



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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July 2001

A man in a military uniform and a tan hat is crouching in a field of young green plants. He is looking down at the ground. The background shows a dense line of trees under a clear sky.

**Land  
Managers  
Preserving access to  
the Atchafalaya**

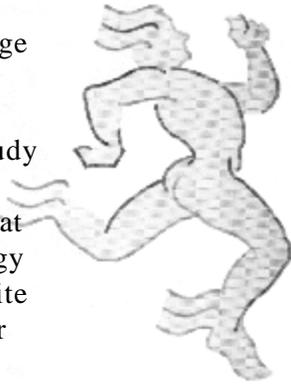
*Team Achievements*

# Did you know

Editor's note: Col. Thomas Julich's *Carrollton Gage* will return next month.

## White men get more out of job – hopping

Managers often change companies in order to boost their careers or income. But a recent study in the *Academy of Management Journal* finds that the job – hopping strategy pays off far more for white males than for females or minorities.



In a survey of 100 MBAs in their late 30s (52 percent white men, 25 percent white and minority women, and 23 percent minority men):

- White men who had jumped ship at least once earned nearly \$25,000 more than those who stayed put
- White women averaged \$10,000 more
- Job – hopping minority men earned only \$9,000 more than their less mobile peers
- Minority women gained only \$5,000

—adapted from *Business Week*

## The cost of occupational injuries

Among all occupational injuries and illnesses, dislocations and carpal tunnel syndrome result in the most days of work lost, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

A worker who dislocates a shoulder or other joint is out of work an average of 28 days. People who get carpal tunnel syndrome will be off the job an average of 25 days, while those who suffer from a fracture will be out an average of 17 days.

One out of seven Americans suffer from a musculoskeletal injury, which ranks first among impairments and costs the United States \$215 billion every year. In 1998:

- 48 million Americans had back pain that lasted nearly four weeks.
- 9 million had knee pain, which lasted at least six weeks.
- 9 million had hand pain, which lasted at least six weeks.
- 6 million suffered hip pain, which lasted at least six weeks.

—adapted from *USA Today*

## Riverside

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photo by Eric Hughes

Robert Dupre, Atchafalaya Basin park ranger, shows crops damaged by flooding from tropical storm Allison.

# Preserving the Atchafalaya wilderness

By Eric Hughes

Alligators. Snakes. Raccoons. Mosquitoes. The park rangers in the Atchafalaya Basin endure more than your typical Corps office employee.

Aside from frequently running into dangerous swamp creatures, our Operations Division park rangers assist and inform the public year-round. The Atchafalaya Basin, confined with flood control levees, is one of the New Orleans District's largest projects geographically. In recent years, NOD has expanded the areas for recreation and public access.

Located in south-central Louisiana and one of the last great river swamps, the basin covers 1.2 million acres and contains the largest contiguous tract of bottomland hardwoods in the country.

The Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System

Project Office is located in Port Barre, 30 miles west of Baton Rouge, and is responsible for the management of 595,000 acres of the basin. Robert LaFleur, park manager since 1999, said the district is providing opportunities for the public to enjoy various types of activities within the basin. This includes hunting, birding, biking, fishing and hiking. There are also roads within the basin that cater to disabled individuals.



map by Elena Napolitano



photo by Eric Hughes

Dave Fisher, Robert Dupre and Neil Lalonde stand next to a wood duck box used for duck nesting. There are 150 boxes cleaned out and placed with wood shavings every spring in the Indian Bayou area. The rangers then check the boxes in the summer for nesting activity.

disabled individuals.

"I think recreation is excellent for the Corps, especially in this part of the country," said LaFleur. "We don't have a lot of Corps recreation areas in south Louisiana. The Atchafalaya region is a very unique area in the country."

Neil Lalonde, Alison Kaiser, Dave Fisher and college student Robert Dupre are currently the four park rangers that manage the 50,000 acres of Public Access Land that the Corps owns and the 140,000 acres of easement interest over private lands.

