



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Riverside

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

October 2003

West Bay:
letting the
river act
naturally



Grieshaber new civil branch chief

By Angela Johnson

John Grieshaber has been promoted to chief of Civil Branch. He has been with the Corps of Engineers since 1974 and previously was section chief of Structural Foundations, Geotechnical Branch, Engineering.

“I believe in the whole team concept and I really want to foster that,” he said.

He is also concerned about the age gap among engineers. During the 1990s, there were not many new engineers hired. Now, a number of senior employees are nearing retirement and their replacements are new engineers lacking mid-career experience. “I think it’s very important that we acknowledge this and focus on training the young designers and technicians.”

“I believe in the whole team concept and I really want to foster that.”

To this end, Grieshaber teaches graduate level courses and encourages all of the young engineers in his department to pursue their master’s degree.

“Some kinds of corporate knowledge can only be acquired over time. We want to make sure all the

young designers are given a broad base of knowledge to begin with.”

The biggest challenge that the New Orleans native

foresees is the realignment of the business process (PMBP). “I hope to align this branch to PMBP. It will empower employees at lower grades to make decisions that they were not allowed to before.” He expects there to be some frustration involved because PMBP is still new. “We’ll have to evolve with it,” he said.

In his spare time, Grieshaber enjoys fishing and home improvement

projects. “I have house in the country that I’ve been working on for 20 years,” he laughed.



Lane Lefort

Riverside

Warning:
there's a crunchy pickle inside!

October 2003

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Col. Peter J. Rowan

Public Affairs Chief

Jim Addison

Editor

Eric S. Lincoln

Contributing Writers

Peggy Plaisance, Angela Johnson

Graphic Artist

Elena Napolitano

Winner: The “J” Award, the highest Department of Army journalism honor, 2000 and 2003.

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Riverside



Lane Lefort

The dredge California works its way into West Bay, creating a channel to allow sediment to flow in from the river.

*The first reader to identify the food product on which this phrase appears wins a free candy bar from the PIE Snak Shak!
Last month's winner: Robert Jolissaint, “Sun-Maid raisins.”

Expenditures: FY02 vs. FY03

Col. Rowan offered thanks and congratulations recently to all offices that helped advance projects despite unusual financial challenges during FY03. Marcia Demma, chief, Programs Management Branch, added, "Even with the eight CRA periods, late appropriations bill and major funding shortfalls, the district continues to execute more efficiently, leaving fewer funds on the table and executing whatever funding we receive."

General Investigations
\$9.2 Million, or 95.2%
☐ FY02: \$6.8M, or 90%

Construction General
\$91.9 Million, or 98.8%
☐ FY02: \$108M, or 96.5%

Operations and Maintenance General
\$146.5 Million, or 99.7%
☐ In FY02: \$143M, or 97.8%

MR&T
\$91 Million, or 98% (excluding condemnation and Homeland Security funding)
☐ In FY02: \$89M, or 91%

Capt. Hibner joins Engineering

Capt. Daniel Hibner, Construction, joined the district in August.

Hibner was born in Michigan City, Ind. He graduated from Kemper Military College as distinguished military graduate and was commissioned as an infantry



second lieutenant, U.S. Army Reserves, in 1993. He received a bachelor's in construction management from Purdue University and a master's in engineering management from the University of Missouri.

Hibner began his career in 1993, serving as

an infantry second lieutenant in the Army Reserves. In 1996, he entered active duty as a second lieutenant, Corps of Engineers.

Other previous military assignments: sapper platoon leader and battalion maintenance officer, 65th Engineer

Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; assistant brigade engineer and battalion adjutant of the 11th Engineer Battalion, and company commander, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Ga. His operational deployments include service with the Kosovo Forces and duty in Iraq.

Hibner is a distinguished graduate of the Engineer Officers Basic Course and distinguished graduate and Assistant Commandants Award recipient of the Engineer Advanced Course. He's also a graduate of the Combined Arms Services Staff School, Battalion Motor Officer's Course, Airborne, Air Assault and Ranger schools.

Awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault and Parachutists badges, Ranger Tab, and Expert Infantryman's Badge.

Hibner and his wife, Teresa, have two children: nine-year-old Grant and six-year-old Evan, and live in Slidell.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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channel opened at
**West
Bay**
sediment diversion project

The West Bay Sediment Diversion Project opened this month, introducing fresh water and sediment from the Mississippi River into West Bay to help rebuild about 10,000 acres of vegetated wetlands over the next 20 years.

