



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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October 2001

*The Corps mission  
in New York City*

**Shape up**

**NOD promotes health and fitness**

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

# New York District Corps employee escapes September 11 tragedy

By Wayne Stroupe  
Waterways Experiment Station

“I was pulling into the local subway station under the World TradeCenter about 9 a.m. that morning,” said Joe Seebode of the New York District. Seebode was the nearest Corps employee to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, the day of the terrorist attack.

“I had meetings at the Port Authority on the 62<sup>nd</sup> floor at 9:30 a.m.,” said Seebode. As the New Jersey-New York Harbor program manager, Seebode often had to visit the Port Authority’s offices in the

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**“I looked to my left, my normal exit, saw daylight, and began to run. Debris was falling all around me.”**

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World Trade Center on business.

“As we pulled into the station, the public address system came on and asked us to exit the station immediately

due to smoke conditions. We were under the World Trade Center Plaza and there was smoke in the building. I put my tie over my face and headed for the exit. There was no panic,” said Seebode.

“As we got near the top of the escalator, which brings you to ground level from five floors below, we heard what sounded like a bomb going off. It was the second plane hitting World Trade Center. You certainly felt the explosion. I looked to my left, my normal exit, saw daylight, and began to run. Debris was falling all around me. I kept moving north, only later grasping how close in proximity large pieces of debris crashed around me.

“The scariest part for me was when I got away from the building about 50 yards; I ran into a wall of dazed people who were watching the terrible events unfold. I started yelling at people to get out of there – debris was still falling. I never had time to think if I was going to die. I just kept moving and trying to keep everyone else moving.”

Seebode made it to the Federal Building, the New York District office location only a few blocks away, and found they were evacuating. He kept moving north in a wave of people. He

was on the corner of Broadway and Worth Street when the first World Trade Center tower fell.

“I saw the first one fall. The smoke and dust cloud was behind us. It came within a block or two of us. I couldn’t fathom the fact that if this all occurred ten minutes later, I would have been on the 62<sup>nd</sup> floor of the World Trade Center,” said Seebode.

“People had pocket radios and, by that time, we knew it was a terrorist attack. People were shocked, and it was complete bedlam. I was lucky to meet four other colleagues from the district and we found solace in each other as we traveled together. We were 12 blocks or so farther when the second tower fell.

“My wife knew I was going to the World Trade Center that day. With cell phones down all over, I didn’t get a message to her until almost 1 p.m. She still has that answering machine message saved. Listening to it today is a grim reminder of the shock, disbelief and horror I experienced that day. I seem to hug my young sons more often these days,” said Seebode.

## Riverside

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Photo by Lane Lefort

Ronald Honore and Victoria Fouchea stay fit, using the district's convenient gym.

# Close to home

## *Families cope with September 11*

By John Hall

**D**avid Wurtzel's (OD) cousin worked on the 103<sup>rd</sup> floor of the World Trade Center in the now well-known financial firm Cantor Fitzgerald.

Terri Jackson's (PA) beloved "uncle" was a passenger – headed for vacation in Australia – on one of the Boston planes that hit the World Trade Center.

Their dear ones were killed, evidence that the New Orleans District employees are among the many people far from New York City who suffered losses from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In addition, five people from NOD answered the call to help, putting in some hard days with the Corps of Engineers in the New York area. The district's spirit was larger than the number suggests.

"Many, many more volunteered," said Mike Lowe (OD), Readiness Branch chief. "They just called in unsolicited."

Three from Old River Control drove big emergency communications trucks, part of the Corps' DTOS (for Deployable Tactical Operations System), from Mobile, Ala., to New York: Roosevelt Howard, Edward Adams and Henry Smith.

"Your guys were absolutely outstanding," said Doug Nester, operations officer of the national DTOS team. "Their role when they left was as commercial driver. In New York their function changed. They did everything from fueling generators to providing supplies for the New York Fire Department."