Unlike other Corps recreation sites, hunting season during the fall and winter months is the busiest time of the year for the park rangers. "During this time, we greet visitors and also assist them," said Dupre, a senior at Louisiana State University. Fisher said he enjoys seeing the excitement many of the hunters have after a successful hunt. Even though the Corps' land within the basin doesn't have any campgrounds, the area is popular with fishermen, boaters, nature photographers and outdoors enthusiasts too.

The scenic landscape is one of the main reasons the park rangers love to work in the area. Dupre emphasizes the importance of keeping the basin in its pristine state, which he says the four park rangers are maintaining. "It's a beautiful place," Dupre said.

Fisher, who lives in the area, has

See **ATCHAFALAYA**, page 9

# Problem solvers

## First of a series

By Leslie Terrell

**C**arolyn Earl is a senior project manager in Project Management Division.

Nearly 20 years ago, as a new college graduate, Earl began working at the Corps in a rotational training program and then gained experience in hydraulic design and levee design. Earl was then promoted to Planning Division, where she was a study manager and then a project manager. In August 1999, Earl was promoted to senior project manager and now supervises

numerous programs and studies with the help of other project managers. Three major programs Earl directs are the Flood Plain Management Service (FPMS), Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) and Planning Assistance to the States (PAS). Earl also currently manages the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project and the Lafayette Parish Flood Control Feasibility Study.



photos by Lane

**Project Manager:** Rodney Greenup

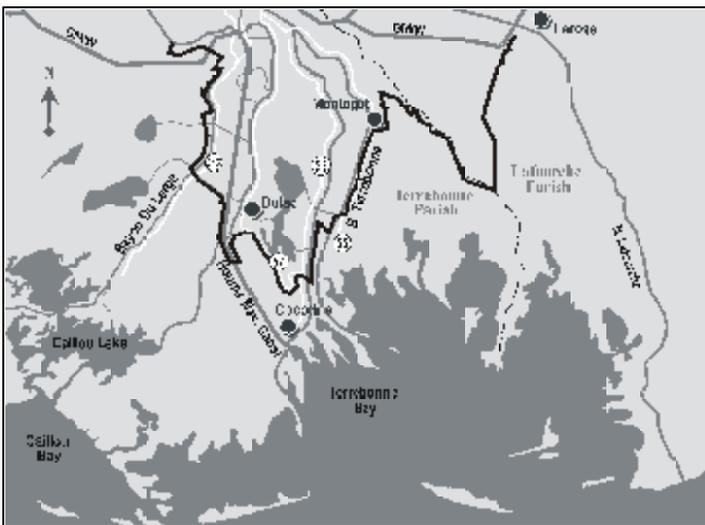
**Program:** Flood Plain Management Service (FPMS)

**About the program:** FPMS provides the public with technical and planning assistance on flooding. The Corps, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), produces maps and information on base flood elevations or the elevations at which buildings must be constructed to be protected from flooding. We also conduct studies that aid communities in assessing problems and solutions for flood prone areas.

Most services are free to state and local governments, Indian tribes and other non-federal public entities.

**Time and Cost:** Varies depending on type of study.

**Example:** The Corps is working on a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) of the Mile Branch Waterway in Covington to provide the city with revised flood insurance rate maps. The Corps will take topographical surveys and design computer hydraulic models to determine which areas are prone to flooding. The study will be completed in December 2002 at a cost of \$45,000.



graphic by Elena Napolitano

**Levee alignment for Morganza to the Gulf**

**Project:** Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection

**About the project:** The Morganza project will provide hurricane protection to Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. The Corps

will construct 72 miles of levee, 12 flood control structures and the Houma Navigation Canal Lock near Dulac. Besides providing hurricane protection, these structures will also prevent salt water from contaminating fresh water, thereby protecting Houma's water supply and the environment. Completion of the draft report this September will end the feasibility study.

**Time:** The feasibility study began in 1995 and will end this September. From 2001 through 2003, the Corps is producing detailed designs for the Houma Lock and construction will begin in 2003 and require 10 years.

