



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

Riverside

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April 2001



*More fresh water for
coastal wetlands*

Davis Pond Diversion

Now in the final phase

Carrollton Gage

Col. Thomas F. Julich

Congressional Visits

Mr. John Saia and I conducted our semi-annual congressional visits in late March. This was my fourth visit to see our delegation in Washington, D.C. I have found these visits to be extremely beneficial and quite refreshing. They are beneficial in that we are able to convey to our delegation the great progress our district is making on the projects they are interested in. It also allows us to address issues of concern with them.

I say the visits are refreshing because it is wonderful to see the strong support that the New Orleans District enjoys from our congressional delegation. They have proven their willingness to pull together to do what is right for Louisiana as it relates to our work. That kind of cooperation between a district and their delegation is not the norm and is not something that just happens. It takes lots of effort and special emphasis. You all have done that over the years, and we are seeing the benefits of that work.

Customer Focus

I have talked with you on numerous occasions about the need for keeping a customer focus in the performance of our mission. The

importance of this needs to be foremost in our minds and incorporated in all of our work processes. I need your help to make that happen. All of you play an important role in providing a customer focus. Too often organizations lose this focus. That normally results in customers deciding to take their business elsewhere. It only takes one unfortunate experience to turn a customer away from a business.

I recently experienced trouble dealing with a business that I believe has lost their customer focus. It happened to be a bank. My bank of 28+ years decided to charge me with fees that I deemed excessive and unwarranted. Despite repeated assurances that they would look into the situation and likely resolve it in my favor, it was not until upper management became involved that the situation was rectified. Had the bank not lost its customer focus, lower level employees would have been empowered to solve my customer problem, and would have acted immediately to overcome my concerns.



What Motivates You?

Recently I read an article from the *Federal Employees News Digest* that gave the results of a survey of federal employees by the Merit Systems Protection Board. When asked what motivates them, the most frequent response (75 percent of the 7,000 participants) was personal feelings of satisfaction. This indicates that doing worthwhile work and being empowered in the process is important to employees. Not only that, it is the most important thing. To me, that is refreshing to hear, and not surprising. The type of work we do here in Louisiana is highly visible to the citizens and normally of unquestionable benefit. You know that most citizens recognize and appreciate your efforts. That's quite a motivator.

Riverside

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On Our Cover:

Denis Duhon, resident engineer, at the forebay of the soon to be open Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure.

Photo by Eric Hughes

Felger named new chief of Control Branch

by Terri Jackson

Glenn Felger has switched assignments but is still in “control,” enjoying his new position as chief of Engineering Control Branch.

In 1989 when Engineering Control Branch was created, Felger was one of the first to begin working there, being named chief of Control Section. Felger has been a Corps employee for 23 years and has been working as the new Engineering Control chief since February.

Felger has witnessed many changes within the Corps over the years. His career with the New Orleans District began in 1978. While working on his master’s degree, Felger was employed for four years as a design engineer in the Levees’ Atchafalaya Basin Unit in Design Branch. In 1982, he was promoted to an engineering position in Project Management.

Felger quickly acknowledges the former chief of Engineering Control and now assistant chief of Engineering Division, Bob Fairless, as being a major influence in his profession and hard-work ethic. “The thing I admire most about my past boss is the way he approaches problems and methodically thinks things out to arrive at the best possible solution,” Felger said.

When asked what changes he intended on implementing in the near future, Felger responded, “The branch is functioning fine. I don’t really see a need for any drastic changes. It is easy to be the boss when everyone knows their job and the employees are empowered to get the job done. They are truly great employees.”

Felger does, however, foresee the Engineering Control Branch playing an important role in developing and maintaining automated information systems here at the district, such as our Preaward Actions Database, OPEN PLAN, PROMIS, and eventually P2 and P3.

