

**La. State Penitentiary Levee Dedication
Comments for Col. Peter Rowan
June 25, 2003**

Here to dedicate a project that many thought would never happen.
Until the 1997 flood on Miss R.

- Red River Landing read 61.4 feet, highest stage on record for that gage

Underseepage of water beneath the levee threatened its integrity
More than 105 sandboils reported on protected side

- The existing levees owned and maintained by State and were substandard with regard to federal specifications. By improving the existing levees to federal standards, the project will reduce the risk of flooding with its attendant property damage and threat to the lives of up to 5,100 inmates and about 1,750 employees.

Project was “**fast tracked**”...Corps completed a reevaluation report, executed a PCA and awarded three construction contracts within two years. OMB approved reprogramming funds in 1997; construction initiated in FY 99.

La. National Guard provided emergency assistance, constructing berms (before PCA signed) for three years of summer training sessions

Corps and Department of Corrections signed **agreement** (Corps 75%, state 25%)

- Our relationship with the **Dept of Corrections** has been outstanding during construction and we look forward to continuing the relationship during the maintenance phase.

Contractors:

Regency Construction Inc., Slidell

Merrick Construction Co, Cottonport

- Private sector contractors are key to the economy and to the Corps fulfilling its mission. Virtually all of our construction and more than half our design work is done by contract.

Total Cost: \$25 million

Work near completion on last of four contracts awarded by **Vicksburg District**
Administered by New Orleans District **Lafayette Area Office**

- Project construction **ahead of schedule and below budget**
12 miles (three reaches) of levee enlarged and raised 5 feet

- Moved about 4.4 million cu. yds. fill material

Also, drainage structure, new pumping station lines, 20 relief wells, asphalt roadway