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	Command-wide Recruitment and Outreach Materials CAREER PROFILE SUPPLEMENT - MECHANICAL ENGINEER	
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CREATE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

WITH A CAREER AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER

When Gary Robinson describes his job as entailing a lot of "elbow" work, he's talking much more than physical labor. He's also talking ducts. Lots of them.

As a mechanical engineer in the Albuquerque District of the Corps of Engineers, Gary is responsible for designing HVAC (air conditioning), plumbing and fire protection systems for Air Force facilities. A fundamental component of these systems are ducts. Gary's most memorable idea for ducts was part of his first Corps design – the HVAC duct system for a youth center. He knew it would be important to keep the system noise level down, so he "added a few elbows in the ducts, and it worked. Kids can hear each other as they are playing even when the air conditioning is on." And when I went out to construction, they did it exactly the way I designed it and that was exciting.

The satisfaction Gary received from the completion of this project has carried over to other projects he has designed, including a three-story dormitory and an aircraft maintenance facility. "I've actually been able to put into practice everything I learned in college," says Gary, "from start to finish."

As he explains about an expansion tank that contracts or expands to protect water pipes from bursting at different temperatures, it is obvious that he understands and greatly enjoys his work.

Gary began his Corps career in 1989 as an engineering aid through the Corps' Stay-in-School Program. Through that program, Gary attended the University of New Mexico where he graduated in 1991. Four months later, he became an engineering intern in the state of New Mexico.

"I strongly urge other students to join up," says Gary. "What better place to start than a place where you can actually use your skills?"



"Some people think that working for a government agency means sitting behind a desk and doing a lot of paperwork. That's not true with the Corps of Engineers. My work is 70% hands-on and 30% in the office. Hands-on is the best way to learn."

Gary D. Robinson
Mechanical Engineer

