



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

Riverside

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June 2003

**Davis Pond adjusts
to meet conditions**

**How we
monitor levees**

**Rotational Training:
new and improved**

Carrollton Gage



Col. Peter J. Rowan

It looks like summer is upon us here in New Orleans. A couple of things come to mind as we enter this time of the year.

Safety

The first thing is safety. The time between Memorial Day and Labor Day is notorious for accident exposure. At work, take extra time to hydrate. Drink water often, especially if you are a coffee or cola drinker. Be aware of the environmental conditions and workers around you if you are engaged in any level of strenuous activity in the heat and humidity of our summer. At home and on vacation, think before you act. Summer driving season is here. Take breaks on the road. If you are recreating on the water, be aware and stay alive. Wear a life preserver, just like you would wear a seatbelt in a car. Water and alcohol don't

mix, so know your limit, especially when you're involved in an activity where that limit should be none. Nothing spoils a great time like an avoidable accident.

Budget

The second issue that I'd like to discuss is the funding status of the district. We all know the position the Continuing Resolution put us in. As I said in the last column, expect funding to be tight the rest of the year. Civil works fits in to the overall national priorities. We won't see all the money we'd like to see for the year, but the leadership throughout the Corps is working hard to move the money around to cover all the needs. Be flexible and realize that there will be some compromises that we have to make in our program. The Mississippi River remains a national priority. The Louisiana Coastal Area Study is also high on everyone's radar screen. When you have funding, use it wisely. If you can defer some expenses until next fiscal year, try to make do with what you have. Some of our projects will slip, but make sure it's the funding and not some action or inaction on our part that's constraining the work.

Deployment

The last thing I want to remind everyone about is there are still some on-going activities that may call for volunteers to support in the on-going war on terrorism and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We currently have a group of folks training and preparing to deploy in support of those operations. Offer them your support. They are going forward to do the work the nation has called them to perform. Those of us who stay behind need to get ready to help when needed, and to prepare for our own emergency operations here on the Gulf Coast. We are entering another storm season, so it always possible we could activate our teams to work here in the district or in support of another district.

Thanks again for all you are doing and will do in the upcoming months. Have a great summer. Take some time to enjoy it.

Riverside

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Cuts made in the rock weir at Davis Pond lower water levels and improve flows to the Barataria Basin.

Davis Pond cuts help water flow

By Eric Lincoln

Lane Lefort

Two ongoing projects at Davis Pond will help to provide freshwater and nutrients from the Mississippi River to the Barataria Basin.

Since the project opened in August of last year, a maximum daily flow of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) could have been diverted. But this occurred for less than 100 days from last August through May 2003, or about one third of the time.

One reason is that water on its way to the Gulf should have been flowing over the top of a rock weir separating the Ponding Area from Lake Cataouatche. Instead, a special type of marsh prevented this from happening the way it was planned.

“Our initial investigations and borings didn’t indicate there was a flotant marsh there,” explained Jack Fredine,

Cuts through the rock weir at Davis Pond will help drain water out of the Ponding Area and prevent harm to about 2,200 acres of hardwood trees and wooded swamp. A flotant marsh has prevented water from draining like it should.

project manager. “If the marsh were attached to the ground, water would flow over the marsh, over the weir and into the lake. But instead of staying in place, the marsh floats up as the water is introduced, and the weir acts like a dam. The whole area gets bottled up and the water level rises, sometimes up to a foot-and-a-half above the lake stage.”

In particular, the higher water levels endanger about 2,200 acres of bottomland hardwood trees and wooded swamp on the western side of the Ponding Area, which need a dry period during the summer and fall to survive.

The 9,300-foot-long rock weir still protects and stabilizes the Ponding Area’s shoreline as it was meant to do. But to get water out of the Ponding Area, seven 40-foot-long cuts in the weir will be made to let water out more efficiently.

New mats filled with rock will be placed in the cuts so that the weir will still be intact, but two feet lower. All together, about 300 feet of the weir will be lowered.

Also, poly vinyl chloride, or PVC, sheet piling is being placed on the West Guide Levee of the Ponding Area, well south of the Willowdale Subdivision, to reinforce the levee and provide a seepage cutoff wall along some areas built on soft marsh.

A seepage cut wall prevents groundwater from moving underneath one side of the levee to the other.

“We expected the levee to subside since it’s built in a soft

See DAVIS POND, page 4

Berna plugs in as IMO chief

By Amanda McLain

Dave Berna is the new chief of Information Management Office (IMO).

