



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Riverside

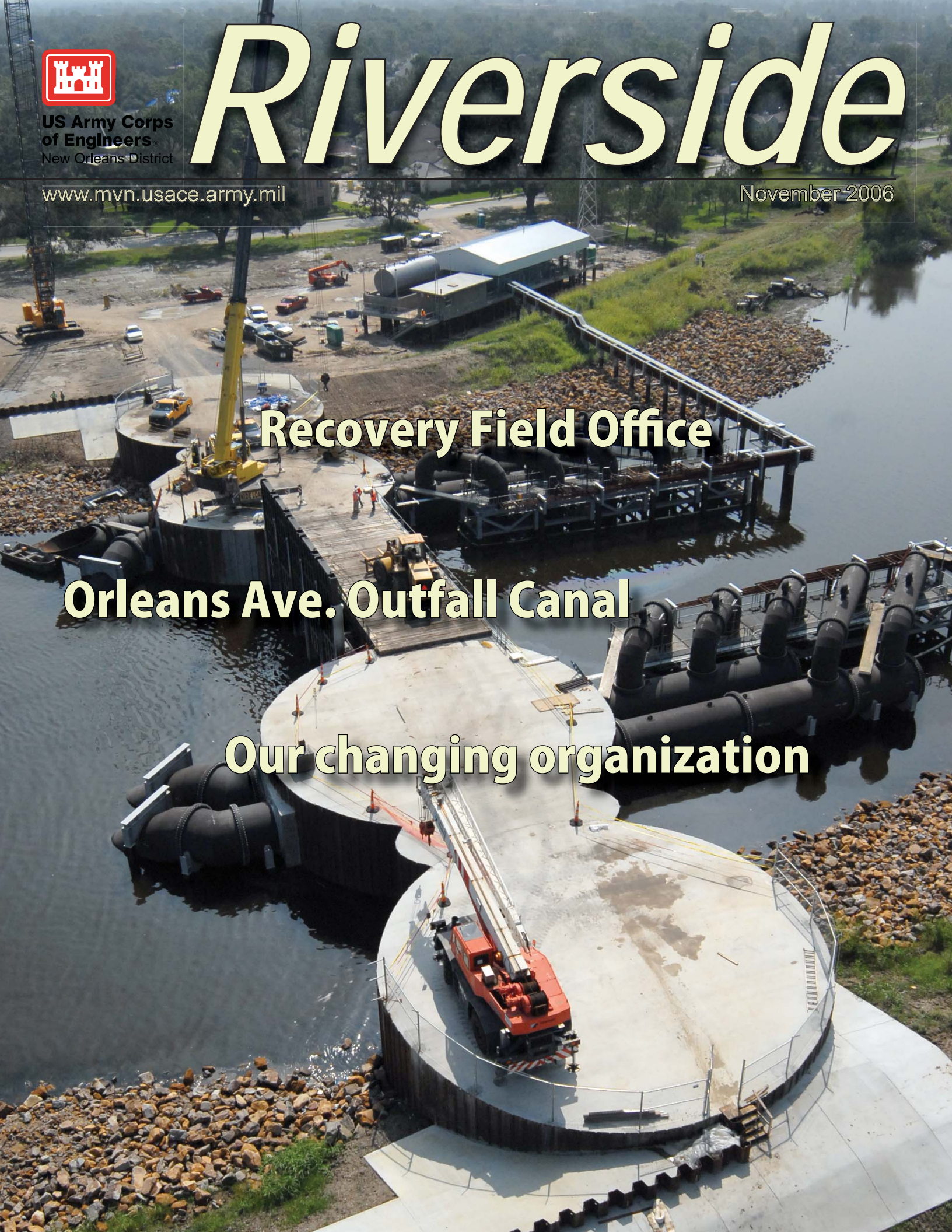
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November 2006

Recovery Field Office

Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal

Our changing organization





Carrollton Gauge

Catastrophic Hurricane Katrina damaged the hurricane protection system on the Gulf Coast. Since then, the district's mission has included repairing damaged Mississippi River levees prior to a high-river season, repairing the hurricane protection system prior to the 2006 hurricane season, improving local levees and executing our traditional civil works mission, to name a few.

Quality questions, timelines and progress were broadcast in the media on what seemed to be a daily basis. Criticism has been directed toward the Corps of Engineers and that isn't expected to change anytime soon. Some reporters inquired about how the Corps will continue the fight in that type of environment.

It's quite clear to me. We are all public servants by choice and obligated to do what's best to protect public interest. We stand and literally live behind our projects. Completion of a first-rate hurricane protection system at the earliest possible date is paramount. We must prepare southern Louisiana as much as humanly possible for the next hurricane season and the all the ones to follow. We share that sense of urgency with the communities where we live.

Obviously a sound plan for getting the job done is a necessity. Mission focus and the ability to adapt to changes along the way are essential. Quality is non-negotiable and must be verifiable and validated by others. A vision and plan for higher levels of protection must be evident. Our traditional civil works mission must be carried out impeccably

and accomplished within established laws and policies with demonstrated fiscal responsibility. What a tall order!

The Corps is in the proverbial fishbowl and will remain there for the foreseeable future. We must be open and transparent with every step we take. We must educate communities on the degree of protection they will be afforded, when it will be in place and what the limitations are in doing this. We must do all these things to help communities gain confidence in their protection system. Criticism and comments must be embraced as a learning opportunity in the interest of building the best project that can be constructed.

In doing this we will serve and protect the citizens of southern Louisiana and facilitate informed decisions on rebuilding.

Your accomplishments in the past year have been outstanding, often beyond the call of duty and deeply appreciated by the manage-

ment team at the district. People have done phenomenal things, starting with the first responders, the multiple task forces and those district employees who went about doing what needed to be done, absent the limelight. Please accept my thanks for all that you've done!

Essayons!



Scott Riecke

Walter Baumy
chief, Engineering Division

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Purrington commissioned

by Roger Cawley

With 10 years in the regulatory group and another five with Project Management, Jackie Purrington is a familiar face to the nearly 1,200 civilian and military staff at the New Orleans District.

But while many of her district colleagues know her as the assistant project manager for the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, few are aware of her recent and less obvious title: 2LT, U.S. Army Reserve. She was commissioned Aug. 10, 2006.

Her commission involves a six-year commitment, training assignments one weekend a month at Belle Chasse Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and two weeks a year. Ahead of her is the Engineer Officer Basic Course, a four-month leadership program that she hopes to attend at Ft. Leonard Wood next year.

For the gregarious Purrington, this late-budding ambition to take up the rigors, dangers and responsibilities of military life drew some quizzical looks. "My family was concerned. Friends questioned my sanity," she said. Purrington had no such reservations.

"Lots of reasons went into my decision. There's the travel, adventure, excitement, patriotism and who-knows-what kind of challenges," she said. "But it's also a way to stay connected with and remain part of that military cadre I was with in Iraq."

In response to her request through the district for assignment in Iraq, she was sent there from July 2004 through February 2005. Purrington initially lived in the comparative safety of the Green Zone but had to go on weekly convoys to downtown Baghdad to consult with Baghdad government officials on issues involving water, sewage and electricity. She later was assigned to the Multi-Nation Security Transition Command in Iraq where the mission focused on rebuilding infrastructure in support of the Iraqi security forces.

During her seven-month tour, Purrington was impressed by both the civilians and military she met. But what was truly revealing to her was the realization of how vital the military was to everything being done in Iraq. "Our focus was on the mission, not on process," she said, "and we had the sense that not only were we doing some important work, but that we were part of something important."

This camaraderie and close daily association with the military gave her confidence that she could perform at their level of intensity. But what was only an abstract interest in the military was given a boost through the assistance of Gen. Tom Bostick, who she worked with in Baghdad.

Bostick later was to head a program to expand the ranks of professionals willing to become commissioned officers in the military. "These candidates were older, highly professional and specialized," she said. Bostick urged her to consider the possibility.

