

Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr becomes MVD's 38th commander

By MVD Public Affairs

On Aug. 29, 2014, the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, welcomed a new commander. During a formal change of command ceremony, Brig. Gen. Peter A. DeLuca transferred command of the division to Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr. The ceremony, held at the Vicksburg Convention Center, was officiated by the Corps' Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick. Close to 200 MVD staff, Mississippi River Commission members, stakeholders and members of the community attended the event, which was open to the public.



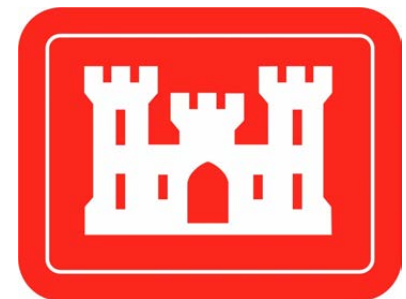
Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick passed the flag to new MVD Commander Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr during a Change of Command Ceremony Aug. 29, 2014, in the Vicksburg Convention Center. Wehr is the division's 38th commander. Close to 200 MVD staff, Mississippi River Commission members, stakeholders and members of the community attended the public event.

In addition, Wehr will be president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, the presidentially appointed agency that oversees the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries project, as well as the entire Mississippi River and its tributaries.

DeLuca, division commander and president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission since September 2013, retired after more than 32 years of service with the U.S. Army.

Wehr comes to Vicksburg from Afghanistan where he served as director of the Joint Engineering Directorate for the United States Forces-Afghanistan, and commander of the Transatlantic Division (Forward), Afghanistan.

As MVD's 38th commander, Wehr will be responsible for the Corps' water resources programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans.



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Around the Bend: Meet Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr



Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr
Commander
Mississippi Valley Division
President-designee
Mississippi River Commission

As MVD’s commander, Brigadier General (Promotable) Wehr is responsible for a \$2 billion civil works program. In addition, he plays a vital role in managing the Corps water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley.

Wehr was commissioned through the Santa Clara University’s Reserve Officer Training Corps May 22, 1985, and first served with the 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat) in Fort Ord, Calif. He has commanded the 307th Engineer Battalion and Charlie Company, as well as USACE’s Vicksburg District and South Pacific Division.

He has also served in non-command positions as a project engineer officer with the Corps of

Engineers’ Japan District and as an engineer plans officer with the U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii.

Wehr earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Santa Clara University and a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and a Senior Service College Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a registered professional engineer in Virginia.

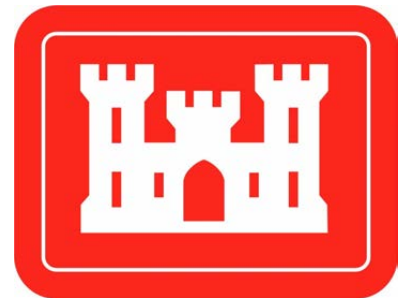
His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation 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 Sapper 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.

Essayons, Building Strong and...Army Strong!





First staff meeting with Brig. Gen. (P) Wehr



New MVD Commander Brig. Gen. Michael C. Wehr holds his first staff meeting Sept. 2, 2014, at the Mississippi River Commission building with several MVD staff members. Welcome, BG(P) Wehr!!!

MRC commissioner Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D., visits the Mat Sinking Unit



During a visit on the Mat Sinking Unit in Vicksburg, Miss., the Honorable Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D., civilian Mississippi River Commission member/civil engineer, helps one of the crew members tie together blocks of concrete that make up the revetment mattress on the MSU during the MRC's low-water inspection trip.

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. It is designed to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools and communities.

Every U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee should have a preparedness plan, in case of natural or man-made disasters. This will ensure you and your family are best prepared to survive any type of disaster and allow USACE to successfully respond.

For more information about making emergency plans, visit the Ready Army website www.ready.army.mil,

the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website www.ready.gov and the American Red Cross website www.redcross.org.

To create an emergency plan: identify likely disasters in your area; establish your evacuation and communications procedures knowing that communities have predetermined routes of egress and that cell phone/text towers and phone lines may not work; create an in-case-of-emergency card that outlines where you and your loved ones should go during an emergency; and practice several times a year.

