



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Riverside

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

August 2004



Iraq deployed update

**Breaux Act Task Force
partnership award**

P2 implementation

Carrollton Gage



Col. Peter J. Rowan

Where has the summer gone? It's already into the thick of storm season and school has started.

The fury of Hurricane Charley reminds us that as much as we know about natural forces, we still do not have all the answers. Watching that storm go from Level 2 to Level 4 in just a short period of time gives us some thought on the power and unpredictability of hurricanes.

As local and state emergency managers wrestle with decisions on evacuation here in Louisiana, we must remember that prediction is only part science.

Looking at the destruction in Florida, it's a small wonder we've obtained a hardened structure to conduct emergency operations. The analysis of the district building performed by Engineering Division indicates the sheeting of the building was not designed to

withstand the winds of a major hurricane. This is not a safe building to "ride out the storm." In fact, we will not use it as a place of refuge in a major storm for us or our families. We continue to work our planning, both updating the timeline for deployment of teams, and evacuation of district employees. But, the more we plan, the more we realize that each storm and situation is different. Please, take some time to look into your individual plan – both for work and family.

For the past few weeks, the LCA project team has engaged in a series of nine public meetings on the draft report. This is a significant milestone, both in terms of the completion of the draft, and in taking public meetings for one of our projects outside the state of Louisiana. The team has done an excellent job on the report in what can best be described as a unique planning environment. It isn't often we get plan formulation advice from the highest level of government. In about a year's time, the team has rewritten the report at least three times to accommodate changes in scope and recommendation process. Thanks to all for their perseverance and patience. Now, we need a project authorization.

We are getting ready to close out the fiscal year and launch our new program management system. Both will take a lot of effort and cooperation, as well as a lot of learning. Not everything will go smoothly. I can only counsel to please be considerate of others as you push to complete these tasks by their deadlines. In the long run, we'll be better off once P2 is active and rolling. As with any new process, the growing pains will be substantial. It's really just another challenge.

Finally, I want to stress that the Corps still has challenges in manning requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan. Crucial requests right now are for experienced construction and project managers. There are already plenty of technical engineers and designers. What the Gulf Regional Division and its districts need are experienced folks who can oversee the execution of design and construction contracts. Think about it. This is one of those rare opportunities to shape the future.

Essayons!

Riverside

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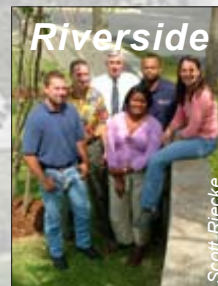
Elena Napolitano

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

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Anthony Bertucci (CD), Bob Martinson (PM), Jim Barr (CT), Amena Henville (ED), Robert Culberson (ED) and April Villa (ED) are volunteers who recently returned from overseas duty.

Terrell a natural fit as Construction chief

By Eric Lincoln

In his 10th position in the district, Bruce Terrell says his new job as chief of Construction has been a smooth transition.

Terrell comes to the position with over 12 years of experience as assistant division chief of Construction. He has been with the New Orleans District for 30 years, including 10 years in Engineering, and has held a number of other management positions in Construction.

"I moved away from cost engineering because I didn't want to be chief of Design Branch," he said. "I thought the chances for advancement would be better in Construction. I wanted to see how far my talents could take me."

"I knew what I was getting into. As assistant division chief, I had experience with managing Construction and district-wide activities. And managing the budget isn't as much of a challenge as it could have been. I was in charge of that already, so it's familiar territory.

"It feels good to be here ... I utilize a lot of the same personal connections I had before. The big difference is that I now speak for Construction Division."

Terrell applied for the job twice before.

"I was really ready for it this time ... I've been very grateful for the support for me within the district."

Terrell was promoted to division chief in January 2004.

"Our work environment is changing at a rapid pace. We need to sustain and expand our current abilities, and keep pace with the Corps vision.

"Change is not a spectator sport. I much prefer to be in a position where I can influence the changes rather than watch them."

He says he will strive for continuous improvement in Construction.

Terrell is also the CP-18 career program manager for the district, and he represents the district on the MVD regional management board.

"Now, I spend 50 percent of my time on Construction work, 50 percent on district work ... and another 50 percent on business outside of the district," he says.

Terrell and his wife, Diane, have been married for 33 years, and they have two daughters. Leslie, 25, previously worked in PAO as an intern and now works with Stewart Enterprises, and Kellie, 21, is a fine arts major at UNO.

In his spare time, Terrell is a self-confessed bookaholic, reading two to three books at a time. Management and leadership topics are on the list, he says, but "mystery novels are a favorite."



