



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

Riverside

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December 2001

**Caernarvon:
10 years later**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Col. Thomas F. Julich

Holiday Message

Looking at this past year I am amazed at how quickly it passed by and at how much we accomplished as a district. 2001 was a great year for the New Orleans District and in our efforts to make Louisiana a better place to live and work. I'd like to thank each of you for your contributions in bringing this about.

During this holiday season I encourage you to spend time with friends and family and get into the spirit of the season. My family and I so enjoy this time of year, and I hope that it is the same for you. Also, take some time to reflect on this past year,

and consider those things that have gone well for you at work and in your personal life, as well as things that could have worked out better for you. Then commit to a plan of action to try and improve things for the coming year.

Here in the district many of you have bright ideas on ways to improve the district or ways to get the district more involved in the community (examples of community involvement that we have mentioned recently are the Combined Federal Campaign, Christmas in October, the Tour for Cure, and the Corporate Cup). Your involvement can make a real difference. It might only impact your section, branch or division, or it might even have district-wide implications. Many of your ideas don't require anyone's approval, just your action. Remember the "Just Do It" card you were issued and use it if the conditions apply. Please get involved with some improvement action this coming year.

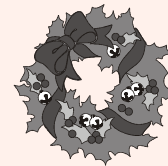
Coast 2050

Most of you know about the efforts your district is taking on the Louisiana Coastal Area Feasibility Study, known by many as just Coast 2050. It's exciting for our district to be playing such a key role in this huge effort that has such tremendous

implications for Louisiana. The study has been going on for nearly two years. We work closely with the state of Louisiana in accomplishing the study, but also involve the federal resource agencies, environmental groups, and various stakeholders.

Since the Governor's Coastal Summit in August of this year the pace and the visibility of this study has picked up. On our side we have been able to brief key Corps leaders, to include Lt. Gen. Flowers, Brig. Gen. Griffin (new director of civil works), Mr. Fred Caver (Brig. Gen. Griffin's assistant), and their staff. In coordination with the state we also have had discussions with Mike Parker (our new assistant secretary of the army for civil works) and with members of our congressional delegation. There is strong support for our efforts among all that we talked with. The state has taken some important steps, the most visible being the establishment of the Governor's Commission on Coastal Louisiana. There is still a lot of effort required to get construction authorized, but steady progress is being made.

Happy Holidays!



Riverside

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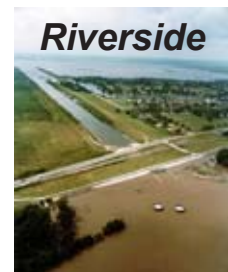
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The view over the Mississippi River from Creole Santa's sleigh shows how Caernarvon diverts fresh water into Breton Sound.

A message from Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers

The holiday season is traditionally a time to pause and reflect on the past year, and the challenges of the coming year. I'm sure you will all agree that this past year has given us a lot to think about. We have much to be thankful for, both as an organization and as individuals.

I am personally thankful that no Corps employees were lost during the terrible attacks on Sept. 11. And I am thankful to have the opportunity to lead our great organization with some of the finest people in the U.S. government. You all proved that this past year, and I am very proud of you.

Although the terrorist attacks are foremost in our minds, they were not the only emergency operations we faced in 2001. After an ice storm in Oklahoma last Christmas, our employees cleaned up tree debris at their projects, often working without

building) prevented more than \$50 million in damage to North Dakota and Minnesota cities.

Corps personnel responded to Tropical Storm Allison. They supplied emergency power, temporary housing, debris removal and monitoring, distributed 100,000 sandbags, and provided utility hook-ups for 950 temporary housing trailers.

and lending assistance. We had literally *thousands* of volunteers to help in New York, and the city welcomed the work they did through FEMA – structural response, temporary power, debris removal, and more.

The Corps' response to the terrorist attacks was tremendous, and I couldn't be more proud of you all. But work that

intense takes a lot out of you, plus the uncertainties of the war against terrorism and what the future holds adds additional strain.

I would appreciate it if everyone would take extra care of each other in the coming year. There is no one better able to assess how people are feeling than those around them. Look each other in the eye now and

then and earnestly ask, "How's it going?" Then listen and help each other.

