



Hurricane Katrina 10-Year Commemoration:

After 10 years of rebuilding, resurrected New Orleans is building a more resilient society to match its world class hurricane protection system

"Those who came before us give us a great burden... to make their sacrifices worth it." -- Carmen James, Vice President of Programs for the Greater New Orleans Foundation

By Bob Anderson, MVD Public Affairs

The nearly 300-year old City of New Orleans has proudly risen from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina a decade ago and set itself on a path of rejuvenation that includes greater equity in job creation, better education, more storm-resistant housing and a world class hurricane protection system that will guarantee future investments in the beloved city.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, the host for the Katrina 10 Commemoration, said the activities are a big shout out to the world for helping our great city recover and to "honor the lives lost, celebrate the resilience



Maj. Gen. Wehr is interviewed by the BBC on Algiers Point; the interview was broadcast live in the United Kingdom and different international markets. Throughout the week commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, several international media outlets conducted interviews with USACE representatives. One interview was conducted in Spanish; Joaquin Mujica represented USACE superbly. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34090942>)

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of our people, and formally offer our gratitude for the investments in, and commitment to, one of the world's most culturally important cities." Landrieu added, "Instead of the Crescent City, we are now the 'Comeback City' after being to hell and back. We are also a great story of reinvention, creativity and strength - the reborn New Orleans will lead the way for the rest of the world as a beacon of resiliency."

Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers senior leaders participated throughout the week in Katrina 10 events beginning on August 24th during an often spirited Atlantic Magazine Panel discussion (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RuJNqC9Gf0&index=14&list=PLwj46yNDLyTUGvqLuicj3wWUsqlIU-CDX>) and ending on August 29th with several somber wreath laying ceremonies.

The senior leaders included: Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Ms. Jo Ellen Darcy; Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick; MVD Commander Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr; Karen Durham-Aguilera, Senior Executive Service (SES) director, Homeland Security and Contingency Operations; Thomas A. Holden Jr., SES, Regional

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Around the Bend *Snapshot*: St. Paul District Visit



Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick (left), Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, Mississippi Valley Division commander, meet with U.S. Senator John Hoeven (R-North Dakota) at a meeting with Minot city leaders in Fargo Sept. 2. (US-ACE photo by Shannon Bauer)



North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple, left; Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney, Sen. John Hoeven (R - N.D.); Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Maj. Gen. Michael Wehr, Mississippi Valley Division commander; Col. Dan Koprowski, St. Paul District commander; Judy DesHarnais, St. Paul District deputy for project management; and Aaron Snyder, St. Paul District project management branch chief, talk to local officials about the Fargo, North Dakota / Moorhead, Minnesota, Metropolitan Flood Risk Reduction Project during a Diversion Authority meeting in Fargo Sept. 3. (USACE photo by Shannon Bauer)



Hurricane Katrina 10-Year Commemoration *(continued from page 1)*

Business director for the MVD; and Col. Richard L. Hansen, commander, New Orleans District.

It was clear from many of the engagements with federal, state and local leaders, the state of Louisiana and City of New Orleans are building upon the secure base provided through the Army Corps' Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. As the New Orleans Advocate newspaper proclaimed in a bold front page headline on Aug. 29th, "RESURRECTION: Ten Years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is a city revived."

Throughout the week, Corps representatives received positive feedback from elected leaders at all levels, as well as government agency leaders and non-profit leaders. The key resonating messages included the acknowledgement that there will never be "no risk," and that managing risk is a shared responsibility; the hurricane system around New Orleans is robust and resilient to a 500-year storm, and the hurricane system is recognized by others as "world class."

"Despite rising sea levels and subsidence, engineering marvels and great levee systems will help the city live with water," Mayor Landrieu said.

And the world was interested in learning more about the hurricane protection system the New Orleans District constructed during the past 10 years, with a national investment of \$14.5 billion (more funds invested in 10 years than during the entire 86-year history of the Mississippi River and Tributaries System). Corps subject matter experts were interviewed by more than 100 media organizations, including: FOX News, the New York Times, USA Today, ABC News, Weather Channel, NPR, Newsweek, PBS, BBC, NPR and the Atlantic Magazine.

Additionally, the week included visits by President Obama, and former Presidents Bush and Clinton. President Obama visited the Lower Ninth Ward and discussed community resiliency beyond structural solutions, including improved and equitable social and economic systems. During his visit to the Ninth Ward, President Obama remarked, "If Katrina was initially an example of what happens when government fails, the recovery has been an example of what's possible when government works together — state and local and community — everybody working together as true partners."