Your emergency kit should include supplies for at least three days. Think of items that have multiple uses and are long lasting. Keep a kit at home and consider kits for other locations—your car, at work and a portable version. Selected emergency kit contents should include: shelter, water, food, first aid/medical/sanitation, communication (i.e., hand crank radio), tools and emergency contacts.

[Source: USACE Headquarters]



Mississippi River Commission meets with thousands of citizens during recent two week low-water inspection trip

By MVD Public Affairs

The Mississippi River Commission conducted its annual low-water inspection trip aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI beginning August 10 and travelled the length of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) during its first week. While travelling the MKARNS, more than 1,000 people visited the motor vessel to learn about the largest towboat in the world and the critical work the Corps of Engineers performs on our nation's vital waterways.

The inspection trip also helped focus high-level attention on the MKARNS and its benefits. The Arkansas River and other navigable tributaries feed important commerce through the Mississippi River system and America's sea ports. This was the commission's second-ever inspection of the McClellan-Kerr waterway. The first inspection occurred in 2010.

In addition to two open houses aboard the MV MISSISSIPPI, hosted by the vessel's crew and staff members of the Little Rock and Tulsa districts the first week, the commission also held four public meetings during the two-week trip so members of the public could meet with local partners, stakeholders and residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues.



Brig. Gen. DeLuca presents his "Four Revolutions" presentation during the August 18 MRC Public Meeting in Caruthersville, Mo.

The public meeting places and dates included Rosedale, Miss., August 15, Caruthersville, Mo., August 18, Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 19 and Houma, La., August 22. The main purpose of the public meetings is to maintain an open dialogue and free exchange of diverse ideas flowing between the watershed interests, the public and the Corps.

Commission President and Mississippi Valley Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca, gave an impassioned speech during each of the public meetings that amplified and further explored facts about what he characterized as the "Four Revolutions" impacting our nation and world today. The revolutions include the recent explosion

in America's energy supply, the expanding agricultural productivity and a boom in our nation's manufacturing industries. These three revolutions are creating a pressing need to invest in navigation infrastructure so that we can take advantage of the slack capacity in waterborne transportation and its ability to move more products as our economy continues to accelerate and expand.

Brig. Gen. DeLuca also gave an update on the final revolution, climate change and its impacts, such as more severe storms, increased flooding and longer droughts. He also discussed the impacts of rising sea levels on states along the Gulf of Mexico.



MRC meets with thousands..(continued from page 4)



Several hundred visitors line up at the dock to board the motor vessel MISSISSIPPI for an open house at the R.S. Kerr L&D in Sallisaw, Okla., Aug. 8, 2014, during the MRC's low-water inspection trip.

His bottom line hammered home the need to begin work today to grow and protect our economy with wise infrastructure investments. “By starting to develop protective infrastructure today, we will be more prepared for climate change challenges and better able to defend against catastrophic damages,” DeLuca said.

(Link to DeLuca's MRC Low Water Speech: <http://youtu.be/Cvf0DpBuXDE>.)

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.





Welcome Aboard!



Gary Young

MVD Senior Environmentalist
for Planning

Gary Young recently joined MVD as the senior environmental planner. In this position, he serves as the division expert in environmental planning and compliance and leads the Environmental Community of Practice.

He began his career at the Vicksburg District in 1991 as a biologist in the Environmental Branch, Planning Division. He was a key player and leader on some of the district's most complex and controversial studies, including the Mississippi River Levees and Yazoo Backwater Area Environmental Impact Statements.

Over the past 20 years, he played a central role in the delivery of over 27,000 acres of bottomland hardwood mitigation in the Mississippi Delta. He served as an environmental team leader and chief of the Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch. In support of Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh's (MVD commander from 2008-2001) training directives, Gary was the course facilitator and a teacher of a combined PCC1/PCC2 class that was taught in New Orleans, Vicks-

burg and Memphis. He played an integral role in the development of the regional planning structure in MVD. He served a 120-day detail at MVD as a program manager on the New Orleans District Support Team. During his career, he also served four years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service as the Lower Mississippi River Watershed coordinator. Prior to coming to MVD, he served as the assistant chief of the Regional Planning and Environmental Division South.

