

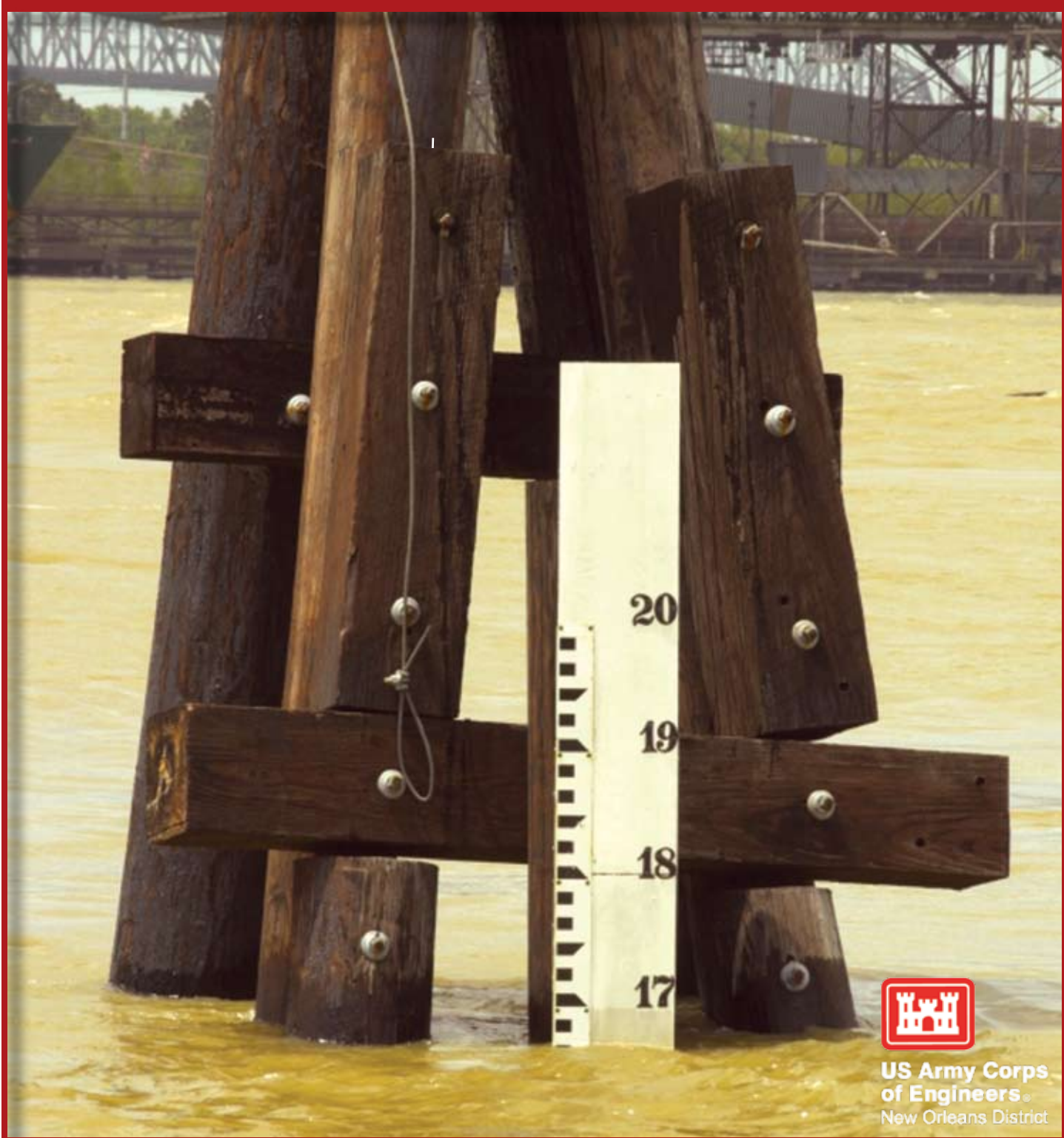
RIVERSIDE

17TH STREET CANAL
SEEPAGE

TREE REMOVAL ALONG
THE 17TH STREET CANAL

21ST ANNUAL ENGINEERS'
DAY PICNIC

KEEPING THE MISSISSIPPI BETWEEN THE LEVEES
THE CORPS FACES THE SIXTH HIGHEST RIVER LEVELS IN 108 YEARS



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District



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RIVERSIDE

August 2008
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On the Cover: The high water mark at the Carrollton gage is visible in this photograph by Regmar Hanemann

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Carrollton Gage

“Character is like a tree and reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”

Abraham Lincoln

August 29 marks the third anniversary since Katrina forever changed our lives. As we approach this day, it is important to look back on the last three years. Remembering takes us back to the lessons that were learned and reinvigorates our determination to do everything within our realm for public safety.

Looking back can serve another purpose as well. It provides the opportunity to realize the sheer magnitude of work your tireless efforts have accomplished over these last three years. Everyday, each of you has worked exhaustively as we strive to meet our 2011 100-year protection goals. In the process, you have already greatly improved the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction

System and it is currently stronger than ever before.

This past June, I attended my first New Orleans District Engineers’ Day Picnic. It was great to see each of you have the opportunity to enjoy a much deserved day of rest, relaxation, food, and fun with family and friends. I would like to personally thank everyone who helped coordinate the event. As with any event organized by our teammates, it came as no surprise that the day was a success. I am already looking forward to our second annual tug-of-war competition.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your continued efforts and commitment to helping us reach our 2011 goal. I can never adequately thank you for all that you have sacrificed and endured. My only hope is that at the end of the day, you all leave here knowing that you are directly reducing risks for you families and fellow residents in the Greater New Orleans area.

***Building Strong!
Essayons!***

Col. Al Lee





The root of the problem

Tree and fence removal along the 17th Street Canal

by Lee Mueller

As the peak of the 2008 hurricane season approaches, the Corps is working diligently to provide citizens of the greater New Orleans area with a more resilient and reliable Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). To promote public safety, the Corps is taking measures to improve the system. The ongoing tree and fence removal project is one such measure that will further increase the resiliency and reliability of the HSDRRS.

The Corps is removing trees and fences from hurricane protection levees and floodwalls for a variety of reasons, all which center on maintaining and inspecting a stable and reliable system. Trees and fences located on or close to a levee can prohibit proper inspection and maintenance of the levee and critical levee toe area. The levee toe area is where the levee slope meets the normal ground level. This area is susceptible to seepage, especially during a storm event when water levels are higher. Fences can prevent access to this area, and often act as trellis-like structures which promote tree and shrub growth.

