



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

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## Two New Employees at the Mississippi Valley Division

VICKSBURG, Miss., January 15, 2002 -- Mr. John Ashley and Mrs. Susan Smith were recently hired as program managers by the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



[JOHN A. ASHLEY](#)

John Ashley serves as a Program Manager for the Program Management Team, within the Planning and Programs Management Division.

Prior to coming to the Mississippi Valley Division, Mr. Ashley worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, Fla., as a Senior Project Manager on the implementation of the \$7.8 Billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) to restore about 2.4 million acres of the Everglades ecosystem. John was responsible for specific CERP projects on the upper east and west coast of Florida as well as two critical projects.

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## **2-2-2-2 New Employees**

Prior to transferring to the Project Management Division in Jacksonville, John served as the Chief of the Readiness Branch where he was responsible for coordinating response/recovery efforts and execution of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) missions and flood response activities in Florida, Puerto Rica and the U.S. Virgin Islands. During this assignment he coordinated response actions to more than 50 tropical storms and flood events.

Before going to Jacksonville in 1995, Ashley served as the Natural Disaster Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District in Vicksburg, Miss.

John has been with the Corps of Engineers since 1982 and is both a Registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor in the state of Mississippi.

Mr. Ashley is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and has performed additional work on a Master of Business Administration from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

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### 3-3-3-3 New Employees

Mr. Ashley's awards include:

- Emergency Manager of the Year nominee, 1998
- Commanders Award for Civilian Service, 1999
- Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, 1996
- Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, 1993

A native of Pinola, Miss., John and his wife Carol have two children, Jason and Jonathan, and two grand children, Hannah and Hallie. He is also active in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program of North Florida and served as a coach in YMCA athletic programs.



SUSAN K. SMITH

Susan K. Smith serves as a Program Manager for the Planning and Programs Management Division, within the Management Directorate. In this role, she will assist the St. Paul District.

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#### 4-4-4-4 New Employees

Prior to coming to the Mississippi Valley Division, Mrs. Smith worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District. She joined the Vicksburg District in May 1980 and worked for 11 years as a Study Manager and 10 years as a Senior Project Manager. As a Senior Project Manager, her area of responsibility included the Ouachita, Tensas and Pearl River Basins and the Red River Backwater Area.

Susan's education includes a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in civil engineering, with a specialty in Water Resources Planning and Management, from Colorado State University. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi.

Mrs. Smith's awards include:

- The Achievement Award for Civilian Service, 2001
- Vicksburg District Project Team of the Year, 2001
- Mississippi Valley Division and Vicksburg District Project Manager of the Year Awards, 1997
- Vicksburg District Woman of the Year Award, 1994
- Commander's Award for Civilian Service, 1994
- Public Affairs Award, 1992

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### 5-5-5-5 New Employees

Susan is married to Terry Smith, a Project Manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The district offices that conduct the programs and activities overseen by the Mississippi Valley Division are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.