



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Riverside

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July 2004

A photograph of two women standing outdoors at what appears to be a race event. The woman on the left is wearing a light purple tank top and has a race bib with the number 670. The woman on the right is wearing a white tank top and has a race bib with the number 682. Both bibs mention the '83RD TURKEY DAY RACE' and 'BENEFITING: SPINA BIFIDA'. The background shows a parking lot with several cars and a white van.

Engineer Day Picnic Bridging the funding gap

Elmer heads up
project security

Project security

Elmer is new infrastructure security chief

By Eric Lincoln

Ron Elmer is the new infrastructure security chief for the district. The position, in Operations, is the first of its kind in the Corps nationally.

As project manager, Elmer is responsible for the district's portion of the national Critical Project Security Program, which provides security improvements to locks and control structures designated as critical infrastructure.

Three years ago, Mike Park, assistant Operations chief, and an interdisciplinary team conducted risk assessments of the district's infrastructure to determine which projects were most critical. The results were then combined with those from other MVD districts and Corps divisions to create a national priority list.

There are nine projects being focused on now for New Orleans within the national priority list. Security improvements at one facility have been completed, another is under construction, and two are under technical review. "It will be an ongoing process for the next few years," says Elmer, who manages all stages, from engineering, design and technical reviews, through actual construction.

The improvements range from new fencing, lighting and intrusion detection, to hardening of critical components.

The need for security measures to prevent disruption of navigation was highlighted in February when a vessel sank in Southwest Pass and blocked shipping for days.

"Security has more recently become a concern, obviously," says Elmer. "The rivers and channels of our infrastructure are open waters, and unfortunately not areas we can protect. We're focused mostly on improving security and strengthening

existing structures—locks, flood control features and the like."

Funding arrives according to where a project is on the priority list. "Considering the current budget crunch, we've been pretty fortunate," says Elmer. "Funding has been more than adequate for this first phase. There are still things that need to be done and that have not been programmed."

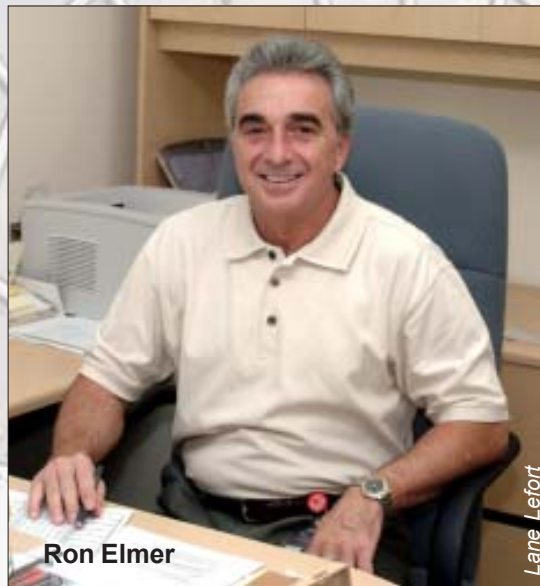
Elmer has a history in project security. About two-and-a-half years ago, Operations advertised for a temporary security detail. Elmer got the position, but the work went on past the detail and so did he, working on his old projects as well as the new security issues.

"It's a nice change ... a different set of challenges than what I had before, and more time-consuming. There's a lot of interaction with MVD, and I'm responsible for managing the budget for the overall program, as well. I'm looking forward to it ... I do miss my coworkers and the window view I had in Engineering, after being there for 25 years."

Larry Holman, MVD critical project security program manager, said that New Orleans District used Gen. Flowers' "Just do it" card when it created the infrastructure security chief position.

"Funding for security improvements is meant to be used on the ground at the project, not for management, so creating this position raised some red flags at headquarters. They wanted to know where the funds would come from. But there was no question that it was a necessary, full-time position for a city with the largest port complex in the country."

The funding ultimately came out of Operations' overhead account.



Elmer is improving security for nine district projects.