**Cost:** \$680 million.

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Program Manager: Julie LeBlanc

**Program: Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)**

**About the program:** Through CAP, the Corps carries out specific work that local entities request without Congressional authorization, and can therefore execute and complete the work faster, usually within four years. The local entity writes a letter requesting that the Corps undertake a study in one of these nine authorities: Small Flood Control, Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control, Small Navigation Projects, Small Beach Erosion Control Projects, Mitigation of Shore Dam-

ages, Projection Modification for Improvements to the Environment, Ecosystem Restoration Projects in Connection with Dredging, and Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration. Projects that involve flood control, ecosystem restoration and emergency erosion are the most popular. Costs for the projects are shared between local entities and the federal government.

**Time and Cost:** Varies depending on type of study.

**Example:** The Fisher School Basin Feasibility Study is presently underway in Jefferson Parish near Jean Lafitte.

Headed by Rodney Greenup, the entire project, with floodgates and over four miles of levee on the east bank of Bayou Barataria to protect against



flooding, will be completed by June 2003.

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Project Manager: Mark Wingate

**Program: Planning Assistance to the States (PAS)**

**About the Program:** State agencies and Indian tribes can ask the Corps to do a study in water resources. The state or tribe and the federal government each covers half the cost. The Corps frequently helps determine what solutions are best by designing master plans for the communities and from this has formed positive relationships with 39 parishes in Louisiana. Besides various state agencies, NOD has served the Chitimacha, Tunica-Biloxi and Coushatta Indian tribes, designing master plans for their reservations. Traditional studies involve improvements in navigation, flood control and environmental restoration. In addition, the Corps also develops plans for community recreational areas and plans for improvements to historical districts and master plans for parks, riverfronts and bike paths. Requests for levee bike paths have become very popular and Steve Finnegan, Mike Brennan and Mark Wingate have recently been responsible for much of the planning. Because PAS is growing, however, funding is becoming more limited.

The district is petitioning Congress to raise the annual funding limits at the state and national levels.

**Time and Cost:** Varies depending on type of study.

**Example:** Because Lt. Gen. Flowers, chief of engineers, named NOD's PAS program the best in the nation at a December 2000 town hall meeting, the Mobile District has asked NOD for assistance along the Gulf Coast. We are now securing a contract to design a master plan for water distribution in Waveland, Miss. The study will begin in October 2002 and last for nine months at a cost of \$120,000. Bay St. Louis, Miss., has also asked NOD to consider master plans for a walking path, parking areas, docks and wharfs on an undeveloped section of the bayside.

**Study: Lafayette Parish Flood Control Feasibility**

**About the Study:** The Lafayette study consists of justifying a dredging project in the Vermillion River in Lafayette Parish. The plan is to use a hydraulic dredge to remove material from shallow areas in the river and place it on unused land around the Lafayette airport. Dredging shallow areas of the river



to deepen them will lower the river level by two feet and protect nearby residential and commercial buildings from 100-year frequency flooding. The Corps is also looking into possibly improving the Issace Verot Basin in southeastern Lafayette Parish by clearing and cleaning areas of the basin to control flooding.  
**Time:** March 1996 through the end of this fiscal year  
**Cost:** \$4.4 million

*Other current projects, programs and studies that Earl manages are the East Baton Rouge Parish, Flood Control Project, Support For Others (SFO) and Special Studies under FPMS.*

# Team Achievement Awards

By Shanel Williams



photos by Michael Maples and Lane Lefort

**The Maintenance Program Team crowds the spotlight.**

Once again, the district honored team-spirited employees at the biannual Team Achievement Celebration on June 12. There were five teams that Lt. Col. Knieriemen presented plaques to for their exemplary efforts. This celebration also included the Length of Service awards for long-standing employees who have worked 30 to 55 years.

## ***IHNC Control House Team***

The team replaced the old operator's house with a modern, two-story structure that would provide upgraded facilities and better oversight of locking operations.

