

**Chinese Delegation
Comments for Greg Breerwood
14 October 2003**

Slide

Text

1. Seal Obverse

Greetings. Introduction.

2. Photo: NOD
headquarters

The New Orleans District administers Corps programs in a 77,700-sq.-kilometer area of central and coastal Louisiana.

3. Graphic: NOD FY
2004 President's Budget
Bullet:
\$333 M Program
\$50 M Coastal Restor.
\$10 M Other Programs
PAS, CAP, FCCE, IIS
\$27 M Local Interests

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 Program includes \$333 million for the New Orleans District. We anticipate receiving \$50 million for coastal restoration efforts, \$10 million for our Support for Others programs, and \$27 million in funds contributed by our local sponsors, for a total of \$420 million dollars.

\$420 M (Total)

4. 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.

5. Photo: Miss R.
navigation

I'd like to highlight our navigation mission.

6. Photo: Dredge
Bullet: NOD performs
1/3 of Corps' total
program
Bullet: Miss. River
requires 15% of total
dredging funds

We perform roughly 1/3 of the Corps' total national maintenance dredging program in our district alone. Dredging on the Mississippi River averages about 15% of the Corps' total operations and maintenance budget for dredging nationwide.

7. Photo: Dredging in
SWP
Bullet: \$83 M annually
Dredge 80 M cu yards

We spend about \$83 million dollars annually on our maintenance dredging program. We remove on average some 61 million cubic meters of shoal material each year.

8. Photo: Ships lined up,
vic. of Belle Chasse
Bullet: 15
Contracts
\$37 M

We maintain 645 kilometers of deep draft channel for international shipping. That's more than any other district in the country. Our deep draft maintenance program requires about 15 contract awards to the dredging industry each year at a cost of \$37 million dollars.

9. Photo: Ship at grain
elevator
Bullet:
200 million tons
55 million tons

We dredge a 13.7-meter-deep ship channel that allows the ports in South Louisiana to be the #1 port complex in the nation in total tonnage with exports & imports totaling roughly 181 million metric tons, and #1 in the world with about 50 million metric tons in grain exports.

10. Graphic: NOD
shallow draft channels
& highlight GIWW

In New Orleans District we maintain more than 3,800 kilometers of shallow draft barge channels. This includes the most heavily used La. to Texas section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, better known as the GIWW.

11. 1st Photo: Dredge creating marsh
2nd Photo: Aerial, wetlands w/Bullet:
13,000 acres of wetlands
7,000 acres of coastal habitat

We dredge a lot of material from our waterways. We use this material in a beneficial manner and have created more than 5,260 hectares of wetlands and 2,830 hectares acres of coastal habitat.

12. Graphic: NOD map of locks/control structures

Many of our waterways are navigable thanks to the operation and maintenance of our 12 locks and 6 navigation control structures. Our structures operate for a variety of purposes. Some allow passage through the Mississippi and Atchafalaya river systems into the GIWW and other canals. We operate others to protect sensitive environments in southwest La. from saltwater intrusion.

13. Photo: IHNC Lock (aerial)
Graphic: Map of IHNC in relation to waterways mentioned

This is the Industrial Canal Lock in New Orleans, one of our high-profile, heavily used projects. The canal connects two of the busiest waterways in America, the Miss. River and the GIWW. The Industrial Canal also connects the Miss. River to the Miss. River Gulf Outlet, to inner harbor port facilities, and to Lake Pontchartrain.

14. Graphic: Artist's concept
Bullet: Tonnage to grow to 40 M tons annually
\$110 M in benefits to the nation

The lock, state-of-the-art when constructed in the 1920s, is substandard for today's use. After working many years with the Port of New Orleans and the community, we awarded our first contract back in 1999 to replace the lock with a modern facility (11 meters deep x 33.5 meters wide x 366 meters long). Tonnage is projected to grow from the existing 21.8 million metric tons to about 36 million metric tons over the life of the project, generating an estimated \$110 million dollars in annual benefits to the nation.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 1,600 kilometers 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.

18. Graphic: Evolution of levees

Levees were originally built by private landowners as early as 1717. Today the average levee is 4.5 to 6 meters above natural ground.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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 3.2 million hectares. 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 Mississippi River levee system in the New Orleans District is about 97% complete.

22. Photo: Hurricane Betsy damage, 1965 (9th Ward)

We have built and continue to build levees and floodwalls to protect people and property against hurricane storm surges. Louisiana has been struck by more than 160 hurricanes in the past 400 years. We went to work on our hurricane protection levees one month after Hurricane Betsy struck in 1965.

23. Photo: Lake Pont. (East Jeff)
Bullet: NOD HPL Proj.
Total \$1.4 Billion

Now we have hundreds of kilometers of hurricane levees and floodwalls; like this one in east Jefferson Parish on Lake Pontchartrain.

24. Photo: environment
Bullet: Coastal restoration

Over the past 30 years, the Corps has taken on a stewardship role of America's resources, and nowhere is that description more appropriate than in New Orleans District.

25. Historical Congressional Acts

Shown is a list of authorizations dating back to 1965. These authorizations have allowed us to move forward with our coastal restoration efforts.

26. Photo: Caernarvon,
titled
Graphic: Map, Davis
Pond

We have constructed two diversion structures at Caernarvon and Davis Pond to bring fresh water from the Mississippi River into the coastal basins to establish favorable salinity conditions, improve fish and wildlife habitat and reduce wetland loss.

27. Map (graphic) LCA

The district is also working with the state of Louisiana on a comprehensive coastal restoration initiative, called the Louisiana Coastal Area Study, or LCA. It's designed to identify projects for restoring wetlands, barrier islands and shorelines along Louisiana's coast. It is estimated that these restoration projects will require about \$14 billion over the next 30 years.

28. Photo: Residential
development, Eden
Isles
(aerial)

Our regulatory work in the nation's diminishing wetlands and our extensive water resources management research are two other examples of how we're making a difference in protecting our environment. The district has one of the largest and most complex regulatory programs in the Corps, issuing about 4,500 permits each year.

29. Photo:
Close-up of employees'
faces.

As a vital part of America's Army, we're proud of our history in helping to build this nation. We are committed to excellence and dedicated to providing quality services.

30. Graphic:
Seal Obverse

Closing comments.