By virtue of her district background, plus a bachelor's and master's degree in biology from Tulane University, Purrington qualified. She required only a waiver of the age ceiling, then 36, to fulfill the requirements. She did.

see PURRINGTON, page 21



Riverside

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Commander

Col. Richard P. Wagenaar

Chief

Kathy Gibbs

Editor

Amanda S. Jones

Winner: The "J" Award, the highest Department of the Army journalism honor, 2000 and 2003.

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Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal,
Sept. 2006

Recovery Field Office redefines “rapid res

Diverse team pulls together in crisis

by Kathleen Millar

They said you had to see it to believe it, but the men and women about to become the Recovery Field Office (RFO) did better than that—they saw it coming. Jack Hurdle, chief of Operations at the Memphis District, was a veteran of at least 20 major disasters, and both his experience and his gut told him Katrina might indeed be a “hundred-year storm,” unrivaled by any hurricane in living memory and unparalleled in its destructive force and the danger it posed to New Orleans. A few days before Katrina made landfall, personnel from USACE, FEMA, EPA, the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and even a contingent of retired federal employees — an assembly of disaster specialists — prepared to move toward southeastern Louisiana, in the direction of a storm whose extraordinary power would only be fully understood by its survivors.

Leading the RFO was Memphis District Commander Col. Charles Smithers who understood how much every minute counted in a recovery effort of this kind. The team’s goal in Baton Rouge was “boots on the ground.” They were ready to confront the hurricane’s devastation, and by dint of engineering know-how and more than a half-century of collective experience fighting disasters, to outmaneuver the catastrophes we euphemistically call the “aftermath” of a storm.

In this case, however, after Katrina and Rita hammered their way across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, euphemisms were quickly replaced by less equivocal language — for many observers, the term “wasteland” seemed to sum it up.

In New Orleans immediately after Katrina hit, Col. Richard Wagenaar rallied a separate core group that set out on a parallel course. Operating out of the district office — sleeping on cots, and surviving on bottled water and meals, ready-to-eat (MREs) — Wagenaar’s team struggled to diagnose the injuries to the hurricane protection system. Damage to the levees, floodwalls, gates and pumps posed the immediate threat, but those challenges and the floodwater inundating the city were not the only dangers. Peril lay under the water as well in the form of biohazards, toxins, leaking gas lines and live wires. There were people camping out on the roofs of houses, waving to rescuers from upper-story windows. Thousands of displaced Americans were still landlocked in the Superdome, and the last of them would not be out until January of the following year.

The RFO in Baton Rouge, under its FEMA mandate,



immediately fell into step under Task Force Hope, an organizational entity designed by the Corps to tackle immediate and often large-scale obstacles to recover from the 2005 hurricanes. Despite the absence of precedents for a crisis of this magnitude, the RFO team set its course and drew from the experiences of its members who had been in war zones and situations where the devastation might have been less extensive but similar in nature.

Some of the team members, like Donald McClure, had helped achieve engineering miracles during and after Desert Shield. Others were veterans of hurricanes Andrew and Camille. They knew the kind of courage it takes to dive into water dark and thick enough to make direction disappear, to shut off a leaking gas line or clear debris clogging a pump.

One year later, they trade stories about “just-in-time”

ponse”



rescues — pulling trees as long as semi-trailers off the road minutes before fire trucks roared by on the way to another five-alarm. They reminisce about challenges and successes and if there is a common theme, it is this: The real victory belongs to men and women whose names will never really be known and whose contributions may never be adequately understood.

On July 1, 2006, the RFO moved its base of operations from Baton Rouge to New Orleans. By that time, many original team members had returned to their own offices in different agencies or to other divisions and districts within USACE. On paper, the RFO mission still looked formidable despite significant, sometimes unbelievable accomplishments. “When we started,” said Chris Alfonso, a USACE mission manager, “debris was piled as high as buildings . . . we started moving debris four days after Ka-

trina and 14 months later, we’ve moved 24 million cubic yards, enough to fill the Superdome five times.”

The scale is impressive, but the larger achievement lies in the record time it took for the RFO team to move the debris out of the way of emergency and medical workers focused on saving lives and protecting property. The “back-story” turns on 24/7 shifts, on months of separation from families and loved ones and on an extraordinary willingness to abandon day-to-day life on a moment’s notice to come to the rescue of strangers.

In the days following the storms, those strangers also needed water, ice and emergency power and the RFO delivered it all, part of local and national efforts that brought 170 million pounds of ice and more than 5,500 truckloads of bottled water to hard-hit areas. Working with the 249th Engineer Battalion, the Army’s “Prime Power,” the RFO installed 288 emergency generators in City Hall, the Superdome and in other critical facilities lacking light, refrigeration, air conditioning, or power to operate emergency equipment.

The roofing teams — planners, quality-assurance specialists, project managers and the construction workers who drive the final nails — set records as well. Working at peak performance, RFO roofing teams managed to raise the bar to an all-time high: 1,750 blue roofs in a single day. In March 2006, they completed their mission after blue-roofing a total of 81,218 homes in Louisiana.

Members of the RFO continue to come and go. As the sense of urgency diminishes, home offices are more likely to call their own employees back. In some cases the threat is diminishing, but in others the challenges haven’t disappeared — they simply changed. Mike Patrick is an environmental officer currently assigned to the RFO

operating under the auspices of Task Force Hope in New Orleans, and he understands that the environmental ramifications of Katrina and Rita may present challenges for years, even decades. Eddie LeBlanc is one of the youngest members of today’s RFO. Inspired by his grandfather’s career with the survey branch, LeBlanc also chose a career with the Corps. Like Patrick, LeBlanc believes that much of his future with the organization may center on the problems that Katrina and Rita both created and exposed.

Right now, of course, what the future holds has to take a back seat to “Katrina plus 14 months.” The RFO is still very much in business and while no one can predict the challenges it may confront in the coming months and years, no one who’s watched this team work doubts its ability to overcome.

Outfall canal (part two of a three- part series)

Donald Constantine: Orleans Ave. canal captain
by Leo Skinner

Why would anyone want to be a captain at one of the highest profile flood-fight locations in New Orleans? Donald Constantine, chief of Maintenance for the New Orleans District replied, “Someone has to do it and there’s that old adage that says not to give someone a job you wouldn’t do yourself. Besides, if those guys out there are doing it, why shouldn’t I be there too?”

