



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

Riverside

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January 2002

Coast 2050

Eight federal and state agencies
form joint office to preserve
vanishing wetlands

Bill Lewis named
chief of Real Estate

Carrollton Gage



Col. Thomas F. Julich

I have written several times about the importance of listening to our customers to determine their needs so we can develop solutions to meet them. This is so important that I'm going to address it once again. My assessment is that overall the New Orleans District is strong in this area. We must keep the emphasis on.

I had the opportunity this past week to talk with one of our state senators in Baton Rouge. We had a good and frank discussion on the Corps' support to one of the areas here in south Louisiana within the senator's district. Our discussion focused on how well our district listens to the needs of that area and tries to satisfy those needs with appropriate solutions. In the opinion of the senator we have achieved mixed results. He indicated there are times when our district is presented

with a problem and ideas for solution, but in our response we seem to only identify why we cannot pursue a particular solution. He would like to hear more ideas on solutions to the problem. I agreed that our focus should be on solutions, but there were certainly times that we would say "no" to proposed solutions.

This discussion reminds me of a quote. Years ago, General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur made a comment to Lt. Gen. Sam Sturgis, 38th chief of engineers, that I believe is still very applicable today. He said: "Sam, always remember this: The Corps' fame is not the Panama Canal, the Washington Monument, the gigantic dams on the Missouri, flood protection and navigation on the Lower Mississippi and the Ohio, the wonder of its modern air base construction, and the like. *What the Corps is most famous for is its ability to say 'No' when 'No' should be said.*"

There are times when we must say "no" to our customers. We have done that many times, and will continue to do so when that is the right thing to do. We take very seriously our responsibility to be the honest broker and only say "yes" to those things that are truly within the best interest of the public and within our authority. However, often our answer is not a resounding "no" but rather a "No, but..." We may say "no" to an approach our customer wants, but then we propose alternate approaches to solve the problem. Or, if we don't have the authority within the Corps to seek the appropriate solution, we assist in determining who has that authority and help direct them to that source. This gives us a reputation as problem solvers.

There is a saying by Brig. Gen. Arnold, MVD commander, which I hope most of you have heard: "Solutions without boundaries." There are two key points I get from this. First off, we want to be seen as an organization that seeks solutions to problems, as I've indicated. The second component is that we work the issue with a bigger picture in mind. We involve other Corps elements as needed to solve the issue, not just looking at issues within our district boundary.

Let's each do our part to keep the New Orleans District recognized as the problem solvers for water resource issues here in South Louisiana.

Riverside

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Mike Maples

Lanaux Island & Bay Joe Wise (between Empire and Grand Isle) is one of many areas that will benefit from Coast 2050 restoration efforts.

Lewis named chief of Real Estate

Bill Lewis, a native of the red clay hills of Marshall, Texas, changed headgear in December and is now the new chief of Real Estate Division.

Although Lewis has been a Corps employee for 30 years, working at the New Orleans District was not his first job with the federal government. Lewis served four years in the Air Force, where he was stationed in Mississippi and Germany.

In 1966, Lewis earned a degree in business management from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now Texas A&M.

Before joining the Corps, Lewis worked as a salesman for the Xerox Corporation. "Early on I found that I was not cut out to be a salesman," said Lewis.

Working in Real Estate was not always Lewis' lifelong goal. He applied for a job with the district upon discovering a vacant position within the division.

"Since working with the Corps, I have always been in Real Estate Division," said Lewis. In 1972,

Lewis was hired as a realty specialist for the district's Cooper Lake Reservoir Office in Cooper, Texas, where he acquired land for the reservoir on the Sulphur River. After the office closed in 1976, he relocated to the district headquarters here in New Orleans.

"I have worn many hats as a realty specialist for the Corps," said Lewis. Prior to being selected as Real Estate's new chief, he held many titles such as a supervisory realty specialist, Management and Disposal Branch chief, chief of Acquisitions Branch and assistant chief of Real Estate Division.

When Col. Julich informed Lewis he had been selected as chief, it came as quite a shock. "As of late, the Corps trend has been to select outside individuals in an effort to change corporate culture," said Lewis. Although he is a local hire, Lewis intends on aiding the change of corporate culture the Corps desires.



"As the new chief of Real Estate, I will try to ensure that real estate actions are done legally in the best interest of the public and federal govern-

ment," said Lewis.