Our entire country

seems to be drawing closer together and reaching out to help others, a little more aware of what's important in life, and of our need for each other. If we in the Corps of Engineers continue to be thankful for our blessings, and keep reaching out to one another, we will be more than ready to tackle the challenges that next year will bring.

My family joins me in wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, exciting New Year. Take some well-deserved time off, relax, and enjoy being with your family and friends.

Essayons!

ROBERT B. FLOWERS
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding



Lt. Gen. Flowers spoke in the DARM and stopped in Regulatory Branch and the warehouse on December 6.

All that, plus our normal work load — supporting Army transformation, environmental restoration at military and civil works

sites, research and development, building housing and other facilities for the Air Force and Army, civil works projects throughout the country, and support for others, just to name a few.

But the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have dominated our thinking and emotions. I'm enormously proud of the work we did on Sept. 11 and the days following.

At both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we had people on the ground in less than two hours assessing the situation



Mike Maples

electricity, phones or water. Additionally, Tulsa District delivered 250,000 gallons of water to stricken counties.

Seattle District rode out a magnitude 6.8 earthquake, then went into immediate action in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to assess the integrity of Corps projects in the area.

We took part in a flood fight last spring in the upper Midwest. We distributed 3.2 million sandbags to local communities, and Corps emergency work (mostly levee



oyster industry, “It’s all looked at now as a big coastal restoration project ... because it’s going to preserve marsh.”

Based on salinity objectives, there was rarely a need to open Caernarvon to full capacity. In 1993, though, landowners liked what they saw as the land reappeared, and in January of that year the Inter-agency Advisory Group decided to open Caernarvon to its maximum of 8,000 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) for three months out of the year. The results were amazing. “We freshened the whole area in two months,” Baird said, and re-established marsh.

Additionally, dormant reefs that had been written off began coming back to life.

Everything has its price, however. The change in salinity produced a rise in oyster mortality in the private areas leased by oystermen. Subsequently, the first suit was filed by oystermen against the Corps in August of that year and won on summary judgment. Another case was awarded in Plaquemines Parish Court, says Baird, for \$23,500 per acre in damages. That case is under appeal.

Landowner Delacroix Corp., as well, though generally pleased with Caernarvon’s results, complained of land erosion when Caernarvon was opened to stronger volumes of 6-8,000 cfs, and finally, as a compromise, the Corps changed the outflow levels in November 1997 and again in March 2000. “We had to take into account that the state was liable for damages,” said Baird.

No matter what is done, some people get satisfied while others only find frustration. “That’s coastal restoration in a nutshell,” says Baird. “Anything you do, somebody takes a hit, and somebody gets the benefit. The key is to try to go for the most people getting benefited over the longest term.”

By Eric Lincoln

The Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure’s purpose, reported in the Flood Control Act of 1965 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, was to increase fish and wildlife productivity—including the muskrat and nutria fur trade—by re-establishing favorable salinity conditions.

But 10 years into operation, while Caernarvon’s original aims to increase commercial and recreational fisheries and wildlife productivity are being accomplished, enhanced emergent marsh vegetation and reduced marsh loss have become even larger benefits. Marshland is increasing at the rate of about 5.5 percent

Studies of freshwater diversion find evidence of steadily increasing marsh and oyster production

Caernarvon: 10 years later

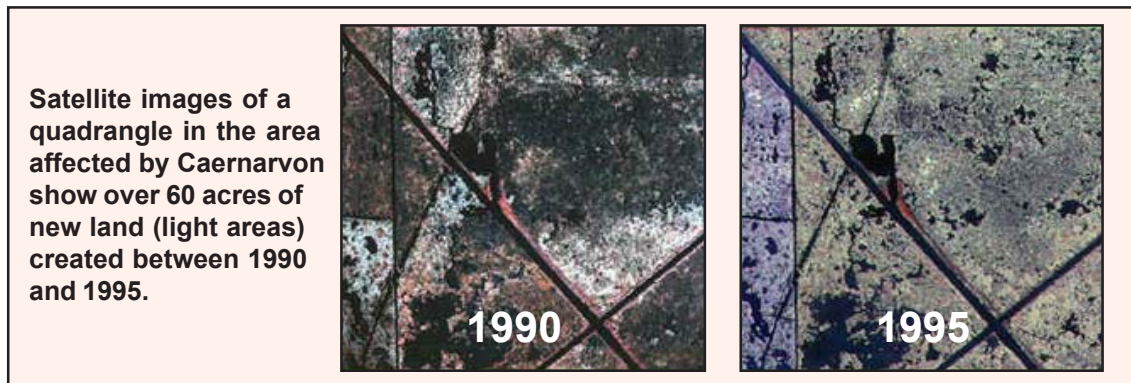
per year, according to a 1990-95 study; over 406 acres have been created.