Trees, and their root systems, can cause a stability and integrity problem for levees and floodwalls during a hurricane. Trees are susceptible to being blown over in the strong winds that accompany a hurricane or storm event. When a tree topples, the extensive root system can be pulled up with it, creating a large void in the levee section or toe. This cavity can then create a path for water to erode the levee section. This void and seepage can negatively impact the levees' stability and effectiveness to protect the public.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is following national policy guidance that requires all woody vegetation be removed from flood protection levees due to their ability to create seepage paths for water and to inhibit proper maintenance and inspection. The Corps guidance requires a 15-foot "vegetation-free zones" from the toe of a levee, where sufficient legal rights to the property are available. In New Orleans, there is insufficient documented right-of-way along the outfall canals to protect the levees. The local levee authorities have granted the Corps right of entry to remove

trees and fences that are within 6 feet of the levee toe based on pre-existing state laws.

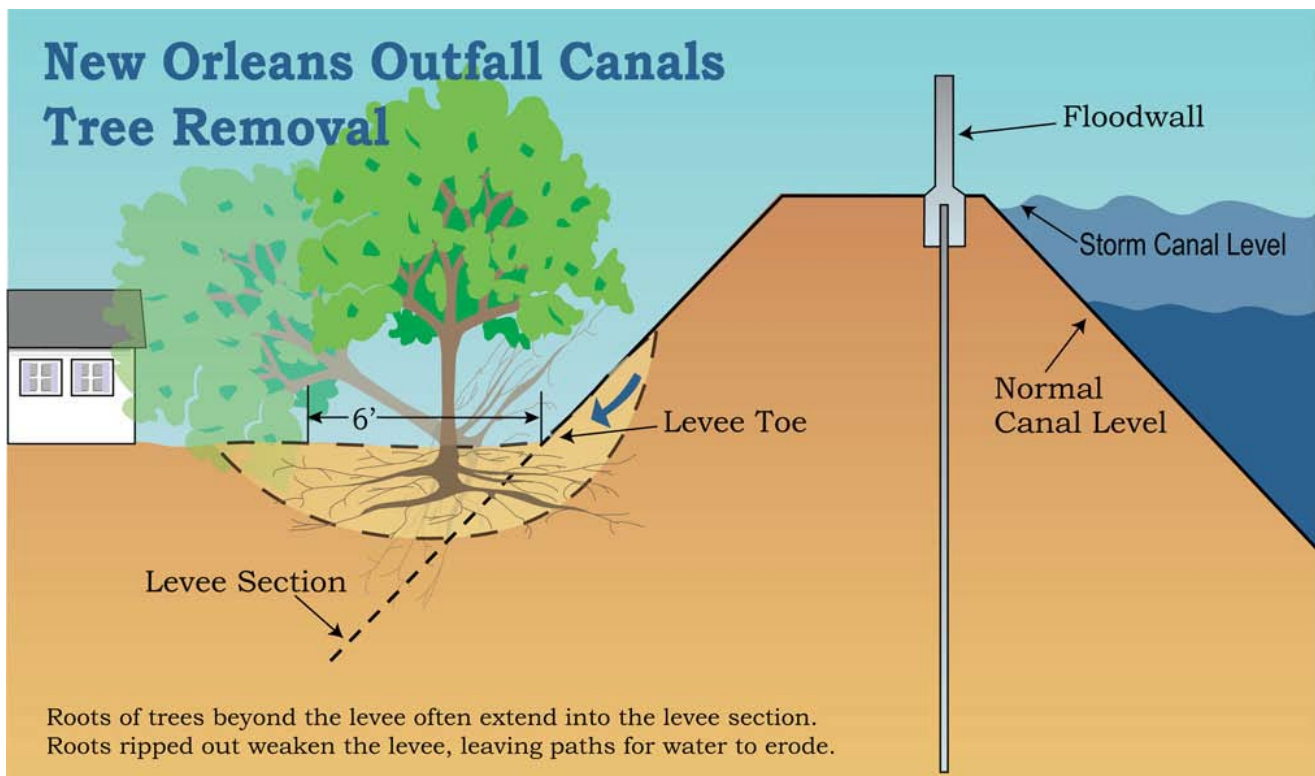
The Corps' guidance does allow for trees in a levee section when the section has been "overbuilt" as long as there is a 3-foot root-free zone beyond the normally required levee section. An overbuilt levee section is relatively rare in South Louisiana and is one that contains more material than necessary on the protected side to maintain the structure and stability of the levee slope. The east bank of the 17th Street Canal has such a situation at its southern-most end.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the "vegetation free-zone" guidance was not strictly enforced by the Corps or the local levee authorities, and as a result trees and fences have intruded on this levee toe plus 6-foot zone. The Corps has been provided federal funding to conduct tree and fence removal on the HSDRRS on behalf of the local levee authorities. In addition, all legal rights to enter private property to conduct surveys and remove trees and fences have been acquired through the local levee authorities based on available rights-of-way and existing state statutes. While the Corps is removing trees and fences from private property, no property is being taken from owners. In effect, the Corps is simply enforcing pre-existing limitations on

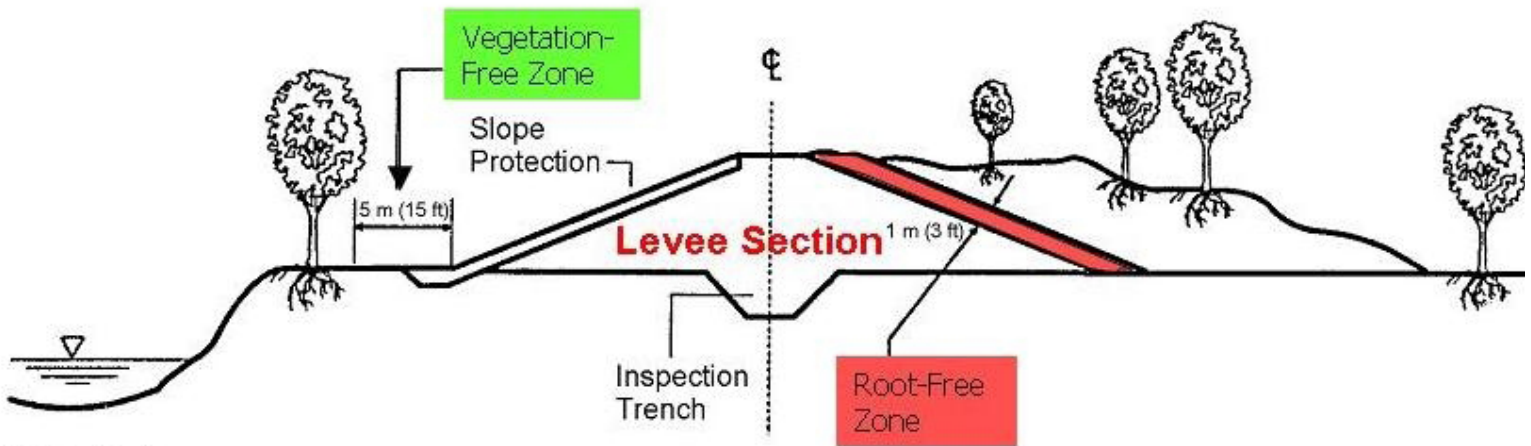
the owners' activities, limitations that are essential to protect the integrity of the levees.

