



Open Channels

Whiplash weather patterns impact MVD's navigation and flood fighting missions

By Bob Anderson
MVD Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division and President of the Mississippi River Commission, describes water as “the perfect engine of destruction. If it finds a weak spot in your defenses, it will attack the weakness relentlessly.”

In early June, with floods threatening thousands of miles of earthen levees, more than 160 Corps flood fighters are taking General Peabody's words seriously - for the second time this spring. In April, more than 180 MVD flood fighters battled high water condi-

tions along the Mississippi River and its tributaries for three weeks, and for a brief time, the fight stretched the entire length of the division from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

During the first flood, high water occurred along the upper Mississippi River and its tributaries, including record flooding along 240 miles of the Illinois River, and along 660 miles of the Mississippi River. The St. Paul District also successfully battled high water along the Souris River in N. Dakota and along the Red River in N. Dakota and Minnesota. Overall, high river levels have tested thousands of miles of levees and other flood risk reduction structures in nine states.

The St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans districts have worked closely with state and local emergency responders to inspect, advise and assist communities with professional engineering expertise and flood-fight materials. The districts have supplied all of their staging areas with sandbags, pumps and poly to support the public with flood-fight efforts. So far during this spring's two flood events, the districts have issued more than one million sandbags to impacted communi-

ties and expended more than \$6 million to execute our mission.

The twin floods are following closely on the heels of MVD's epic response to near-record drought conditions along the middle Mississippi in January and February. Overall, emergency responders have contended with watery challenges (either too little or too much) for all but six weeks of 2013.

Additionally, nine locks closed in April, reopened in May and then closed again in June on the upper Mississippi River due to extreme high water levels. This marks the third time this year that challenging river conditions (one low water and two high water) have interfered with navigation. Two locks also closed on the Illinois River with the high water contributing to a navigation accident at the Marseilles, Ill., Lock and Dam. With recent high water on the Illinois, the Rock Island District added Hesco baskets to prevent Marseilles from flooding a second time this spring.

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Around the Bend **SNAPSHOT** - District Change of Commands



Col. Richard L. Hansen (3rd from left) became the 62nd Commander and District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, May 23, 2013, in a formal military change of command ceremony. Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Division Engineer for the Mississippi Valley Division and President of the Mississippi River Commission, placed the Corps of Engineers flag, symbolizing command of the New Orleans District, into Hansen's hands. In military tradition, the passing of the flag represents the transfer of command.



Group photo taken at the New Orleans District's change of command ceremony, May 23, 2013. Bottom row (left to right): Col. Ed Fleming (New Orleans District outgoing commander), Edward Belk (Miss. Valley Division Programs Director), Maj. Gen. John Peabody (Miss. Valley Division Commander), Rex Ostrander (Miss. Valley Division Regional Business Director) and Col. Vernie Reichling (Memphis District Commander). Top row (left to right): Lt. Col. Aaron Wolf (St. Louis District Deputy Commander), Judy DesHarnais (St. Paul District Deputy for Programs and Project Management), Gary Meden (Rock Island District Deputy for Programs and Project Management) and Col. Jeff Eckstein (Vicksburg District Commander).

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, hosted a change of command ceremony in St. Paul, Minn., June 19. Col. Daniel C. Koprowski assumed command of the St. Paul District from Col. Michael J. Price. Koprowski became the district's 64th commander and district engineer. Price will move on to his next Army assignment, serving as the commander of the Corps' Afghanistan District. Prior to assuming this command, Koprowski was assigned to the National War College in Washington, D.C. A native New Yorker, he earned his commission in the Corps of Engineers from Boston University Army ROTC.



Major General John W. Peabody, Commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, officiated at the Change of Command Ceremony June 28, 2013, at the district headquarters building when Colonel John W. Cross assumed command of the Vicksburg District and became the 58th District Engineer / Commander for the Vicksburg District. Colonel Cross assumed Command of the 68,000-square-mile District from Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein who will now become Commander at the Engineer, Research and Development Center. During his previous assignment, Colonel Cross served as the XVIII Airborne Corps Engineer and deployed with the Corps to Iraq. In Iraq, he served as the Deputy Engineer to United States Forces Iraq and was responsible for the final disposition of more than 80 bases and housing for over 50,000 soldiers as well as the construction of facilities for the Department of State.