"I've been very grateful for the support for me within the district."

Breaux Act Task Force receives environmental award

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force (Breaux Act Task Force) received the Coastal America 2004 Partnership Award in an afternoon ceremony on Aug. 18 in the DARM.

Virginia Tippie, director of Coastal America, presented the award on behalf of President Bush to over 150 assembled members of the Breaux Act Task Force, as well as its associated committees and 19 coastal parishes for their participation and support.

The Task Force and its associated support committees, working in partnership with the public, have implemented the Breaux Act in Louisiana since 1991.

One hundred and twenty-nine restoration projects are currently authorized through the Breaux Act, with over 60 projects completed. The completed projects benefit an estimated 52,000 acres of coastal land.

U.S. Senator John Breaux (D-La.), author of the Breaux Act, flew in via helicopter to extend his congratulations and received two standing ovations.

"I am pleased the Breaux Act Task Force has been recognized for the contributions to protect and restore the coast of Louisiana," he said. "Since 1997, Coastal America has presented this prestigious award, which is

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TASK FORCE, from page 3

a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of all the representatives of the Breaux Act Task Force.”

The Coastal America Partnership was established in 1992 to protect, preserve and restore our coastal watersheds by integrating federal actions in partnership with state and local government and non-governmental efforts.

The Task Force includes representatives from the State of Louisiana, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior-Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Federal partners include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, State, Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President.

To recognize outstanding partnership efforts, Coastal America

established a national awards program in 1997. The Breaux Act Task Force is one of 10 partnership initiatives selected to receive the 2004 award.

“Saving one of America’s most valuable natural resources requires a strong partnership that not only includes the program’s Task Force and staff, but participation from stakeholders, local officials, and non-governmental organizations,” stated Col. Peter Rowan, commander and chairman of the Breaux Act Task Force. “Since 80 percent of coastal Louisiana is privately owned, we would not see the progress we have today without these partnerships.”

During the 20th century, coastal Louisiana lost 1.2 million acres (1,900 sq. mi.) of land, and could

potentially lose another 430,000 acres (670 sq. mi.) in the next 50 years. The acreage lost and projected to be lost over this 100-year period is greater than the size of Delaware and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area combined.

For more information about Coastal America, visit www.CoastalAmerica.gov. For more information about America’s vanishing wetland and efforts to protect and restore it, visit www.LaCoast.gov.



Mike Foster, former governor, has a word with Miguel Flores, Environmental Protection Agency (Region IV), Col. Peter Rowan, commander, and Virginia Tippie, director of Coastal America.

Lane Lefort

The Breaux Act Task Force and staff, local officials and stakeholders



Michael Maples

Volunteers continue to deploy overseas

By Eric Lincoln

New Orleans District is doing its part in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, having sent more than 30 volunteers to help rebuild the countries since January 2003.

All deployed personnel are assigned to "Green Zones," the most secure areas in the war zones. However, personnel in the Baghdad Green Zone report getting indirect attacks about twice daily, usually RPGs hitting the temporary housing trailers. All personnel wear flak jackets and helmets. Also, daily project inspections require trips to less secure areas.

The average tour of duty is four months. About half of the people who deploy either return for another tour or extend their tour. One employee just left for his third tour, and another has been there for about a year.

Participants

- deployed and returned: 30
- currently deployed: 18
- awaiting deployment: 8
- on volunteer list: 34
- MVD quota to fill by 2005: 9 positions

(project engineers, project managers, engineer technicians, and RM specialists)

Positions of personnel deployed

- project engineers
- project managers

- deputy commander
- quality assurance personnel
- construction inspectors
- construction representative
- area engineers
- administrative support personnel
- contracting officer

Financial incentives

- regular pay
- danger pay (25 percent of base pay)
- post-differential pay (25 percent of base pay)
- Sunday premium pay (overtime for Sunday since the Iraq weekend is Thursday and Friday)
- overtime night differential pay
- 40 hours time off after returning

To nominate yourself for duty, go to:

www.cpol.army.mil. Under *Employment*, create your resume or revise your existing one using the Resume Builder. Choose a job vacancy in either Iraq or Afghanistan. You can volunteer for a four, six or 12-month tour. The six and 12-month tours often include temporary promotions.

Volunteers receive one week of training in Fort Bliss, Texas, for Iraq, or in Winchester, Va., for Afghanistan.

For more information, contact Jim Perry, x2383, or James Walters, x2354.

