

**MVD Technical Directorate Meeting
Comments for Col. Mike Burt
19-21 March 2003**

Greetings. Introduction.

I understand technical division chiefs from the six districts and MVD are here to share issues & program difficulties...with the ultimate goal of awareness and understanding...to function as teams...to provide synergistic solutions and support to each other and we go about performing our mission.

-- Overriding issue - \$\$\$...funding is in short supply...contract awards delayed, which has a ripple affect on the divisions within each district.

-- Looming over the funding issue is the potential of war. Homeland Security will certainly have an impact on our program. It is an issue we will all have to deal with.

Tough times and tough issues...but this will make us stronger and more prepared for the unexpected. The purpose of this meeting is to help us share strategies...to work together to adapt and make the best of any situation.

I understand that last year you met in Minnesota and took a field trip to Lake Itasca, the headwaters of the Mississippi. Tomorrow, you will travel to the mouth of the Mississippi to visit the Dredge Wheeler. To say there is a vast difference would be an understatement, esp. with the Mississippi at high water stages.

Yet this same waterway is a major presence in each of our districts, presenting distinct opportunities and challenges in each region. The Mississippi is the reason we are a division...it is the reason we need to be here...sharing our experiences.

Have a good time.