Also, in the first years following the structure’s opening in 1991, oyster production in the public areas closer to the gulf unexpectedly “exploded,” says Bruce Baird, Project Management, who oversees the project and is the Corps voting member on the Inter-agency Advisory Group that decides when to operate Caernarvon.

Baird says that in addition to strengthening Breton Sound’s position as the cornerstone to the

At least the fishermen are happy. “The bass tournament started coming over [to Breton Sound],” Baird adds, and redfish and speckled trout “are doing pretty darn good” in the area as well.

Overall, Breton Sound will still lose thousands of acres, but



Satellite images of a quadrangle in the area affected by Caernarvon show over 60 acres of new land (light areas) created between 1990 and 1995.

Caernarvon will save and rebuild 16,472 acres over 50 years.

The project has accomplished enough in 10 years that the State Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority recently decided to fund half the cost of designing and engineering another freshwater diversion project that will use Bayou LaFourche to funnel fresh water into the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary.

A sister project is the Corps' Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure upriver at Luling. It will divert up to 10,650 cfs of river water into the Barataria Basin. According to Jack Fredine, Project Management, construction on that project should be completed by the end of the year. Whether or not it operates then will depend on basin salinity and oyster leases scheduled for relocation within the area. That project has recently gained interest from the National Geographic Channel and the New York Times.

Facts about Caernarvon

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is responsible for Caernarvon's operation, and Plaquemines Parish actually mans the structure. It has five box culverts, and the outflow channel, at about 1.5 miles long, makes it the largest diversion structure in the country. It is opened primarily from January through May.

For most of the past 10 years, operation of Caernarvon depended on the need to maintain salinity ranges from 5/1000 to 15/1000 by supplementing rainfall (fresh water is 0/1000, or zero grams of salt per liter of water, while sea water is about 35/1000). A recent policy change, influenced by

erosion studies, now requires flow range (cubic feet of water diverted through the structure, per second) to be the determining factor instead.

The Caernarvon Interagency Advisory Group, consisting of 14 representatives of federal and state agencies, fisheries, and landowners, provides operational oversight. Authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Caernarvon was built at 100 percent federal expense, though the state voluntarily shared 25 percent of the first costs and subsequent operation and maintenance costs. All together the project cost \$26.2 million.

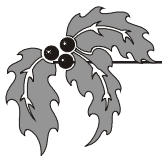


This graphic shows how fresh water (light area) from the Mississippi River is diverted through Caernarvon (near "Big Mar") into Breton Sound. Water from the gulf harms the marsh by producing higher salinity. Fresh water plants can't tolerate it and die, to be soon replaced by saltwater plants, which in turn produce a brackish marsh or salt marsh (marsh type is determined by plant composition). Land and oysters are lost as the saltwater plants take over the area and predators move in.

French: *Joyeux Noel*
Spanish: *Feliz Navidad*
Danish: *Glaedelig Jul*
Finnish: *Houska Joulua*
Welsh: *Nadolig Llawen*



Swedish: *God jul*
Italian: *Buon Natale*
Russian: *S Roczhestvom Kristovym*
German: *Froehliche Weihnachten*
Japanese: *Meri Kurisumasu*



Christmas in the kitchen with NOD

Corn and Crab Soup from Karen Lambert

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 lb. claw crab meat | 1 pint half & half |
| ¼ cup green onions | 2 tsps. liquid crab boil |
| 1 stick butter | 2 can corn |
| 2 cans cream of celery soup | 2 cans cream corn |
| 2 can whole milk | salt & pepper |

Melt butter. Sauté green onions. Add celery soup, crabmeat, liquid crab boil, salt & pepper. Simmer a few minutes while stirring constantly. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. (Soup will appear watery; let it set until it thickens.)