All trees and fences along the London Ave. and Orleans Ave. outfall canals, as well as the lakefront levees in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, have been removed prior to the 2007 hurricane season. Approximately 1200 trees were removed from the HSDRRS to date. Tree and fence removal began July 7, 2008, on the east bank of the 17th Street Canal and the Corps is committed to completing this work before the peak of the 2008 hurricane season to further reduce risk for residents of the area. The west, East Jefferson, side of the canal still requires trees and fences to be removed to reduce risk. This removal will not be completed before the peak of the 2008 hurricane season; however, the Corps will work expeditiously to remove these risks as soon as possible.

Tree and fence removal is important to complete even with the current interim floodgates and pump stations in place at the mouth of each outfall canal. These interim closure structures are designed to prevent storm surge from entering the canals during a hurricane. However, the water levels in the outfall canals will still rise from the rainwater being pumped into the canals from the interior pumping stations.



The roots of a tree located at the toe of a levee will often penetrate the levee itself. If the tree is then uprooted, the resulting ground disturbance can create seepage paths. These paths promote the erosion of the levee, thus weakening its protective capabilities.



Not to Scale

(Above) This diagram demonstrates the clearance necessary for a levee to maintain its integrity. Corps guidance requires a 15-foot vegetation free zone. In cases of overbuilt levees, a rarity in Southeast Louisiana, trees can be located on the levee as long as a 3-foot root free zone is maintained.

(Below) A similar tree removal project was undertaken prior to the start of the 2007 hurricane season along the London Avenue Canal levees. The top photograph, taken February 23, 2007, shows a home along Warrington Drive prior to the tree removal process. The second photograph shows the same area less than four months later.



USACE photo

Each outfall canal has a specified safe water elevation that is monitored and maintained by the Corps of Engineers and the Sewerage and Water Board during a hurricane. If a tree along a floodwall toppled and resulted in erosion or seepage, this could create a problem in the stability and strength of the levee along the outfall canal.

The Corps of Engineers and its local sponsors have determined that tree and fence removal is necessary to reduce risk for the HS-DRRS. However, the Corps is sensitive to the fact that the removal process does impact private property and homeowners. The Corps is taking every step to reduce impacts to property during removal of trees and fences. Property owners have been provided with digital images of their property which highlight each obstruction that needs to be removed. Numerous meetings have been held to ensure that residents understand the need for the removal work and how it will impact their property. For those properties that have swimming pools, the Corps will be placing temporary fencing to ensure the safety of the public.

The Corps is working diligently towards providing the greater New Orleans area with 100-year protection by 2011. In the interim, the Corps is taking measures to reduce risk and increase resiliency within the system. Tree and fence removal is an important part of this effort. The Corps is sympathetic to the property owners that are impacted by this effort and are working to improve their safety as well as the safety of the entire greater New Orleans community.

Seepage along the 17th Street Canal

The Corps is using all of its resources to determine the source

by Randy Cephus

The current state of our levees and floodwalls is a major issue for all with a stake in the safety and welfare of the local citizens of greater New Orleans. The Corps has quality engineers and contractors who place safety and maintenance at the forefront of everything they do.

Recently there has been much concern over seepage along the 17th Street Canal near the Hurricane Katrina breach site. During the repairs of the site, we replaced the existing I-walls with stronger, more robust T-walls and drove sheet piles deep enough to go through the seepage path and cut it off. After the installation of these floodwalls, it is common for some seepage to occur and then gradually taper off as the area self-seals. This circumstance appeared, at first glance, to be the source of the seepage occurring along the 17th Street Canal.

However, beginning in April, some concerned citizens contacted the Corps regarding some wet spots along the protected side of the canal. Corps representatives went out on location to investigate the source of the seepage. After the initial investigation, Corps officials excavated an area they identified as the source of the two seepage spots. Hired labor removed rubble and other debris; then they filled the site with compacted clay.

On May 7, Corps officials returned to the site investigating further reports of seepage in the area. Results from water samples taken from two puddles of water caused by dozer tracks yielded that the source of the water was brackish, or from the canal. The following day, Corps officials revisited the site and determined that there still existed dark spots but no visible signs of pooling.