This job brings Berna and his family to New Orleans from Wisconsin, where Berna served as chief of IMO for the St. Paul District since August 2000. Before that, Berna worked as Regional Service Center chief and director of Information Management in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. Other jobs in information management and technology he has held, in Wiesbaden, Germany, include: automation officer, 3rd Corps Support Command; computer specialist/network manager; 102d Signal Battalion, and Community

Service Center chief and director of Information Management for the Wiesbaden Military Community.

Berna received a bachelor’s in criminal justice from Cartage College, Kenosha, Wis. He received a master’s in systems management from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. Berna has also undergone training from the Army Management Staff College, the U.S. Army Computer Science School-Systems Automation Officers Course, and the Combined Arms and Services Staff School.

Berna took over as chief of IMO on June 15.



Lane Lefort

DAVIS POND, from page 3

marshy area,” Fredine explained. “The vinyl sheet piling will help make up the difference in height until we can retop the levee.”

About 1,200 feet of the piling has been placed so far, with another 1,200 feet to go. “The work’s pretty easy because the levee is soft. Instead of pile-driving operations, you just push the piling into the levee with the bucket of a backhoe,” Fredine said.

The PVC sheet piling was a practical design recommendation from T. Wade Wright, technical manager in Levees Section, who has investigated the design issues and worked with it before.

“PVC is tremendously easier to use,” said Fredine. “It’s



Vinyl sheet piling is being used to protect the levee on the southwest side of Davis Pond until the Corps can rebuild it.

lightweight and low cost, and it’s non-corrosive. Two men can offload and handle it instead of a crane.

“In that area of Davis Pond where there’s no adjacent development, we can use it to protect the levee until we can rebuild it. It’s a mechanism to keep the high water from the diversion from overtopping the levee.”

Wright said, “The use of steel sheet piling will always be there for high-strength requirements, but I think there will be more applications for PVC sheet piling in the future. It’s not a substitute for steel, but it does have tremendous applications in some of our projects.”

Davis Pond has become an area of national and international interest since it opened. A Dutch delegation toured the site recently, and two Nigerian groups and two Bangladesh groups have been there in the past two years. A German radio show will discuss the project, and there was an article in *Civil Engineering* magazine and programs on PBS and National Public Radio.

“Land loss isn’t only a problem in Louisiana,” said Fredine, “but we have a lot more experience with it than most folks.”

Levee monitoring withstands test of

By John Hall

At the end of May, the Mississippi River crested in New Orleans for a second time in the 2003 high-water season.

The crest, 13.8 feet in New Orleans, appeared to pose no threat. After all, the simplest emergency procedures don’t kick in until 15 feet on a rising river. And the levee is good to 20 feet or more.

But such numbers are not good enough for the Corps of Engineers when it comes to dealing with a potentially devastating failure of the levee and underlying bank.

“This is the time of year that when something happens, it’s bad,” said Jay Joseph, Engineering Division.

But the struggle to stay ahead of levee trouble goes on all year long. The process is called monitoring. And a great deal of it does not involve walking the levee and eyeballing.

Monitoring and stabilizing levees involves a great deal of cooperation in Engineering Division, Joseph said. This responsibility falls heavily on the Civil and Geotechnical branches.

“Visual monitoring is a separate subject,” Joseph said. “The big things are under water.”

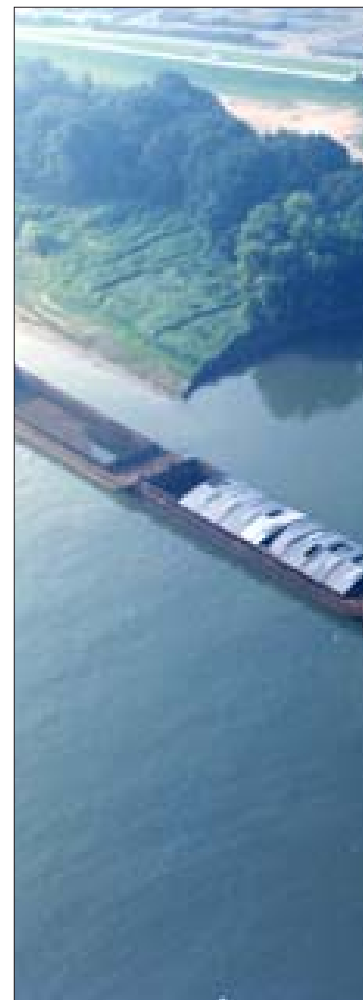
This is based on the fact that keeping a levee intact depends on stability of the bank beneath it. And most of the bank is under water and unseen.

So, the Corps needs to see beneath the Mississippi, a location where, to use understatement, video photography is a waste of time. However, surveys taken by sonar deployed on Corps of Engineers boats and contractors do the job.

“Surveys are the basis of all of the monitoring,” Joseph said.

