



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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January 2005

**Barring  
West Bank  
flooding ,**

**Patching up P2**





# Carrollton Gage



Lane Lefort

**Col. Peter J. Rowan**

**H**appy New Year to all. It seems strange to have an early Mardi Gras coinciding with the Super Bowl. There are going to have to be some serious choices made this year. Plus we have the added thrill of an early rise in the river as we will crest near 16 feet at the Carrollton gauge. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable (and dry) parade season.

## Chief's Reports

This January marks more significant events in the district. It is not often that you can get two Chief's Reports in the same month – Bayou Sorrel Lock and Louisiana Coastal Area. These projects represent significant steps in maintaining the economy and ecology of southern Louisiana. They are also recognition of the hard work of many

people both inside and outside of the district. No project report ever makes it to this step without the help and assistance of so many dedicated people. With the Morganza to the Gulf study already completed, we now have three major projects waiting for authorization in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

## Regional Business Center

There has been a great deal of talk about the Regional Business Center (RBC). As you recall, the division offices have been attempting to function as regional business centers for some time now. The USACE 2012 plan reinforced the criticality of that role in linking the executing districts together with the headquarters in Washington. At the recent MVD Senior Leaders Conference, leaders from throughout the valley came up with a timeline and plan to engage in regional workload and workforce planning, ultimately leading to a regional business plan for the valley. That activity is now beginning to shape a future direction for the elements of our RBC. The plan for the actualization of the RBC will be approved by this summer, to include the time-phased execution plan that will migrate the division to that objective state. The bottom line is the efficient and effective management of the programs that we are resourced to provide to the nation, not the maintenance of any status quo organization or process.

## Civil Works Strategic Plan

Finally, a word about the Civil Works Strategic Plan. I will talk about the goals for this plan over the next several issues of *Riverside*. The Strategic Plan has been developed over the last few years with input from public listening sessions around the country. It is meant to guide the activities of the Corps' Civil Works program over the next five years. The first goal is for the Corps to provide sustainable development and integrated management of the nation's water resources. This goal dedicates the Corps to continue its commitment to the nation's priority Civil Works missions of navigation, flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration. In carrying out these missions, we, along with our

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Lane Lefort

**A Brown Pelican glides by the trash rack of the Whitney-Barataria Pumping Station.**

# Phase One of P2 gets tweaked

By Eric Lincoln

They say that nothing good comes easy. So far, it seems to be true about P2.

“What we learned in the class didn’t prepare us for deployment,” says Rodney Greenup, program coordinator. “It taught us how the software works but not how to apply it to the way the Corps works. Now we’re having to extrapolate what we learned in class to the practical side, on our own.”

Additionally, says Greenup, though all data have been entered for 2005, users had only 90 days to do it, so the process was rushed and some schedules weren’t built or maintained correctly.

“Now, we’re seeing the problems because of that. So we’re taking a step back, to rethink some of our processes.”

P2 programmers have had to arduously re-code the program at least six times to make it functional for MVN users since the district began implementing it May 17.

The computer program was created from off-the-shelf software and then customized to talk to the district’s internal financial management system (CEFMS).

“Requesting corrections from headquarters takes time and needs agreement from a lot of people,” says Greenup. “We only have control over what goes into and comes out of the program. We don’t assign the licenses needed to operate the program, nor do we make the final decision about changes. Responsibility for that has been kept at the headquarters level.”

The glitches are frustrating for employees who are

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## GAGE, from page 2

partners and stakeholders, will concentrate on creating sustainable and integrated management solutions that emphasize larger regional needs and opportunities and cost-effective, win-win solutions. It recognizes that there are no more single-purpose, one-dimensional solutions to the nation’s water resource problems. Just as the levees only approach was found wanting by the 1927 Flood, the Civil Works Strategic Plan puts us on a path to move us to the next level of comprehensive solutions. The complexity of competing demands of national priorities has driven us to make better use of science and technology to integrate balanced solutions.

Essays and have a great Mardi Gras!

getting familiar with P2, then find their progress stopped for three weeks while changes are made.

“Those roadblocks have occurred less and less over time, but they’re still there,” says Greenup.

About 300-350 people use P2 on a daily basis. Overall, it impacts nearly 60 percent of employees, since any work charged to a project has to be entered using P2.

Phase II deployment will start later this year and affect all offices that charge to overhead

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“Roadblocks have occurred less and less over time, but they’re still there.”

*Rodney Greenup  
Program Coordinator*

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using indirect or revolving funds, such as Public Affairs, Resource Management, some of Contracting, and all Logistics Management.