See ELMER, next page

Riverside

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Commander
Col. Peter J. Rowan
Public Affairs Chief
Jim Addison

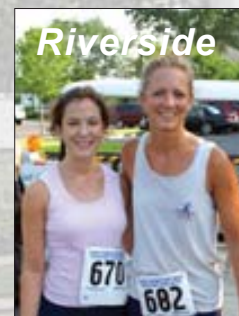
Editor
Eric S. Lincoln
Contributing Writers
Keisha McGee
Graphic Artist
Elena Napolitano

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Libby Behrens (PM), right, and Charlotte Everhardt, daughter of Charles Everhardt (CD), came in 1st and 2nd for females in the Engineer Day Fun Run.

Projects challenged by funding shortage

By Eric Lincoln

Don't laugh if you see a tip jar on a project manager's desk.

Funding for Corps projects has decreased to the point that some completion dates have been pushed back three years or more. Project managers are wondering where their project will be in the next fiscal quarter. Other districts are planning to downsize their workforce.

For the New Orleans District, it's been a tough year for Construction General in particular, as the

budget continued its downward trend, falling from \$375 million in 2001 to \$337 million last year.

And even though the district paid off a \$9 million debt to contractors in '04, "If additional funds are not given to the district this fiscal year, then our current \$11 million debt to contractors will have to come from FY 2005 funding," said Marcia Demma, chief, Programs Management. "At the rate we're going, FY04 unfunded liabilities may be as high as \$30 million by the end of September."

With that much debt going into FY05, it's hard to see where new funding for projects will come from, or if it will come at all.

"We know that project managers see no money for their project and there's concern," said District Deputy John Saia.

"In past years, the district was funded at higher levels, and we were also able to get funds from other districts. But in the last two years, there haven't been much funds besides appropriations from Congress."

Naturally, he said, if this carries into next year, "it would put us into another difficult situation."

Shifting funds

One improvement might be to

Continued, next page

New Orleans District Energy and Water Conference Allocations (\$millions)

<i>Fiscal year</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005*</i>
GI	5,871	5,719	5,625	8,502	11,325
Construction General	119,347	112,945	92,573	89,220	85,985
O&M General	148,105	143,007	144,447	146,016	140,937
MR&T Studies	3,930	6,969	4,865	5,675	3,035
MR&T Construction	62,911	50,043	46,557	39,950	44,280
MR&T Maintenance	35,738	40,161	49,327	47,970	44,046
Total (*President's budget, FY05)	375,902	358,844	343,394	337,333	329,608*

The downward trend of Construction General funding has slowed both design work and contract awards for the district.

ELMER, from page 2

"This doesn't mean a green light has been given to all districts to create a similar position," said Holman. "It worked in this case because there was a justifiable reason and funding was found at the district level."

Elmer is fairly secluded—or protected, you could say—in his new office, with one door and no windows.

He started with the Corps in the Soils Lab part-time while a student at UNO. He graduated in 1975 and had two offers, one in New Orleans with the Corps, and one in Alaska.

"My wife was a New Orleans native, and back in the 70s my

experience was that most New Orleans ladies didn't leave. She wasn't moving to Alaska, especially with a three-month-old," he said.

Elmer has three children: Angela, 29, a respiratory therapist at Children's Hospital; George, 24, a marketing major at UNO; and five-year-old Nicolas.

"I didn't have any grandkids, so I just made one of my own," Elmer laughed. "But it's great. I think you appreciate things more when you get older. You tend to not sweat the little things. I'm really enjoying it."



“It means another year we’ll be vulnerable to a Category 4-5 storm...”

Al Naomi, project manager, Category 4-5 Hurricane Protection Feasibility Study



“We’re going to need to be careful in how we manage resources, and we’ll need everyone’s cooperation.”

John Saia, district deputy



“We have to just continue to move forward as much as possible.”

Jackie Purrington, project manager, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement Project

Continued from page 3

ease restrictions on shifting of funds between projects.

Currently, the district is not able to transfer surplus funds from high-visibility projects. Headquarters is working with Congress to change

this restriction.

