



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

Riverside

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April 2005

A photograph of a man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a blue and white vertically striped short-sleeved button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is holding a purple baseball cap with a white logo that includes a stylized 'T' and a flame-like shape. He is standing on a metal railing, looking towards the camera. In the background, a large black ship is in a dry dock, with various cranes and industrial equipment visible. The sky is clear and blue.

**Paynes retires
with 60 years**

Partnering , P2 conferences

Earth Day



Lane Lefort

Col. Peter J. Rowan

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring-like weather. It's good to see the renewal that comes with each spring. The Active for Life program participants are out and about.

Partnering Conference

I enjoyed our third annual partnering conference in March. It gave us another opportunity to take stock on where we stand and look for ways to get better. The format this year was shaped largely by comments received from our partners after the previous two workshops. Partnering, though, is easy to do in a ballroom. It's hard when you try to do it right, day after day, good news and bad. The proof of partnering is in the outcomes. Do your partners come to you first with a problem? Do they know when and how to say "No" when it's the right answer? We make our money out on the projects, with daily contact. The conference is only one piece of the relationship.

Breaux Act

At the last Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force meeting, I asked the team to take a look at the future for the Breaux Act. With many successful projects already on the ground, the Louisiana Coastal Area study signed by the Chief of Engineers and another 14 years of authorization – where is the road map that takes us through the next phase of the program? We are going to look quickly at where we've been and where we are, then we really need to look hard at where we want to be with the entire coastal program – navigation, hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration. We will do a gap analysis that looks at all the individual programs overlaid on the coast. This will identify those gaps in activities and then we need to figure out the best program to address those needs. Gaps can be many things – timing of delivery of a project is one gap – when we need quicker response than a normal civil works timetable. Another gap is geographic locations. Some areas of the coast have problems that aren't addressed in the LCA Near Term Plan. Another gap is the method of planning for restoration – CWPPRA is a bottom-up planning process with projects identified at the local level, LCA is top-down with more centralized project selection. Finally, another gap is the type of project that can be accomplished under each program. LCA will probably never do a vegetative planting project, while maybe major river diversions are best handled through the LCA program. All this work will help us set a consistent vision for the future, not just of CWPPRA, but also of the coast as a whole.

Regional Business Center

Finally, we have spent a great deal of leadership effort throughout the valley trying to understand and put in place a functional regional business center. I used the RBC as the theme for this year's doubloon. The chain symbol on the coin is truly emblematic of the fact that we as a region are only as strong as our weakest link. We will continue to grow this effort this year as we learn to think and do as a region. The great river that flows past the district ought to be a constant reminder that we are part of a larger system that must function as a single resource.

Moving on

Looking forward to the future, I will be leaving the district in May.

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Riverside

April 2005
Vol. 16 No. 4

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Authorization: The New Orleans District *Riverside* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Comics reprinted by permission of United Features.

Submissions: Articles and story ideas are welcome; publication depends on the general interest as judged by the editor. Direct queries to the editor by calling (504) 862-2201 or email Eric.S.Lincoln@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

Circulation: 2,150 copies per issue.

Riverside



Lane Lefort

Earnest Paynes retires after 60 years as a cook on district dredging vessels.

Wheeler cook retires after 60 years

By Eric Lincoln

Earnest Paynes, chief cook on the Dredge Wheeler, is leaving the Corps at the end of this month with a record-setting 60-years of service.

Paynes has been in the same position on the Wheeler for the past 23 years. He previously worked on



the Dredge Langfitt for 30 years, the Omega for four years, and the Pullen – the first dredge at the district – for three years.

He started as a mess attendant on the Pullen in October 1945 at 17 years old, and later became chief cook on the Langfitt.

Under the old CSRS system, Paynes actually has enough sick leave to be credited with 62 years of service.

He will receive a de Fleury medal for lifetime achievement from Col. Rowan.

