

## USACE Chief of Engineers and MVD Commander tout infrastructure's value to the nation

By Pamela Harrion  
MVD Public Affairs

USACE Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick and Mississippi Valley Division Commander/Mississippi River Commission President Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody addressed 200 water resource stakeholders about the importance of the nation's aging infrastructure, during the 2012 annual meeting of the National Waterways Conference September 19-21 in Tunica, Miss.

Stakeholders that attended the NWC included flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water districts, engineering consultants and state and local governments.

In his address, Gen. Bostick mentioned that the Corps has always been a nation builder at home and abroad.



USACE Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Bostick, addresses water resource stakeholders about the value of U.S. infrastructure to the nation during the annual meeting of the National Waterways Conference, held in Tunica, Miss. (Photo by Pamela Harrion)

He also mentioned that neglected waterways, demands for hydropower throughout the country and calls for irrigation projects in the West drew attention to the nation's water resources at the beginning of the 20th century.

Gen. Bostick stated that the majority of U.S. infrastructure was built between the 1920s and 1980s, and has already reached or exceeded its planned designed life. Water resources infrastructure kept pace with population growth until the mid-1980s when investment was insufficient to keep the infrastructure in good working order.

Gen. Bostick also said that nearly 50 percent of USACE locks on inland waterways are more than 50

years old, thus operating beyond their design life with overall reliability declining. Scheduled lock outages for maintenance and repair are increasing while unscheduled lock outages are increasing. In fiscal year 1993, approximately 2.5 percent of locks were unavailable; that number rose to 8 percent in fiscal year 2011.

According to Maj. Gen. Peabody, "Aging infrastructure plus an Operations & Maintenance backlog equals increasing outages at our locks."

Maj. Gen. Peabody continued with a description of a recent deteriorating lock in the Mississippi Valley region, showing a video clip of Lockport Lock and Dam in the Rock Island District area of responsibility that collapsed. He described it as follows: "At approximately 0935 on Oct. 7, 2011, seven monoliths, totaling 280 linear feet of canal wall, just upstream of the Lockport Lock collapsed into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal."

Maj. Gen. Peabody also mentioned emergency repairs recently performed by the Corps on Lock and Dam 27 in the St. Louis District, near Granite City, Ill., which was closed recently when the Corps of Engineers crews discovered damage to one of the lock's protection cells. The damage stemmed from additional wear on a non-armored section of the protection cell that is typically under 15- to 20-feet of water. "Lock and Dam

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## Around the Bend



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

MVD Team,

Now that we have concluded another fiscal year, it is clear that on reflection MVD has prepared for, responded to and succeeded in another year that included an extraordinarily demanding work environment.

First, I would like to thank and congratulate every member of our 5,000 person team of professionals for an outstanding job in 2012! Across the region we delivered an amazing performance, although not without some challenges in FY12's \$2.25 billion program. Perhaps of most importance, we exceeded our goal of obligating \$500 million in flood repairs by \$54 million, on top of the \$170 million started in 2011. We also completed 35

projects with over 80 projected to be substantially complete for a projected flood risk reduction by 60% prior to the 2013 flood season. So, while obligations are important, they are only one of the major steps to delivering solutions to our stakeholders and partners on the ground, and that is what really counts.

In our O&M, Regulatory and MR&T programs, we slightly exceeded our planned obligations, bringing our performance to above 100%! The FUSRAP and FCCE programs were both executed above 98%. However, both our Investigations and our Construction programs lagged at 77% and 46% respectively, due primarily to three specific projects, one where the local sponsor changed priorities (Louisiana decided not to execute previously agreed to coastal studies with the Corps), and in the greater New Orleans' SELA program local A&E firms did not complete two designs on time. Add to these factors \$35 million in favorable bids below the government estimate, and both of these programs would have been above 90% as well.

