

## President's 2015 Civil Works Budget for Mississippi Valley Division focuses on improving nation's economic growth

By MVD Public Affairs

The President's budget for fiscal year 2015 has been released and included \$825 million in funding for the civil works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division.

"The fiscal 2015 civil works budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reflects the Administration's priorities of supporting and improving the nation's economy, protecting the American people and restoring and protecting our environment," said the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. "This budget continues the Administration's emphasis on maintaining the nation's coastal channels and inland waterways, reducing flood risks to the American public and restoring large ecosystems – through targeted investments that fund the



State-by-state FY 2015 Budget Press Book

development, management, restoration and protection of the nation's water, wetlands and related resources.

"The President's budget will help the Mississippi Valley Division continue its critical work in key mission areas such as flood risk reduction, navigation improvements and sustaining our environment," said Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca, MVD Commander and MRC President-designee.

The Army civil works budget funds the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of projects, and focuses on the highest performing work within three main civil works mission areas: commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

The breakdown for the Mississippi Valley Division budget request is as follows:

1. Investigations -- \$4 million (for studies, design, coordination, data collection). The Investigations program includes:
  - Funding to complete the White River Comprehensive-Lower Cache study.
2. Construction -- \$76 million (for project construction). The Construction program includes:
  - \$10 million for the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration, a high-priority new construction start.
  - \$33 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration, Ill., Iowa, Minn., Mo. and Wisc.; one of the Corps ongoing ecosystem projects designated as a civil works high priority.
3. Operation and Maintenance -- \$447 million (for the operation and maintenance of existing projects which include hydropower facilities, locks and dams, recreation areas, navigable waterways and environmental features).
4. Flood Control, Mississippi River and Tributaries -- \$245

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## Around the Bend



**Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca**  
Commander  
Mississippi Valley Division  
President-designee  
Mississippi River Commission

MVD Team,

Happy Spring! March included visits, engagements and discussions with key stakeholders and partners on USACE's processes, challenges and opportunities for the Mississippi River, a river of progress and opportunity—America's economic aorta, if you will.

I spent a day (March 3) at Harvard University speaking to undergraduate and graduate classes from many of the schools, including Tufts University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard Kennedy School and others. During this visit, I focused on the Mississippi River Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and how we deliver within the framework of the USACE's processes. Dr. John Briscoe, Professor of Environmental Engineering, estimates that our engagements and challenges in these areas has helped more than 30 students focus on the Mississippi River and

U.S. water challenges (policy and engineering (both technical and environmental))...a bright future indeed. As always, the questions and dialogue were invigorating. We need our brightest minds in all fields to understand the vast importance of our watershed.

In addition, Mr. Stephen Gambrell, executive director for the MRC, along with The Nature Conservancy's Michael Reuter, spoke in a second set of classes a few days later, to discuss the future and challenge of complex broad collaboration in an environment rich with partners and stakeholders known as America's Watershed. They continue helping build the ship of getting substantive work accomplished for the nation vs. stalemate and single-interest approaches.

An upcoming engagement for the division is the MRC's high-water inspection trip aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI that will begin April 7 in Tiptonville, Tenn. (Riverfront Park) and end April 11 in New Orleans, La. (Thalia Street Wharf, Port of New Orleans). Four meetings are scheduled in selected towns (including the ones mentioned) along the river so commission members have the opportunity to meet with local partners, stakeholders and residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues. The public hearing process is unique to the MRC and the USACE, and the benefits of hearing the issues and concerns first hand are invaluable. Also, the interaction with congressional, federal and state interests, local boards and non-government organizations and the public is crucial to the decision-making process for the nation's water resources.

Next, the President's budget for fiscal year 2015 was released and

included \$825 million in funding for MVD's civil works program. The President's budget will help the MVD continue its critical work in key mission areas such as flood risk reduction, navigation improvements and sustaining our environment. We continue our investigation and seed planting as the freshly rolled out FY14 Work Plan and FY15 President's budget numbers are realized by partners. (The direct link to the state-by-state budget press book is available at: <http://cdm16021.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16021coll6/id/42>.)