**Team:** Wade Benoit, Cecil Borne, Tim Connell, Kirk Dietrich, Carli Fried, Timothy Hart, Calvin Johnson, Van Nguyen, Mike O'Dowd, Dana Perkins, Preston Sellers and Oliver White.

## ***Maintenance Program Team***

In FY 2001, the district executed 36 projects all due to the effective coordination between the Operations managers and program analysts who manage the appropriated funds. This resulted in the district receiving the highest possible performance rating for execution.

**Team:** Chris Accardo, Gerald Barbe, Russell Beauvais, Bruce Bivona, Bill Bradley, Jane Brown, Frank Cali, Tim Connell, Shenetta Della, Marcia Demma, Ed Dickson, Tracy Falk, Jim Gautreaux, Joe Giardina, Brian Keller, Cary McNamara, Katie Miller, Robert Morgan, Joaquin Mujica, Beth Nord, Kathy O'Hanlon, John O'Neill, Emma Pelagio, Jackie Perry, Amy Powell, Nancy Powell, Don Rawson, Edmond Russo, Fred Schilling, Steve Schinetsky, Julie Vignes and Joyce Williams.

## ***Information System Controls Audit Team***

They were instrumental in focusing command attention on long-term security issues. We are now assured of the integrity, confidentiality and availability of data in our computer systems and databases.

**Team:** Quynh Dang, Rachel Harvey and Denise Trowbridge.

## ***St. Bernard Reconnaissance Team***

This team worked effectively and efficiently in completing the St. Bernard Reconnaissance study.

**Team:** David Abbate, Carl Anderson, Toni Baldini, Robert Bass, Ada Benavides-Hill, Christopher Brown, Nathan Dayan, Angela Desoto-Duncan, Tanja Doucet, Daryl Glorioso, Debbie Griffin, Michael Jackson, Brian Keller, Janet Keller, Edwin Lyon, Brian Maestri, Cliff Matthews, Darrell Norman, Lois Pierre, Jay Ratcliff and Paul Varnado.

## ***Rosethorne Basin Team***

The team completed a flood control feasibility study, including data collection, design, alternative analysis and report preparation at a lower cost than other studies of similar complexity.

**Team:** Toni Baldini, Robert Bass, Darryl Bonura, Peter Cali, Allen Coates, Dave Elmore, Joan Exnicios, Rodney Greenup, Judy Gutierrez, William Klein, Brian Maestri, Michelle Marceaux, John Petitbon, Felton Prosper, Marco Rosamano, Benjamin Salamone, Sylvia Smith, Jake Terranova, Burnell Thibodeaux, Richard Tillman, Rich Varuso and Herbert Wagner.



**Lt. Col. Knieriemen and Manuel Harold (ED) share a smile and a handshake at the summer Team Achievement Celebration.**



Length of Service recipients Paul Duplantis and Robert Jones await their moment.



Shelton Kennedy gleams in accepting his plaque for 30 years of service to Logistics and the district.



On-lookers in a crowded assembly room show their team support and enthusiasm.



Stella Lejeune congratulates Ernest Paynes, 55-year recipient, with a hug.



Jackie and Jim Perry kiss to celebrate the occasion.



Employees sneak a peak at one of many plaques.

## Length of Service

### 55 Years

**Ernest Paynes**, Chief Cook, dredge Langfitt and Wheeler.

### 40 Years

**Jim Courville**, Chief, Physical Support Branch, Operations Division.  
**Jim Perry**, Emergency Management Specialist, Operations Division.

### 35 Years

**Cecil Borne**, Welder and Mechanic Shops Section, Operations Division.  
**Frank Gagliano**, Assistant Chief, Design Services Branch, Engineering Division.  
**Manuel Harold**, Civil Engineering Technician, Geotech Branch, Engineering Division.  
**Robert Jones**, Office Assistant, Algiers Lock.  
**Mike O'Dowd**, Lockmaster, Industrial Canal Lock.