Fred Lachney (IM) put in 12-hour days at the North Atlantic Division in Fort Hamilton, N.Y. (Brooklyn), whose computer and communications staff was swamped with needs from the temporarily homeless New York District.

And Rick Tillman (ED) put his structural engineering skills to use to help urban search and rescue teams in New York.

Also among those suffering losses was Cathy Torlage's (CT) grandson Sean Crosbie, 23, whose girlfriend, Lisa Frost, 22, was aboard a Boston plane that hit the World Trade Center. "His dad, Mike Crosbie, said, 'She was the kind of girl every daddy wished his son would end up with.'" Torlage said.

Terri Jackson said her "uncle" and godfather, Hartford, Conn., businessman Antonio Esposito, 44, was the best friend of her father, Bervin Jackson, in Houston. "I was most concerned about my father. I've never heard him be so sad – he found out on an Internet listing. I went to Houston to be with him."

It was also a blow to her: "He was like a second dad to me. I could talk to him like to my mother and dad. He was always there for me."

David Wurtzel said his first cousin, once removed 32-year-old Laura Gilly, had been excited by getting out of the airline business – flying with Tower Airlines – in July and landing a job high above New York's financial district.

It was – and is – a close-knit family centered in Brooklyn. "We always kept in touch. "(Laura) lived in an apartment two floors above her mom's." Mom is Wurtzel's first cousin, Phyllis Gilly. Eventually a memorial service will be scheduled by her mother. "I'll be available when she says."

Roosevelt Howard, a mechanic at Old River Control, found that a hard drive in a DTOS semi-trailer was the easy part. "Most of the time, we left at 5 a.m. to meet in the hotel parking garage. We would get back from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m." It was tiring, but somehow they could always find more energy he said.



**Terri Jackson**

*Photos by Scott Riecke*



**David Wurtzel**

"Nobody was crying I'm tired. No one complained."

Howard said: "I felt like this was my country, the country was hurting. That was a wound and I was one of the band aids. I would go back tomorrow if they called. That's how strong I feel about it."

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# Corps of Engineers help

By Bernard Tate  
Headquarters

**M**any employees of the Army Corps of Engineers are still supporting recovery operations in New York City following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Corps employees have completed a debris operations plan for New York City and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Part of the challenge, officials said, was to determine what material can be recycled, and what can be placed in landfills or offshore disposal areas.

The Corps of Engineers provided emergency electrical power for the recovery operation and the opening of the financial district.

Structural experts and surveyors from throughout the Corps have been on-site in New York to help the city evaluate some of the more complicated building situations. Those who were skilled at urban search and rescue evaluated areas that were safe for rescuers to enter, and recommended ways to secure the unsafe areas.

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**“No one got hysterical, there wasn't any pushing or shoving, and every small boat in the harbor was helping.”**

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At the height of the operation, more than 900 Corps personnel were supporting recovery efforts, including employees of the Corps' North Atlantic Division and New York District who normally work in the area, and 164 others deployed from around the nation.

From the first hours after the hijackers crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have worked on the scene and behind the scenes to assist in the recovery effort, officials said.

Seven Corps vessels joined a spontaneous armada that evacuated people from Manhattan who had no other way home. The Corps boats evacuated more than 2,000 people. Many of them were covered with concrete dust, and many were visibly shaken, but the transport went smoothly and without incident, vessel masters said.

“Everyone was so great,” said Liz Finn, assistant vessel master aboard the *Gelberman*, a converted tugboat used for drift collection, which got underway to lend assistance minutes after the towers were hit.

“No one got hysterical, there wasn't any pushing or shoving, and every small boat in the harbor was helping,” Finn said. She and other crew members had been attending a training class at the district's Caven Point facility when the hijacked airliners crashed into the towers of the World Trade Center. They ran out onto the pier and hopped aboard vessels berthed there.

That day, Corps boats also carried more than 200 firefighters and emergency personnel from New Jersey to Lower Manhattan, and refueled New York City fireboats with 3,300 gallons of fuel, much of it transferred by hand in five-gallon buckets.