Smoked Turkey Carcass Gumbo from Vicki Collins

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1-2 turkey carcasses | 2 medium onions, chopped |
| 1 bell pepper, chopped | 3 ribs celery, chopped |
| 6 cloves garlic, minced** | Creole seasoning to taste |
| 1 tsp. powdered thyme | 1/2 C. Pace picante sauce |
| 2 bay leaves | 4 tbs. roux - optional |
- (small amount of ground sage, if desired)

Boil carcass in large pot with just enough water to cover. Remove carcass, add remaining ingredients (except Creole seasoning) to stock and simmer until vegetables are tender. Remove meat from carcass, chop and add to gumbo. Add Creole seasoning to taste. Serve over rice with file on the side for each person to add. This is also good with baked yams for individuals to slice and add to their bowl.

- * If smoked turkey is not available, use any type; roasted or fried.
- ** We like garlic, so if you don't use less.



Crawfish Pistolettes from Mary Decareaux

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 chopped onion | 4 oz. canned mushroom pieces, drained |
| 1 chopped bell pepper | 3 tbsp. fresh parsley |
| 1 clove garlic, chopped | 30 pistolettes |
| 1 stick butter | 1 can cream of mushroom soup |
| 2 lbs. Crawfish | Creole seasoning to taste |

Saute vegetables in butter. Add crawfish, mushrooms and seasonings. Cook for 15 minutes. Add mushroom soup and parsley. Simmer five minutes on low heat. Let cool. Cut off tip of pistolette. Remove some of bread inside and replace with crawfish mixture. Replace bread top. Spread melted butter and garlic powder on top of pistolette. Bake at 450 degrees for eight minutes.





One Christmas when my two daughters were about six years old and four years old, we were leaving a Christmas Eve Party. We looked into the sky and saw a plane with a red light blinking. I told the girls that we had better rush home because it MUST be Rudolph and Santa rushing towards our house! Needless to say, they were thrilled and very excited. It was very hard getting them to sleep that night because they just knew that Santa was only minutes away. The plane passing over the party couldn't have happened at a better time. It added so much to that very special night when a six year old and a four year old believed everything was possible! Now looking back, I question whether it was a plane or could it have REALLY been Rudolph and Santa, had I only believed as a child?

Connie Rodgers

Holiday Memories

One Christmas years ago when our children were young, my husband decided that he wanted a flocked tree. He also decided that he could flock the tree himself. That it was a cinch. So he bought all the stuff and we went and got the perfect tree. By the time we brought the tree home, it was dark and it was cold outside. So he said he was going to flock the tree inside. We had hard wood floors in our living room. Anyway, we had a wet/dry vac and he hooked up the water and flocking stuff and proceeded to flock the tree. Halfway through he stopped to turn the tree around to get the other side. When he flipped the switch he flipped it the wrong way and the bag of flocking blew up into a large balloon and exploded. Flocking and water was everywhere including on my husband. He looked like Santa and the floor had about two inches of gooey snow. What a mess! Not to mention the furniture and drapes. My husband, needless to say, was furious. I thought it was hysterical but I couldn't laugh in front of him. So every time I left the room I'd snicker. I sent the kids to bed and my husband to clean himself up and said I would clean up the mess. After about two hours, I finally had everything cleaned up until I looked up at the light fixture. Snow was all over that, too. I had been cleaning up barefooted and the floor was quite damp because of the wood getting such a soaking. When I put my hand on the fixture, I got a shock that went all the way down my arm. It scared me, so I turned the light out and went to bed. Our kids are grown now, but they'll always remember the year "DAD" flocked the tree. And I'll always remember the "Shock."



Mary Hebert

Every Christmas Eve, Mom would pile my brother and sisters and me in the car to go see Christmas lights on folks' houses. Santa Claus would come deliver the presents while we were gone—every year! One year on the way to the car, I slipped on some ice (this was in Wisconsin, after all) and down I went! I spent Christmas Eve with a big ole' swollen lip!

