

Mississippi River Commission schedules low-water inspection trip

By MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi River Commission will conduct its annual low-water inspection trip on the Mississippi River August 8-21, 2015.

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 partners, stakeholders and residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues. The meeting places, dates and times are as follows:

- August 14 - 9:00 a.m., Cape Girardeau, Mo. (City Front)



Pictured is the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI.

- August 17 - 9:00 a.m., Memphis, Tenn. (Mud Island Landing)
- August 19 - 9:00 a.m., Lake Village, Ark. (Boat Ramp at Old Greenville Bridge)
- August 21 - 9:00 a.m., Baton Rouge, La. (City Dock above USS Kidd)

All meetings are open to the public. Anyone with an interest is 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, navigation and others.

The agenda for each public meeting will be as follows:

1. 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.

2. Summary report by the 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.

3. District commander's overview for the commission on current project issues in the respective district area.

The commission will travel the Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio rivers Saturday, August 8 through Friday, August 14, with stops in the following locations to experience dialogue sessions with partners and stakeholders: Chattanooga, Tenn., Decatur, Ala., Clarksville, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., Kentucky Lock, Ky., and Olmstead Lock.

The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and vetted 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.

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Around the Bend



Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr
Commander,
Mississippi Valley Division

President,
Mississippi River Commission

MVD Team,

Thank you! Our regional strength, built upon the phenomenal success of each district, continues to enable MVD to be the civil works leader across USACE.

After completing communication system improvements and maintenance, the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI is ready for the Mississippi River Commission's inspection trip August 8-21, and then the upcoming bank protection/mat laying season. We look forward to having Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, USACE Chief of Engineers, and the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, join us onboard during the Low Water Inspection Trip and to the numerous public engagements on the river from Chattanooga Tenn., to Baton Rouge, La. We also look forward to having Brig. Gen. David Hill, Southwestern Division Commander, join us at the MRC table. Additionally, Maj. Gen. John Peabody, will join us as he chairs the Inland Waterways User Board held in conjunction with the trip.

We continue monitoring and assisting with flood fighting in our New Orleans District (we had up to 90 team members engaged at the height of this Summer's flooding). While short of major flood levels along the Mississippi, we hit new record highs at Cairo for this time of year -- causing significant crop loss along the middle Mississippi River at

and below the confluence with the Ohio River. We attempted to mitigate the crest, but continued heavy rainfall inundated thousands of acres of planted ground in unprotected areas.

On July 13, the permanent order to establish the Inland Navigation Design Center Mandatory Center of Expertise (INDC) was signed. The INDC will operate as one center with locations in Rock Island and Pittsburgh districts, with Rock Island and MVD serving as command and control. The permanent orders assign all INDC positions to Rock Island District. The initial strength will be seven full-time positions with employees located in Rock Island, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Louisville districts. This is a significant milestone for USACE.

In September 2013, the Veterans Curation Program (VCP) staff collaborated with Lindenwood University's Dr. Steve Dasovich to create a course (Archaeological Laboratory Methods) that would enable veteran participants to earn course accreditation for their time in the program. We appreciate USACE Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Richard L. Steven's recent visit to the St. Louis District, which included an overview of VCP. The VCP provides employment, vocational training and technological skills to veterans while rehabilitating at-risk Corps archaeological collections. In the four and half years of operation, the Veterans Curation Program has employed and trained 140 veterans, with many finding jobs or returning to school.

Finally, I am looking forward to an opportunity this week to thank and recognize Maj. Gen. John Peabody for his service and leadership to the Nation, Army and Engineer Regiment.

Building Strong,
Maj. Gen. Mike Wehr



MRC schedules low-water inspection trip *(continued from page 1)*

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,

MVD's Regional Command Council/Regional Programs Review Board team meet at Little Rock AFB

an exchange of viewpoints and ideas flowing between the watershed interests, 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 and written response.

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 organizations and the public is crucial to the decision-making process for the nation's water resources.

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.



The Mississippi Valley Division's Regional Command Council/Regional Programs Review Board team in front of a C-130 on Little Rock, Ark., Air Force Base July 23, 2015, after touring the Bayou Meto Pump Station near Scott, Ark.



President Obama appoints Wehr as Mississippi River Commission president, Kaiser as Mississippi River Commission member

By MVD Public Affairs

August 5, 2015, President Barack Obama appointed Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr as president of the Mississippi River Commission and Brigadier General Richard G. Kaiser as member of the Mississippi River Commission. MRC appointments are nominated by the President of the United States and vetted by the U.S. Senate.

