



*Remarks by Major General Phillip R. Anderson,
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the
Vicksburg District Business Conference,
Vicksburg Convention Center, 10 May 2000*

Mayor Walker, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen -- good afternoon.

It's great to have you all here for what I know will be a very productive and informative conference.

I commend all of those who worked so hard to make this happen.

MVD has a history of recruiting the best for MVK. I'm interested in Marlin(?) -- think he'll like my castle more than Col. Crear's.

We are here today because the Army Corps of Engineers has a strong commitment to our partners.

The Corps of Engineers strives to be the world's premier engineering organization, but we rely on the experience and expertise of a network of contractors, both large and small, to accomplish our mission.

Because of the amount of work we do with small businesses, we must continue to communicate with those businesses that work with us, and those that want to work with us.

Although the Corps has done very well in small business utilization, we are not going to be satisfied with past successes. We will continue our commitment to small businesses and we want to do even better.

This conference is a wonderful opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas. I urge you to tell us what's on your mind and how you think we can better work together.

Small business utilization is one of my highest priorities - it's important to me and to my entire organization. We do good work and we want small businesses as our partners in this work.

And, let me assure you, the Corps of Engineers does not support small businesses simply because it is the law. We support small businesses because it is good business - it's good for us. We do not award contracts to small businesses as a "handout." We do it because we are committed to delivering the best product on time and within budget and small businesses help us to do that.

We want to work with the best contractors available -- large and small alike. Small business utilization grows competition in the long run. More competition results in more quality contractors and more quality products.

Our goal is to increase the participation of the full range of small businesses including woman-owned businesses, emerging small businesses, as well as small disadvantaged businesses.

The single most important part of our Small Business Program is command commitment. You're not going to find a stronger command commitment than here in the Vicksburg District.

In fact, Col. Crear recently received the Secretary of the Army Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Award. Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera, presented the award at the Pentagon.

Col. Crear is the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative to ever earn this prestigious award.

In recognizing Col. Crear, Secretary Caldera noted his leadership, personal commitment and dedication to the Army's Small Business Program.

The award states that Col. Crear demonstrated outstanding leadership in developing and implementing command-wide policies, programs and projects, which led to significant improvements of the overall Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) program for Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business and Historically Black Colleges and Minority Institutions.

In addition to the Secretary of the Army award, Col. Crear was also recognized by Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard, Chief of Engineers, with his Award for Outstanding Support to the Small Business Program.

This award is presented to an individual from outside the Small Business office and recognizes their leadership, dedication and services in advancing the Small Business Program within the Corps of Engineers.

Col. Crear was noted for stimulating a high level of respect and confidence on the part of the small business community and creating an atmosphere within his command where his staff actively seeks opportunities for the small business community.

The Army Corps of Engineers is committed to providing the best engineering services possible to our Nation. This means delivering the highest quality products and services on time and at a cost that is beneficial to the taxpayers.

We want our contractors - all of our contractors, both prime and subcontractors, large and small - to share our values. We're all on the same team - we should have the same priorities and the same goals.

We welcome all of you as our partners, both now and in the future.

Thank you and have a great conference.