The Corps' mission during a disaster is Emergency Support Function 3 (Public Works and Engineering), officials explained.

The Disaster Field Office is at Pier 90 in Manhattan. To date, FEMA has assigned the Corps of Engineers missions to assist New York City with emergency power, technical assistance, debris-removal assessment, and structural safety assessment. As of earlier this week, FEMA had authorized \$4.41 million for the Corps of Engineers to accomplish these missions.

The Corps of Engineers sent two Deployable Tactical Operations Centers to New York City for command-and-control. DTOCs are 37-foot tractor-trailers designed to function as a field office for a 38-person staff working at a disaster site. FEMA received one for its use. The Corps also deployed two Rapid Response Vehicles to New York City. RRVs are self-contained mobile command-and-control centers packed with communications and computer gear to support a seven-person staff. FEMA and the Corps used the DTOCs and RRVs to form a linked communications network around the area of destruction in New York City.

Thirty-eight DTOC and Logistics Planning and Response Team personnel are in New York City working a 24-hour operation at Ground Zero to support FEMA and the New York Fire Department.

The federal missions continue to decrease, officials said, as the city takes over full responsibility for the response and recovery operations.

The dredging mission for the Corps has concluded after around-the-clock operations. Greater barge access will significantly speed the removal of debris, officials said.

The Corps' New York District set records granting emergency dredging permits to provide vessel access to the World Trade Center area and financial district.

On Sept. 13, New York City requested a permit to dredge 120,000 cubic yards of material from around Pier 25 to allow large boats to support rescue and recovery

# ping New York recover

operations. Brig. Gen. Stephen Rhoades, North Atlantic Division commander, gave permission in record time to dredge and place material in the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility.

Five days later, the city sought permission to dredge 60,000 cubic yards of material between the Governor's Island ferry terminal and the downtown heliport. The existing depth of the East River at that point (about eight feet) was not enough to accommodate boats operating there after the attack. Again, the district granted permission quickly.

Corps boat crews in New York also continue to support rescue and recovery efforts in New York City. Their work has included: fueling support, providing antifreeze and lubrication oil for New York City fire trucks, transporting 1,000 gallons of potable water for the New York Fire Department, transporting shovels and two forklifts to Lower Manhattan, and ferrying emergency personnel to Lower Manhattan.

The survey boat Hatton has ferried respirators from Pier 40 on New York's west side to North Cove near the World Trade Center. The respirators protect searchers at Ground Zero from heavy dust, asbestos, and other contaminants.

The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), the only Army unit assigned to the Corps, deployed 31 personnel to New York City — 16 from Fort Belvoir, Va., and 15 from Fort Bragg, N.C. The 249th soldiers were led by their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Wilson, but worked under the direction of FEMA.

Consolidated Edison, New York City's utilities company, asked these soldiers to help install 50 1,500-kilowatt generators supplied by the city. Each generator is housed in a 40-foot container. They were used to power medical triage facilities and transient housing to support the relief effort.

On Sept. 17, a team of nine ConEd personnel augmented by five 249th soldiers installed two generators at



*photo by F.T. Eyre, Corps of Engineers Headquarters*

**Bob Chapman of the Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District works at "Ground Zero." Personnel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were at Ground Zero just two hours after the hijacked airliners struck the World Trade Center.**

Water Street to provide power for several buildings in the financial district, including New York Mercantile Exchange and the NASDAQ Electrical Hub.

"This is a temporary measure until ConEd gets reliable commercial power established," Wilson said. "This is typical of what our unit has done at all disaster sites."

Soldiers from the 249th also provided technical assistance in evaluating the city's power grid.

On Sept. 19, Secretary of the Army Thomas White visited Ground Zero (the rubble area where the World Trade Center collapsed) in a group that included Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers.

"Everything the President said about this country being at war, that we are in a new security environment, and that we are in a fundamental change to a new way of life, is true," White said. "To the Corps of Engineers I would say...while your history is impressive, given the current situation, your finest hour is a chapter yet to be written. The nation will look to your extraordinary capability to protect and sustain our infrastructure against a wide variety of threats."

