



*Remarks by Major General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.,
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the Assumption
of Command Ceremony for the Engineer Research and
Development Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 11 July 2001*

Good morning. I am pleased to be able to participate in this ceremony today. We in the Corps family in Vicksburg are in a unique position. Nowhere else do we have a Corps division, district, research and development facility and reserve command co-located in the same community.

Because of the close ties of the Vicksburg Engineer family, I feel I am an integral part of this organization.

An assumption-of-command ceremony is exciting. It is filled with history and tradition. The Corps is a proud organization.

I am proud to be a part of it, as I am sure you are.

The passing of the colors signifies many things. To me, one

of the most important things it means is trust. Trust in continuity of the organization, trust in the leadership of a new commander and trust in the future in general.

Sometimes, you wonder. Is this the right person, the right organization, and the right situation at the right time? I think that the ERDC will flourish under the command of John Morris. Let me explain why I believe this is true.

The Engineer R&D Center is a relatively new organization. But your rich individual laboratory histories, now combined into a strong consolidated organization, bring some unmatched ingredients to the R&D arena.

No doubt, Col. John Morris will be a dynamic catalyst for the ERDC in support of Army transformation and USACE.

Your world-class facilities, people, and equipment make the ERDC one of the brightest lights in the Corps, in the Army, and in the Department of Defense.

I wish for John Morris an enjoyable and meaningful assignment and anticipate continued success for the Engineer Research and Development Center.

I also want to extend an official Vicksburg welcome to Mrs. Morris, and the entire Morris family. Tammy, Jessica, Chelsea, and John -- a warm (it really is warm today, isn't it?!) welcome to Vicksburg, the largest total engineer community in the engineer regiment.

Margaret joins me in wishing you a most wonderful and

rewarding stay in this historic city of the South.

Now, on with the ceremony.

Ceremony participants, please join me center stage.

(Move to assigned spot on stage. Houston hands flag to Collier who hands flag to Arnold who hands flag to Morris who hands flag back to Houston)