We are working some interesting trend data to help highlight the squeezing out of infrastructure investment capability in the federal budget over the past 30 years. We will engage with our congressional leaders to address this trend. We met with understanding and with some responsiveness to this issue in our March MRC visits in Congress.

Finally, MVD continues to support the war fighter. MVD's Overseas Contingency Operations deployed a total of 51 on the ground, which is 100% of its goal. We are meeting all of our critical personnel requirements, filling the one MVD critical fill assigned slot with a Rock Island District volunteer through December 2014.

In addition, the nation's people continue to voice the concern that the Corps deliver things that matter for the long term. We will continue to construct projects that provide long-term benefits that help build our nation.

Essayons, Building Strong and ... Army Strong!



## President's 2015 Civil Works Budget *(continued from page 1)*

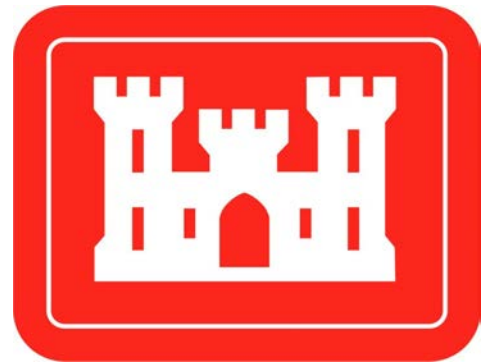
million (for the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance of water resources projects in the historic flood plain of the Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to Head of Passes, La.).

The direct link to the state-by-state budget press book is available at: <http://cdm16021.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16021coll6/id/42>.

The Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for the Corps water resource programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

The mission of the MVD and its six districts is to provide quality, responsive engineering service to the Army and the nation. The division oversees the

planning, design, construction and operation of water resources and other civil works projects to provide a variety of benefits, including flood damage reduction, navigation, environmental stewardship, water supply, hydroelectric power and recreation.



Andy Metz (right) explains the interior workings of the Vicksburg District's mat sinking unit to Brig. Gen. Deluca, during a recent visit. The mat sinking unit is the only one of its kind in the world and performs one of the most important jobs in the Corps' river stabilization program. The MSU employs approximately 65 full-time employees and 255 seasonal and temporary employees who reside in several states.



## Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier wins top engineering honor

By Pamela Harrion  
MVD Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' largest civil works design-build project in history, the \$1.35 billion Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Surge Barrier, was recently awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers' highest and most prestigious honor: the 2014 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award. The award "recognizes a project that makes a significant contribution to both the civil engineering profession and society as a whole."

This marks the first time in the award's 54-year history that an Army Corps of Engineers project has won!

"Everywhere that I go I talk about this surge barrier and I talk about the example that it shows of what America can do when it prioritizes and puts its mind to it—which unfortunately often happens after natural disasters," said LTG Thomas Bostick, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "And that is what happened after Hurricane Katrina; with the federal funding, the congressional support, the local support and everyone working together—over 300 organizations—to set an example of something that I think will stand the test of time."

LTG Bostick added: "The IHNC Surge Barrier is truly a marvel of modern engineering and



LTG Thomas Bostick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief, accepts the 2014 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award on behalf of the USACE for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier project in New Orleans, La. (Photo by USACE HQ)

a testament to what the Corps can deliver for the nation. To the many current and former USACE commanders, leaders and teammates who had a role in bringing this project and the entire HSDRRS to completion, job very well done and congratulations!"

LTG Bostick was joined at the ceremony by Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, director for Contingency Operations, who oversaw HSDRRS program management as one of the directors of the Mississippi Valley Division's Task Force Hope, as well as several representatives of the design and construction team.

The IHNC Surge Barrier is

one element of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. An extensive team of teams helped deliver the IHNC Surge Barrier, including the USACE employees and contractors, CB&I and their team, the Corps' partners in Louisiana, the navigation industry, academia and the public the Corps serves.

After Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005, and was the costliest and one of the most deadly storms in U.S. history, the storm generated an 18-foot storm surge that produced 7-foot waves and overpowered the Mississippi River–Gulf Outlet and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway,



### ***IHNC Surge Barrier wins top engineering honor*** *(continued from page 4)*

ultimately causing the collapse of a 4,000-foot-long section of the floodwall along Louisiana's IHNC.