(Continued to page 4)



A Change of Command ceremony was held at the Memphis District July 12. Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division and President of the Mississippi River Commission, placed the Corps of Engineers flag, transferring command of the Corps' Memphis District, into Col. Jeffery A. Anderson's hands. The Memphis District has served the citizens of the Mid-South region since 1882. The \$100-million annual mission of its 450 employees is to minimize flood risk, keep America's most vital inland navigation highway – the Mississippi River – open for navigation and to preserve our environment for future generations. The District's area of responsibility encompasses 25,000 square miles in parts of six states: Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois.

Mississippi River Commission meets with Mekong River Commission

The Mississippi River Commission exchange with the Mekong River Commission May 10-23, 2013, was a major success, thanks to the commitment to engage by all of the civilian commissioners, support from multiple partners (National Great Rivers Research & Education Center, The Nature Conservancy, Engineer Research and Development Center) and stakeholders, as well as hard work by the Corps' Pacific Ocean Division team, especially Lt. Col. John Heaton and Mr. Jim Ligh. The commission's visit focused mainly on Laos and Cambodia, and to some extent, Vietnam. Myanmar and Thailand comprise smaller segments of the watershed that are situated off the main stem of the Mekong River. China has heavily dammed the upper river reaches and contributes roughly 15 to 17 percent of the annual water flow.





MVD receives approval for funding of nonstructural Flood Risk Management pilot projects

By MVD Public Affairs

Approximately eight of 16 Mississippi Valley Division nonstructural Flood Risk Management (FRM) pilot projects have been approved by a USACE Headquarters panel to receive funding, totaling \$768,000. Project completion schedules on these range from 6-18 months. MVD has received the largest number of approved pilot projects, a testament to innovative and well written proposals.

The following is a summary of MVD's funded pilot projects:

1. Non-Structural Landuse Change Impacts on Structure Losses in Cedar River Communities (Iowa Silver Jackets Interagency Non-Structural Flood Risk Management Proposal) — \$200,000 (FY14 2nd Qtr.)
2. Community Based Hydrologic Warning System for Indian Creek, Linn County, Iowa (Interagency Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Project Proposal) — \$70,000 (May 2014 (1 year))
3. Living behind a Levee: Evaluation of Urban Flooding Scenarios to Support Risk Communication and Evacuation Planning (Interagency Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Project Proposal) — \$85,000 (May 2014 (1 year))
4. Red River Basin-wide Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Measures Guidance Manual for Owners and Residents (Red River Basin Commission, Minnesota Silver Jackets and North Dakota Silver Jackets) — \$100,000 (12 months)
5. Emergency Action Plan Guide Book (Minnesota Silver Jackets) — \$75,000 (18 months)
6. Nonstructural Floodproofing Workshop (Wis-

consin Hazard Mitigation Team (Silver Jackets)) — \$28,000 (6-12 months)

7. Pre-Flood Planning Information Package (Minnesota and North Dakota Silver Jackets) — \$125,000 (18 months)
8. City of Brentwood Flood Risk Mitigation Analysis (USACE Flood Plain Management Services Proposal) — \$85,000 (12 months)

The proposals provided selection criteria the panel evaluated, including: Describing how each project meets the remaining four selection criteria (promotes shared responsibility, addresses priority in state or local hazard mitigation plans, leverages resources and increases innovation in evaluating benefits). Each proposal had to include a table quantifying leveraged resources invested by others, including other federal agencies, state agencies, regional or local agencies and a titled section for each selection criterion.



Chinese delegation visits MVD



The Yangtze-Mississippi Exchange Three Gorges Delegation met with MVD staff June 6, 2013. Stephen Gambrell (standing, left), MRC director, civil engineer, welcomes members of the delegation, which included Zhou Xianzheng, Director, Technology and Equipment Division of The State Council Three Gorges Project Construction Committee; Xu Chuanzhou, Deputy Director of Shipping Office/Senior Engineer, Three Gorges Construction & Operation Management Bureau, China Three Gorges Corporation; Guo-Qiang Cheng, Ph.D., Secretary-general and Senior Fellow, Academy Committee of Development Research Center of the State Council; Cao Guangrong, Deputy Director, Three Gorges Construction & Operation Management Bureau, China Three Gorges Corporation; and Qiu Shuang, translator, Department of International Business of China, Three Gorges Corporation. The Chinese delegation was specifically focused on shipping, locks, management and finances and were very interested to hear what the Mississippi Valley Division, Mississippi River Commission and Engineer Research and Development Center had to share on those topics.