Terry Chopin



Park named new chief of Technical Support Branch

By Terri Jackson

Michael Park has switched roles and is enthusiastically adjusting to his new position as chief of Technical Support Branch in Operations Division.



A native of New Orleans, Park received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of New Orleans in 1984. Recently, Park's quest for knowledge and advancement led him back into the classroom, allowing him to earn a master's degree in engineering management in August 2000.

During his 16 years as a Corps employee, Park has seen many changes and worn many hats at

the New Orleans District. Before being promoted to branch chief, Park had been the navigational function leader for Operations since 1996. "I provided support to Operations management and assisted in the electrical and mechanical upgrading to all navigational structures," Park stated.

Park also worked in a variety of other capacities within the Corps, including operations manager for the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, chief of the lock operations unit and operations manager in the former dredging and planning section of Operations. As the new chief of Technical Support, in addition to providing support to Operations, Park will face many new challenges.

When asked what vision he intended on implementing within the branch, Park responded, "In my view, the Technical Support Branch is a forward looking organization. The function leaders of the branch are consummate professionals and we seek to ride the leading edge of emerging technology."

Park's goals for the branch are to build the capability to project its technical expertise beyond the New Orleans District. "An important initiative that we're presently pursuing, in concert with other district elements, is the development of an electronic nautical charting system," Park said. "The development of a successful prototype would place our technical expertise in high demand, as other districts throughout the Corps have sought to gain by developing similar systems."

When not at work, Park tries to find time for his favorite pastime. "I can't find nearly as much time as I'd like for golf, but I do usually manage to get in 18 holes early on Sunday mornings," Park said. He also enjoys running and cycling along Lakeshore Drive and throughout City Park.

"My wife, Mary, and I are the proud parents of three very pampered cats that I rescued from abandonment on a golf course last June," Park added.

Lane Lefort

Go GIS

Last month, Enterprise Global Information Systems (eGIS) Day promoted the capabilities of GIS to NOD. GIS is fairly new and the information available is constantly growing and being refined. Right now, "It's just enough to wet the palette of potential users," said Ralph Schied, Engineering. GIS has had over 5200 log-ins since May, mostly from Regulatory Functions. Schied says that a course is planned soon that will offer instructions on how to use the image server. To see the detailed satellite images and precise data available through GIS, your computer must have an ActiveX viewer installed. This may be done automatically by IM sometime next year, but doing it yourself is fairly simple, and well worth it. For more information, contact Jay Ratcliff, x2958, or Ralph Schied, x2995.

To install the map viewer, go to: Start / Settings / Control panel / Advertised Programs (Wizard) / Select "Plugin IE 5.5 - Autodesk MapGuide ActiveX Viewer" (Installs ActiveX component for map viewing) / Select "Run the selected program now" / Select "Finish" / The program will run setup after a moment / Go to Web sites:

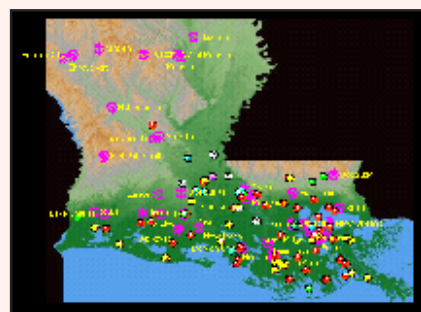
Digital Project Notebook:

<http://crunch.tec.army.mil/neworleans/webpages/dpnmvmap.html>

<http://crunch.tec.army.mil/dpn/webpages/dpn.cfm>

NOD GIS:

http://www.intra.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/gds_team/index.htm



eGIS

Enterprise Geographic Information System

The MS Tour For Cure

What's your motivation?

By Amanda Padalewski

To ride a bike 150 miles in two days may seem impossible to some; however, with 33 new riders on Team Essayons this year, more Corps employees than ever are going the distance.

On Oct. 6 and 7, the team participated in the MS Tour for Cure for the second year in a row. Last year, the team had 21 riders, this year it doubled to 44. Not only has the number of participants increased, but also the amount of donations. The team increased its donations for multiple sclerosis from \$6,640 in the first year to an

“It's a chance to combine something I love to do with helping a worthy cause.”

astounding \$14,012 in 2001. The money collected is used to help fund research to find a cure for multiple sclerosis. Some of the funds are also used to help victims of the disease with medications, therapy and counseling.