The greatest challenge for the IHNC Surge Barrier team was meeting the Corps' commitment to provide a 100-year level of risk reduction by the start of the 2011 hurricane season. From the beginning in 2007, every aspect of this project was driven by this immovable commitment to the citizens of New Orleans. Other significant challenges included the unpredictable marine environment; 24-hour per day operations on open water; and need for close tolerances for the barrier's large components, which were constructed on the water and in challenging soil conditions.

Environmental sustainability issues were a major concern throughout the design and construction of the surge barrier. As a result, USACE incorporated systems and techniques to minimize the environmental impact of the project, including:

- Creation of more than two acres of marsh using approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of dredged material.
- Use of a structural surge barrier wall rather than a levee, which minimized the project's footprint.
- Shoreline protection to minimize the potential for erosion.
- Use of procedures and practices to minimize effects on any threatened or endangered species.

- Construction of a roadway atop the surge barrier rather than the marsh to minimize the loss of wetlands.
- Use of construction materials that are less likely to corrode in the brackish water.
- Installation of fish ramps to allow vertical movement of fish through the GIWW gate structure.
- Facilitating a more freshwater, brackish system better suited to the production of oysters and other aquatic resources.

The 1.8-mile-long IHNC Surge Barrier is located at the confluence of the GIWW and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, about 12 miles east of downtown New Orleans. The project reduces the risk for some of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, including New Orleans East, metro New Orleans, Gentilly, the Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

Given schedule and budget constraints, USACE's design-build approach allowed designers and constructors to collaborate from the outset, resulting in specific features and characteristics that lowered flood risk and delivered the project on time and within budget.

The safety of the public is the top priority for the Corps' entire team – every local, state and federal entity. The HSDRRS is better than any time in the city's history. The risk of flooding from storm surges has been greatly reduced.

All partners, stakeholders and government are working together toward one purpose: achieving a permanent and sustainable HS-DRRS for the people of southeast Louisiana. Administration commitment and quick congressional action enabled the Corps to advance this major investment in public safety and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction.

The Corps has strengthened and improved virtually all of the levees, floodwalls, pump stations and surge barriers that form the 133-mile new Greater New Orleans perimeter system.

The Corps awarded more than \$2.6 billion to small businesses in the New Orleans area and vicinity, and has helped create an estimated 60,000 jobs.

The fully funded \$14.6 billion HSDRRS is USACE's number one domestic priority.

For more information, go to <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/HSDRRS.aspx>.



## MVD "Secures the Castle," passes Protection Program Review

By Pamela Harrion  
MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi Valley Division Headquarters has a solid antiterrorism program. That's what the Protection Program Review (PPR) team found while conducting its review March 11-14, 2014, at the Mississippi River Commission building in Vicksburg, Miss. The review's purpose was to provide the MVD commander with preliminary results and observations. (The previous PPR assessment of MVD HQ was conducted in April 2011.)

PPR team members were Col. Richard Boehning, deputy provost marshal, Operational Protection Division; Jacqueline Cumbo, protection subject matter expert (SME), OPD; and Stephen Widell, protection SME, OPD.

According to Army Regulation 525-13 and USACE Integrated Protection OPOD 2010-13, the minimum required elements of an antiterrorism program are risk management (Standard 3), planning (including the AT plan) Standard 7), training and exercises (Standard 23), resource application (Standard 30) and comprehensive program review (Standard 31). MVD was found to have an integrated plan that meets all AT plan requirements and has all the other AT program elements. A recommendation was for MVD to continue to refine its program elements.

Other program review areas include physical security, operations security, Army emergency management, law enforcement and continuity of operations.

The physical security program review focused on the procedures and physical measures designed to safeguard personnel, property and operations; to prevent unauthorized access

to equipment, facilities, materiel and information; and to protect against espionage, terrorism, sabotage, damage, misuse and theft.

The MVD physical security program was found to meet regulatory standards. MVD's Physical Security Annex is contained in the Integrated Protection Plan, which was signed March 2014. A fire drill was conducted in September 2013 to exercise the plan as required by regulation. Recommendations were to sustain the program and to implement the security management system (countermeasures) at the district and division levels.

