



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Jacksonville District

P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL  
32232-0019

Release No. 97-24

For Release: June 19, 1997

Contact: Jacquelyn Griffin, Public Affairs Officer

Phone: (904) 232-2235 FAX: (904) 232-2237

Email: <jacquelyn.j.griffin@saj02.usace.army.mil>

# News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## CORPS COLONEL TO EXPLAIN PERMITTING OPTIONS TO LEE & COLLIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- The commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Jacksonville District is on the agenda as a guest speaker at both the Lee County and the Collier County board of commissioners meetings next week in Fort Myers and Naples. At those public forums Colonel Terry L. Rice, Jacksonville District Engineer, will explain how Department of the Army permits are currently issued in Southwest Florida and discuss the options under consideration to help speed the process, comply with environmental laws, and ensure that all applications are reviewed in a fair and consistent manner. Rice will also address the Southwest Florida Issues Working Group of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida on Tuesday in Lee County.

The colonel's visit is in response to concerns about the possible effects of the Corps' permit issue procedures and its relation to growth and development in the region.

One option the Corps is considering is called a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). This option would be used to disclose and formalize the Army permitting requirements—including environmental mitigation—for a specified area in Southwest Florida.

Because the issues and opinions surrounding implementation of this option are many and diverse, Rice is personally visiting Lee and Collier counties for the next several days to get insight and ideas from area citizens and business professionals. Their input will be used to help determine how Southwest Florida community leaders might equitably balance environmental concerns with

- MORE -

commercial development in the area. Accompanying Rice in these information exchange efforts will be Corps partner agencies in the permitting process including the Florida departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Community Affairs, and Agriculture, the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, the South Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Regional Planning Council (SWRPC), and other Federal agencies.

Rice will be on the agenda Monday (6/23) afternoon at the Lee County commissioners board meeting being held in the Old Court House, 2120 Main Street, in Fort Myers. The meeting starts at 1:30.

Tuesday (6/24) morning at 10:00, Rice addresses the Southwest Issues Working Group meeting of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida meeting at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium at 3450 Ortiz Ave near Exit 22 of I-75 in Lee County.

On Tuesday (6/24) afternoon, Rice will be speaking to the Collier County commissioners at their board meeting which begins at 1:00. It will be held in the Collier County Government Complex at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail in Naples.

The public is invited to see Rice's presentation at any of those public forums and talk with the colonel personally after the meeting.