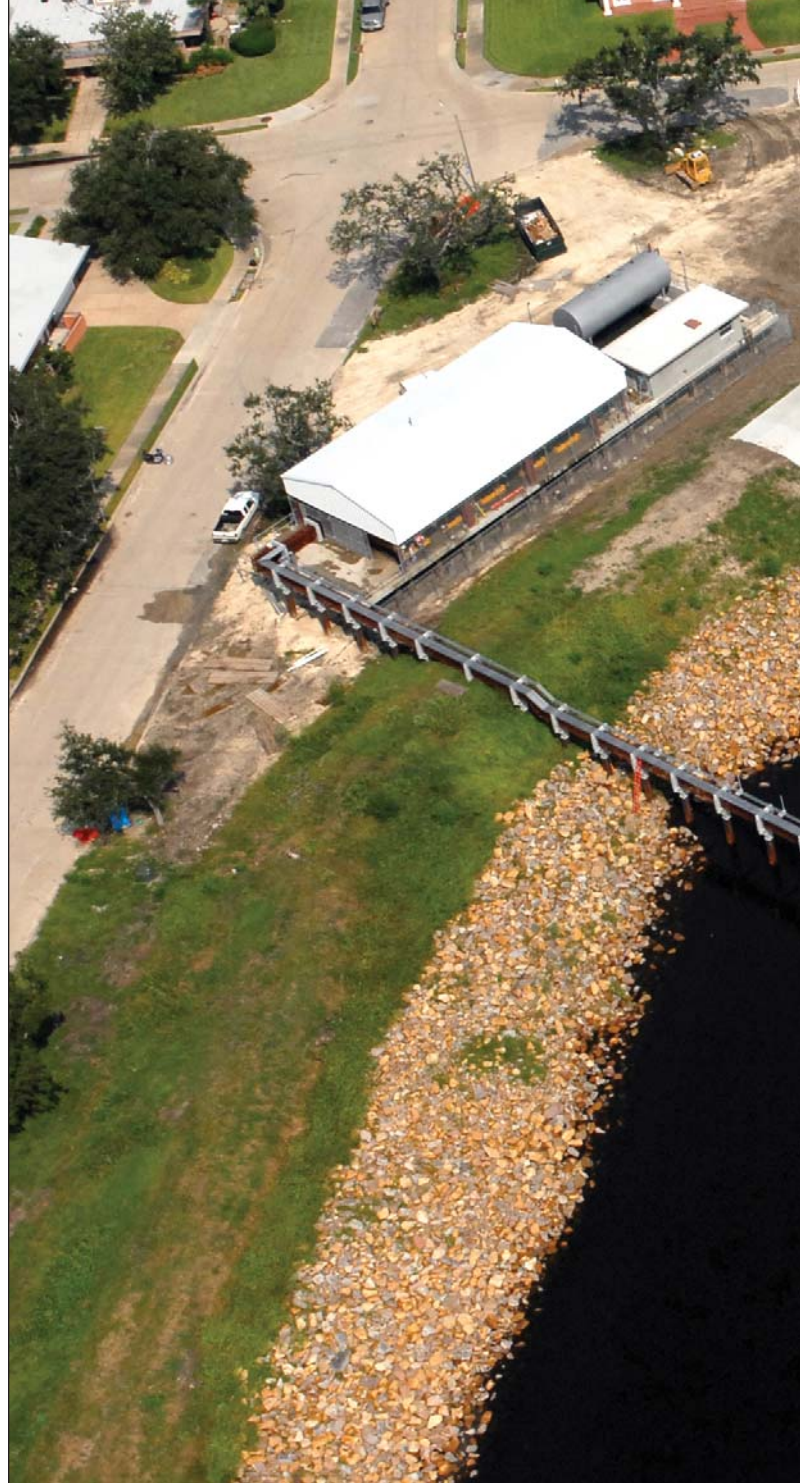
Constantine is one of three New Orleans District canal captains assigned to manage operations at Lake Pontchartrain’s three outfall canals during tropical activities. Constantine oversees the Orleans Canal while Carl Robinson and Ray Newman head up the London and 17th Street Canals, respectively. Each captain has four support staff to assist in operations. If a tropical or hurricane event creates enough surge to force gate closures, teams will be located at each outfall canal and canal captains will be at nearby pumping stations with officials from the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

Duties for Constantine and his crew are spelled out in a manual that he keeps with him at all times, but when asked specifically what his responsibilities are, Constantine doesn’t need to consult the manual. Without hesitation he says, “In an actual tropical event we will be notified four to five days prior to the storm coming ashore. We will report to the control house at the canal structure, stock up on essentials such as water; meals, ready-to-eat (MREs); laptops and satellite phones.”

When a hurricane approaches the city and a storm surge is imminent, Constantine explained that his team will close the floodgates, make sure pumps are working properly and establish communication with the Corps and the Sewerage and Water Board. “After the storm passes we will await the signal to raise the floodgates and return to regular operating procedures,” he adds. That signal will come from District Commander Col. Richard Wagenaar.

Safety is always a concern and procedures are in place to ensure the safety of all staff involved in the flood fight. It is highly unlikely Constantine’s crew will be able to ride out a Category 4 or 5 hurricane, so if that should occur, evacuation plans have been developed to get crew members out of the area. “We do have a control structure on the site with 12-inch poured concrete walls and an escape hatch, along with boats and other safety gear,” he said. “But the bottom line is we would never place our crew in a situation that would cause them harm in any way.”

In the meantime, Constantine continues his daily responsibility as chief of the Maintenance Section, which



he refers to as a mini-construction company inside the Corps. “Until we are needed at the Orleans Avenue Canal structure, we will continue to do our regular jobs, swinging hammers, doing it all,” he said.

Constantine takes his job very seriously and his job doesn’t stop at the end of the workday. Although his house was not damaged last year, Constantine wants to make sure his home is secure and his family is safe when another storm approaches. He lives in the city with his wife, Nancy, and two cats. He also has extended family in Louisiana. “I have relatives in the area,” he said. “I don’t want to stay in a storm, but there is a need to protect property and to minimize risk and that is my job as canal captain.”



Donald Constantine (left) is captain of the Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal (above).

Retirement, retention and advancements

Leaders address our changing organization

by Amanda Jones

Within three months after the end of fiscal year (FY) 2006, 164 district employees will be eligible to retire; an additional

174 will be eligible within five years. "According to OPM's website, retirement eligibles typically stay on five years past their eligibility date," said Cheryl Weber, chief of Human Resources. But is this a trend we'll see in the New Orleans District? Or will our retirement eligibles continue to be enticed to retire and become contractors?

"There's a renewed interest in retirement because of the Katrina situation," said Chris Accardo, chief of Operations Division. "Contractors can't hire people fast enough, so there's an incentive for people who are eligible to retire. They can make more money by retiring and going to work immediately for a contractor who's looking for the skills they have. That's causing a lot of folks to retire earlier than they would have."

And that's understandable to Col. Richard Wagenaar, district commander, who said, "They deserve it. They've worked their entire lives to get to retirement age. That's the benefit, so more power to them...I would rather have them stay and help us but they deserve their retirement. A lot of people say they are jumping ship but they're really not."

But when retirement eligibles move on, they take with them the vast institutional knowledge they've gained through the years and leave behind vacancies the district must fill. Therefore, our upper management is working on a succession plan to fill the gaps in the residual organization.

"We're actively recruiting all our vacancies, and we have quite a number of them at this time," said Walter Baummy, chief of Engineering Division. "We've had our staff at career fairs and we're working closely with CPAC and the Executive Office to expedite filling these positions, all with the intent of having some significant overlap between the newer employees and the senior employees that will be eligible to retire." Baummy hopes this, as well as hiring overhires, will "power down" some of the expertise

at the top levels in the organization to help the "middle group" gain some experience.

With every division having or expecting to have some vacancies, there is room for movement, not only within divisions, but throughout the entire district. Although it's intimidating to step outside one's comfort zone, many chiefs understand and often encourage movement for personal growth.

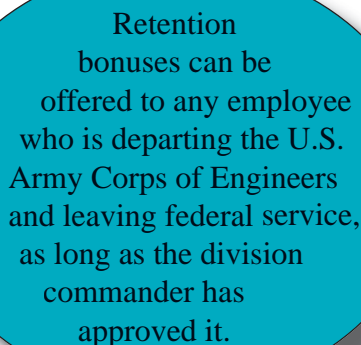
"If they're leaving Engineering Division for a promotion, I'm happy for the individual," Baummy said, "and I'd probably like to get them back some time in the future. But if they can personally improve their situation, they need to do that."

However, according to Baummy, who is a panel member for high-ranking vacancies, district employees aren't applying for promotions. "We just don't have as much interest. I think people don't feel they are prepared and if that's the case, I hate to see them selling themselves short."

"I think a lot of folks sit back and wait for a certain position to open up and then apply," Accardo said. "I believe they are making a grave mistake because it could get filled by the stopper list or management making moves and that person may not get the opportunity to put in for that position. The message that I'm trying to send to my people is to always ask yourself one question: If the vacancy was offered to you, would you take it? If the answer is yes, then apply. Don't sit back and wait for that one special job to open up because you may never get the chance to apply."

Accardo added that there's no reason why a person in Operations couldn't apply for a vacancy in Engineering and vice versa. "We see so much alliance within the stove pipes and it really hurts people's careers to be that narrow-minded," Accardo said.

"I think we have a very outstanding group of midlevel



Retention bonuses can be offered to any employee who is departing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leaving federal service, as long as the division commander has approved it.

