

**Mekong Delegation
Comments for Robert Campos
October 10, 2003**

Slide

Text

1. Seal Obverse

Greetings. Introduction.

2. MVD Map

The New Orleans District is the southern most of the Mississippi Valley Division's 6 districts. With Rock Island, St. Paul, St. Louis, Memphis and Vicksburg districts within its jurisdiction, the division incorporates the entire length of the Mississippi River within its boundaries.

3. Graphic: Drainage basin

This district faces unique challenges because of its location and geology. Louisiana is situated at the outlet of the Mississippi River, the world's third largest drainage basin (behind the Amazon and the Nile). The Mississippi River drains 41% of the continental United States and two Canadian provinces.

4. Deltaic lobes

Over the millennium, massive amounts of sedimentary runoff, on average some 159 million tons per year, have been carried down the Mississippi and deposited to create several delta formations, expanding Louisiana's coastal land mass by more than 6,100 square miles.

5. Photo: 1927 flood shot

Bullet: MR&T

After the disastrous 1927 flood, Congress authorized the Corps to build the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, known as the MR&T, the largest flood protection project in the history of the world.

6. Photo: Community with levee, vic. N.O. hi water (aerial)
Bullet: \$11.2 Billion in damages prevented

Under the auspices of the MR&T, the Corps provides an important service to the public through our flood control mission. Working with local levee boards during the past 74 years, we have built nearly 1,000 miles of levees and floodwalls in New Orleans District. Our most recent records indicate that this system has prevented an estimated \$11.2 billion dollars in damages.

7. Graphic: Evolution of levees

Levees were originally built by private landowners as early as 1717. Today the average levee is 15 to 20 feet above natural ground.

8. Graphic: MRT map
Graphic: Atch levee map

Roughly 512 miles of earthen levee and concrete floodwalls line the Mississippi River in this district. To the west, some 449 miles of levees line the Atchafalaya Floodway, for a total of 961 miles.

9. Photo: Old River Control (hi altitude)
Bullet: Mississippi River 70%
Atchafalaya River 30%

Three control structures at our Old River Control Complex operate both during flood years and average years to prevent the Mississippi River from changing its course to the Atchafalaya, a shorter route to the Gulf of Mexico. Normal operation provides for a 70%/30% flow distribution--70% down the Mississippi and 30% of the combined flows from the Red and Mississippi rivers reach the Gulf by way of the Atchafalaya.

10. Graphic: Placement of BC, Morganza & ORC on map

The Bonnet Carre Spillway, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, can be operated alone or in conjunction with the Morganza Floodway and the Old River Control Structures.

11. Photo: Bonnet Carre (video)
20 needles per bay
350 bays

The Bonnet Carre is located about 30 miles upriver of New Orleans. In times of high water, it is the first control structure to be opened. This slide shows the '97 flood, the 4th largest flow on record.

12. Photo: Arabi
floodwall
Bullet: 86% complete
Protects: 1.9 million
people
8+ million acres
Damages prevented:
\$244 Billion
Investment: \$12.7 B

The MR&T project protects some 1.9 million people and more than 8 million acres. The entire MR&T project is 86% built -- with completion scheduled for 2031 -- more than 100 years after it was authorized. To date, it has prevented some \$244 billion dollars in damages at a cost of \$12.7 billion dollars, an excellent return on the taxpayers' investment! At present, the levee system in the New Orleans District is about 97% complete.

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