The MVD operations security program was also found to meet regulatory requirements. It was recommended to sustain the program.

The OPSEC program review focused on the following six areas:

- Assignment of OPSEC responsibilities.
- Requirements to implement OPSEC within USACE.
- A systematic approach to developing necessary OPSEC measures.
- Implementation of command OPSEC training.
- Review of OPSEC measures and reporting.
- Cross-command/interagency support to the command OPSEC program that includes program reviews, assessments and surveys.

The Army emergency management program is an all-hazard approach to planning, preparation, response and recovery. It prescribes policy and assigns responsibility for Army protection and related activities. The plan is established to mitigate the effects of hazards, including natural and/or human made disasters and protect assets, and will be aligned and fully integrated with the overall protection mission.

MVD's emergency management all hazards plan is currently being reviewed for the commander's signature. Once approved, the plan will be exercised in accordance with regulation.

The law enforcement program review evaluated the common framework for the law enforcement program by examining the implementation essential operating guidance, procedures and responsibilities in accordance with AR 190-series regulations (military police) and OPOD 2010-13.

The MVD law enforcement program was found to meet regulatory standards. Security personnel are trained in the use of Suspicious Activity Report and Serious Incident Report. Incidents are reported as required. It was recommended to sustain and continue following procedures.

The continuity of operations program review focused on the organization's ability to continue mission essential functions in an all hazard event, and is the focal point for COOP planning and program actions.

Currently, MVD's COOP plan is in draft. There is a working 2013 draft of the MVD OPOD 2013-07 (Response to All Hazards Events), which contains the COOP plan, currently being staffed. Once staffing is complete, the plan will be signed and exercised as required.

Ultimately, MVD has made significant progress in most program areas, and most previous deficiencies have been mitigated. (*Kudos to the Chief of Security and Law Enforcement Carol Bridges, Protection SME Patrick Flowers and Protection SME Richard Maxwell for a job well done.*)



## Arkabutla Lake 12th Annual Fish Habitat Day Successful

By Vicksburg District

Arkabutla Lake recently hosted the 2014 Fish Habitat Day. 25 volunteers gathered at the Arkabutla Lake Field Office to assist with the placement of fish structures in the lake bed. These volunteers donated more than 170 hours of their time and were served breakfast and lunch, donated by Superlo Foods in Southaven, Miss., and Kroger in Hernando, Miss. Gifts and gift cards were donated by Sportsman's Warehouse in Southaven and Walmart in Hernando.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) partnered to select areas around the lake that would benefit from habitat improvement. Volunteers constructed and placed fish shelters from over 320 discarded cedar and Christmas trees. Due to this year's high water levels, the structures were placed in the lake using boats. The trees were donated by the cities of Hernando and Senatobia.

Corps natural resource specialist, Dave Funderburk and MDWFP wildlife biologist, Keith Meals, provided the volunteers with information about the locations and placement of the fish habitat to obtain maximum results.

As stewards of public lands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is dedicated to providing a safe, quality recreational experience for all visitors. Although the primary mission of Vicksburg District's



Volunteers placing discarded Christmas and cedar trees into Arkabutla Lake to provide fish habitat. (Photos by the Vicksburg District)



four Mississippi lakes is flood damage risk reduction, more than 1.5 million individuals visit the recreational areas annually to enjoy the camping, playgrounds, swimming areas, several types of trails, fishing, boat ramps, marinas and marina slips. For more

information about volunteering, contact natural resource specialist, Dave Funderburk, at the Arkabutla Lake Field Office, 662-562-6261 ext. 14589.



## ***The Rivers Project Natural Resources Management Master Plan***

*By Sarah Miller  
St. Louis District*

The Rivers Project Master Plan is the required U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval document that guides public use and natural resource management on the project's 48,792 acres of federal public lands and 106,208 acres of project waters for environmental stewardship and recreation related purposes. The Project area for the master plan extends from Mississippi River mile 0, at Cairo, Ill.; upstream to the tail water of Locks and Dam 22, Mississippi River mile 301, at Saverton, Mo. The majority of the project's public lands are upstream of St. Louis, Mo. The lower 80 miles of the Illinois River is also managed by Rivers Project and is included in the plan.