Lewis anticipates many positive changes within Real Estate Division. "I intend to foster an atmosphere of teamwork," he said. "I also have the hopes of getting employees to become more well rounded, taking on new tasks while becoming more flexible, multi-talented, and quick reactors." He plans to represent the members of Real Estate to the best of his ability and help them realize their full potential.

When he finds the time to kick back and smell the roses, Lewis enjoys taking cruises and being with his family. "After living in New Orleans for 26 years, I still continue to explore its rich history and traditions," he said.

On the CorpsPath

USACE Business Process: Re-examining how we do business

By Eric Hughes

How does the Corps of Engineers do business? If you don't have a specific answer, no need to worry. There is a new training and information program called the CorpsPath, which is being launched to New Orleans District employees January 22. The program is designed to help all Corps employees work more effectively and to inform them on the new Program/Project Management Business Process (PMBP), or how we do business.

The purpose of the PMBP is to create a common

knowledge and to better serve the U.S. Army as one Corps. It aims to help us succeed at both a personal and organizational level. Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers found a need for the CorpsPath based on inconsistent work processes and limited knowledge throughout the Corps. The new business process philosophy will view every employee as a team member and everything we do as a project.

Employees will learn through two interactive CD-

See CORPSPATH, page 6



Collocation helps agencies collaborate to save vanishing coastline



Louisiana is losing nearly a football field of wetland every 30 minutes; at that pace, by the year 2050 nearly 1,000 square miles of wetlands will become open water (left).

By John Hall

Room 137 has become one of Louisiana's most important indoor locations.

This is a hive of cubicles on the ground floor of the New Orleans District headquarters. In it are gathering the men and women who will be the core of the fight to save coastal Louisiana.

Note the word is "core," not

"By having the agencies together in one office, we have better coordination and get more work done. There's more synergy."

"Corps." Though the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will play a key role, our agency realizes that the job is too big to do alone.

Thus an unprecedented gathering is going on, now more than 30 people strong. The Coastal Restoration Collocated Team has been born. It is expected eventually to be 50 strong.

"By having the agencies together in one office, we have better coordination and get more work done. There's more synergy," said Tom Podany, a senior project manager for the Corps.

The assembled talent will include

people from:

- ❑ The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Department of Transportation & Development.
- ❑ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Geological Survey.

❑ Corps representatives of Project Management, Engineering, Environmental, Economics in the New Orleans District, and Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg.

As the project grows, the team will expand. As it moves into new phases, new staff will be added, such as people from the district's Real Estate Division.

For the New Orleans District just to pull together such a diverse group within the district is precedent-setting, and more so for the people from other agencies, said John Saia, deputy for Project Management in New Orleans

District.

The Coast 2050 project is expected to cost \$15 billion and will save almost 20,000 square miles of coastal Louisiana, from Mississippi to Texas.

Many of the people in Room 137 are at work on the Louisiana Coastal Area – Ecosystem Restoration Project, which grew out of the Coast 2050 concept.

"This is the 'core' team," Saia said.

Clint Pagent, a USGS oceanogra-



Working together on Coast 2050

From left to right: Jackie Purrington, Tom Podany, Sue Hawes, John Ettinger from EPA, and Troy Constance.



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

pher, moved from Baton Rouge to be part of the team. "This is a great idea. From my standpoint, knowing GIS, everyone knows they can come to me for this information; and likewise, I can stay in this office and find anything I need."

Hundreds more people, from the Corps and the other agencies, will eventually be contributing, Saia said.

"We want to include all ideas and diverse views in developing this project. It will take a lot of people and a lot

of minds working together."

Specific benefits of collocation, the team says, include:

- ❑ Facilitation of EPA participation in the review of the preliminary draft EIS (environmental impact statement)

for the marsh creation component of the Barataria Basin Feasibility Study.

- ❑ Coordination with regulatory and planning staff on projects... including Grand Isle development issues, the proposed Port Fourchon Maritime ridge Project and EPA's proposed Maurepas Swamp Diversion.
- ❑ Coordination with Corps CWPPRA (Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act) staff on freshwater diversions and other issues.
- ❑ Increase in opportunities for regulatory site visits, while improving coordination on both specific permit issues and mitigation banking efforts.

Room 137 was up and running by December 2001.

"Collocation is expected to continue indefinitely, as long as all agencies agree that the effort is productive," the team document said.



