

MVD Hosts USACE Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick

By MVD Public Affairs

Value, Vision, Vector—three key themes Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody and USACE Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick discussed during the chief’s recent visit at the Mississippi Valley Division.

MVD hosted the newly appointed USACE Chief of Engineers in Vicksburg, Miss., June 21 and June 22.

According to Maj. Gen. Peabody, it was beneficial to hear the Chief relay the positive reputation we have with the Army and why this reputation is so strong, e.g., Iraq/Afghanistan, the 2011 flood and post-Katrina recovery.

In his opening remarks, the chief thanked everyone for the great work that they do each and everyday. He also indicated how much he appreciated all of the hard work that went into creating the presentations and read-ahead materials for his visit.



USACE Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick (left) and Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody discuss the value of USACE, during the Chief’s recent visit at MVD.

He said USACE is an integral part of the Army, and we add tremendous value to our nation.

The chief also mentioned that General Odierno often referred to the Army’s selfless service to the nation and that the Corps epitomized that selfless service with the value we add through our emergency management efforts.

The chief recalled a conversation he had with Karen Durham-Aguilera, who said it was incredible that we had a national disaster during the 2011 Mississippi River flood without actually suffering the great losses normally associated with a national disaster.

During the meeting, the following key themes were also discussed:

- Value - We [must] know, understand and articulate the value the USACE provides.
- Vision - There is a need for clarity,

focus and discipline during a complex civil works transformation process, especially with the major colliding issues of funding vs. crumbling infrastructure.

- Vector - Regionalization is an example of cooperation, coordination and collaboration between districts. There needs to be a Corps-wide understanding of regionalization.

The chief’s visit concluded with an aerial, boat and ground tour of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System in New Orleans, La.

USACE Lt. Gen. Bostick’s Beliefs:

1. No one accomplishes anything alone. And the Corps doesn’t accomplish anything alone. It’s always a team effort. It’s not about working with others. It’s about working with teammates. We have many customers and stakeholders. We need to work and team with all of them.
2. We always need a diverse team to win.
3. Train our workforce and grow leaders each day.
4. Change is always inevitable. We must lead and shape it.
5. Communicate not just that people understand, but so that there is no possible way to misunderstand. Shared information is power. We have a GREAT story to tell, so tell it.
6. Effective communication, transparency and understanding are the very foundation of trust. Trust is the bedrock of all we do in USACE. And, loyalty is the super glue that holds it all together.
7. Be passionate about your service to our Country.
8. It’s never about what’s in it for us. It’s always about what’s in it for the nation and the team. It’s not about what we can get. It’s always about what we can give to the nation.
9. It’s truly an honor and privilege to serve the Army and the nation.
10. Stay fit and healthy; and take care of your family.

Inside this issue...

Around the Bend.....	2
MVD celebrates 237th Army birthday.....	4
USACE dredges ports.....	6
Dredge Thompson makes its final voyage ..	7
MVD hosts Senior Leader’s Conference	8
Welcome Aboard!	9
Army Benefits Center will soon process for Roth TSP	9
Around the Division	10
Remember the Dates	11
MVD Retirements	12
AED-South’s Bulldog of the Week.....	12



Around the Bend



Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody
Commander
Mississippi Valley Division
President-nominee
Mississippi River Commission

MVD Team,

As discussed in last month's "Around the Bend" article, USACE and MVD just completed an intensive period filled with key events and senior leader transitions. Critical events for MVD in June included a visit to Vicksburg and New Orleans by LTG Tom Bostick, our new Chief of Engineers, the MVD annual Senior Leaders' Training Conference (SLTC) in Rock Island, the FY 14 Budget Initial Submission, the Rock Island District change of command with COL Mark Deschenes assuming command from COL Shawn McGinley, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Civil Works Review Board meeting and the SAME

Engineer and Construction camp in Vicksburg. We also said goodbye to our own retiring Deputy Commander, COL Thatch Shepard, and Rich Johnson, our regional Chief of Contracting.

Coming up this summer major regional and USACE events include a trip to North Dakota for the Devil's Lake Executive Committee meeting and dedication of the Tolna Coulee flow control project, as well as a visit to Souris River and the town of Minot, which suffered major damages in the 2011 flood; dedication of the Lockport Canal Wall remediation project; USACE Headquarters Command Strategic Review, which involves an intensive look at how MVD is executing the USACE Campaign Plan; the annual USACE Strategic Leader Conference (SLC), immediately followed by the Mississippi River Commission low-water trip to the Missouri and lower Mississippi rivers; and a visit to the confluence area and participation in the low-water trip by LTG Bostick.