It has been an extraordinarily busy year and summer. MVD hosted LTG Bostick on his inaugural visit to Vicksburg and New Orleans, held our annual Senior Leader Conference in Rock Island to map out our regional direction for 2013 and beyond, hosted the Corps Deputy Commanding General and senior

staff for a Command Strategic Review, conducted the Corps Strategic Leader Conference in Little Rock, followed by the two-week-long Mississippi River Commission Low Water trip to the Missouri and lower Mississippi Rivers this year. All the while, our focus on the decreasing water stages on the river demanded ever-increasing attention.

Following last year's record Mississippi River flood, we were challenged this year by an extended drought setting some daily records for low-water stages at various points and times along the lower river. I continue to be impressed by how well our team is responding to the Great Drought of 2012. Despite near-record low water, the Corps continues providing safe and reliable navigation, largely thanks to the extensive channel improvements and training structures added since the last major low water in 1988, making the river significantly more efficient today.

We have been actively and intensively anticipating and managing this low-water challenge since June, mobilizing and judiciously maneuvering a dredge fleet exceeding 20 vessels to maintain the river channel and open small ports and harbors to navigation, and constantly communicating with Coast Guard and navigation industry leaders. Despite over 50 barge groundings so far this year, none occurred in the navigable channel or due to



improper channel maintenance by USACE.

The weather forecast indicates the low-water situation will persist throughout the winter, continuing to test the endurance and flexibility of our operations professionals, dredge management capability and capacity to leverage what limited water storage our reservoirs retain. As a result, water management experts from across the Mississippi River basin are developing some options for potential application to sustain navigation in the event the drought persists long-term and we face a situation of persistent extreme low water.

While we continued our drought management efforts, Hurricane Isaac required a shift in focus in late August. With only 48-hours notice before landfall, we mobilized over 100 Corps professionals nation-wide to plan and prepare for this massive storm, and another 300 in its immediate aftermath to respond to the major flooding it caused. Because of the Corps' focused efforts ever since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Isaac encountered a completed and vastly strengthened Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). Seven years of careful modeling, planning, design, construction management scrutiny, stakeholder engagement and endless weeks and years of sweat and toil proved to a breathless media and doubtful public what the Corps already confidently knew: that the

HSDRRS would easily withstand the wrath of Isaac. This elicited praise from New Orleans' mayor, as well as both U.S. Senators from Louisiana; Senator Landrieu called it "a miracle." The HSDRRS performed as designed, clearly demonstrating the value the Corps can deliver when enabled by full funding, alternative NEPA arrangements, innovative acquisition strategies, well-structured program management and full leveraging of national capabilities.

I deployed to Baton Rouge before landfall and embedded with Louisiana state leaders. Governor Jindal invited me on his trips to the affected areas and to participate in many of his media events, helping me to get out the Corps' story. Governor Jindal and his staff were extremely complimentary of the Corps' preparatory and response efforts, as were all Mississippi state authorities and FEMA leaders. Having toured the disaster areas and watched you work tirelessly, including Labor Day weekend, I witnessed first-hand the professionalism, dedication and caring compassion with which Corps professionals helped Hurricane Isaac's victims. All who prepared for and responded to Isaac made the entire Corps proud!

Unfortunately, Hurricane Isaac's extremely slow pace and large size contributed to an unusually high storm surge and enormous rainfall, exceeding 20 inches in some areas. These factors

combined to overwhelm some non-Federal levees and coastal regions, resulting in unexpectedly high flooding in southern Louisiana and along the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. The storm caused several deaths, damaged or destroyed nearly 60,000 structures, causing tremendous property loss and terrible heartache. Rainfall from the storm also threatened the structural integrity of a Mississippi state dam and a federal lock in Vicksburg District's footprint.