Regardless, funding would not be as high as needed, said Saia.

“We would need another \$100 million to help us stay on schedule ... we probably won’t get it, consequently, next year the district will likely award less contracts.”

But while some districts are granting early outs and cutting jobs, the New Orleans District may get good news in the long run. It has some of the largest projects in the Corps, and is awaiting additional authorizations in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act (see chart, left).

Top Projects

Project	<i>Current status</i>	<i>Start date – Completion</i>	Total cost (m)
Louisiana Coastal Area	<i>feasibility study underway</i> <i>pending WRDA 2004 authorization</i>	<i>2006 – 2016</i>	\$2(billion)
Industrial Canal Lock Replacement	<i>construction underway</i>	<i>1999 – 2017</i>	\$771
Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection	<i>pending WRDA 2004 authorization</i>	<i>2005 – 2018</i>	\$719
Southeast Louisiana (SELA)	<i>construction underway</i>	<i>1996 – 2008</i>	\$714
West Bank Hurricane Protection	<i>construction underway</i>	<i>1990 – 2016</i>	\$314
Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection	<i>feasibility study underway</i>	<i>2008 – 2020</i>	\$175-250
Port of Iberia	<i>pending WRDA 2004 authorization</i>	<i>2006 – 2011</i>	\$194
Comite River Diversion	<i>construction underway</i>	<i>2003 – 2011</i>	\$163
Bayou Sorrel Lock Replacement	<i>pending WRDA 2004 authorization</i>	<i>2005 – 2012</i>	\$88.5

Lighting the way

With strong support from the Administration and Congress, “LCA is the bright light for the future of the district,” said Demma. “It would be very good if the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) is extended past 2009, with Sen. Breaux retiring.”

Co-authored by Sen. John Breaux, CWPPRA was enacted in 1990 and is informally known as the Breaux Act.

Holding pattern

Meanwhile, other projects are in limbo.

“You could say funding is a little short right now,” said Bill Maloz, project manager for Morganza to the Gulf. “We have \$4 million this FY and need \$10 million. For FY05, we’re anticipating add-ons from Congress to the President’s \$1.5 million, plus the local sponsors advance of \$2 million for FY05 ... there’s no guarantee we’ll get it.”



“We’re doing productive work, but it will be tough for us to pick up momentum again if funding falls.”

Bill Maloz, project manager, Morganza to the Gulf



“It would be very good if CWPPRA is extended past 2009 ...”

Marcia Demma, chief, Programs Management

We’re doing productive work, but it will be tough for us to pick up momentum again if funding falls.”

Jackie Purrington, project manager for the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal Lock Replacement Project, said the project slipped from completion in 2013 to 2016 because of inadequate funding in the last couple of years.

“In ’04, the President’s proposed budget was \$7 million, our capability was \$20 million and Congress gave us \$13 million. For ’05, the President’s proposed budget is \$10 million, and we need \$24 million to stay on schedule.

“The ironic thing is that besides slowing us down, this actually increases costs ... we have to just continue to move forward as much as possible.”

Al Naomi, project manager for the Category 4-5 Hurricane Protection Feasibility Study, said the project isn’t funded at all in FY05.

“There is a reluctance to allow the initiation of new study phases now, so unless the Senate adds funds, we won’t be able to do anything. It means another year we’ll be vulnerable to a Category 4-5 storm, and we were already looking at 10 to 20 years before project completion.”

No hiring, no firing

Luckily, jobs at New Orleans District are not on the chopping

block, said Saia.

“It’s very clear to us that we need the current staff to be sustained over the long haul,” said Saia. “Our jobs are important, and the need for our expertise and

“LCA is the bright light for the future of the district,” said Demma.

capabilities is there.

“We will continue to have retirements and normal losses in staff, so there doesn’t need to be a reduction in force, long- or short-term. We may not fill certain positions once they’re vacated. And we don’t intend to impede promotions or hiring in positions that need to be filled.