Ms. KD-A and Mark Schleifstein participated in a panel titled, "Living with Risk: Designing a Better System" sponsored by The Atlantic magazine. Many of the themes and messages outlined by Ms. KD-A resonated throughout the week and helped to shape the positive discussion about USACE and the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RuJNQC9Gf0&index=14&list=PLwj46yNDLyTUGvqLuicj3wWUsqdlUCDX>)



Mississippi River Commission gains fresh perspective of Tennessee, Cumberland Rivers *(continued on page 5)*

By Lee Roberts
Nashville District Public Affairs

The Mississippi River Commission recently navigated the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers to gain a fresh perspective for the development of plans to improve the condition of the Mississippi River Basin, foster navigation, promote commerce and reduce flood risk.

The commission met with stakeholders while inspecting the waterways, while also visiting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Nashville District and Tennessee Valley Authority projects. The dialogue with community and business leaders and citizens helps the commission with forming a balanced vision and developing water resource engineering solutions for navigation, infrastructure, comprehensive flood control, environmental sustainability and water supply for the entire watershed, which impacts 41 percent of the United States and includes 1.25 million square miles, over 250 tributaries, 31 states and two Canadian provinces.

Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D., civilian member of the Mississippi River Commission and a civil engineer from Metairie, La., visited Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 8 to learn about its concrete aggregate problem and structural concerns, and to receive an update on the stalled construction of a replacement lock.

President elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Mattei said participating in an inspection trip



Aug. 9 - Mississippi River Commission members in front of a Saturn booster (rocket), located at the United Launch Alliance Rocket Factory in Decatur, Ala. The MRC was on a low-water inspection of the Tennessee River.

and seeing things with her own eyes, like the lock on the Tennessee River, is extremely valuable in her role as a commissioner.

“It’s one thing to listen to someone’s PowerPoint or to their briefing and look at numbers on a table, and maybe a couple of pretty photos, and have them tell you about the issues that they’re experiencing at a certain location,” Mattei said. “It’s quite another when you get to see what that location actually looks like.”

She stressed that being able to visit a project site in person like Chickamauga Lock is very beneficial because of the impact one lock can have on a series of locks on this river.

“So if this lock shuts down, it impacts the locks beyond it. And so when you’re at the site and you see the traffic on the river, you see the condition of the lock, you see the dam, it really drives home the issues you’ve been told and that you’ve read about in a report,” Mattei said.

The commission boarded the Motor Vessel Mississippi in Chattanooga Aug. 8 after touring Chickamauga Lock, and hosted local community leaders to talk about the local waterway. Displays were also set up to inform visitors about TVA operations at dams on the Tennessee River and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District operations at the navigation locks, and other missions to include recreation and regulatory functions. Stakeholders had access to information on how to receive assistance with water resource

stewardship and engineering support for local governments such as ecosystem restoration, emergency response, floodplain management, hydropower and water supply.

The commission then stopped over in Decatur, Ala., Aug. 9 for additional face-to-face interaction. The 241-foot towboat, which features three 6,300 horsepower diesel engines and is five-stories high, continued moving downstream and crossed through the Barkley Canal and “Land Between the Lakes” into the Cumberland River, arriving at Clarksville, Tenn., Aug. 11 for another stakeholder meeting while docked at McGregor Park in Clarksville, Tenn.

Tennessee State Rep. Mary Littleton, 78th District, represents Cheatham and Dickson counties. She came aboard in Clarksville and emphasized that transportation is a big issue across the state and so keeping the waterways open moving commerce is an important issue to the region.



MRC gains fresh perspective of Tennessee, Cumberland Rivers

(continued from page 4)

“I know that the barges help relieve traffic on the highways, so I think that is my concern,” Littleton said.

The Motor Vessel Mississippi arrived in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 12 and docked at Riverfront. The commission and local community leaders took a walking tour of the city to learn more about the May 2010 flood. The group then boarded the vessel and traveled back up stream on the Cumberland River to Cheatham Lock.

During the voyage, Nashville District officials briefed stakeholders about post flood actions, recreation and its economic impact to the region, hydropower from a national and regional perspective, and the district’s hydropower rehabilitation program.

Roger Lindsey, professional engineer and program manager for Metro Nashville Water Services, spoke about the city’s flood recovery and development of the Nashville SAFE Tool, which stands for “Situational Awareness for Flooding Events.” It is an internal mapping tool to help the city better predict when and where flooding will occur.