Wehr assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Valley Division in August 2014, and led his first Mississippi River Commission inspection trip along the Mississippi River in March 2015.

As the commander and division engineer for the Mississippi Valley Division, Wehr directs all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development in the Mississippi River basin, an area of more than 370,000 square miles, including all or parts of 12 states.

Wehr graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He also holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, was a Senior Service College Fellow at the Senior Service College Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College. He is registered professional engineer in Virginia.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab and the Sapper Tab.

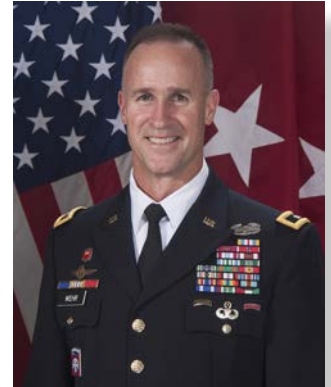
Kaiser is commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is responsible for directing federal water resource development in the Great Lakes and Ohio River basins, which consists of seven engineer districts that operate in a seventeen state area.

He received his commission in 1987 upon graduation from Marquette University with a degree in civil engineering. He later earned a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the British Army Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Kaiser's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Army Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Ranger Tab.

The Mississippi River 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 and partnering" with water resource interests in a watershed that is influenced by the drainage of more than 41 percent of the United States and two provinces of Canada.



Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr



Brig. Gen. Richard G. Kaiser



Renee Turner selected as chief of Civil Works Integration Division

By MVD Public Affairs

Renee Turner was recently selected as deputy of Programs Directorate and chief of Civil Works Integration Division for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, and the Mississippi River Commission.

Her job duties include developing and defending the federal budget and preparing the fiscal year work plan execution. Prior to this assignment, Renee was deputy chief of the St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis District Support Team. She began her career with the Corps in 1983 at the Corps' Vicksburg District in the Design Branch of Engineering Division. In 1994, Renee accepted a position in Planning Division and became the study manager on numerous projects. She became a senior project manager in 1999 and led many teams covering diverse projects to include flood risk management and ecosystem. In 2006, Renee was selected as the deputy chief for the Memphis and Vicksburg District Support Team at the Mississippi Valley Division.

Renee is an officer in the Society of American Military Engineers and the Society of Woman Engineers. She is also a member of the Programs and Project Management Community of Practice Steering Committee.

Renee graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in civil engineering. She is married to



Renee Turner

Mike Turner and they have three children. Renee is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church where she is a Eucharistic Minister and is involved in Meals on Wheels. She is a native of Clarksdale, Miss., and is the daughter of Ms. Bobby Jean Noe and the late Joe Noe, Jr.

The Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for water resources engineering solutions in a 370,000-square-mile area, extending from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and encompassing portions of 12 states. Work is carried out by district offices located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

Check this out!

Get an awesome barge-eye view as a tow locks through Locks 27 at Granite City, Illinois, and heads downriver through St. Louis Harbor.

More than 100 million tons of commodities move through St. Louis Harbor each year, including most of our nation's agricultural exports. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides a reliable nine-foot-deep navigation channel to keep commerce flowing on our nation's inland waterways.

Click and view the video [HERE!](#)



Interagency Upper Mississippi River Mussel Coordination Team recognized as 2014 Endangered Species Recovery Champion

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs

The Interagency Upper Mississippi River Mussel Coordination Team (MCT) was recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a 2014 Endangered Species Recovery Champion.

This interagency partnership of federal and state governments, academia and private citizens was established to assist the Corps with conserving the federally endangered Higgins eye mussel in response to the USFWS 2000 Biological Opinion for the Operation and Maintenance of the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) 9-Foot Navigation Project. USACE serves as the lead agency for the Interagency MCT and is led by USACE Biologist Dan Kelner of the St. Paul District with significant participation by biologists in Rock Island and St. Paul Districts.

Kelner describes the team's endangered species recovery work that achieved this success and national recognition: "In part, the team set out to reestablish five viable Higgins eye populations removed from the threat of zebra mussels within the species' historic range. After collecting and cleaning encrusted Higgins eye from zebra mussel infestation and successful propagation efforts, the Mussel Coordination Team has established populations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. Working innovatively with partners, the team has greatly advanced the knowledge of Higgins eye biology, refined propagation methods and generated invaluable data for the mussel conservation community nationwide. The team's continued work with academia and interagency scientists to facilitate studies of freshwater mussel ecology will benefit imperiled mussels for years to come."