In response to this damage, calls from political leaders in Louisiana to complete several under-funded Corps flood and storm surge studies, and concerns that the HSDRRS might have induced flooding along Lake Pontchartrain's shoreline, Louisiana's Senator Landrieu called a field hearing on September 25th at which I testified. My key messages were:

1. Every extreme weather event has the potential to overwhelm, damage or destroy the built and natural environments;
2. USACE's emergency management system energized capabilities and expertise nation-wide to prepare, pre-position and respond to Isaac with extraordinary effectiveness;
3. The HSDRRS performed as designed, thanks to post-Katrina national commitment that included full funding, cutting edge scientific analysis, application of



## Around the Bend *(continued from page 3)*

- lessons, alternative NEPA arrangements and Corps innovative acquisition and program management;
4. Following every disaster response, we must identify what worked and what did not, objectively investigate issues and apply lessons to improve our institutional DR mechanisms and engineered solutions;
  5. The Corps is progressing as rapidly as possible to complete HSDRRS, and outside HSDRRS, we are advancing studies and projects as rapidly as Appropriations and changed conditions allow;
  6. Much of southern and coastal LA remains at risk to storm and flooding impacts. USACE is working to ensure that we have confidence in the science and engineering to ensure any federal decision to invest in this area is a safe and wise one.

While we have been responding to Hurricane Isaac, fighting the effects of low water on navigation, repairing damages from the great flood of 2011, and delivering a massive \$2.3 billion program, the larger enterprise has been working to develop our new Chief's guidance into an actionable plan. I have been engaged with Headquarters leaders on this effort, and have provided a fair amount of feedback on some of the draft products.



The motor vessel *William James* travels the Mississippi River during the 2012 Drought.

The Chief's "initial priorities" have been refined into twelve "emerging priorities", which I believe are close to becoming "final priorities." General Bostick's priorities boil down to three strategic imperatives: (1) Defend and Protect our Nation; (2) Develop and Manage our Nation's Resources by Transforming Civil Works; and (3) Design and transform USACE for the Future. I expect the details of the Corps' strategic direction to be finalized soon, which I will discuss in a future "Around the Bend" article.

And finally, just last week, the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association hosted an event to celebrate the achievement of the Honorable Sam Angel on becoming the Mississippi River Commission's longest-

serving member in its history. I have always been thoroughly impressed with the detailed knowledge and level of interest and attention by the civilian Commissioners to their duties. Mr. Angel's legacy of life-long service is an amazing testament to his knowledge, dedication and stamina. Sam's passion for the mission of the Corps, and ability to simplify complex problems into understandable elements, is invaluable. I hope that Mr. Angel's example of service will inspire all of you, as it does me, to reinvigorate our efforts to deliver value for the nation.

Essayons, Building Strong and...Army Strong!



## USACE Chief of Engineers and MVD Commander tout infrastructure's value to the nation *(continued from page 1)*

27 at the Chain of Rocks Canal was reopened after completing emergency repairs for safe navigation, enabling the U.S. Coast Guard to get traffic moving on the river again," said Maj. Gen. Peabody.

In addition to aging U.S. infrastructure and an O&M backlog, Gen. Bostick mentioned that the volume of world trade has increased about 100 fold since 1950 (according to the World Trade Organization); 95 percent of our international trade moves through the nation's ports; and trade produces 1/3 of U.S. GDP and provides almost 14 million jobs.

He added that IHS Global Insight has forecast U.S. imports and exports through 2042 -- imports are expected to grow from \$2,666 billion in 2011 to \$12,444 billion in 2042; and exports are projected to increase from \$2,088 billion over the same period.

During his address, Maj. Gen. Peabody discussed other challenges facing U.S. infrastructure and the Corps, including events such as the 2011 Flood, the 2012 Drought and Hurricane Isaac. "During the Corps' repair and recovery work following the greatest flood in the Mississippi River's modern history, we were challenged by an extended, perhaps record-setting drought, that continues to test the endurance and flexibility of our dredge fleet and other extreme low-water response efforts. And while the Mississippi Valley region continues its response to the drought, we also had to plan, prepare and respond to the inconceivable deluge wrought by Hurricane Isaac."

### **What Can We Do?**

In order to sufficiently manage deteriorating U.S. infrastructure, as well as respond to an O&M backlog, an increased volume of world trade, as well as other challenges, General Bostick touted a "We Can't Wait Initiative," which consists of expediting seven (of 43) nationally and regionally significant infrastructure projects that will help modernize and expand five major ports in the U.S., namely New York/New Jersey, Charleston, Savannah, Jacksonville and Miami.