### 30 Years

**Gary Angeron**, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic, Operations Division.  
**Paul Duplantis**, Motor Vehicle Operator, Operations Division.  
**Dom Elguezabal**, New Orleans Area Engineer, Construction Division.  
**Eric Guidry**, Small Craft Operator, Operations Division.  
**Tim Hart**, Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor, Operations Division.  
**Falcolm Hull**, Chief, Projects Management West, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.  
**Willie James**, Cartographic Technician, Engineering Division.  
**Anthony Joachim**, Work Force Management Support Specialist, Engineering Division.  
**Shelton Kennedy**, Chief, Facilities and Services Branch, Logistics Management Office.  
**Robert Lacy**, Economist, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.  
**AlNaomi**, Senior Project Manager, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division.  
**Cleveland Richard**, Supervisory Drill Rig Operator, Engineering Division.  
**Susan Scanio**, Accounting Technician, Operations Division.  
**Audrey Tilden**, Chief, Contracting Division.  
**Noah Wiltz**, Hydrologic Technician, Engineering Division.

# NOD at Work

## Executive Office

### LOUISIANA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**VISIT**—Col. Thomas Julich attended the visit of Joe Allbaugh, FEMA director, to the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness (LOEP) in Baton Rouge June 12. During the visit, Col. Mike Brown, head of LOEP, informed Mr. Allbaugh of the Corps' prompt responses to LOEP's requests. These included providing technical assistance on a damaged New Orleans levee and on other levees in the area, conducting a reconnaissance study to determine if protection for current Louisiana hurricane protection projects can be increased up to category five, and planning for dewatering the city and for technical assistance in removing debris in the event of a catastrophic hurricane.

## Operations

### ERODING BAYOU BANK

**RESTORED**—Maintenance Unit D rebuilt the eroding bank of Bayou des Glaisses near Cottonport in Avoyelles Parish. The eroding bank was endangering U.S. Highway 1185, which runs parallel to the bayou. The work began April 23 and was completed May 17, sooner than expected. Using 2,800 tons of rock, Unit D constructed a dike at the bottom of the bank, which slopes downward from the highway to the bayou. Unit D then reconstructed the eroding bank slope and shoulder of the highway with 3,300 yards of fill material, a mixture of sand, clay and gravel. The work, originally estimated at \$180,000, cost \$160,000 and will soon undergo a final inspection.

**DREDGE JADWIN**—To maintain safe depths for ships traveling in the Mississippi River, the dustpan dredge Jadwin dredged material at Granada Crossing and Bayou Goula Crossing. Begun on May 18, the work was stopped temporarily on May 28 because of rising river waters. The dredge resumed activity two weeks later when river depths were suitable.



*courtesy photo*

**BARGE SALVAGE OPERATION**—Troy Davis, Clayton Broom, John Patterson and Chester Hayes of Maintenance Unit C helped complete salvage operations of a barge in Harvey Canal on June 5. The partially submerged barge, 35 feet by 100 feet, was discovered when a passing tow ran into it. The project manager for GIWW arranged for the maintenance unit, along with contract divers, to remove the obstruction. The unit modified the end of a heavy beam to cut the barge into pieces. The beam was dropped repeatedly on the barge to cut it. The pieces were then pulled out of the water for disposal.

### DREDGING AND WETLAND

**CREATION**—The contract dredge California began dredging in mid-July at the Calcasieu River and Pass. The work is part of routine channel maintenance dredging. The dredged material will be used for wetland creation in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. The total cost of the project is \$7.5 million, which was split between Operations and Project Management.

## Project Management

**LEVEE DAMAGE**—Because of scarce rainfall in the past few months, some levees have developed cracks. Locals are concerned that the cracks will cause levee failure should a hurricane hit Louisiana this season, but the cracks are only superficial and will fill in after an adequate rainfall. The Corps has built strong

and effective levees to withstand drought and other unfavorable conditions. More serious levee damage is caused by drivers who speed over the crowns of levees, making larger, more dangerous cracks, which could even cause vehicles to fall into the river.

