CREATE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

WITH A CAREER IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis, a Corps civil engineer in soil mechanics at the Waterways Experiment Station, never knows when someone like the President of the United States will need to know the status of all the dams that the Corps owns and operates. To accommodate such requests, she developed a data base that provides identification, location, statistics and hazard information for all dams in the Corps' inventory. "Now the President can have the information in his hands within minutes," she says.

Born and raised in Bangkok, Wipawi began her career with the Corps of Engineers in 1980. Previously she had worked at a nuclear power plant and needed a new challenge. At the Corps, she got the opportunity to try and tame the Mississippi River which she describes as "a body of water that does what it wants to do regardless of man's intervention."

She believes the Corps is especially rewarding for civil engineers just starting out because they can apply their talents immediately to nearly any facet of civil engineering — from structural and foundation design to environmental enhancement and restoration to large-scale construction management to advanced engineering research and development.

"Civil engineering is a broad, challenging field," says Wipawi, "and the Corps gives young civil engineers choices of fields or geographic locations that smaller organizations just cannot offer. No matter what your interest or specialty, new civil engineers will find the Corps has work for you that is varied, technically challenging and provides many opportunities for continuing education, professional growth and advancement."

"Working at the Corps of Engineers is like being on a college campus. When it comes to training, you couldn't ask for a better job. The Corps loves to train its people no matter where they want to go ."

Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis
Civil Engineer in Soil Mechanics

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