# “Be Healthy – Just Do It!”

By Peggy Plaisance

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers asked members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to join him in his commitment as stated on his “Just Do It” card: *Know your job; Be situationally aware; Be healthy; Treat every individual with dignity and respect.* Col. Thomas Julich, New Orleans District commander, took this very seriously and implemented a wellness program through the his Occupational Health Office.

Julich said, “Those who take the time and effort know the many benefits you derive from eating well, exercising, and knowing your physical condition and limitations. Doing those things can have an overall positive impact on a person’s attitude toward themselves and their work.”

As one of two registered nurses at New Orleans District, I feel we are very fortunate to have leaders in USACE that care so much about the individual employee.

Since January, over 450 em-



photo by Lane Lefort

**Clockwise: Sheryl Austin, Sandra Brehm, Linda Bongiovanni, Joseph Chow and Priscilla Paige warm up for another round of aerobocise.**

let, which evaluates current lifestyles, identifies health risks, and points to where and how to make improvements.

We encourage employees to keep records to compare their results

retirement and grandkids. I started using the equipment in the exercise room twice a week and walking two miles around my neighborhood twice a week. I put myself on a diet and continue to have my blood pressure monitored.

“I have lost 30 pounds,” Dupuy said. “My blood pressure is around 120/70 and my doctor has taken me off of the blood pressure medicine. And finally, my cholesterol is 176. I can honestly say that the Corps’ Wellness Program is what put me on this road and is helping me to maintain where I am now.”

The Wellness Program also includes a Weight Watchers group where in 10 weeks 40 people lost over 350 pounds. People are feeling better, and looking better, according to Paulette Salassi, Information Management, who lost over 30 pounds. “It’s so convenient to have Weight Watchers at work on our lunch time,” she said.

## Free Exercise Classes

I thank the wonderful volunteers here at the New Orleans District for making the Wellness Program a big success. Mike Escarra of Engi-

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## “Being healthy ... causes people to reach deep within themselves to find a person of value and worth.”

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ployees have participated in our Wellness Program. It centers around a Health Risk Assessment covering questions about personal and family health history, current symptoms, physical activity, eating practices, social health and safety. Blood is drawn for a complete chemistry panel, including liver enzymes and lipid profile, complete blood count with differential and prostate specific antigen for the men. Health Office staff answers questions about lab results and, if needed, refers employees to their personal physicians. Employees get a Personal Wellness Profile book-

every year and make them available to their personal physicians. We maintain a database to show improvements and queries; for example, 46 percent of the people tested have a total cholesterol greater than 199. Eight percent of those tested had blood pressure greater than 140/90. Many were unaware of this and are now taking steps to lower their cholesterol and blood pressure by exercising and losing weight.

Mike Dupuy of Engineering Division, who turns 50 this year, commented, “I reread the results of my Personal Wellness Profile and decided I would do what was necessary to get myself into shape. I wanted to be around for

neering Division, for example, is a certified karate teacher who, when asked, jumped at the opportunity to teach a karate class. "Even if only one person shows up, I'll be there," Escarra said. He's been teaching since February and loves it.

Line dancing classes also began this year, thanks to the talents of Operations Marine Manager Jim Courville. One line-dancing student commented, "After exercising I feel so good, I look forward to coming to work now. This has really changed my attitude."

Real Estate Division members Priscilla Paige and Sheryl Austin stepped forward to sponsor an aerobics class. Without hesitation they freely volunteered their services. "I didn't realize I was going to have so much fun doing this," Austin said. "This is going to help me stay in shape."

Our Wellness Program also includes screenings for colorectal, prostate and breast cancer, stress reduction classes, lectures on food and fitness, hypertension and high cholesterol, weight training, suicide prevention, smoking cessation, and our Annual Health Fair. Much more is planned for 2002.