Participants were encouraged to provide the commission feedback and Greg Batts, owner of Prizer Point Marina and Resort in Cadiz, Ky., asked them to foster better communication with the recreation community on the waterways because they want to be partners, contribute and have input in the decisions that directly affect them.

“We can do a lot of things together, but we have to work together,” said Batts.

The commission culminated its trip to the Twin Rivers with a visit to Kentucky Lock in Grand Rivers, Ky., Aug. 13. They toured and received an update on the status of construction on

an additional lock chamber that will alleviate congestion of commercial traffic on the Tennessee River.

Joanne Mann, executive assistant and Congressional liaison in the Nashville District, said it took about four months of preparation so the commission would have the opportunity to conduct the low-water inspection and interact with stakeholders on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

“They’re learning about our projects and our challenges and our issues and where we could use help, and how we integrate with other organizations like TVA and the relationships we have with them,” Mann said. “We also ensure that the stakeholders are given the opportunity to talk about their issues and challenges and what they hope to gain from what the Corps does for them in the region.”

Mattei said the site visits are instrumental because each commissioner sees the rivers and speaks to the people who live, work and recreate on them.

“Whenever I go on these trips it helps me to understand what the issues are in that particular region because the area of the Mississippi River Valley, the entire basin, it’s huge,” Mattei said. “And the issues that are important to a specific person in an area – it depends on where you are, and it depends on who you are. And so by getting into a certain location, say the Cumberland, the Tennessee, talking to all the stakeholders that live and work in that area – the engagement really helps me to understand, and how that fits into the grand scheme of things.”

Composed of seven members, each member of the commission is nominated by the Department of Defense or Department of Commerce, appointed 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. They are Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley Division and president-nominee of the commission; Honorable Sam E. Angel, Lake Village Ark.; Honorable R. D. James, New Madrid, Mo.; Honorable Norma Jean Mattai, Ph.D., Metairie, La.; Rear Adm. Gerd F. Glang, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration director, Silver Spring, Md.; Brig. Gen. Richard G. Kaiser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Brig. Gen. David C. Hill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division commander, Dallas, Texas.

Approximately 400 people took advantage of a public tour of the Motor Vessel Mississippi Aug. 7 when the vessel arrived to begin the inspection trip. The vessel spends more than 90 percent of its time as a working towboat in the Memphis District, moving barges, equipment and supplies on the lower Mississippi River. It was built in 1993 by Halter Marine and is the fifth Army Corps of Engineers towboat to bear the name.





Federal, state and local agencies prepare for 'The Big One' – a massive New Madrid Earthquake

By MVD Public Affairs

Slumbering in the early morning hours of December 16, 1811, the residents of sparsely populated New Madrid, Missouri, were violently awakened and thrown from their beds by one of the most powerful earthquakes in U.S. history (possibly an 8.0 on the Richter Scale). The ground buckled, rolled and shook, breaking trees like matchsticks and crumbling barns and homesteads. The monstrous quake rang church bells in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and toppled chimneys as far as Cincinnati, Ohio.

New Madrid residents described the ground “rolling in waves,” and Mississippi River flatboat crews watched in terror as the river rose up and then flowed backwards. Thousands of fissures buckled and cracked open gaping holes on local farms, and geysers of water and sand burst from the earth.

Then in 1812, on January 23 and February 7, two more massive quakes struck. Each earthquake had a magnitude of 7.5 or greater, making them three of the strongest in continental U.S. history and shaking an area ten times larger than that affected by the magnitude 7.8 San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

So what will happen if another massive quake strikes a region that now has major cities and infrastructure valued at trillions of dollars?

To address the catastrophic possibility, the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division held a comprehensive earthquake planning workshop in Vicksburg in late July with USACE representatives from multiple districts, divisions and headquarters, several FEMA regions, the U.S. Coast Guard, state and local governments, and navigation representatives. The planning workshop employed the military deci-



Trees tilted by New Madrid earthquake, Chickasaw bluffs east side of Reelfoot Lake. Note twist of trees into upright position. (Photo of the New Madrid 1811-1812 Earthquakes, from the USGS website)

sion making process to organize the discussions and develop initial courses of action for the MVD Commander, Maj. Gen. Mike Wehr, to review. The commander will then issue orders directing future actions.

“Our immediate goal is to quickly get into the impacted areas, save lives and begin the long, and extremely complex recovery process,” said Maj. Gen. Wehr. “These planning exercises will help us to be better prepared to respond faster and more effectively.”