“I’m excited about getting the district’s Steering Committee meetings up and running again, as an initial step towards capturing our design schedules and manpower requirements in an automated database that the entire district can utilize,” Felger stated.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Felger’s interest in engineering started early. “My father’s determination and work ethic was instilled in me at an early age,” Felger said. His father, an electrical engineer for BellSouth, and a natural interest in math and science led him to choose a career in civil engineering. In



photo by Scott Riecke

1978 he received his bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of New Orleans. Continuing his education, he earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from Tulane University in 1984.

When not at work, Felger enjoys spending time with his wife, Patti, and their two children, Danielle and Garrett. Felger’s hobbies include fishing and building a camp on Lake Pontchartrain in Slidell.

High-water inspection on the Big River



Photo by Mike Maples

James Foreman, Operations Division river pilot, explains something interesting on the Mississippi River to Greg Breerwood, assistant chief of Operations, during the April 5 annual high-water inspection trip aboard the M/V Mississippi. Once during high water in the spring, and again for low water in August, the Mississippi River Commission conducts river inspection trips all the way from Missouri to Louisiana, holding public meetings along the way. District staff accompany the commissioners on the Louisiana leg, briefing them and state officials on the status of river work. A public meeting was held the morning of April 6 in New Orleans. The MRC, organized in 1879, has seven members nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Occupational Health Office gives insight to preventing illness

Think: To your health

by Amanda Padalewski

Have you ever wondered what you could do to save your life? The Wellness Program gives you the information you need to maintain your health.

After a five-year hiatus, the program started in January and already has 300 members registered in its first three months.

“The purpose is to promote wellness, make employees more health conscious, boost morale and save on medical costs,” says Peggy Plaisance (SS), Wellness Program coordinator. “It’s about prevention.”

The program starts by assessing health risks and making each individual aware of what they can do prevent serious health problems. You first receive a Health Risk Assessment booklet. It asks about family and personal health history, smoking, eating habits, aspects concerning your social health and many other factors that can affect the way you feel physically and emotionally. Once this is completed, all records are returned to you to maintain your privacy.

After filling out the booklet, blood is drawn and sent to a lab where a confidential health profile is created for you. With this profile, you can see where the risks are and what you can do to eliminate them.

Along with a health risk assessment, the Wellness Program offers free exercise classes. The eight-week sessions in karate or line dancing are on a first come, first serve basis. Mike Escarra (ED), the karate instructor, says the classes are structured around each individual because everyone moves at their own pace.

“A lot of people are getting a whole lot out of this program,” says Escarra. “People feel better about themselves and about coming to work.”

Plaisance says that many people are unaware of the risks to their health. Some individuals may not realize that heart disease runs in their family until they complete the family history section of the booklet. She also says that there are people who may not know they’re a borderline diabetic until the lab results show an extremely high glucose level in their blood.

Helping people to become more conscious of their health and more active in caring for their wellness is one of the many benefits of the program. Another advantage – it’s free! The booklet, lab tests and exercise classes are open to all employees at no charge.

Along with speakers and exercise classes, the program coordinators and the Recreation and Activities Council brought the Weight Watchers program to employees. It’s a 10-week



Photo by Mike Maples

Peggy Plaisance (SS) draws blood from Ed Bernard (SS), which will be sent to the lab where a health profile will be created. Ouch!

program to help employees lose weight and eat healthier. Using a point system, you can eat whatever type of food you like as long as you stay within the allotted points for the day.

Currently, 40 people are enrolled in Weight Watchers and the group has collectively lost 210 pounds after its first month.

Plaisance says the response from employees has been overwhelming. The program coordinators have set a new goal to have 500-750 members by the end of the year. There will be a second registration date in May, when more employees will be able to sign up and get their Health Risk Assessment booklets.

She says it’s important for employees to know about the program and become more aware about their health. As a result, employees can come to work more and use less sick leave. Also, she said it’s important for employees to know that the commander “did this because he cares about the people here.”

If you would like more information on shaping up your health and your body, contact Peggy Plaisance at x1223.