To monitor the powerful river’s attack, the Corps takes three approaches:

First, Civil Branch, through the Channel Improvement and Stabilization Program, monitors the underwater bank with annual surveys for scour that threatens stability. When the Channel Improvement Team identifies a potential threat,



system time

Geotechnical Branch evaluates it. “Finally the Channel Improvement Team can assure that the banks are stabilized and armored to prevent deterioration,” said Joseph, who is in Geotechnical.

Second, Civil Branch’s Levees Team monitors the stability of the levees adjacent to the river banks utilizing levee stability control lines developed by Geotechnical. When potential levee stability problems are noted, Geotechnical Branch evaluates the individual cross-section and recommends remedial action.

The first two kinds of monitoring are designed to detect the failures associated with shear stability. The third kind of monitoring seeks to prevent another kind of failure.

“This type of failure, referred to as a retrogressive flow failure, could result in a rapid failure of the bank and, possibly, the levee, as a result of scour in susceptible sands,” said Joseph, who has done pioneering work on this kind of failure. “We monitor reaches susceptible to this type of flow failure for potential scour problems that could initiate the failure. When indications point to a potential problem, Civil Branch’s Channel Improvement Team is notified and remedial action



Jay Joseph

scheduled.”

In contrast to retrogressive flow failure, shear failure results when the bank slumps, or slides down into the channel. An example of this kind of failure occurred at Marchand in August 1983.

A notable example of retrogressive flow failure was the Celotex failure in Westwego in July 1985.

“When indications point to this type of flow failure, the Channel Improvement Team is notified and remedial action is scheduled,” Joseph said.

It would be easy to think that these precautions are simply the procedure that’s routinely followed by all or many Corps of Engineers districts.

Not so. The Big River has presented problems that are unique to the United States, and the New Orleans District has come up with strategies to match the problems.

“This three-fold monitoring system is unique to the New Orleans District because our soil conditions and the close proximity of the flood-protection levees to the river,” Joseph said.

New Orleans District’s sophistication of monitoring for the Lower Mississippi has paid off, he adds.

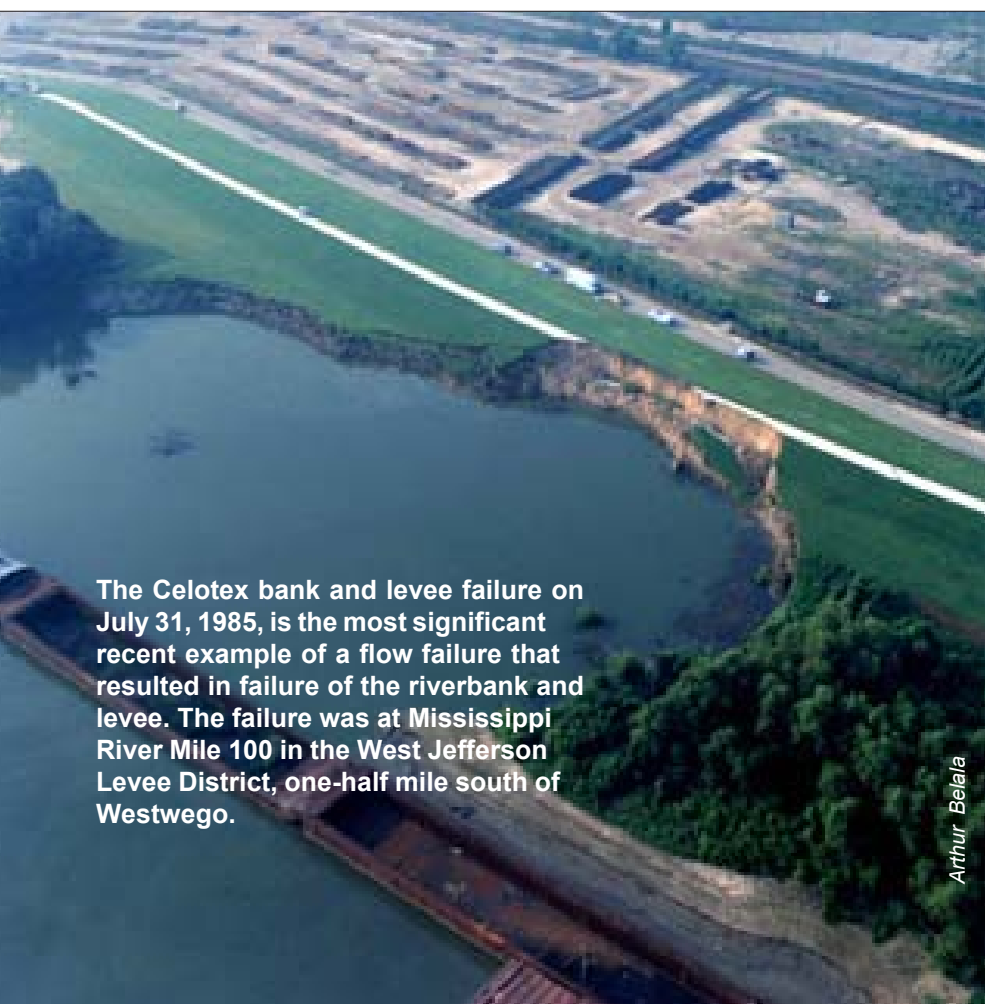
“There have been no major levee failures along the Mississippi in this district since all three monitoring systems were fully implemented” in 1985.