USACE O&M funding in support of the 2000 Biological Opinion for Navigation on the Upper Mississippi River System has contributed significantly to the accomplishments of the Interagency team. USFWS Region 3 Regional Director Tom Melius will present the award to the team during August or September onsite at one of the Higgins eye relocation sites on the UMR near St. Paul, Minn.

For more information on the project, you may contact Dan Kelner at (651) 290-5277 or Daniel.e.kelner@usace.army.mil.



Pictured are the 2014 USFWS Endangered Species Recovery Champions (part of the MCT).



Pictured are Higgins eye, female (left) and male (right).



MVD recognizes Sheldon Edd with Construction Excellence Award

By Shannon Bauer, St. Paul District

The Mississippi Valley Division selected St. Paul District employee and Rochester, Minn., resident Sheldon Edd as its Construction Management Excellence Award recipient.

The annual award recognizes construction personnel exhibiting excellence in construction management and contract administration activities. An employee from each of the division's six districts competed for the award. Edd will now compete against other division winners for the Corps of Engineers national award.

“Sheldon [Edd] was recognized for his efforts in completing the St. Croix Falls [Wisconsin] Waste Water Treatment Facility, volunteering to serve as the construction branch quality assurance lead until the position was filled, obtaining a contracting officer's warrant and being selected as a Corps of Engineers course instructor,” said Tom Johnson, St. Paul District



Sheldon Edd

Eastern Area Office chief. “Sheldon is well respected in the entire organization and his commitment to construction management excellence is exemplary.”

Edd serves as a resident engineer in the district's Eastern Area Office in Winona, Minnesota. In this position, he is responsible for the administration of construction contracts throughout the district's eastern geographic responsibility. The contracts vary and include electrical rehabilitation, dredging, sanitary sewer treatment facilities, levee

construction and repair, lock construction and repair, underground utilities, street construction and more. He is a civil engineer and registered Professional Engineer in Minnesota, and has worked for the Corps of Engineers for 25 years.

The Summer 2015 Our Mississippi



Read the Summer 2015 Our Mississippi newsletter!

Our Mississippi is a quarterly newsletter of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about its work in the Mississippi River Basin. It is published in cooperation with other state and federal agencies and other river interests with whom the Corps collaborates and partners toward long-term sustainability of the economic uses and ecological integrity of the river system.



Rock Island District receives two national awards for excellence *(con't on page 9)*

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs

Two Rock Island District employees have recently received U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' national awards for excellence: Robert Romic has been awarded the USACE Chief Information Officer Annual Awards for Excellence in Information Management/Information Technology Support; and Tracy Spry has won the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence.

The Chief Information Officer Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) Award Program is established to annually recognize outstanding work accomplishments that have significantly contributed to IM/IT support to USACE's mission and overarching goals/objectives. The nominee is in a position recognized as supporting to IM/IT functions. An employee who has significantly contributed to the efficiency and improvement of processes associated with the support of IM/IT initiatives; demonstrated commitment to customer service; developed innovative work products and services; increased positive employee and customer service feedback and/or contributed to the enhancement of the overall reputation of USACE. A well qualified nominee will have demonstrated these or similar examples of excellence in IM/IT support.

Several years ago Romic, librarian for the Rock Island District's Communications Office, took the lead to create a consortium for eJournal access for staff across the Corps. This program is called the USACE Electronic Library (UEL). He saw the need for access to electronic journals across the Corps and found a way to provide the service and avoid the redundancy of multiple contracts at each division. His efforts provide both a service to the library customers and a savings to the agency.

In addition to his support of the UEL, Romic organized access to prep courses for the American Society of Civil Engineers Professional Engineer (PE) Certification Exam. These prep courses benefit engineers in many districts

throughout the Corps. He negotiated a 42% pricing discount for the training in 2014.

In FY 14, Romic reached out to the district's Engineering and Construction Division to secure the funding for the PE Exam webinars and promote them throughout the Corps. Approximately 163 USACE employees reviewed the webinars at 45 locations worldwide. Most of the staff would have not been able to take part in the webinars or even known about them without Romic's efforts.

The Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence (Interpreter of the Year) is an annual recognition for outstanding contributions to interpretation and/or environmental education by a USACE employee. An "interpreter" may be a park ranger, park manager, engineer, safety officer, public affairs officer, wildlife technician, forester, human resources specialist or others who "interpret" the special resource themes of the Corps.



Robert Romic



Tracy Spry takes a dozen 8-10 year-old Junior Rangers for a day-long program at Lake Red Rock. In the program, the kids learned about the Corps of Engineers and Lake Red Rock's missions through several stations: litter pick-up, pond study, dam tour, water safety and the job of a park ranger.