The Rivers Project Natural Resource Management Master Plan final public review draft may be downloaded March 24, 2014 through April 25, 2014 from: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/RiversProjectOffice/MasterPlan.aspx>, or contact the Rivers Project Office at 636-899-2600 for details or a copy.

Comments may be submitted online or in writing to Sarah.B.Miller@usace.army.mil or Rivers Project Office, Attn: Sarah Miller, 301 Riverlands Way, West Alton, MO 63386. All comments must be submitted by April 25, 2014, to be considered.

On April 16th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rivers Project Office will host the final public open house to discuss the Rivers Project Master Plan update. The purpose of the open houses is to informally meet with individuals and groups to discuss the Rivers Project Master Plan final draft. This will provide the public the opportunity to learn about the status of natural resource activities along the river, provide comments on land management issues and resource objectives and give feedback on their interests as it relates to natural resources along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and provide comments to the final draft.

The public open houses will be held:  
Wednesday, April 16, 2014  
3:00pm - 8:00pm  
National Great Rivers Museum  
#2 Locks & Dam Way  
Alton, IL 62002

## ***Corps of Engineers retires Grand Forks, N.D., office***

*By St. Paul District  
Public Affairs Office*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, recently closed the doors to its Grand Forks, N.D., office after more than 15 years of service to the community.

The district decided to close the office after completing the more than \$450 million flood control project for Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, Minn., in 2007, and moving the St. Paul District's Western Area Office from Grand Forks to Fargo, N.D., in 2012.

"The office served its purpose extremely well but now lacks sufficient projects to finance its long-term viability," said Jim Peak, St. Paul District's construction chief. "The Grand Forks office space lease was expiring this year, and we were facing relocation in any event. This was the logical time to take action on the closure."

The St. Paul District opened the Grand Forks Western Area Office in 1998 to oversee district activities northwest of the district's headquarters in St. Paul, Minn. At its peak, the Grand Forks office had five resident offices and was home to 37 employees.

The district will continue overseeing its western area work out of its Western Area Office in Fargo. "It's never easy to move, but we are excited about future possibilities in the Fargo area," Peak said.

The nearly 650 St. Paul District employees working at more than 40 sites in five upper-Midwest states serve the American public in the areas of environmental enhancement, navigation, flood damage reduction, water and wetlands regulation, recreation sites and disaster response. Through the Corps' Fiscal Year 2011 \$175 million budget, nearly 2,800 non-Corps jobs were added to the regional economy as well as \$271 million to the national economy. For more information, see [www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil).





## Welcome Aboard!



**Jeri McGuffie**

MVD Procurement Analyst for Regional Contracting Office

Jeri McGuffie recently joined the Regional Contracting Office of the Mississippi Valley Division as a procurement analyst. Ms. McGuffie comes to MVD from the Vicksburg District, where she served in a dual position as deputy chief and chief of the Construction and A-E Branch of the Vicksburg Contracting Office.

Ms. McGuffie has more than 25 years of extensive contracting experience with the Vicksburg District. She has been a warranted contracting officer with an unlimited monetary cap for more than 10 years. Ms. McGuffie started her contracting career as a contract specialist intern moving into a team lead position and later served as the chief of the Construction and A-E Branch.

Ms. McGuffie's career as contracting officer for the construction work of the Vicksburg District covered a vast spectrum of construction projects from vertical at

the ERDC such as the Information Technology Laboratory building and computer facility, Environmental Lab building and Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory building. Other types of construction projects she was contracting officer for include Mississippi River stone repairs to revetment and dikes projects to the Mississippi River mainline levee enlargement projects. Ms. McGuffie's favorite projects included those around north Mississippi and several of the district's lakes: Arkabutla, Sardis, Enid and Grenada. The local project she is most privileged to have been contracting officer for is The Lower Mississippi River Museum and Riverfront Interpretive Site in downtown Vicksburg.