According to Gen. Bostick, the Office of Management and Budget will oversee a government-wide effort to make the permitting and review process for infrastructure projects more efficient and effective, saving time while driving better outcomes for local communities.

Gen. Bostick also said that we will need to work together to decide what our most significant funding needs are and how to invest limited dollars. "Historically, we have tried to fund too many individual projects and weren't able to make the best use of our limited federal dollars. The Corps needs to be in synch with the NWC and other stakeholder groups to prioritize actions that are in the national interest and find alternative methods of funding," he said.

Ultimately, Gen. Bostick said that we all need to correct misperceptions and communicate the value of the Corps -- and of the infrastructure that we build and maintain -- to the nation.



Maj. Gen. Peabody discusses the challenges facing U.S. infrastructure and the Corps to NWC stakeholders. *(Photo by Pamela Harrion)*

Specifically, he said that we need to:

- Tell the story.
- Help transform civil works.
- Continue to partner with our stakeholders, industry and beneficiaries of the system.
- Help the nation prioritize efforts and projects.

Gen. Bostick concluded with his emerging priorities:

- Military Focus: Defend and protect our nation.
- Civil Works Focus: Transform Civil Works.
- Strategic Focus: USACE for the future.

Maj. Gen. Peabody closed with the MRC's vision: "Our vision for the nation's future is comprehensive, multiple basin water resource engineering solutions that are developed with broad based, regularly scheduled interest and stakeholder participation."



## Angel becomes longest serving member in the 133-year history of the MRC

By MVD Public Affairs

On October 2, 2012, the Honorable Sam E. Angel became the longest serving member in the history of the Mississippi River Commission, breaking the previous record of Mr. Robert S. Taylor (Ind.) who served as an MRC civilian commissioner from 1881-1914.



(Left to right) The Hon. Sam Angel and Hon. R.D. James, MRC Commissioners; George Gruett, Executive Vice President, Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association; the Hon. Marion Berry, former Arkansas U.S. Representative, and his wife Carolyn at Mr. Angel's recognition event in Memphis, Tenn., October 2, 2012.

In recognition of this significant occasion, Maj. Gen. John Peabody, President of the Mississippi River Commission, stated: "Sam's legacy of life-long service to the nation through the MRC is an amazing testament to his knowledge, dedication, and perhaps most importantly for this occasion, his stamina. He has set an example of selfless service."

Mr. Angel is president of the Epstein Land Company and Epstein Gin Company in Lake Village, Ark. He was first appointed to the MRC by President Jimmy Carter in September 1979. After his first nine-year term, he was reappointed in October 1988 by President Ronald Reagan; in November 1999 he was appointed for a third nine-year appointment by President Bill Clinton; and President Barack Obama appointed him to his fourth nine-year term in December 2010.

The civilian members of the Mississippi River Commission:

- Ensure knowledge and relationships continuity (29 civilians have served on MRC since 1879)
- Have a combined 80 years on the commission

- Provide engineering and business expertise from the private sector (today's civilians have a combined 165 years of experience)
- Have long-term proven relationships with legislators, partners and local interests

"Thank you for your support to the MRC and the nation these many years." Peabody added. "Your passion for the commission's mission, and your ability to simplify the complex problems it addresses into understandable elements, is simply unsurpassed."

To date, all MRC members are nominated and appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate of the United States.

The commission was created by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1879 to plan and provide for the general improvement of the entire length of the Mississippi River. This includes improving navigation, preventing destructive floods and facilitating commerce. The presidential appointees consist of three officers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and three civilians, two of whom must be civil engineers.

The commission itself is an advisory body. Its general duties include recommending policy and work programs, studying and reporting on modifications or changes to the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, commenting on matters authorized by law, making inspection trips, and holding public hearings that facilitate exchanges of viewpoints and ideas between the public and the MRC. Since 1879 the commission has been "listening, inspecting, partnering and engineering" with water resource interests in a watershed that is influenced by the drainage of over 41 percent of the United States and two provinces of Canada.

For more information on the MRC, you may visit [www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc](http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc).