Nominations for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award are based upon an individual's performance in the preceding calendar year in the following areas: Creativity and Originality; Made a Positive Experience for Visitors; and Enhancement of the Public's Understanding of the USACE and the Site.

Tracy Spry, Natural Resources specialist (park ranger who works at the Lake Red Rock Project, has had an outstanding interpretive and outreach career, culminating into an impressive list of accomplishments in 2014. Throughout her 22 years, Spry has continually sought



Rock Island District receives two national awards for excellence *(con't from page 8)*

engaging and innovative interpretive experiences for project visitors, school groups and civic organizations. Spry uses her appreciation for the natural world and all of its wonders to explain the Corps' three-fold mission at Lake Red Rock of Flood Risk Management, Recreation and Environmental Stewardship. This creative ability shines through during her programs and inspires others to a greater sense of knowledge and appreciation.

In 2014, Spry incorporated her passion for Red Rock's missions into a wonderful variety of programs and activities from paddling excursions to night hikes to geocaching. Spry coordinated the development of Lake Red Rock's first ever Natural Playscape, and organized partnerships with Central College, private industry (3M Corporation and Vermeer Manufacturing) and the Red Rock Lake Association. Keeping up with new interpretive initiatives, she emphasized STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programming

and coordinated a Teach-the-Teacher STEM workshop using Central College Professors and the new "outdoor classroom" Natural Playscape.

Spry presented over 100 dynamic interpretive programs to over 2,900 participants and mentored a college intern to provide more than 50 programs to over 670 individuals in 2014. She coordinated a special school event the "37th Annual Outdoor Days" using partners from county, state and volunteer staff that attracted more than 400 students to the lake. In 2014, she presented more than 30 programs specific to water safety to over 800 participants. Spry manages the Red Rock Visitor Center with the same enthusiasm and continues to activate the facility with interesting programs and events. Spry's ability to provide excellent interpretive services year-in and year-out is amazing, and 2014 demonstrated her ability to adapt and incorporate new ideas once again.

2014 USACE STEM Outstanding Team Achievement Award

By Suzanne Casseau, St. Louis District

The St. Louis District STEM Team was selected by the STEM awards panel to receive the 2014 USACE STEM Outstanding Team Achievement Award. The national recognition of the team's truly UNCOMMON effort cited participation in over 33 STEM events, engaging more than 7,500 people since October 2014. The team's commitment to encouraging the next generation of STEM professionals truly emulates the goals of the USACE STEM strategy. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, which is an effort to elevate interest in these subjects among America's youth.

The St. Louis District STEM team includes:

1. Ashley N. Clifford, Army Civilian Human Resources Agency (CHRA), Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), St. Louis, Missouri
2. SFC Johnny R. Johnson, senior enlisted advisor, St. Louis, Missouri
3. CPT Eric A. Knight, MVS, St. Louis, Missouri
4. Amanda L. Kruse, Public Affairs Specialist, St. Louis, Missouri
5. Amanda J. Sutter, P.E., MVS Dam Safety Program Manager, St. Louis, Missouri
6. Romanda L. Walker, Public Affairs Specialist, St. Louis District

7. LTC Aaron W. Wolf, Deputy District Engineer, St. Louis, Missouri (has taken a new assignment since the nomination)
8. Beverly C. Youngblood, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, St. Louis, Missouri

The St. Louis District STEM Team has redefined the STEM outreach program in the St. Louis District. In the short time the team has been together, they have conducted and participated in more than 33 STEM events, interacting with over 7,500 children and adults.

Efforts are focused to the following age/interest groups: Higher Education, K-12, Military (Engineering Battalions and Reserve Officers' Training Corps) and Veterans.

The STEM Award was presented Aug. 6 in Washington, D.C., to honor the awardees.





New Orleans District receives 2014 Hard Hat and USACE Innovation of the Year awards

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi Valley Division is proud to announce two national award winners in the New Orleans District: Lacie Davilman, Hard Hat of the Year, and the New Orleans District Armoring Team, USACE Innovation of the Year.

Lacie Davilman, recipient of the 2014 Hard Hat of the Year Award, has been a project engineer in the New Orleans Area Office for six years and was recently promoted to a project engineer team lead.

Davilman is recognized for her work in 2014 on 16 construction contracts valued at over \$300 million. She has spent the past year administrating construction contracts, training new team members (both military and civilian), ensuring safe working conditions and enforcing quality management standards.