How to be a district superstar

So what do the rest of us need to do to become one of those outstanding GS-13s and 12s or "superstars," as many call them? Post-Katrina employees feel that if they were not a part of Task Force Guardian or are not in the Protection and Restoration Office, they don't stand a chance and there's no real reason to even try. But Accardo said, "Panels are looking at the quality of individuals more so

“The message that I’m trying to send to my people is to always ask yourself one question: If the vacancy was offered to you, would you take it? If the answer is yes, then apply.” — Chris Accardo

workers and potential,” said Wagenaar. “I’m less worried that I have a shortage of great leaders...we have a great core of outstanding GS-13s and 12s in the district. So I’m less worried about that than I am with the whole process of having to replace a bunch of folks and then having to replace behind them.”

“As in any organization, we would like those folks who are high achievers to stay so we could work with them to provide them with an environment and a schedule that is satisfying to them and the office who’s keeping them on,” said Greg Breerwood, chief of Project Management. “If there are people who have questions about where we’re going and how we are going to proceed, we will try to alleviate their fears so that they will have all of the information.”

The personnel cycle is endless and Katrina hasn’t changed that. What she has changed is the pace we’re working. How long can employees hold up in this extreme environment? For those who feel they need a change, talk to your supervisor before making any drastic decisions.

than the past jobs they’ve had.”

Accardo believes there are three things management experts learned that have helped people climb the ladder in corporate America. They are: image, performance and exposure. “Exposure is your ticket up the ladder,” said Accardo. People have a natural tendency to want to be around people they know. This doesn’t exclude supervisors.

How do you get more exposure around here? Volunteer for details, get involved in special emphasis programs, join the Leadership Development Program – anything that gets you out of your cubicle and into other elements of the district.

Ethical job-seeking standards

Seeking Employment:

Current employees who have begun seeking or negotiating for subsequent non-federal employment must recuse themselves immediately from participation in any official matter that involves the prospective employer.

Post-Employment Restrictions:

- **18 U.S. Code 207(a)(1), Permanent ban on “switching sides.”** Former employees are subject to a lifetime ban on communicating to or appearing before the government on behalf of their new employer or anyone else regarding specific matters (involving their new employer) in which they participated personally and substantially during their entire government career. For example, if you are the contracting officer on a particular contract, and you leave federal service, there is a lifetime ban on your communication with the government on behalf of another party on that same contract.
- **18 U.S. Code 207(a)(2), Two-year official responsibility provision.** For two years after termination of their federal employment, former employees may not make representational communications to or appearances before the government regarding specific matters that were pending under their official responsibility during their last year of government service.
- **18 U.S. Code 203, Compensation limitation.** Former federal employees may not share in any bonus, profit-sharing, or similar compensation derived from fees earned by the employee, new firm or partnership for representational services before the government that were rendered during the former employee’s period of government service.
- **41 U.S. Code 423(a), Disclosure of procurement information.** Former employees may not knowingly disclose contractor bid or proposal information or source selection information to anyone not authorized to receive such information.
- **41 U.S. Code 423(d), One-year ban on contractor compensation.** Employees who worked on a contract in excess of \$10 million cannot receive compensation from that contractor within one year after the employment if they: (1) served as a contracting officer, member of a source selection board, or chief of a technical evaluation team; (2) served as a program manager, deputy program manager or administrative contracting officer; or (3) personally made certain decisions such as approving an award, modification, task or delivery order establishing overhead or settling a claim.



During the Mississippi River Commission's Low Water Inspection trip, Brian Osberghaus dressed a second-grader with an oversized life jacket (left), and another with one much too small (below) to demonstrate the importance of having the right fit in water safety.



Park rangers add value to MRC Low Water Inspection

by Kathleen Millar

The Mississippi River Commission Low Water Inspection trip is an annual opportunity for Corps leaders to reach out to the community, listen to its concerns and share progress reports with stakeholders and citizens. On Aug. 24, the Corps did all this and more by inviting 53 second graders to experience community interaction aboard the Motor Vessel (MV) *Mississippi* and to see how a public meeting works. Park rangers on developmental assignments to the Joint Visitors Bureau (JVB) also offered these young Americans a chance to learn some important lessons about water safety, an innovative twist to a familiar undertaking.

According to Sarah Sick, second-grade teacher at St. Bernadette's School in Houma, La., the kids liked it all,

but the high point of the day was an opportunity to visit the command room aboard the vessel. "This is awesome," shouted a redheaded youngster, the first to make it up the stairs. "You guys have to see this!"

It wasn't the view from the Eiffel Tower, as Mrs. Sick pointed out, only a long, clear stretch of the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterway. But for seven-year-olds with limited travel experience, the command room offered them a new and much broader perspective on their world. The day was also about widening perspectives for the the park rangers working in the JVB. The senior officers aboard the MV *Mississippi* tasked with briefing the public on improvements to the hurricane protection system. Everyone involved in the trip walked away with richer professional skills, a broader understanding of the Corps mission and public concerns, and a deeper appreciation for the ways communication between the Corps and the community can advance a common goal.

Michael Maples, who heads the JVB, was the first point of contact for the tour. He's a veteran of these inspection

trips who is quick to point out that this year's success belongs to the two park rangers assigned to the JVB as part of a professional learning experience.

"Brian Osberghaus and Todd Moreau were critical to the success of the trip," said Maples. "The rangers incorporated these kids into a larger and very important event. The trip's purpose, at every stop we make during the week-long journey, is to bring community leaders, local officials, and citizens aboard the MV *Mississippi* to participate in lively, genuine dialogue about our work and the public's needs. The fact that these children from an elementary school in Houma had a chance to witness this interaction and learn about basic water safety added real value to this event."

Osberghaus and Moreau conducted water safety programs for school children in the past, so they suggested a similar program to liven up the schedule, when the MV *Mississippi* docked in Houma. The rangers knew Mrs. Sick's husband, who works out of Houma in maritime transportation. When they asked if he knew any elementary school teachers they might contact about the idea, he didn't hesitate. "He told them 'My wife is a teacher at St. Bernadette's in Houma,'" recalls Mrs. Sick, and the project went from idea to implementation.

"Before we knew it, both my class and Sister Floretta's class of second-graders were on a bus on the way to the vessel. The kids didn't really understand what kind of adventure was in store, but the two words they did understand – field trip – had them pretty excited."

When the children arrived at the MV *Mississippi*, none other than Brig. Gen. Robert Crear was on hand to greet them. A passionate advocate for education, Crear acted as master of ceremonies and presented awards to highlight the academic and social achievements of children whom teachers and peers agreed "had gone the extra mile." Special Corps commemorative coins went to second-graders who had achieved academically, demonstrated notable concern for the feelings of others and had perfect attendance. The last was an achievement Crear particularly appreciated since, as he told the kids, he himself had a record of perfect attendance from 1st through 12th grade.

The water safety program followed the awards ceremony, and the moment belonged to Rangers Osberghaus and Moreau. "As young as these kids were,"

said their teacher, "they were still fascinated." The rangers certainly knew how to play to their audience – while they outfitted one boy, large for his age, in a tiny life jacket, they dressed a particularly petite young lady in a life jacket three sizes too large – drawing howls of laughter from the rest of the class.

"They showed the kids how important it is to use a jacket that fits," said Mrs. Sick. "And one of the most interesting things we learned was that the most expensive life jacket isn't always the one that works best; the cheaper ones that keep your head above water if you're knocked unconscious are the ones to get!"