He is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife management and a master's degree in forestry.

Gary is married to Melissa, and they have two daughters, Candice and Logan.



Vickey Williams

MVD Family Readiness Coordinator

Vickey Williams currently serves as the Army OneSource Regional Family Readiness Coordinator. As a member of the Army One Source team, she is tasked with the developing state alliances in the behavioral health, faith based, financial and legal areas. She also serves in direct support of service

members, Department of Defense Expeditionary Workforce/Department of the Army civilians and families within the division.

Prior to joining Army One-Source, she worked in both the public and private sectors. She has direct service experience as an educator, journalist, researcher, public relations specialist, investigator and communications specialist. She is CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) certified as a Level I Tutor; and for the last three years, she has worked for the University of Arkansas as a communications counselor for the Electrical Engineering department.

Vickey is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a master's degree in communications. Her areas of expertise are rhetorical criticism and race and gender. She received her bachelor's degree in mass communication with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in English from Jackson State University. Also, she received her associate's degree with an emphasis in English from Hinds Community College.

Williams is a member of several prestigious organizations such as the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Communications Association, Jackson State Alumni Association and The University of Arkansas Alumni Association. She is a lifetime member of Lambda Pi Eta.

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 cemvdpa@usace.army.mil, so that we can introduce you to everyone in Open Channels.



Welcome Aboard *(continued from page 6)*



Marcelina Robinson
Military Human Resources Specialist

Marcelina joined the U.S. Army in 1997; she served in Fort Polk, La., and Mannheim, Germany. After completing two tours in Germany, in 2005 she was honorably discharged. She then started her career in the civilian government sector.

Marcelina served as an administrative assistant for the Directorate of Information Management (DOIM), in Fort Polk, La. While working for the DOIM, she served as the administrative officer for the directorate and assisted as a liaison with the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) office.

While in Stuttgart, Germany, she was hired as one of the first civilians to help create and stand up a new command, U.S. Africa Command. There, she performed the duties of a human resources technician and later established the Quality of Life (QOL) program for the command as she was converted to the QOL program manager.

Her family was moved (once more) to Fort Drum, N.Y., where she began working at the Fort Drum Central Processing Station as a military retirement service

officer. She then became the 10th Mountain Division G1 Civilian in Charge (CIC), serving as the division lead for all military human resource functions.

Her family later relocated to Fort Hood, Texas, where she was assigned to the Directorate of Human Resources. She worked as the lead transition specialist and was responsible for processing separations, retirements and chapters for enlisted and officer personnel.

Next, she moved to Louisville, Ky., after being selected to work in the CPAC for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she performed HR duties at the Louisville District.

She graduated from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., earning a bachelor's degree in human resources.

She is an Army spouse and the mother of three.



Thomas McCabe
MVD Administrative Appeals
Review Officer

Mr. McCabe was recently selected as the administrative appeals review officer for MVD. He has a total of 20 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to joining the division, he spent 12 years at the Kansas City

District, where he served as the team leader and project manager in the Kansas State Regulatory Office (El Dorado). Previously, he worked in the Regulatory Branch at the Vicksburg District, starting in 1994 as a co-op student and progressing to an environmental specialist.

He graduated in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife management from Mississippi State University. He completed the Leadership Development Program in 2009 and the Basic Course of the Army Management Staff College in 2010. He is a registered forester in Mississippi.

McCabe grew up in Vicksburg, where he also met and married his wife, Courtney. They have four children, Madeline (10), Marianne (8), Melodie (6) and Malachi (4).

Besides keeping up with his kids' activities, he enjoys hunting, archery and watching and/or attending MSU sports events.

The MVD family would also like to welcome William Styron, Logistics Management Specialist.





Around the Division



Brig. Gen. Michael C. Wehr, MVD commander, presented Ayaan Arrington, MVD property book officer, USACE Logistics Agency, with her 15-year service award. Congratulations, Ayaan! Hooah!

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Division Engineer

Brig. Gen. (P) Michael C. Wehr

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