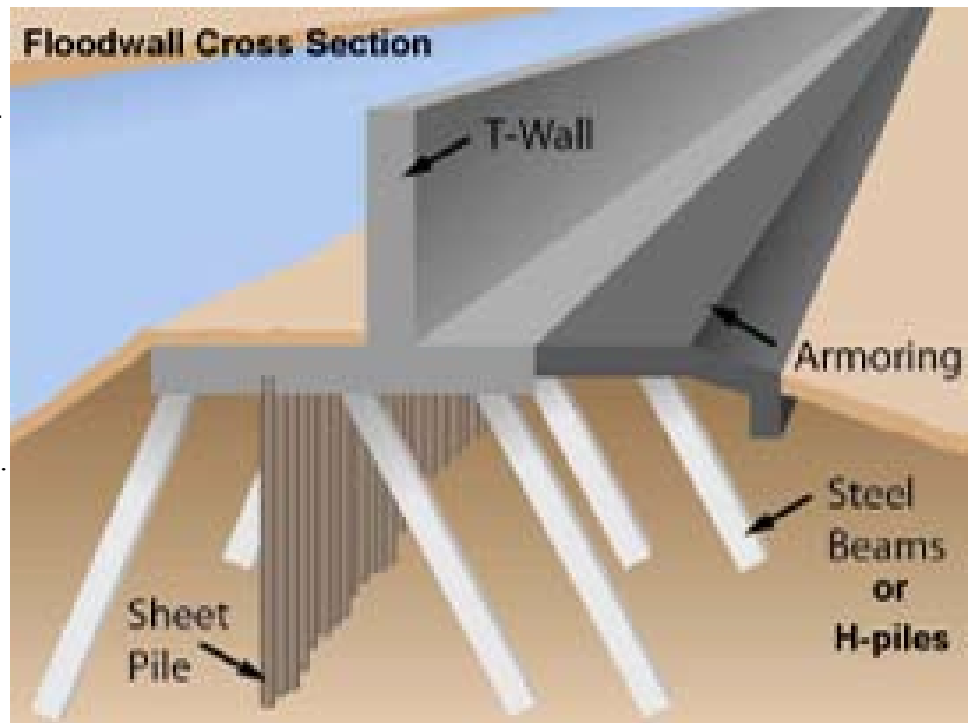
In late May and early June,

after contacted by area residents, the local media reported on the continued seepage along 17th Street. Corps officials have remained open and transparent when engaging media and local residents on the seepage issue. Corps officials further cleared confusion on the sources of pooled water in the area by conducting salinity tests in the area and sharing the results with local media.

The Corps has acknowledged that the seepage spots have grown since the time our officials began monitoring the location. The seepage trail has grown from inside the fence to an area outside the fenced-in area of the property. Furthermore, officials have now witnessed, “bubbling” at the source of the water located inside the fenced-in area.

The Corps places public safety above all we do and is deeply concerned for the well-being of all our

(Continued, page 11)



When repairing the floodwalls along the 17th Street Canal, the Corps replaced the I-walls with a stronger more resilient T-wall construction. Following the installation, seepage is common during a time while the area self-seals.

It's not the heat; it's the humidity

Our new deputy district commander arrives from the Albuquerque District

by Amanda Jones

He has some pretty big shoes to fill, but he's no stranger to New Orleans, or the pace of the New Orleans District.

"After Katrina hit, after Rita hit, 15 percent of the Albuquerque District employees deployed down here. I was one of those that came," said Maj. (P) Mark Jernigan.

He was last here in October 2005 and he said he's seen a lot of improvement.

But as the new deputy district commander, he said one of his biggest challenges is going to be getting situational awareness of such a large endeavor and gaining some of the corporate knowledge that's "walking out of the door."

He's more than aware of the New Orleans District's very large mission, and Jernigan said he's most excited about seeing some of the "cutting edge, state of the art engineering" that's being used in the design and construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

"It's also interesting to me to be a part of a team that's doing something that's never really been done before in such a short amount of time," said Jernigan.

He's originally from Mobile, Ala. and grew up seeing first hand what hurricanes can do. He said the efforts we're making are important to him personally.

"The work we do in New Orleans and coastal Louisiana, as far as coastal restoration, can be applied in other areas of the country," said Jernigan.

Working here, Jernigan said, is "an incredible opportunity on a number of levels."

I have been very impressed with the friendly atmosphere, dedication, and passion I have seen directed toward meeting the 2011 commitment," said Jernigan. "I have seen it in everyone that I've met here in the district."

He hopes to make it around to each division to meet all of the employees, but in the meantime, he wants everyone to know that he loves to fish and, as a former student of Mississippi State, he can't wait for them to play LSU.

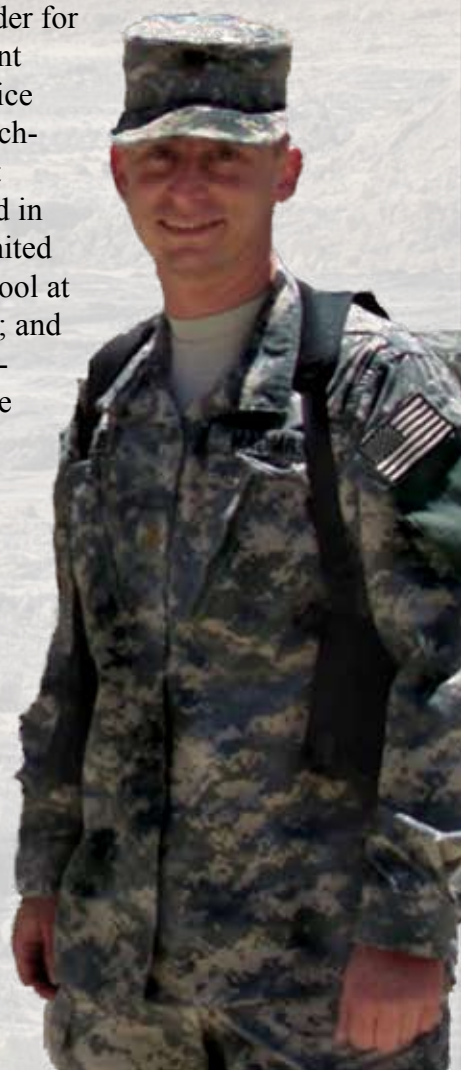
Jernigan was commissioned as an engineer officer in December 1991 and his previous assignments include the following: platoon leader, battalion adjutant and company executive officer in the 91st Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas; battalion civil engineer in the 46th Engineer Battalion at Fort Polk, La; commander of B Company, 46th Engineer Battalion at Fort Rucker, Ala.; deputy commander for a Joint Service Detachment based in

Guam; instructor at the United States Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Miss.; and finally deputy district commander of the Albuquerque District.

Major Jernigan was a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Mississippi State University ROTC program, earning a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1991. In 1996, he earned a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla.

"It's also interesting to me to be a part of a team that's doing something that's never really been done before in such a short amount of time."

(Continued, page 11)



A heartfelt farewell to one of our finest

Lt. Col. Murray Starkel retires

by Amanda Jones

As we move toward 100-year protection on the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, we're letting go of one of the bright leaders who guided us through three hurricane seasons and a large portion of this historical civil works project.

While there's no doubt that he's an intelligent man with an endless capacity for knowledge, he's often described as "bright" because of the smile on his face and his genuine and animated personality, something everyone noticed since his first day on the job in July 2005.

Just days after he started, Lt. Col. Murray Starkel, then Maj. Starkel, told *Riverside*, "I'm just very happy to be here. My choices were Iraq, Afghanistan or New Orleans and it was real simple."

He jokingly said he planned to focus on some of the greater challenges of New Orleans, like how to pronounce all of the names of the geographic locations. He learned those names really fast when Hurricane Katrina hit just six weeks later. Through it all, it was the spirit of his coworkers that he found so memorable.