More than a dozen senior decision makers from key earthquake response organizations attended the event to take part in the planning workshop. Participation by key leaders is critical to gaining commitment and direction for future actions arising from the planning sessions.

Attendees worked on two plans, or courses of action, to consider as many possible solution-focused response scenarios at the federal, state and local government levels. The workshop attendees also discussed and planned what specific actions each agency would take, and how they would communicate and coordinate their respective activities.

The overall USACE mission following a major earthquake is to quickly surge its engineering and technical support forces into the affected areas to assess and repair critical civil works infrastructure such as levees, floodwalls, pumping stations and navigation structures. The Corps will also execute missions in support of the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA under the National Response Framework, including providing emergency power, infrastructure assessment and temporary housing. USACE experts will also manage the removal of dangerous debris from roads and repair public infrastructure. An additional Corps mission is supporting the U.S. Coast Guard in the restoration of the region's navigable waterways and ports.

With a comprehensive plan in hand, thousands of USACE emergency responders are ready to deploy from all eight Corps divisions to help with the massive recovery operations, including emergency power, temporary housing, debris removal, structural repair and unwatering teams, deploying both to the field staging areas, strategically located joint field offices and incident command centers.

MVD Emergency Management Chief Jared Gartman summed up the Corps efforts when he said, “If the U.S. is turned upside down by an earthquake, the Corps will be there with our other federal partners to help turn it right side up again.”



Corps' Vicksburg District hosts a Blessing of the Fleet

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, hosted a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony Sept. 9, 2015, at the Vicksburg City Water Front as the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) departed the harbor for its annual revetment season. US-ACE, Mississippi Valley Division, district and former Corps employees participated in the event. The public was also invited to attend.

A tradition that dates back to medieval times, the Blessing of the Fleet originally started in early European fishing communities. A blessing bestowed by a local priest was meant to ask for an abundant and safe season.

The MSU is the only one of its kind in the world and performs one of the most important jobs in the Corps' river stabilization program. This unique one-of-a-kind crew places articulated concrete mats along the river banks of the Mississippi River to control erosion.

The MSU's fleet consists of towboats, quarter boats, and a dredge, including the motor vessels BENYAURD, WILLIAM JAMES and HARRISON, and other floating plants. The MSU complex is known as a floating city that houses and feeds its employees and has the capabilities to provide all of the electricity and potable water needed.

Inland waterway navigation is a crucial mission for the Corps. The MSU's responsibilities are to maintain more than 800 miles of navigable channels and harbors to ensure safe, cost-effective, dependable and environmentally sustainable transportation of vessels within our country's inland waterways.

The Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 district is engaged in hundreds of projects and employs approximately 1,100 people. The Vicksburg District supports disaster response in Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. To learn more about the Vicksburg District, visit their website at www.mvk.usace.army.mil.



Vicksburg District Commander Col. John Cross addresses a large crowd aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI during a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony Sept. 9 at the Vicksburg City Water Front.



The MV BENYAURD pushes the mat sinking unit's quarter boats down the Mississippi River during a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony.



River Industry Executive Task Force signs Memorandum of Understanding

By MVD Public Affairs

August 21, 2015, leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and the inland towing industry signed a memorandum of understanding today, designed to ensure consistent communications and support efficient and safe movement of commerce on the western rivers of the United States.

The memorandum, signed by Jim Guidry (Kirby Inland Marine LP and RIETF co-chairman), Rear Admiral June E. Ryan (commander of the 9th Coast Guard District), Rear Admiral David R. Callahan (commander of the 8th Coast Guard District), Major General Michael C. Wehr (commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division), and Brigadier General Richard G. Kaiser (commander of the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division), provides a foundation for improving communication between RIETF members, the Corps and the Coast Guard, which will further facilitate commerce while ensuring proper safety and environmental protection.

“This memorandum of understanding is a great step forward for our joint efforts to keep the nation’s commerce moving,” said Jim Guidry. “It provides the assurance that we have communications processes in place to ensure that we move goods safely, securely and efficiently, as the Coast Guard, the Corps and industry commit to work together for the good of the nation’s economy.”

“This agreement challenges us to communicate to the point of reducing any chance of misunderstanding. We are committed to getting there,” said Maj. Gen. Wehr. “Maintaining our nation’s waterways infrastructure to move commerce safely, efficiently and in an environmentally friendly manner ensures our continued success as a maritime nation.” Maj. Gen. Wehr is also president of the Mississippi River Commission.

