



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Riverside

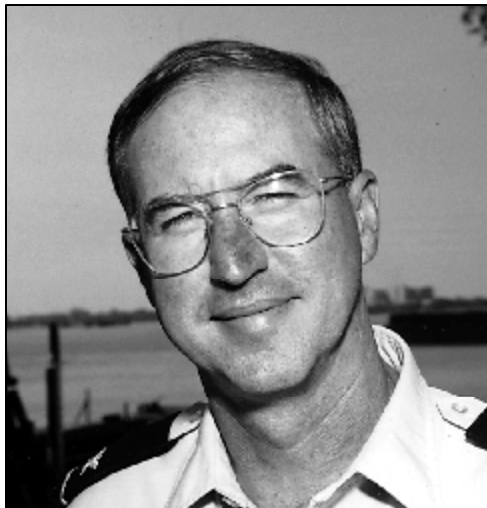
www.mvn.usace.army.mil

May 2001

**Industrial Canal Lock
We never close**

**Mapping Lake Pontchartrain
Hurricane Protection**

Carrollton Gage



Col. Thomas F. Julich

USACE Strategic Vision

Last month Lt. Gen. Flowers, our chief of engineers, approved the USACE Vision and Campaign Plan for distribution. This document is not a major revision of the Vision document from our previous chief, but rather a slight course change. The document is definitely shorter, simpler, and more relevant/meaningful to each of us. The philosophies espoused can and should be used by each of us on a daily basis. Yet the Vision document also guides us into the future, asking for our continued efforts to emphasize and make improvements in three major areas: people, process and communication.

At our Town Hall meeting on May 17, I spoke with you about this Vision document and how each of us can use it to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of our district. Please join me in this effort to make our district a better place to work, and to continue as a true provider of quality service to Louisiana and our nation.

A Key Partnership

I want to make you aware of a key partnership that has formed in our

district between Local 1124 of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) union and district management. To foster open communication and a cooperative spirit in addressing work force issues our district has formed a partnership council. The council meets on a quarterly basis. I attend each one of these meetings along with Bob Schroeder (chief, OD), Jim Miles (chief, CD), and Cheryl Weber (chief, CPAC). Jackie Callendar (PM) and Tom Williams (IM) represent the union, accompanied Joann Rosenfeld (CD).

During our meetings we ask questions, discuss ideas and identify work force issues that need attention. Most times we are able to come to a consensus on the best way to resolve issues. A side benefit of the meetings, but no less important, is relationships building. The relationships we are building in these sessions make it much easier to address the tough issues when they come up, allowing for more effective and timely resolution. I'd like to commend the efforts of Jackie and Tom in making this partnership council such a valuable forum.



Riverside

May 2001 Vol. 12 No. 5

Commander

Col. Thomas F. Julich

Public Affairs Chief

Jim Addison

Acting Editor

Shanell Williams

Contributing Writers

Eric Hughes, Terri Jackson,

Amanda Padalewski

Graphic Artists

Anne Marino, Elena Napolitano

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

Submissions: Articles and story ideas are welcome; publication depends on general interest as judged by the editor. Direct queries to the editor by calling (504) 862-2201 or faxing (504) 862-1724, or e-mail Shanell.Williams@usace.army.mil.

Circulation: 2,150 copies per issue.

Reach us on the Web at
www.mvn.usace.army.mil

On Our Cover:

Conrad Williams, one of five head lock operators at The Industrial Canal Lock.

Photo by Mike Maples

Thibodeaux named new chief of Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch

by Amanda Padalewski

Burnell Thibodeaux is in a new office and new position as chief of Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch. A Corps employee for 27 years, Thibodeaux is excited about his recent promotion from chief of Hydro-Modeling Section.

Will there be any changes made in Hydraulics now that he's in charge?

"Change is inevitable. *I am* a change," he exclaimed. Thibodeaux feels it's important to be flexible because things will continue to change. He says, "Change is natural."

When asked what his goals were for his new position, he says, "To serve the organization as best I can and serve its customers. I want to nurture and help others succeed."

Thibodeaux has considerable experience in water resource engineering. He has served as the chief of Hydrologic Engineering, Hydraulic Design and Hydro-Modeling sections in the branch.

He discovered engineering through his



photo by Scott Riecke

love of math and science. He loved both subjects and as he says, "The best of both worlds would be engineering."

Thibodeaux graduated from Tulane University in 1974 where he received his

bachelor's degree in engineering, and in 1977 he obtained his master's degree. Later in 1978, he became a licensed engineer in the state of Louisiana.

Thibodeaux says that there have been several mentors in his life. They've all been informal influences that helped develop his attitude, which he considers the foundation.