“We are taking action to move people on a voluntary basis within the district, to balance out the workload ... there are some people working all day until 2 a.m., while others are saying, ‘I don’t have work.’ We’ve got to adjust that.”

In general, hiring outside of the district could be constrained, he said, and no new students will be hired until FY05.

Bridging the gap

A new team has been formed to address ways we can fill the void between now and when additional funding is received.

Col. Peter Rowan, commander,

formed a “Bridge Team” from members of the District Operating Team (DOT), including assistant division and branch chiefs, that will, among other duties, review and approve resources entered into P2, provide manpower assessments for each office, form an outreach team to enhance technical capabilities, and conduct monthly meetings to review vacant positions.

Advising the team are John Saia, Denise Frederick, Bruce Terrell, Greg Breerwood, Walter Baumy, Bill Lewis, Audrey Tilden, Brenda Weber, Cheryl Weber and Mike Zack.

“We’re feeling our way through it,” said Mike Park, Operations, who as DOT leader is helping organize the Bridge Team. “It’s evolving as we go, and we’re doing a lot of brainstorming. It’s not a simple task.”

On the bright side, other options are available to the district right now, said Saia.

“MVD is a center of expertise for ecosystem restoration. We can pool our resources, provide support to DOD and other districts in our region and enhance our technical capabilities and training opportunities.

“Support of Iraq helps a lot, as well. We’re reducing costs here, and our people return with more experience and technical skills.”

Looking at the next few years, “We’re going to need to be careful in how we manage resources, and we’ll need everyone’s cooperation ... we want a collaborative atmosphere to ensure a balancing of resources.

“Over 30 years, we have \$26 billion worth of projects, including hurricane protection and coastal restoration. That’s much higher funding than we have today ... so there’s no doubt that MVN will be leading the nation in civil works programs for many years.”





Engineer Day Picnic competition results



Recipes

For all winning recipes (see Cookoff, next page), email the editor: Eric.S.Lincoln@mvn.usace.army.mil.

No Bake Banana Split Cream Pie

Graham Cracker Crumbs – 1-1/4 cups
Finely Chopped walnut – 1/3 cup
Vanilla Pudding Mix – 3 Pkg.
Frozen Whipped Topping – 1 cont.
Bananas – 2 – cut to slices
Walnuts optional

Butter or Margarine – ½ cup
Sugar – 2 Tbsp.
Milk – 2 cups
Hot Fudge Sauce – 1 cup + 2 Tbsp.
Maraschino cherries & chopped

Coat 9" pie pan with cooking spray. Mix crumbs, butter, walnuts and sugar in a bowl. Refrigerate. Whisk dry pudding mixes and milk. Spread ½ cup fudge sauce over bottom crust. Top with half banana slices. Evenly spread half of pudding mixture over slices. Microwave ½ cup remaining fudge sauce until softened, 5-10 sec. Spread over pudding. Add the top with remaining banana slices and pudding. If desired, transfer 1 cup whipped topping to pastry bag fitted with large star tip. Spread pie top with the remaining topping. Transfer remaining fudge sauce to plastic sandwich bag. Microwave until softened, 5-10 sec. Snip corner, drizzle over pie. Pipe rosettes around edge of pie, garnish with cherries and walnuts.

Mirliton & Shrimp Dressing

Mirlitons – 3 or 4 cut in half
Creole Seasoning
Chopped onions - 1 cup
Celery – ½ cut
Peeled Shrimp – 1 lb.

Salt
Bay Leaves – a couple
Bell pepper – ½ cup
Chopped Garlic – 3 or 4 toes
Breadcrumbs

Cut 3 or 4 mirlitons in half, place in a large pot of water. Add salt and Creole seasoning, plus a couple of bay leaves. Boil until fork tender. While this is boiling, sauté chopped onions, bell pepper, and celery in butter or oil (bacon fat is good but not good for you.) until tender and add chopped garlic. Cook until garlic is soft. Add peeled shrimp. Sauté until shrimp is cooked. Drain mirlitons. Cool and peel. Chop mirlitons and add to shrimp mixture. Mash mixture with potato masher until mirlitons are cut into little pieces. This mixture will be watery. Start adding seasoned breadcrumbs until mixture is thick. If too dry a little water, or juice from the mirlitons can be added. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Place it into a greased baking dish. Sprinkle top with breadcrumbs and bake until they turn to brown. Mixture can be eaten without baking. I also like to add some crabmeat. Can be made with ground meat too, but doesn't taste good.