### INDUSTRIAL CANAL LOCK

The Corps has begun the first two steps in the project to replace the Industrial Canal Lock. Abandoned areas in the East Bank Industrial Area will be cleared and the Galvez Street Wharf on the west bank will be demolished. Both these tasks will be completed in 2002. When the new lock is built, it will measure 1,200 feet in length and 110 feet in width, as compared to the current 640-by-75-foot lock. Construction of the lock will provide 950 jobs for local residents.

**ATCHAFALAYA, continued from page 3**

worked in the basin for the past decade with both the Corps and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Both he and Kaiser work with basin landowners to notify them of easement acquisition over their property. "We try to make landowners know that we are not taking their land, that we are trying to work with them to save the basin."

"The whole purpose of this project is public access," said Lalonde. He manages the recreation areas by issuing special use permits, inputting Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) information, and maintaining agriculture and reforestation plots.

Another challenge is just surviving the heat. "Summer heat is one of the toughest," Fisher said, adding that he and the other park rangers wear the standard uniform year-round. "We lose about 10 to 15 pounds in the summer," Lalonde said.

They also run into some of the basin's precarious wildlife neighbors such as bears, raccoons, alligators, and different types of venomous snakes. But while these creatures haven't attacked them—yet, the park rangers have met the bite of perhaps the worst of Louisiana's vicious swampeaters, the mosquito. "We use a lot of mosquito spray," Fisher said.

Despite fighting off the heat and animals, the park rangers know their main objective is to serve the public. "We try and always do our job to the best of our ability to make the whole organization better," Lalonde said.

Throughout the year, they visit schools and give presentations on different outdoor topics including water safety. Some groups such as the Girls Scouts go to the basin and assist the park rangers with volunteer work. "It's one of the best public relations project NOD has," LaFleur said.

"It's a different side of the Corps that the people of south Louisiana aren't used to seeing. You'll find that everyone in this line of work enjoys what they do."

There will be more park rangers coming to the basin. By 2003, a total of eight rangers should complete the staff. The park rangers will soon be overseeing water management units designed to improve water quality in the basin, and they will be responsible for overseeing the management of an additional 1,500 acres of recreation areas.



photo by Eric Hughes

Park Manager Robert LaFleur oversees the rangers' duties, works with state & federal agencies, and coordinates projects.

# We want you! *District pitches job options to Tulaners*

By Amanda Padalewski

**R**ecruitment. It's on the mind of every supervisor at the district. With more than 19 empty positions for engineers in Engineering Division alone, recruitment is a tool that's become a concern of all branch chiefs.

On June 1, the district hosted 28 Tulane undergraduate students. The students are majoring in science, math or engineering, and came to the Corps to see what types of careers are available in those fields.

A panel was set up to give a brief summary about the role of each division in bringing a project to full fruition. The panel included Falcolm Hull (PM), Gerald Satterlee (ED), Jim Miles (CT) and Greg Breerwood (OD).



photo by Lane Lefort

**Tulane students listen to a talk on the SELA project during their visit to NOD.**

Hull explained the process a project undergoes once it's proposed from feasibility study, environmental impact report and congressional

authorization. Satterlee gave a summary on the task of designing the structures, and Miles discussed Construction's role in managing the actual construction. Breerwood closed the panel discussion with the functions of Operations in maintaining and repairing projects.

Darryl Dickerson, biomedical engineering student, when asked if it was helpful, replied, "It helped a bit, actually. It gave me more focus on what I want to do." He also said, "I didn't know the Corps was so involved."

Julie Morgan of Public Affairs gave an overview of NOD's mission, covering the IHNC lock replacement, Old River Control, Bonnet Carré Spillway and the Caernarvon and Davis Pond freshwater diversion projects.

Beth Cottone, senior project manager, followed Morgan with a discussion of the SELA project. She explained the complications of flood control in a highly urbanized area, where vibrations, noise and traffic jams must be kept to a minimum.