The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, five miles above Head of Passes, and is the largest of its kind in the world. “It’s a major sediment diversion without control gates, that will also be a model for future diversions,” said Greg Miller, project manager, Coastal Restoration Branch.

Dating back to the 50s, a number of storm events, natural subsidence and lack of sediment and freshwater introduction into the bay lead to the disappearance of wetlands, creating an area of mostly open, shallow water.

“It will be a 20,000 cfs diversion for a few years,” explained Miller. “If it works well, we’ll dig it so it will flow to 50,000 cfs.”

“The project’s primary purpose is to rebuild marsh, though we’re very interested in how well the project functions not only for the performance of this project but also to apply it to future projects in the CWPPRA and LCA programs.”



The dredge California cuts a channel through the bank of the Mississippi River, pumping dredged material through a pipeline into West Bay .

The Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) study team may use the data collected to support approval and funding for possible future diversions in Plaquemines Parish above Lake Maurepas at Myrtle Grove (about 50 miles upriver from West Bay) and near Fort Jackson (about 20 miles upriver from West Bay) along the Mississippi.

The dredge California began digging the West Bay channel in late September.

Most of the channel was solid riverbank, so rather than wait for the area to be cleared before dredging, the



**Area of restoration
(five miles above Head of Passes)**



By October 3, most of the riverbank is cleared (middle left), while tracked vehicles, called “marsh buggies,” (insert) in the bay assist in laying the pipeline and distributing material from the dredge California (left), working in the river. Newly-created lands (upper right) emerge with material dredged for an anchorage in the river.

All photos, Lane Lefort

Continued from page 5

contractor laid pipeline to begin pumping material while at the same time working to clear away trees and shrubs.

The project consists of three phases: removal of a foreshore dike, construction of the initial channel and removal of advance maintenance dredge material from the Pilottown anchorage.

Vessels use the anchorage to transfer crews and await further transit up the river. Analysis indicated the navigation channel and the anchorage area, though, would both be subject to additional shoaling from the removal of water through the diversion. So the Corps agreed as part of the project to maintenance dredge to a 45-foot depth, allowing deep-draft ships to continue to use it as they have in the past.

“It’s real critical to the shipping industry to be able to use that area,” Miller explained.

All of the material from the riverbank where the channel is created and from the anchorage area is ultimately being pumped into West Bay for the creation of wetlands.

Because the area is mostly fresh water already, there shouldn’t be any major reductions in salinity or negative

impacts on existing fisheries once the diversion is opened, added Sean Mickal, Environmental Branch.

Corps team members also include Rick Broussard, Keith O’Cain, Nancy Powell and Sylvia Smith, Engineering design team; Scott Clement, drawings; Ron Legendre, Construction; and Gloria Just and Renee Russell, Real Estate. “The district’s been working on this for over 10 years. There are a lot of people who had a hand in it,” Miller said. “There was team effort all across the agency and with our local sponsor, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.”

The \$22.3 million cost is being shared 85 percent federal and 15 percent state.

Greg Miller, project manager, with plan drawings for West Bay.



Michael Maples



Marsh buggies maneuver the 30-inch diameter pipeline as dredged material is pumped into the disposal site.

West Bay sediment diversion



In 1949, West Bay was classified as fresh marsh and contained large areas of flotant wetlands. But by 1990, more than 40,000 acres had eroded from hurricanes and subsidence.

Marsh buggies work atop the dredged material in shallow water, evening out the surface to elevation three feet above sea level. A worker walks the pipe (right of center).



The dredge California is an all-electric vessel, 426-feet long. Its six-foot diameter cutterhead can dig through anything from sand to unblasted rock, and spins with 2,250 horsepower, fed by an 8,000 hp main motor (right). Most of the material dug at West Bay was mud, wood and sand, so the California made swift progress.

West Bay sediment diversion



Great Lakes Dock and Dredge Company contractors work inside the leverhouse of the California, maneuvering the ship and cutterhead.



Greg Miller, Coastal Branch, and Rick Broussard, Waterways Section, inspect a chunk of wood filtered out during dredging. Tree limbs and boulders were dug, along with 1.6 million cubic yards of silt.

