



Corps of Engineers attorney recognized for public service

By Patrick Moes, St. Paul District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters recently selected Corps of Engineers St. Paul District employee and Markesan, Wisconsin, native, Steve Adamski as the recipient of its 2015 Bert P. Pettinato Pride in Public Service Award.

The award is named after Bert P. Pettinato who served the nation and the Corps with distinction over his long career. It is presented annually to a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers legal services community who has demonstrated the ideals of “pride in public service” through leadership, concern for people and a personal belief that public service is both a noble calling and a public trust.

“Steve was recognized for his 30 years of public service that have been marked by a huge array of unique challenges. He is, without a doubt, one of the finest public servants working within the Corps and is nationally recognized for his pride in being a public servant and his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge,” stated G. Rogers Sloan, division counsel for the Mississippi Valley Division, of which the St. Paul District is assigned. “Steve not only met every challenge thrown at him, but he has made the St. Paul District’s processes for dealing with future challenges immeasurably better.”



Steve Adamski, left, St. Paul District deputy district counsel, received a letter of congratulations from Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, Mississippi Valley Division commander, Sept. 1. Adamski was selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2015 Bert P. Pettinato Pride in Public Service Award recipient earlier this year. (USACE photo by Emily Chavolla)

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Adamski has worked in the St. Paul District’s office of counsel since July of 1985 and is currently serving as the district’s deputy district counsel. He earned his jurist doctorate in 1984 from the Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a member of the Minnesota Bar and has received numerous awards and recognitions during his federal career to include the Corps’ 1994 Joseph W. Kimball award for highest potential for legal achievement; the 2006 Ramon J. Powell award for legal scholarship; the U.S. Department of Justice’s Certificate of Commendation for support of environmental litigation in support of the Corps’ Clean Water Act program; and the Corps’ 2011 George Wolfe Koonce award for legal achievement and professional performance, the Corps’ Outstanding Attorney of the Year award.



Around the Bend



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

President,
Mississippi River Commission

MVD Team,

There is a unifying story within the [MRC Executive Summary](#) for 2015 and I commend it to you for all of the exciting events during this year's Low Water Inspection trip. The commissioners also had a busy week recently when they met with our congressional delegation.

Along the theme of strategic engagements, here are a few highlights.

First, Col. John Cross (Vicksburg District commander) gathered the most partners, stakeholders, and elected officials ever assembled for the annual blessing of the fleet. The USACE Vicksburg District's Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) left the harbor for its annual revetment season September 9, with the district hosting a ceremony at the Vicksburg City Water Front as the MSU departed. The MSU is the only one of its kind in the world and its crew performs one of the most important jobs in the Corps' river stabilization program – placing articulated concrete mats along the banks of the Mississippi River to control erosion. We are proud of our fleet, which consists of towboats, quarter boats, and a dredge, including the motor vessels BENYAURD, WILLIAM JAMES and HARRISON, and other floating plants. Inland waterway navigation continues to be a crucial mission for the Corps.

Second, Col. Craig Baumgartner's team (Rock Island District) afforded me and Col. Jeffery Anderson (Memphis District) the opportunity to join mayors from along the entire length of Mississippi at their Annual Mississippi River Cities and Town's Initiative meeting in Dubuque. This also enabled a very motivating visit to the ROTC program at the university.

Third, Col. Rick Hansen (New Orleans District) is in final coordination with retired Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp and New Orleans District volunteers for the early October visit to the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Also within NOLA this month, Tom Holden joined Mr. Steve Stockton, Mr. Roy Wright (FEMA), Dr. Norma Jean Mattei (American Society of Civil Engineers and University of New Orleans), Mr. Chip Kline, chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Board of Louisiana, and Mr. Bob Turner (Southeast Flood Protection Authority-East for the Lake Pontchartrain project on the east side of the Mississippi River in Greater New Orleans Louisiana) for the gathering of the Association of State Dam Safety Officers.