"As I saw in Iraq, the Corps of Engineers as an organization has the best and brightest, the most patriotic people who literally run to the sound of the canons to help," said Starkel.

"And that was probably the most amazing thing was to see

the heart and the dedication. People still to this day are

digging out from the damage that happened in their personal lives while still working ungodly hours to finish this mission."

When pressured to come up with other unforgettable memories during his time here instead of using the cliché "the people," he said with a smile, "It's easy to say the people because it is the people."

"As I saw in Iraq, the Corps of Engineers as an organization has the best and brightest, the most patriotic people who literally run to the sound of the canons to help..."

"I would also say, despite all the criticism that we get, it's the great work that we're doing here as well – unprecedented, historic work that has been done in such a short period of time and fighting through the layers and layers of bureaucracy and people still maintaining a good sense of humor and keeping their wits about them in the most insane environment you can imagine. That's why it's been a unique experience," said Starkel.

He did go on to say that pulling the sheet piles at the 17th Street Canal was unforgettable because of the "open and transparent" manner that we allowed the world to "look inside the tent to see how we operate."

"I was the accountable officer for the equipment that was extracted, and I had to ride in the flatbed truck with chunks of sheet pile, steel, concrete, all the samples

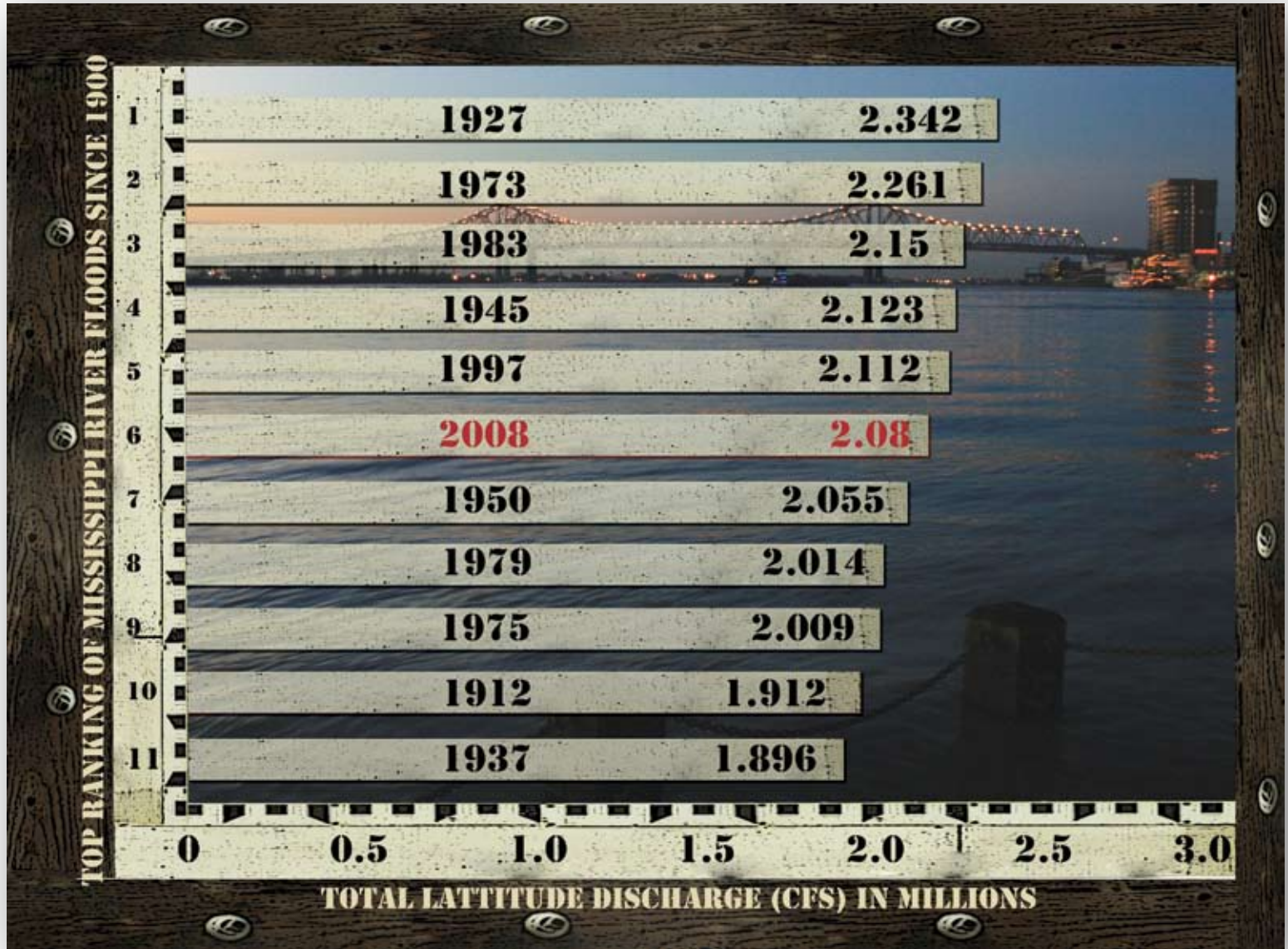
(Continued, page 11)



Keeping the “Mighty Mississippi” between the levees

The Corps’ flood fighting efforts during the sixth largest flood since 1900

by Eric Hughes



This past spring, the “mighty” Mississippi River lived up to its name when its swollen banks began a slow rise while making its way to the Gulf of Mexico. As always, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintained a close vigil over the river as it headed toward New Orleans. In March, predictions indicated the river stage would reach high enough levels to activate the Corps’ flood fighting efforts. For the next two months, the rising waters would test the Corps’ Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) System. However, the Corps proved ready and prepared for the challenge. By the time flood fighting efforts were called off, the Mississippi River grew to become the 6th largest high water event in the last 108 years. However, in spite of the massive river flow, the efforts of the Corps and its partners kept the bulging river safely within its banks.

Mississippi River and Tributaries System

The MR&T is comprised of three flood control structures designed to preserve life throughout the river basin by providing a prioritized, equitable, and systematic response to severe water flow events in the Mississippi River. These structures are the Bonnet Carré Spillway, the Morganza Spillway, and the Old River Control Structure.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway, the oldest of the three structures, was completed in 1929. Located 28 miles up-river of New Orleans, the spillway allows for the diversion of high river water safely into Lake Pontchartrain.