Over the last several months, I have tried to get out to as many of our districts' projects as possible, but demands on my time never seem to allow enough opportunity to see everything and meet with as many people as I want or need to. These visits are essential because they help me to understand the issues and challenges our professionals face, and provide

key contextual facts to inform the decisions I must make, in consultation with MVD's senior leaders. This mandate to address critical regional issues and provide regional direction occupied our senior leaders' efforts at the SLTC, with a focus on the following topics:

- Quality Management System (QMS)
- Project management Business Process (PMBP)
- Regional Interdependence Business Model (RIBM)
- MVD Regional Infrastructure Strategy (RIS)
- Communicating value when engaging stakeholders
- IPLAN Management System

Of primary importance is the Corps strategic direction that LTG Bostick is considering and which will be discussed at the USACE SLC, so the timing of our conference was perfect. As we synthesize the collective efforts from the MVD and USACE leader conferences, I will provide updates on our regional and national priorities in this column ... stay tuned!

In the middle of June the MVD Headquarters, all of our districts and the FEST-M celebrated the Army's birthday (237 years) up and down the valley with award ceremonies, picnics, sports events and family games. We

(Continued to page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

recognized longevity of service, and provided awards for exemplary performance and achievement. Congratulations to all of our MVD professionals who were recognized for performing their duties with distinction. This annual event also provides an opportunity to celebrate the Army's birthday by telling the Army story, highlighted by the following key messages:

- The strength of our Nation is our Army.
- The strength of our Army is our Soldiers.
- The strength of our Soldiers is our Families.
- That is what makes us Army Strong!

MVD was honored to host our new USACE Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, on June 21 and 22. The chief relayed the positive reputation we have with the Army and why this reputation is so strong, emanating from our performance in so many crucial requirements, but most especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 2011

Flood and post-Katrina recovery. The chief repeatedly emphasized how much he appreciated the read-ahead materials, presentations and discussions throughout the visit.

He especially emphasized that USACE is an integral part of the Army, and we add tremendous value to our nation. It's important that we integrate our USACE Campaign Plan into the Army Campaign Plan so that USACE is aligned with big Army's long-range strategic goals and objectives. He mentioned that General Odierno often referred to the Army's selfless service to the nation and that the Corps epitomized that selfless service with the value we add through our emergency management efforts. We need to constantly communicate the many ways we are adding value, at every opportunity, to as many people as we can.

The chief recognized that the Great Flood of 2011 was the great national disaster that

never happened, thanks to the construction, maintenance and operation of the Corps' Mississippi and Tributaries program since the flood of 1927. People need to learn more about how we prevented \$110 billion in damages for our nation while maintaining a vital and economically critical navigation system, and it is incumbent on all of us to communicate this message.

The chief's visit ended with an aerial, boat and ground tour of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, as well as the signing of the Chief's Report in front of Senator Vitter forwarding the Barataria Basin System restoration project to the Secretary for consideration. He was clearly impressed with the tremendous work that has been accomplished in Louisiana, and with the entire region's efforts to advance the national interest in the valley.

Essayons, Building Strong and ... Army Strong!



At the conclusion of the Senior Leaders Training Conference in Rock Island, 15 MVD Emerging Leaders graduated from the program. Those graduating included: Front row, left to right - David Dyer, MVN; Haden (Cole) Smith, MVM; Dennis Shannon, MVR; Ramona Warren, MVK; Maj. Gen. John Peabody, commanding general; Victoria Ellis MVD; Angela Freyermuth, MVR; Corrine Hodapp, MVP; and Mincer Minor, MVK; back row from left - Shawn Sullivan, MVS; Brad Perkl, MVP; Sara Jones, MVR; and Allen Mehrer, MVS. Not pictured are Courtney Chapman-Elzey, MVN; Cindy Mathes, MVK; and John Wilburn, MVK.



MVD celebrates 237th U.S. Army birthday, presents employee awards

By Pamela Harrion
MVD Public Affairs Office

Happy 237th birthday, U.S. Army!

On July 14, 1775, our nation's leaders established the first Continental Army. This act brought the militias of the thirteen colonies together, beginning the U.S. Army's rich heritage of meeting the needs of its nation and defending its citizens. Today, the U.S. Army continues to serve the nation's core values and beliefs.