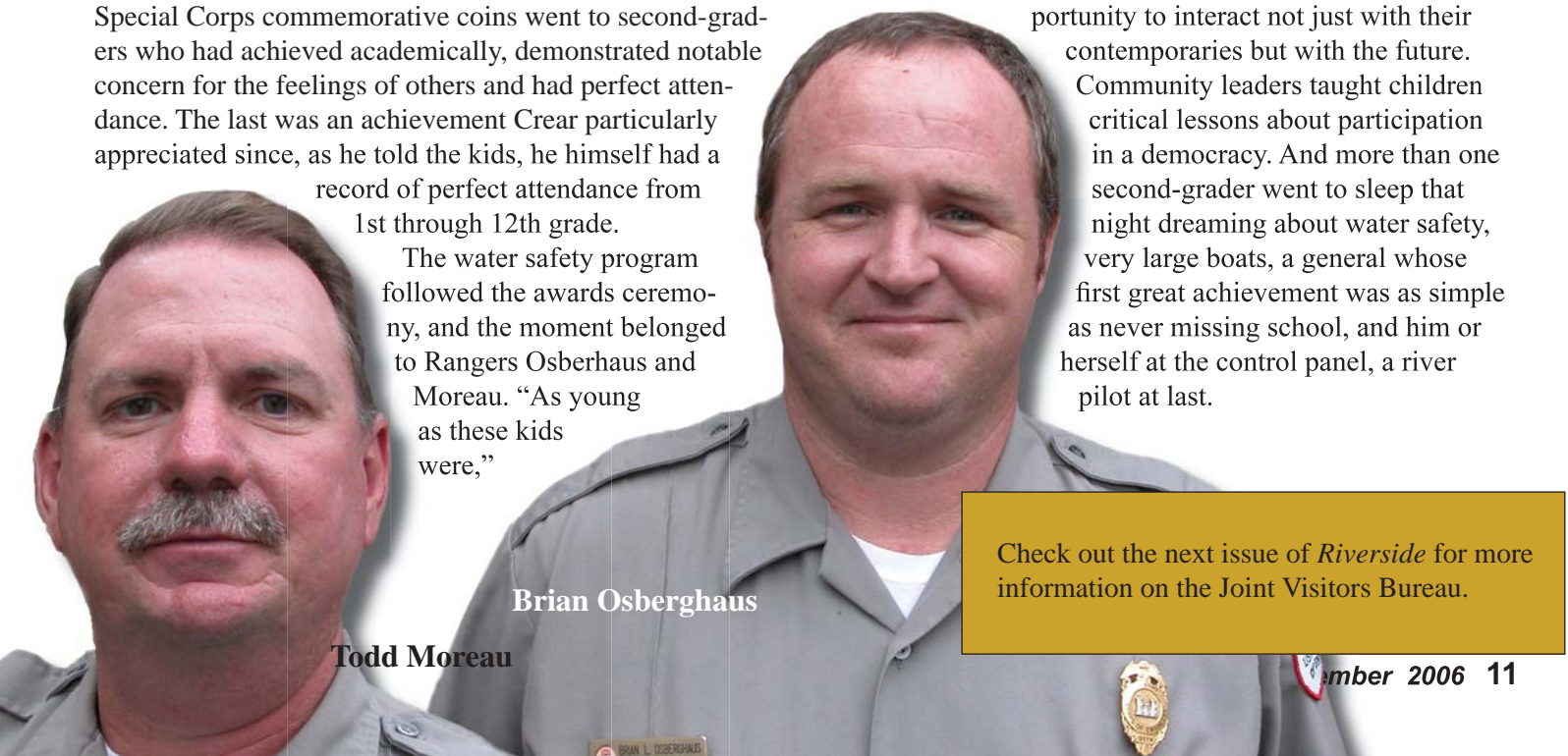
The rangers also taught the children proper rescue techniques, throwing ropes out into the water to an imaginary victim and demonstrating resuscitation methods. The tour of the vessel came next, and after the children had experienced the grandeur of the control room, their teacher asked the second-graders, many of whom had told her they wanted to grow up to be lawyers and doctors, how many would consider careers as a river pilot. The "yeas" had it.

The program the rangers designed for the two classes ended with a chance to observe the public meeting and an ongoing dialogue between Corps leaders and community officials. Reports are that the children were well-behaved, observant and while perhaps not as impressed by the give-and-take of public discourse as they were by the command room, they understood a lesson that no American is ever too young to appreciate: In this country, we resolve problems and arrive at solutions by consensus. The people always have a voice.

At the end of the day, children and adults, Corps officers and civilians, concluded the program with new insights. Osberghaus and Moreau understood that their contribution had changed the usual equation in ways that benefited a

new generation. Corps leaders had an opportunity to interact not just with their contemporaries but with the future.

Community leaders taught children critical lessons about participation in a democracy. And more than one second-grader went to sleep that night dreaming about water safety, very large boats, a general whose first great achievement was as simple as never missing school, and him or herself at the control panel, a river pilot at last.



Brian Osberghaus

Todd Moreau

Check out the next issue of *Riverside* for more information on the Joint Visitors Bureau.

District awards ceremony and town hall

by Melanie Marcec

The district's recent awards ceremony and town hall meeting kicked off with Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Murray Starkel presenting awards and recognizing Corps employees for their support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Starkel explained that the Civilian Pin for Combat Service presented to Corps civilian members is the only award of its type in the Department of the Army.

Before the awards and recognitions, District Commander Col. Richard Wagenaar added his appreciation and respect for all the district members who deploy to support Corps efforts. He emphasized that deployed civilians live and work shoulder-to-shoulder with deployed service members. He added that helping prosecute the GWOT is still the Corps' top mission.

Starkel said 77 district employees have so far deployed in support of GWOT and eight of them are currently downrange. After saluting these civilian warriors, Starkel continued by presenting the Civilian Pin for Combat Service to the following employees for their past deployments:

Christopher Alfonso	Wilson Maloz
Kenneth Ashworth	Sean Mickal
James Ball	Matthew Napolitano
Jim Barr	Gib Owen
Anthony Bertucci	Jackie Purrington
Gayle Boone	Chad Rachel
Perry D'Amico	Leroy Smith
Eileen Farley	Charles Tillett
Amena Henville	Richard Tillman
Emile Jacobs	April Villa
Ronald Lee	Karen Zeringue

The following awardees, not present, were also recognized:

Edward Adams	Robert Martinson
Chester Ashley	Lester Mastio
Allen Crawford	Steven Morgan
Frank DeBoer	JoAnn Nelsen
David Ferry	Carroll Smallwood
Gary Hawkins	Robert Starling
Vernon Leufroy	Jerry Stoute
Gary Lowe	Mike Zumstein
Jason Marcotte	

The awards portion of the ceremony ended with the



Butch Marsalis received an award for superior civilian service

Commander's Award for Civil Service being given to Rene Poche and Gail Rouse.

Following the award presentations, Col. Wagenaar took the floor. He thanked district members for continuing to execute their missions despite obstacles and turmoil. He mentioned the many physical moves going on in the building due to organizational restructuring and noted that the district is going through some growing pains.

Wagenaar also shared his expectations to see the organization settle into a more normal operational tempo, or what he called a "battle rhythm," in the next four to six months.

After his remarks, Wagenaar solicited questions from the audience.

An audience member asked about the possibility of certain employees being able to start their workday at 6 a.m. versus the current 6:30 a.m. Wagenaar stated he will seek the advice of the District Executive Team on this topic, as he does with most issues. He reinforced to all employees that if they have any problems with their hours, to work with their supervisors to solve them. (District policy is now updated to allow employees to begin their workday at 6 a.m. with supervisor approval.)

Several installation traffic woes; disregard for signs painted on pavement; signs blocking driver visibility; and

inattentive driving practices were brought up. Wagenaar stated the district will look into any places on the compound where signs could be more safely and efficiently placed. He also emphatically reminded everyone that driving while talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device is illegal on the installation.

Parking was also a hot topic. Wagenaar said he was very aware of installation parking problems and that the district has several initiatives to relieve some of the parking pressure, including paving unpaved parking areas, expanding parking in the warehouse area and reevaluating the current parking-sticker policy.

Wagenaar wrapped up his remarks by letting the audience know that National Security Personnel System (NSPS) is coming. Supervisors will have mandatory training and the district will implement NSPS on Jan. 21, 2007.