There's an investment involved to make a program like this a success. Money has to be added to the budget,

volunteers have to invest their time and energy to lead exercise classes on their own time, and employees have to make commitments to change their lifestyle habits. Moreover, supervisors have to make an investment by allowing their workers to go to various lectures, realizing that a healthy employee is a happy employee.

To bolster support, I use studies that show the return on the dollar invested in wellness programs. For example, a University of Michigan study tracked 4,000 steelcase workers for five years and found that high-risk employees who shed all but one or two bad habits cut their medical costs by 54 percent. Another study indicates that workers between the ages of 45 and 65 with six or more risk factors cost four times as much as those with none. The potential savings in insurance premiums when a person starts to



photo by Scott Riecke

**Volunteer karate instructor Mike Escarra teaches karate skills to Bill Klein (r.) and Paul Oakland as part of New Orleans District's wide-ranging wellness program.**

exercise is \$260 per year, or when someone stops smoking the average savings is \$1,110 per year.

Lt. Gen. Flowers knows what he is doing by getting his employees to make the commitment to be healthy. Not only does being healthy lift the spirit, it feeds the soul. It causes people to feel good about themselves, to have more confidence, to reach beyond the TV controls or the donuts, and reach deep within themselves to find a person of value and worth.

You have an employee that feels good, has more energy, more confidence, thus a harder working, happier employee.

Turning the Corps into a health conscious organization demands an investment, but the success of our Wellness Program proves that if the Corps will lead, the employees will follow.



courtesy photo

**Health Team (L. to R.): James Sturcke, RN, Theresa Chryssoverges, Workers' Compensation Specialist, Dr. Edward Michals, Peggy Plaisance, RN, and Edward Bernard, CIH.**

# Problem Solvers

## *Third of a series*

By Leslie Terrell

**T**roy Constance came to NOD in 1985 after receiving a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of New Orleans. Constance worked in the Relocation Section of Engineering for two years then worked in hydrologic design for four years. He moved again to manage studies in Planning Division in 1991.

In 1992 Constance was promoted to GS12 and worked on larger studies like Morganza to the Gulf and Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study. When the Planning and Project Management divisions combined three years ago, Constance was working on

the Lower Atchafalaya Basin studies.

Constance was promoted when Project Management Division was reorganized. Now he is involved in flood control and ecosystem restoration studies and projects, such as studies for the Lower Atchafalaya Basin, and heads Coast 2050 and Amite River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.



photos by Lane Lefort and Scott Riecke

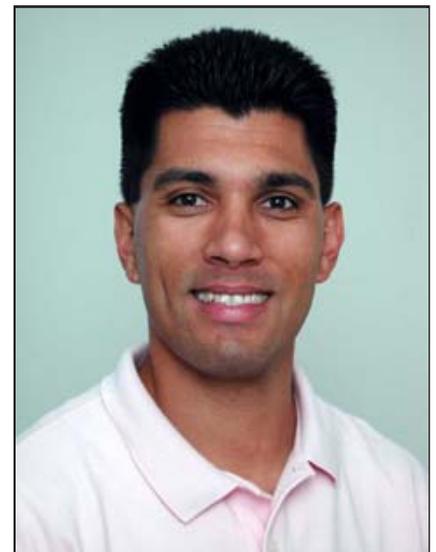
### **Project Manager: Howie Gonzales Study: Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana**

**About the project:** Coast 2050 is a feasibility study also called Louisiana Coastal Area Louisiana Ecosystem Restoration, through which the Corps will create and restore wetlands, restore barrier shorelines, and prevent salt water from impacting fresh water areas. The study is very important because our wetlands are severely eroding, especially during tropical storms and hurricanes, causing serious impacts to inland infrastructures.

For the first phase of the study, NOD will focus on the Barataria Basin, the boundaries of which are the Mississippi River in the north and east, Bayou LaFourche in the west, and the Gulf of Mexico in the south. The Barataria Basin is losing the most

land do to natural and man-made impacts. Also, no new land is created because the basin is sediment-starved, meaning no new sediment settles in the area. We will restore the Barataria Basin, mainly by dredging material from lakes within the basin and the Gulf of Mexico. The study will be challenging because we must find borrow materials of proper quantity and quality. Barrier shorelines will be most difficult to restore because gulf sand may not suffice. The Corps will also evaluate costs for dredging and obtaining appropriate materials from all potential borrow sources.