Teamwork makes the "net" work

by Amanda Padalewski

So, you're coming back from lunch and your computer tells you that CEFMS is down. Or, you get a message saying the network isn't responding. To you, they're annoyances, but to the network team, they are a part of the daily grind.

Many employees take it for granted that they come into work in the morning and log on without a problem. Many don't really know what goes on behind the scenes to make that login a success each and every day.

Fred Lachney, electronic engineer, says there's a lot more that goes on than people realize when it comes to the network and the entire automation infrastructure. In fact, there's a whole team of employees that dedicate themselves to keeping all Corps employees connected to E-mail, phone lines and the Internet. Lachney says the 1,300 workstations and 23 field sites are enough to keep any team busy.

"We're on call 24 hours seven days a week," says Lachney. One member of the six-member team is put on call for one week, and the next week the shift is passed on to another team member.

What kind of employee does it take to handle this job? Lachney believes, "It takes highly motivated and competent employees. It takes someone who can multitask." He says someone may start on one problem and encounter another that requires attention and undoubtedly still another problem will

present itself. The trick is to balance all of these situations and fix them.

"It's a huge undertaking," he says. "You're constantly doing something different."

A typical day for a network team member starts at 6 a.m. when one person comes in to make sure the servers are functioning and ready for the 1,300 logons. Between the phone ringing, preventive maintenance, repairs and upgrades on the equipment, and performing mandated installations from headquarters, network team members find it can be overwhelming at times and seemingly unappreciated by fellow employees.

Team members come in on the weekends and at night to keep the network up so that users are connected without interruption to their daily work schedule.

"We give up a lot of our personal lifestyle," Lachney says. "When people are sleeping, we're working and when people are on vacation, we're working."

When things are this hectic on a normal basis, one can only imagine what the team goes through when the network shuts down. Lachney had one word to describe it, "crazy."

CADD/GIS Systems Manager Rick Cain knows what it's like to be on the run with the network. Aside from mainly working on drafting and design, the CADD team also helps the network team with Windows NT applications, security concerns and after-hours system checks.

Employees panic when their computers freeze or when the MVN alert castle says something has gone wrong. Some assume that shutdowns happen all of the time and the network team isn't doing enough to prevent them; however, the team actually takes several measures to ensure that the network is as reliable as possible. In fact, statistics prove that the network is 99.98 percent reliable.

Backups of both hardware and software keep users online so they see minimal effects if the servers crash.

There are several servers located in Room 189 and each automatically transfers its duties to another one if it shuts down. All of this happens within a matter of 2-3 minutes, so most of the time you never even notice.

Even with the preventive measures, there are still some aspects of the network that remain out of the control of the network team. In these situations, the team acts as quickly as possible to get everyone back online.

Lachney says, even with all of the stress and a perceived lack of appreciation, "We love our jobs. It's very dynamic and it's always interesting."



Photo by Scott Riecke

Clockwise, (seated) Ann Gordon, Tina Harris, Nick Zimmerman, Fred Lachney, Bac Nguyen, George Rogers, Chris Colombo and Robert Melancon work together to keep the network up and running.

Almost there: Davis

by Eric Hughes

Davis Pond is nearing completion. The project will soon become the second freshwater diversion structure, following Caernarvon, to grab a piece of the Mississippi River's freshwater flow.

Since March 1997, Resident Engineer Dennis Duhon (CD) has been responsible for the \$106.8 million project. Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion, built on the west bank of the Mississippi River in St. Charles Parish, below Luling, should be able to send Mississippi River fresh water to Barataria Bay in August or September of this year.

Davis Pond is Duhon's first resident engineer experience, serving as both a supervisory civil engineer and administrative contracting officer.

"It's different because we're physically located here," he said. "As far as complexity, it's not



Photos by Mike Maples

Engineers Jack Fredine, Dennis Duhon and Jules Boudreaux review the plans for the final construction phase of the diversion project.



The discharge lines from the pumping station convey local storm water into the ponding area. The Department of Natural Resources has an agreement with St. Charles Parish for them to operate the pumping station, which has been in service since January 1999.

more complex, but larger than most contract projects."