In fact, the district has a pretty good track record of protecting people who depend on the Mississippi levees to keep dry for longer than most of its employees have been alive.

“Because of the work by the Corps of Engineers, levee boards and the state Department of Transportation, we haven’t had flooding of the lands protected by the Mississippi River levee system in 52 years,” Ell Pilie, a levee expert in Civil Branch, wrote in 2001.

“In March 1949, the levee on the west bank at Wilkinson Point, upstream of Port Allen, was overtopped and crevassed. This flooded a portion of West Baton Rouge Parish. Other levees have failed since 1949. But none has completely collapsed, and no flooding has occurred on the protected side of the levee,” Pilie wrote.

He’s still right.



The Celotex bank and levee failure on July 31, 1985, is the most significant recent example of a flow failure that resulted in failure of the riverbank and levee. The failure was at Mississippi River Mile 100 in the West Jefferson Levee District, one-half mile south of Westwego.

Arthur Belala

Rotational Training Program broadens perspectives

By Eric Lincoln

The Rotational Training Program, which began in February, is showing new employees a day in the life of their coworkers across the hall.

The program is mandatory for all new engineers and scientists, GS-9 and below. It rotates them through

these people will be on project delivery teams (PDT's). This program will give you a point of contact and allow you to know and have an appreciation for what that person does. This is extremely valuable when you have an organization with 1,200 people.

"Cubicles and email create isolation. You used to be able to go into an office and see everyone, but now when you walk down the hall, you can't see anyone behind the

cubicle walls. This breaks those barriers ... it's really a win-win situation."

Managers say that most of their experience with the program has been positive.

"There's no question that it broadens the trainees' perspectives. Plus, it gives offices a good opportunity to review what they do and nail down what's really important," said Greg Breerwood, chief of Operations.

"It's worked extremely well for

Rosenfeld agrees, saying while most of the response has been positive, she sometimes has to remind managers of the long-term benefits. "Losing an employee for six weeks is worth it if the employee comes back with more knowledge," she said.

The training is an attempt to avoid "stovepipes," or situations where knowledge about a project is limited to certain offices. "We don't want stovepipes," says Miles. "We want people to say, 'I'm an asset to the district, rather than just an asset to my office.'"

"After someone has been through the program and seen what goes on in other offices, I can tell them, 'I trust you. Make a decision based on what you know.'"

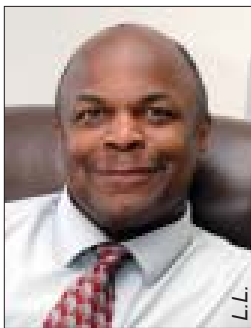
Rosenfeld added, "Now, when you go to a PDT meeting, you can make a decision based on the people you represent. That's pretty revolutionary, because we had to go through a stovepipe before."

Employees in the program credit the program for expanding their knowledge of the Corps, but say there are some mixed benefits.

Engineer Sid Falk has worked here almost four years. He rotated through Engineering for eight weeks and then transferred there. But, he said, "I'm not looking forward to the next

rotation because whatever project you're working on, you get yanked off of, and it suffers ... in some cases, I think the program helps, and in some cases not. It's good to be exposed to new people and situations but not everyone functions well like that."

Wayne Duplantier, Engineering, a two year employee, just finished his first rotation through Project Management. "I expected to learn about different offices and other people, and I got that. I have a better understanding of how projects are developed, managed and funded.



Jim Miles

"The more knowledge you have, the more you can contribute as a leader."

other divisions and offices in four to eight week shifts to

introduce them to other employees and educate them about what goes on elsewhere in the district. Between shifts, employees spend about three months in their own division.

The program is part of the Leadership Development Program, and there are 39 people currently participating. Groups of five to nine people start their rotation six weeks apart, and it takes about one-and-one-half years for each group to finish.