The Coast 2050 team hopes to increase awareness and support for the study because ecosystem restoration will help maintain industry, economy, culture and



natural resources in coastal Louisiana. **Time and Cost:** The feasibility study started in 2000 and will last 10 years at a cost of \$35 million. The La. Department of Natural Resources will provide half the cost for the feasibility

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Project Manager: Barton Rogers

study.

**Study: Amite River and Tributaries Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study**

**About the project:** In July 2000, the Corps completed a reconnaissance study that identified factors that have affected the Amite River: dredging, sand and gravel mining and urban development. The river cannot recover on its own from its condition, which has caused very serious environmental impacts. The river lost over 10 percent of its length, shrinking from over 60 miles to 54 miles, and many of its meander loops and surrounding vegetation. Mining in the river has caused sediment deposits, which make the channel shallower. The river should be 10 to 12 feet deep, but is only one foot deep in some areas. Consequently, Denham Springs and Baton Rouge have experienced higher flood stages.

The Corps will restore the

eroding banks, meanders in the river and vegetation along the banks to reduce flooding. The improvements to the channel will benefit fish and wildlife habitats and improve water quality. A leading option is to place jack fields (that can look like the toy) along the river. These jacks can be made of metal, wood or concrete that would catch debris, reduce current velocities, deposit sediment and rebuild the land. As the land is restored, we will plant trees that will continue to help rebuild the land by holding sediment in place. The project also has many public benefits. We will consider building parks, hunting grounds, canoeing and tubing areas, wildlife reserves and campgrounds, especially because the project site is so close to New Orleans and Baton Rouge and would attract many visitors.

The Corps is negotiating with



the state departments of Environmental Quality, Transportation and Development, and Natural Resources to share the cost of the project.

**Time and Cost:** The feasibility study will last about four years and cost \$4.5 million. Construction, valued at \$30 million to \$100 million, will probably be in several phases and last many years.

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Project Manager: Chris Gilmore

**Project: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study**

**About the project:** The Corps started the study in 1994 to reevaluate our 1982 report because of the removal of the Wax Lake Outlet weir.

The Corps recently completed the preliminary draft feasibility report. A leadership group from Morgan City reviewed the report and their comments are being incorporated. The reevaluation study concluded that the Atchafalaya Basin is not changing as drastically as expected. Therefore, we will continue to raise levees in the area as a means of controlling project flood. The 1982 report is still valid and required only minor changes. It recommends constructing a barrier levee system, including the necessary

pump stations and navigational structures, in lieu of the Avoca Island Levee Extension to provide flood protection for the area east of Morgan City. It also contains recommendations to further investigate jetty construction between Vermillion Bay and Atchafalaya Bay, under Coast 2050.

**Time and Cost:** The Corps will complete the final report in December. Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED) will begin next fiscal year and last three years. Construction will start in 2005 and continue for five to six years. The estimated cost is \$200 million.

*Constance manages several other studies under the Continuing Authorities Program and Planning Assistance*



*to States (PAS), and MR-GO projects. He also aids fellow Senior Project Manager Robert Campos with the Donaldsonville to the Gulf Feasibility Study and manages the nearly completed Mississippi River levees projects.*

**REBUILDING BRETON ISLAND**—Public Affairs and Ed Creefe, OD, hosted members of the media on a Sept. 28 helicopter flight over the MRGO bar channel and Breton Island to view dredging and barrier island restoration projects. Breton Island, part of the Chandeleur Islands chain off Southeast Louisiana, is home to endangered and threatened species as well as thousands of waterfowl; it is also the state's first line of defense against hurricanes and coastal erosion. The island lost 54 of its original 180 acres during Hurricane Georges in 1998, but the current dredging cycle will increase the total to 226. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company will pump about two million yards of material onto the northern and eastern rims of the island. *Read more on our Web site by clicking on "News."*

