

Open Channels

MVD and Army Wounded Warriors Program

By Toni Lowe-Fisher, Ph.D.,
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Under Goal 4 of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Campaign Plan, our priority is to focus on building resilient people, teams, systems and processes to sustain a diverse culture of collaboration, innovation and participation to shape and deliver strategic solutions. Objective 4d, in particular, states that we should build ready and resilient teams through innovative talent management and leader development strategies and programs. To support this strategy, we must increase our Wounded Warriors and Operation Warfighter initiatives (Action 4d2). The FY14 goal was to assist 100 Wounded Warriors transition into employment (i.e., government, private industry, etc.) across the Corps. USACE exceeded the goal, which has been increased to 150 for FY15! The MVD goal is to assist a minimum of 15 Wounded Warriors in FY15.

Across the region, there are many opportunities to support Wounded Warriors. Celebrating its 10th year of service, the Army Wounded Warriors (AW2) is a great opportunity to do so! In April 2004, the Army introduced the AW2 as the official U.S. Army program.



Its mission is to assist and advocate for our severely wounded, ill and injured soldiers, veterans and their families/caregivers; and support and advise during medical treatment, rehabilitation and beyond to facilitate a soldier's return-to-duty or their transition to a civilian community as a veteran. The program supports severely wounded, ill and injured soldiers, veterans and their families, wherever they are located, regardless of military status. Soldiers who qualify for AW2 are assigned to the program as soon as possible after arriving at the **Warrior Transition Unit (WTU)**.

AW2 supports these soldiers and their families throughout their recovery and transition, even into veteran status. Through the local support of **AW2 Advocates**, AW2 strives to foster the soldier's independence. There are more than 18,200 soldiers and veterans currently in AW2. Did you know that we have at least one AW2 advocate in every state along our MVD footprint? The AW2

advocates are generally located in Warrior Transition Units, VA Medical Centers and military installations.



Thanks to the MVD Readiness and Contingency Operations team, Jared Gartman and Capt. Correy Elder, for reaching out to the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center Army Wounded Warriors Program (Jackson, Miss.). On Sept. 15, 2014, the MVD team met with the local AW2 advocate, Ms. Suzanne Gordy, to get more information on the program's offerings and partnership opportunities. Currently, there are two approved internship programs for soldiers in WTU: 1. Department of Defense Operation Warfighter Non-Paid Federal Internship program, and 2. Veterans Affairs Coming Home to Work Non-Paid Work Experience Federal Internship program.

For more information on the Army Wounded Warriors program and internship opportunities, visit the Warrior Transition Command website at www.wtc.army.mil.

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Around the Bend: MVD Commander received 2nd Star



Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr
Commander
Mississippi Valley Division
President-designee
Mississippi River Commission

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and 53rd Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick promoted Mississippi Valley Division Commander Brigadier General Mike Wehr to the rank of major general, September 12, in a ceremony at his alma mater Santa Clara University (California), which hosted the event.

Major General Wehr said he was proud to return to his alma mater for the ceremony that symbolizes the confidence senior officers, the Congress and the President have placed in his leadership.

Wehr was commissioned through the Santa Clara University's Reserve Officer Training Corps May 22, 1985, and received his bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering.

"This is where I met Deb, my wife and college sweetheart. She kept me focused. Without her I doubt I would have graduated in engineering. It feels great to come full circle back to the place and people who shaped me at an early age for the career that led to this day."

"I have learned that life is all about living, learning, loving, leaving a legacy and to defend when necessary," he said.

Wehr's wife, children and parents helped pin the two star insignia on his uniform and unfurl the two star flag.

Bostick said Maj. Gen. Wehr is now one of 10 major generals serving in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The ceremony, called a "frocking", symbolizes the confidence that senior officers, the Congress and the President have placed in Wehr's leadership.

Bostick said that as a two star general Wehr now commands the Mississippi Valley Division, one of the Corps of Engineers most challenging assignments. The division manages inland navigation, flood risk reduction and emergency response and recovery for the Mississippi River -- the world's third largest watershed. In addition, Maj. Gen. Wehr oversees the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, the comprehensive flood control plan for the alluvial valley. He also serves as president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission.

It is a tremendous responsibility, Bostick said. The Mississippi River has more than 9,000 miles of

navigable waterway. That is larger than all the rest of the world's navigable waterways combined. Most significantly the Mississippi flows through arable land, making it a highway for agricultural goods to feed the nation and the world.