Many may wonder what type of motivation it takes to ride a bike 150 miles in two days.

For Stan Green, Project Management, the captain of Team Essayons, the motivation lies in his love for bike riding and helping those in need. “It's a chance to combine something I love to do with helping a worthy cause,” he said. This year, another motivation was to make the team bigger. It's not hard to see that Green was successful. The team received an award for being the largest team out of some 98 teams registered, and another for having the most new riders.

For Paul Hughbanks, Project Management, the tour served to meet new co-workers. He was at the Corps for a year

as a student and a few months as a permanent employee before he began training for the tour.

When the levee training rides began, Hughbanks said, the team captains did a great job setting up organized rides, 25-mile rides roundtrip. In addition to Corps training rides, the MS Society also held several rides from 25 to 70 miles in one day, close to the 75 miles a day demanded during the tour.

How did he survive going the distance?

“Tired, but pretty good. I felt that I was prepared and that I had done something for a good cause,” said Hughbanks.

“There's plenty of support around you from co-workers. It's a good cause and they [the MS Society] took good care of us.

They gave us food, water and there was entertainment. I can't think of a single negative.”

For Beth Nord, Operations, joining the tour was a challenge from her boyfriend. “He challenged me to do it and I did,” she said.

Like Hughbanks, Nord was also an occasional bicyclist. Her training was done mostly on the weekends, where she started doing five to ten miles at a time.

Later she participated in the longer training rides the MS Society put together.

Nord said there were people with multiple sclerosis at the finish line, and one personally thanked her for riding in the race.

Even though she had never been serious about long-distance cycling, Nord said, “It was really enjoyable doing it with



Mike Maples

This year's expanded Team Essayons raised over \$14,000 to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis and its victims.

the Corps group because there were so many people. Along the way, you would see other Corps people riding and everyone noticed that we had a big showing. We felt good because we knew we were showing a lot of support from the Corps.”

Kathy McLeod, who's been working with the National MS Society for 11 years, summed it up, saying, “I've never seen someone recruit as many rookies as Stan has. He's our top rookie recruiter.”



A Brief Scientific Inquiry into Santa Claus

As a result of an overwhelming lack of requests, and with research help from that renowned scientific journal SPY magazine (January 1991) - we are pleased to present this scientific inquiry into Santa Claus.

Flying Reindeer

1) No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer, which only Santa has ever seen.

2 Billion Kids

2) There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the work load to to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.

Time Constraints

3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc.

This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

Weighing In

4) The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of Queen Elizabeth.

Centrifugal Forces

5) 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

Happy Holidays!

Courtesy of <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~zcapl61/santa.html>



Around the District

Congratulations

to **Howie Gonzales** (PD-W). He will receive the \$100 On-the-Spot Award for submitting the winning suggestion for the 2002 doubloon theme. His theme is "Emergency Operations and Disaster Response — Helping Communities Prepare, Respond and Rebuild."

to **Johlee Schinetsky**, daughter of **Steven A. Schinetsky** (OD-H), who was the 2001 acrobats winner at the Louisiana Association of Dance Masters annual competition in the petite class (ages 8-10). Johlee won the acrobats competition for the second straight year, and she also placed fourth overall in the Miss Petite Dance Pageant.

to **Leah Farrell** (WCSC) whose son, Jason Farrell, was married on October 13 to Margaret Cox.



Peggy Plaisance, Health Office, administers one of dozens of free flu shots in December.

New Beginnings

to **Leah Farrell** (WCSC) on the birth of her granddaughter, Megan Elizabeth Farrell, on October 11. Megan is the daughter of B.J. and Tasha Farrell.

Condolences

to **Bob Brooks** (ED-G), whose father, Robert E. Brooks, died Sunday, November 25.



Promote morale through holiday cheer

It's that time of year again when sharing and caring with family and friends come first in our lives. Throughout the world, friends and families are gathering together for the holiday season: trimming trees, planning parties, and celebrating religious beliefs. It is also that time of year for office fun and parties. Just as families across the world are planning and sharing, so are offices. Food, fun, and festivities are the creative tools that usually bring office members together during this time of year and, at the same time, increase office morale. What's a better time of the year than now to increase and promote workplace morale?