Also, a new program, CEMRS, is replacing FORCON, the district’s manpower program used to estimate indirect and overhead project charges.

“Within two to three years, what we enter into P2 and CEMRS will dictate how many FTEs we can have at the district, so Manpower will be able to forecast how many people are needed at each district and be able to allocate resources accordingly,” says Greenup.

“All work will have to be scheduled in P2 so that the region can predict how many people you will need to complete that program. This is all part of regionalization.”

After the President presents his 2006 budget on Feb. 7, project managers will need to develop their schedules and budgets to enter into P2 in March, using templates created by several district-wide teams.

“I hope by April, we’ll have data that allow us to run consistent reports, so we can start extrapolating information for management and programs. Offices can then start looking at future workloads . . . In the past, we’ve only talked about that after the fact. Now, P2 will help with future calculations, and we can start those discussions six months in advance.

“P2 and CEFMS are linked forever. Learning how to deal with it is quite a challenge. But it’s a powerful tool that allows communication we didn’t have before, and it will ultimately be better for the district and our projects.”



Lane Lefort



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# West Bank hurricane and urban flood projects take shape

Photo by Lane Lefort

**By John Hall**

Two big projects by the Corps of Engineers and its non-federal partners will help to protect the West Bank of New Orleans from tropical storms and rain floods.

—A \$36 million hurricane floodgate on the Harvey Canal immediately below Lapalco Boulevard, where steel sheet piles were being driven for cofferdams at press time.

—The \$19.1 million Whitney-Barataria Pumping Station, an almost complete SELA project that will discharge up to 3,600 cubic feet per second into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The pumping station “will reduce flooding in the area east of the Harvey Canal,” said Project Manager Soheila Holley. The station will help to protect 76,500 residents.


“All of the drainage canals east of Harvey Canal are interconnected. So, each cubic foot pumped out helps the entire area,” Holley said.

The Whitney-Barataria Pumping Station is the most important SELA



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**The Whitney-Barataria Pumping Station will discharge up to 3,600 cubic feet of water per second into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. (Find the Brown Pelican from our cover in this photo.)**



project on the West Bank, Holley said. Adding pumping capacity is the essential improvement toward realizing the full drainage value of SELA projects that widen canals or line them with concrete.

As funding becomes available, more canal improvements will be made under SELA on the West Bank.

On the Harvey Canal, “The cofferdams will protect workers who will be at minus 20 feet building the structure to house the sector gates,” said Carol Burdine, senior project manager of the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.

The two sector gates will weigh about 175 tons each and be almost 28 feet high. They are being built at a Boh Bros. Construction Co. yard in New Orleans and are 75 percent complete.