His principles closely follow those of Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers. Thibodeaux says he endorses Flowers and his ideas on empowering the Corps work force. He says the "Just do it" cards say a lot.

The three points on the "Permission Slip" are a reminder to employees about issues that may appear obvious; however, Thibodeaux says, "It's not bad to write them down as a reminder."

In his spare time, Thibodeaux likes to do woodworking, play chess and SCRABBLE, and he's also a Toastmaster at the district. He's married and has three children.

Rosamano new chief of Direct Federal Acquisition

by Terri Jackson

Marco Rosamano, following his recent move, is ecstatic about his new position as chief of Direct Federal Acquisition in Real Estate. A Corps employee for nine years, Rosamano has been working as the new branch chief since April.

In an attempt to level out the Real Estate Division's workload,



photo by Scott Riecke

the division recently reorganized its original four branches: Appraisal, Acquisition, Planning and Control, and Management and Disposal. The new branches are: Management, Disposal and Control, Appraisal and Planning, Local Sponsor and Inleasing Acquisition, and Direct Federal Acquisition, where Rosamano is now chief.

Having been raised in a blue-collar environment, Rosamano admits to steering his own career path. He knew he wanted to work in a public service related field and says, "Law seemed like an interesting profession."

Rosamano earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of New Orleans in 1974, and then received his law degree from Loyola University in 1978.

He began his career with the district as a real estate attorney for the Atchafalaya Basin Project, and then relocated to Local Sponsor and Acquisition Branch.

When asked what changes he intended to implement in the near future, Rosamano responded, "I would like to take a look at all of our processes and see if there are ways that we can accomplish our objectives in a more efficient manner."

In particular, Rosamano wants to take a long-term view of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway Project and plan the Corps' acquisition strategy in a "cost-effective manner."

On the side, Rosamano also heads the district's volunteer Christmas in October outreach program.

When not at work, Rosamano enjoys spending time with his wife, Linda, and their two children Sophia and Gabriel. Rosamano is an avid visitor of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. "I haven't missed a day in almost ten years," he said.

A day at the Inner Harbo

by Amanda Padalewski



Photos by Michael Maples

The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock, located on Poland Avenue in the Ninth Ward, gets up to 36 lockings per day. Tows and ships from all over the country use the lock to cross between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River.



IHNC Lock was first built in 1923 and since then has undergone extensive renovations. Recently, a new captain's shack was built. The main office building is shown here.

The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock, commonly called the Industrial Canal Lock, is one of the busiest locks in the New Orleans District with close to 900 lockings a month. How does this lock manage so much traffic? Once you meet the people that work there, it's easy to see how the lock keeps going 24 hours, seven days a week.

Michael O' Dowd, IHNC lockmaster, says there's always three operators at the lock during the day and night. O' Dowd also says "Our guys work in all kinds of weather."

Carli Fried, office assistant, starts her day at seven o'clock in the morning. She pulls together all of the CEFMS tasks like timekeeping, VISA and purchasing PR&C's.

Along with administrative work, Fried also works with the public a lot, especially with the upcoming construction of the replacement lock, "They're calling and wanting information on that and I help them understand the project a little bit."

There are routine maintenance duties that need to be done at the lock, such as greasing the gears twice a week, but Oliver White, lock mechanic, says things are different lately due to renovations being done to the lock.

Aside from the regular maintenance, White also maintains the safety manuals and paperwork.

David Labruzzo, one of the head lock operators, is in charge of regulating the tows going through the lock. A ship will radio him to let him know that they want to go through. Once they call, the operator asks the captain what they're towing. He puts the information he receives into the computer to keep track of the traffic and types of cargo.

Labruzzo says, "It's always a different day." He recalls the time a person in a kayak wanted to go through the lock. The man had no radio and had to row to another boat and ask them to call to say he needed to go through.

The employees at IHNC Lock have a genuine love for their jobs and the influences that their work plays in the role of navigation. They encounter the everyday tasks along with the unexpected situations that arise on a daily basis. Apparently, it's not only a job but also a learning experience at the end of every day, as White says, "The more I learn, the more I want to learn."

Other employees include: Head Lock Operators Lindy Craddock, Thomas (Paul) Malone, Conrad Williams, and Gerald Williams; Shop/Maintenance Crew Members Calvin Johnson and Preston Sellers; Lock Operators Benjamin Duncan, Mario Flores, Amilcar Gonzalez, Dennis Grizzle, Daniel Mason, Barry Persica, Carl Poindexter, and David Warneke.

Navigation Canal Lock



Office Assistant, Carli Fried and Lockmaster Michael O'Dowd keep the administrative work moving.