Lane Lefort

Tim Axtman helps Clint Padgett of USGS move in to his new office. Padgett moved from Baton Rouge to be part of the 2050 team. "This (collocation) is a great idea," said Pagett. "Everyone knows they can come to me for [GIS] information."

Breaux Act and 2050 co-exist

By Julie T. Morgan

With the collocation of federal and state agencies under way to restore Louisiana's coast, one must not discount the benefits derived from the Breaux Act.

Enacted in 1990, Breaux Act projects have preserved nearly 100,000 acres of coastal marsh in Louisiana. Unfortunately, there is still a large disparity between acres gained and trends of loss; hence, the 2050 collocation.

Over the past 10 years, the Task Force and Technical Committee members, representing six different agencies, have learned to overcome obstacles present when six agencies with different agendas must work together. In that time, extensive knowledge – what works and what still needs to be done – was shared. Strong and lasting partnerships have been formed.

The solid foundation established by Breaux Act will assure a smooth transition for the collocated team

members. Processes and procedures refined in the last decade will allow greater ease in implementing the larger projects expected for 2050 projects. However, 2050 strategies will take years to implement.

In the meantime, Breaux Act provides faster and continuous construction, albeit projects on a smaller, site-specific scale of less than \$50 million dollars. Fifteen projects, worth \$22 million, are scheduled for construction this fiscal year.

Breaux Act and Coast 2050 activities are well coordinated and are being implemented in a manner to compliment one another. Both are supported by environmentalists, businesses, interested citizens and government agencies. All provide their voice and expertise to restoration goals, strategies and implementation.

The state and the nation depend on it.



WHEELER DEPARTS FOR WILMINGTON DISTRICT — The dredge Wheeler set out on a new assignment Jan. 9. Captain Edward Morehouse and crew departed for sea and dredging trials and then Wilmington District with an assignment in Morehead City, N.C., starting Jan. 17. “We won’t be back until sometime in February,” Morehouse said.

Project Management

BREAUX ACT DEDICATIONS — NOD participated in a ceremony Dec. 14 dedicating eight Breaux Act projects in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes in the western part of the state. The Corps project, partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is the Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project. Dredged material from the Calcasieu Ship Channel will be used to create new marsh over 10 years.

Public Affairs

NEW GIWW BROCHURE — A new brochure just hit the streets: The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. This one features the GIWW along the Louisiana coastline. Look for it in Public Affairs or on the Corps homepage under “Brochures.”

Construction

NUCLEAR GAUGE FOUND — It was a case of “no news is good news.” At the SELA project at Napoleon and South Claiborne avenues, a contractor reported a Nuclear Density Gauge missing Dec. 19 after employees returned from lunch. Police and DEQ were notified. The gauge was located two days later; it had been knocked into the excavation and covered up with material.

BRIDGES FLOODPROOFED — With six of ten bridges completed, floodproofing continues this month with the Filmore and Mirabeau avenue bridges. The seventh and eighth bridges will be built by Angelo Iafrate Construction Co. of Kenner under a \$4.21 million contract. They will protect neighborhoods along London and Orleans avenues and 17th Street canals. The Hammond High-

way Bridge over the 17th Street Canal is the next bridge scheduled for floodproofing.

Real Estate

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN REOPENED TO HUNTING — The Corps purchased 10,500 acres of Louisiana’s Atchafalaya Basin Nov. 27 for \$5.8 million from the St. Martin Land Co., and the area was promptly sealed to hunting this season for safety issues. After an outcry from state officials and hunters, however, the land was opened to shotguns and archery. “Our concern was always for the safety of the public. This can be achieved with the remaining restrictions and ... enforcement support, provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the St. Martin Parish Sheriff’s Office,” said Greg Breerwood, chief of Operations. The area will be reopened next year for all hunters.

CORPSPATH, from page 3

ROMs featuring Internet-based modules. Disc one is an introduction; the second contains the training modules. There are 14 major modules within the five focus areas: Capable Workforce, Knowledge Management, Business Process, Corporate Relationships and Army Support. Training time is between 20 to 25 hours. NOD’s CorpsPath deployment will be completed August 9.