“We are also completing a temporary fender system that will protect

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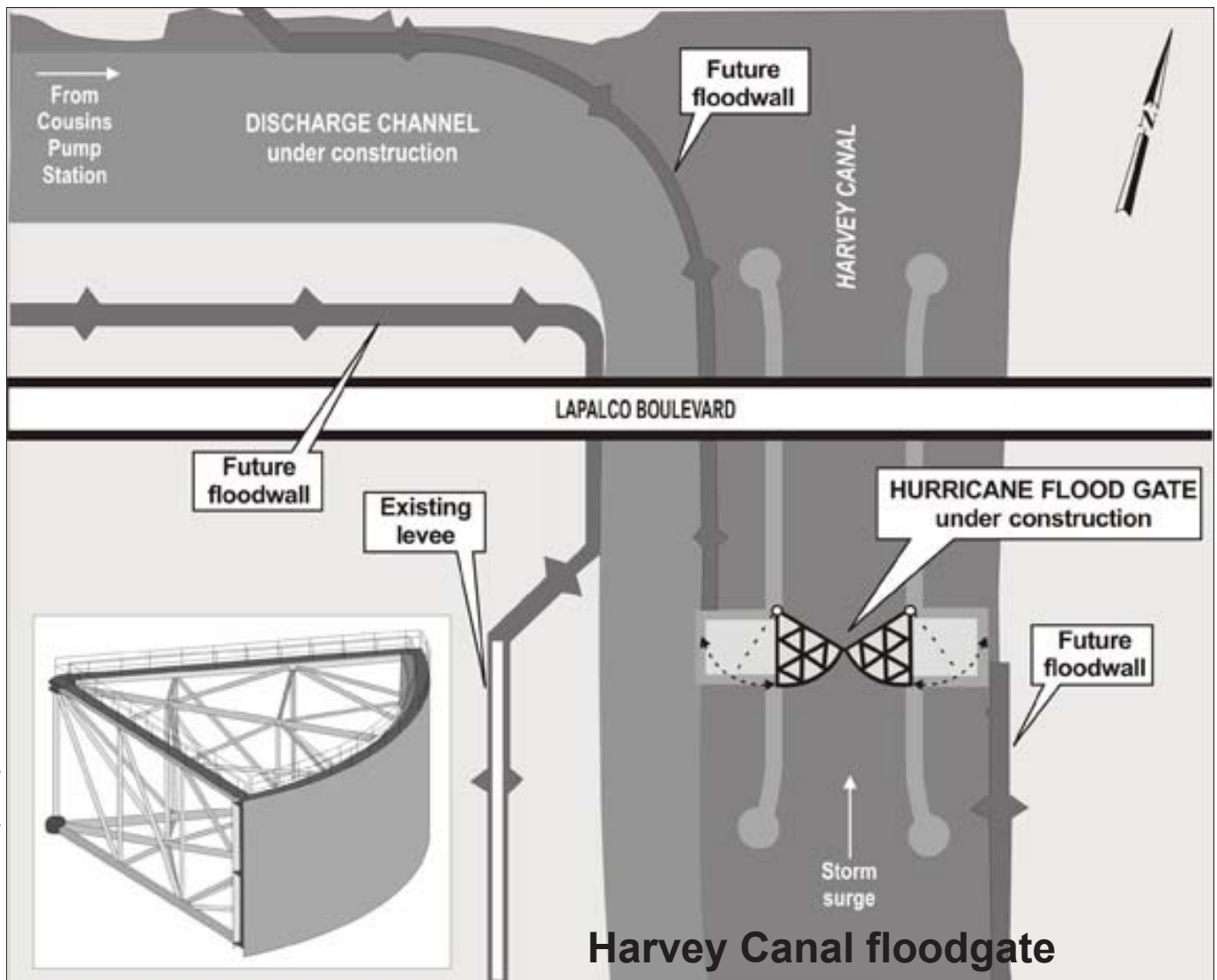
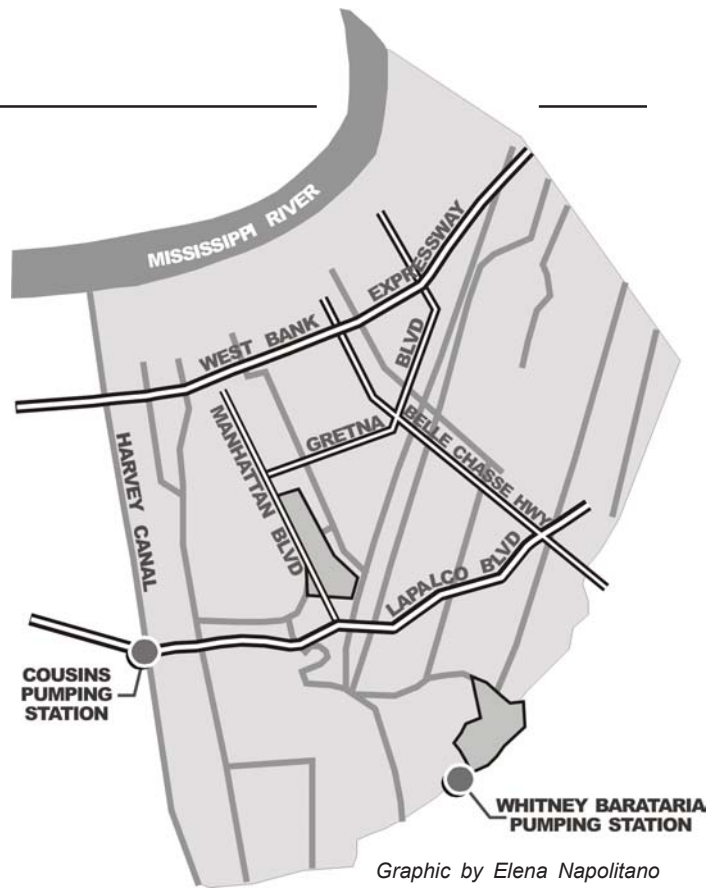
the cofferdams,” said Stuart Waits, project manager of the West Bank hurricane project.

“The temporary system has been designed to allow its removal to accommodate offshore barge traffic on the Harvey Canal. Linked floating devices will be held in place by piles,” Waits said.

The Harvey Canal was reopened to navigation traffic on Jan. 10 after the second of two 40-day closures. The closures were made for the first phase of pile driving and, more recently, the early work on the temporary fender system.