The Morganza Spillway, located 35 miles above Baton Rouge, allows for the diversion of Mississippi River water into the Atchafalaya River. Completed in 1954, the spillway has only been opened once, to relieve pressure from the Old River Complex in 1973.

The Old River Complex, located 15 miles northwest of the Morganza Spillway, governs the distribution flows between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. The Corps operates the complex of four structures to maintain a 70/30 flow distribution between both rivers.

The three structures of the MR&T help the Corps effectively and efficiently maintain and protect the region during high river conditions. The operation of each structure depends upon the severity of the high water event. To alleviate high river flows, the MR&T follows a flood control plan that first calls for the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway. If further measures are necessary, the operation of the Morganza spillway and the Old River Complex would follow.

In addition to protecting lives, the Corps uses the system to maintain safety for river navigation. In cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, navigation bulletins are issued to notify mariners to exercise extreme caution when navigating between Baton Rouge and the Gulf of Mexico by the using the safest speed possible and steering away from levees and revetment to avoid damage.

Flood fight efforts

The New Orleans District proactive measures to ensure the public's safety began March 11, 2008, in its participation with local authorities in an on-site tabletop flood fight exercise. It is efforts such as this that allow the Corps to support the on-going efforts of the local levee districts and authorities.

The district's emergency operations center (EOC) is the primary station to oversee all possible emergencies in the field and coordinate in-house and with our partners for the most effective emergency response. Once the National Weather Service predictions indicated a rising river, the EOC activated the first of two flood phases on March

24, 2008. During this phase, which began when the river predictions were at 15 feet and rising at the Carrollton gage in New Orleans, the district mobilized nine flood fight sector teams. These teams increased levee inspections and surveillance operations to three days a week along the 973 miles of river levees in the Lower Mississippi and Atchafalaya Basins.

In early April, the NWS increased its prediction to a rise above 17 feet in New Orleans. As a result of this updated prediction- although the levee protection system in New Orleans provides flood protection up to elevation 25, including the project's flood flowline and freeboard.- the

EOC activated the second flood fight phase April 7. During this phase, efforts were increased to daily surveillance operations.

During these two phases of flood fighting efforts, the Corps and its partners surveyed and inspected the levees for anything that may impact the integrity of the flood protection system, such as current scour on the river side of the levee, seepage through the levee, sand

boils on the landside of the levee, or crevasses. The nine flood fight sector teams remained vigilant until water levels returned to below 12 feet and all flood-fighting efforts were de-activated June 6, 2008. In their efforts, the nine teams successfully stabilized and controlled 63 areas of seepage and 18 sand boils throughout the system while suffering no reports of injury.

Bonnet Carré Spillway

During the flood fighting efforts, the Corps' hydraulics team closely monitored both the rise in the river levels and the increase of river flow in the event that operation of the MR&T flood control structures was necessary. The criteria to operate these structures are based upon existing and projected river flows and levee conditions, potential effects of river currents on navigation and revetments, extended rain



Scott Riecke

Families, schoolchildren, and other curious residents lined the levee to witness the first opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway since 1997. The Spillway was opened on April 11, 2008 to keep the Mississippi River flows at New Orleans from exceeding 1.25 million cubic feet per second

and stage forecasts, the duration of high river stages, and potential effects to the environment and flood-side activities.

Once the river flow reached the required 1.25 million cubic feet per second (cfs), Col. Alvin Lee recommended that Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division Commander and president of the Mississippi River Commission, authorize operating the Bonnet Carré Spillway. On April 11, the Corps opened the spillway for the first time in 11 years.

The spillway is comprised of 350 bays with 7,000 timber needles, of which a total of 160 bays were opened by the Corps within nine days. By opening the structure, the Corps lowered river levels and maintained the river flow at or below the project flood of 1.25 million cfs. Thus, the pressure against the levee system south of the spillway was greatly reduced. Furthermore, the river flow velocities for carefully operated navigation were maintained.

When the river flows were harnessed and levels began to drop, the structure was closed completely on May 8, 2008. During the 28 days in operation, the average flow through the structure was 113,000 cfs of a capacity of 250,000 cfs. As a result of the impact of the spillway, the Mississippi River reached a crest, below the NWS 17ft flood stage, of 16.98 ft on April 26, 2008. In review of the spring flows, the Corps' engineers now calculate that the river would have crested at 17.8 ft at New Orleans without the opening

of the spillway.

Monitoring the aftermath

Prior to its opening, the Corps, in coordination with its environmental partners, developed a plan to monitor the on-going and future conditions of Lake Pontchartrain and its vicinity. This team is currently compiling several studies to better understand and address the impacts opening the spillway has on the local

environment and economic industry.

Until the water quality parameters return to baseline conditions, the Corps will compile data based on water quality samples analyzed for nutrients, triazine, herbicides, salinity, turbidity,

dissolved oxygen, and many other components. This data will allow the Corps and its partners greater insight that ever before into predicting and addressing the impacts of future openings of the spillway.

With this year's high river flood event behind us, the MR&T system performed as expected. The Corps' efforts assured protecting lives was the number one priority of the organization, and in the midst of many challenges, these efforts allowed the "mighty" Mississippi to continue its namesake and keep America's primary river system from being interrupted in the process.



Scott Riecke

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is comprised of 350 bays, with 7,000 timber needles. A total of 160 of these bays were opened by the Corps within nine days. During the 28 days in operation, the average flow through structure was 113,000 cfs (137,000 cfs below its capacity).

(SEEPAGE, from page 5)

local citizens. We also recognize that seepage is a common occurrence when building in a coastal area. The Corps considers seepage assessment as part of any geotechnical evaluation for any feature in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).

After several investigations into the possible seepage sources, the Corps, along with its local and state partners, has agreed to have a second set of eyes look at the site. We agreed that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E) will recommend a list of engineers as potential reviewers and SLFPA-E will select reviewers from that list.

The selected external review team will include one geotechnical engineer and one structural engineer. This team will review the floodwall design and render an opinion on whether the seepage affects the integrity of the floodwall at this location.

In summary, the seepage spots that tested as brackish had grown from the time we initially tested them approximately three weeks prior. During that time, the seepage has grown to an area outside the fenced-in portion of the property along the canal and Bellaire Drive. However, the Corps does not want to dig around the source of the spot or take any other action while awaiting an external review team's upcoming investigation of the site. Nevertheless, the Corps will continue to monitor the site.