MVD Commander Brig. Gen. Robert Crear then joined Wagenaar to present awards to the following district employees:

DA Superior Civilian Service Award

Rich Flores

Butch Marsalis

DA Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service

Neil LaLonde

Kenneth Landry

James Moreau

Following the awards presentation, Crear remained to share his thoughts and vision with the audience and addressed a few comments and concerns.

Crear spoke about last year's hurricane season and praised the Corps for its disaster response. He stressed that the loyalty of Corps employees is higher than just loyalty to a job, an organization or a mission—Corps loyalty is to our country's Constitution. Crear asked audience members to stand and reaffirm their loyalty by reciting the Oath of Office. After stating that, "Soldiers and civilians are my credentials," Crear led the group in reciting the Civilian Creed.

He thanked the district for all it has accomplished in the last year, but insisted that the Corps can't rest on those laurels. He said to

continue doing the work, the Corps must learn to think differently. He used two quotes to illustrate that point. The first, from Albert Einstein:

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

The second, from Howard Hoffman:

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got."

Crear also implored of Corps members, "Reach out—far and wide—to get the benefits of the best practices and the best expertise, to bring to bear on what we have to achieve."

After his remarks, Crear took a couple of questions from the audience. One person asked when the Corps would be bringing on more employees. Crear agreed that personnel shortages and costs are a major concern. He said the Corps has taken on the greatest construction effort in its history and this effort has brought the need for more personnel. Crear insisted that new employees are being hired every day but existing Corps positions are also being vacated as folks retire and those slots must also be filled.

Another audience member asked the loaded question of how to respond to all the media scrutiny of Corps business and construction practices. Crear said that while the Corps has strengthened its Public Affairs (PA) Office, "the best PA is you." He encouraged district employees to talk to the media, be transparent and let the media see the face of the Corps. Crear cautioned that employees should highlight what they know and what they do—not try to speak for others. He explained how easy it is for the media to speak of "The Corps" as if it is one inanimate thing. Crear said he wants the media and the public to know that the Corps is one team, but also an organization of individuals.



ce.



Brig. Gen. Robert Crear asked everyone to stand and recite the Oath of Office.

Honoring employees' years of service

Col. Wagenaar and Lt. Col. Starkel commend employees at Length of Service Ceremony

by Eric Hughes



Roosevelt Howard Sr. is honored for his 35 years of service.

30 Years

Donald M. Alette, Gerald O. Bell, Arthur H. Blackwell Jr., Libby M. Bonamour, Ernest P. Breaux Jr., Kim W. Buras, Phyllis M. Buras, Patricia A. Campo, Shung Kwok Chiu, Terry L. Chopin, Benjamin P. Duncan, Denise D. Frederick, Dianne A. Ganious, Gary L. Hawkins, Gloria N. Just, Bobby J. Landry, Kenneth J. Landry, John E. Lemoine, Eddie J. Mabile, Miranda A. Martin, Michael M. Palmieri, Gary W. Rauber, Miguel A. Sanchezbarbudo, Emile F. Schilling III, Cathy T. Slumber, Thelma M. Turner, Dabney Wallace, Haywood Steve Williams, JoAnn W. Woods

35 Years

Nolan P. Borel Sr., Reynold D. Broussard, Robert E. Chartier, Ronald J. Comeaux, Dennis W. Dautat, Donald J. Gaspard, Timothy Hart, Thomas G. Hassenboehler, Larry E. Hayes, Roosevelt Howard Sr., Falcolm E. Hull, Skip H. Jacobs III, Anthony A. Joachim, Shelton E. Kennedy, Robert D. Lacy Jr., Saleem Majeed, Alfred C. Naomi, Morris J. Oubre, Lydia A. Quillens, Cleveland A. Richards, Susan S. Scanio

Many employees have devoted so much to providing their absolute best to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On Oct. 11, Col. Wagenaar and Lt. Col. Starkel congratulated this year's Length of Service Award recipients who have dedicated 30 and 35 years of service to the federal government.

"I hope that when you look back on your years of service, you are proud of the work you accomplished," Starkel said during the ceremony. To give some idea of how times have changed, Wagenaar recalled the events and pop culture that defined the years 1971 and 1976, 35 and 30 years ago, respectively. Both Wagenaar and Starkel told the recipients how proud they were to see each employee serve a vital role in this district's mission.



JoAnn Woods was recognized for her 30 years of service.

Countdown to 2010

The Hurricane Protection Office

by Leo Skinner

Where has all the time gone? That's what staff working on the hurricane protection system will ask themselves ... not today, but in the fall of 2010. By that time, if all goes as planned, work will be complete on one of the largest public works projects in recent years.

Flashback to the year 2006.

Within the tight confines of the newly established Hurricane Protection Office (HPO), staff is working elbow-to-elbow, utilizing space and manpower to continue rebuilding the hurricane protection system. Copiers are humming, plotters are spitting out oversized prints of maps and other documents and staff is literally bumping into each other to get from one planning meeting to the next.

Leading the charge for the HPO is Commander Col. Jeffrey Bedey, formerly of the Omaha District. The task before him will be challenging, however, he has a plan he often shares with the staff. "First we are reaching back into the depths of the Corps to bring in people who have done these types of things before and who have done them well. Secondly, we are looking at different contractual tools such as design-build and cost-reimbursable contracts you don't usually see in a civil works program as a viable option. Finally, we will be relying more heavily on contractors for construction management and quality control," he said.

To use a racing analogy, Bedey said Corps activities now and leading into 2010 can be compared to a marathon race. If you consider the work the emergency support teams completed immediately after Katrina as a sprint and the ensuing work completed by Task Force Guardian as a one-mile race, then the long term plan can be likened to a long-distance marathon. Bedey knows his task is to keep his team running strong and staying healthy for the next three years.

The following is a snapshot of projects currently in the works:

- **Protection from Lake Pontchartrain surge:**
As the Corps repaired damage from Katrina and readied the hurricane protection system for the 2006 hurricane season, it installed temporary gated closure structures and pumping stations at the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue outfall canals. HPO's task is to find and execute the best technical, cost effective and

innovative solutions to protect the outfall canals from a possible Lake Pontchartrain storm surge and to evacuate floodwater from the city in an environmentally safe way.

- **Repairing existing pumping stations:**
During Katrina, many of the city's pump stations were rendered inoperable when they lost power or when critical equipment flooded. Some pump operators were forced to leave their posts because the pump houses didn't provide adequate shelter. For this project, the Corps is making improvements on existing Sewerage and Water Board pump stations, including adding emergency generators and fuel supplies, raising critical equipment above flood level and hardening structures to protect equipment and operators.
- **Protecting the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC):**
During Katrina, surge waters filled the city's navigation canals, overwhelming floodwalls and flooding neighborhoods. To prevent future flooding, the Corps is reviewing possible solutions on the IHNC. Among many concepts being discussed is the installation of navigable floodgates at certain locations within the IHNC. When a hurricane threatens, the gates would be closed, blocking storm surge from entering the city.
- **Levees and Floodwalls:**
When Katrina's surge overtopped New Orleans' levees and floodwalls, the cascade of water scoured away earth along the back sides of these structures, weakening and eventually breaching them. Breaches also occurred at transition points between different types of flood protection, such as where a levee and floodwall meet. The Corps is reinforcing these levees and floodwalls at their most vulnerable points — at transitions and in locations where the structures are most exposed to surge and waves. Also, the Corps will ensure levees and floodwalls are in compliance with the 100-year flood protection levels.

Right now, HPO staffers are concentrating on the task at hand and the plans for the future. Riverside will continue to provide updates on the progress of the Hurricane Protection Office in future editions...stay tuned.

US Army Corps
of Engineers



Hurricane Protection Office
Making History in New Orleans
Making a Difference for America

Riverside



November 2006 15

Grieshaber new assistant chief PPPMD

by Amanda Jones

In April 1974, John Grieshaber began his engineering career at the New Orleans District. He worked in Geotech until he became chief of the Civil Branch in 2002, followed by assistant chief of Engineering Division in 2003.