The Harvey Canal floodgate is the largest single project toward creation of a closed system for hurricane protection of 250,000 people on the West Bank. Its completion is expected in 2006.

The largest remaining hurricane protection work on the West Bank is a floodwall and small portion of levee that will extend 23,000 feet (more than 4 1/4 miles) on the Harvey Canal’s east bank. It will connect the new Harvey Canal floodgate with the levee on the Algiers Canal.



# Around the District

## Congratulations

to **Leah Farrell** (WCSC) on the birth of her grandson, Braden Michael Farrell, Nov. 2.

to **Jake Terranova** (ED) on his promotion to chief, Projects Engineering Section.

to **Bryan Gassen** (IM), who received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Phoenix, Oct 2.

**John Saia**, former deputy for Project Management, right, and **Ron Legendre**, former Construction project manager, below, enjoy their retirement parties with co-workers and family in December.



Lane Lefort

## Kudos

to **Richard Oubre** (CD, N.O. area office), whose daughter, Danielle, was chosen Who's Who of high school students, nominated for the National Honor Roll and invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration.

to Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) members **Angel Mislan**, **Lourdes Gonzalez**, **Judi Gutierrez** and **Mireya Laigast**, who collected donated gifts from 21 employees and delivered the gifts to three "adopted" needy families for Christmas.

to the daughter and son, Johlee and Philip, of **Steven Schinetsky** (OD), who competed at the World Cheerleading Association National Competition in December in Nashville. Johlee won first place in the Middle School individual dance



## Farewell

to Chief Mate **Montague Hall** and First Engineer **V.J. Gianelloni** (Wheeler), who both retired Dec. 31.

competition and her Junior Co-ed Cheerleading team won the National Championship for the Intermediate Division. Philip's Senior Co-ed Cheerleading team took 4<sup>th</sup> place nationally, and his college (Open) team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. Both of the children compete with the Louisiana Tumble and Cheer Academy Tiger Elite All-Stars.

## Condolences

to the family of **Frank J. "Biff" Andel Jr.** (ED, retired), who passed away Dec. 17.

to Marilyn Hunt, wife of former commander **Col. Richard L. Hunt**, who recently passed away. He was commander during the 1973 flood.

## DILBERT® by Scott Adams



# Talkback

This month, a reader asks for clarification about the Corps' hurricane protection systems.

**Q** What is the difference between a Standard Project Hurricane and a 100-year event hurricane?

**Kerry D. McEville**

**A** In the late 1950s, the Corps was studying projects to provide hurricane protection to the New Orleans area. We went to the National Weather Service (NWS) and asked them to give us a design storm that we could use to develop these projects.

They developed the Standard Project Hurricane (SPH). This is a storm that has characteristics that would most likely impact the city. It is a hybrid of many storms. For example, the central pressure for the SPH is in the Category 4 range, but the highest wind speed is that of a high-strength Category 2, and the surge is similar to a Category 3.

It is important to remember that when the NWS developed the SPH, the Saffir-Simpson scale had not been developed, so the "category" system that we currently use was a thing of the future.

However, when our hydrologists start developing data relative to potential storm surge elevations, we don't really look at categories, we look at the actual meteorological characteristics. So the current hurricane levee systems protecting the city were developed for the SPH storm characteristics. These projects were authorized by Congress using this design. The Corps cannot change the design to increase the level of protection without a study approved by Congress to authorize the higher level of protection and the increased cost to the taxpayers.

For the New Orleans Lakefront, the SPH design provides, generally, 350-year frequency protection. That's not to say that such a storm would not occur this year, or that it's impossible to have one like it two years running.

Some of our hurricane projects, such as the Larose to Golden Meadow and the New Orleans to Venice projects, provide 100-year frequency protection. So the level of protection in these areas is somewhat less than that for the Metro New Orleans area. Why? Mostly because the Corps is required by Congress to economically justify our projects.



"A Category 5 hurricane hitting the city may be a once-in-a-500-year event ... A Category 3 like Hurricane Betsy in 1965, or less, is more likely, and the existing levee system should be able to handle a storm like that."

*Al Naomi*  
*Senior Project Manager*

When these projects were developed, there were not enough economic values in the protected areas to justify the cost of a higher level of protection.

Can we justify higher levels of protection now? Perhaps. We are just beginning a study that could result in a project to protect Southeast LA from Category 5 storm (500+ year frequency event). That study could take as much as five years to complete. When completed, if higher levels of protection can be shown to be feasible, then we will ask Congress to authorize construction.

**Al Naomi**  
**Senior Project Manager**  
**Harley S. Winer**  
**Chief, Coastal Engineering Section**

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