Duhon is on-site, representing Construction Division, to see that the project is constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications. Eight general contractors and numerous subcontractors have been associated with the project, each handling a different aspect of this large, 10,650 cubic-foot-per-second, capacity diversion.

Besides the completion of the pumping station and the guide levees, several other key structures are now finished, such as the

new U.S. Hwy 90 and Santa Fe Railroad bridges, and the Cypress-Lumber Canal Levee. The Outflow Channel, 11,000 feet long and 120 feet wide at the bottom, will be complete in May. It connects the diversion structure to a nearby ponding area, and from there the water goes into Lake Cataouatche on its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Once complete, the structure will divert flows under regulated conditions determined by basin salinities. The water will pass, as needed, through four iron-gated, 14 by 14-foot box culverts built into the levee. This will recreate the river's natural historic spring overflows. The controlled, marsh-supporting fresh water will flow south into the Barataria Bay estuary, providing nutrients and some sediments, thereby restoring marsh vegetation.

"Davis Pond is definitely a positive for the environment," Duhon said.

During the next 50 years, 33,000

Pond opening soon

acres of wetlands will be saved, and 777,000 acres of marshes and bays should be improved as habitat for fish and wildlife.

With an August or September completion date looming, Duhon said, "The majority of the work is to finish rebuilding the main line Mississippi River levee and removing the temporary river levee."

Duhon has also been busy in the surrounding community, keeping residents informed on the project's construction.

"We worked with the duck hunters and worked around their hunting schedule," he said. Duhon said it's also been important talking to the residents of Willowdale, a subdivision adjacent to Davis Pond.

"We reassured them that the construction was not going to impact them."



The diversion structure includes the four iron-gated, 14' x 14' box culverts. All four gates should be raised uniformly to maintain a balanced flow of water out of the structure.



The Davis Pond structure, looking south toward Lake Salvador and the Barataria Basin. River water, up to 80,000 gallons per second, will be diverted to the outflow channel, eventually into the 9,300-acre ponding area and then toward the Gulf of Mexico. The total project area is 10,084 acres.

The community efforts make up just one aspect, but Duhon commends his team for the overall success of the project. They include, over the last four years, project engineers Jules Boudreaux and Chris Wagner, project inspectors Clarence Burns, Howard Lemoine, Alvin Cloutre, Zane Bryant, David Beadle, and two administrative assistants, Aline Smith and Lisa Dufrene.

"Everything's gone pretty well," Duhon said. "There are many people involved, and because of a great deal of coordination, everything has run smoothly."

Duhon's previous project engineer and supervisory civil engineer positions have included the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection and the New Orleans Floodwall.

NOD at Work

Operations

BERWICK BAY HARBOR—The contract dredge E. Stroud is dredging material out of Berwick Bay Harbor for routine annual maintenance. The dredging should continue for about 45 days to restore the waterway to project depth. The estimated cost is \$1.1 million.

DREDGE NEWPORT—The contract hopper dredge Newport was moved to Southwest Pass to help keep the Mississippi channel open during this period of high water stages and extra sediment. The dredging began March 14 and will continue for about 45 days. Additional dredging at a later date may include other reaches of Southwest Pass from Head of Passes to the lower jetty and bar channel and from Head of Passes to Cubit's Gap. Six dredges, including five hoppers, were at work in the river at mid-month.

DREDGE McFARLAND—The Corps hopper dredge McFarland was docked at NOD from Apr. 12-17 to complete the requirements to renew her USCG Certificate of Inspection. The ship will also undergo safety inspections, engine

maintenance and a crew change. The ship arrived at NOD from a dredging job on the Mississippi River. Once the inspections are done, the dredge will return to work at the MRGO.

Project Management

MRGO STUDY—A reevaluation study is in progress to determine whether or not the MRGO channel needs to be modified. The study is looking not only at maintenance but also the environmental and flood control aspects. It's scheduled for completion in September 2002.

