

**ANNEX A, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
CHANGE OF COMMAND SCRIPT**

DRAFT 7/14/99

16 JULY 1999

0900 – 1000 Parking and general seating.

0940 Pre-ceremony music by 156th Army Band, LA National Guard. Band stops playing at first convenient breaking point after narrator takes his position.

0945 Color Guard forms location ground level to right of stage (looking at audience).

0945 Official party (and platform guests) arrive at the front entrance; remain in lobby.

0955 All platform guests are seated.

1000 NARRATOR takes his position on stage at back podium.

NARRATOR: “Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning, and welcome to the Change of Command Ceremony for the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our ceremonial music is provided by the 156th Army Band, Louisiana National Guard, under the direction of CW2 Myron Turner.” Today’s ceremony passes command from Colonel William L. Conner, the outgoing commander, to Colonel Thomas F. Julich, the incoming commander.”

“The Corps of Engineers has proudly served in Louisiana since the Louisiana Purchase was surveyed for defense in 1804. During the swelling migration of settlers to the Louisiana Territory, the Army engineers kept busy surveying, clearing and building fortifications, playing an increasingly prominent role in the settlement of the frontier. In 1824, Congress passed the General Survey Act, which marked the beginning of the Corps’ Civil Works program.”

NARRATOR: “Within five years Army engineers were using snag boats to clear the greatest waterway of this new frontier, the Mississippi River. Navigable waterways were vital to settlement, commerce and growth. The Corps played a significant role in transforming much of Louisiana from a primitive flood plain into a prosperous state of towns and cities, supported by a thriving agriculture industry.”

“Today, the Corps is principally responsible for navigation and flood control -- a district mission since 1929. But it also performs extensive hurricane protection work and regulates dredge and fill activities in more than seven million acres of wetlands. The Corps is committed to environmental engineering, and works with the state and other federal agencies to address critical and complex environmental challenges.”

“Today, as always, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisiana conducts all of its duties under the traditional Corps motto: “*Essayons*” – “let us try.”

“Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the arrival of the official party, and remain standing for the presentation of Colors, our National Anthem and the Invocation.”

BAND: Band plays *Ruffles & Flourishes* and the *General's March* as the Official Party -- Col. Julich, MG Anderson, Col. Conner, Fr. Austin, Mr. Tisdale -- enters and takes their place in front of their chairs.

NARRATOR: “The United States Naval Support Activity Color Guard will post the Colors for today’s ceremony.”

Pause.

“Advance the Colors.”

COLOR
GUARD/ BAND Drummer plays drum roll. The Color Guard enters from side and marches to front of stage and halts. As the Color Guard halts – dips flags, the band plays the *National Anthem*. Color Guard asks Conner for permission to post colors. Conner salutes and replies, “Permission granted.” Color Guard moves to the right of the stage and posts the Colors.

NARRATOR: “Chaplain Major Walter Austin will now give the Invocation.”

Chaplain gives Invocation.

“Ladies and gentlemen, please be seated.”

Official party takes seats.

“We have some distinguished visitors present for the ceremony this morning, and I would like to take a moment to recognize a few of them:

* Honorable Robert Dawson, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

* Congressman Billy Tauzin, represented by Mr. Martin Cancienne, his Chief of Staff

* Congressman Tauzin’s District Representative, Ms. Peggy Bourgeois

* Congressman David Vitter’s Executive Assistant, Ms. Pam Marphis

* Congressman David Vitter’s Representative, Ms. Peggy Breland

* Honorable Jimmy Fitzmorris, former Lieutenant Governor, State of Louisiana

* Honorable Jack Caldwell, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

* Councilman Nick Giambelluca, District 6, Jefferson Parish

* Mr. Cedrick Grant, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Mayor Marc Morial, City of New Orleans

* Lt. Gen. (Retired) Vald Heiberg, former Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

* Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, Commander, La. National Guard

* Maj. Gen. Thomas Sands, former Mississippi Valley Division Commander

* RADM Paul Pluta, represented by CAPT Kevin Eldridge, Chief of Staff, 8th Coast Guard District

* BG (Retired) Gene Witherspoon, former Mississippi Valley Division Commander

* CAPT Stephen W. Rochon, Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office

* CAPT Gordon Marsh, former Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office

NARRATOR

“At this time, Miss Kitty Miller will present red roses to Mrs. Conner in appreciation for her support to the district and to Col. Conner.”

Pause.

“New Orleans employees and our guests welcome Mrs. Julich to our district family. Miss Rea Dutton will present her with a bouquet of yellow roses as a gesture of our good will.”

Pause.

“The custom of the Change of Command is to acknowledge the change of the Commanding Officer of a military unit in a formal ceremony that traces its origin to Roman times.”