“My brother helped me get the job,” says Paynes. “He was a cook here, too. I came on right after I got out of school. It was all right after I got used to it, and I made up my mind to stay as long as I could.

“I loved what I did. I got to see all the ships and visit different parts of the country ... I’ve been to Virginia, North Carolina and even Puerto Rico.”

Paynes seems to have taken all his years of Corps service in stride.

“There were some good days, some bad,” he says. “Some good weather, some bad. Lots of ships, you know?”

“I’ll miss it. I’ve been doing it my whole life.”

The Wheeler is “overhired” right now, Paynes says, and that is the main reason he’s retiring. “I want to give some other folks a chance to move up.”

“I’m going to take it easy,” Paynes says. “My wife and I, we’ll go see my sister in California.”

Paynes has four brothers and three sisters, one of whom lives in Alaska. He and his wife, Lillie, have been married 48 years.

As much as Paynes enjoyed working on the Wheeler, though, he didn’t spend more time on the water than necessary.

“I don’t have a boat at home. The only boat I own is the Wheeler. I’ve been on there since it came out of Avondale Shipyard.”

He has a little advice for the person stepping into his shoes: “It’s all business in the kitchen. You know those men want to eat ... and they know where the food is.”

Wheeler Capt. Edward Morehouse said, “Ernie has certainly been known for his excellent cooking

“The only boat I own is the Wheeler. I’ve been on there since it came out of Avondale Shipyard.”

abilities, plus his ‘can-do’ attitude and unfailingly sincere dedication to the mission of whatever vessel he served on. He’s often catered special events; organized gatherings and prepared vessels for important visitors, and routinely covered special duty aboard the Alexander during river inspections.

“It was always a pleasure to strike up a conversation with him over just about anything ... he has been a confidant to ship captains too numerous to mention.

SEE PAYNES, PAGE 7



Sponsors share insight at Partnering Conference

By John Hall

A highlight of the district's 2005 Partnering Conference, held March 30-31, was a luncheon talk by U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, who stressed the importance of hurricane protection and Louisiana coastal restoration to the state and nation.

Jindal praised the event's variety of participants as evidence of precisely the close cooperation that Louisiana needs. The 275 attendees, convened at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, represented cities, levee districts, Louisiana government agencies, port au-

thorities, parish governments, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Making the rounds of the room at the Hyatt

Regency, Jindal said, he was impressed with the range of needs that were represented.

"It shows the kind of partnership we are bringing together to address the most important problems facing our state," he said.

"If we don't do something to protect our very state, our very land, it doesn't make any difference what else we do" concerning areas of great importance such as infrastructure, schools and the economy.

Fiscal common sense demands, Jindal said, investment in levees and flood prevention structures today to avoid paying a larger bill in lives lost and property destroyed after the fact.

"If you thought those Florida hurricanes were devastating, you just wait. It's not a matter of whether but when."

Saving Louisiana's coast is "critical," Jindal said. "It's the state's top priority."

"Our challenge is to educate the nation" to understand that \$2 gasoline is small potatoes compared with the consequences of losing Louisiana's huge oil and gas contribution to U.S. needs, and its fishing bounty and its port and transportation value.



All images, Lane Lefort



SELA project

He added, "SELA is a great success story, a great state, local and federal partnership."

The rain-flood protection project throws off benefits well beyond the areas getting direct benefits, and people he has talked to understand this is true even if the improvements are not in their backyard, he said.

The previous day, during the conference, the Pontchartrain Levee District and the Corps had signed an agreement to share the costs of a feasibility study for a similar project in St. Charles Parish. SELA is limited to Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes.

Coastal consistency

Coastal consistency was the subject of breakout sessions that focused on the fact that restoring and



protecting coastal Louisiana will take more than resources, and will also require mutual understanding and hard decisions.

"The sessions addressed how to blend all of the competing needs of navigation, hurricane protection, flood control and restoration," said Robert Bosenberg of the district's Coastal Branch.