All photos, Lane Lefort

Ex-college athlete pursues football career

By Eric Lincoln

For a lot of armchair quarterbacks, getting picked to play on a professional football team is about as likely as a walk on the moon. But for one engineer at the district, the odds are about 40 to 1.

Antoine Jackson, Cost Engineering Branch, recently tried out for the New Orleans Voodoo football team and was asked to return for second-round tryouts next month.

“For me, it’s a reality check,” says Jackson, who was a state leading receiver at McMinn High School in the mid-90s, then made the team as a walk-on when he moved on to Southern University. They won the Black National Championship in 1997, beating South Carolina State in the Heritage Bowl. Since he was “red-shirted,” Jackson didn’t play in the game and contribute as much as he would have liked. “I got the ring, though,” he said.

He lost interest in football as education and career choices became more of a priority, and got his engineering degree in 2001.

“I didn’t have the positive influences and motivation surrounding me in sports. My parents didn’t push me to be a big football star. But when I started working here at the district, a lot of people, including my supervisor, John Bivona, were telling me to give it another shot. They got me thinking about it again.”

So, Jackson signed up for Voodoo tryouts in Lafayette. “There were about 150 guys at tryouts that day. There were past NFL players, a few big-name college players looking for a chance to play somewhere, and a bunch of guys who looked like they never played sports in their life. Maybe they were passing by the stadium that morning and wanted to be able to tell people they tried out for a professional team.”

About 40 participants, including Jackson, were asked to return in November. Of those, only one or two will make the final cut. “The ex-Saints players and college names will get first picks... I’m glad now I pursued it, even if they don’t call me. I wasn’t one of the best, but I wasn’t one of the worst either.”

Jackson, 25, mentors at his former high school. “Many of the guys that I played with are no longer playing and still don’t have a degree or a career. When you’re a naïve kid and stuck on sports, you aren’t thinking about a backup plan. I’m still somewhat young and have the athletic point of view and I think a lot of kids relate to that. I tell them, ‘once you get to



Antoine Jackson, Cost Engineering Branch, recently tried out for the New Orleans Voodoo football team and was asked to return for second-round tryouts.

Lane Lefort

college you have to have a plan.”

“I don’t consider myself overly successful, but the kids see me, graduated, with a good career, contributing back to the community, and it makes a difference.”

He said if he ever has a son, he’ll make sure to help him enjoy sports. “I’ll probably have him out there running and catching when he’s two years old,” he laughed.

ATD, from page 12

In other news ...

Irma Reinike (OD, retired) has more than 25 oils and watercolors for sale at Attitudes and Accents in Mandeville. Her books, “My Beach” and “Eulogy to World War II Veterans,” are in the National D-Day Museum. She has moved back to Metairie after living with her daughter in Slidell for the past couple of years. Irma has been retired now for nine years but because she has been so busy with art and writing classes, as well as painting and doing shows, she is just now beginning to feel really retired. She’s enjoying life!

Linda McGee (CPOC, previously OD) sent a letter of thanks to all who donated annual leave to help her dedicate time to her son during his cancer treatments.

My sincerest appreciation to everyone that stopped by with cards, gifts, phone calls of concerns and to many, many of you that graced us with your visits. A very special thank you to Charlene Squire. Please continue to lift Brandon’s name up in prayer.



The district also received a letter of thanks recently from the New Orleans

See ATD, page 11

Caregivers are just a phone call away

By Peggy Plaisance

Suicide can touch our personal or professional lives at any moment. Nearly 80 Americans take their lives every day. The subject has always been taboo, but it is time to face it head-on and talk about it openly.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people between ages 15 and 24 and the second leading cause for those 24 to 34. For every suicide there are about 100 times more who injure themselves from non-fatal suicidal behaviors. And because suicide also touches family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors, the total number of people affected is far greater. In any year, about six percent of the population has serious thoughts of suicide. Right here at the district, we have had one suicide per year for the last three years.

How can further deaths and injuries be prevented? How can we support people to choose life when painful experiences prevent them from seeing a way forward? Creating an awareness of suicide in the workplace is one of the keys to suicide prevention. Be aware of what is going on in your co-worker's life. Have they experienced the death of a loved one, child custody battle, divorce, separation or financial difficulties? Become involved. If you hear them talking or hinting about suicide, tell someone who can help. We have caregivers trained for these situations.