Oliver White, lock mechanic, works to keep the lock working. He says, "It's an interesting job. It's never the same. You have a breakdown and it's generally never the same type of breakdown."



With two telephones and a radio, David Labruzzi, head lock operator, talks to many captains and over the years he's gotten familiar with many of them. Though it seems it would get overwhelming, he says, "It gets confusing sometimes, but you adapt to it as you go along."



Mario Flores, lock and dam operator, gets a rope ready to throw to people on the tows coming into the lock. The rope is attached to the tows in order to keep them stable while waiting to lock through.

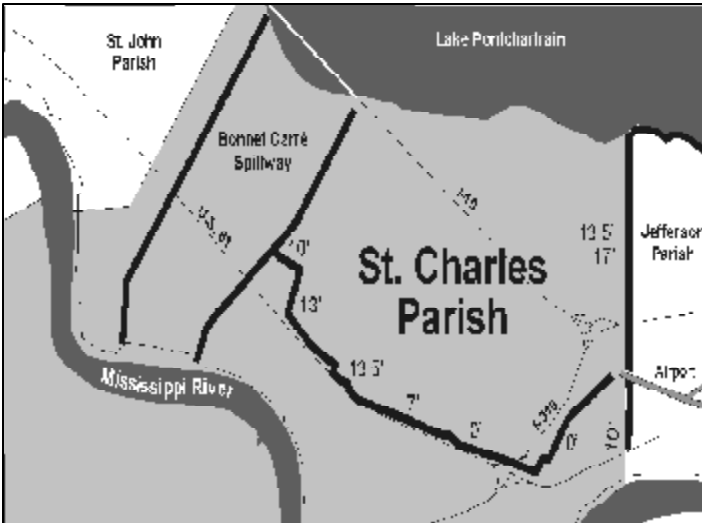
Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity

by Shanell Williams

In most parts of the country, the months June, July and August are known simply as the summer months. But in southeast Louisiana, there's a lot more to consider, like whether or not lives are lost or homes might flood.

Hurricanes are a big issue during this time, and it doesn't end there. The season starts in June and ends in November. For this reason, the district has five hurricane protection projects in progress, including the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.

"The Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project is designed to protect the populated areas between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain on the east bank of the Mississippi River from the storm tides and hurricane surges generated in Lake Pontchartrain," according to Kevin Wagner, project manager. "The project provides protection from surges associated with the Standard Project Hurricane (SPH). The SPH is generally viewed as a storm similar to

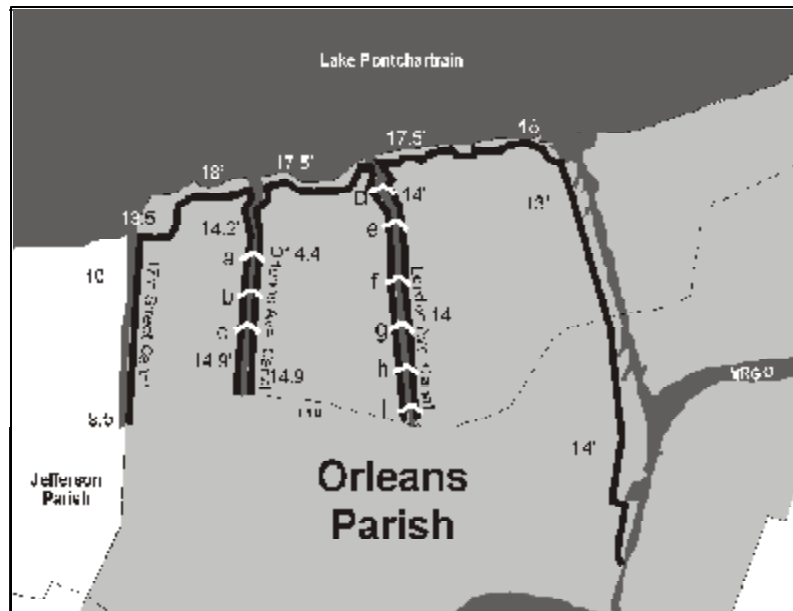


maps by Anne Marino

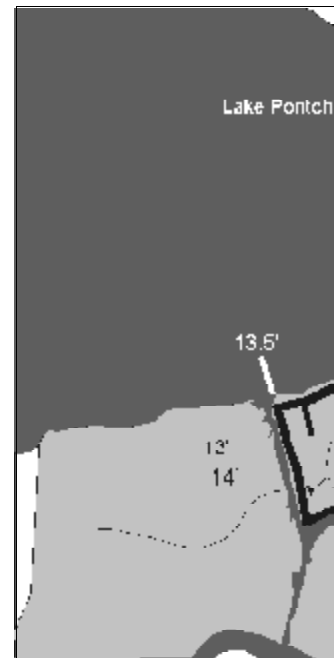
Work in consists of a new levee north of Airline Highway (US Hwy. 61) from the Bonnet Carré Spillway East Guide Levee to the Jefferson-St. Charles boundary, five gravity drainage structures, floodwalls and floodgates. Construction is about 25 percent complete. Work began in 1991, and we expect to achieve a closed system by 2003, depending on available funding. All remaining work in St. Charles Parish is scheduled to be complete by 2013.

