



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Media: For e-mail or hardcopy photos of Lt. Col. Jeselink, call 504-862-2201.

Jeselink to assume interim command of N.O. District

NEW ORLEANS -- Lt. Col. Stephen E. Jeselink will take interim command of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on Tuesday, May 17, in a formal military change of command ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, division engineer, Mississippi Valley Division, and president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, will place the Corps of Engineers flag, symbolizing command of the New Orleans District, into the hands of Jeselink at the 10 a.m. ceremony.

Also participating in the ceremony, which will be held at district headquarters, are Col. Peter J. Rowan, outgoing district engineer, and Mr. Thomas Podany, senior personal advisor. Rowan is deploying to Iraq where he'll serve as the Commander and District Engineer for the Gulf Region Central District in Baghdad.

Col. Richard P. Wagenaar will become the district engineer of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during a Change of Command ceremony in July.

In the interim, Jeselink will be responsible for water resource development in the 30,000 square miles of south and coastal Louisiana that make up the New Orleans District. Projects under his jurisdiction include over 2,800 miles of navigable waterway, among them the Mississippi River deepwater channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

Jeselink's responsibilities also include administration of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Flood Control Project, which includes the Bonnet Carré Spillway, Atchafalaya Basin, and 973 miles of levees and floodwalls along the

Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Jeselink will also oversee construction of five hurricane protection projects and the execution of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project in Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. Jeselink will also serve as chairman of a multi-agency task force conducting a comprehensive program to restore and prevent the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990.

BIOGRAPHY

Lt. Col. Stephen E. Jeselink

Lt. Col. Stephen E. Jeselink assumes command after performing as the New Orleans District Deputy Commander for the past two years. He recently returned from Iraq where he also served as the Deputy Commander of the Gulf Region Division -Central District in Baghdad. He transferred to the New Orleans District deputy commander position after serving as project engineer and assistant area engineer in the New Orleans Area Office.

Prior to his assignment with the New Orleans District, Jeselink served with the 41st Engineer Battalion (Light), 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), at Fort Drum, N.Y. As the battalion operations officer and the battalion executive officer, he directed and synchronized staff activities for a 530-Soldier battalion. His other previous assignments in engineer command and staff positions were with the 7th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized), Fort Polk, La.; 17th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized), Garlstadt, Germany, with service in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Desert Storm; 79th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy), Karlsruhe, Germany; 40th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized), Baumholder, Germany; 2nd Regional Training Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.; and, the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he served as chief of the Experiment Design Division.

A 1986 graduate of Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe, La., Jeselink holds a bachelor's degree in construction management and a master's degree in human resources from Webster University of St. Louis, Mo. His military education includes the Army Command and General Staff College, the Army Combined Arms and Service Staff School, and the Engineer Officers Advanced and Basic courses.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Assault Badge, and the Bronze de Fleury Medal.

Jeselink, a native of Monroe, La., is married to the former Barbara Woolsey. They have two sons: Stephen and Jarod.

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