# Play EEO Jeopardy!

Test your knowledge on EEO...Answer the below questions and submit your answers to Dr. Ann Bargains, Chief, MVD EEO, at [ann.bargains@usace.army.mil](mailto:ann.bargains@usace.army.mil) by October 15, 2012. The top winner(s) will be featured in the next issue of Open Channels.

## SPECIAL EMPHASIS

1. This program exists to address "special" problems and concerns of civilian minorities, women and individuals with disabilities.
2. Three programs mandated by Federal law.
3. Modifications that enable a disabled person to perform.
4. This person counsels employees on promotion opportunities and career progression.
5. Group that monitors recruitment efforts of women, minorities and individuals with disabilities.

## DISCRIMINATION

1. Nine bases of discrimination covered by EEO.
2. The minimum age you must be to be protected by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
3. Federal statute protects federal employees with disabilities from discrimination.
4. The Civil Rights Act, Equal Pay Act, Rehabilitation Act, & AR 690-600.
5. Unwelcome advances that are made a condition of one's employment.

## COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. Who can file an EEO Complaint?
2. Number of Calendar days an individual has to contact the EEO Office after discrimination occurs.
3. The basis(es), claims(s) and date(s) of alleged discriminatory matters.
4. Federal Agency that regulates & enforces the EEO complaint process.
5. Army's preferred method for resolving complaints.

## AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT

1. Three EEO protected groups.
2. A tool used to achieve equal employment opportunities.
3. Three areas the Affirmative Employment Plan focuses on.
4. The % of an EEO protected group is lower than its representation in the Civilian Labor Force (CLF).
5. This report helps create an effective equal employment opportunity (EEO) program.

## FINAL JEOPARDY

Six essential elements of a Model EEO Program:

1. Demonstrated commitment from agency leadership;
2. Integration of EEO into the agency's strategic mission;
3. Management and program accountability;
4. Proactive prevention of unlawful discrimination;
5. Efficiency; and
6. Responsiveness and legal compliance.

## ROLES IN EEO

1. Oversees/manages the EEO and ADR Programs.
2. Ensures that the EEO Office is given access to personnel records.
3. Implements/enforces EEO policies.
4. Provides legal advice on EEO matters.
5. Ensures that employees refrain from discriminatory actions, prevent & correct these situations.



## Corps' Louisiana Field Office sponsors Ouachita River Water Sweep

By Alice Bufkin  
Vicksburg District

The Vicksburg District's Louisiana Field Office (LFO) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Keep Monroe, West Monroe and Ouachita Parish Beautiful organizations recently sponsored the annual Ouachita River Water Sweep. This year's event was held at locations in Monroe, West Monroe and Sterlington.

This annual event originated in 2006 and promoted making the outdoors more enjoyable and safe. During this year's event, volunteers and organizations cleaned along the shorelines and within the Ouachita River, providing a better place for all types of outdoor recreation.

Volunteers met and signed up at any of four staging areas at Forsythe Park boat launch in Monroe, Lazaarre Park in West Monroe, Moon Lake Recreation Area in Ouachita Parish between Monroe and Sterlington, and the Sterlington recreation area. Volunteer boaters provided transportation

for participants cleaning the Ouachita River.

The Corps provided a barge and motor vessel that departed from the LFO project office. The barge ran between the Twin Cities to approximately the Moon Lake Recreation area, turned around, and returned to dump trash at Forsythe Park that boaters placed on the barge. More than eight tons of trash and debris were collected from the river and shoreline during the 2011 Water Sweep, and almost two tons of trash and debris were collected in 2012.

An added attraction was Ouachita Parish's "Robertson Clan," stars of the popular "Duck Commander" reality TV show on the Arts and Entertainment network. In addition to meeting



Shelley McDowell, Vicksburg District Louisiana Field Office project manager, places trash and debris collected from the Ouachita river and shoreline on a barge, during the 2012 Water Sweep held recently. (Photo by LFO Rangers)

with local fans and signing autographs, they also assisted in the cleanup.