Also of note, USACE Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick toured the site of the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Metro Diversion Project. Lt. Gen Bostick saw first-hand the flooding challenges the region faces and



(Lt. to rt.) MRC Commissioners the Honorable R.D. James, Maj. Gen. Wehr, the Honorable Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, Rear Adm. Gerd Glang, and MRC Director Mr. Stephen Gambrell, after meeting with Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran Sept. 30.



Around the Bend *(continued from page 2)*

the requirements of the proposed diversion project. After touring key project sites, Lt. Gen. Bostick met with officials from North Dakota and Minnesota, and the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Diversion Authority.

The public meeting of the Diversion Authority, held at Fargo city hall, was attended by North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple, North Dakota Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp, Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson, Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney, and staff members from the offices of Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar and North Dakota Congressman Kevin Cramer. The Diversion Authority provided a detailed explanation of the urgent need for the diversion project, focusing on Fargo’s strategic value to the nation, the massive potential for damage to public and private property and the impact on the 200,000 people in the region. Fargo is a critical regional center for transportation, industry, health care and education.

Looking forward to continued successful delivery of our nation’s water infrastructure with our greatest asset, the Mississippi River. The country’s best talent is in our partners and the USACE Team!

Building Strong,
Maj. Gen. Mike Wehr



(Left) Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander (left), and Charlie Wooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Regional deputy regional director (right), had the opportunity to congratulate the entire multi-agency mussel coordination team and staff at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge Sept. 11, as winners of the Midwest Region’s 2014 Recovery Champion Awards for their work to save endangered freshwater mussels, whooping cranes, Karner blue butterflies and Kirtland’s warblers. In the photo, Dan Kelner, St. Paul District biologist and team leader, holds the award. *(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)*



The St. Paul District’s Gull Lake Park and Recreation Area, which is located near Brainerd, Minnesota, hosted its first annual Wounded Warriors Fishing Tournament Sept. 12. Fifteen anglers and five guide boats (three were piloted by professional anglers) participated in the event, which was coordinated in partnership with Wounded Warriors Guide Service, Camp Ripley, Confidence Learning Center, Cabela’s and St. Paul District staff. The anglers included one 85-year-old Korean veteran, Vietnam Veterans, and veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. *(USACE St. Paul District photo)*



Around the Bend (continued from page 3)



Col. Anthony P. Mitchell stands with the St. Louis District team at Lake Shelbyville after the presentation of the MVD-MRC letter of recognition as the USACE Natural Resources Project of the Year. The team was excited and proud to receive this recognition recently, and they continue to perform in an UNCOMMON manner in executing their charge for the Corps of Engineers.

New Orleans District Engineering and Operations Divisions hosted visit Sept. 17-18 to New Orleans for four members of the Dutch Ministry of Water, Transport and Environment, two members of the Dutch Embassy and two program managers/scientists from Deltares USA. Mr. Fred Joers (Rock Island District) of the Inland Navigation Design Center and Mr. Joe Manous of the Institute for Water Resources also supported the visit, which included briefings, site visits to the Inland Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) lock and Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System complex structures, and development opportunities for coastal resilience and inland navigation.



Oct. 2—MVD Deputy Commander Col. Michael Derosier presented Zina Randolph with a letter of appreciation (along with MVD coins) for her short, yet impactful, time as MVD's acting regional logistics manager.



Construction Management Excellence Award presented to Sheldon Edd

By Patrick Moes, St. Paul District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters, has selected St. Paul District employee and Rochester, Minnesota, resident Sheldon Edd as its Construction Management Excellence Award recipient.

It was announced last month that Edd was selected at the Mississippi Valley Division level for the Construction Management Excellence Award. Edd competed against other division winners for the Corps of Engineers national award. The annual award recognizes construction personnel exhibiting excellence in construction management and contract administration activities.

“Sheldon has provided critical leadership for the last couple of years and was responsible for the construction of numerous projects under unique circumstances,” said Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander. “His leadership, construction expertise and superior work ethic combine for the successful execution of these projects to the highest quality standards.”

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.



Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, left, presented St. Paul District Resident Engineer Sheldon Edd with the Mississippi Valley Division’s Construction Management Excellence Award during a town hall at the district’s headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, Sept. 1. Edd was also recognized as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction management excellence award recipient. (USACE photo by Emily Chavolla)

Read this inspirational story!