Burcham becomes first female General Officer on the Mississippi River Commission, Funkhouser appointed to MRC

By MVD Public Affairs

Brigadier General Margaret W. Burcham was officially appointed as a member of the Mississippi River Commission by President Barack Obama May 28, 2013. Burcham is the first female general officer to be appointed to the commission.

Brig. Gen. Burcham is commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, headquartered in Cincinnati Ohio. The division has seven engineer districts totaling over 4,800 people operating in a seventeen state area, and is charged with directing federal water resource development in the Great Lakes and Ohio River basins with infrastructure valued at over \$80 billion. With an annual operating and construction budget exceeding \$2 billion, missions include planning, construction and operations of navigation structures and flood damage reduction, hydropower, environmental restoration, water conservation, recreation and disaster assistance.

Brigadier General Anthony C. Funkhouser was officially appointed as a member of the Mississippi River Commission by President Barack Obama June 25, 2013.

Brig. Gen. Funkhouser is commander of the Northwestern Division (NWD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, headquartered in Portland, Ore. In this position, he oversees an annual program of more than \$3 billion in civil works, environmental restoration and military construction in more than a dozen states, primarily within the Columbia and Missouri river basins.

As Division Commander, he is responsible for providing guidance and direction to five operating district commands located in Portland, Ore., Seattle and Walla Walla, Wash., Kansas City, Mo., and Omaha, Neb.,



Brig. Gen. Margaret W. Burcham



Brig. Gen. Anthony C. Funkhouser

with a combined professional workforce of nearly 4,800. Key missions include support to military installations economic growth and environmental sustainability, timely response to natural disasters, and strengthening national security.

The Corps of Engineers members of the Mississippi River Commission provide representation and leadership from the nation's three largest watersheds:

- Mississippi River
- Missouri River
- Ohio River

All MRC members are nominated and appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate of the United States.

The 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, partnering and engineering" with water resource interests in a watershed that is influenced by the drainage of over 41 percent of the United States and two provinces of Canada.



MVD celebrates 238th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, honors employees for service to the nation



MVD celebrated the 238th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers June 13, 2013, honoring several employees for their length of service. Pictured above with Maj. Gen. Peabody are 5 years: Crystal Davidson, Pamela Harrion and Edie Whittington; and 10 years: Ocie Williams, Tonya Acuff and William Bradley. Not pictured are Jodi Kormanik-Gilbertson (15 years).



Pictured above with Maj. Gen. Peabody are 20 years: Dale Raffield; 25 years: Stephen Stuart and Edward Belk. Pictured below with Maj. Gen. Peabody are 30 years: Pete Montalbano; 35 years: Lexine Cool, Cecilia Robertson, Marilyn Phipps, Greg Ruff and Pat Tucker. Not pictured are Wendell Norman (20 years), Phoebe Rucker (25 years), Stephen Gambrell (30 years), Betty Jo Spiering (30 years) and Ann Laird (35 years).





MVD celebrates 238th Anniversary... (continued from page 8)



Maj. Gen. Peabody presented North Atlantic Division Certificates of Appreciation for Hurricane Sandy efforts to Bob Anderson and Carl Pigott. Maj. Gen. Peabody also presented MVD Certificates of Appreciation for Hurricane Sandy efforts to (from l. to rt.) Marilyn Phipps, Bob Anderson, Pat Tucker, Carl Pigott, Jamie Baker and Cynthia Constancio.



Pictured above is Maj. Gen. Peabody presenting the Commander's Award to Stephen Stuart. Maj. Gen. Peabody also presented Blankenship Awards to Susan K. Smith (Engineer/Scientist), Andrea L. Day (Professional) and Susan R. Williams (Technical/Administrative). Not pictured is Glenda C. Jackson, who received the Blankenship Award for Outstanding Achievement in EEO.





St. Paul District employee to receive national construction award

By Shannon Bauer
St. Paul District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Headquarters in Washington, D.C., recently announced its selection of Corps' St. Paul District employee and Winona, Minn., resident Eric Johnson as the recipient of its Construction Hard Hat of the Year Award.

Johnson received the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division Hard Hat Award in January, making him a contender for the national level award.

The Construction Hard Hat of the Year Award is given out annually by the Corps of Engineers to recognize excellence in construction quality management by its construction field personnel. Johnson was chosen as the recipient over contenders from 10 other U.S. Army Corps of Engineers divisions across the globe.

