



® **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

Thomas A. Holden, Jr., P.E.
Director, Regional Business Directorate



Mr. Thomas A. Holden, Jr., is director of the Regional Business Directorate for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, and the Mississippi River Commission. He was selected by the Secretary of the Army into the Senior Executive Service (effective September 2014).

The Senior Executive Service is the civilian equivalent to the military rank of General Officer. SES leaders possess well-honed executive skills and share a broad perspective of government and a public service commitment which is grounded in the Constitution. Members of the SES serve in key positions just below the top Presidential appointees and are the major link between these appointees and the rest of the federal work force.

In this position, Holden serves as the principal advisor to the commander of the Mississippi Valley Division and president of the Mississippi River Commission providing executive strategic leadership and technical expertise for the division which executes engineering, design, construction and project management for its flood control, navigation, water supply, hydropower and environmental restoration programs.

Prior to this appointment, Holden was the deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management in the New Orleans District, where he led the delivery of the post-Hurricane Katrina recovery of New Orleans through completion of the \$14.6 billion Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System. Previously, he served as the chief of Technical Services Division, Pittsburgh District, where he was responsible for engineering, construction and real estate executing an annual program exceeding \$125 million.

Holden retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of colonel in 2002 after 27 years of service. He subsequently served as a senior design manager in the energy and process business sector before rejoining the federal government in Pittsburgh in 2005. During his military career he commanded the Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in executing a civil works and military construction program within the states of Arkansas and southern Missouri. He commanded the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, and deployed to Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. As a structural engineer in the Defense Intelligence Agency, he played a pivotal role in Operation Desert Storm.

Holden earned his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He earned two graduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the civil engineer and master of science in civil engineering. Holden is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, earning a master's degree in national strategic studies.

Holden's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Superior Civilian Service Award (3), Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (6), Southwest Asia Campaign Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He is a recipient of Silver de Fleury Medal and has earned the Parachutist's Badge, Air Assault Badge and Ranger Tab.

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.

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.

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