"We want to make sure we have people in the district who know people in other divisions, what they're doing, and how everything fits together," said Program Manager Jim Miles, chief of Construction. "The more knowledge you have, the more you can contribute as a leader."

JoAnn Rosenfeld, program specialist, said that helping new employees make business contacts is one of the program's main benefits. "All of



Wayne Duplantier

"I'm pretty excited about it now."

us," said Linda LaBure, assistant chief of Real Estate. "There a lot of advance planning that's necessary. But

when they come across us again, they know us, and they're familiar with how we operate.

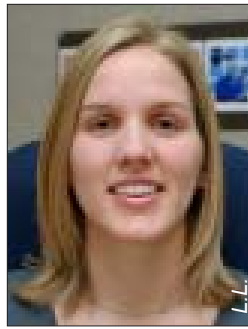
"The success will be over time."

“At first I had a lot going on in Engineering and I didn’t want to leave things unfinished. But once I got into the program and my projects were taken care of, it was fine ... I’m pretty excited about it now.”

“I have a better understanding of how our district works as a whole

“I have a better understanding of how our district works as a whole.”

and how each division contributes to our mission, and I’ve been able to put faces with names and establish contacts,” said Rachael Tranchina, Engineering. “But I’m also missing out on valuable experience, such as mechanical design projects and field trips that I can’t make up.”



Rachael Tranchina

always get what you wanted. It turned into something people did just because they had to. Now, we make sure people get meaningful work to do.”

Miles said that adjustments will be made to the program as it goes along, aided by an after-action review at the end of each group’s first rotation to help program leaders make changes.

New hires are going to specific positions, Miles added, rather than being rotated through different divisions for two years and then asked to pick a position, as was done before. “Then, you wouldn’t

Rebuilding Iraq Volunteers deploy to Kuwait, Baghdad

By Eric Lincoln

Fifty district employees volunteered for temporary duty in Kuwait and Iraq to help in reconstruction, and as of May 30 eight will be going.

Mississippi Valley Division is forming a Field Engineering Support Team to replace a South Atlantic team that has been in Kuwait and Iraq for several months. Thirteen employees from New Orleans were initially selected for the team, but because of changing mission needs the number was reduced. Selection is based on the need for specific expertise. The eight deploying are a logistics team leader, data base manager, project manager, two civil structural engineers, two staff electrical engineers and a staff mechanic engineer.

Two employees from Operations and Project Management were deployed to Kuwait in January, as well, to support Army operations.

Riverside is not identifying the attendees for family security reasons.

The support team will ultimately be made up of 50 employees from Mississippi Valley districts.

Team members will be deployed for four to six months, said Mike Lowe, chief of Readiness Branch. “We’re sending volunteers from a variety of offices. Generally, there has been a heavy emphasis on sending employees who will be providing engineering support.”

The group completed two weeks of training in Vicksburg, one week just on telecommunications. The ones deploying report next to an Army replacement center, probably Ft. Sill, Okla., for overseas processing.

One volunteer, who described the training as “intense,” said, “They gave us hands-on training with gas masks and suits. They warned us about suicide bombings. They reiterated the importance of respecting the native culture. It was a lot of information. If

anyone says they aren’t concerned about safety, they’re lying, but we’re also concerned about getting the job done.”

Volunteers were prepared for cultural changes, too. Even the water is different in Kuwait. “Your body will go through a whole system change,” said one volunteer. In addition, personnel will work seven-day, 12-hour shifts, in temperatures as high as 120 degrees.

During the training, taskings were covered as though they were in Iraq. “They gave us real-world scenarios,” said another volunteer. For example, engineers tested a Vicksburg “Iraq” airfield to determine if it could handle C-131 transport aircraft. Also, VTC conferences between the trainees and the South Atlantic Division team “taught us more in an hour than three hours of training did.”

To move between Baghdad and Kuwait, personnel must convoy with “shooters,” or armed military guards. The 320-mile journey between locations takes eight hours because of road conditions and can be dangerous. “They told us never to go anywhere without shooters,” said a volunteer.

Privacy is something volunteers give up once they arrive at their assignment, since they will likely be living in four-person, air-conditioned trailers, or possibly even tent cities. “I’ll be happy if we have running water and electricity,” said a volunteer.

During the workday, the team could be based out of one of the many palaces in the area.

Another volunteer expressed her desire that the district support deployed personnel by establishing a family support network in case of emergencies. “We need someone who will contact us if our families are in need, or vice-versa,” she said.

“We’re going because it’s our duty to go. We believe in freedom and we believe we can fight terrorism by rebuilding the Iraq infrastructure. We know our mission and we just want to do our part to help our country.”