Nature Backpacks in Corps Parks

By Kevin Zidarich
Rock Island District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project has created a Nature Backpack Program in an effort to provide an opportunity to encourage children to learn more about the natural world.

The nature backpacks contain many different indoor and outdoor activities to engage children. Some fun outdoor activities include a nature scavenger hunt, bug and bird watching and how to make a whistle from just a blade of grass. Did you know you can tell the temperature by listening to a cricket? The backpack includes many different tools to entice young nature lovers to explore their surroundings including binoculars, a nature book, bug boxes and a magnifying glass. The nature backpack also includes fun indoor activities such as coloring and drawing pages, word finds, crossword puzzles and amazing facts. Did you know an earthworm has five hearts? Or pileated woodpeckers hammer their heads into a tree up to 20 times a second?



St. Paul District employee and Winona, Minn., resident Eric Johnson will soon receive USACE's Headquarters Construction Hard Hat of the Year Award.

Johnson was recognized for his actions as construction representative in the Lock and Dam 3 Project Office in Red Wing, Minn. While working there, he was responsible for contract administration and quality management for both the navigation improvement project and the lower embankment project. Both contracts, the largest American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded projects in the entire division, were valued at nearly \$47 million.

"Eric's leadership, construction expertise and superior work ethic combined for the successful execution of these projects to the highest quality standards, on-time and within budget," said Tom Johnson, Johnson's supervisor. "With more than 38,000 Corps of Engineer employees, only one receives this prestigious award."

Johnson will be recognized in August at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Senior Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

Backpacks will be available at the fee booths in the following Class "A" parks: Grant River, Blanding Landing, Thomson Causeway, Fisherman's Corner, Clark's Ferry and Shady Creek. The backpacks will also be available for nature adventures at the Mississippi River Project Office, the Visitor Center on Arsenal Island and at the Quincy Ranger Station. Anyone interested will be able to check out, on loan, a backpack for the day. For more information on how to check out a backpack, contact one of the following Mississippi River Project's offices:

- Dubuque Ranger Office: 563-582-0881
- Thomson Ranger Office: 815-259-3628
- Mississippi River Project Office: 309-794-4526
- Mississippi River Visitor Center: 309-794-5338
- Muscatine Ranger Office: 563-263-7913
- Quincy Ranger Office: 217-228-0890



Vicksburg District New Flood Control and Hydropower Chief

By Vicksburg District PAO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, recently appointed Tom Shaw as the new Chief of Flood Control and Hydropower Section in the Project Resource Management Branch.

Shaw will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of more than 1,400 miles of levees and multiple flood control projects on the Mississippi River levee system in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. His section is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of flood control projects on the Red River system, Ouachita River system, Yazoo River basin and Beauf-Tensas River basin. The Flood Control and Hydropower section has an annual budget of approximately \$14 million.

Shaw's previous position was a

project manager in the Planning, Programs and Projects Management division. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Mississippi State University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and holds a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation and is Project Management Professional (PMP) certified.

He is a native of Lucedale, Miss., and is married to the former Becky Emerson of Vicksburg. They have two daughters and reside in Clinton.

The Vicksburg District encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that holds seven major river basins and incorporates approximately 460 miles of mainline levees. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's largest



Pictured is Tom Shaw, Vicksburg District's new flood control and hydropower chief.

public engineering organization and has a firm commitment to preserving and enhancing our natural environment. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. For more information visit our website, www.mvk.usace.army.mil.

The Vicksburg District prepares for 2013 Hurricane Season

By Vicksburg District PAO

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center forecasts a "busy" hurricane season for 2013. NOAA states that higher than normal water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Africa will see an increase in the number and severity of hurricanes this season. Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30 with the peak threat period starting in mid-August and going through October.

With the forecast predicting 16 named storms and four of those expected to be major hurricanes, it is important to have a hurricane preparedness plan and a disaster supply kit in place.

Flooding from hurricanes can be

more destructive than the high winds seen during landfall. Flood insurance policies take 30 days to go into effect, so the time to prepare is now.

Last week, the Vicksburg District conducted a hurricane preparedness drill. The district ran a series of planning exercises to communicate the role of each office before, during and in the aftermath of a hurricane landfall. The Vicksburg District is responsible for Federal Emergency Management Agency directed missions for the Mississippi Gulf Coast during a hurricane response. Typical missions may include debris removal, temporary roofing and providing temporary public structures.

