

# Learning Aptitude Lessons From Government Mistakes

## **Costly Lack of Knowledge**

In 2006, headlines blazed across the *New York Times* newspaper: Army admits design flaws in New Orleans levee system.

The Army Corps of Engineers and several outside engineering panels found extensive flaws in the design, construction, and maintenance of the levee system, according to the report numbering more than 6,100 pages. And the severe IT flaws evident in the newly opened Affordable Care website are arguably two of the most widely-known examples of what can happen when workers are ill equipped to handle assigned job tasks.

For instance, the description of how design issues were not addressed in New Orleans bear a disturbing similarity to the written account of what can happen when engineers, unaware of aptitude conflicts, land jobs they can't handle effectively.

## **References**

*New York Times*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/01/us/01cnd-corps.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/01/us/01cnd-corps.html?_r=0)

...the Disaster Didn't have to happen...

The Daily Beast

<http://tinyurl.com/lr74v64>

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Margaret E. Bradley