The Vicksburg District's LFO provides day-use activities and camping at two river systems and three lakes, and encompasses the Ouachita-Black River, Red River, Bayou Bodcau, Caddo Lake, Wallace Lake, Grand Ecore Visitor Center and the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Regional Visitor Center. The annual attendance at these areas totals more than 1,338,566 visitors.

## Safety Corner: West Nile Virus

The West Nile virus (WNV) is most often spread to people from the bite of an infected mosquito. The WNV normally cycles between mosquitoes and birds. However, people may be infected if they are bitten by a WNV-infected mosquito.

Outdoor workers are at risk of WNV infection from the bite of infected mosquitoes. Workers at risk include farmers, foresters, landscapers, groundskeepers and gardeners, painters, roofers, pavers, construction workers, laborers, mechanics and other outdoor workers. Entomologists, wildlife biologists and other field workers are also at risk while working outdoors.

Laboratory, field and clinical workers who perform necropsies of infected birds or handle WNV-infected tissues or fluids are also at risk of WNV infection if their skin is penetrated or cut. The virus can be transmitted through contact with the blood or other tissues of infected animals.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds or mosquitoes as of September 4, 2012.

A total of 1,993 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 87 deaths, have been reported to the CDC. Of these, 1,069 (54%) were classified as neuroinvasive disease

(such as meningitis or encephalitis), and 924 (46%) were classified as non-neuroinvasive disease.

The 1,993 cases reported thus far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to the CDC through the first week in September since West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999. Over 70 percent of the cases have been reported from six states (Texas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Michigan), and almost 45 percent of all cases have been reported from Texas.

For more information on the West Nile Virus, you may visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/>.





## Welcome Aboard!



**Dawn Ewan**  
Program Analyst  
Program Management Div.

I am currently serving on a developmental assignment in the Programs Directorate as a Program Analyst. My assignment here will last until December 1st.

I have worked at the Rock Island District since April of 2006. My first responsibilities were in Contracting where I served as a Contract Purchasing Agent. In

2009, I took a position in the Programs department. Prior to my government employment, I owned and operated a coffee shop and bagel restaurant in Terre Haute, Ind., for 11 years. After 11 years of “living the American Dream,” I realized that I was missing out on important years in my children’s lives, so we packed up everything and moved back to my home town of Bettendorf, Iowa.

My husband, Bill, and I have three wonderful (but expensive) children. Colin is a senior at Iowa State University in Ames, Bryce is a junior at Loras College in Dubuque and our daughter Dana is a freshman at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. I love camping and the many places we have seen around the country while pulling our pop-up. I enjoy hiking

If you have a new employee in your office, or if you ARE a new employee to the Mississippi Valley Division, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 601-634-7729, so that we can introduce you to everyone in Open Channels.

with and without my two yellow labs, puzzles and reading.

We would also like to recognize and welcome the following new MVD employees this month:

- **Dave Merkel**, Regional Logistics Manager, USACE Logistics Agency
- **Gary Young**, Program Manager, MVN District Support Team

## Vicksburg District inducts Hamby into Gallery

By Shirley J. Smith  
Vicksburg District

The Vicksburg District recently inducted Clifton C. Hamby, III, retired chief of the design branch of the Engineering Division, into the prestigious Galley of Distinguished Employees. Hamby’s career spanned more than 35 years, with 34 of those years spent working in the Engineering Division.

His career began in 1972 as a civil design engineer at the Waterways Experiment Station. In 1973 he transferred to the structures section of Vicksburg District’s Design Branch, Engineering Division. In 1983, he was selected to serve a dual assignment as assistant chief of the Structures Section and technical coordinator specialist for the Red River project. He served in this capacity until 1988 when he was promoted to chief of the Navigation Structures Section. In 1992, he was selected assistant chief of the Design Branch and because of his technical expertise was voted the 1996 Society of American Military Engineers’ Engineer of the Year. In 2003, Hamby was promoted to chief of Design Branch, a position he held until his retirement in 2007.