Bridges Being Floodproofed

- a Robert E. Lee Bridge
- b Filmore Bridge
- c Harrison Bridge
- d Leon C. Simon Bridge
- e Robert E. Lee Bridge
- f Filmore Bridge
- g Harrison Bridge
- h Mirabeau Bridge
- i Gentilly Bridge



Work is about 92 percent complete and includes a levee along the Orleans Parish lakefront landward of the seawall including parallel protection (levees, floodwalls and floodproofed bridges) along three outfall canals (17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue); levee and floodwall along both sides of the Industrial Canal.



Also, levee and floodwall a levee from South Point to along the north side of the and floodwall in the Chalm and floodwall in the Chal of the GIWW and MRGO. bridges along 17th Street a structures for the pump st floodwall cappings. Curre complete by 2004. The re

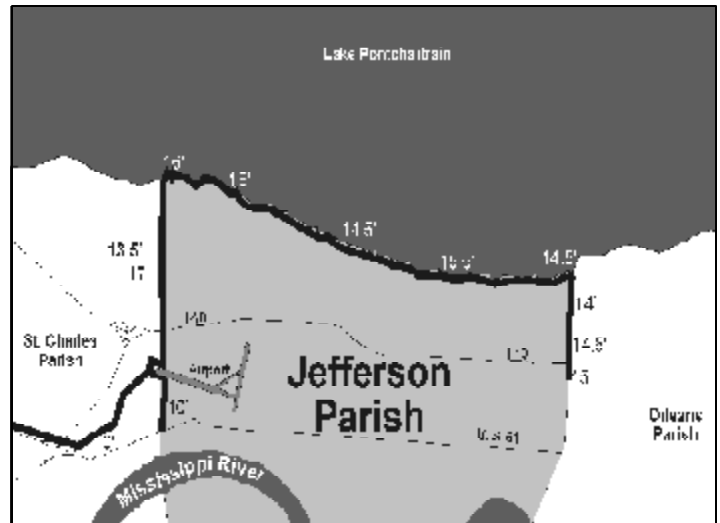
ity Hurricane Protection Project

Hurricane Betsy – a low-strength, fast-moving Category 3 hurricane.”

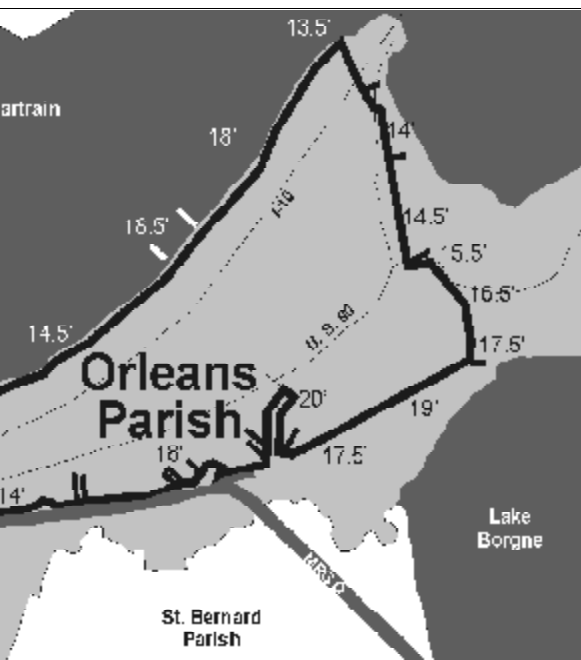
Construction began in 1967 after Hurricane Betsy caused vast flooding in the New Orleans and surrounding area. “Lower Orleans and St. Bernard Parish got hit the hardest, so this is where construction was first initiated,” Wagner said.

The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project is located in four parishes: St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Charles. The \$739 million project will be complete in 2013.