Most people considering suicide signal their distress and their intent. We now have trained caregivers who can respond confidently to these invitations to help, and prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

In May, the Wellness Program sponsored Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Twenty-four employees participated in the two-day workshop taught by two Army chaplains. The emphasis was on suicide first aid and helping a person at risk to stay safe and seek further help. We learned how to:

- recognize opportunities for help
- reach out and offer support
- estimate the risk of suicide
- apply a model for suicide intervention
- link people with community resources

Compassion and understanding are essential to helping a person at risk for suicide, yet many people are afraid to get involved. Not getting involved could be the worst thing possible because that person might be depending on you for help. If you don't reach out to them, they might think that you don't care, which could worsen their feelings of hopelessness and desperation. Be willing to get involved.

The Wellness Program has trained caregivers, listed below, available for appointments. We also have our Employees Assistance Program counselors who are ready to assist you at any time. Call 494-2430 or 459-9356 to set up an appointment.

Suicide Prevention Caregivers:

Carl Robinson (OD)	2352
Steve Patorno (OD)	2333
William Nethery (OD)	1267
Ronald Bourgeois (RM)	2293
Suette Jackson (RM)	1140
Brenda Weber (RM)	1122
John Grieshaber (ED)	2979

Denis Beer (CD)	2948
Ree Anderson (CD)	2935
Pierre Hingle (CD)	2738
Steve Conravey (CD)	2400
John Morton (CD)	1234
Stuart Waits (CD)	1452
Steve Hinkamp (CD)	5265
Perry Torregano (IMO)	1048
Jan Brandon (IMO)	1043
Carl Gugenheimer (ED)	2643
Larry Plaisance (SS)	2210
Burnell Thibodeaux (ED)	2420
Thomas Podany (PM)	2502
Marian Askegren (HR)	2797
Dave Justison (SS)	2342
Eddie Mayers (SS)	2365
Peggy Plaisance (SS)	2210

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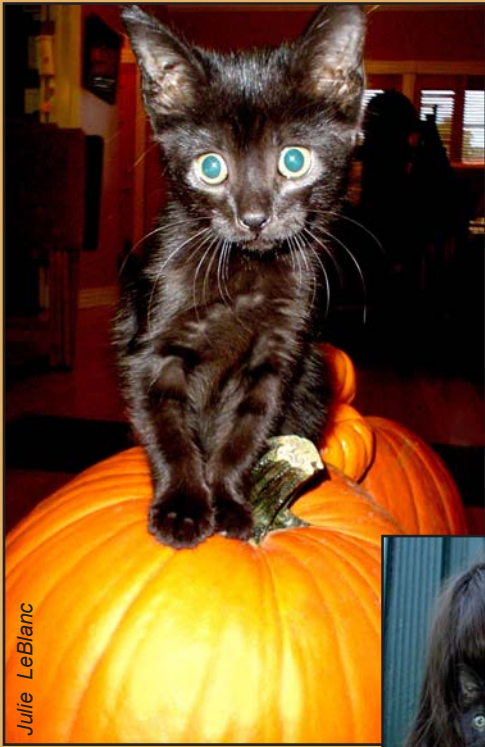
Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Azucar Ball 2003 Committee thanking Partners In Education for a \$100 donation:

We thank you for supporting this year's ball: Latin America Alive!

Through the annual Azucar Ball, the NOHHF has been able to increase public awareness of the Hispanic character, culture, customs, values and flavor of this region. The proceeds of this event fund academic scholarships for Hispanic students in the Greater New Orleans area who otherwise, because of financial circumstances, would not be allowed to attend our area's best high schools.

Thank you again for your donation. More importantly, you will be deeply appreciated by the students who can grow academically and personally from your generosity.

Emma M. Brannan
Z. Mariana Montero
Azucar Ball Chairpersons



Julie LeBlanc

The eyes have it - Julie Leblanc (PM) rescued a kitten from certain death on the I-10 on Sept. 25. "I was driving to the office and caught scurrying kitten legs out of the corner of my eye. I got off the interstate, went back to the previous exit, then pulled off to the shoulder. When I saw her again, I picked her up ... the vet estimated her age at about six weeks. My eight-year-old, Juliette, wanted a kitten for Christmas. She got an early present in September!"