HURRICANE PROTECTION—Why get out of New Orleans when a big hurricane is bearing down? The hurricane protection projects at best will protect against a fast-moving Category 3 storm. Now, however, NOD is doing a \$500,000 reconnaissance study on whether to strengthen hurricane protection projects to withstand storms up to the ultimate, Category 5. Senior Project Manager Al Naomi briefed state and local officials, including mayors, congressional representatives, parish council members, and levee district executives on March 16 in the DARM. Study completion is July 2002.

IHNC AWARD—The Corps and its consultant, gr, last month won the "Outstanding Federal Planning Project" award in connection with the \$585 million Industrial Canal Lock replacement. The Corps hired gr to help develop a community planning process that would include citizens in formulating the \$35 million community-inspired mitigation plan. The award was given at a luncheon here during the Federal Planning Division's annual conference.

DAVIS POND TOUR—25 Tulane students joined Jack Fredine (PMD) and Bruce Baird (PMD) on an April 3 field trip to the Davis Pond project. The students were a part of the "Mississippi River Colloquium" which concentrates on different aspects of the Mississippi River such as land loss, natural resources and the cost of diverting the river. The students listened to a presentation about coastal wetland loss and the objectives of the Davis Pond and Caernarvon freshwater diversion projects to build up the wetlands. The group got a complete tour of the construction site.

Bonnet Carre Spillway cemeteries studied

PROTECTING THE PAST—Edwin Lyons (PMD) explains to first year Tulane University architecture students the need for a design in preserving and memorializing the Kenner and Kugler cemeteries at the Bonne Carre Spillway. Lyons informed the students March 3 that the design needed to withstand all natural disasters. The students were divided into groups and asked to produce such a design. After the designs were judged, the top three groups were awarded \$150 each. The project provided the students with a hands-on learning experience.



Courtesyphoto

Official notices that go unnoticed

by Shari Thomas

Bulletin boards. Have you noticed them? Have you read them lately?

The district has 30 official bulletin boards, nine here at headquarters and the rest at various field locations. There's no set rule on the number of bulletin boards, but each building at the district office has three official bulletin boards in the hallways and six unofficial bulletin "boards" located in the restrooms, plus the main unofficial board in the cafeteria.

Do these bulletin boards serve their purpose? Do they communicate effectively? Are they in step with the wired age? Could we make better use of these highly visible spaces?

The 30 official bulletin boards are, of course, for official business only. A bulletin board monitor, named on the board in the lower right corner, maintains each one. The monitors screen publications to determine appropriateness, assign a removal date to temporary notices and update the notices on a regular basis. Prior approval is required before posting a notice on one of these.

Some of the official notices that are required to be posted on all of the official bulletin boards are:

- Rights of Civilian Employees to Present Complaints
- Rights of Military Personnel to Present Complaints
- What a Federal Employee Should do When Injured at Work
- Notice-Report all Security Violations to...
- Know the Rules on Political Activity
- DoD Occupational Safety and Health Protection Programs
- EEO Poster
- Policy Statement of the USACE Commander on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Work Place
- Policy Statement of the USACE Commander on Equal Employment Opportunity for Civilian Employees and Applications for Employment

- CEMVN Commander's Policy Statement on Sexual Harassment
- CEMVN Commander's Policy Statement on Equal Employee Opportunities
- CEMVN and National Federation of Federal Employees Local 1124 Labor-Management Relations Agreement
- Code of Ethics
- Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Hotline

All of these official notices and more (there are 19 in all) are supposed to be included on each official bulletin board. These are only the permanent documents—adding the temporary ones raises the number to 27. Each board measures only 71 by 36 inches. Can you see the problem with this? The majority of these documents are at least 8 by 11 inches. It's impossible to post all of these documents so that each of them can be read. And if the Army updated its 1992 Official Bulletin

Board regulation, with the required listing of notices, the number might even increase, though with luck it could decrease.