Grilled Crawfish Etouffee

Crawfish Tails – 1 lb (I have also used leftover BBQ Chicken or Boiled Shrimp)
Bell Pepper – 1
Ribs Celery – 2
Parsley – ¼ cup chopped
Butter/Margarine – 1 stick
2 Cans Cream of Mushroom Soup or 1 Can Cream AND 1 Cream of Celery Soup
1 Can Cream of Shrimp Soup (if Chicken is used 1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup)

Medium Onion – 1
Garlic – 2 toes
Rotel style tomatoes – 1 can chopped

Sauté chopped bell pepper, onions, and celery in butter. When juice appears add garlic. Cook until vegetables are clear. Then add Rotel tomatoes. Cook for about 15 minutes. Then add meat (crawfish, shrimp or chicken). Simmer for another 5 min. to blend flavors. Add can soup, and cook until soup is blended well. Serve over cooked rice. Water can be added if thinner consistency required.



Sporting events

50-yard dash

Ages Male

Under 3 1st Andrew Kirk
2nd Zachary Tujague
3rd John Duncan

4-5 1st Grayson Bivona
2nd Kenneth Haab
3rd Patrick Saucier

6-7 1st William Saucier
2nd Shane Pizzuto
3rd Micah Dietrich

8-9 1st James Agan
2nd Preston Bivona
3rd James Rowan

10-13 1st Bradley Bonanno
2nd Michael Gonzales
3rd Josh Haab

14-15 1st Richie Broussard

Female

1st Elizabeth Matthews
2nd Camryn Riviera
3rd Dee Rester

1st Sophie Dietrich
2nd Julia Agan
3rd Alexa Gonzales

1st KayLynne Prosper
2nd Alyssa Burdine
3rd Caitlin Riverie

1st Madeline Saucier
2nd Rachel Herr
3rd Hayley Schwarze

1st Marga DeJong
2nd Kendall Daigle
3rd Ashley Kehoe

1st Brandi Livas
2nd Tisha Wilson
3rd Kristen Almerco

14th Annual 2-Mile Wellness Fun Run/Walk

Run:

Male

1st Jay Ratcliff (11:55)
2nd Mike Flanagan
3rd Ron Taylor

Female

1st Libby Behrens (13:50)
2nd Charlotte Everhardt
3rd Michelle Daigle

*Julie Vignes' son Christian, 11, received a special medallion for completing the race in about 14 minutes. He would have been third for males, but was too young to be officially entered into the race.

Walk:

Male

1st Denis Beer
2nd Carl Robinson
3rd Ed Diehl

Female

1st Sara Beer
2nd Rachel Beer-Calico
3rd Candida Wagner & children
(Christopher & Carissa)

Participation Awards:

Ralph Scheid and Gwen Johnson

Volleyball

Construction Division: Pat Shepherd, Robert Arriatti, Tom Murphy, Jim Wolff, Ezra Batte, John Fogarty, Melanie Goodman, Margie Rankin

Talent Contest
1st Kelly Rowan
2nd (tie) Mary Clair Peterson
Barbara White

Tennis Tournament

3.5 Singles: George Brown, IM-I

3.0 Singles: Brian Bonanno, ED-FD

3.5 Doubles:

1st Windell Curole, General Manager, South Lafourche Levee District, and Jack Fredine, PM-E

2nd Cathy Slumber, OD-SC and Rob Heffner, OD-SS

3.0 Doubles:

1st Joe Chow, ED-E and Danny Wiegand, ED-H

2nd Maggie Pruett, Realtor w/Sterling Properties, and Ken Lemoine, Teacher w/the N.O. Public School System

*All told, there were seven doubles pairs. The competition was fierce, there were some upsets, and the final results were not known until completion of the last match at 11:30 A.M.