"I grew up in Engineering and I assumed I would eventually retire from Engineering," said Grieshaber. But when the opportunity to move to Planning, Programs and Project Management Division (PPPMD) presented itself, he realized it was time to move on.

"I didn't leave them [in Engineering]. I really believe I can do more for the New Orleans District in this position. This move gives me an opportunity to bring more to this organization from an Engineering perspective. I've been inside Engineering for so long that what I know

could definitely serve Project Management well, as far as its relationship with Engineering," Grieshaber said.

Even though he will be missed in Engineering, Walter Baummy, chief of Engineering Division, agrees that Grieshaber will continue to play a key role in the district. "I think it's a good move for the New Orleans District. John will bring a wealth of engineering experience, project knowledge, contacts with local sponsors and ability to reach back into Engineering Division to help projects go smoothly. He has accomplished a lot throughout his career, going back to the '70s and '80s on big jobs like the Red River and Old River projects. He's been a player on the major structures throughout his career. He'll be a huge benefit to Project Management," Baummy said.

"But I know what I know and I know what I don't know [about PPPMD] and there's a lot I have to learn," said Grieshaber, who realizes that PPPMD focuses on the "bigger picture," including costs, execution and schedules for an entire project. "There's a lot of cradle-to-grave work – from

the very beginning all the way to completion."

Knowing that, his family questions whether he jumped from the frying pan to the fire, but they're behind him no matter what.

"He always does what he believes is best for the district and the mission," said his daughter Kelly Dunn, attorney in the Office of Counsel. "He's so devoted, especially to teaching the younger employees, making them into leaders. He believes there's an institutional knowledge that's gradually retiring, so he's very interested in the development of younger employees."

"We want to retain our expertise. Institutional knowledge only comes with time and you can't replace it," said Grieshaber, who officially mentors two employees. But with his open-door policy and vast selection of chocolates, many quite often stop by for some free advice.

"Not everyone realizes it, but he's a very easy person to talk to and confide in," said Dunn. Grieshaber's mentee Rich Varuso, project manager in the Protection and Restoration Office, agreed and added,

"John has a true passion for the work we are responsible for and has inspired and encouraged that same passion in the people who have had the privilege to work with him. I have seen him spark tremendous interest in younger employees in Engineering Division, driving them to further their careers through earning advanced degrees and acquiring their professional licenses. He has also been very loyal to and appreciative of the people who have worked with him over the years." Varuso said he owes Grieshaber "a great deal of gratitude" for the 12-year career that he has enjoyed at the New Orleans District, including the nine years he worked for John.

But it isn't going to be an easy transition. Grieshaber feels his biggest challenge will be leading a new staff and performing on new functional teams. But as he says to those he advises, "No one asks about the storms you encounter; it's whether you bring the ship in," which he has every intention of doing.



Accardo: chief of Operations

by Kim Powell

Operation is a popular kid's game requiring skill, coordination, patience and dexterity. The mission of the Operations Division is anything but child's play, but like good Operation players, Chief Chris Accardo possesses the necessary agility to work in the Corps' unique post-Katrina environment.

In part, that ability is the result of assignments in the following divisions during his 23-year career with the Corps: Engineering, Operations and Planning, Programs and Project Management. He's been a project manager, branch chief and assistant chief, plus served as acting deputy district engineer twice.

"I have had the opportunity to rotate through different divisions in order to gain first-hand knowledge of many sectors of the civil works mission," Accardo said. "One of my most unusual rotations was as an environmentalist. I showed up in a tie and wing-tip shoes when most of the others wore t-shirts. I didn't hunt or fish like many did; I was an anomaly. Yet, despite what might seem like a bad fit on the surface turned out to be a great experience with a good group of people who taught me a lot."

"As a result of that duty, plus the others in different areas, I gained a lot of experience from being willing to accept whatever challenges have been offered," Accardo pointed out. Those skills and abilities earned have been used significantly when everyone's personal and professional worlds changed dramatically on August 29, 2005.

"After Katrina, the Operations Division

"...I gained a lot of experience from being willing to accept whatever challenges have been offered."

Chris Accardo

stepped up its pace considerably," Accardo said. We got involved in the levee and outfall canal businesses. We were responsible for developing procedures for the three

closure structures, and we're the ones responsible for their operation. We began a more aggressive approach of inspecting completed projects, which demands collaboration and coordination with Task Force Hope and the Hurricane Protection Office."

As chief, Accardo directs the operation and maintenance of several deep draft and shallow draft waterways, a dozen locks, six control structures, three hurricane protection structures, more than 300 miles of hurricane protection levees and floodwalls and more than 900 miles of Mississippi River levees and floodwalls.

It has been an intense time for everyone, not just for the 475 employees in the Operations Division, but throughout the district. Accardo stated, "What has bothered me most throughout this past year is that people have given their best to this unprecedented mission, yet they have been ridiculed in the media and even in line at the local Wal-Mart. That's unwarranted. I'd like for people in the community to know just how hard everyone has worked, even as they rebuild

their own lives and repair their own homes."

He has stayed the course by focusing on one day at a time and doing the best he can to the best of his ability. He encourages others to try a similar approach in the midst of demanding circumstances.



Scott Riecke

Flores and Barr: division c

Their new leadership roles may have been overshadowed by the 2005 hurricane season, but it's never t

by **Melanie Marcec**

Little did Rich Flores know that he would leave a position with one "Corps" for a job with our Corps. In the spring of 2005, Flores was the deputy comptroller for the Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan. He was on the overseas displaced list when he was matched with an assignment. Flores walked through the door at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, during the last few days of June 2005 as the new chief of the Resource Management Office (RMO). Flores and his wife, Mika, immediately took to their new city and made plans for her to go back to Okinawa and return to New Orleans in the fall with their three sons. But as Hurricane Katrina did for so many people, the Flores' plans quickly changed. Flores and his wife lived apart for more than a year, with only occasional visits. Mika and the rest of the Flores family—now larger by one baby girl—finally moved to New Orleans in September 2006.

Katrina obviously impacted Flores' personal life but also became a major challenge in his new position. Many folks might question the existence of fate, but it's hard to imagine a better person to lead the RMO through Katrina's wake than Rich Flores. He not only has a wealth of experience in accounting and finance, but has dealt with several personnel evacuations and disaster situations and is all too familiar with the Safe Haven Program.

Safe Haven evacuations usually happen overseas where, Flores said, "Safe Haven regulations are tens of pages long." Since Katrina brought the continental United States (CONUS) its first Safe Haven evacuation, the regulations for how to handle one are very short. In some instances,

there wasn't anything to cover it in the CONUS Safe Haven policy. So, Flores said, "Whatever I knew from overseas evacuations—if it would fit—I applied basically the same rule." One year after Katrina, most Corps employees have received their reimbursements for travel, lodging and meal expenses they incurred during the storm. Flores said there are some folks who haven't filed their paperwork and, ironically, many of the outstanding payments are for

the folks who were involved in helping others get Safe Haven benefits. Flores said, "Most of these are fairly small claims and some of these people have been working 60- to 80-hour weeks, nonstop, since the storm." With all the personnel evacuations he's been involved in, Flores can't help but understand the desire to assist others and the inclination to put one's own needs low on the priority list. In fact, Flores seems to take the upheaval in stride.

It's clear that Rich Flores enjoys change. He spent more than 20 years on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps. The Marines sent Flores all over the world; he lived in Africa and Asia and did some temporary duty in Europe. He retired from the military a few years ago and moved his family to Wisconsin. There, he worked in the private sector for a few years before returning to government service as a civilian.

USACE News Orleans now has the benefit of Flores' knowledge in resource management and Flores is learning a lot about the Corps. "I'm glad to see the Corps appears to be fairly open-minded in hiring outside of the Corps of En-

gineers. I think there's a lot of very good talent," Flores said, "and if the person has the knowledge, adapting to the specifics of the organization is usually the easy part."

