



Mississippi River Commission conducts high-water inspection trip

By MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi River Commission will conduct its annual high-water inspection trip on the Mississippi River April 8-12, 2013.

Four public meetings have been scheduled aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI in selected towns along the river, so commission members have the opportunity to meet with local residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues. The meeting places, dates and times are as follows:

- April 8, 9:00 a.m., Cape Girardeau, Mo., City Front



The Vessel MISSISSIPPI docked at the City Front in Vicksburg, Miss., March 28, 2012.

- April 9, 9:00 a.m., Memphis, Tenn., Beale Street Landing, Foot of Beale Street
- April 11, 9:00 a.m., Natchez, Miss., City Front
- April 12, 9:00 a.m., Baton Rouge, La., Ingram Capitol Fleet, Port Allen, La.
April 12, 11:15 a.m., Baton Rouge, La., Ingram Capitol Fleet, Port Allen, La. (The 11:15 a.m. meeting is for observation only, no public comment. The commission will consider the Morganza to the Gulf project.)

All meetings are open to the public. Local interests are invited to present their views and

suggestions on matters affecting the water resources infrastructure needs in the valley, including flood control and the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, environmental issues, recreation and navigation.

The agenda for each public meeting will be as follows:

1. Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
2. District commander's overview for the commission on current project issues in the respective District area.
3. Presentations to the Commission by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the commission and the Corps of Engineers.

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Around the Bend **SNAPSHOT**



Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody talks with Harvard University students after his presentation, "The Corps of Engineers Today: Between a Lock and a Carp Place," March 4, 2013. Afterwards, he addressed about 150 members of the navigation industry at the Inland Waterways Conference in Louisville, KY, March 4-5.



Maj. Gen. Peabody conducted a town hall meeting aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI while it was docked at the Ensley Engineer Yard March 14 in Memphis, Tenn. He answered district employees' questions concerning the future of the Memphis District.



Maj. Gen. Peabody met with members of the St. Louis District's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program team March 27 at the downtown Saint Louis, Mo., remediation site.



Maj. Gen. Peabody visited with rangers at the Carlyle Lake Recreation Site March 28. During his visit, the MG toured the sites to gain more knowledge about the recreation sites.



MRC schedules high-water inspections... *(continued from page 1)*

About the MRC

The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. Three of the organization's members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the commission include recommendation of policy and work programs, the study of and reporting upon the necessity for modifications or additions to the flood control and navigation project, recommendation upon any matters authorized by law, and making semi-annual inspection trips. The duties of the commission include the entire length of the Mississippi River

from its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to Head of Passes, La., where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

The purpose of the public meetings is to maintain a dialogue, an exchange of viewpoints and ideas flowing between the public and the Corps. Presentations by the public are made orally, but a copy of the remarks should be presented to the commission for the official record.

The public hearing process is unique to the Mississippi River Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The benefits of hearing the issues and concerns first hand through the public hearing process are invaluable to the commission and the Corps. Also, the interaction with congressional, federal and state interests, local boards and non-government organi-

zations and the public is crucial to the decision-making process of the commission.

Since 1879, the seven-member Presidentially appointed Mississippi River Commission has developed and matured plans for the general improvement of the Mississippi River from the Head of Passes to the Headwaters. The Mississippi River Commission brings critical engineering representation to the drainage basin, which impacts 41% of the United States and includes 1.25 million square miles, over 250 tributaries, 31 states and two Canadian provinces.



Check out MG Peabody's recent interview with the Vicksburg Daily News. This is a three-part web-series called "Coffee With..." You can access this interview on the Commander's Welcome page at <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/About/CommandersWelcome.aspx> or at <http://vicksburgdailynews.com/2013/03/13/coffee-with-maj-gen-john-peabody-part-1/>.



MVD announces Black Engineer of the Year Award winners

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs, and Shirley J. Smith, Vicksburg District (Photos by Alfred Dulaney)

Four Mississippi Valley district employees were recently presented awards at the 2012 Black Engineer of the Year, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Conference that recognized outstanding STEM accomplishments in industry, education and government. The 27th annual conference was held Feb. 8, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

Hosted by the Career Communications Group, the conference brought together many chief executive officers, corporate presidents and top leaders from the government including a strong representation from Corps leadership. It provided an excellent opportunity for professional development, networking and recruiting. It also highlighted the impacts of STEM on creating solutions to help meet the needs of the 21st century.