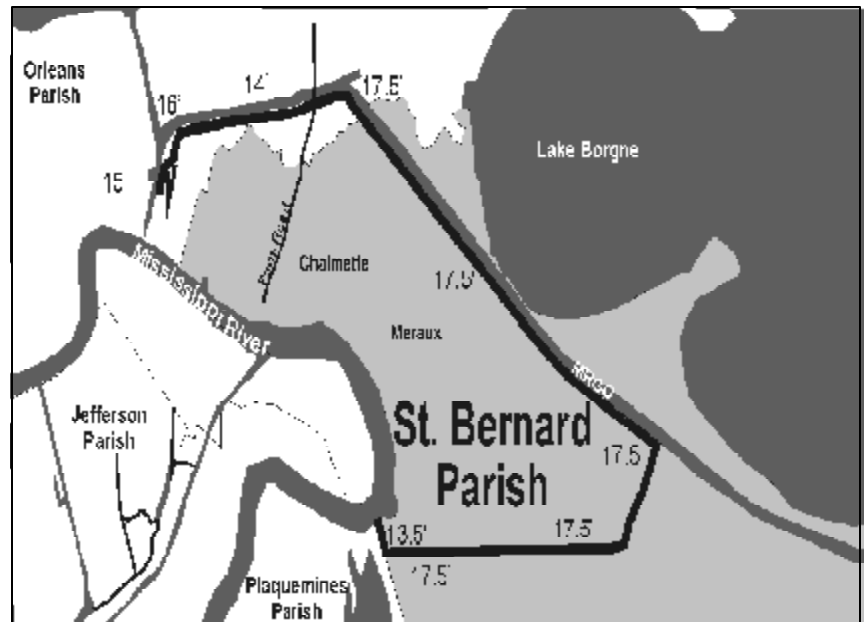
**These maps show alignment of hurricane protection systems and are for general information only. Elevations and other project data shown are subject to change. These projects are under construction and actual field conditions may not be accurately depicted.*



The work in Jefferson Parish consists of a levee and floodwall along the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish line and an enlarged levee along the Jefferson Parish lakefront. The remaining work consists of future levee enlargements, which are normally scheduled four to seven years apart due to settlement. In addition, breakwaters are being constructed in front of Pumping Stations #2 and 3 to reduce wave heights and prevent possible damage of the pump stations during a storm event. This work is expected to be completed in August.



along the lakefront from the airport to South Point; at the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; levee and floodwall of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and GIWW; levee in the Chalmette area from the IHNC levee along the south bank of the Mississippi River. Remaining construction includes the floodproofed London Avenue canals, fronting protection stations, levee enlargements, and miscellaneous work. Currently, all work in Orleans Parish is scheduled to be completed in 2006. Remaining work is scheduled for completion in 2006.



Work is virtually complete except for floodwall capping and future levee enlargements due to settlement. Currently, we are working on two contracts for levee enlargements in St. Bernard Parish which extend from Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre and Verret to Caenarvon. These contracts are expected to be awarded next fiscal year.

Dress rehearsal



Photo by Michael Maples

HURRICANE EMERGENCY EXERCISES—On May 1 through May 4, Corps emergency support teams held an exercise designed to provide emergency support to state and local officials in the event of a severe Category 3 hurricane (130 mph) at NOD. About 130 Corps personnel from outside the New Orleans District, including 90 soldiers of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), came together to exercise all of the functions that would be necessary for emergency support in the event of a real hurricane.

Construction

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS—

Central Gulf Contractors has nearly completed \$4.9 million of improvements to the drainage system on the west bank of Jefferson Parish (Ave. B to Keyhole Canal). A combination of box culverts and concrete flumes are being used to improve the canal and reduce flooding on the west bank.

HURRICANE LEVEE—Larson

Construction Services Inc. was awarded the contract to enlarge levees along Algiers Canal in Plaquemines. The project raises 5.5 miles of the existing levee from about 5 feet to 9.5 feet for hurricane protection, and places riprap on the existing foreshore dike along the east side. Four swing gates will also be installed. Work begins in May at a cost of almost \$4.9 million.

Operations

LOCK TRANSFER—The Corps is prepared to transfer ownership and maintenance of the Keystone Lock, to include about 12 acres surrounding the lock and dam located just south of St.

Martinville on Bayou Teche, St. Martin Parish. The dam will remain federal property, but St. Martin Parish will operate the lock and maintain the grounds and buildings. Five years ago the Corps decided it was no longer practical to keep the lock since it was only opened for boat traffic a few times a year. However, closing it would leave the upper part of Bayou Teche unnavigable. Sheriff Charles Fuselier has agreed to take over upkeep.

BOAT TRAINING—In the district's annual boat training classes, 11 employees renewed their certificates and 20 completed the beginner's course, May 14-17. At Leland Bowman Lock, Intracoastal City, they were trained as operators of boats 16 to 26 feet long. Upon completion, they received a five-year certificate. Safety Office and Operations Division coordinated classes with the Leland Bowman lockmaster and instructors.