Ms. McGuffie is a native of Vicksburg and received her associate's degree from Hinds Junior College and her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds a Level III Certification in contracting from the Defense Acquisition University.

Jeri is married to Pat McGuffie, and they have two children, Mandy and Patrick.

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 [cemvd-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvd-pa@usace.army.mil), so that we can introduce you to everyone in Open Channels.



**DeAnna Prestwood**

MVD Senior Project Manager for the Operations Division

DeAnna (Anna) Prestwood was recently selected as the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries' senior project manager for the Operations Division.

Her career began at the Vicksburg District in 2000 as a co-op student in the offices of the Design Branch. She served as a design civil engineer for the channel improvement revetment and dike work for six years and was then selected as the chief of the River Stabilization Section, Design Branch. Prior to coming to MVD, she served as the acting assistant chief of the Vicksburg District Design Branch in the Engineering and Construction Division.

She is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and she is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Mississippi. Anna was named the 2012 Young Engineer of the Year by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Engineers. She is a board



## Welcome Aboard! *(continued from page 9)*

member for the Society of American Military Engineers and serves on the SAME/Army Engineering Camp Board.

Anna is a native of Vicksburg and is married to Craig. They reside in Clinton, Miss., and have two daughters, Brooke (6) and Tenley (3) who keep them active and entertained.



**Katie Shows**  
MVD Accounting Officer for the Business Resource Division

Katie was recently selected as the accounting officer in the MVD Business Resource Division. Prior to coming to MVD, she worked at the Engineer Research and Development Center's Resource Management Budget Division as a budget analyst, where she provided direct support and budget oversight to the directorate of Public Works

and was the Resource Management PRIP Program lead for ERDC.

Prior to joining the Corps, Katie spent 10 years as an accountant in the healthcare industry. In early 2010, she joined the ERDC as a contractor in the Information Technology Laboratory, where she was a business analyst for the DoD High Performance Computing Center. In late 2010, she had the opportunity to join ERDC's Resource Management team as a budget technician, later becoming a budget analyst.

Katie earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana Monroe and is also a Certified Defense Financial Manager.

## Kid's Corner: Celebrate Earth Day!

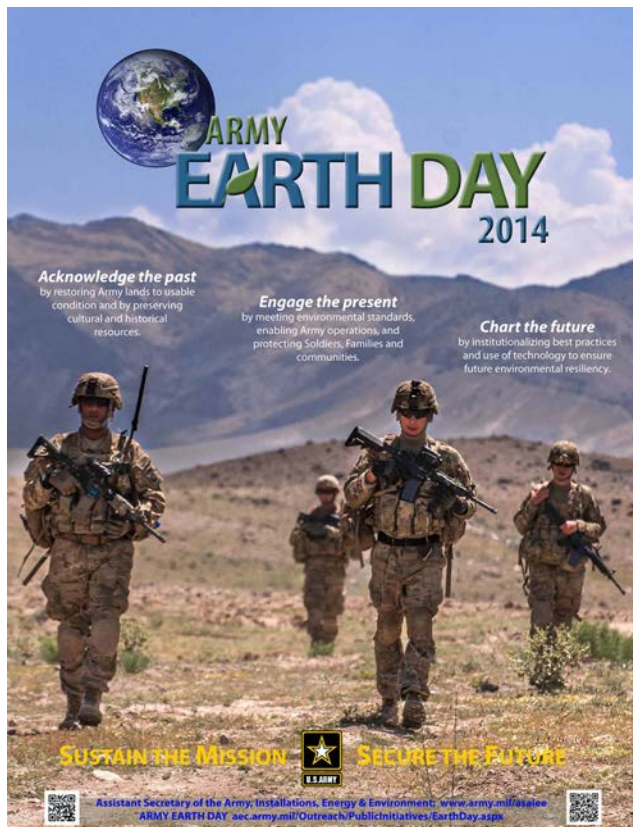




## Around the Division



On Mar. 10, Col. John C. Dvoracek, deputy commander for the Mississippi Valley Division, presented Victoria Ellis, manpower officer for the MVD, with a *Star Note* for earning the ISO Lead Internal Auditor Certification. Congratulations, Victoria!



## Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



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