The unofficial bulletin boards are another story, at least at district headquarters. The one in the cafeteria, maintained by the Recreation and Activities Council, provides space to the Credit Union, EEO, the National Federation of Federal Employees and Local 1124. Although unofficial, you have to have prior approval to squeeze your notice in among the collage.

If you're looking for a better place to post your notice so that it stands out and will be seen—try one of the restrooms. Yes, that's right, the restroom. The bulletin boards in the restrooms are on a much smaller scale, but think of the audience size! Because of the single display strip, these boards are not overwhelming, confusing or outdated. The notices here actually get noticed.



Photo by Mike Maples

District employees usually dart past our official bulletin boards without a passing glance.

Earth Fest 2001



What is Freshwater Diversion? Cathy Slumber (OD) shares her knowledge of the process to a youngster at Earth Fest 2001 at Audubon Zoo in March.



Beth Nord (OD) and her boyfriend, Bernie Zagorski, explain some of the projects of the Corps to a curious Earth Fest participant.



Photos by Mike Maples

Mike Rosales (SS) and son Miguel share a moment of learning during the festival.



Sue Hawes (PM) talks about freshwater diversion and how the Corps tries to solve the problem of sinking and malnourished marshes.

Around the District

Dorothy Cooper offers former Real Estate Chief Clyde Sellers a slice of cake at his April 2 farewell party. Sellers is now RE chief for South Atlantic Division.



Condolences

to **Christopher Alfonso** (ED) whose mother died on March 22.

to **Robert Brooks** (ED) whose daughter died on March 28. to retired Corps employee **Irma Reinike** (OD), who was hospitalized and is now recuperating at home after suffering a mild heart attack in late January. Irma said, "I received many awards during my career at the Corps but my greatest reward since retiring is my health care insurance!" Irma reports that she's lost 20 pounds and is feeling better every day.

to the family of **Millard J. Wildey** (Maintenance) who died March 20. Wildey was a Corps employee for 34 years.

to **Reynold Broussard** (ED), whose brother died on March 27.

to **Harold Trahan** (OD), whose mother died on April 4.

to **Betty Brogna** (RE), **Bernard Brogna** (CD) and **Kasey Daley** (CD), whose mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Frances Maureaux died April 13.

Thank You

from **Lt. Jerald M. Alexander Jr.** (Security) for the outpouring of sympathy and generosity during the loss of his fiancée.

New Beginnings

to **Kelly M. Gele'** (CT) on the birth of her son, Colin Phillip Gele'. Colin was born on November 24, 2000, and weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz.

to **Mark** (PM) and **Lori Wingate** (PM), who are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Lindsey Marie Wingate. Lindsey was born on March 10 and weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz. Lindsey has a big brother named Kyle.

to **Mark Haab** (PM) on the birth of his third son, Kolbe Andre Haab. Kolbe was born March 7 and weighed 7.5 lbs. Kolbe's two brothers are Kenneth and Joshua.

to **Marcia Washington** (PM) on the birth of her granddaughter, Diajelle Armani Batiste, who was born on March 17. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz.

Corps Picnic

Come join the fun at this year's picnic, happening Friday, June 8.

Congratulations

to **Toni Baldini** (PM), whose daughter Tana won first place for her poster on "Household Hazardous Waste" in the Public Education Poster and Essay Contest. Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs hosted the event.

to **Steven Schinetsky** (OD), father of Philip and Johhlee Schinetsky. Philip placed second in the All-Around at the 2001 Louisiana Boys State Gymnastics Championship on March 24 in Lafayette. Phillip and the YMCA Class 5 team took home the first place team trophy. Johlee placed fourth on the balance beam in the Girls State Meet on March 18 at LSU.

to **Ray Harrison** (OD), whose daughter Marnie received the third place ribbon for her social studies project on Old River Lock in the geography category at Point Coupee Catholic School. Marnie is in the fifth grade.

to **Judy Frilot** (RE), who will wed Paul Richard on April 21.

to **Donna Gordy** (OD), whose son, Christopher Gordy, will be graduating from Rummel High School this semester. Christopher has been accepted to UNO and the University of West Florida.

to **Dianne Landry** (CD), whose son, Jason, received his Eagle Scout badge, the highest award you can receive as a Boy Scout.

to **Marco Rosamano** (RE), who was selected as chief of the Direct Federal Acquisition Branch.