Also, visit www.ready.gov for information on a disaster supply kit and www.floodsmart.gov for more information on flood insurance.

Every year, the Vicksburg District deploys volunteer employees to disasters within the district's area of operation and around the nation. This is a part of the federal government's unified national response to natural disasters. For more information, visit: <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/EmergencyOperationsOffice.aspx>.



Welcome Aboard!



Margaret Brasfield
MVD Human Resources
Chief

I come to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with 30+ years of experience in Human Resources.

I started my career as a federal employee in the Stay-in-School Program (now called the Student Temporary Employment Program) at Keesler AFB in the Civilian Personnel Training Office. I have worked in every area of Human Resources over the past 30+ years, including training, staffing, classification, performance management, employee and labor relations with: Civilian Personnel at Keesler AFB; Civilian Personnel with the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center; and USDA, Human Resources Division of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in Gulfport, Miss. and Raleigh, NC. I recently worked for the Defense Information System Agency as a personnel generalist with my primary functions in employee and labor relations in Montgomery, Ala. I have worked in the Human Resource field from my senior year in high school through my college years as a federal employee with a short break to get married and start

We would also like to welcome the following new MVD employees:

- Margaret Brasfield, MVD Human Resources Manager
- Rosalyn Johnson, MVD Program Analyst, Civil Works Integration Division
- Chris Koeppel, Program Manager, MVD Programs Directorate, (Lower District Support Team, New Orleans)
- Edward LeBlanc III, Program Manager, MVD Readiness and Contingency Operations
- Bradley Martin - MVD Dam Safety Program Manager, Business Technical Division
- Ashley Maxwell, MVD Family Readiness Coordinator
- Jack McDaniel, MVD Construction, Cost Engineering and Value Engineering Program Manager, Regional Business, Technical Division
- Theresa McFarland, MVD Process Improvement Specialist
- Susie Mitchum, MVD Counsel for Memphis District
- Victoria Prevost, MVD Small Business Office Chief
- Ben Robinson, Program Manager, Programs Directorate, Science and Technology (Upper District Support Team, St. Louis, Rock Island and St. Paul Districts)

a family.

I am originally from Biloxi, Miss., where my mother and sister live today. I also have two brothers who live in New Orleans, La., and both are engineers. Moving to Vicksburg allows me to be closer to my two grandsons, Tyreek and Jaylen Brasfield, who live here. I will have been married 33 years in August 2013, to my soul mate, and we have three wonderful children.

I have battled breast cancer twice over the past 11 years, and I am happy to say I am a survivor and have been cancer free for three years.

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, so that we can introduce you to everyone in Open Channels.



Miller presented Regulator of the Year Award

By Vicksburg District PAO

Michael P. Miller, senior environmental protection specialist, Regulatory Branch, of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District, was presented the prestigious Larry N. Harper Regulator of the Year Award for his outstanding service and support to the Vicksburg District Regulatory Branch. The annual award is presented on Earth Day in recognition of the Regulatory team's efforts in protecting the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible, and balanced permit decisions.

The award recognizes the regulator who exemplifies the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. The annual Larry N. Harper Award was first presented in 2008 as a means of celebrating Earth Day and honoring a highly respected former member of the Corps' regulatory team.

Miller is a native of Wappapello Lake, Mo., and began his career with the Vicksburg District in the Engineering Services Branch in 1988. He transferred in 1998 to the Regulatory Branch's Permit Section as a permit evaluator.

The Vicksburg District Regulatory team reviews thousands of requests for jurisdictional determinations and subsequent permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Section 404 of the Clean



Mike Miller (left) is presented the Larry N. Harper Award by Col. Jeff Eckstein, Commander of the Vicksburg District. The award is for exemplifying the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was assigned the responsibility of administering the day-to-day program activities such as completing jurisdictional determinations, evaluating permit applications and assuring enforcement and compliance.



Around the Division



Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody (right) presents Jim Gutshall, MVD civil engineer, with the Superior Civilian Service Award May 6, for exceptional meritorious service as a contracting officer representative and emergency operations manager with the Transatlantic District-North, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Sept. 19, 2011 to Aug. 25, 2012.