Wehr's service as a combat engineer included the 14th Engineers, the 82nd Airborne (twice), the 92nd Engineers, as well as four combat tours. Within the Corps of Engineers, he served the Japan District, commanded the Vicksburg District, commanded the South Pacific Division, and most recently was the Theater Engineer for Afghanistan.

The Armed Services have a long-standing tradition of celebrating the promotion of its members to the next higher rank in a formal ceremony. This ceremony is a public indication of the increased responsibilities that the service member is about to assume. The ceremony demonstrates the confidence placed in him by senior officers, by Congress and by the President of the United States in his abilities to carry out these new responsibilities. Finally, this ceremony allows the family, friends and colleagues of the newly promoted service member the opportunity to celebrate and share in this hard-earned achievement.

Essayons, Building Strong and...Army Strong!





Around the Bend... (continued from page 2)



USACE Commanding General and 53rd Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick (left) promoted MVD Commander Brig. Gen. Michael C. Wehr to the rank of major general, September 12, 2014, in a ceremony at his alma mater Santa Clara University (California), which hosted the event. Pictured are Lt. Gen. Bostick and Maj. Gen. Wehr reciting the Oath of Commissioned Officers during the Frocking Ceremony.



MG Michael C. Wehr, MVD commander, received his 2nd Star during a Frocking Ceremony, Sept. 12, 2014, at Santa Clara University (California). Also pictured are MG Wehr's son and daughter assisting with the pinning, and Capt. Timothy Tracy, the commander's aide-de-camp.



New Orleans District intern selected for STEM Day at the White House

By Pamela Harrion,
MVD Public Affairs

Dominique Simone Williams, New Orleans District Pathways Intern Panel participant, was recently nominated and selected to attend the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day at the White House.

A native of Vicksburg, Miss., Dominique is currently a senior at Jackson State University studying civil engineering. Her hobbies include volunteering and tutoring.

Dominique's involvement with professional organizations is extensive. "I've volunteered with the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and other professional organizations," she said.

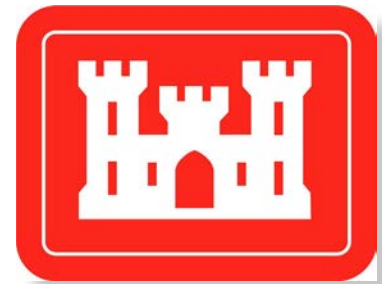
She is also involved in many other organizations on the JSU campus, including the American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Black



Dominique Simone Williams

Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, Scholars Academy and Institute for Transportation Engineers. She currently serves as the secretary in all of these organizations. In addition, she holds the office of the vice president in the Blue Key Honor Society.

Dominique is a recipient of the Swalm Foundation Scholarship, Union Pacific Scholarship and Jackson State University's Engineering Scholarship. She also conducts research during the school year with her advisor under the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation (LSMAMP) research program. According to JSU's website, the LSMAMP program is designed to prepare undergraduate underrepresented minority students who major in STEM to be effective and proficient in their respective STEM field, and to be prepared for graduate school.



Balocki visits the Mississippi Valley Division



James Balocki (left), Command executive officer and director, Services and Installations, Office of the chief of Army Reserves, Ft. Bragg, NC, visited the Mississippi Valley Division, Sept. 25, 2014, to meet with Thomas Holden (right), director, Regional Business Directorate, and Jared Gartman (far left), chief, RCO, to discuss how MVD can leverage Title 10 capabilities to support reserve training needs and enhance MVD awareness of project conditions pre-event and respond during / post-event. Accompanying Balocki was Col. Marshall Banks (far right), chief of Readiness/Interim Command executive officer, 412th Theater Engineer Command.



MVD Watershed Division Chief to attend Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program

By Pamela Harrion,
MVD Public Affairs

Charles Shadie, Mississippi Valley Division Watershed Division chief, will soon attend the Harvard Senior Executive Fellows (SEF) Program at Harvard University from Oct. 12 to Nov. 7, 2014, to help improve his executive and leadership skills.

The SEF Program is recommended for those considering applying to become an SES'r but is also open to other senior leaders (GS-14, GS-15) in various government organizations (federal, state and foreign governments). The Program is held three times a year and has an average class size of 65-75 per session. Approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of the class this session come from foreign governments, including Hong Kong, New Zealand, Mongolia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and others.