(MAJ JERNIGAN, from page 6)

His military education includes graduation from the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Staff Service School, and the Army Command and General Staff College. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

(LTC STARKEL, from page 7)

that were all catalogued, stenciled, engraved, marked and inventoried. I did that with a police escort, probably the only time that you'll have hunks of scrap, in essence, get a police escort through the city of New Orleans," said Starkel.

He also said the London load test was a unique experience because it was a test on a live structure that was actually providing protection.

But what he said he'll miss the most will be the pace.

"It's kind of sick...but I do enjoy the pace and the way that people will just work so hard to get things done. You're probably not going to find that in a lot of organizations," said Starkel, getting back to how important the people here are to him.

Before leaving, Starkel left some advice for the Maj. (P) Jernigan, the man following in his foot steps.

"There are certain individuals in this organization that have got such great knowledge and understanding of the system," said Starkel, "that, to get a great jump start on your understanding of the system, talk to them and get their perspective on the issues."

He said these important people are folks like Al Naomi, Brett Herr, Tom Podany, Carol Burdine, Walter Baumy – people who have longevity here and have been through it all.

He also said it's important for the new deputy commander to have full situational awareness of the project.

As for the rest of the district, he asks that everyone "keep the faith" and a good balance between work and personal lives.

"Don't let the work consume you. Don't let the criticism taint what you're trying to do," Starkel asked.



Anne Marino is

P i n p o i n t



UNPLUGGED

“After Katrina, I rebuilt a house, moved in, became a scout Cubmaster, plus do the newsletter for my son’s school,” said Anne Marino as she reflected on the positive changes in her life since 2005.

Her Lakeview home was destroyed in Katrina and over the last year she lost both her mother as well as her father-in-law, but Anne’s the type of person to always point out the positives in life, no matter what.

Like most everyone, Anne’s work life has changed as well. There have been a few bumps in the transition to ACE-IT, but in true Anne Marino style, she said, “It’s going well.”

Rarely the woman in front of the camera, she smiled modestly as she explained the role of a visual information specialist.

“I basically do audio-visual set ups for project managers and the commander; back up photography; create PowerPoints, displays, brochures – anything visual pretty much,” said Marino.

The constant change in personnel throughout the district has posed some challenges for the VI shop because not everyone knew the services that Anne and her coworkers could provide.

“We just wanted to be able to help everyone as best we could,” said Marino. “It took a little while to get it out there that the resources are here, but the ever changing of personnel is somewhat tapering off. But I think that has been the most challenging part.”

Her experiences over the last few years have changed Anne as well.

“I’m a lot more persistent on many things; I’ve had to be. But there are things that would have both-

ered me before that I’m pretty relaxed about now,” said Marino.

Right after Katrina, having friends and family know that she works for the Corps was a little difficult.

“They still rib me about working for the Corps and make funny jokes and I have to defend myself, and I do,” said Marino. “Some people totally understand. They’ve gotten their houses damaged and they don’t have any hard feelings.”

She said living in Lakeview and working for the Corps has gotten better over time, especially with people coming back every day.

“There’s hope,” she said, that things will be normal, that most of the business will come back.

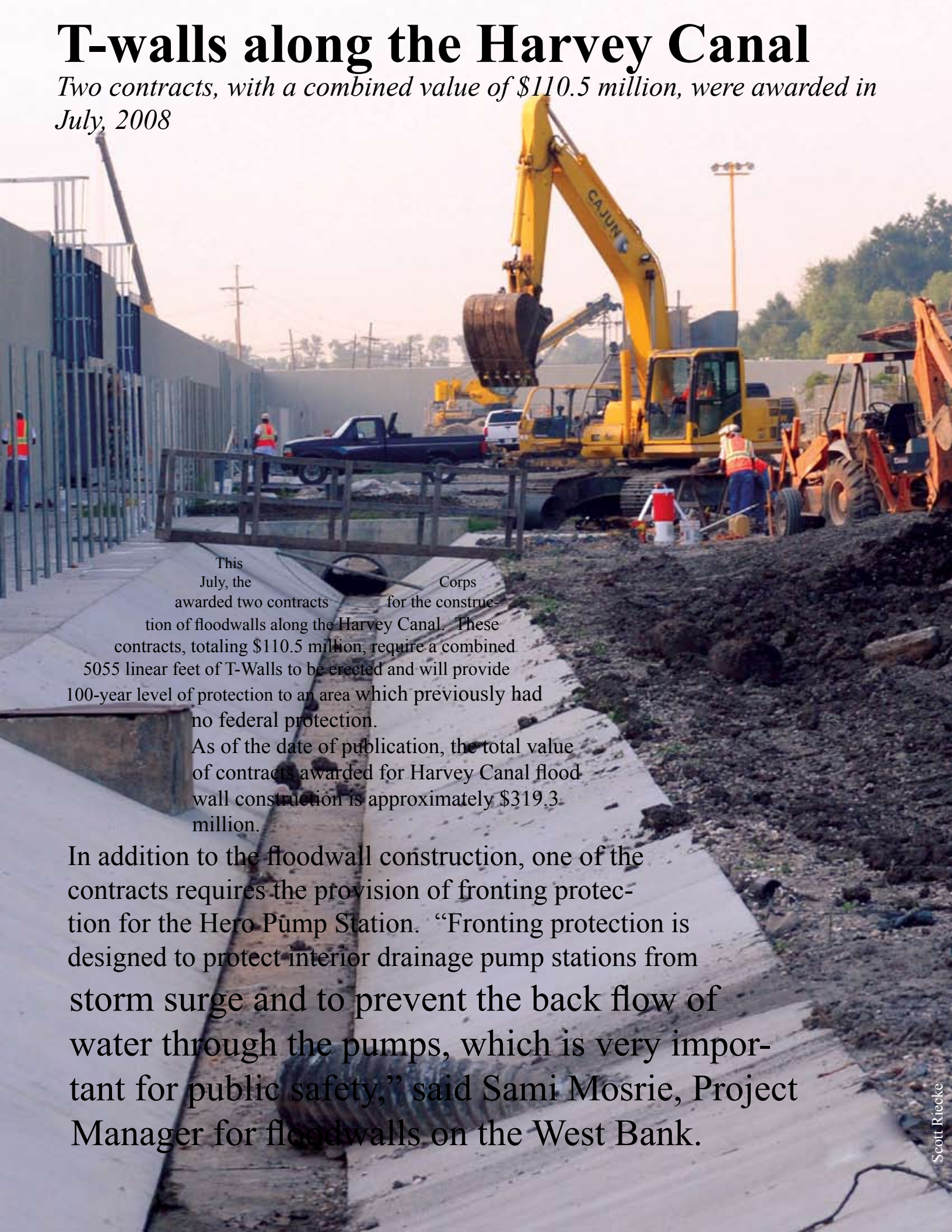
“My biggest challenge is surviving until the neighborhood public school is rebuilt. I keep working through the challenge. I can’t wait for that to happen. I think that will be a big boast for Lakeview,” Marino said.