Cookoff

Desserts (Cash Prizes \$20 / \$15 / \$10)

1st Sandy Habbaz – No-Bake Banana Split Cream Pie

2nd Carlette Ballard – Blueberry Cream Cheese Cake

3rd Peggy Plaisance – Bread & Butter Pudding

Main dish (Cash Prizes \$20 / \$15 / \$10)

1st Richard Oubre – Mirliton & Shrimp Dressing

2nd Tricia Loupe – Fish Filets w/ Almond Butter

3rd Lorri Gagnon – Chicken Spaghetti

New Orleans favorites (Cash Prizes \$20 / \$15 / \$10)

1st Richard Oubre – Grilled Crawfish Etouffee

2nd George Loupe – Pastalaya

Overall (Certificate)

1st Richard Oubre – Grilled Crawfish Etouffee

2nd Sandy Habbaz – No-Bake Banana Split Cream Pie

3rd Richard Oubre – Mirliton & Shrimp Dressing

21st Annual Golf Tournament

1 st gross:	2 nd gross:	1 st net:	2 nd net:
D'Antoni	Perez	Dauenhauer	Alfonso
Becker	Hinkamp	Gonski	Broussard
Riche	Hibner	Waugaman	Dorcey
Toups	Bourgeois	Varuso	Williamson

Closest to the Hole; Hole 13: Sean Burdine
Longest Drive; Hole 12: Steve Dalferes
Closest to the Hole; Hole 2: Rixby Hardy
Longest Drive; Hole 3: Ulysis Claverie
Closest to the Hole; Hole 11: Olden Toups
Closest to the Hole; Hole 17: L. Williamson



Workforce Recruitment students join district for summer

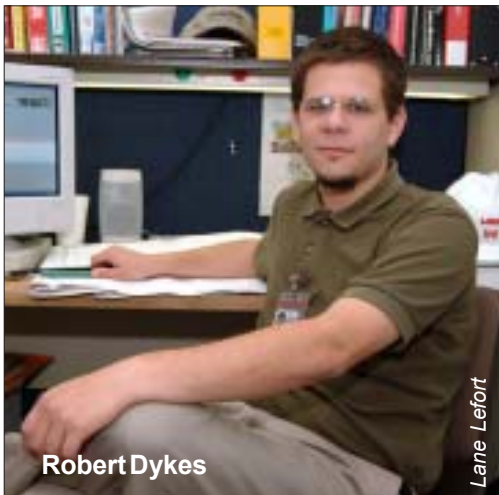
By Eric Lincoln

Two college students are getting a taste of the working world this summer through the Workforce Recruitment Program.

The program provides summer employment experiences for college students with disabilities, and is funded by the Department of Defense. This is the second year the district has had student placements.

Robert Dykes, 22, is an electrical engineering major in his junior year at Auburn University. His mentor is Richard Cordes in Operations, Technical Support Branch.

Dykes was born in Louisiana but moved to Alabama when he was six years old. He wanted to be an engineer since he was a boy, and jumped at the chance to come



back to New Orleans as part of his career.

"I was frustrated with schoolwork at Auburn and almost dropped out of the engineering program," he said. "Then a counselor recommended this. It renewed my interest in the field ... I'm here and having a great time.

"I'm getting tons of experience. I know more about locks than I ever thought I would."

Cordes takes Dykes to field sites weekly. "We visited Caernarvon and the Venice Sub Office recently. I love going out into

the field. People are telling me I've seen more in three weeks than most employees here."

Dykes has Attention Deficit Disorder and a diagnosed learning disability. "The field trips help a lot with that, though," he added.

He isn't sure whether he will aim for the private sector or government after the summer, he said, but "I'm glad to be able to work for my country ... I always wanted to do this. I think I'd prefer the microelectronics field to locks and dams, but either way, it's not about the money. I do it because I enjoy it. And it's a nice surprise to be able to work in New Orleans."