For more than 20 years, the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their families have celebrated the U.S. Army's birthday by telling the Army's story at an annual employee awards ceremony and picnic at Clear Creek Golf Course in Bovina, Miss. More than 100 participated in this year's event, which also included adult and children's activities/awards.

Major General John W. Peabody thanked everyone who participated in this year's event. "On the Army's birthday, I'd like to thank every Soldier, Civilian and family member for their dedication to duty and selfless service that has made us 'Army Strong,'" said MG Peabody.

He also shared memorable key messages for the annual event: "The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our families. This is what makes us *Army Strong*. The Army's story is America's story. America needs its Army, and it needs to hear the Army story."

The following employee/activities awards were presented by MG Peabody during the event:



Larry E. Banks (right) assists MG Peabody (left) in unveiling the *Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees* award presented to Banks during the awards ceremony in Bovina, Miss. (Photo by Alfred Dulaney)

Length of Service Award:

5 years

Becky Fuson

10 years

Paul Dubowy
Felesia Herron-Bryant
Debbie Johnson
Mincer Minor III
Gale Ray

20 years

Patricia Logan
Carl Pigott
Franklin Price

25 years

Brian Anderson
Charles Carson
Jim Merritt
Cassandra Reed

35 years

Susan Ables
Janet Clark
Bob Fitzgerald
Beth Guynes
Larry Kilgo
Kent Parrish

40 years

Glenda Jackson

Operation Watershed-Recovery Award:

William Bradley
Kent Parrish
Scott Whitney

EEO Award of the Year:

Dennis Norris

MVD Woman of the Year:

Janet Clark

Ernest P. Blankenship Engineer/Scientist Award:

Steve Jones

Ernest P. Blankenship Professional Award:

Beth Guynes

Ernest P. Blankenship Technical/Administrative Award:

Debbie Johnson

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees Award:

Larry E. Banks

Adult and Children's Activities:

Softball - 1st Place

COL George T. Shepard

Two-mile Walk - 1st Place

Allen Perry
Yolanda Arthur

Golf - 1st Place

Jamie Triplett
Mike Warren

Two-mile Run - 1st Place

Thatcher Shepard

Congratulations to all of our winners!



MVD celebrates 237th U.S. Army birthday, presents awards (continued from page 4)





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges ports

By *Kavanaugh
Breazeale
Vicksburg District*

This year due to low water levels throughout the region and past flood damages, the Vicksburg District will spend approximately \$6.84 million on port dredging in an attempt to keep ports in operation. Dredging will be performed through contracted dredging at six ports along the Mississippi River. The \$6.84 million in port dredging is only possible due to the funding recently received under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012. These funds are part of the larger effort to repair and restore the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries (MR&T) system from the damage that occurred during the historic flood of 2011. The original fiscal year 2012 federal budget allocated \$87,600 for port dredging which only allowed for limited surveys of these shallow draft ports.

Although the district will strive to keep the ports open, low-water conditions and the expenditure of funds for port dredging operations will increase the possibility of ports being closed due to low water levels.

The district continually works with our partners and stakeholders to monitor water levels and provide a navigable port channel for normal barge traffic. Due to these low water levels, the Corps has changed the current dredging schedule in order to maintain navigation as long as possible.



Dredging of the Mississippi River.

current fiscal year 2013 federal budget allocates \$157,000 for dredging of shallow draft ports and harbors, which will only fund limited surveying. The Vicksburg District continues to communicate future funding requirements within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and strives to identify possible future funding sources. The District will continue to work with its partners and stakeholders this year and in the future to

The Dredge Butcher, operated by the Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel Company, will engage in dredging at the ports and harbors being impacted by the low water stages.

The following locations received dredging on the date listed:

- Lake Providence, Louisiana, Port was completed 29 June 2012.
- Madison Parish, Louisiana, Port was completed 3 July 2012.

The following locations will receive dredging on the date listed:

- Rosedale, Mississippi, Harbor estimated time of completion is 5 August 2012.
- Yellow Bend, Arkansas Port estimated time of completion is 11 August 2012.
- Greenville, Mississippi, Harbor estimated time of completion is 4 September 2012.
- Vicksburg, Mississippi, Harbor estimated time of completion is 30 September 2012.