Click the following link and read the inspirational story about Chris Ring who has set out to meet as many families of fallen service members as possible in a six-month journey down the Mississippi River:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/swimming-the-mississippi-river-for-fallen-service-members-1443399017?tesla=y>



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

OCT 2015



MY DISABILITY IS ONE PART OF WHO I AM.

At work, it's what people **can do** that matters.



Designed by Peter Hemmer for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute



Welcome Aboard!



Don Balch
Chief of Real Estate and Upper
District Support Team

MVD congratulates Donald (Don) Balch as the next Mississippi Valley Division Chief of Real Estate and Upper District Support Team. Don's first day on the job will be October 18, 2015, where he will begin the transition into the position in preparation for the departure of our present Chief, Mark Moore. Don is presently the chief of Real Estate in the Southwestern Division's Little Rock District, where he has served in this capacity over the last seven years. He brings with him a diverse background in both program/project management as well as a solid work history with Army Civil Works Real Estate Land Acquisition, Management and Disposal matters.

We look forward to welcoming Don and his family as they join the MVD family!

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.

Army Corps of Engineers announces the release of revised handbook to improve interagency coordination of transportation projects

By USACE Headquarters, Washington

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in collaboration with a federal interagency team announced Sept. 21 the release of a revised handbook that will help agencies coordinate earlier and more effectively during the development of transportation and other infrastructure projects and throughout the permit review process.

The handbook entitled, Synchronizing Environmental Reviews for Transportation and Other Infrastructure Projects, also known as the Red Book, is available online at the USACE Publications web page, and at the Federal Highway Administration's Environmental Review Toolkit at https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/RedBook_2015.asp. This new Red Book does not contain any new policy or guidance, but rather describes how agencies can flexibly apply existing regulations, guidance and policy in order to maximize efficiency by having agency reviews run concurrently. The new Red Book replaces an earlier edition of the book published in 1988.

An Obama administration memorandum from May 2013 and an implementation plan on modernizing infrastructure permitting issued in 2014, called

for the 1988 edition of the Red Book to be updated. The revised book promotes concurrent reviews, but also includes the use of dedicated transportation and infrastructure liaisons, development of programmatic approaches, and use of a watershed-scale approach to mitigation, since these practices align with other actions in the administration's implementation plan.

An interagency federal team including representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and USACE was formed in 2014 to begin updating the existing Red Book. In preparing the new book, the team expanded the book's scope to cover other modes of transportation (railroad, transit, and highway) and focused on several regulatory reviews including USACE's regulatory review, Coast Guard's bridge permit reviews under Title 33 of the U.S. Code, and Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

The goal of the Red Book is to encourage more widespread adoption of the concurrent review practice among all the agencies involved in developing and permitting transportation and infrastructure projects.



Around the Division



MSU Society of Women Engineers (SWE) STEM/Networking Event—Renee Turner, deputy for the Programs Directorate and chief of the Civil Works Integration Division at MVD, and Sarah Palmer, MVD program manager, attended a STEM networking event at Mississippi State University Sept. 22. The event, hosted by the SWE Student Section, included companies from Chevron, Dow Chemical, EcoLab, Southern Company and the USACE. About 50 female engineering students attended and visited each company. Topics discussed were job opportunities, interview techniques, resume content and internships. Students' questions were also addressed. Pictured are Whitney Sorrels, Vicksburg District; Renee Turner; Sarah Palmer; and Kathryn Williams, Vicksburg District.

What is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers?

The first engineer officers of the Army were appointed by George Washington on June 16, 1775, during the American Revolution. On March 16, 1802, the Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch and gave engineers the responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Since then, Army Corps of Engineers professionals have responded to changing defense requirements and played an integral part in the development of the country. Today, they continue the tradition of providing vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with their partners, to secure the nation, energize the economy and reduce risk from disaster.

This [video \(click here\)](#), produced in September 2015 by Headquarters USACE and the Sacramento District, provides a summary of the organization's missions.



Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Division Engineer

Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr

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