At home, the Flores family is adapting to New Orleans and the new member of their ranks. Kokomi Ashley Flores was born Aug. 2. Flores said, "Her name translates to 'warm southern heart.' She was born in the southern part of Japan and she'll live in the southern part of the United States. So," he added with a smile, "it fits."



chiefs

too late to acknowledge them.

by Amanda Jones

After 32 years serving with the Corps in the Vicksburg District, Los Angeles District, Europe District, Fort Worth District and the Waterways Experiment Station, Jim Barr finally landed the chief position in Contracting Division at MVN.

"I started out at this district back in '74 and I came back here in '99. My dad, Joe, worked for the New Orleans District at the mat casting field in St. Francisville so I've always called New Orleans District my home and I've always wanted to come back," Barr said.

He's been working in contracting for 19 years, but since Katrina, Barr feels as if the district has been on a "military contingency operation," similar to his tour in Afghanistan in 2004.

"It was exciting and very fast paced in Afghanistan. We worked 12 to 18 hours a day. We had a lot to do but we were able to do a little better planning since we knew exactly what we were dealing with. With the flooding situation that occurred in south Louisiana, we were trying to respond to the immediate needs. We couldn't predict them so we just had to respond to them," Barr said, speaking mainly of the time he spent on the Crisis Management Team as the acting contracting chief during and immediately following Hurricane Katrina.

Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Murray Starkel said Barr was chosen for the chief position because he "thinks outside the box and gives innovative ways of getting the job done through contracting." But Barr modestly said, "It's just another steppingstone toward personal and professional success."



Dianne Allen, contracting officer and chief of the Policy Branch said, "He's very knowledgeable in contracting and was the best choice as chief." And when asked how she feels about working for Barr, she said, "I love it!"

Barr said, "The employees of this division have done such a remarkable job given the circumstances that they've had to work in and their personal circumstances. I just can't say enough about their attitudes and their willingness to chip in. They've been super. Several of them have lost everything they own and they came with great attitudes to rebuild."

They are even rebuilding the Contracting Division, which has suffered significant employee turnover since the storm.

"We're attempting to bring our staffing levels back to full capacity and seeking additional augmentation through other temporary measures. Although we had tremendous success supporting Task Force Guardian, a much larger effort is ahead of us in restoring the hurricane protection levees," Barr said. "We are being challenged with new and different procurement needs that run the full spectrum of contracting possibilities that one could ever encounter in a civil works mission. With the regionalization, we have a substantial amount of resources throughout the division that we can tap into, so I'm confident we'll be able to handle whatever comes our way.

"This was a huge transition for me and for our staff, a baptism by fire, but I look forward to the work ahead," Barr said. "This is a huge challenge and to me, a person's character is defined by how they meet and respond to those challenges. I pray that posterity will say of us 'This was their finest hour.'"



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Join the Corps in rebuilding the Big Easy

photos courtesy of USACE and the Louisiana Department of Tourism

Join the Corps in the Big Easy

by Leo Skinner

Make History in New Orleans — Make a Difference for America is the catchphrase highlighted in a campaign that kicked off in October to encourage Corps of Engineers employees to check out Corps job opportunities in New Orleans.

Because the area is rebounding after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Corps is working hard on its reconstruction program to help the area return to its traditional, fun, family-friendly way of life. Task Force Hope, Hurricane Protection Office and the New Orleans District's Protection Restoration Office are seeking people with talent, ability, vision and dedication.

In the new brochure and poster, employees are encouraged to check out career options in a city that is often called the Jewel of the South, the Big Easy and the Crescent City. The brochure promotes New Orleans as one of the most beautiful and interesting places in America, renowned for its unique culture and cuisine and the home of Mardi Gras and the French Quarter.

However, the city offers a lot more for those Corps employees who want to make a difference.

In one of the largest public works projects in American history, the Corps is restoring, repairing and improving the hurricane protection system of southeast Louisiana, noted Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock. Encouraging staff to come to New Orleans, he said, "I can't promise you fame or glory, but I can guarantee you the satisfaction of being part of something bigger than yourself — of truly making a difference."

And while helping to rebuild New Orleans, potential employees will have the opportunity for promotion and eligibility for higher-level positions throughout the Corps. Current permanent Corps of Engineers employees will be granted administrative return rights to their position of record if they are selected for placement.

Interested employees should call (504) 862-2800 or visit www.mvn.usace.army.mil, www.cpol.army.mil or www.usajobs.gov.

PURRINGTON, from page 3

(The age ceiling was subsequently lifted to age 42 a few months ago.)

Now, her immediate challenge is succeeding at the rigorous physical training (PT) tests. She's determined to exceed her personal best in running so she meets with other district military personnel for sunrise laps around the nearly two-mile path at Audubon Park. She hopes to max her PT drills.

While the Engineer Officer Basic Course still looms in her future, and possibly another tour in Iraq, Purrington stays focused on her present project manager duties for

the West Bank and Vicinity. "We're on the verge of getting a lot of contracts off the ground, awarded and construction started," she said. "Before I leave for training I would like to see those vital contracts started. It is just as important as what we are doing in Iraq and much more personal. There is no other mission I would rather be working on than the hurricane protection projects at the New Orleans District. It's where it's at."

“America on the Move”

In September, YMCA’s across America celebrated “America on the Move,” a fitness awareness program that encourages exercise, healthy eating and an overall healthier family. In support of this event, Castle Kids Child Development Center hosted a parent - child power hour workout session Sept. 28. Afterwards, parents and children were served a healthy lunch.



Nancy Mayberry, all photos



Amanda Jones

Pamela Boutte

Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones

Pamela Boutte

Amanda Jones

Pamela Boutte

Anne Marino

Pamela Boutte

Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones

Pamela Boutte

Castle Kids trick or treating



Around the district

Congratulations

to **Brian Oberlies (OD)** and **Karen Lahare (OD)**, who were married Aug. 12.

Farewell

to **Inez P. Siegrist (PM)**, who retired Oct. 28.

to **Murray J. Fuselier (CD)**, who retired March 31.

to **Rixby J. Hardy (PM)**, who accepted an appointment to go to Iraq June 24.

to **Larry R. Ward (OD)**, who retired Sept. 30.

to **Katelyn E. Schneida (PM)**, who transferred to NOAA.

to **Susie Williams (RM)**, who transferred to VA.

to **Amy Piazza (RM)**, who transferred to Department of Agriculture-NFC.

to **Robert J. Martinson (PM)**, who transferred to Dept. of Interior, Minerals Management Service.

to **Michael Zack (OC)**, who retired Sept. 15.

to **Gerald Sanderson (CT)**, who transferred to Little Rock, AR.

to **Rose Radding (ED)**, who departed Sept. 28.

to **Emanuel Harris (ED)**, who retired Sept. 30.

to **Marcia Washington (PM)**, who departed Sept. 27.

to **Debra E. Schroader (LM)**, who departed July 1.

to **Jane August (EX)**, who departed Oct. 31.

to **Donald Turner (OD)**, who retired Oct. 12.

to **Bruce Baird (PM)**, who departed Oct. 28.

to **Tasha Sheets (OD)**, who departed Nov. 11.

to **Sylvia Smith (ED)**, who departed Sept. 13.

to **Kimberly Crump (OD)**, who departed May 13.

to **Perry Lartigue (OD)**, who retired Aug. 3.

to **Patricia Perkins (CT)**, who departed Aug. 5.

Condolences

to the friends and family of **Ronald L. Savoie (OD)**, who passed away Sept. 29.

to the friends and family of **Dwayne Marlborough (ED)**, whose father Leonard C. Marlborough, Sr. passed away Oct. 8.

to the friends and family of **Harold Trahan (OD)**, who passed away Oct. 22.

To include a message in "Around the district," e-mail Pamela Boutte at pamela.m.boutte@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

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