Lowe said that more volunteers signed up for the mission than were needed. “We tried to match experience with team requirements in choosing volunteers,” he said.

Financial benefits of volunteering include waived pay caps on overtime, and hazard and danger pay, though no one is allowed to surpass the salary of a GS-15, Grade 10.

Lowe added, “We’re just trying to be ready when headquarters calls us.”

Employees enjoy "virtual" office Telework offers freedom, focus

By Amanda McLain

On Jan. 29 the district implemented its Telework Program, enabling employees to work away from their traditional work site. This can mean working at home or an alternate site. It is made possible by modern technology such as laptops, cell phones, high speed internet access and satellite feeds, allowing work to be done from almost anywhere.

There are two ways to participate. The typical arrangement is for employees who want to work away from the office one day or more per pay period. The day and number of hours are established with a supervisor and may not vary. This is called regular and recurring telework.

The second way is called "ad hoc." This can be used when an employee has a special assignment or non-routine situation. It allows for variety in days and hours worked, but also requires a specific timeframe. The length of an ad hoc arrangement is determined by the unusual circumstances.

There are currently seven regular and recurring telework arrangements in the district, and to date there have

been 20 ad hoc arrangements.

An employee wishing to take part in this program should discuss it with their supervisor and then submit the required documentation for IT equipment, work site safety and other things. The division or office chief is the final authority for approval.

Employees must meet eligibility requirements to telework, and the work assignment must also be conducive to a telework arrangement.

For further information, review the Telework Guide at: <http://www.intra.mvn.usace.army.mil/cpac/miscinfo.htm#T-topics>.

No distractions mean higher work output for teleworkers

By Eric Lincoln

Fred Lachney, senior electronics engineer in Information Management, gave this interview while teleworking from his home.

"It's absolutely wonderful. It's less stressful and helps you work better. Working in the office sometimes becomes a social event. You're talking about baseball or something instead of concentrating. You don't get all these distractions at home.



Fred Lachney

"I was helping someone today, and they didn't realize I was teleworking. I was doing the whole procedure for them at home. I transfer my phone to my Blackberry handheld device and all my emails come here. To the caller, it seems like I'm in the office."

Linda LaBure, assistant chief of Real Estate, administers telework for her division with four employees currently teleworking on a reoccurring basis. "They work two days a week from



Linda LaBure

home. It's been seamless and successful for us. We communicate well using teleconferencing and email. It's like the employee is here."

"We monitor the work output, and employees get as much or more done. They have more focus. We even kept one valuable employee who might have retired sooner had she needed to continue to drive in to work from Mississippi every day. Now she works two days a week from home. It caused a laugh in the conference room, though, when we were on a conference call with her, and her dogs started barking.

"It just has a lot to do with how much management and the employee are willing to make it (tele) work."



Volunteers in Operations pack up supplies for the troops in Iraq. Christopher Accardo, Operations, said, "The most gratifying part has been receiving the post cards or email messages thanking us for the items that were sent. The program certainly helps the soldiers but it also makes those that participate feel good about themselves and reinforce feelings of patriotism." Reprographics is also participating, and Amanda Jones, Reprographics, added, "We hope to continue to do this as long as our troops are deployed. It feels great to know that we've boosted someone's spirits. As long as people keep donating stuff, we'll keep packing it up and sending it out. Hopefully they will keep on donating!" So far, both offices combined have sent over 80 boxes. Contact Paulette Salassi, x1898, or Christopher Accardo, x1417, for more information.

Awards highlight community involvement, EEO



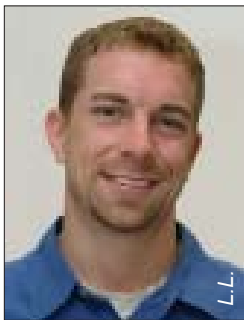
Two employees received awards on May 7 at the Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Federal Executive Board. Left: Hugh Howat, with his supervisor, Carl Guggenheimer. Howat, a civil engineering technician, received an award for Outstanding Technical Support Employee. Right: Michael Breaux, with his supervisor, Nancy Powell. Breaux, a hydrologic technician, was awarded as Outstanding Community Volunteer.



Janice Williams, on behalf of the district, accepted the Federally Employed Women's Equal Employment Opportunity Agency Award on April 25 in the category for Equal Employment Opportunity Programs for Women, which lists all areas of support for programs related to women's activities. These include programs providing training funds for employees to attend EEO-sponsored training, programs and activities to enhance opportunities for women.

Task Force meets with Ashcroft

By Jameson Eisenmenger



As the days grow longer under the summer sun, there is much to report from your local Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

As reported in February, the New Orleans

District joined the fledgling group of state, local and federal agencies invited by Attorney General John Ashcroft and the local United States Attorney's Office to plan and prepare against future terrorist attacks. The district's role in the task force has grown increasingly important since joining in October and our participation in two recent events was especially notable.