## Breton Island restoration



photo by Lane Lefort

## Construction

**BRIDGE REOPENING**—The Orleans Avenue Canal bridge on Robert E. Lee reopened Sept. 7 after one year of construction at a cost of \$28 million. It was the sixth of 10 bridges scheduled for hurricane floodproofing. Each bridge must be completely replaced with a new bridge sealed on the bottom and sides, closing the floodwall gap. The improvements will help keep storm surges out of the city, eliminate the need for sandbagging, and allow important roadways to remain open.

## EEO/Partners in Education

**AZUCAR BOWL**—Mireya Laigast, PMD, and Angel Mislan, Hispanic employment program manager, Engineering, attended the Aug. 18 Azucar Bowl at Whitney National Bank's corporate office on St. Charles Ave., as representatives of NOD. The bowl is an annual fundraiser organized by the New Orleans Hispanic Foundation Inc. to provide scholarships to needy His-

panic students in the community who demonstrate strong academic skills. EEO and PIE contributed \$75 each toward the 25 scholarships awarded during the 2000-2001 academic year.

## Project Management

**SHORELINE RESTORATION**—Col. Tom Julich, Sandra Thompson, Morgan City Mayor Dr. Tim Tregle, and a host of other officials gathered Aug. 30 in Morgan City to view progress on the Lake Palourde shoreline protection and restoration project, where installation of a rock dike about a mile long was completed in mid-August. Since then over half of a total planned 600,000 cubic yards of silt have been pumped from the Atchafalaya River into the newly-created shoreline beside La. 70. It will extend 400 feet into the lake, reducing erosion on the roadbed and providing recreational space.

**RE-ENGINEERING NEW RIVER**—The Corps has plans to re-engineer the New River from above Bayou Goudine to the weir in Gonzales, where high

water temperatures and thriving organic material have degraded the area. Removing the weir (a low dam placed in the river) and narrowing and deepening the channel would assist flood prevention and improve conditions for fish and wildlife, at a cost of about \$500,000. Alternative options include pumping water into the stream from the Mississippi, but the process would be too slow to improve stream quality and would cost about \$1.5 million. The city's drainage board has yet to approve either project.

## Operations

**BAYOU TECHE DREDGING**—Dredging to restore Bayou Teche in the New Iberia area will begin about Nov. 1, taking up to two years and costing \$6.68 million. Circle Inc. will remove about 440,000 cubic yards of material, restoring the bayou to its authorized dimensions of 60 feet wide by eight feet deep. The dredging—the first in over ten years in this stretch—will benefit the barge and towboat industry, including vessels that serve three sugar mills nearby.

# Around the District

## Win With Ability

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and the Corps has set up an exhibit in the main lobby featuring profiles of the success of Corps employees with disabilities (including Darren Huete, Paul Palmeri and Carli Fried). Famous personalities who have disabilities and have become successful, and resources available to disabled individuals are also displayed. President Truman's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was appointed to carry out Public Law 176 in 1945, designating the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week"; in 1962, "Physically" was removed to recognize the needs of all Americans with disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name. October has since become a kind of kick-off month for programs that highlight the skills of Americans with disabilities. This month's theme is "Win with Ability."

## New Beginnings

to **Angela DeSoto** (ED) on the birth of her son, John Greer Duncun, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, on July 29.

to **Madonna Montz** (GB) on the birth of her son, Jonah David Montz, 8 pounds, 6 ounces, on August 29.



*courtesy photo*

## Great for Barbecues

We get differing opinions about the purpose of this rusty roadside hulk at the corner of Leake and Magazine, but here's what a newsletter from the engineering firm of Waldemar S. Nelson and Co. Inc. of New Orleans states: "It's a weed burner [and railroad car], a relic of pre-environment days when kerosene was used to control trackside vegetation. Burners were attached to extendable arms to reach out and sizzle weeds on embankments. The man in the photo is the company's chairman, Waldemar S. Nelson."

