army’s Core Values. I had them all memorized and could spit out Webster’s definition of each of them. Then something crazy happened. The 1SG asking the question didn’t ask me to give the definition. He said “tell me in your OWN words what integrity means to you and tell us about a personal situation where you had to check your integrity or that of others.

Everything went dark, my head was spinning and I couldn’t find a way to recover. What I really wanted to say was excuse me 1SG, that’s not in the study guide but after what seemed to be the longest minute of my life with all of those old salty veterans staring through me I simply had to say “1SG I don’t know how to answer that question”. Sad to say that at that time even though I knew the definition, I just couldn’t answer what integrity was or how it applied to the real world outside of a study guide. I knew at that moment I had work to do.

The boards that followed over the years, both competition and promotion, I was prepared to answer those types of questions not because I memorized something they wanted to hear, it’s because I was living them and experiencing the good and bad of each core value in and around me. As I was promoted through the ranks I was charged with sitting on the other side of the table as a board member. I found myself asking that same question to the young Soldiers appearing before me, not because I wanted them to suffer that same experience I did so many years ago, but simply because I found it intriguing how young Soldiers from all walks of life interpreted and viewed our core values.

So all these years later, what does integrity mean to me? Most companies large and small have mission statements and a set of core values. With all companies one value is always a constant. **INTEGRITY**. It all starts with Integrity and if as a leader you don’t possess integrity and you allow your employees to see a breach in your integrity you have lost them and will never have the opportunity to regain it. Because they expect it from you. Each tiny breach may feel reasonable in the moment: such as we were just protecting ourselves, or securing some small personal advantage, or trying to avoid a conflict. But things eventually add up. One thing I learned for certain during my Military Career was that the corrosion of character had an unfortunate tendency for going viral in the Army. As anybody who’s tried to do the right thing knows, it is far harder to act with integrity when others around you do not.

I found the below statement about Integrity in some old notes and I am not quite certain who to credit but I thought it was worth sharing.

Integrity is that particular quality of character that occurs when a person stays true to their commitments. This means that a person—and in some cases an entire organization—has a point of view about what matters. They declare something of value and they stick to that endorsement. They do what they say. They stand for something, even if, and especially if, they stand to lose something in the process.

I sure wish I understood it better when I was a young Soldier on that cold Alaskan winter day; nevertheless, I learned a valuable lesson that day. I walked away realizing that in order to truly know the definition of those values and to be able to explain them, I had to live them, not simply memorize the definitions. The truth is the older we get we don’t have to think about it anymore. We simply live it and our actions are what truly demonstrate this.

Kevin Purington
Corporate HSE Manager

