



News Release

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division/
Mississippi River Commission
cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

Release #: 05-02
For Release: January 28, 2005

Contact: Public Affairs Office
Phone: 601-634-5760 / 7783

Sills to receive Corps headquarters award

VICKSBURG, MISS., January 28, 2005 -- Mrs. Kathie P. Sills, a senior accountant for the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), was selected as the recipient for the Civilian Individual Award for Education, Training and Career Development. This is an annual Corps Headquarters award and will be presented to Mrs. Sills at a conference in March.

Mrs. Sills developed, administered and managed the Corps-wide Finance and Accounting Course during fiscal year 2004. The Corps recognized it had a critical gap in its training in the area of finance and accounting and Mrs. Sills was given the important mission to develop a new course to meet these needs.

She developed the new course to teach Corps accountants the “nuts and bolts” of accounting to ensure all new employees had a good foundation to begin their Corps financial management careers. Mrs. Sills hand selected an experienced staff of Corps accountants to form her instructor team, ensuring the team had the right mix of backgrounds and talents. She also created the class curriculum and led the development of the individual lesson plans.

Mrs. Sills also personally lectured, facilitated group discussions and assisted students with practical exercises, employing various innovative instructional methods and techniques while delivering training in accounting principles.

Additionally, this year, the Corps of Engineers has worked aggressively toward becoming the first Department of Defense Major Command to receive a clean opinion on its FY 2005 Financial Statements. To contribute toward this goal, Mrs. Sills ensured the course included not only the underlying principles but some expert “how to” advice that students could use immediately upon return to their offices.