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Division Engineer

Maj. Gen. John W.
Peabody

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' trails designated as National Recreation Trails

By Doug Garman
USACE Headquarters

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that five of its recreation trails have been designated national recreation trails by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The five are among 28 trails nationwide designated this year as new national recreation trails, and will join the national network of more than 1,200 previously designated trails that encompass more than 14,000 miles of existing trails and trail systems.

The national recreation trail designation recognizes those trails that link communities to recreational opportunities on public lands and in local parks across the nation. The first national trails were established in the early 1970s.

The following five USACE trails have been designated as 2013 national recreation trails:

Sugar Bottom Mountain Biking Trail System, Coralville Lake, Iowa City, Iowa

Set in rugged terrain surrounding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Coralville Reservoir on the Iowa River, this 13-mile trail is arranged as a one-way system of loops to create an extended continuous bike riding experience and serves riders of all skill levels. For sustainability and reduced maintenance, soil and high water challenges have been addressed with careful design. Sugar Bottom is considered by some to be the birthplace of mountain biking in Iowa, inspiring trails and clubs throughout the state.

Volksweg Trail, Lake Red Rock, Knoxville, Iowa

Volksweg is a Dutch word meaning "people's path," and this trail serves as a path connecting the picturesque city of Pella, Iowa, to the recreation areas of Lake Red Rock on

the Des Moines River. The trail traverses timbered areas, restored prairies, pine plantations and open fields while offering spectacular views of the lake. It is maintained through a combined effort by the Marion County Conservation Board, the city of Pella and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

General Dacey Trail, Lake Shelbyville, Shelbyville, Ill.

The General Dacey Trail is a four-mile multipurpose trail at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Shelbyville. Those involved in fitness, family gatherings, educational opportunities and wildlife viewing are attracted to this trail. The success of the General Dacey Trail would not have been achieved without community pride and ownership. The trail has proved to be a catalyst for developing relationships between volunteers, contributors and partnering organizations.

Pomme de Terre Multipurpose Trail, Pomme de Terre Lake, Hermitage, Mo.

Pomme de Terre Trail is located on Bolivar Landing on the southern portion of Pomme de Terre Lake, and is a popular trail of horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers. The looped trail has several smaller loops, adding up to nearly 20 miles. The trail is scenic as it winds through various types of terrain. The Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen, a non-profit volunteer service organization, keep the trail traffic flowing by contributing countless hours of volunteer labor.

Running River Trail, Pomme de Terre Lake, Hermitage, Mo.

Running River Trail is located in Outlet Park just below Pomme de Terre Dam. This 3.1-mile looped trail meanders along the Pomme de Terre River and through scenic woods. Designed for walking, jogging and biking, the trail is promoted for healthier lifestyles through a Healthy Active

Community collaborative effort involving the Hermitage School District, Hickory County Health Department, Hickory County Community Improvement Coalition and USACE. Being the only trail of its kind in the area, it serves a number of users annually.

Each of the five new trails will receive a certificate of designation, a letter of congratulations from the Secretary of the Interior and national recreation trail markers.

This year's designation of 28 new national trails adds almost 650 miles of trails to the National Trails System. These land and water trails connect people with nature and the great outdoors as part of a healthier lifestyle, a core principle behind President Obama's America's Great Outdoors and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Outside! initiatives.

The national recreation trail program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service in conjunction with a number of other federal and nonprofit partners, notably American Trails, which hosts the national recreation trails website at <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails>.

As the nation's largest federal provider of water-based recreation, USACE's more than 420 lake and river projects in 43 states provide more than 7,700 miles of diverse land and water trail systems. USACE officials credit the support of local public and private organizations and the thousands of volunteers annually in helping to make these trails available for public use.

For more information on USACE land and water trails and the many other recreation opportunities available at USACE sites, please visit www.CorpsLakes.us.



2013 SAME/ARMY Engineering and Construction Camp

By Michael A. Turner, P.E.
Camp Director

With the support of a host of dedicated volunteers and few minor challenges, the 11th annual Engineering and Construction Camp was successfully conducted June 16-22, 2013, in Vicksburg, Miss. As in the previous 10 years, the one-week program sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers and supervised by professional engineers from the local SAME Post and other volunteers from engineering organizations in the lower Mississippi valley was well received and greatly enjoyed by the 38 participating campers. This year's camp included 10 girls and 28 boys, all rising high school juniors or seniors from Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Arizona, California, Washington, Pennsylvania, DC and Hawaii.