“Communication is always one of the foundations for success, and in an environment where the nation depends on steady flow of commerce, it is imperative that we continue to update our methods to keep one another informed. The Coast Guard works closely with the river industry in so many functions, and we look forward to the increased dialogue and interaction to steer commerce flow in an increasingly more informed, reliable and safe direction,” said Rear Adm. Callahan.

RIETF, a standing task force of the American Waterways Operators, a national trade association for the tugboat, towboat and barge industry, was formed in 1988 to create an ongoing dialogue between senior leaders of the Corps, the Coast Guard and the towing industry.



Leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and the inland towing industry signed a memorandum of understanding Aug. 21, 2015, designed to ensure consistent communications and support efficient and safe movement of commerce on the western rivers of the U.S.



Army Corps of Engineers supports new “Every Kid in a Park” recreation initiative

By Doug Garman, USACE
Headquarters

WASHINGTON (September 2, 2015) – President Obama, with the support of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced today the start of a new initiative to give every child in the United States the chance to explore and learn about America’s great outdoors. The Every Kid in a Park initiative will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission for a full year to more than 2,000 federally-managed sites nationwide.

Fourth graders can visit the “Get Your Pass” section of the Every Kid in a Park website at www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity to obtain and print a personalized voucher for unlimited use at federal lands and waters for one year. Passes are valid from Sept. 1, 2015 through Aug. 31, 2016. The paper voucher can be exchanged for a more durable interagency annual fourth grade pass at certain federal sites. The Every Kid in a Park website also provides information on tips for trip planning and how parents and educators can get involved.

A primary goal of the Every Kid in a Park initiative is to bridge the growing disconnect between the next generation and the great outdoors, and to inspire children to become future stewards of our nation’s natural and historic treasures.

“The Every Kid in the Park initiative will connect kids to their local parks, so they can continue to take advantage of all that our outdoors has to offer,” said Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. “Millions of children visit



www.everykidinapark.gov

Army Corps of Engineers parks with their families and classrooms each year, and this initiative will help introduce millions more to the joys of recreation, education and our nation’s water resources.”

“With a majority of Army Corps of Engineers’ recreation areas located within 50 miles of metropolitan centers, our sites offer thousands of fourth graders, their families and educators easy access to many different types of recreational experiences,” said Maj. Gen. Ed Jackson, Deputy Commanding General

for Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps of Engineers is the nation’s largest federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states. To find the Army Corps of Engineers’ recreation site near you, visit www.CorpsLakes.us.

For more on Every Kid in a Park follow on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/everykidinapark> or @EveryKidinaPark

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Every-Kid-in-a-Park/1433456993647993>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/everykidinapark/>

YouTubeChannel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8NsvUGYCA93hICfXxCwVlw>



Alicia Bounds attends Darden School of Business

By Pamela Harrion, MVD Public Affairs

Alicia Bounds (pictured first from left, first row), MVD procurement analyst in the Regional Contracting Chief’s Office, recently attended and successfully completed the U.S. Army Program for Acquisition Excellence at the Darden School of Business (part of the University of Virginia) in Charlottesville, Virginia.



This executive course was funded by the Army Civilian Training, Education and Development System’s Competitive Professional Development Program, which supports training and professional development for the Contracting and Acquisition Career Program.

According to Bounds, the course was structured to encourage strategic thinking in the way acquisition challenges are approached. And she encourages others to attend the course. “If you are part of the acquisition community, I would definitely encourage you to attend this course. The professors and staff were like none I have ever encountered before! They really made the experience worthwhile. A top notch University!”

MVD Farewell and Retirement Ceremonies *(continued on page 11)*



MVD Deputy Commander Michael C. Derosier presented Jerone Bostick with the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service Aug. 27, 2015, during a farewell reception and awards ceremony in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Bostick has accepted a position with Ft. Worth District and will be engaged in military construction work. Essayons, Bostick!



MVD Farewell and Retirement Ceremonies *(continued from page 10)*



Mississippi Valley Division Commander Maj. Gen. Michael C. Wehr (right) presented Steve Jones, navigation manager and deputy chief of Operations for MVD, with the Bronze de Fleury medal during a retirement ceremony held in his honor Sep. 3, 2015. Jones received the medal for his exceptional leadership and service to the accomplishment of the Army mission. Jones has been with the division since 1996. He began his career with the Corps in 1980 at the Corps' Vicksburg District. He served in several positions associated with navigation, dredging, sedimentation, river engineering and construction activities during his career. Also pictured is his wife, Beth Harding.

Open Channels

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



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