



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
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MVD AWARDS DAY

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 19, 2003 -- The Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission (MVD/MRC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held their annual awards ceremony today. The following awards were presented:

GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES



Hill

Messrs. Thomas C. Hill and the late James B. Miskelley were inducted into the Mississippi River Commission Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

A special ceremony was held following the Engineer Day Awards ceremony, where plaques with engraved portraits of Messrs. Hill and Miskelley were placed on a gallery board displaying plaques of previously selected members.

The Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees was established in 1970 as a means of recognizing outstanding retired civilian employees of the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission.

Messrs. Hill and Miskelley are the 45th and 46th inductees to the gallery since its inception.

Both men were dedicated public servants who had the respect of all who worked with them, including the districts, division and Corps headquarters.



Miskelley

TOM HILL

Mr. Hill retired in 1998 with 35 years of federal service, serving the last 24 at the Mississippi Valley Division. He was a recognized expert within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the policies and procedures for planning and cost-sharing water resources studies and projects.

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With passage of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985, Congress established requirements for non-federal sponsors to sign a cost-sharing agreement with the Corps before construction of a project could be initiated.

Mr. Hill was assigned to oversee the development of the Local Cooperation Agreements (LCAs) for the division's two projects authorized by this act.

With no models or guides to go by, Mr. Hill was instrumental in the development of these two LCAs that were both signed June 30, 1986 -- meeting the Congressionally mandated deadline.

Recognizing his knowledge and abilities in all aspects of cost sharing, Mr. Hill was asked to assist Corps headquarters in the development of the initial model LCAs for structural flood control and harbor projects and the development of engineering regulation 1165-2-131 - which is still used as the basic cost-sharing "bible" for the corps of engineers.

In addition, when Congress required the Corps to restructure in 1997, Mr. Hill was designated as the chairman of the Mississippi Valley Division restructuring team. He was the principal individual responsible for standing up the new division.

His leadership was key to helping ensure a smooth transition as MVD assumed responsibility for two additional districts.

JIM MISKELLEY

Mr. Miskelley retired in 1996 with more than 32 years of federal service, the last 26 of those he served with the Mississippi Valley Division. He was a recognized technical expert within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the design and construction of water resources projects.

He served as the division's project manager for the Melvin Price Locks and Dam project during the design and construction.

This massive project, which cost more than \$1 billion to design and construct, is integral to the safe and efficient movement of waterborne commerce along the Mississippi River.

Mr. Miskelley's leadership and technical abilities in the field of civil engineering were instrumental in ensuring successful implementation of this major civil works project.

Additionally, in 1988, the Corps embarked on a path to revolutionize its business processes by implementing a new system of life cycle project management.

Mr. Miskelley played a key role in implementing the new concepts throughout the division, managing a design and construction program exceeding \$700 million annually.

ERNEST P. BLANKENSHIP AWARDS

The Blankenship awards are among the highest honorary awards presented to Mississippi Valley Division employees by the local commander. The awards cover three categories: engineer/scientist, professional and technical/administrative. Established in 1987, they memorialize the commitment, dedication and knowledge of the long-time Mississippi Valley Division Executive Assistant, who died in 1973.

Engineer/Scientist Award *(no picture available)*

Mr. Larry Holman was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Engineer/Scientist Award. He is a mechanical engineer with the Operations and Programs Coordination Team, and serves as MVD's program manager for the Corps' Critical Project Security Program.

Mr. Holman was recognized for his leadership efforts following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He was selected to lead the division's efforts in assessing and securing its critical infrastructure. Mr. Holman established a division-level oversight team of multi-discipline professionals to coordinate and provide program and technical guidance to the division's six districts' Infrastructure Security Assessment Teams.

Mr. Holman and his teams faced the challenge of completing security assessments on MVD's national critical infrastructure - to include written reports recommending security upgrades and identifying costs. In order to do this, he had to coordinate training of numerous district professionals on risk assessment methodology for dams and then execute an entirely new mission in less than six months. Mr. Holman worked with the districts to develop an aggressive schedule to assess 69 national critical locks, dams, hydropower plants and flood control structures to meet the deadline.