“This ceremony emphasizes the continuity of leadership and unit identity despite changes in individual authority.”

“The ceremony also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another. This transfer is physically represented by the passing of the Unit Colors, the tangible symbol of the unit, from the outgoing commander, to the next senior commander, and then to the new commander.”

“In accordance with tradition, MG Phillip R. Anderson, Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division in Vicksburg, Mississippi, will preside at the transfer of command.”

NARRATOR begins to read the change of command tradition. The Official Party -- (in order: Conner, Anderson and Julich) -- move into position on stage. Simultaneously, Tisdale retrieves the Engineers Colors.) They execute a facing movement toward the Colors, with Tisdale in alignment with Gen. Anderson and his back to the audience. Conner and Julich take one step forward, then execute a facing movement toward each other. As the following is read, Tisdale removes the Colors with his right hand above his left, faces about and steps forward at a 45% angle to the left on the left foot and presents the Colors to Conner. Conner grasps the colors with his left hand above his right and steps forward at a 45% angle to the left on the left foot and passes the colors to Anderson. Anderson grasps the Colors with his right hand above his left and in turn steps forward at a 45% angle on the left foot and passes the colors to Julich. Julich grasps the Colors with his left hand above his right hand and then steps forward at a 45% angle on the left foot and passes the colors to Tisdale. Tisdale grasps the colors with his right hand above his left, faces about and returns the colors. Tisdale returns the Colors and stands at the award table. Julich returns to his seat. Anderson and Conner remain and stand at attention.

NARRATOR

“In keeping with the time honored tradition, the Unit Colors are presented to the outgoing commander by the senior personal advisor to the commander. This role is fulfilled by Mr. Robert Tisdale, our Deputy for Project Management.”

“Col. Conner relinquishes command of the New Orleans District by returning the Unit Colors to Maj. Gen. Anderson.”

Conner releases the colors to Anderson

“Maj. Gen. Anderson conveys the command of the New Orleans District by presenting the Colors to Col. Thomas Julich, our fifty-sixth commander.”

Anderson releases the colors to Julich as the orders are read.

“By authority of AR 600-20, Colonel Thomas Julich assumes command of the U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans, effective 16 July 1999.”

Julich passes the Colors to Tisdale, who returns them to their post. Tisdale takes position at award table. Julich returns to his seat, assuming Conner’s seat. Anderson and Conner take positions at attention, standing side by side.

“Maj. Gen. Anderson will now make presentations to Col. Conner.”

Anderson asks Conner to post. Tisdale gives Legion of Merit medal to Anderson. NARRATOR reads Legion of Merit citation. Anderson pins medal on Conner.

“The Legion of Merit is awarded to Col. William L. Conner, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious service in positions of significant importance, culminating as Commander, United States Army Engineer District, New Orleans, from 1 July 1996 to 16 July 1999. Col. Conner’s technical knowledge, management skills and supportive leadership style have contributed immeasurably to the success of all the units and soldiers he has been associated with.

(Continued)

NARRATOR: Col. Conner's exceptionally meritorious service reflects great credit upon himself, the Corps of Engineers, and the United States Army. Given under my hand in the city of Washington, this 26th day of April 1999. Signed, Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army.

Pause. Narrator gives history of DeFluery medal while Tisdale gives the DeFluery medal to Anderson.

"Gen. Anderson will now present the DeFluery Medal to Col. Conner. The DeFluery Medal represents values of special meaning to Engineer soldiers. The history of the DeFluery medal goes back to 1777. That year, a French Engineer volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain. His name was Francois Louis de Fleury.

The Continental Congress appointed de Fleury a captain of engineers, and he quickly proved himself. Wounded at the battles of Fort Mifflin and Brandywine (where his horse was shot out from under him), he soon became Lt. Col. de Fleury.

But it was in the desperate battle at Stony Point, New York, in 1779, that de Fleury's courage under fire won him the accolades of Congress.

In June of 1779 two small American forts were being established on the Hudson River at Stony Point and Verplanck's Point, about 30 miles from Manhattan Island. A large British force easily captured both sites. The enemy began building a strong defensive perimeter around Stony Point.

General George Washington was disturbed by the capture of the two forts. British occupation gave them control of a vital segment of the river and rerouted American communications, supplies and troops moving between New England and the other colonies. Worse, General Washington was convinced the enemy was preparing to strike West Point, less than 15 miles upriver.

American reinforcements were quickly moved into position

NARRATOR

north of Stony Point, but Washington thought there was no hope of recapture. A recently formed light infantry corps, led by Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, consisted of hand picked combat veterans. The group was made up of four regiments of about 340 men each. de Fleury as second in command of the 1st Regiment.