Davilman's leadership and attention to detail has prevented significant construction delays and expensive rework. Her professional standards are highlighted by DAWIA (Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act) Level 2 Certification and designation as a Contracting Officer's Representative.

Davilman has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of New Orleans and she is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana.

In addition, the New Orleans District's Armoring Team is the recipient of the 2015 USACE Innovation of the Year Award. The interdisciplinary team undertook the development of levee solutions of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction (HSDRRS) from concept to the advancement of construction. Investigations performed by the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) following Hurricane Katrina identified a critical need to mitigate the risk of levee



Pictured is Lacie Davilman, Project Engineer Team Leader, New Orleans Area Office.

breaches caused by overtopping from extreme storm surges and waves that exceed hurricane risk reduction system design elevations. The IPET observations led to Congressional authorization to armor HSDRRS levees. Absent existing design standards for armoring, the Armoring Team undertook a unique research and development initiative to evaluate the performance capabilities of an array of prospective armoring materials, including full-scale wave overtopping simulations, laboratory testing, field testing and product qualification testing; compiled a series of technical reports; prepared engineering alternative reports and project description documents; developed construction plans and specifications; established acquisition strategies and advanced armoring into construction of a \$400 million federal investment in flood risk reduction for the Greater New Orleans area.

Throughout the process, the Armoring Team worked in close collaboration with the non-federal sponsor and stakeholders to ensure the implemented armoring solutions would deliver optimum performance and sustainability.





USACE Small Business Specialist of the Year Award

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs

Karen J. Brady, deputy for Small Business for the Memphis District, has won the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Specialist of the Year Award. She was presented the award during the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

In her current position, Brady has been an active supporter of the Small Business program since being appointed July 31, 1987. She has demonstrated a well-managed program reflecting a high level of professionalism and competence as identified by the 99.63 percent rating the Memphis District received during the USACE Procurement Management Review.

Her participation in numerous outreach events helped to increase public awareness of the USACE Small Business Program, and her efforts also significantly increased the awards to contractors that self-marketed during and after these outreach events.

Brady has dedicated 29 years of federal service to USACE to help ensure the successful accomplishment of the Contracting and Small Business missions. Her work ensured the Memphis District was selected to win a USACE award for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business at the 2013 SAME Small Business Conference. Her personal commitment, work ethic, extensive knowledge and selfless service make her an integral part of the numerous Small Business successes of the USACE-Memphis District and the Mississippi Valley Division.

The USACE Small Business Specialist of the Year Award recognizes the USACE Small Business Specialist (district or center), and division who created and/or managed a successful Small Business Program, created challenging initiatives and otherwise made significant contributions to both his or her respective division/district/center.



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, USACE chief of Engineers, presented Karen Brady, deputy for Small Business for the Memphis District with the USACE Small Business Specialist of the Year Award during the SAME Small Business Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.



Welcome Aboard!



Randy Holder
MR&T Environmental Program
Manager

Congratulations to Randy Holder on his selection as the MR&T Environmental Program manager in the Operations Division. Holder previously served in this position in a developmental assignment earlier this year.

Holder started with the Corps in April 2009 as an environmental specialist in the Regulatory Branch of the Vicksburg District. He became a senior environmental specialist in October of 2012, and served as chief of the Evaluation Section.

A native of Vicksburg, Holder is a graduate of Warren Central High School, and he earned his Bachelor's Degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Holder is currently a member of the Association of State Wetland Managers. In 2013, he completed the Vicksburg District's Leadership Development Program and was selected in 2014 for the Mississippi Valley Division's Emerging Leaders Program.

He is engaged to Ms. Dallas Thomason of Rayville, Louisiana.

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.



Bayou Meto Basin Project visit



(Left to right) MVD Commander Michael C. Wehr and Memphis District Commander Col. Jeffery A. Anderson discuss the Bayou Meto Basin Project with Tom Fortner, executive director's assistant for the Bayou Meto Water Management District, during a tour of the basin July 23. The Bayou Meto Basin is located in Central Arkansas and is a highly productive area for both agriculture and waterfowl. The three components of the Bayou Meto Basin Project Plan are aquifer protection/agricultural water supply, flood protection and waterfowl management. *(Photo by Pamela Harrion)*



Around the Division



July 13 - New MVD Deputy Commander Col. Michael C. Derosier (left) and former MVD Deputy Commander Col. Torrey A. DiCiro shake hands after an informal change of office name plate ceremony, which entailed placement of Col. Derosier's new name plate in the MRC building. (Photo by Pamela Harrion)

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



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