



*Remarks by Major General Phillip R. Anderson,  
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division,  
at the Safety Plus Awards Banquet, Harrah's  
Casino, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 23 February 2000*

Good evening. It is a pleasure to be here and to be a part of the Vicksburg District's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Safety Plus Conference.

I commend Construction Division's efforts in launching this new initiative and encourage continued support of the program. Safety is everyone's business.

I thought you might find interesting some of the guidance general officers get on safety.

"I need your help to ensure that commanders at every level are focused on safety and are using the risk management tools that have been developed to prevent accidents.

"We need to implement the following measures:

"-- Brief all fatal accidents to the first general officer in the chain of command. The intent is for senior leaders to "After Action Report" the accidents and develop or reinforce procedures from the lessons learned.

"-- Use the safety professionals assigned to your organization. They are a valuable asset for assisting commanders with the planning and execution of an effective safety program. An effective safety program focuses on positive,

preventative measures taken to reduce risk,  
rather than reacting to accidents after they  
occur.

"-- Ensure compliance with accident reporting  
procedures. We need accurate information from  
the field to focus on the right problems and  
develop the right solutions.

"-- In closing, please remind your commanders  
that safety and risk management are their  
programs. Focus on safety by the chain of  
command will occur only if there is focus by  
commanders."

We do have to think about making the transition in safety to a proactive approach in which we truly internalize the safety process and integrate it into everything we do.

When we make safety an intuitive way of thinking and a way of life, then we can look to a future in which making informed decisions to control hazards or accept risks is embedded in the culture. I believe zero accidents is an achievable goal.

And this new initiative is a big step forward in making safety happen.

Before I close, I have one last item -- an award presentation. It is the Mississippi Valley Division 1999 Contractor of the Year award. Our recipient this year is Hayward Baker, Inc., of Roswell, Georgia.

The plaque reads: "Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Contractor of the Year, Hayward Baker, Inc., Roswell, Georgia. In Recognition and Appreciation of Professionalism, Effectiveness of Management, Quality Work, and Timely Performance, 1999."

The contract nomination was for the Natchez Bluff Stabilization Project. I might add that the completed project included 38,750 man hours worked, with zero accidents, and was completed on time.

I want to personally commend everyone at Hayward Baker, Inc., for their proactive approach to safety and their achievement in successfully completing this contract.