The future of dredging in coming fiscal years is facing difficulties. The

monitor water levels and channel depths and keep the public and industry advised of any reductions in the depths of the ports. Although the District cannot guarantee the ports will remain navigable with a 9-foot channel, we will attempt to meet the needs of the region within the constraints of our budget this year and in the future.

Information on the current status of waterways in the district can be found by visiting the district's website at www.mvk.usace.army.mil and clicking the navigation menu on the left side of the webpage.



Dredge Thompson makes its final voyage on the Mississippi River

*By Shannon Bauer
St. Paul District*

Corps employees and retirees, river residents and those affectionately known as river rats lined the banks of the Upper Mississippi River to see the Dredge William A. Thompson leave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers service base in Fountain City, Wis., June 12.

The Thompson arrived at its final destination in Prairie du Chien, Wis., June 13. There, a nonprofit group, Community Development Alternatives, Inc., accepted the dredge from the Corps and will make it a permanent static display.

The Corps' St. Paul District used the Thompson to maintain 850 miles of the Upper Mississippi River, 335 miles of the Illinois River and other inland rivers from May 1937 until May 2005, well after its projected life of 50 years. While in use, it was the largest of its type and meticulously maintained throughout its working life.

"There's a lot of Fountain City history going down the river right now," said John Sagan, Fountain City resident and Fountain City Historical Society member, as he watched the MV General Warren tow the Thompson away from the Corps' dock. "It was a big piece of this town. A lot of people here worked on this boat. It helped keep this community going."

Mark Krumholz, Corps navigation program specialist, worked for several years to find the Thompson a new home, not wanting to see the vessel scrapped. "The Dredge Thompson



The Dredge William A. Thompson makes its way down the Upper Mississippi River for the last time June 12. After more than 80 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Thompson will retire in Prairie du Chien, Wis.

is an icon on the river. It's known to all as the big banana boat," he said. "It saw the transitioning of the Upper Mississippi River from steamboats, Mark Twain and lead lines to state-of-art diesel-electric power and a new era of channel maintenance by the Corps of Engineers.

"I started my career with the Corps on the Dredge Thompson as a deckhand on the midnight shift in August of 1974, so to see it sold to someone who is going to take care of it is extremely rewarding," he added.

The dredge was named after William A. Thompson, a Corps employee from 1878 through 1925. In 1896, he was appointed to the position of assistant engineer, responsible for improvements on the Mississippi River between Winona, Minn., and the mouth of the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Chien, Wis. He held this post until his death.

The Dravo Corporation of Pittsburgh built the Dredge Thompson for the St. Paul District in 1936 for nearly \$900,000, or \$1.3 million with

contract modifications. It was christened in Pittsburgh in March 1937 by William Thompson's granddaughter, Louise, and first sent to New York, where its galley, mess and quarters were fitted. It was then returned to Pittsburgh, where crews completed its construction. In May 1937, it made a 1,700-mile trip down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers, arriving at its permanent station in Fountain City on May 22, 1937. Through nearly seven decades of service, the Thompson's original design was only slightly modified. In 2005, it was replaced by the Dredge Goetz.

"The city is sad to see it leave, but we're glad to have it go to a good home in Prairie du Chien," said Fountain City Mayor Peter Schaffner.



MVD hosts Senior Leader's Training Conference

By Hilary Markin
Rock Island District

Seniors leaders from throughout the Mississippi Valley Division met in Rock Island, Ill., June 26-28 for the MVD Senior Leader's Conference (SLC). The conference was organized by the Rock Island District Emerging Leaders with support from others in the division.

The theme for the conference was "Delivering Value for the Nation" as the region's leaders discussed the alignment and strategic direction of the division.

"The character of the agency has changed," said Maj. Gen. John Peabody, commanding general of the Mississippi Valley Division, during opening remarks. "Today, there is more money across the Corps in Operations and Maintenance versus Construction. Our main focus has changed. We've got to change. We need to ensure every single dollar we get is spent the most efficient way possible so we get the best bang for the buck."

Throughout the conference leaders broke out into small work groups working on the strategic direction of six topics: Continuous Process Improvement, Project Management Business Process and Automated Information Systems, Regional Interdependence, MVD Regional Infrastructure Strategy, Communicating Value when Engaging Stakeholders, IPLAN Management System.

Continuing on the theme of the changing Corps, leaders heard from a panel of presenters on the Civil Works Transformation initiatives.

Tab Brown, chief, Planning and



Maj. Gen. Peabody (standing) welcomes Mississippi Valley Division senior leaders at the 2012 Senior Leaders Training Conference in Rock Island, Ill.