Congratulations

to **Felton Prosper** (PM), whose five-year-old daughter, Kaylynne, scored 11 goals in a New Orleans Soccer Academy Kids game.

to **Bonnie Pouyadou** (CD) and her husband, Kevin, on the birth of their first child, William Jude, on Sept. 25.

to **Ed Usner** (PM) and his wife, Kathleen, on the birth of their first grandson, Jared John Pelegrin, on Aug. 15.

to **Carol Burdine** (PM) and her husband, Sean, on the birth of their daughter, Rachelle Alise, on Aug. 28.

Soldiers send thanks - Amanda Jones and Paulette Salassi (IM) have been shipping out gift packages to soldiers in Iraq since the start of the war. They've received letters of thanks and have them displayed on the wall. One letter reads, "It was so nice to receive any kind of mail, especially a package. A lot of those things come in handy, and the others are just nice to have ... It's nice to know that people back home think of us. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Your package really made my day." Jones said there are at least 30 people they haven't been able to send anything to because of postage costs. The boxes cost from \$7 to \$16 to mail.



Lane Lefort

to **Janet Kleinschmidt** (PM), on the birth of her granddaughter, Gabrielle Aimée Kleinschmidt, on Sept. 23.

Kudos

to **Geri Robinson** (PM), who received a certificate of recognition for her dedicated performance during the construction of Experimental Stabilization Works on the MRGO.

to **Betty Brogna** (RE), who was awarded the Jane Menesses Memorial Service Award for her many years of service as a water safety instructor with the American Red Cross, St. Bernard

Chapter, Water Safety Program.

Condolences

to **Sam Kearns** (ED), whose mother, Mittie Fields, died Oct. 1.

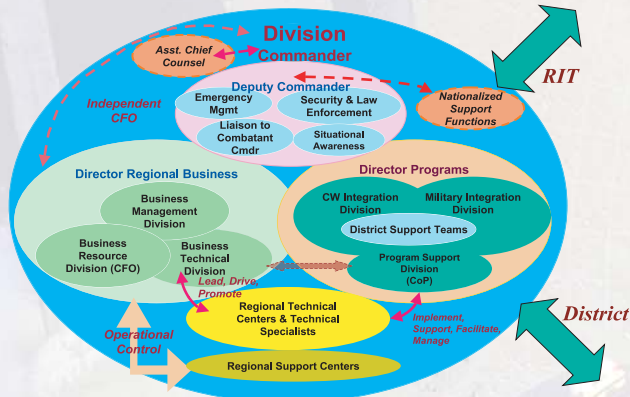
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Division Organizational Concept



DIVISIONS

The Divisions focus on supporting the Districts by using the RBCs and two current directorates are being realigned to accomplish this: 1) the Regional Business Directorate and 2) the Program Directorate.

The **Regional Business Directorate** has three divisions:

The Business Technical Division leads quality assurance and promotes technical expertise in the division.

The Business Management Division focuses on relationships and business practices.

The Business Resources Division provides financial oversight and manages the regional financial and manpower resources.

The **Programs Directorate** has divisions that integrate Civil Works and Military Programs (if appropriate) and has integrated District Support Teams, much like the RITs at the Washington level.

There is also a Program Support Division that assists in implementing regional technical centers and supporting the Communities of Practice.

The Programs Directorate is responsible for leading regional program and project execution through program integration offices and District Support Teams.

Both Regional Business and Program Directorates share responsibility for establishing regional functions to accomplish the regional missions.

How will USACE 2012 affect the Districts?

As USACE changes from a functionally-focused, hierarchical organization to integrated, cross-functional teams, the people of the Centers see changes in many areas. As the centerpiece of USACE 2012, the Regional Business Centers have great impact on the work done in the Districts.

Through the actualization of the RBC, Districts focus more directly on actual mission execution without the burden of managing support activities.

Greater interdependence between Districts, through the RBC, leads to reduced project delivery costs and improved customer satisfaction.

RITs, located in Washington but serving their individual regions, provide a more synchronized approach to resolve District issues.

Increased regional use of District technical expertise allows people to further hone their technical skills and knowledge.

Regional Business Technical Divisions at the Division and CoP preserve and enhance technical capability. Regional Technical Specialists are established to serve the region and to provide expanded technical capability.

Districts have increased delegated authority for project execution.