Now, employers and employees alike are trying extra hard to be jolly and more cordial by sharing in the spirit of the season—decorating office space, preparing office parties, and exchanging



Lane Lefort

Sid Falk, Linda Mathies, Michelle Spraul and Ed Russo were part of a group of Corps employees who participated in the 22nd Annual YMCA Corporate Cup Race on December 9. **Mel Ray and Judy Richard** have coordinated the event for the Corps for the last 11 years. The Morale Committee and Credit Union donated money to buy the team members their shirts. Richard said, "All different companies and corporations participate ... it is just a day of good exercise and fun."

to **Mayo Broussard**, construction inspector for the Lafayette Area office, whose father-in-law, John W. Bergeron, passed away on November 25

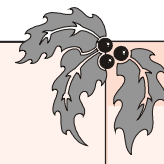
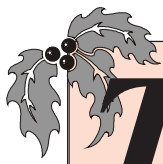
Farewell

to **Cathy Torlage** (CT), retiring at age 69 on February 2, 2002, 10 days shy of 24 years with the COE. Cathy also taught second grade for 16 years, then attended vocational school at the age of 45 to learn office skills that she put to work with her husband in their construction business. She has been mentor to many over the years.

gifts with coworkers. Face it, the majority of working people today spend a third of their lives on the job. Why not make it a pleasant third. As professionals, it's our duty.

We should work hard to build and maintain office morale throughout the year by choosing true leaders to lead the work force, creating a positive environment for everyone, applauding jobs well done, promoting development and excellence in all things, and always setting the standards higher. This holiday season, promote morale within your offices. Reach out to unhappy or discouraged coworkers. Recognize their needs and show compassion. Enjoy a wonderful holiday season and remember, make your third a pleasant one.

Priscilla W. Paige
Real Estate Division



Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on “How the Corps can strengthen its environmental reputation.” Here is one of the responses we received:

Be Realistic



Lane Lefort

We could stop looking for ways of justifying projects with severe environmental impacts that have already been studied before and found to be not justified, like the restudy of Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black.

We could refuse to play along when others propose projects like the new shipping channel for the Mississippi River through Breton Sound, and call it an environmental project. If we built a new channel for deep-draft shipping, Southwest Pass would no longer receive enough flow to be able to deliver enough sediment to restore marshes. It would be comparable to South Pass now--a secondary channel to the big shipping channel. Is South Pass presently full of sediment that could be used for marsh restoration? If so, use it for that now. If not, how is building another shipping channel going to create environmental benefits?

We could stop pretending that building a jetty from Pt. Chevreuil out 12 miles would be justified by environmental benefits when a quick look at a map will tell you that it would shunt the Atchafalaya River plume, along with the sediment, out into the gulf and not into the bays where it could nourish the marshes. In fact, that is the stated purpose. Is this the same Corps that is studying

restricting the cross section of Southwest Pass of Vermilion Bay to limit saltwater intrusion into the bay for environmental reasons? Is this the same Corps that wants to build a whole new shipping channel for the Mississippi River so that we can “allow the sediment to be captured for rebuilding wetlands along the coast to the west?” Yet we would spend \$100 million on a jetty to deliberately shunt river sediment into the gulf instead of the coastal bays.

Bruce Baird
Project Management

**Bruce is the winner of our free parking space for January.*

Develop Our Potential

The Corps should continue to strive in further developing its “green” beginnings. As an agency with enormous potential in every field of project-building expertise, we have a tremendous chance to address the root cause of our nation’s environmental problems, needs, and opportunities. For this to happen, the Corps needs the all too important help from its fellow federal agencies and non-federal interests. Together, with key stakeholders, the Corps is so well suited to surmount our country’s environmental problems that we would be remiss by not pursuing application of the wonderful talent of our organization towards this most valiant end.

Edmond Russo
Operations

TO HAVE YOUR IDEAS PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

AND

WIN A RESERVED PARKING SPOT FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH

RESPOND BY
January 15

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

>HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT?

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



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