"How do we value each need versus the other? And how do we thread them together to create a tapestry?"

The reactions that I got were that "it's about time" we frankly considered the problem of interconnectedness, and that we can do a lot if information, coordination and communication are improved," Bosenberg said.

What about 2006?

A fourth Partnering Conference will be held in 2006, Col. Rowan said afterward.

"Partnering does not just take place at conferences," he added. "The payoff in partnering comes from everyday contacts."

The conference is "just to take stock and make improvements" in a forum not geared to individual project decisions.



P2 conference puts users face-to-face

By Eric Lincoln

The district accommodated a first-of-its-kind P2 conference this month that brought in over 230 Corps employees from around the world.

For three days, 28 presenters from headquarters, various MSCs and districts, and Primavera, the company that makes scheduling software, spoke to attendees about P2's structure, requirements and future with the Corps.

The conference was developed because conference calls, the PMBP portal and Groove, while useful, were not communicating to users as thoroughly as needed. The P2 Team needed a more direct way to explain their progress and future actions to the employees using P2, called "Power Users." The conference would also allow users to share their practices and issues with the P2 Team and each other.

It was organized within about three months by the Operational Advisory Committee, which was established in 2005 to communicate the needs of the field to the P2 Team and headquarters.

For some participants, it was their first time in New Or-

leans. But district employees "made them feel right at home," said Rodney Greenup, Program Management and district P2 coordinator.

"Several times, attendees stated how impressed they were by our facilities and the warmth shown by employees," Greenup said. "Also, they appreciated the use of the computer room, Room 251, in the morning and at breaks for checking e-mail or accessing the PMBP portal."

P2 is the Corps' new scheduling and budgeting software. It is a combination of various software packages that talk to CEFMS and will one day replace several existing budget systems such as ABS, PRISM and FORCON.

Participants seemed generally satisfied by the information received and were especially glad to be able to meet the people they had been working with via P2 for so long.

"Now I know I'm not alone!" said Andrew Borden, Charleston District. "This is really all information I'll use when I get back to my district. It's giving us the nuts and bolts view of the system and some low-level background about how it works. Now I understand how P2 thinks."

Veronica Rife, Louisville District, and Kelly Cambell, Huntington District, said they both took away a good education in P2.

"They did a good job of teaching us just what we needed to know," said Rife. "We understand the Business Process better and how headquarters and MSCs use the system. That's useful, since they're the ones who will be looking at us to make sure we understand the concepts."

"The ability to share information between ourselves was fantastic," said Cambell. "We learned so much just by talking to each other, and were able to share our understanding of the new developments discussed at the conference."

Linda Grove, Portland Division, commented on how well the conference was organized.

"The short workshops were well done, and the overall timing of the conference was ideal. I have just enough information to be saturated, but not overwhelmed. You can see the organizers and speakers really put a lot of thought into it."

"Plus, I finally get to see the people I've talked with for so long. It's been a great networking opportunity."

"I think it's been very productive overall," said Michael Walsh, Institute for Water Resources, and one of the speakers. "Users have been able to share tips and meet



Eric Lincoln

Jim Perkins, Ft. Worth District, and military lead for the national P2 team, gives a presentation in the DARM, April 6.



The conference's more than 230 attendees were treated to catered lunches under a tent in the district parking lot.

the team overcame bad weather by orchestrating a major lunch relocation inside the DARM without negatively impacting the conference schedule.”

Lunch was catered by the cafeteria contractor “A Guy Named Guy,” and held outside under a large canopy in the parking lot on two of the days.

“We received nothing but compliments regarding the caterer’s professionalism, promptness and food quality,” Greenup said.