Amanda Seitz, 23, graduated in May with a computer engineering degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She works with Ralph Scheid in Engineering, Systems and Programming Section. She applied for the workforce program three years in a row.

"I got a call on April 1 from Barbara Dickerson asking me if I wanted to come work in New Orleans. I thought it was a joke because of what day it was.

"I've always wanted to come to this city. I learned French in high school, so this is perfect. I thought I'd be placed in Washington, D.C., with most of the other applicants. I'm used to hills ... the swamps and flat lands here are amazing!"

Though she isn't working directly in her field right now, she says she's grateful for any work experience, especially since this is her first full-time job.

"My concentration is in computer hardware design—compared to biology,

"I'm getting tons of experience ... it's not about the money. I do it because I enjoy it."

it's basically the cell level of body design," she explains. Her current project involves converting paper navigational charts to computer format.

"I just wish I had more time to finish what I start. I'd like to be here for more

than three months, to really get into the project ... But I'm learning stuff I hadn't even thought of, like what to expect when you start a job."

Seitz started off as an aerospace engineering student. She had to switch schools because of accessibility issues and ended up taking computer engineering instead. As it turned out, she was one of the first computer engineering graduates from the school.



Seitz was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. "The disability affects my hands and legs," she says. "I can try to type like a normal person, but my fingers hit the wrong keys. And my eyes aren't too good, so I need a large computer screen."

She says she'd love to get out as much as Dykes. "I really want to see the Wheeler and the locks. I love watching the ships pass on the river."

The people in her office have been very supportive, she says. They printed out a wall-sized map of the bus lines and placed it in her cube to help her orient herself in the city.

"We have fun. I tell them, 'You have the Hornets [basketball team] now, and we had them when they stunk!'"

Seitz hopes to either be offered a job with the government after the summer, or to go back to school for her master's degree.

Both students stay at Tulane University and will work at the district from June 1 to August 6.

For information about the Workforce Recruitment Program, contact Barbara Dickerson, EEO Office, x1266.

Around the District

Congratulations

to **Joann Damare** (SB) and her husband, **George** (formerly OD), whose daughter, **Sherri**, graduated with honors from Our Lady of Holy Cross on May 16, making the dean's list with a bachelor's of science in nursing, and inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

to **Quynh Dang** (IR) and her husband, **Frank**, on the birth of their first child, son **Steven Nam**, on Apr. 26.

to **Charles Everhardt** (CD), whose twin daughters, **Elizabeth** and **Charlotte**, graduated in May from Ecole Classique High School. **Charlotte** was the class valedictorian. Both daughters begin studies at Nicholls State University in the Fall.

to **Edward Leblanc III** (CD) and his wife **Kim**, on the birth of their daughter, **Kaydence Marie**, on June 25.

to **Leah Farrell** (WCSC), on the birth of her grandson, **Jacob Patrick Farrell**, on Apr. 19.

to **Col. Anthony C. Vesay**, on his assignment as district commander of the Vicksburg District, June 30.

Kudos

to **John Hall** (PA) and **Harley Winer** (ED), who gave a district overview presentation to UNO computer science students on June 15.

to **Bill Rester** (ED), who administered CPR to fellow tennis player **Charlie Comeaux** on June 18 when **Comeaux** collapsed during a game. **Comeaux** died later at the hospital. "It was a heart breaking experience that I could not save a life trusted to me by God," said **Rester**. "Any other person would have done the



Michael Saucier, Operations, and World of Work students cast for swamp life in the Bonnet Carre Spillway on July 19. Saucier educated the students about fisheries management by taking them to several ponds that were stocked with game fish.

same thing as I did ... Go to CPR training, you may get a chance to save someone's life." Witness **Bill Pryor**, a friend of **Jack Fredine** (PM), said of **Rester**, "Here was a man who under normal circumstances is so shy and retiring that you would never expect him to take charge of the situation. But take charge, he did."