The students asked questions about the jobs that the Corps offered. They also posed questions, like what field of engineering most engineers specialize in, and asked about student programs, which Cheryl Weber, chief of CPAC, addressed.

At one point, Satterlee commented, "We're a service oriented organization. That's why I like the Corps."

Dickerson says he was becoming overwhelmed in his studies and the information he received at the presentation got him more "pumped up" about his career choice.

# Get to know Contracting

By Terri Jackson

**C**ontracting Division may be small, but it plays an enormous role in ensuring that the district procures the supplies, services and equipment necessary for the district to function.

"Simply put, we buy what the district needs," said Jim Barr, deputy chief for Contracting Division. Equally important, it also provides acquisition and management of all services the dis-

trict requires to produce projects. This includes resolving disputes and claims by issuing contracting office decisions.

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**"We have a very diverse work force of expertise and experience," Barr said.**

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trict requires to produce projects. This includes resolving disputes and claims by issuing contracting office decisions.

There are four branches that make up Contracting: Office of the Chief, Construction Services, Technical Services and Procurement. Audrey Tilden, Diane Pecoul, Elois Anderson and Charles Zammit head the branches, respectively.

Although each branch has different tasks, they all have the same goal of providing the district with excellent contracting support. The Office of the Chief oversees the entire procurement process as well as the standard procurement systems, audits, preaward surveys and VISA program. The primary

functions of Construction Services are to formulate, advertise, award, and provide technical guidance on all construction contracts. Architect, engineer and professional services contracts are the responsibility of the Technical Services Branch. Procurement processes service and supply contracts.

When asked what she considered the most important project contracting is currently handling, Pecoul said, "Our top priorities are dredging and urban flood control. We are always working on them and other highly important projects."

One of the many changes going on in Contracting is implementing the project delivery team concept. The

division is embracing the project management business process to carry out its many functions. "The project delivery team concept is going to have a dramatic effect on the way we do business," stated Barr. "But the many vacancies are making it tough to implement the new concept," added Pecoul.

"Although we are recruiting new employees to fill our current 10 vacancies, it is difficult to find high quality applicants who are qualified for the positions. But despite our limited resources, we have provided quality service to the district," Barr said. "We have a very diverse work force of expertise and experience."

Contracting is composed of 45 hardworking employees. Their workload is extremely heavy, frequently requiring employees to put in long hours. They are under constant pressure to make sure that contracts are issued in a timely and proper manner.

To get a better appreciation of the work Contracting does, and the key role it plays at NOD, visit its Procurement Opportunities page on our Web site. Click on "Contracts." The listing of contracts and information related to them paints an elaborate picture of both Contracting and the district's mission.



*photos by Scott Riecke*

**Deputy chief of Contracting Division Jim Barr and Diane Pecoul, chief of Construction Services, are two of five managers heading Contracting. Not pictured: Audrey Tilden, chief of Office of the Chief, Elois Anderson, chief of Technical Services and Charlie Zammit, chief of Procurement.**

# Around the District



photo by Lane Lefort

**Marie Breerwood, Lt. Col. Dale and Sunny Knieriemen, and Greg Breerwood enjoy some parting laughs at Knieriemen's farewell luncheon June 20 at the Rose Garden.**

## Congratulations

to **Mary Horn** (ED) and **Mike Horn** (OD), whose daughter Melissa received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Louisiana May 12.

to **Judy Richard** (RE), whose niece, Kim Webre Black, received the 40 Faces of the Future for 2001 Award from City Business for the Power Generation III.

to **Matthew L. Stewart** (Algiers Lock), whose wife Willa H. Stewart received her master's degree in science and nursing from the University of Phoenix June 9.

to **Jerry Stoute** (Freshwater Bayou Lock), whose son Brandon earned a spot on the Kaplan Youth Baseball All-Stars in the 11 and 12-year-old group and was selected to be the starting catcher.

to **Bruce Terrell** (CD), whose daughter Kellie Terrell graduated magna cum laude from Archbishop Hannan High

School and will major in fine arts this fall at the University of New Orleans. Kellie was awarded a \$1,000 fine arts scholarship and won first and second place ribbons in the competition among high school students at the St. Bernard Parish Art in April Festival. She also placed third in an adult competition in a recent St. Bernard Parish Art Guild open show.