Throughout his career with the USACE, Hamby was a valuable member of the Vicksburg District team. He exemplified the Army values in his approach to solving problems and in working with others on the district team. He was a role model and mentor to other engineers and continuously demonstrated his personal character, integrity and leadership abilities throughout his career.

A native of Grenada, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from Mississippi State University. He is married to the former Bettie Sue West, and they are the parents of five children.



**Clifton C. Hamby, III**



## Around the Division



Maj. Gen. Peabody recently presented the *Commander's Award for Civilian Service* to **Pam Vedros**, Public Affairs Specialist, MVD, for her outstanding efforts during the 2011 Flood and Recovery.

## Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



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## Dates to Remember

# Holidays in October

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month -**

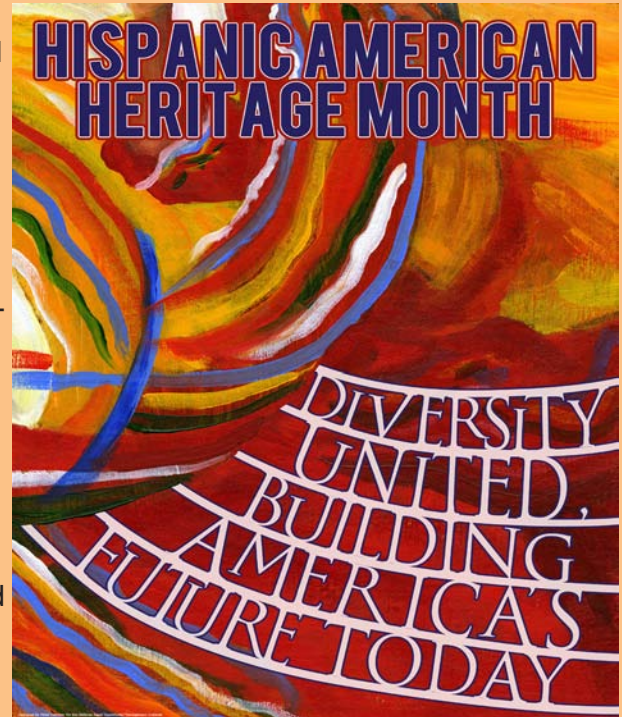
This month allows us to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of Americans with disabilities. We recognize and salute their skills, creativity and dedication to the workplace. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 has helped to ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to engage in productive work and participate fully in life.

**National Hispanic Heritage Month -** Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

**8—Columbus Day -** Columbus Day is a observance honoring Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the Americas in 1492. The holiday is observed in the United States by banks, the post office and most governments and schools, while most businesses remain open.

**16—National Boss's Day -** National Boss Day is an observance day to show appreciation to a boss, manager, supervisor. Many times we do not realize the challenges of being the boss, which is why Patricia Bays Haroski, in 1958, decided to register the holiday and designate October 16 in honor of her father's birthday.

**31—Halloween -** Halloween is a day for trick-or-treating, costume parties, haunted houses, jack-o-lanterns and other related celebrations. Happy Halloween!





MVD's 2012 Combined Federal Campaign

# Give a little – HELP A LOT!



**WHAT:**  
MVD's CFC  
Kickoff

**WHEN:**  
October 10th  
10 a.m.

**WHERE:**  
MRC Conference  
Room



Mississippi Valley Division  
2012 Combined Federal Campaign



# NOT IN USE?

# TURN OFF THE JUICE!

LEAD BY EXAMPLE WITH  
**SMART ENERGY CHOICES**  
AT WORK AND AT HOME.



## USE YOUR WITS. SAVE YOUR WATTS!

Switch off unnecessary lights.  
Empty rooms love the dark!



## UNPLUG THAT DRAIN!

Shut off or unplug electrical "drains" such as  
battery chargers, radios, printers, scanners, and coffeemakers.



## BE WISE ABOUT OFFICE SUPPLIES.

Use energy efficient products with the ENERGY STAR® Label.



## BURN CARBOHYDRATES...NOT HYDROCARBONS!

Walk, bike, or take public transport to work.



**YOU HAVE  
the POWER™**

For more information contact:  
EERE Information Center: 1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463) [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable



## 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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