It will also make a difference in her son’s life. Until then, Marino said she’ll continue her extracurricular activities with her son and his friends, like Cub Scouts, the Lakeview playground and the school newsletter.

“I just want to be able to help the kids, parents and teachers,” said Marino.

T-walls along the Harvey Canal

Two contracts, with a combined value of \$110.5 million, were awarded in July, 2008



This July, the Corps awarded two contracts for the construction of floodwalls along the Harvey Canal. These contracts, totaling \$110.5 million, require a combined 5055 linear feet of T-Walls to be erected and will provide 100-year level of protection to an area which previously had no federal protection.

As of the date of publication, the total value of contracts awarded for Harvey Canal flood wall construction is approximately \$319.3 million.

In addition to the floodwall construction, one of the contracts requires the provision of fronting protection for the Hero Pump Station. “Fronting protection is designed to protect interior drainage pump stations from storm surge and to prevent the back flow of water through the pumps, which is very important for public safety,” said Sami Mosrie, Project Manager for floodwalls on the West Bank.

USACE-MVN'S 21ST ANNUAL ENGINEERS' DAY PICNIC RESULTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

LOWEST SCORE: 53

CARL NIEMITZ*
JOHN ASHLEY
STEVE CALI
BILL COWDREY
LEROY HARRISON
JOSEPH OLEJNIK
COLBY PAYNE

*won on a scorecard playoff

LONGEST DRIVE:

COLBY PAYNE (BOTH HOLES)

CLOSEST TO THE HOLE

SEAN BURDINE
BRIAN OBERLIES
ALBERT TERRY
KIM TULLIER

TUG OF WAR

DAVE BECK
JASON BINET
TRAVIS CREEL
BILLY LANDRY
BRIAN LEAUMONT
KEITH O'CAIN

VOLLEYBALL

MICHAEL BOURGEOIS
CHARLSTON BRITTON
JACKIE CALENDAR
KODI CHAMBLISS
ANTOINE JACKSON
CROREY LAWTON
LAWRENCE KELLER
MICHELLE RACHEL
MELVIN RAY
STEVE ROBERTS
PAMELA TANK
CLAIRE TURNER
JEROME WILLIAMS

TENNIS

ADVANCED:

1ST: GEORGE BROWN
2ND: FREDERICK WALLACE

INTERMEDIATE

1ST: BILL RESTER
2ND: PJ VARNADO

BEGINNER

1ST: SIMONE JOLISSAINT
2ND: ROBERT WALLACE

DOUBLES

1ST: ELAINE STARK/ JOE CHOW
2ND: DON ALETTE/ PAUL OAKLAND

RUN/WALK/DASH

3 & UNDER

BOYS

1ST: TIMOTHY LACOSTE
2ND: BLAKE ROSSIGNAL

3RD: LANDON
BETTISWORTH

GIRLS

TIERNEY TERRELL
TIE: JULIA AYRES
REBEKAH COOK
KATE DALRYMLA

4 & 5

BOYS

1ST: JAKE DALMADO
2ND: LOGAN
BETTISWORTH
3RD: TREY ROSSIGNAL

GIRLS

GEORGIA JONES
KELLY JONES

RALLY PRICE

6 & 7

BOYS

1ST: TYREASE TERRELL
2ND: JOHN STARK
SHANE DALMADO
3RD: ZACK TUJAGUE

GIRLS

ANNA STARK
KELSEY PRICE
LINDSAY WINGATE

8 & 9

BOYS

1ST: JARAD ROBIE
2ND: JOSH RAMBEAU
3RD: KENNETH HAAB

GIRLS

PIPER BORDES
CHRISTINE PEACOCK

10 & 12

BOYS

1ST: DON JONES
2ND: NEAL ELI
3RD: AZMAR ELI
FARRELL SHELTON

GIRLS

BRANDI RAMBEAU
ERIN ARNOLD
BLAIR ROSSIGNAL

13 TO 15

BOYS

1ST: QUINTON JONES
2ND: DON JONES
3RD: JUAN KNATT

GIRLS

HANNAH WALDRON

RUN

MALE

1ST: JAY RATCLIFF
2ND: JASON CHEEK
3RD: STEVE ROBERTS

FEMALE

ELIZABETH BEHRENS
KELLEN SMITH
MICHELLE RACHEL

WALK

MALE:

1ST: DENIS BEER
2ND: TODD KLOCK
3RD: LOUIS CHEEK

FEMALE:

SARA BEER
CANDIDA C. WAGNER
RACHEL BEER CALICO

Following pages: A photo collage of the 21st Annual Engineers' Day Picnic attendees and activities. Collage was created from pictures taken by Heath Jones, Michael Maples, Anne Marino, Mike Murphree, Scott Riecke.





Over 900 candidates attend job fair

Many wait more than 45 minutes just to get through the gates.



When the New Orleans District scheduled a job fair in the district assembly room for Aug. 9, 2008, no one had any idea of the sheer amount of people interested in working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

District employees started greeting anxious potential candidates nearly an hour before the scheduled start time of 9 a.m.

Although the DARM was packed from open to close, team members such as Marcia Demma still made every effort to speak with interested candidates one on one.



Seven individual stations, grouped by occupational area, were set up for the visitors to discuss possible employment opportunities.

Visitors poured into the building nonstop for the entire length of the job fair, most after waiting 45 minutes just to get into the gates.

Hopefuls were offered the opportunity to turn in resumes and speak to managers in the fields of environmental/biological, engineering, technicians, construction inspectors, clerical/administrative support, budget/program analysts, accountants, realty specialists/appraisers, and contract specialists.



As with any event of this nature, getting everyone registered can be a daunting task. However, Kippy Anthony and Theresa Chryssoverges were easily up to the challenge.

By the close of the event at 1 p.m., 915 people had come through the job fair in hopes of working for the New Orleans District.

“I am pleased with the turnout because this shows that people are not only interested in the work we are doing, but that they also want to be part of the team,” said Maj. Jernigan, deputy district commander of the New Orleans District.

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