The Coast and Geodetic Survey produced scores of maps, sketches, and special surveys for military use during the Civil War. These were prepared by Survey officers at the field (left), South Carolina, South, and Washington, D.C., and in the Washington Office, where topographic and military intelligence was disseminated and compared with charts or studies of historic value. (Above: Drawing of South Carolina and Georgia.)

At the onset of the war material in the Coast Survey Office was rapidly compiled into hydrographic and tide, and, by lithographic and photographic processes, the published maps and charts, and memoirs of the coast were placed at the disposal of the departments of the Government, and the office engaged in preparations in regard to the execution of operations along the coast.

In May 1861, a hydrographic reconnaissance of the Patuxent, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., was executed by the Coast Survey. The results of the reconnaissance were immediately plotted and furnished to the military and naval authorities.

The Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, which had been a significant factor in developing and maintaining coastal surveys in the Western States, was, by 1861, numerically insufficient for the performance of all the duties of reconnaissance, surveying, etc., resulting from the increased military forces in the field. Besides, they were urgently needed for duties of a much greater extent of a military engineering nature. Thus, under the orders of the Secretary of the Navy, the Coast Survey was instructed to send its useful staff officers, in reference to the Patuxent Campaign, to assist in the operations of the military. Following the completion of the Patuxent campaign, the Coast Survey was requested to furnish the necessary maps and charts for the military service, and to continue the work of reconnaissance in the field.

Another Survey Assistant, C. O. Boudelle, accompanied the maps utilized by the Assistant Surgeon of South Carolina and Georgia in describing the campaign. Other assistance included the绘制 of maps, including those used by the War Department's various departments, as well as by the different military commanders.

The military survey work of the United States has always been an essential part of the defense effort, and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has played a crucial role in this regard. The Survey has not only provided essential cartographic information to the military, but has also played a key role in the development of the nation's infrastructure, including roads, harbors, and other critical facilities.