Lt. Col. Dale Knieriemen helped get things off to a rollicking start at the Essayons kickoff, March 8 in the District Assembly Room. The purpose was to encourage employees to join team Essayons and represent the Corps in the upcoming MS Tour for Cure, a two-day, 150-mile bike ride that raises money to support victims of multiple sclerosis. Contact Stan Green at ext. 1486 for more information.

Jazzland Tickets

Partners In Education has Jazzland tickets at cheap rates: \$25 for one-day admission, \$70 for season passes, taxes included. A small contribution goes to PIE activities.

Correction

Last month's issue stated that retired Corps employee, Robert Habisreitingner (OD) broke a state record for hooking a bass weighing 121 lbs. The bass was not that massive! Actual weight was 12.98 lbs.

Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on "Web Sites." Here are the responses we received:

Tell the public about our web sites

The district's Web sites are captivatingly informative and user friendly. Overflowing with valuable knowledge and information, they enlighten both the employees of NOD as well as the public about the ins and outs of the district and the Corps in general. In vivid color and thick description are the answers to all your questions. Projects, employment opportunities, the organizational structure, the mission, the Army, and the like are all carefully constructed for easy reading and understanding.

They are an important source in educating the public on the processes of the Corps and key in promoting a positive image. It is extremely essential for the public, customers and clients of the Corps, and employees as well to understand the agency. When issues and concerns arise, especially with our customers and clients, the Web site is readily accessible to assist in helping to explain our process. The pictures displayed promote a positive image of working with the community. This is a big plus for the district, because it helps us to build strong, trusting relationships with the public.

The Web sites are perfectly designed and well organized for an abundance and wealth of knowledge. They need no improving in that area. However, I would recommend improvement in educating the public about our Web sites. Let them know that the Web sites exist and have answers for almost all of their questions. Also, I would like to

encourage my fellow co-workers to frequent these sites, both our Internet and Intranet. It's "knowledge at your fingertips!"

-Priscilla W. Paige, Real Estate

**Priscilla is the winner of a reserved parking space*

Web sites should be more unique

I very much enjoy having the ability to visit other division/offices' Web sites on the Intranet, and find it very informative. I think it'd be neat, however, if each division/office's site could be more unique. Uniformity, in itself, does not necessarily make something better. Sure, keep the soldiers in line for the Internet. But let us express ourselves on the Intranet!

-Terry L. Chopin, Equal Employment

Put project information on the Web

A recent joint study by J. P. Morgan and McKinsey ...concludes that the [Internet] growth rate is close to 100 percent per year⁽¹⁾. The use of WWW for communication is almost as ubiquitous as use of the telephone. Third graders now have e-mail addresses and search the Internet to support school projects. Our Public Affairs Office states that the majority of public inquiries now arrive via e-mail. Yet only 40 of the 200+ projects listed on our MVN Projects page have Internet content. I propose to our PPPMD that they develop a goal to provide some minimal Internet content for every project and electronically distribute every completed study and report.

-Ralph Scheid, Engineering

**TO HAVE YOUR
IDEAS PRINTED
IN THE NEXT ISSUE**

AND

**WIN A RESERVED
PARKING SPOT FOR
AN ENTIRE MONTH**

**RESPOND BY
MAY 4**

**LET US KNOW WHAT
YOU THINK ABOUT
THIS MONTH'S
Talk Back TOPIC:**

BULLETIN BOARDS

**>HOW CAN WE IMPROVE
THE DISTRICT'S BULLETIN
BOARDS?**

**>HOW SHOULD WE COM-
MUNICATE OFFICIAL NO-
TICES?**

*The editor reserves the
right to determine which
responses to publish and
award.*

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