Engineering

MISSISSIPPI RIVER UPPER VALLEY—The water flooding the

Mississippi River's upper valley in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa will eventually make its way to Louisiana, but it won't have much effect here. Most of the flow of the lower Mississippi River comes from the Ohio-Tennessee river system. The flow on April 20 was 630,000 cubic feet/second (cfs) at New Orleans and that's 150,000 cfs below the average for this time of year. Meanwhile, the Upper Mississippi was cresting at 268,000 cfs just below its confluence with the Wisconsin River. This is well above their average flow of 94,000 for this time of year, but even if New Orleans were to get every drop it would only bring us up to normal flow. The stage on April 20 was 7.4 feet above sea level at New Orleans. Flood stage is 17 feet and the levees protect the city up to 20 feet.

CRAWFISH WATER—To help

Louisiana's crawfish industry, the Corps increased the diversion of water from the Mississippi River into the Atchafalaya Basin for two weeks in May. Old River Control's gates were adjusted to increase by two percentage points the flow directed down the Atchafalaya to 32 percent. This also decreased the Mississippi's flow to 68 percent. The increase of water in the basin will help raise the number of crawfish being harvested.

Executive Office

DNR SECRETARY GETS HONORED—

Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jack Caldwell was honored for his commitment and dedication to protecting Louisiana's ecosystem and natural resources. Col. Julich presented Caldwell with a plaque and commemorative medal, recognizing Caldwell's public service and humanitarian efforts in the state. The "Commander's Award For Public Service" cites Caldwell's work with the Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act. Caldwell was appointed by Gov. Mike Foster to head DNR in 1996. Caldwell has served as secretary of DNR longer than any other appointed to the position.

Better choices, greater opportunities

by Eric Hughes

NOD is expanding its recruitment pool of engineering students in a new way. Physics/engineering students from Xavier, Dillard and Southern University in New Orleans can now participate in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) through their school's 3/2 Program. The three universities could not take part before 1999 because the district's SCEP did not allow students from universities without an engineering department to participate.

The 3/2 Program is a five-year program where the first three years are spent at a non-engineering university. For the final two years, the student transfers to an engineering school to complete training in a specialized area of engineering. Some of the local engineering schools include UNO, LSU, Southern in Baton Rouge and Tulane. After completing the program, the student will receive two bachelor's of science degrees, one in physics and another in engineering.

The Blacks in Government (BIG) organization assisted the district in finding a way to increase the pool of SCEP applicants. Darrel Broussard (PMD), the former president of BIG, was one of several members involved in making the 3/2 Program part of the district's SCEP.

"We took a look at the number of SCEP students at the district and noticed that there weren't many African-Americans," said Broussard. "What we did was sort of

bridge the gap between the university and the Corps to allow these students to now be considered."

In 1999 Eugene Tickner, former chief of Engineering Division, rewrote the regulations that allowed 3/2 Program students to participate in the SCEP. BIG members provided Tickner written recommendations on recruiting at the universities. These recommendations explained how students within the 3/2 Program would benefit the Corps and provide future, permanent Corps employees. Members researched the curriculums at the three non-engineering universities to see if they were the same as engineering universities in the area.

"We had Xavier University and the UNO dean of engineering compare curriculums to make sure that what Xavier was offering was exactly the same as UNO," Broussard said. "There's no distinction between a 3/2 student and a regular engineering student in their first two years of studies. If they've taken the same classes, they're considered equal."

Current BIG President Tawanda Wilson-Prater (PMD) said the curriculums at UNO have a strong science and mathematics background, which is the same for physics majors at non-engineering schools like Xavier.

"By having a dual major, these students are more versatile," Wilson-Prater said. "It's broadening our pool of recruitment and gives us a great opportunity to bring on



photo by Scott Riecke

Students Ralph Gaspard and Nicole Harris joined NOD through Xavier's 3/2 Program.

more qualified, well-rounded permanent employees."

Xavier student Ralph Gaspard II joined Engineering's Levees Section in March. He said the district offers a number of great opportunities that take the learning process to a higher level.

Nicole Harris (PMD) started the SCEP through the 3/2 Program in November and recently completed her second year at Xavier. Harris will attend Tulane next spring to get her bachelor's of science in physics and a master's in engineering.

"Now that I am in the (SCEP) program, a lot of other students have been asking me about it," said Harris. "Hopefully this will bring more opportunities for other students interested in engineering."