## Condolences

to the family of **Joseph Anderson** (OD), who died on Jan. 4. Funeral services were held June 16 at the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

to the family of **Fergus P. Foret** (retired), who died June 11.

to **Margo Gordy** (retired), whose mother died April 26 at 96 years of age.

## New Beginnings

to **Carolyn Earl** (PM) and husband Joe on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Jolie Jacquat. Amelia was born June 13 and weighed 9 pounds.

to **Darlene** (OD) and **John** (OD) **Herman** on the birth of their first child, Gabrielle Marie. Gabrielle was born May 26 and weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces.

to **Mary Pizzuto** (LM) on the birth of her granddaughter, Hailey Michelle Gagnon on May 28. Hailey's mom, Lorri Gagnon recently transferred from our Information Management Office to Germany.

to **Judy Richard** (RE), whose great nephew, Gabriel Vincent Black, was born May 28.

## A Hero's Welcome

to **Jim St. Germain** (CD), who saved the life of a driver on West Esplanade in Metairie when the driver lost control of the vehicle and went upside down into a canal. St. Germain and three other motorists risked their own safety to save the driver by going into the canal to turn the vehicle upright and rescue the trapped driver.

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



# Talk Back

Last month we solicited your comments on "Workplace Make-over." Here are the responses we received:

## Use pictures to promote the Corps image

I think, as many have noticed, that the décor in our building hasn't changed in the past 16 years. NOD is in our second decade of western scenes, clowns and seashells in our halls. The fine Audubon prints on the first floor are fading from daily attack of the evening sun.

We are systematically upgrading new carpet throughout the building. The DARM has had a very nice addition of paneling. Can we carry these improved aesthetics forward into the hallways?

We can help enhance our professional image and actually market the Corps by hanging new pictures with Corps themes. We could display old classic Corps linen drawings (Bonnet Carre' Spillway Design, Old River Design, original IHNC) and newer drawings of Old River Aux, the new IHNC Design, etc. Dramatic computer visualizations and GIS maps are being created. They would make a fine presentation in our halls. Couldn't we replace pictures of flowers and random landscape scenes with pictures of "NOD at Work?" Can we display pictures of employees on the job, in the field and even doing volunteer work!

We at the Corps are proud of our accomplishments. What a great place to display them for everyone to see, especially those visiting the district for business and tours.

*-Ralph Scheid, Engineering*

\* *Ralph is the winner of a reserved parking space.*

## Encourage an open, friendly atmosphere

After seeing the cover of the June 2001 issue, I reminisced about what character really was! As I read the comments from various employees about their feelings about the old buildings, they pretty much all shared my sentiments. Trying to describe to someone where the old buildings were located (and where you were located once you got in the gate) was quite a task. Now we just say, "You can't miss us. We're in the huge gray building on top of the levee. I'm in room 355." There may not be much that we can do about the outside of the building to make it more attractive to the public, but when you get inside that is a different story.

I think promoting a "friendly, open" atmosphere is very important. In PM, we pretty much have all of our doors open to the hallway. Granted, it can get a little noisier at times but I feel it promotes a more welcoming atmosphere. Also, when you get off the elevators, even if you have been here for 15 years, there is a little bit of hesitation to make sure that you are on the right floor. Possibly some type of color differences to mark the different floors would be possible instead of our stark white walls. Possibly more glass locator boards like the ones on the first floor would be helpful. Working on the third floor, I often help senior citizens find our Public Affairs Office. We should make sure that this office is easier to find and more accessible to our senior customers. Let's hope our newer employees will also have fond memories of this building when they think back in the future.

*-Toni Baldini, Project Management*

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AND

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Talk Back TOPIC:

RECREATION

>HOW DO YOU THINK THE  
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CURRENT RECREATION  
MISSION?

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