Policy Division at Headquarters and the MVD Regional Integration Team leader at Headquarters addressed attendees about the need for change.

"There is not enough money. The things we are used to aren't happening anymore," said Brown. "In the past we funded too many projects, we sometimes try too hard to justify projects that can't be justified."

Brown and others on the panel echoed that we have to make smart decisions about what we do and how we do it.

"We have to do a better job educating the public of our value to the nation," said Eddie Belk, director of programs for MVD. "A critical component is our partners. We need to pull them in and let them help us with what is most important."

Leaders built on this momentum during the group breakouts developing the way ahead on some of the division's key issues.

"I think some of the action items identified already align with the priorities that are shaking out," said Al Lee, regional business director for MVD following the group brief-backs. "We are carving out time at the CSR (Command Strategic Review) in July to discuss the issues from the SLC and look at them again to see if they align with our priorities."

Near the end of the conference 15 MVD Emerging Leaders graduated from the program.

Maj. Gen. Peabody's final remarks energized leaders to embrace the change and find more efficient ways of doing business.

"Leaders need to understand what's going on, why it's going on and what can be done to do it better."



Welcome Aboard!



Alan M. Brandt
MVD Regional Technical Specialist for Navigation Structures Maintenance

Since April 1998, Alan M. Brandt has served the St. Louis District - Operations, Readiness and Regulatory Division (Operations, Technical and Policy Branch) with temporary assignments as Chief, Civil Engineering Section; Chief, Operations, Technical and Policy Branch; and Chief, MVS Service Base. He is the liaison between Operations Division and Rivers

Project Office (five MVS Locks and Dams).

He has served as chairman of multiple source-selection boards, including various design-build contracts, lock and dam repairs, scour remediation, hydropower-digital governor controls, overhead bridge crane replacement, etc.

Alan spent 17 years as a civilian engineer for active Army, Aviation Troop Command, St. Louis, Mo. He has worked with

many MVD personnel in the past (inland waterways conferences, periodic inspections, dam and levee safety and assisting MVD-PA in preparation of briefing charts for General Ballard's presentation to Congress).

He enjoys gardening, leather tooling, music (saxophone, guitar, harmonica and mandolin); photography; wine making; wood carving; woodworking.

Alan assists in children's Vacation Bible School at church, where he also serves on the church Consistory (church governing body). He is a five-year member of a marching band (Bud Light Brigade) and a forty-one year member of the polka band (Butch's Polka Kings). He plays music at local nursing homes on a monthly basis and sets up/runs PA sound systems at civic observances and gatherings, supporting the VFW/American Legion on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

He has a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Ill.; and a master of science degree in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology, formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Mo.

Alan is married to Cathy Brandt, and has three grown children.

Army Benefits Center will soon process elections for Roth TSP

By MVD Public Affairs

Starting sometime in July, the Army Benefits Center will begin processing elections for a new type of TSP - the Roth TSP.

Unlike the traditional TSP, contributions into a Roth TSP are not tax-deferred when they are contributed. Instead, if you have participated for at least five years starting Jan 1 of the year you first contributed to the Roth TSP and are 59 1/2 years old or older when you start withdrawals, the contributions and earnings are tax exempt when withdrawn, subject to any IRS limitations. There is no reduction in adjusted gross income under Roth TSP contributions as there is with traditional TSP contributions; an important factor to consider when establishing tax bracket, tax deductions and tax credits.

You can elect both types of TSPs but the contribution limit has not increased. So, your total contributions

into both may not exceed the existing contribution limit for the traditional (\$17,000 a year for regular contributions and \$5,500 for catch-up contributions this year).

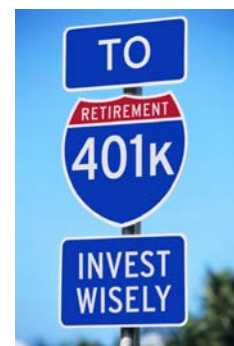
TSP participants will have the option of selecting to invest in the traditional TSP, the new Roth TSP option or a combination of both plans. Employees will be able to invest pre-tax or after-tax dollars in any of the ten different TSP funds, up to the Internal Revenue Code limits. Agency contributions will always be a part of the traditional TSP balance. Money already invested will remain part of the traditional TSP balance, and will not be able to convert to Roth TSP. A comparison of the traditional TSP and Roth TSP contributions can be found at: <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/roth/compareRoth.shtml>

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will begin processing Roth TSP elections using a phased approach beginning June 2012 through

October 2012. Upcoming deployment dates on Roth TSP elections will soon be available at: <http://www.dfas.mil/>.