First, on April 24, the district attended a meeting of task force representatives welcoming Ashcroft to town. Ashcroft came to meet members and see for himself how our local task force has become one of the best-organized and developed in the country. Attendees included congressmen William Jefferson and William Tauzin, staff members of Sen. Mary Landrieu, NOPD Chief Eddie Compass, U.S. Attorney Eddie Jordan, police and fire chiefs from throughout the metro area, executive level military officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, as well as executives from Entergy, Shell Oil and other concerned industries.

In commenting on the local task force, Ashcroft expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of the myriad of agencies, organizations and private interests. He was particularly satisfied with their ability to overcome the traditional constraints of turf battles and ego to create an interdependent network that provides a unified response to potential threats. Second, on April 30, the division commander and task force representative attended a conference on the use of technology in homeland security. The conference was sponsored

by the Louisiana Technology Council and was also attended by senior officers of the local armed services, agency heads, Mayor Ray Nagin and private business executives.

After Nagin's opening remarks, presentations were given by members of the Department of Homeland Security. Homeland Security seeks to establish itself as the scientific and technological lead for those agencies already operating within the sphere of homeland security. In addition to gaining new contacts with sister agencies and organizations, district attendees walked away with a stronger sense of how our access to technology can better prepare our employees, families and community for the unique challenges terrorist threats impose.

As the district's role and importance in the task force grows, so does the need for assistance and participation by employees. As future training and events come available, notice will be posted in this column and interested employees can inquire about participation by calling me at 862-1568. The next event is scheduled for June 25.



Lane Lefort

CROSS BAYOU DEDICATION—Corps and local officials gather for a dedication ceremony on May 30 at the Cross Bayou Drainage Structure in St. Charles Parish, part of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project. District Commander Col. Peter Rowan and Al Naomi, senior project manager, represented the district. The structure, completed by Circle, Inc., for \$2.4 million, is the second of five such structures to be built in the hurricane protection levee in St. Charles Parish. Three additional structures at St. Rose, Almedia and Walker Canal are under construction and will be completed in 2004.

Construction

WESTBANK HURRICANE LEVEE—Four contracts are currently under construction on the West Bank and Hurricane Protection Project. Phylway Construction, LLC., was awarded a contract for \$3.3 million to enlarge the levee on the west side of the Algiers Canal from the Algiers Lock to Belle Chasse Hwy (LA 23) in Orleans and Plaquemines parishes. AquaTerra Contracting Inc. is constructing a discharge channel, floodwalls and concrete culvert along the Harvey Canal in the vicinity of Cousins Pumping Station Complex and Lapalco Boulevard Bridge in Jefferson Parish

for \$11.1 million. C.R. Pittman Construction Company Inc. is working on expanding the Cousins Pumping Station Complex and constructing fronting protection to protect the pumping station for \$18.8 million. Pittman is also working on the Reach 3 structures in Jefferson Parish which involves constructing a floodwall between the Ames and Mount Kennedy pumping stations, the Oak Cove Closure, and the Mount Kennedy Pumping Station improvements for \$9.5 million. Phylway is scheduled to complete its job in Sept. 2003. AquaTerra is expected to finish in June 2004, and C.R. Pittman should complete its two contracts by May 2006 and Jan. 2005, respectively.

Project Management

MORE COPS—Responding to neighborhood requests, four new police officers on May 4 began patrolling in the 9th Ward near the Industrial Canal Lock, paid for by mitigation funds for the lock replacement project. “This arrangement is a direct result of priority being placed on police protection by the Community Based Mitigation Committee,” said Jackie Purrington, project manager. The committee makes recommendations to the Corps on how to help neighborhoods impacted by the lock construction project.

LCA INPUT—Meetings were held in Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans in May and June to inform the public and get comments about LCA plans. The LCA study recently determined the costs and benefits for each of the 32 localized alternatives that will be brought together in the coast-wide restoration strategy. The district and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources presented the meetings.

HOUMA CANAL—The Corps also held a meeting May 21 at the Houma Municipal Auditorium for public comments on how deep the 36.6-mile-long, 15-foot-deep Houma Navigation Canal should be deepened, if it can be economically justified.

EEO

BETTER WORK TIES—On July 16, the Black Employment Program Committee, along with Blacks in Government, are sponsoring a workshop on keeping situations business, not personal, and the importance of planning effective work relationships. The facilitator is the locally well-known motivational speaker Elder Danna “Truth” Andrus. Attendance is part of the district’s Employment Enrichment Series.