Mrs. Jovan Johnson-Griffin was the recipient of the 2012 Women of Color Technology Rising Star award. She is a program analyst for the Construction Division, Quality Assurance Branch, New Orleans District-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mrs. Johnson-Griffin played a significant role in the success of the construction materials testing blanket purchase agreement business process, utilized throughout the

Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Mrs. Johnson-Griffin's excellent knowledge of standard accounting practices and governmental contractual rules and regulations along with her demonstrated leadership within the Construction Division, is proof that Mrs. Johnson-Griffin is the future of the Corps and her dedication to the mission at hand is an extremely admirable quality. Her accomplishments reflect well upon herself and the entire New Orleans District.

Mrs. Johnson-Griffin is a native of New Orleans, La. She earned a bachelor's degree in management from the University of New Orleans. She is currently working on a master's degree in business administration.

Mr. Chimeadu Ewoh was the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Modern-Day Technology Leader award. Mr. Ewoh is a civil engi-



Jovan Johnson-Griffin

neer (structural) for the Structures Branch, Engineering Division, New Orleans District, USACE.

Mr. Ewoh has contributed directly to the success of the New Orleans District through application of his knowledge of current technologies in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Mr. Ewoh's technical knowledge of structural, civil and transportation engineering, along with his communication skills and his dedication to the improvement of living conditions of all humanity, whether through design and construction of hurricane risk reduction features or through improved infrastructure in war-torn nations, exemplify Mr. Ewoh's successful leadership under a variety of conditions and justified his being the recipient of this award.

Mr. Ewoh is a native of Nigeria who immigrated to the U.S. in 2000. He currently resides in Baltimore, Md. He earned a bachelor's degree in science and technology from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and a master's degree from Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md.

Ms. Marneshia Richard was the recipient of the 2012 Modern-Day Technology Leader award. She is a structural engineer in the Engineering and Construction Division at the Vicksburg District. She is responsible for performing structural engineering design work for conventional type structures. She performs designs of steel and con-



Chimeadu Ewoh



MVD announces BEYA winners (continued from page 4)



Marneshia Richard

crete structures in connection with flood control, navigation and multi-purpose projects, and prepares plans and specifications for the projects.

Most recently, Ms. Richard's efforts were a significant factor in the success of maintaining schedules of three major projects. She was a member of the design team in charge of the preparation of plans and specifications for the Wilkinson Pump Station Project in Plaquemines Parish, La. The project is designed to reduce flooding in the LaReusitte to Myrtle Grove area of the parish.

She is also a member of the design team for the McKinney Bayou channel enlargement project. The project is to enlarge an existing channel, which will include the replacement of three existing box culvert structures. Ms. Richard is

also a regional team member on the Fargo-Morehead project. She participates as the structural designer on this project for the St. Paul District. The project's purpose is to alleviate flooding in the Red River of the North geographical area, which includes approximately 6,800 square miles in the states of Minn. and ND. She is responsible for the design of some of the control structures on this project.

In addition to her design efforts, Ms. Richard also provides support in the Structures Section's dual mission of inspecting existing structures.

Ms. Richard, a native of Ashland, Miss., earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Mississippi State University.

Charles E. Stokes was the recipient of the 2012 Modern-Day Technology Leader award. Mr. Stokes is a civil engineer in the Engineering and Construction Division. He is responsible for performing design work for a variety of bank stabilization projects on rivers and streams. He is also

responsible for channel improvement structures providing flood control and navigation along the Mississippi River within the boundaries of the Vicksburg District.

Mr. Stokes has exhibited exceptional commitment and technical ability associated with various projects in the River Stabilization Section during the 2011 Mississippi River Flood Fight and most recently during the reset and recovery preparation of plans and specifications.

Stokes, a native of Utica, Miss., earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Jackson State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering at Mississippi State University.



Charles E. Stokes, Jr.

Celebrate
Army Earth Day
April 22, 2013





Vicksburg District Deputy Commander Promoted

By Vicksburg District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is proud to announce the promotion of Major John T. Tucker III to Lieutenant Colonel.