Farewell

to **Maj. Jason Kirk** (PM), who left to attend the Army's Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

to **Diane Pecoul** (CD), who retired July 2 after 37 years of service.

Condolences

to **Linda Magee** (former district employee), whose son passed away on June 9.

to **Judy Kehoe** (NDC), whose husband, **Michael**, passed away on May 21.

to **Leslie Lombard** (ED), whose mother, **Norma Lombard**, died on July 13.

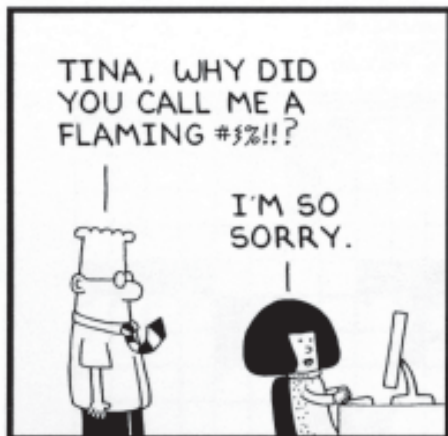
to **Randy Persica** (CD), whose mother, **Delores "Dee" Mancuso Persica**, passed away on July 13.

to **Jackie and Jim Perry** (CD and OD), on the death of **Jackie's** father, **Earl E. "Gene" Wilson**, on July 10.

Safety

for bicyclists: **Brett Herr** (PM) and **Joey Dykes** (PM) were riding single file along the bike path one afternoon when **Brett** had to make an emergency stop to avoid an alligator. **Joey** hit **Brett's** back wheel and then the ground, breaking his scapula and pelvic bones. Both **Joey** and the alligator will be okay, however.

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



Talkback

We asked readers this month for their comments about the future program for New Orleans District.

A significant challenge

Fiscal Year 2004 funding has been very limited in the district's O&M Program. And with the nation at war, FY 2005 has potential to be an even greater challenge. There are many competing project priorities in each year's budget. Many are known needs, but there are also those that are unexpected and must be addressed within programmed funding levels to sustain essential project functions.

To address critical O&M Program needs in a limited resource environment for FY 2006, management is applying the concept of performance based budgeting. This will require that we develop objec-

tive measures to rank projects, based on the functions served by these projects. Projects providing the highest values to the nation will receive priority for funding, while those having lesser returns may be deferred temporarily or indefinitely.

While the Corps of Engineers is one of the very few federal agencies required to show at least one dollar in benefits for every dollar spent for economically-based projects, it does not mean that we can't improve performance measures to better inventory and communicate project outputs commensurate to incremental funding levels. Given this, we are formulating O&M work and budgets to maximize economic ben-

Riverside wants your suggestions! What would you like to see covered? Is there a story or person you would like featured? Email your comments to the editor: Eric.S.Lincoln@mvn.usace.army.mil

efits, while balancing socio-environmental needs.

Many O&M projects have been deferred or reduced in scope in recent years, enlarging backlogged items. The situation is fast becoming a significant challenge to those we serve. As these O&M projects compete with other national priorities, O&M facilities will continue showing signs of age and lack of maintenance.

Without increased funding to address structure repairs, replacements and channel maintenance, the Corps will continue to experience problems in the levels of service our customers, partners and stakeholders expect. With close project support, strategic management, and engaged project delivery teams, the Corps will maximize its potential in a funding-constrained environment.

Edmund Russo
Operations

*Edmund is the winner our free parking space.



Crear assumes command -- Brig. Gen. Robert Crear assumed command of the Mississippi Valley Division on June 23. He also serves as President-designee of the Mississippi River Commission. Crear was previously commander for the Southwestern Division, Dallas. He has served as Corps chief of staff, Headquarters, as commander of Vicksburg District, and as commander, Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil, during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He has held various other command and staff positions in the U.S. and overseas. Full biography at www.mvd.usace.army.mil.

Department of the Army
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Office: Public Affairs Office
Official Business

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