There are four major players to help incorporate the program: supervisors, division chiefs, training coordinators and the CorpsPath training officer. Division chiefs will be responsible for the overall success in their division. Training coordinators will be the point-of-contact for the

See CORPSPATH, page 10

Around the District

Congratulations

to **Marcia Demma** (PM) on her promotion to chief of Program Management.

to **Sharon Richarme** (PM) who received her master's degree in public administration from Troy State University. Sharon graduated with a 3.95 GPA.

to **Johlee Schinetsky**, daughter of **Steven Schinetsky** (OD-H). Johlee won the Top Soloist award for her dance of "Itsy Bitsy Spider" at the Star Systems National Talent Competition Dec. 8 at the St. Bernard Civic Center. Johlee received a platinum award for her solo dance, and was the top solo performer in the Junior Intermediate Division, ages 12 and under.

to **Tasha White** (OD) who received her master's degree in social work from Tulane University.

to **Ryan Lawrence** (OD) who received his bachelor's degree in political science from Southern University.



Regulatory Branch employees known as "The Rollicking Regulators" sing *The 12 Yats of Christmas* and other holiday favorites for their Permitting Partners.

to receive a "Certificate of Merit" at the Modern Day Technology Leadership Luncheon during the Black Engineer

of the Year Awards Conference, Feb. 14-16. These recipients and others will be honored as some of the most promising young men and women who are shaping the future of engineering, science and technology.

Condolences

to **Eric Forest** (RE) on the loss of his father, Thomas Forest, who passed away Dec. 19.

to **Mike Buford** (PM) whose mother, Therese D. Buford, passed away Dec. 19.

to **Tim Connell** (OD) on the loss of his father, Lee Roy Connell, who passed away Dec. 14.

Farewell

to **Jim H. Sherman III**, assistant chief of Project Management Division, who retired from the Corps with over 35 years of service.



Lane Lefort

Vicksburg District's Sammy the Sea Lion inspects the future fishing outlook at the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project. **Sammy**, still chilled from his visit to Buffalo District, was hosted by Project Manager Jack Fredine. **Sammy's** on a tour of Corps environment projects for the students of South Park Elementary School in Vicksburg.

to **Willy James** (ED) whose son, Christopher James, marched as lead trumpet player in the Rose Bowl Parade Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Calif.

to **Tutashinda Salaam** (ED) and **Rodney Greenup Jr.** (PM), selected by the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Lockheed Martin Corporation, the Daimler Chrysler Corporation and US Black Engineer and Information Technology Magazine,

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on "Community Involvement." Here are some healthful thoughts on volunteering.

Doing well by doing good

Volunteering for community service may actually help prolong your life. It can boost vitality and self-esteem. Researchers at the University of Michigan recently reported that retired people who volunteered just 40 hours a year tended to live longer, compared with those who never did community service. A study of 762 retired people, conducted at Cornell University and presented to the American Sociological Association in 1999, found that volunteers were happier than non-volunteers, and had more energy and a greater sense of control over their lives. Constructive work confers a sense of well-being and identity. If your social support system is thin, volunteering can provide you with chances to make friends. Although people of all ages can benefit, older people—especially the retired—seem to benefit the most.

Some scientists question all this, however. Could it be that healthy, optimistic, energetic

people are the ones who volunteer in the first place? This is no doubt part of the explanation.

And yet it's obvious that there's a lot to gain by volunteering. According to a government survey, volunteers enjoy an improved quality of life, stronger social networks, and increased physical activity.

Here are a few suggestions for happy volunteering:

- Try to pick a match for yourself. If you know something about accounting, law, carpentry, sewing, or coping with the health-care system, or if you have musical talent, find out where your expertise can be useful.
- Here are some resources: SeniorCorps (800-424-8867), Administration on Aging (800-677-1116), Helping.org, Volunteermatch.org, Habitat for Humanity (229-924-6935), Servenet.org, Idealist.org, and Elderhostel (877-426-8056).

From *UC Berkeley Wellness Letter*, January 2002.

CORPSPATH, from page 6

district's CorpsPath training officer.

Supervisors and team leaders will facilitate the program with their section employees. They will prepare a schedule, acquaint their employees with CorpsPath, and set up group discussions.

The discussions will play the most pivotal part in implementing the PMBP.

During these discussions, employees will address the module topics. In the end, NOD will share a common knowledge with the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If you would like further information on the CorpsPath, contact Eric Hughes, x1394, or go to <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil/corpspath>.

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AND

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RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 10

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S TALK BACK TOPIC:

INTERAGENCY RELATIONS

>HOW CAN THE CORPS STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER FEDERAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES?

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PICK WHICH RESPONSES TO PUBLISH AND AWARD.

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