A native of Glencoe, Ala., Lt. Col. John T. Tucker III was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army after graduating from Auburn University in 1996. He holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University and a master of science degree in engineer management from the University of Missouri-Rolla. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Lt. Col. John Tucker's military awards and decorations include three Bronze Star Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge. Lieutenant Colonel Tucker is married to the former Courtney Montesse and they have one daughter and three sons.

Attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel is considered to be the hallmark of a successful career. Officers in the grade of lieutenant colonel serve as senior leaders and managers throughout the Army.



Major General John W. Peabody, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division (left), promoted Major John T. Tucker, Deputy Commander of the Vicksburg District (second from left), to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Lt. Col. Tucker's wife Courtney and his father John, assisted with the promotion ceremony.

The career development goals for a lieutenant colonel are to gain functional area and command proficiency at the senior levels through assignments and schooling. Attaining the next rank of colonel is realized by a select few and truly constitutes the elite of the officer corps and concludes with their separation or retirement from active duty.



Snow surveys help district prepare for flooding

By Patrick Moes
St. Paul District

The St. Paul District sent a survey team around Minnesota to conduct snow surveys the first week in March to collect real-time data on the conditions impacting the region before the spring thaw. The surveys will aid the Corps' water management team in determining the snow water equivalent, or how much water, is located within the snowpack. Bill Odell, engineering and construction, said the information is also shared with other agencies, such as the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The survey team started their trip near Minneapolis March 4, and they made a counterclockwise trip around the state.

Odell said, "The ultimate goal is to assist the National Weather Service in flood forecasting."

He said the process involves going to predetermined locations and gathering snow through a tube. The snow is then measured for its weight, and the totals are converted using a mathematical formula to determine the water content.

Odell said the Corps will monitor the region for future snow storms, and they will conduct additional surveys if needed.



Bill Odell, St. Paul District survey technician, uses a calculator to determine the average snow depth during snow surveys in Forest Lake, Minn., March 4. The Corps is sending a two-man team around Minnesota to measure the snowpack. The information is shared with the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, and the data is used to help determine the flood forecast before the spring melt.



Paul Johnson, St. Paul District survey technician, uses a snow tube to collect snow surveys in Forest Lake, Minn., March 4. The Corps is sending a two-man team around Minnesota to measure the snowpack. The information is shared with the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, and the data is used to help determine the flood forecast before the spring melt.



Corps' District Team Member receives Federal Engineer of the Year Award

By Vicksburg District PAO

The National Society of Professional Engineers recently presented Ronald Goldman with the Federal Engineer of the Year Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Goldman is director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District's (Corps) Modeling, Mapping and Consequences Production Center.

Goldman was presented the award due to his development of engineering processes that exceed industry standards. He directed a high volume of production on engineering products significant to critical infrastructure protection and to dam and levee safety.

Goldman developed flood simulation software that determines real-time flood mapping estimates. The software provides the ability to share daily inundation estimates with outside agencies and the general public and offers a visual representation of structures in the risk zone. These maps were used for Hurricane Katrina search and rescue missions and the flood-fighting efforts during the historic 2011 Mississippi River floods.

He also led a committee of modelers that developed specialized tools, published standard operating procedures and produced training guidance for dam and levee infrastructure modeling. This enhanced hydraulic and hydrological modeling engineering competencies across the Corps, which resulted in highly trained, rapidly deployable professionals to support significant floods.

Goldman, a native of Philadelphia, Miss., earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi. He is an active member of Bowmar Baptist



Ronald Goldman (2nd from right) was presented The Federal Engineers of the Year Award by MG Todd Semonite, Deputy Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2nd from Left). With Goldman is Dan J. Wittliff, (Left) President National Society of Professional Engineers and Mark J. Golden, National Society of Professional Engineers Executive Director. The presentation recently took place at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Church, a member of the Chi Epsilon Honor Society of Engineers and the Vicksburg Post Society of American Military Engineers.

He and his wife, the former Rita Dickinson of Carthage, are the parents of two daughters, Heather Hood of Southaven and Holly Porter of Vicksburg.



Welcome Aboard!