The SAME/ARMY Engineering & Construction Camp is designed to provide high school students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in engineering and construction skills in Vicksburg's wide-ranging engineering community. The campers are exposed to various activities that provide insight into career choices in the fields of engineering and construction. Topics covered in this year's curriculum were surveying, civil engineering, environmental engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, geotechnical engineering, river engineering, military engineering, CADD, GIS and information technology.

The camp kicked off on Sunday afternoon with the campers arriving at their temporary home for the week at the Mississippi Army National Guard 168th Engineer Group Readiness Center. After check-in and introduction to the facilities and their sleeping area, the campers were



divided into four teams and introduced to their counselors. Each team has a male and a female counselor who themselves are young engineers. The counselors, known as pilots and first mates, spend the entire week with the campers both day and night. This year's pilots and first mates came from the Vicksburg District, Memphis District, St. Louis District, Engineer Research and Development Center and Louisiana Department of Transportation.

Team activities started Sunday afternoon with an orienteering exercise and an icebreaker.

Monday kicked off with a leadership and teambuilding exercise at the Vicksburg National Military Park, followed by a concrete mix design exercise at ERDC and a survivor type military challenge exercise at the 168th National Guard Readiness Center. As usual, a highlight for the day was the landing and visit by a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Tuesday activities included computer modeling and design of a catapult system at the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS) extension office in Canton, a guided tour of the Nissan Plant in Canton and a surveying, GIS and AutoCAD competition at sustaining member firm Neel-Schaffer headquarters in downtown Jackson.

Tuesday evening was capped off with Mardi Gras themed jambalaya cooking and the straw bridge competition.

Wednesday's schedule included activities at the ERDC-ITL and a visit to the Lower MS River Museum that morning followed by a visit to the Entergy Training Center in Clinton for several activities and demonstrations in the afternoon. Wednesday concluded with a night of college themed bowling and pizza.

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2013 SAME/Army Engineering and Construction Camp *(continued from page 16)*

Thursday started with the concrete construction activity and batch plant tour at MMC Concrete and APAC followed by lunch, a boat ride and competitive river engineering activities aboard the MV Benyaard. The evening included a swim party and hamburger cook-out at the Knights of Columbus pool.

Friday morning exposed the campers to soil classification activities and an environmental exercise at ERDC. Friday afternoon was dominated by several activities at the Coastal and Hydraulics Lab at ERDC. Friday evening concluded with the traditional luau and fun activities including karaoke.

Saturday morning the teams traveled to ERDC-Geotechnical Structures Laboratory to witness the breaking of their concrete cylinders that they had mixed and poured on Monday. A short after-action review with the campers yielded their likes and dislikes for the week. This year's group couldn't name a single item or activity that they disliked but overwhelmingly the number one thing they most liked was the food. The cooking team feeds them well and often!

An awards ceremony was held at the Vicksburg District Headquarters Building where Major General John W. Peabody, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division and President of the Mississippi River Commission, presented certificates to all the campers. Camp activities concluded with a fried catfish lunch for the campers and their families.

For each competitive activity completed during the week the teams were scored by the instructors for accuracy, timing and for team spirit. Points were compiled at the end of the week and the winning team members were each awarded a Northface backpack. With sometimes intense competition, sweltering heat some had never experienced and activity packed 16-hour days, the teams worked hard to complete their assigned activities, while still managing to engineer some fun and camaraderie during the week. Remember, it's all about having fun and building the future – one engineer at a time!

The camp charges each camper a token amount that doesn't come close to covering expenses. The funds required to operate the camp each year are provided by generous contributions from SAME sustaining member firms, SAME posts and individuals. Each year, the volunteer staff from the local engineering community works extremely hard to make the camp a success. Along with the volunteers, sustaining member firms and SAME Posts who contributed cash donations, others who made this year's camp a success include the 168th National Guard Engi-

neer Group, 1-185th Aviation Battalion Mississippi Army National Guard, the Vicksburg-Warren School District, Entergy Mississippi, Mississippi State University Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Extension Office, Nissan North America, Neel-Schaffer Engineers, Vicksburg National Military Park, MMC Concrete, APAC of Mississippi, Fordice Construction Company, USACE Engineer Research and Development Center, USACE Mississippi Valley Division, USACE Vicksburg District, USACE Memphis District and USACE St. Louis District. Thanks to all who made this year's camp the best ever!



Kid's Corner: Fishing Color Sheet

Friends Make Friends Wear Life Jackets!



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