Oil spills, air pollution some of hazards for deployed personnel

Iraq environment poses daunting challenges

By Eric Lincoln

Even though they deploy to "safer" Green Zones, Iraq volunteers face some of the same environmental health hazards as native Iraqis.

Bob Martinson, Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch, who recently returned from a four-month tour of duty, says the environment in Iraq is similar to America in the 1950s and early 60s, before everyone understood the dangers of pollution.

Drinking and sewerage water systems have not been maintained for the last 15 years. Ubiquitous cement factories belch smoke into the air. The desert is pockmarked by oil spills and natural gas from the oil fields is burned off and wasted. Destroyed military vehicles, containing depleted uranium, are accessible to Iraqi children.

"Some of the sewage treatment plants were so bad, sludge built up seven meters high," he said. "And you

know what that sludge is made of. We'd be digging it out with backhoes, and folks from the city would come and try to cart it off as fertilizer. We had to try to educate them quickly about the hazards."

The country is in disrepair, Martinson explained, because maintenance on public works projects basically stopped when Saddam Hussein began funneling money and factory workers into his war machine in the 1980s.

The Corps is partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development in bringing the country's infrastructure back to life.

"Most of the work now is on

See IRAQ, page 6



Robert Martinson

Sewage treatment plants in Iraq haven't functioned correctly since the 1980s. In some cases, sewage (center of photo) has backed up seven meters high, says Bob Martinson, Environmental.

IRAQ, from page 5

improving the vital water treatment and power plants," he said. "There's so much left to do, from constructing hazardous waste processing plants, to getting the water buffalos out of the water sources.

"For instance, in many cases citizens are dumping old hazardous waste barrels out and using them for water containers. And with the work

going on now, hazardous waste is produced, but there's nowhere to process it.

"It's amazing to see [the kids] smiling despite everything."

"The water buffalos are a unique problem. You can see the river turn from one

color to another depending on where they are. But they're the least of the concerns at this point.

"Also, Saddam Hussein wanted to get rid of the native 'marsh Arabs,' a

culture of people he disliked and who lived in the southern marshes, so he drained the marshes. Those once-healthy marshes are now dry salt flats.

"Overall, it's an environmental nightmare. But there's a lot of work and cooperation happening, so it's getting better."

An Iraqi Ministry of Environment was created after the war, the first of its kind. According to the White House website, the ministry has drafted an environmental protection law, established a council for environmental cooperation in each governate, and conducted a comprehensive survey of drinking water across Iraq.

Martinson said there was one thing that always kept him motivated in the face of challenges.

"Anytime I would ask myself for a purpose while I was there, I'd just look at the young kids in the schools. It's amazing to see them smiling despite everything. They're just like kids anywhere."

P2 implementation in final stretch

By Eric Lincoln

The district is moving steadily ahead in deploying P2, according to coordinator Rodney Greenup, Project Management.

Seventy-nine of a total 260 projects have been implemented so far.

A rock display on the second floor has been the best way for employees outside of the P2 "war room," Room 251, to keep track of progress.

The display shows two jars filled with a total of 260 rocks, each rock representing a project. Orange colored rocks are Operations projects, and the rest are Project Management's.

Each Monday, the district's appointed "rock counter," Jay Joseph, Engineering, updates the amounts in the display.

As of this printing, 34 percent of projects were approved, as shown by the ratio in the jars. The number changes daily.

"We're probably the only district with this big a load of projects to implement into P2," said Joseph. "Most have a

couple; we have hundreds. But we have to have it all done by Sept. 17, regardless."

Photos of P2 team members and their comments are displayed in the rock display case and in locations around the building.

"Reprographics—Lane Lefort, Scott Riecke, Amanda Jones and Paulette Salassi—have done a fantastic job with all of our requests, applying ribbons and other special touches to the posters to get people's attention," added JoAnn Rosenfeld, Construction, and chairman of the P2 communication committee. "The committee has worked hard to make everyone aware of progress."

Other committee members are: Jay Joseph, Mike Zack, Cindy Nicholas, Rodney Greenup, Noel Grego-Delgado, Judy Gutierrez, Annette Vanderson and Pierre Hingle.

"P2 is a massive effort for our district," said Joseph. "All you have to do is take a look in the war room at any time to see how many people are working on it."

Around the District

Congratulations

to **James J. Lambert** (WCSC), who received the second quarter 2004 Peer Recognition Award.

to **Lori Celestaine** (PM), who joined the district last month as PMD's division secretary (vice Sandy Habbaz). Lori comes to us from Heidelberg, Germany, returning to New Orleans after a 18-year absence.

to **Christopher Accardo** (DD), who assumed the duties of acting district deputy (vice Michael Zack) on Aug 8.

to **Amy** (ED) and **Brad Goodlett** (OD) on the birth of their son, Brady Joseph, on July 26.