District employees who helped organize the conference included: Annette Vanderson, Philip Meric, Rebecca Ben, Anne Marino, Amanda Jones, Scott Riecke, Jim Syrdal, Elaine James, Demetria Butler, Alvin Hunter, Dana Perkins, Geri Robinson, Lois Pierre, Kim Theophile, Frank DeBoer, Carol Joseph, Lisa Crescioni, Janet Kleinschmidt, Mike Zack, Don Miller, Mary Pizzuto, Bruce Terrell, Marcia Demma, Ernest Pitts, Shelton Kennedy, Mike Maples and Gloria Reeves. Also Magic Movers (Alton, Demetrius, Alcee and Bubba), Ralph (electrician) and Luster (Sandra Purdom, Mike Bowen and Gary Hanneman).

The conference agenda, notes, presentations and recommendations are posted on the web: www.mvn.usace.army.mil/PD/P2Conference2005/.

each other. The great thing is that this will all be on a portal afterwards, and we can all refer to the lessons learned.”

Greenup noted that there were a few moments when the conference team members had to get creative to keep the conference rolling smoothly.

“Thanks to our highly qualified personnel, we were able to overcome several incidents that could have derailed the success of this conference,” he said. “On the first day, one of the buses died and didn’t make it back for the first afternoon pick-up. The team ... managed to get everyone back to the hotels at the scheduled time. On day two ...

GAGE, FROM PAGE 2

I have been given an opportunity to continue to serve the Army and the Corps as district engineer for the Gulf Region Central District. Col. Richard Wagenaar will be arriving later in the year. He brings a great deal of knowledge and experience in the Corps. I’m sure you will be sharing your knowledge and expertise on your work with him just as you did with me. I can’t think of a day when I didn’t learn something new.

PAYNES, FROM PAGE 3

And, interestingly, he’s been working for the government longer than any of his chain of command in the New Orleans District have been alive.”

Paynes likes to fish and plans to do more of it now that he has some free time.

“And I thought about opening a restaurant,” he added. “I’d make chicken, fish, greens ... real soul food, you know?”

His last day is April 30.

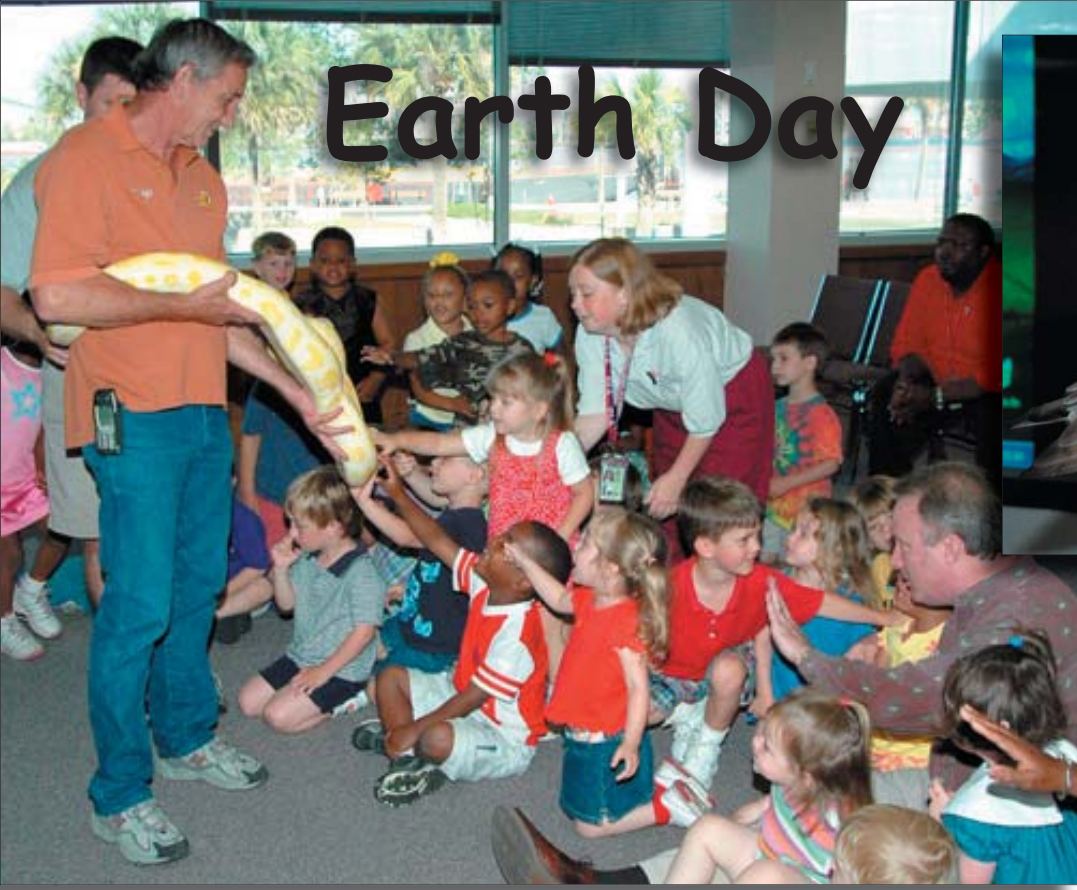
Mississippi River Commission 125th Anniversary