Safety Office: these are the safest

by Amanda Padalewski

Safety Office is again recognizing the employees of all field sites as they wrap up the annual safety inspection. Several locks have exceeded the maximum requirements and will receive plaques for their excellence in safety for FY00.

The process is extensive, as a safety officer visits each district field location to make sure all safety paperwork is in order, tripping hazards are marked, crane operators and cranes are certified and that safety meetings are being held every week. The safety officer also checks hazardous chemical inventory and several other important safety concerns at the field sites.

The inspections are based on a point system. One hundred points means the area has met the

requirements for safety. Anything above 100 means the site demonstrates exceptional safety by exceeding the requirements, and the field staff receives

not only a plaque, but also hats and cups for their efforts.

In October, the inspections for FY01 will be complete.

<p>Best Lock Bayou Sorrel Lock Berwick Lock Calcasieu Lock Leland Bowman Lock Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock</p>	<p>Best Flood Control Project Bonnet Carre' Spillway Old River Control Structure</p>
<p>Best Maintenance Unit Unit "D"</p>	<p>Best Area Office Lafayette Area Office</p>

NOD hosts daughters at work day

by Terri Jackson

April 26 marked the ninth year NOD's Federal Women's Program Committee has sponsored "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" for girls age 9-15.

This year's theme was "Girl Force," and 21 young women attended, anxious to spend the day on the job with their parents and guardians. Coordinator Janice Williams, Real Estate Division, said, "Attendance was a little lower than last year due to standardized tests being administered at schools, but the enthusiasm was still present."

Although this was a day to miss school, it was no day at the park. The day started bright and early with breakfast and registration. The girls were given information packets on the Corps of Engineers. After Col. Thomas Julich welcomed the participants, they were split into one group for a survey boat cruise and another for a tour of the

dredge Wheeler.

The survey boat was a new addition to the day's agenda, but it was by far the most enjoyed. Ernest Pitts, Transportation and Maintenance Branch, and eight other fathers, more than last year, participated in the program.

During the afternoon, the girls spent time with their parents getting a first-hand view of their work. "It's important for young ladies to see not only what their parents do for a living, but what their possibilities are as well," said Williams.

When asked why she felt that "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" helped the development of young women, Janet Cruppi, chief of Local Sponsor and Inleasing Acquisition Branch and third year participant, stated, "Young girls need to know that there are no longer men's jobs and women's jobs."

Other parents expressed similar sentiments. Cruppi's 11-year-old daughter,



Photo by Michael Maples

Linda Fernandez (RM) gets acquainted with two eager observers at the ninth annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

Angela, thoroughly enjoyed observing her mother at work. "Angela really had a good time. She especially liked acting as assistant to everyone in the office," said Cruppi. Like Angela, many of the other girls look forward to participating again next year.

All of the parents said they would definitely encourage others to allow their daughters to take part in such a worthwhile program.

Girl scouts visit Corps women professionals

by Terri Jackson

It was an opportunity for young ladies to glance into their futures, and members of Girl Scout Troop 1035 made the most of it on April 20 in observing Corps women professionals.

The girls had 20-minute intervals with various district women including Julie Oliphant and Madonna Montz, both civil engineers in the Geotechnical Branch of Engineering Division who took part in allowing the young women to observe them at work.

"We enjoyed seeing the girls' reactions when we gave them a tour of the soils testing lab," said Oliphant. From Montz and Oliphant, the girls learned a lot about



Photo by Michael Maples

Renee Schissler (ED), Julie Oliphant (ED) and Madonna Montz (ED) show the girl scouts how Engineering Division operates.

what the Corps does and about how soil is retrieved from the ground. Although, historically, engineering has been categorized as a male oriented profession, Oliphant stated, "The girls did not

seem concerned with this stereotype."

Real Estate Division's Janet Cruppi also let the girl scouts watch what she does for a living. Cruppi explained what the Real Estate Division does and generally what services people ask from them. "I believe that this program made a big impact on the girls because they were able to see that after school they will use a lot of the skills that they think are unnecessary, like math and science."

"Next time the girls should have longer observation time.

The girls had a lot of good questions and 20 minutes was not enough," commented Cruppi.

After monitoring the women professionals at the Corps, the girl scouts received a patch on "impacting the future."