Melissa Blackburn
MVD Staff Accountant
Business Resource Division
Budget Office

Ms. Melissa Blackburn joined the MVD team in the Business Resource Division Budget Office as a staff accountant on March 10, 2013. Her areas of responsibility include: working with the Regional Budget Officer and Accounting Officer to establish and implement standardized best practices, developing equitable costing rationales, analysis of the regional budget and serving as the MVD data manager. She comes to us from the Wilmington District, South Atlantic Division, where she most recently served as the district's revolving fund accountant. Other positions held include: lead budget analyst in the Operations Division and program analyst.

Ms. Blackburn was very active in her district, serving with the Emergency Management team on the RFO and Commodities team during various hurricane missions. She also deployed in December 2008 to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

She redeployed to SAW in August 2010 after serving 20 months as a program analyst at Gulf Region District, Camp Victory. She also was an active participant in the American Society of Military Comptrollers chapter at Camp Lejeune, served as the secretary for the Wilmington Chapter of Society of American Military Engineers, was a founding member of the Wilmington District Toastmasters chapter and served as the treasurer for the Recreation Committee.

Ms. Blackburn graduated from the SAD Regional Leadership Development Program in October 2012 where General Todd T. Semonite played an integral part of the program providing mentoring and leadership for the program participants. General Semonite served as the SAD Commander during her tenure in the program. She also completed the SAW District Leadership Development Program in 2007.

Ms. Blackburn graduated from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, with a degree in finance and accounting. She resided in Wilmington for 23 years where she worked in private industry for 17 years before starting her federal career with USACE. She is a Certified Defense Financial Manager. She has a beautiful daughter, Sabra, who is a junior in high school, a very vocal Quaker Parrot named Kiva and a rescue kitty named Max.

We would also like to congratulate the following new MVD employees as well as recent MVD promotions:

- Brad Martin - MVD Dam Safety Program Manager
- Mark W. Moore - MVD Regional Chief of Real Estate/Lead for the District Support Team (Upper Miss.)
- Lee Robinson - MVD Senior Economist
- Tonya Acuff - MVD Program Manager for the Regulatory and Environmental Compliance Programs

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 cemvdp@usace.army.mil, so that we can introduce you to everyone in Open Channels.



Around the Division



Steve Jones, MVD Deputy of Operations, completed his 25th Run Thru History (10K) on March 2, 2013. Isaac (Ike) Henry, MVD Appraiser, also finished the race. The 33rd Annual Vicksburg Run Thru History 10-K road race, 5-K walk and 1-mile fun run is held every year at the Vicksburg National Military Park Memorial Park, which commemorates one of the most decisive battles of the American Civil War - the siege of Vicksburg.



Andrea Perkins, MVD Regional P2 Program Manager, and Brian Anderson, MVD Hydraulic Engineer, prepare green pancakes for MVD employees during the St. Patty's Day Pancake Breakfast Mar. 17, 2013.

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



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Dates to Remember

Holidays in April

Apr. 22—Earth Day - U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the “Father of Earth Day”, initiated and promoted environmental actions and activities beginning in 1962. He convinced then President John F. Kennedy to tour the nation in support of environmental concerns. This initial effort did not spark national concern at a political level to effect change.

But Senator Gaylord continued his pursuit of increased environmental concern and action. He proposed a National Earth day in 1970. It was to be the first nationwide environmental protest “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda”. On April 22, 1970, the timing was right and the first Earth Day protest received astounding support.

On that first Earth Day, an estimated 20 million Americans took to the street in support of the environment and in protest harmful environmental practices.

Apr. 25—Administrative Professionals Day - Although this day was created in 1952, the title is changing and evolving. The terms used today are “Administrative Professional” and “Executive Admins.” Don’t forget to recognize your administrative professional or executive admin on this day with gratitude, flowers, cards, lunch, candies or assorted gift baskets.





SUSTAIN THE MISSION



SECURE THE FUTURE



**ARMY
EARTH DAY
2013**

*reduce • repurpose • recycle
recover energy • dispose*



Acknowledge the past
*by restoring Army lands to useable
condition and by preserving
cultural and historical
resources.*

Engage the present
*by meeting environmental standards,
enabling Army operations, and
protecting Soldiers, Families and
communities.*

Chart the future
*by institutionalizing best practices
and use of technology to ensure
future environmental resiliency.*

**Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy & Environment: <http://www.army.mil/asaie>
ARMY EARTH DAY www.aec.army.mil/usaec/newsroom/earthday00.html**



Kid's Corner: Fishing Color Sheet



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