Open houses for the public were held at the MRC building and onboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi on April 20 in Vicksburg to celebrate the MRC’s 125th Anniversary. Col. Rowan and Lt. Col. Jeselink were among those who attended.

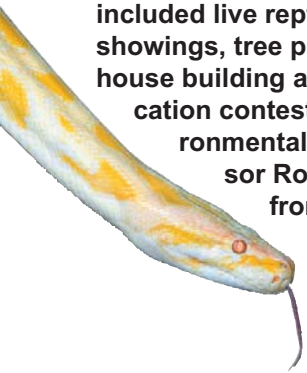
The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of three officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the commission include recommendation of policy and work programs, the study of and reporting upon the necessity for modifications or additions to flood control and navigation projects, recommendation upon any matters authorized by law, and making semi-annual inspection trips. The jurisdiction of the commission includes the entire length of the Mississippi River from its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to Head of Passes, La.

Earth Day



Castle Kids and employees enjoy the district's third annual Earth Day celebration in the DARM on April 21. Gib Owen and Sean Mickal, Project Management, organized events that included live reptile and bird showings, tree plantings, bird house building and bird identification contests, and an environmental talk by Professor Robert Thomas from Loyola University.





District impact on the Louisiana Economy

By Kevin Lovetro

The New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ranks as one of the largest employers in the city of New Orleans. District economists estimate that the total impact on the state from district expenditures during FY04 was approximately \$1 billion in output of goods and services, \$237 million in earnings and nearly 13,000 jobs.

The district spent approximately \$401 million providing service to taxpayers, as well as creating economic benefits that went beyond the direct benefits attributable to current projects.

The table below shows the impact that each expenditure category had on the local economy based on U.S. Department of Commerce multipliers.

The graph shows impacts of expenditures on output, earnings and employment, both direct and indirect.

Direct, or first-round, impacts are those impacts

which result directly from expenditures, such as employee salaries or payments to local vendors.

Indirect, or second-round, impacts result when beneficiaries of first-round payments spend these payments in the local economy.

First and second-round impacts are added to calculate the total impact on the local economy from district expenditures.

For example, the district spent about \$43 million on services provided by architectural-engineering firms for FY04 and generated \$131 million of total output. Likewise, the services provided by architectural-engineering firms directly contributed about \$23 million in earnings and over 1,400 jobs for first-round impacts. However, the total impact on the economy was over \$32 million in earnings and approximately 2,100 jobs with second-round impacts figures.

