



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Military partnership Improves reliability, resiliency and protects environment**

**(Okatie, South Carolina) – July 17, 2025** – A partnership between the U.S. Military, Beaufort County and Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) has made possible an important project that will enhance the Lowcountry for both civilians and defense personnel. The organizations were able to secure more than \$1.5 million in funding to construct a second ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection system and belt-filter press that will be utilized and offer redundancy at the Port Royal Water Reclamation Facility. The UV light disinfection system is used to kill any potential pathogens in our final wastewater effluent prior to discharging to local waterways. The belt-filter press removes water from biosolids reducing weight and volume prior to taking it to the landfill.

The partnership also secured \$3 million in funding to decommission aging and outdated infrastructure in Laurel Bay to connect the sanitary sewer system to the Port Royal Facility for treatment. This project will enhance the military's mission by providing a more efficient infrastructure solution with enhanced resiliency, thereby improving basic utility services for those who live and work at Laurel Bay.

"Throughout my service, we have worked diligently to prioritize the success of our military installations through proper support services and infrastructure investments," said S.C. Rep. Shannon Erickson. "The military enhancement program is a valuable asset to our region and I'm proud to work with BJWSA in facilitating these critical investments that aid our installations."

"Community, military and utility partnerships are vital to the Lowcountry economy and lifestyle," said Verna Arnette, BJWSA's General Manager. "Both of these projects are about ensuring efficient operations and enhancing resiliency for the protection of our beautiful Lowcountry ecosystem."

"In Beaufort County, we are a military driven community" said Beaufort County Council Chairwoman Alice Howard. "Our installations have a multi-billion-dollar impact on this region. Ensuring they have the critical infrastructure in place to support their mission is of vital importance."

For more information about these projects and BJWSA's other infrastructure improvements, please visit [www.bjwsa.org](http://www.bjwsa.org).

**About Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority**

BJWSA is the Southern Lowcountry's largest water and wastewater utility, serving approximately 200,000 Carolinians through 69,000 connections. The public, non-profit organization is led by a board of directors recommended by the Beaufort and Jasper County Legislative Delegations and appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. The mission of the utility is to deliver quality water and wastewater services to current and future residents of the utility's 750 square mile service area.

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