Districts benefit from common regional business practices and uniform regional overhead through the development of the Regional Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) Data Base as CEFMS transitions from a District-centered database to one serving the whole region.

*Team operating virtually
in a Learning Organization.*

To read the entire USACE 2012 Report go to
www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders



**Aligning the
U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
for Success
in the
21st Century**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



**US Army Corps
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USACE 2012

For more than 228 years, the people of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have served our nation through times of peace and war, adapting whenever necessary to meet our country's evolving needs. Now, in the early years of a new century, it is time, once again, for the Corps to change. USACE 2012 is the path we will take to the future.

“As a team of teams, we’ll tear down stovepipes and become interdependent -- working together to provide better service to our customers, the American people.”

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers

Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE 2012 organization is significantly different from the organization today. Some of the key concepts of the changes to come are outlined here. For more in-depth information, the entire USACE 2012 plan is available at www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders.

OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS

One Corps - With the concept of One Corps, each echelon (Washington, Division and District) will have distinct responsibilities, authorities, tasks and activities commensurate with their role.

The Washington Headquarters focuses on the strategic needs of the organization - strategic plans, national relationships and policy development.

The Divisions focus on building and supporting the Regional Business Center.

The Districts focus on executing the mission and providing quality projects and work in co-production with their customers and partners.

Regional Business Centers (RBC) - The RBCs allow the Divisions and the Districts to act together as a regional business entity with the Districts performing work assigned by the RBC.

The RBCs provide full integration of capabilities - sharing resources and technical expertise and enhancing the quality and range of services within a region.

RBCs allow the Corps to provide better products for our customers at a considerable savings. By concentrating an expertise in one District, rather than having limited expertise in all Districts across the region, we will become more adept, more tuned into lessons learned from similar projects and more integrated into the outside technical expertise on these issues.

Regional Integration Teams (RIT) - RITs, located in Washington, include people from across Headquarters and are led by a Senior Executive Service member.

Each team focuses on clearing the way for regional business success and will be their region's voice in Washington. They are empowered to work with any level of the USACE organization, the Administration, Congress and external stakeholders to build relationships and to resolve regional issues in an expeditious manner.

Communities of Practice (CoP) - CoP are made up of people who practice and share an interest in a major function or business line. The members come from the Corps, academia, private practice or other agencies.

CoP develop and maintain policy and doctrine and facilitate the transfer of lessons learned. They ensure that we continue to retain and grow our valuable technical expertise. These offices are relatively small, but when they need to develop new policy or work on a special initiative, they form a team from the best expertise available.

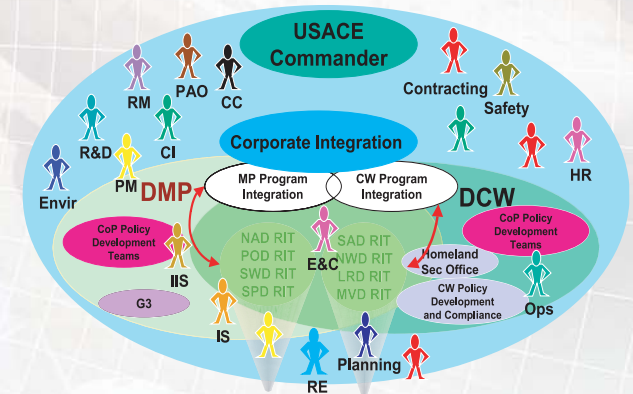
Each organizational level relies on all others for support, all actions require partnering with other organizations.

Resources and organizational energy are refocused to support the RBCs.

Members of CoP are resident throughout the organization and are used at the right time and place to accomplish the USACE missions.

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS

Washington Headquarters Concept



At the Washington Headquarters, Regional Integration Teams focus on supporting each of the eight regions. These teams, made up of people already working in Headquarters, are located together and work daily on their region's issues.

At the Washington level, offices for policy development and program integration work for the Directors of Military Programs and Civil Works. These teams have small staffs and use members of the RITs and from other areas as they work together.

National strategic planning and direction, program integration and oversight, and policy development are accomplished within the mission directorates.

There are other changes in the headquarters. A Corporate Integration Team will fuse the various programs, plans and initiatives into a corporate strategy. Some of the smaller offices adopt either a regional or national model of operating.

USACE

USACE 2012 Organization