Around the District

Congratulations

to **Kippy Anthony** (HR), who earned an associates degree in computer information technology from Delgado Community College.

to **Tynesia Ballard** (RE), who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Xavier University. Tyneisha graduated magna cum laude.

to **Dana Bouie** (RM), who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Xavier University. Dana graduated cum laude.

to **Keoka Collins** (NDC), who earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Southern University at New Orleans. Keoka graduated magna cum laude.

to **Kim Crawford** (ED), who earned master's degree in engineering management from the University of New Orleans

to **Matthew Duncan** (OD), who earned a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Tulane University.

to **Deborah Garmon** (ED), who earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Loyola University.

to **John Hall** (PA), whose son, Flannery Hall has successfully graduated from U.S. Navy recruit training at Great Lakes, IL. Hall is now in a course in Yeoman training at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Miss.

to **Eric Hughes** (PA), who earned a bachelor's degree in communications and a minor in marketing from Loyola University.

to **Michael Jackson** (PM), who earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of New Orleans.

to **Donald Jolissaint** (ED), who was selected as the new deputy, General Engineering Branch.

to **Olivia Nelson** (OD), who earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Southern University at New Orleans.

to **George Popovich** (CD), whose daughter Claire Popovich graduated from Salem High School as Valedictorian. Clair plans to attend Loyola University to pursue a career in medicine.

to **Ward Purdum** (CD), who has been selected for the position of chief of Quality Assurance Branch.

to **Irma Reinike** (OD, retired), who is listed in "Who's Who In the World" and "Who's Who In America" for 2001 and 2002, for her "outstanding achievements...contributing significantly to the betterment of society." Look for the announcement of her next publication, "Irma Reinike Poetry, Book I."

to **Steven Schinetsky** (OD), whose son Phillip competed in the Region III Men's Gymnastic Championships on April 8.



Photo by Michael Maples

At SELA's Napoleon Avenue project, Beth Cottone (PM) briefs Corps officers and New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board officials.

Phillip tied for ninth place on floor exercise, 12th on high bar and 24th All-Around as a Class V gymnast, ages 12-13. Phillip competed against 53 gymnasts from Region III, which includes: Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Condolences

to **Carol Powell** (retired) and Mike Maunoir (OD), whose mother, Antoinette Maunoir, died on May 8.

New Beginnings

to **Christopher Gilmore** (PM) and wife Tammy on the birth of their son, Keegan Christopher Gilmore. Keegan was born on April 22 and weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz.

to **Judy Richard** (RE) on the birth of her great nephew, Ryan Michael Downes. Ryan was born on May 7 and weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz.

to **Casey Rowe** (OD) and wife Rachel on the birth of their daughter, Mallory Grace Rowe. Mallory was born on May 5.

Farewell

to **Bill Bradley** (ED), who retired in April after 32 years of service.

to **Anthony Occhipinti** (OC), who retired in May.



Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on "Bulletin Boards." Here are the responses we received:

Bulletin boards needed, but clutter is overwhelming

You can't help but notice the bulletin boards. However, if someone takes the time to put up the notices it would be helpful if they would take them down when the item is no longer available, applicable or the event is over.

The boards do serve a purpose, but the clutter is sometimes overwhelming.

Possibly a system could be set up similar to MVN Alert in which employees could go periodically to check items for sale, services. These type of notices do not need to be retained in a public folder like those sent via E-mail "S-all." A little blinking icon like the MVN Alert (Corps Castle) to let us know there is something new to read.

Use the "S-all," via E-mail for official notices. Since "S-all" messages are retained in the public folder, this would be a good source to keep official notices we may need to refer back to. In an effort not to appear uncaring, notifications of an employees' retirement or the death of an employee or family member do not need to be retained for one year or longer, and a temporary location seems to be best for unofficial items.

A simplified process could be set up for employees to advise a point of contact to add their notice to the system and a message devise where employees

interested can go and view the items if we want and not be bothered with an E-mail message. The POC can clean out the box after a designated period of time or expiration of an event.

-Marie Burge, Real Estate

* *Marie is the winner of a reserved parking space.*

Arouse our curiosity

Attractive bulletin boards are irresistible. The bulletin boards in the cafeteria and the restrooms will usually catch my eye due to the colorful displays or arrangement of the messages. The boards placed in the hallways are rules and regulations printed in black and white and are unattractive. The display bulletins advertising the Blood Drive will catch my eye.

To draw a person's attention to a bulletin board, you must first arouse their curiosity. Printing messages in color, catchy titles or pictures will focus the message and draw attention to the boards. The bulletin board in the cafeteria with the ads for various items from pets to houses always has people around it. Be creative and have a bulletin board committee and watch how attractive the bulletin boards will be.

-Cathy Torlage, Contracting

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

AND

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

**RESPOND BY
JUNE 5**

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

HOSTING STUDENTS

>WHAT SHOULD THE DISTRICT SHOW VISITING YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET THEM INTERESTED IN MATH OR SCIENCE?

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

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

First Class Mail
Postage & Fees Paid
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Permit No. 80