The Harvard University Program for Senior Executive Fellows (SEF) is a four-week program designed to build executive skills in political and public management, negotiation, human resource management, policy-making, organizational strategy, communication, ethics and leadership.

Participants are expected to contribute their professional expertise to complement the program's learning experience, and are selected to reflect a broad cross-section of functional and operational responsibilities. This program also provides participants with a unique opportunity to gain perspectives on public policy and management, to strengthen managerial skills and to acquire insights into managerial practice, and to interact across agency and executive-legislative



Charles Shadie

branch boundaries.

Additional information on this program can be found at: <http://www.civiliantraining.army.mil/professional/Pages/Harvard.aspx>.

In his current position, Shadie is responsible for overall supervision, policy formulation, and federal, state and local entity coordination for total regional operation. Watershed Division work consists of conducting evaluations, brief investigations and planning of hydrologic, hydraulic, environmental and river engineering features of major flood control, navigation and environmental restoration projects throughout the Mississippi Valley Division. Shadie also serves as the MVD senior water control advisor and water control community of practice leader.

Shadie is a native of West Virginia and graduated from West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and in 1980 earned his master's degree from

Purdue University in civil engineering (hydrology and hydraulic engineering). He also earned a master's degree in 2007 from the University of Florida in water resources planning and management, concentrating on environmental engineering. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Shadie began his career with the Chicago District in 1981 as a hydraulic engineer in the Hydraulics Branch of Engineering Division. He worked on the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of an urban flood control study for the Chicago metropolitan area. In 1982, Shadie transferred to the New Orleans District and worked on a number of water resources studies and projects related to flood risk reduction, navigation and environmental restoration. During his 14 years in the New Orleans District, he held positions as a hydraulic engineer, project engineer and supervisory hydraulic engineer, all within Engineering Division. In 1997, Shadie transferred to the Watershed Division of the Mississippi Valley Division as a hydraulic engineer where he has provided technical expertise to MVD and its districts on a wide range of studies and projects, including the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project, the Louisiana Coastal Area study and the Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Projects. In 2009, Shadie was promoted to the chief of the Watershed Division.





MVD bids congrats and 'essayons' to former employees

By Pamela Harrion,
MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi Valley Division recently held three farewell ceremonies and one retirement ceremony for employees either transitioning to new employment or retiring.

Susan Williams, formerly MVD's administrative assistant for the Lower District Support Team, moved on as a budget technician for the Engineer Research and Development Center's Geotechnical & Structures Laboratory Management Integration Office. A farewell ceremony was held in her honor September 18, 2014, at Roca's Restaurant in Vicksburg.

Crystal Davidson, formerly MVD's Watershed Division administrative assistant, transitioned to the ERDC as a budget technician for ERDC's Resource



Susan Williams



Crystal Davidson

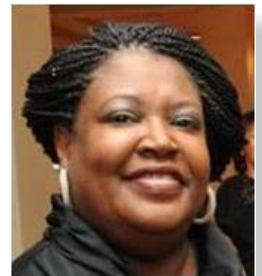
Management Office. A farewell ceremony was held in her honor Sept. 19, 2014, at Toney's Restaurant in Vicksburg.

Victoria Ellis, formerly MVD's manpower officer, moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to work as a management/manpower officer for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. A farewell ceremony was held in her honor September 22, 2014, at MVD Headquarters in Vicksburg.

Margaret Brasfield, formerly MVD's Human Resource chief, retired October 3, 2014. A retirement ceremony was held in her honor at MVD Headquarters in Vicksburg. She retires with more than 35 years of service.



Victoria Ellis



Margaret Brasfield



MVD hosts Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff



The Mississippi Valley Division hosted its 2014 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Kickoff Oct. 3, 2014, in the MRC Conference Room (Vicksburg, Miss.). Guest speakers included Michele Connelly, United Way; Earline Ramsey, Derrick Burn Center; and MVD Commander Michael C. Wehr. Also pictured is Joe Lemons, MVD, and Carlotta Ferguson, UW. The CFC's mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. For more information about the CFC, please visit <http://www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/>.



October is Energy Awareness Month

This year's Energy Awareness Month theme, "A Sustainable Energy Future; Putting All the Pieces Together," encourages everyone to see how they fit into the big picture.

Wise energy attitudes, behaviors and organizational decisions will ensure we realize results. Please take time to review your daily routine to conserve energy, empower others to take action and join together to save energy and money for your agency.