Get a captioned telephone

A free captioned telephone (CapTel) is available to active and retired federal employees, and veterans. CapTel is for anyone with hearing loss, for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and for those who use assistive listening devices. CapTel works like any other telephone, but it also displays every word the caller says, through the use of a third-party typist who listens in and transcribes the conversation. To obtain your free phone, go to:

www.captionedtelephone.com/availability/FRS.phtml

Kudos

to **Operations personnel** for showing support of P2 by dressing in blue and "walking the walk" around the district on Aug. 13.

to **Beth McCasland** (PM), who donated 13-inches of her hair to Locks-of-Love on Aug. 8 at Lakeside Mall. Locks-of-Love (locksoflove.org) is a non-profit organization that provides wigs for economically disadvantaged kids with cancer or other illnesses that leaves them bald. The kids get up to five free wigs until their 18th birthday.

to **Dabney Wallace** (ED), whose son, Skii Dyer, graduated valedictorian from Louis Armstrong Acadmeny. Also, to her twin grandsons, Dionte and Diontre Flowers, who, with the Lincoln Manor Tigers Little League baseball team, won the Kenner City championship for five and six-year olds. Dionte was named "best hitter" and Diontre was "best defensive player."

Condolences

to **Janet Keller** (RE), whose father, Walter John Dufour, passed away on Aug. 14

to **Michelle Daigle** (OD), whose father, Louis "Bill" Villere Cressy Jr., passed away on Aug. 7

to **Isiah Hill** (ED), whose mother, Ella C. Hill, died on July 15.



Eric Lincoln

The editor inspects a plasma screen hung this month in the main lobby. The screens in each lobby, along with the other TVs in the building, will broadcast district and Corps-wide "headline news" during the workday. The idea of a video information program was suggested by the NFFE Union as a way to utilize technology capabilities and keep people informed. "We're planning to have videos of groundbreaking ceremonies, interviews with leaders and sponsors, budget and command information, human interest stories, P2 updates ... it's something we need, and a way to keep everyone aware of all the district and the Corps is doing," said Col. Peter Rowan, commander.

to **Robert and Donald Jolissaint** (both ED), whose father, Donald Everett Jolissaint, died on July 29.

to **Pete J. Serio Jr.** (OD), whose father, Pierre J. Serio Sr., passed away on August 22.

Corrections

from July 2003: *Page 11*—in Condolences, Jackie and Jim Wilson should be Jackie and Jim Perry. *Page 3*—in the chart, "\$millions" should be "\$thousands." *Page 10*—the line, "Her current project involves converting paper

navigational charts to computer format," should be, "Seitz currently performs validation testing of an Electronic Chart Generation Tool developed for New Orleans District."

DILBERT® by Scott Adams





Eric Lincoln

Old River Flushing – Old River Control Structure receives a sediment flushing on July 29. Flushing helps the district achieve target sediment distributions between the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya rivers, and also clears the structure’s flow channels, designed to pass flood discharges, of accumulated sediment. Flushing cannot be performed April through June—the endangered pallid sturgeon spawns in the river at that time.

Operations

SCOUR HOLE REPAIRS – A 2,400-foot-long rock dike, the long-term solution to a dangerous scour hole at Burrwood Bayou, is being repaired this month after it was breached by strong currents from the river. Some 850 feet of shoreline next to the breach will be reinforced with 20,000 tons of rock, and the existing dike will be connected to it, at a cost of about \$500,000. “The scour hole is an unusual situation that will likely require ongoing repairs,” said Joaquin Mujica, Operations. “We’ll just have to keep monitoring it.”

CHANNEL CLEARED – Operations cleared out 25 sunken vessels from a “boat graveyard” in Bayou Dularge last month to help open the 7-mile stretch of waterway between the bayou floodgate and Falgout Canal Bridge. The parish requested help to remove the safety hazards and paid \$52,000 of the \$250,000 bill. “Nothing came up in one piece,” said Lynn Tinto, project engineer, “and divers had to clear crab traps, nets and wire ropes from the propellers of the towboat Bienville. But we did what we could, and then some, until funds ran out.”

Anchors away – A boat anchor is pulled from the water after lock workers dislodged it from a gate pit at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock on July 28. Carli Fried, lock worker, said, “This is why it’s a good idea, prior to hurricane season, to dig out the gate pits ... There is no way this gate would have been able to operate had this not been removed.”



Courtesy photo

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