

Talking Points
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- It's a pleasure to be here...
- I've been to many places in my career and already I get the feel that New Orleans is certainly one of the most unique. My first impressions of the city and surrounding areas have been fantastic.
- There's a culture here that revolves around delicious food, jazz, traditions, a semi-tropical climate and a *joie de vivre* (joy of life) and *laissez les bons temps rouler* (let the good times roll, pron. Less-ay lay bon ton roo-lay) attitude...now who couldn't get used to that!
- And then there's Mardi Gras...which I haven't experienced yet, but am looking forward to...
- It's a very exciting time in my career and in the history of the New Orleans District...
- The district is huge! We have the largest civil works program of any district in the country, averaging \$500 million each year...
- We're planning, design, or constructing major projects that will change the face of south Louisiana...
 - LCA
 - IHNC
 - Hurricane Protection
 - SELA, to name a few...
- I have a vision... and we'll work together to achieve that vision...
- I look forward to working with you. I want to hear your views, your needs.

- Corps projects in Louisiana have unique requirements considering two things...one, we're below sea level...*just a minor problem*... and, two, the New Orleans metropolitan area is the gateway to the nation...a nation dependent on the economics derived from navigation and the resources generated from Louisiana...
- We've formed strong bonds with our partners...
- We are putting into place a business process to ensure that we deliver quality projects...on time and within budget...
- Our customers know us through our projects...
- During my tour here, I intend to work closely with our partners and customer...we will continue in our efforts to improve our economic and environmental resources for the benefit of all...
- Together we can share in our successes in making south Louisiana a great place to live...

LCA (Louisiana Coast Area Study)

- Proposes long-range, large-scale comprehensive ecosystem restoration strategies to restore and protect all of coastal Louisiana.
- A consolidated effort to protect the region's more than \$100 billion infrastructure that supports:
 - Coastal communities
 - Commercial and industrial developments
 - A robust seafood industry
 - International inland and sea ports
 - Oil and gas production
 - Processing facilities that serve the nation
- Potential Solutions
 - River diversions
 - Marsh creation
 - Barrier restoration and shoreline protection
 - Hydrologic restoration
- Interest Groups – buy-in at all levels, policy/resolution consistency
 - Federal Advisory Task Force
 - Governor's Advisory Commission
 - Vertical Team (MVN→MVD→HQ→ASA(CW))
 - Stakeholders
 - MRC
 - Breaux Act Task Force
 - State Wetlands Authority
- Funding
 - Studies require \$5 million per year (FY03)
 - Construction requires \$500 million to \$700 million per year
 - \$15 billion over 30 year life of project
 - Multiple funding sources
 - Federal
 - Corps appropriations (CG, O&M, MR&T)
 - Energy, oil & gas trust funds
 - Navigation/fuel tax trust funds
 - Specially created authority
 - State
 - State appropriations, special taxes, user fees
 - Private contributions
 - Authorization scheduled in WRDA04

SELA

- Tremendous local sponsor cooperation and support in expediting designs to prompt construction
 - 60 contract designs
 - About half done by local sponsor A/E's
- Windfall for A/E community
 - All but three of 60 designs done by A/E's
 - All A/E designs by local A/E's
 - A/E's involved in construction inspection as well
- Major construction accomplishments since construction start in 1997 – Almost \$300 million in construction on the ground through this FY.
 - 22 contracts complete
 - 18 underway
- Windfall for construction contractors
 - \$328 million in contracts awarded to date
 - Most construction being done by local contractors
- Unprecedented support from local sponsors in lobbying for funding and special legislation – five years in a row of about \$50 - \$80 million for the project.
- Tireless effort from New Orleans District personnel to accomplish design and construction as expeditiously as possible
- New Orleans area may be coming out of the drought and improvements in place will make a significant difference on major rainfall events
 - Already noted improved drainage conditions during Tropical Storm Allison
 - Within the next year, Jefferson Parish will see 7,000 cfs additional pumping capacity, and Orleans Parish will have 1,000 cfs additional capacity at one of its most critical stations.
- Another \$350 - \$400 million in future work to be added
 - More design
 - More construction
 - More improvements for residents

Hurricane Protection Study

- We have begun work on a study that could result in a Category 5 hurricane protection project for the New Orleans area.
- This area is extremely vulnerable to hurricane storm surges.
- Current projects provide for protection against a Category 3 storm.
- The reconnaissance report has been submitted and we hope to start detailed feasibility studies next year.
- The feasibility study could take as long as 7 years to complete at a cost of \$7-9 million.

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock

(*local reference*: Industrial Canal Lock)

Current lock:

- Open to navigation in 1921
- Dimensions: 75 feet wide, 650 feet long and 31.5 feet deep (mlg)
- Current delays to navigation avg. about 10 hours per lockage.

NOTE: Navigation at the lock is projected to increase, however, recent decreases in tonnage through the lock are currently under study.

New lock:

- Work began in 2000 to construct a new lock
- Dimensions: 110 feet wide, 1200 feet long and 36 feet deep
- Cost: \$635 million
- Construction duration: 10-12 years
- Prefabricated float-in construction method
- No residential relocations
- Replacement of bridges across canal
- Bypass navigation channels during construction and demolition of locks
- Community impact mitigation plan
- One of a kind
- Cost: \$38 million
- Direct and indirect compensation to areas affected by lock replacement
 - First measure implemented in 2000—job training contract to Xavier U. for job-readiness and general construction skills
 - Trainees hired on existing contracts
 - Attendees limited to residents of project area
 - Additional job training at local universities
 - Additional police protection
 - Recreational improvements to area parks