Around the District

Congratulations

to **Maryclaire Peterson** (IM), who received her bachelor's of computer engineering degree and was valedictorian of Tulane University with a 4.0 GPA.

to **Steven Schinetsky** (OD), whose son, Robert, graduated from Archbishop Rummel High School as the 2003 class Salutatorian with a 4.87 GPA. Robert is enrolled at LSU, where he will major in computer engineering and be a member of the Tiger Marching Band.

to **Susan Scanio** (PM), whose daughter, Amanda Marie, graduated from St. Mary's Dominican High School and will attend Southeastern Louisiana University in the fall.

to **Bobby Landry** (OD) and **Marsha Holley** (RM) on their engagement.

to **Eric Lincoln** (PA), who graduated with a bachelor's degree, cum laude with university and departmental honors, from the UNO English program in May. He will not be teaching, but thanks for asking.

to **Amanda McLain** (PA), who also graduated with a bachelor's degree from the UNO English program in May. She also will not be teaching.

to **Patricia Broussard** (ED), whose daughter, Bria, finished the school year (second grade) with a 4.0 GPA at Jean Gordon Elementary and was awarded the superintendent's award for excellence.

to **Debra Blood** (RE), whose son, Patrick, graduated from John Curtis Christian High School on May 23 with honors, cum laude, and received the sociology departmental award, a first place award from the UNO literary rally, a critical thinking award in the LEAP Program and a scholarship to LSU Geology Field Camp in Colorado Springs for the summer.



Children of employees are shown what it's like to work at the Corps for Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day on April 24. Above: Mark Huber (ED) demonstrates how to use a Global Positioning System.

Disabled students

The Workforce Recruitment Program, sponsored and funded by the Department of Defense, has funded two students with disabilities for summer employment with the district. **Jodie Sinegal**, from Lafayette, started on June 2 working for Stuart Waits (CD) as a clerk. **Joe Olson**, from East Lansing, Mich., started June 9 for Ken Broussard (OD) as a civil engineer trainee.

Kudos

to **Emile Jacobs** (OD), who presented the district overview and Bonnet Caree Spillway presentation to 136 students at Audubon Elementary.

Farewell

to **William Wilson** (PM), who retired in May with over 29 years of service.

Condolences

to **Bill Rester** (ED), whose brother, Austin Rester, passed away on May 4. Austin was an electrical engineer with Honolulu District.

to **Timothy Roth** (CD), whose mother, Gerhard Roth, passed away on April 10.

to **Ernest Amedee** (ED), whose mother, Sarah Amedee, passed away earlier this year.

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



Ask the Answer Man

Investigator: Keisha McGee

What is the RAC?

RAC is an acronym for Recreation and Activities Committee. This committee is made up of volunteers in the district who work in the Castle Shop and help organize events such as the employee picnic. Activities are sponsored, organized and promoted by the RAC year-round.

How is RAC funded?

The RAC obtains funds by retaining a percentage of sales from the vending machines and Castle Shop. Half of the the funds earned from the vending machines are sent to The Lighthouse for the Blind and the rest is used to purchase new items for the Castle Shop and to sponsor activities. For example, they help purchase shirts for the MS Tour for Cure bike ride each year.

Who is on the committee?

Members of the RAC committee are: Bruce Bivona, Joaquin Mujica, Melvin Ray, Margaret Tucker and Tracy Fitzgerald.

How is membership decided?

Membership is by recommendation.

How are events decided on?

Bruce Bivona, chairperson, said, "We want to provide events that are beneficial to a majority of employees, and organize activities so that all employees have an equal opportunity to participate."

How is RAC organized?

The RAC is divided into four sub-committees: dance, sports, picnic and Castle Shop. RAC meetings are held quarterly.

The dance committee organizes dancing events, the sports committee helps organize sporting events such as the volleyball tournaments at the picnic and Corporate Cup Race, the Castle Shop sells Corps-related items, and the picnic committee oversees catering and all of the activities for that day. Members of the Castle Shop (a RAC sub-committee) are: Toni Baldini, Sheila Boe, Libby Bonamour, Kay Dorcey, Sandy Gautreau, Sandy Habbaz, Jeff Heap,

Gayle Lawrence, Sally Leingang, Judy Richard, Paulette Salassi, Susan Scanio, and Aline Smith. The Castle committee takes turns working the shop all year-round.

The Castle Shop hours are from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and committee members are willing to help if anyone needs



Tana Baldini, daughter of Toni Baldini (PM), and her friend, Chelsea Smith, help out in the Castle Shop.

anything at different times. The Castle Shop is located on the first floor across from Security. Call x2129 for more information.

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AND

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