On July 15th the Corps, except for a small diversionary force, unloaded weapons and turned in their ammunition. Secrecy was so tight the troops did not know they were going to attempt to recapture Stony Point. For such a risky assault, surprise was vital; and the attack was to take place in total darkness. Fixed bayonets and hand-to-hand combat were the orders of the day.

The Continentals scrambled up the rocky slope with de Fleury in the lead. First over the wall, de Fleury was followed by a wave of American bayonets. Rushing to the flagpole, de Fleury cut the British colors from their staff.

In addition to the recapture of Stony Point, the defeat of the British fired the Americans' determination and lifted their morale. And it showed the enemy that the colonies had an able fighting force.

So it was that on 1 October 1779, de Fleury stood before the Continental Congress to be praised for his valor at Stony Point by the men who had penned the Declaration of Independence and would later sign the Constitution. For his intrepid behavior, the Continental Congress awarded a medal struck in his honor.

The Engineer Regiment adopted the de Fleury Medal as an award because of the values demonstrated by the man for whom it was struck - values of special meaning to Engineer Soldiers. It is understood that the de Fleury Medal was the first Congressional Medal struck, if not the first medal authorized.

As Anderson hangs medal around Conner's neck, Narrator reads citation.

“Col. Conner is receiving the Silver DeFluery medal for excentional meritorious service to the United States Corns of

NARRATOR

exceptional meritorious service to the United States Corps of Engineers in peace and war serving in a variety of assignments. Col. Conner has embraced the USACE Vision of revolutionizing effectiveness, seeking growth opportunities, and investing in people to make the Corps and the New Orleans District a premier organization. Col. Conner's exceptional service reflects great credit upon himself, the Engineer Regiment and the United States Corps of Engineers."

Tisdale hands Anderson the framed DeFluery certificate. Anderson presents certificate to Conner. Photo op. Tisdale hands Anderson the Certificate of Retirement and moves up behind Conner, retrieves the DeFluery certificate and returns it to the awards table. Tisdale then moves to stand by Mrs. Conner at her seat while the Narrator is reading the Certificate of Retirement.

"Gen. Anderson will now present Col. Conner with a Certificate of Retirement. Col. Conner is being recognized for his more than 25 years of military service to the United States government. It reads, "Certificate of Retirement from the Armed Forces of the United States of America is presented to William L. Conner, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, having served faithfully and honorably. Col. Conner will be retired from the United States Army on the first day of August, 1999.'"

Tisdale escorts Mrs. Conner to a position next to Col. Conner and retrieves the Certificate of Retirement from Col. Conner. Tisdale returns to the awards table and hands Anderson Mrs. Conner's Certificate of Appreciation. Tisdale returns to his seat.

"Gen. Anderson will present the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Ellen Conner on the occasion of the retirement of her husband from active status with the United States Army. She has earned grateful appreciation for her own unselfish, faithful and devoted service. Her unfailing support and understanding helped to make possible her husband's lasting contribution to the Nation."

Tisdale retrieves the certificate from Mrs. Conner. Col. Conner ushers Mrs. Conner back to her seat before returning to Julich's previous seat.

Pause

"Ladies and gentlemen, Maj. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson."

Anderson moves to podium to make remarks.

NARRATOR:

“Col. William L. Conner, former commander of the New Orleans District.”

Conner gives farewell remarks; remains standing.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to invite Mr. Chris Laborde, manager of small business and military affairs with the Chamber, New Orleans and the River Region, to the stage for a special presentation.”

CHAMBER

Remarks by Chris Laborde. Laborde presents Conner with gift. Laborde returns to his seat in the audience. Conner returns certificate to awards table and returns to his seat.

NARRATOR:

“It gives me great pleasure to present the district’s 56th commander and district engineer, Col. Thomas F. Julich.”

Julich makes his remarks and returns to his seat.

“Ladies & gentlemen, please rise and remain standing for the benediction, the playing of the *Engineer Regimental March* and the *Army Song*, and retirement of the Colors.

Fr. Austin moves to the podium and says the Benediction, then returns to standing position at his chair. Band plays the two songs.

“Retire the Colors.”

Honor Guard moves forward, salutes and asks Julich for permission to retire the colors. Julich salutes and replies: “Permission granted.” Narrator asks audience to remain standing as official party leaves the stage. The band plays short marching song.

“Please remain standing while the official party leaves the stage.”

Julich does right face and leads official party back into lobby.

“This concludes the ceremony. Please join me in thanking the 156th Army Band, Louisiana National Guard, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Myron Turner, and the Naval Support Activity Color Guard, for their outstanding contribution to the ceremony. We now invite everyone into the main lobby for the receiving line and the reception being held in the district assembly room.”

THE END