Now is the time to act with urgency to achieve a clean and secure energy economy, as well as save money for the American taxpayers. Turn awareness into action; turn intent into investment; turn opportunities into outcomes. Every individual has a critical role to play and contribution to make to help meet our energy and water management goals for federal facilities.

Thank you for your commitment, continued support and action. To find out more about simple ways you can save energy and money, take advantage of the attached checklist to observe energy conservation and efficiency measures at work.

For more ways to save energy and money outside the office, visit <http://www.energysavers.gov/>.

The following is a simple checklist of energy conservation/efficiency measures to use at home:



Today

- Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents (CFLs) or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). CFLs can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. The best targets are 60-100 W bulbs used several hours a day.
- Turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms or consider installing timers, photo cells, or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.
- Install a programmable thermostat that can be adjusted according to your schedule.
- Review strategies to reduce your water heating bills. Water heating can account for 14-25 percent of the energy consumed in your home.

This Week

- Visit the hardware store. Buy a water-heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescents, as needed.
- Rope caulk leaky windows
- Assess your heating and cooling systems. Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy.

This Month

- Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the largest energy consumer or the largest bill for energy conservation measures.
- Insulate heating ducts in unheated areas, such as attics and crawlspaces. Keeping ducts in good repair can prevent heat loss of up to 60 percent at the registers.
- Seal up the largest air leaks in your house—the ones that whistle on windy days, or feel drafty.
- Schedule an energy audit (ask your utility company or state energy office) for more expert advice on your home as a whole.

This Year

- Insulate. If your walls aren't insulated have an insulation contractor blow cellulose into the walls.
- Bring your attic insulation level up to snuff.

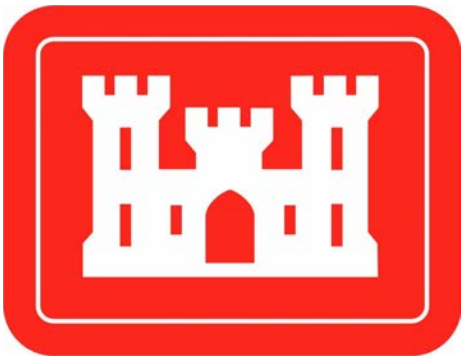
'October...' continued on page 8)



October... (continued from page 7)

- Replace aging, inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment. Especially check the age and condition of your refrigerator.

**These tips were taken from the Department of Energy and the ACEEE Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Lead by Example with Smart Energy Choices

Here is a simple checklist of energy conservation and efficiency measures to use at work:

- Always use Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) in desk lamps as opposed to incandescent lights.
- Switch off all unnecessary lights.
- Use natural lighting when possible.
- When working late, use task lighting to directly illuminate work areas.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy even when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.)
- If possible, turn off your office equipment and/or computer monitors at the end of the work day.
- Use efficient ENERGY STAR® products.
- Close or tilt window blinds to block direct sunlight to reduce cooling needs during warm months.
- Photocopy only what you need.
- Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.
- To save gas: drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, and make sure tires are pumped up.
- Use durable coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.



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For more information contact:
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IHNC Surge Barrier receives award for Outstanding Civil Works Project



The plaque for the 2014 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Works Project was unveiled Sept. 18, 2014, at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier. The award represents recognition to the entire federal, state, local, AE and contractor community that worked to conceptualize, plan, design and construct the IHNC surge barrier in three years. The Greater New Orleans ASCE chapter submitted the award nomination and championed the submission.



Around the Division



MVD's deputy commander, Torrey A. Dicro (center), was promoted to the rank of Colonel by MVD Commander Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr, during a formal ceremony on Oct. 1, 2014, at the Mississippi River Commission building in Vicksburg. Also pictured are Col. Dicro's wife, son and daughter, who assisted Maj. Gen. Wehr in attaching his insignia.



MVD Commander Michael C. Wehr presented Pamela Harrion, MVD public affairs specialist, with the Certificate of Achievement Oct. 6, 2014, for exceptional performance during the transition of the MVD Headquarters internal and external websites from the old Department of the Army format to the new Defense Management Agency format. Over the past year, Pamela has dedicated herself to this new Public Affairs requirement to meet transition deadlines set by our higher headquarters. Pamela is deserving of recognition for successfully accomplishing this web-based information transition.

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Division Engineer

Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr

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