CREATE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

WITH A CAREER IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

"There's a lot more freedom at the Corps than in the private sector. Here I am able to interact with many more disciplines at one time. I am exposed to so much. It makes a big difference."

Mark Zappi
Environmental Engineer

The summer after he finished tenth grade, Mark Zappi began a career with the Corps. He entered one of the Corps summer programs for high school students and dreamed of being an environmental engineer. During college he worked at making his dream come true through the Corps' Coop program.

Today—eleven years later, after graduating with a B.S. in Civil Engineering—that is the position Mark fills at the Corps' largest research laboratory at the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Every day, he performs sophisticated experiments to either improve existing technology or develop new and less expensive technology for cleaning up more than 12,000 contaminated Army sites across the United States.

"The cost of cleaning up these sites using existing technology will be very expensive. In tough financial times, we must bring down the cost," says Mark. "The Corps is uniquely qualified to meet this need and to lead our nation's charge into the restoration of our precious natural resources. I selected employment with the Corps because of this bright future in environmental engineering."

Most gratifying to Mark about his work is watching it actually being applied. He specifically points to a Corps' contamination study he participated in four years ago which yielded the development of two small bioreactors. "A full-scale, multi-million dollar treatment system was constructed in Indiana based on these small-scale, fully-contained units," he says. "It really does give you the sense that you can truly make a difference."

Through the Corps' employee training program, Mark received a masters in chemical engineering and will shortly complete his doctoral studies in chemical engineering. He has also published more than 40 technical articles and participated in scores of technical conferences across the country. "Wherever I travel," says Mark, "my opinion that the Corps is a leader in environmental remediation is strongly reinforced. My experiences with the Corps can be summarized in just one word: "opportunity."

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