(In thousands)

| Expenditure Category | Direct Spending | Total Impact on Output | Direct Impact on Earnings | Total Impact on Earnings | Direct Impact on Employment | Total Impact on Employment |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| In-House Expenditures | 126,600 | 263,100 | 15,500 | 36,000 | 1,284 | 1,630 |
| Contract AE Expenditures | 43,300 | 130,900 | 22,600 | 32,300 | 1,440 | 2,100 |
| Construction Contracts | 143,600 | 434,600 | 49,500 | 101,300 | 2,280 | 5,510 |
| Operation & Maintenance | 86,400 | 244,600 | 40,700 | 67,500 | 1,870 | 3,590 |
| Real Estate Purchases | 1,200 | 1,900 | 40 | 200 | 10 | 10 |
| Totals | 401,100 | 1,075,100 | 128,340 | 237,300 | 6,884 | 12,840 |



Lane Lefort

Balloon launch -- Castle Kids kicked off the Week of the Young Child on April 4th with a balloon launch. The kids released about 100 balloons into the air. Each day of the week had a special theme, such as “messy day” on Wednesday and “family picnic” day on Friday. The Week of the Young Child, established in 1971, is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association. The event focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and helps to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.



Congratulations

to **Christie Lee Nunez**, who received her Professional Engineering License from the state, Jan. 18.

Kudos

to **Bill Hicks** (ED), who gave a district overview presentation to engineering seniors at Tulane University, Apr. 26.

to **Rebecca Georges** (PM), who spoke about coastal restoration to McDonogh #7 elementary students, Apr. 19.

Farewell

to **Bill Caver**, chief, Geotechnical Branch (ED), who retired May 3, after nearly 37 years of service.

Condolences

to **Allen Matherne** (OD), whose mother, Lise Rita Tassin Matherne, passed away Apr. 17.

to **Tasha White** (OD), whose brother, Donald White Sr., passed away this month.



Awards – Two employees received awards recently for service in Iraq. *Left:* Sean Mickal (PM), right, receives the Superior Civilian Service Award for service as sector manager for the support team to the U.S. Agency for International Development. *Below:* Edward Adams (OD), right, receives the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for service as a UPO water sector quality assurance manager.



Nathaniel Griffin (library) gets a congratulatory handshake from his former supervisor, Earnest Amadee. Griffin retired March 31 with 35 years of service, and Amadee (ED) on Jan. 3 with 36 years.

MICHAEL MAPLES



Lead regulatory district

New Orleans District has been named the lead district for the Corps' Regulatory Program in Louisiana. This means that New Orleans will address questions on policy matters for all of Louisiana. However, wetlands and waterways applications, and enforcement responsibilities, will continue to be handled by each district with responsibilities in Louisiana, including the Vicksburg, Fort Worth and Galveston districts.

Lead districts have been designated for all 18 states that have multiple Corps districts with Regulatory responsibilities. Lead districts nearby are Vicksburg, for Mississippi; Mobile, for Alabama; Little Rock, for Arkansas; and Galveston, for Texas.

Life jacket design contest

The Boat U.S. Foundation and the PFD Manufacturers Association have kicked off a national contest for the most innovative life jacket design in the country. The goal is to encourage and solicit innovative ideas and new technology to design a life jacket that the majority of average boaters might wear.



Your design is not required to meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements to qualify or win. All designs must be submitted

on or before December 15. Winners will be announced at the 2006 Miami International Boat Show. The winning prize for the most innovative new design is \$5,000.

For more info, go to www.boatus.com/Foundation/lifejacketdesign/.

~Around the District~ Submission guidelines

Submittals of a personal nature will be published for awards received in city, parish, state or national competition, 1st - 3rd place only; academic honors must be middle, high school or college level.



District ducks ~ A drake wood duck perches on one of the district's seven wood duck nesting boxes. Nesting season lasts from February through June, with eggs hatching in about 30 days. All boxes presently contain nesting hens, and two have hatched ducklings. In a good location, repeated use of one box by wood ducks is fairly common.

For more about wood ducks, go to www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/wood-duck/woodduck.htm.

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