As the security assessment process matured into the USACE Critical Project Security Program, Mr. Holman now serves as MVD's program manager for this program. As such, he is responsible for the overall security assessment, budgeting of funds, engineering and design, contracting methods, construction and implementation of security upgrades to division critical structures.

Mr. Holman is currently detailed for 120 days to Corps Headquarters as the Corps' liaison officer to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in the Infrastructure Protection Division, Washington, D.C.

Professional Award



Mr. Henry J. Bordelon received the Ernest P. Blankenship Professional Award. Mr. Bordelon, a program analyst in the Technical Directorate, Operations Division, was recognized for his management of MVD's \$375 million Operations and Maintenance program, which resulted in an exceptional 99% execution.

Mr. Bordelon also mentored and trained the district budget analysts and operations managers to develop their Operations and Maintenance budget in a prioritized, corporate manner, and assisted with deployment of the Program Management Business Process through quality assurance visits and daily contacts.

In addition, Mr. Bordelon developed a series of district reports that gave MVD managers the tools needed to assess funding excesses and shortfalls.

Technical/Administrative Award



Miss Susan Ables was the recipient of the Ernest P. Blankenship Technical/Administrative Award. Miss Ables is a secretary in Technical Directorate, Operations Division, and was recognized for the outstanding performance of her duties in 2002.

During an extended staffing shortage, Miss Ables was the sole provider of administrative support for the Operations Division.

In late September and early October 2002, when Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili were bearing down on the New Orleans area, Miss Ables served as a new member of the Crisis Management Team. Her skill in rapidly preparing financial documents expedited deployment of Emergency Support Team members from all over the country and greatly contributed to the success of the mission.

Throughout her career, Miss Ables has willingly gone the extra mile to produce superior work and provide expert assistance to her co-workers. Her education, years of experience, varied assignments and personal standards of excellence make her a tremendous asset to the division.

EEO OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Mr. Charles B. Barton was the recipient of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Outstanding Achievement Award. Mr. Barton is Chief of the Real Estate Office.

Mr. Barton was recognized for leading the effort to ensure full participation of all Mississippi Valley Division employees in Consideration of Others training.

Utilizing small group sessions, Mr. Barton was able to train the entire MVD staff.

Mr. Barton exemplifies the dedication and leadership that is desirable in today's learning and business environment. In addition, he demonstrated the Mississippi Valley Division's commitment to building effective, enduring and respectful relationships.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



Mrs. Susan P. Hampton was the recipient of the Woman of the Year Award. Mrs. Hampton is the Regulatory Team Leader in the Technical Directorate, Operations Division.

Mrs. Hampton was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments in the regulatory and environmental compliance field, including a first-ever complete Peer review of the regulatory processes in each of the six MVD districts. This review has already been instrumental in identifying areas needing improvement that will increase consistency in the very complicated permit process.

In addition, Mrs. Hampton has provided outstanding guidance to her team's career women and has been an outstanding mentor for them as well.

Mrs. Hampton is presently serving a 120-day assignment as Chief of Operations Program Coordination Team. In this capacity, she has also exhibited a very high level of leadership skills.

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



The Student Employee of the Year Award is given to a student who has accomplished assigned duties in such a manner as to have clearly established a pattern of excellence during the past year.

This year's award was presented to Ms. Crissy Neal, a student trainee in the Resource Management Division.

Ms. Neal was instrumental in the planning and management of the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers', Command Staff Inspection support effort, which the Resource Management Division facilitated January through May 2003. This assignment required extensive planning and coordination with a variety of division offices and support organizations.

In addition, Ms. Neal demonstrated her ability to perform successfully in more independent settings as she represented the Resource Management Division on the Cross Functional Assessment Process Development Team from January through February 2003. This assignment required extensive research and coordination with a variety of functional experts.