Army civilian employees can elect to make Roth contributions the same way they have done previously by using the Army Benefits Center - Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) at <https://www.ebis.army.mil/login.aspx> or through their interactive phone system or by talking with an ABC counselor at 1-877-276-9287.

Employees needing assistance may contact the Army Benefits Center - (877) 276-9287 or <https://www.abc.army.mil/>.





Around the Division



Maj. Gen. Peabody presented Sandra K. Berens, Rock Island District supply technician for the USACE Logis- tics Activity, a Certificate of Achievement for Employ- ee of the Quarter, 1st quarter of FY 2012. Sandra leads the effort in overseeing 91 hand receipts, accounting for 6,300 items with a value more than \$136 million with no loss. Her “can do” attitude has lead the effort in a seamless process of supporting the commanding general’s campaign on property accountability and the ACE-IT computer refresh.

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Division Engineer

Maj. Gen. John W.
Peabody

Editor

Pamela Harrion
Public Affairs Specialist

Chief, Public Affairs

Bob Anderson

Open Channels is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

It is published monthly and distributed electronically, by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineer Division, Mississippi Valley.

Views and opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Send articles to:

Editor,
Public Affairs Office,
U.S. Army Engineer
Division,
Mississippi Valley
P.O. Box 80,
Vicksburg, MS, 39181-
0080
pamela.g.harrion@
usace.army.mil



Dates to Remember

Holidays in July

4—Fourth of July - The “4th of July” (or Independence Day) commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It is the birthday of our nation and a legal U.S. holiday. We celebrate with picnics and fireworks and enjoy the freedom that comes with the event that made this day so special. Happy Fourth to our nation, our soldiers and our families!

13—Friday the 13th - Friday the 13th occurs one to three times a year. Throughout most of recorded history, the number 13 has been seen as an unlucky number. Did you know that many buildings and skyscrapers do not have a 13th floor? When you put the unlucky day of Friday, together with the unlucky #13, some people believe only bad things can happen. However, there is a sizable number of optimists, who embrace Friday the 13th and the number 13. They shrug off the superstition and go buy lottery tickets with the number 13 in it.

27—Summer Olympics Games - Once every four years, the world’s top athletes meet, to compete in the Summer Olympics. The Olympic games in London, England will be the XXX Olympiad. Opening Day ceremonies for the Summer Olympics is a huge, and very special event. The olympic competitions are held over a two-week period. It concludes with a closing ceremony.





MVD Retirements



Col. George Shepard (right) presented Barry A. Bagby with a framed MVD/MRC collage, during Bagby's retirement ceremony/reception on June 14, 2012. Bagby was the MVD mechanic for the G-3.



Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody (right) thanked Col. George T. "Thatch" Shepard (left) for his service to the Mississippi Valley Division, Army Corps of Engineers, during Col. Shepard's retirement ceremony/reception on July 2, 2012. Col. Shepard was MVD's deputy commander for four years. *More to come in the next issue!*

Angela May Afghanistan Engineer District-South's Bulldog of the Week

By Dave Melancon
New Orleans District

Bulldogs can be very intelligent and determined creatures. Angela May, administrative support specialist in the South District's personnel office, is cited as a "steady, intelligent, determined and confident individual," which is why she was selected as this week's Bulldog of the Week.

"She is an example of an invaluable employee," said Navy Cmdr. Halleck Mohler, South District adjutant. "She routinely completes any and all tasks with the utmost of professionalism and commitment to excellence. No task is too hard for she has the internal fortitude to tackle anything to its completion."



Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham II (right), Afghanistan Engineer District-South commander, presents Angela May, administrative support specialist in the South District's personnel office, with the district's bulldog. Angela is the district's Bulldog of the Week for June 18-23. (USACE photo)

Mohler said May has picked up tasks in addition to her mail handling and housing assignment manager duties during other employees' absences with "absolutely no degradation of services" and is learning and helping out with every other personnel division office function.

"Angela sets high standards for herself and for others to emulate," said Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, South District commander. "She has never hesitated to learn about or take on new tasks. We're very fortunate to have employees like her in the South District."

May deployed to the South District from the New Orleans District.