## Congratulations

to **August M. Martin** (ED) who walked away from the "Sustaining Base Leadership and Management" 12-week summer training course at the Army Management Staff College in Virginia with a "Best in Seminar" certificate. "Mr. Martin led by personal example, demonstrating the values and standards of the Army Management Staff College and the Army," the certificate states. "Mr. Martin's professional disposition, positive attitude and academic performance are to be respected and admired."

## Farewell

to **Shanell Williams** (PA), who is getting married October 28 and relocating to Houston.

to **James D. Courville**, Physical Support Branch (OD), retiring after over 42 years of government service.

## Condolences

to **Leigh H. Carrier** (ED) whose father died on Sept. 9.

to **Don Rawson** (ED) whose mother died on Oct. 1.



*photo by Lane Lefort*

## Beach Sweep 2001

NOD volunteers, 78 strong, participated locally in the annual nationwide Beach Sweep event on Saturday, Sept. 15. The group swept clean a segment of the Lakefront and demonstrated NOD's sense of environmental awareness. Those participating were: Greg and Marie Breerwood, Kelly Lebourgeois, Beth Nord, Bernie Zagorski, Edmond Russo, JoAnn Rosenfeld, Ron Ventola, Bruce and Preston Bivona, Liz and Sage Sigler, Bob Martinson; Tom, Karen, Greg, Grant and Garret Tobin; Mike, William, Madeline, Charisse, and Patrick Saucier; Reid and Larry Perrin; Sheryl Austin, Robert and Anna Campos, Gay and Lindsay Browning, Megan Fonseca, Skip Jacobs, Suzanne, David and Christopher Bonnette; Nancy Mayberry, Rachel and Sara Beer, Charlie Rome, Katelyn Ermon, Erica Goostrey, Gib Owens, Judy Fonseca, and Boy and Girl Scout Troops 117, 126, 221, 377 and 491.

# Talk Back

*Last month we solicited your comments on "Internet Services." Here is the response we received:*

## Use the Web site for electronic transactions

The district can implement many additional Internet initiatives. The easiest and most common initiative is information dissemination. A good example of this is the Appropriation Act links on the NOD library's home page .

A more complex initiative would be downloadable electronic forms. While the Army and USACE have started this process, the district has a long way to go in this area. On the district's Web pages, I could not even find a link to the electronic forms available at the Army and USACE addresses. Just ask yourself, how many times have you had to manually enter data into your computer when this data was taken from a manual or computer-generated form.

The most complex Internet initiative the district could undertake at this time would be electronic transactions. This could include such initiatives as processing permit applications via the Internet. However, the infrastructure for the more complex Internet initiatives has not been fully developed. For example, information security is essential to the implementation of electronic transactions. Yet a Public Key Infrastructure has yet to be developed and implemented

(PKI offers assurances that the parties to an electronic transaction are really the people they claim to be; that the transaction has not been altered in an unauthorized way; and, that neither party can deny they took part in the transaction). Legal considerations (such as the Privacy Act) and electronic records storage issues are also a challenge. Finally, the inadequate level of information-technology human resources devoted to developing and managing Web-based applications needs to be addressed. The district and the federal government must overcome these challenges when making advances in the use of information technology and the Internet.

*To assist in this effort, and for further reading, go to: <http://www.cybercrime.gov/eprocess.htm> for a legal guide to electronic transaction; <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-25/sp800-25.pdf> for a guide to PKI technology issues; and, <http://www.nara.gov/records/policy/gpea.pdf> for information on records storage of electronic signatures.*

**Kenneth Kanik, Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center**

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

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RESPOND BY  
NOVEMBER 12

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YOU THINK ABOUT  
THIS MONTH'S  
Talk Back TOPIC:

WORK PLACE HEALTH

>WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO  
TO MAKE THE CORPS A MORE  
HEALTH CONSCIOUS ORGA-  
NIZATION?

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