



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Vicksburg District

# THE Water's Edge

SPRING 2018

VICKSBURG DISTRICT  
WATER MANAGEMENT  
SECTION



*Norma Jean*



## District Team Member Receives Honor with Naming of Vessel

What is EMAP? *page 8*  
Hired Labor Crew Performs Work on Sykes  
Creek Bridge near Cape Canaveral. *page 16*



# US Army Corps of Engineers®

News magazine of the Vicksburg District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**On the Cover**  
**Col. Derosier presents a plaque to Norma Jean Walker in honor of her recognition.**  
**Photo by Jared Eastman**

# The Water's Edge

## Spring 2018

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### NEED TO KNOW PEOPLE

Demetric Erwin, Steven Finch  
Kristi Hall, Norma Jean Walker

### PROCESS

What is EMAP?  
District Encourages Fitness

### PROJECT

Hired Labor Crew Performs Work on  
Sykes Creek Bridge



## **This edition of The Water's Edge is dedicated to the memory of Gregory C. Raimondo.**

Prior to working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a civilian capacity, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gregory C. Raimondo served as the Deputy District Commander for Gulf Region South, Central South Area Office for six months. In July of 2007, he deployed to Iraq as the Deputy Commander of the Southern District of the Gulf Region Division for 13 months. Upon returning from Iraq in August of 2008, he served for three years as the Deputy Commander for MVK. Later, he served as the Commander of the 579th Forward Engineer Support Team – Main (FEST-M) in Vicksburg.

Raimondo's military awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Commendation Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

After retiring with 26 years of honorable active duty service as an Army engineer officer from 1986 to 2012, Raimondo became chief of the District' Public Affairs Office from 2012 until his demise on June 14, 2018.

Public affairs specialists whom Greg supervised convey the following:

“Greg is dearly missed. He was a courageous soldier, a giant of a man, a team player, a leader who could and would follow with the same professionalism and enthusiasm that he exemplified when leading. His untimely demise has left a void within the Corps' Public Affairs cadre, the Vicksburg District Headquarters, and in the hearts of his MVK PAO team. He will forever be known as the guy who never met a stranger, had a big heart, and would assist anyone with anything at any time. He was the greatest.” – Shirley

“We started out rough but he won me over. Our talks about golf, cars and politics will be dearly missed.”  
– Bucky

“For the last year I have worked under the guidance of Greg and I could not have asked for a better boss, mentor and friend. Greg went above and beyond in everything he did and for that I will be forever grateful. From answering my 297 million questions a day to showing me exactly how to interact with the public and media, Greg knew it all. I know he had my best interests at heart and was always striving to ensure I did the best I possibly could. His vibrant personality will be missed by everyone who knew him, he really was one of a kind.”  
– Catherine

# Commander's Corner

with Colonel Michael C. Derosier



## MVK Team -

I'd like to start this column by thanking each and every one of you for your dedicated work in support of the Vicksburg District (MVK), Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) and Corps of Engineers mission. Through YOUR hard work and collaboration with Corps of Engineers teammates and our regional partners, we return a high level of value to the region and the Nation! Your hard work in 3rd Quarter, in particular, is setting us up to hit all of our scheduled milestones in FY18. What I find particularly impressive is the extent to which we get the entire team involved in delivering the mission – I believe this is one of the notable strengths of MVK.

As I reflect back on the past few months, and even the past year, MVK has delivered many notable achievements – we awarded the Afghanistan District's Police Town marquee project; we had two employees return from deployment and another two volunteered to deploy; the replacement for the Mat Sinking Unit, Armor One, is tracking on schedule and budget; we hosted the Mississippi River commissioners for their historical visit to the Red River; we successfully converted Quiver River, the District's first Agency Decision Milestone (ADM) approval under SMART planning to the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP); we delivered the Flowline Technical Report on schedule in December 2017, and have prepared the Notice of Intent to Prepare Supplement II to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project; we deployed more than 300 employees in support of more than 400 taskers to Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Texas, and California for hurricane and wild fire recovery missions; we successfully fought a top 10 flood of record on the Mississippi River, to include emergency action to address a significant sand boil near Blackhawk, Louisiana; the District successfully completed the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) assessment and will be EMAP accredited later this year; the Modeling, Mapping and Consequences

(MMC) Center supported national level priorities in Texas, Puerto Rico, and Columbia, South America; we implemented Mississippi Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (MS SLOPES); we sustained valuable outreach programs, including STEM, with the Vicksburg Community and regional universities; and we maintained our proud tradition of hosting special events for Wounded Warriors and others at our lakes' projects.

Each and every one of those is a big deal in itself, and only offers a glimpse at SOME of the impressive efforts and accomplishments of our team. As we hit full stride in 4th Quarter, we have our FY18 work plan and we are starting to see some of the funding decisions from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (both short-term and long-term supplemental work). Two things we know, for certain, are that we have a lot of work to do and the expectations are clear that we deliver. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Honorable R.D. James, is directing that "We must capitalize on water infrastructure projects supported by the Administration and authorized by Congress and deliver value on the investments in which we have been endowed. We must MOVE DIRT." Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, has issued guidance for "REVOLUTIONIZING our internal policies and administrative processes to transform infrastructure delivery. We are moving forward with many of these initiatives to dramatically improve our efficiency and effectiveness. I have full CONFIDENCE in you: the PROFESSIONALS of USACE who are PASSIONATE about DELIVERING projects on TIME, on BUDGET, and at the desired QUALITY to maintain CREDIBILITY with our stakeholders every day."

I am certain that the MVK team has what it takes to meet all commitments and expectations, and that our focus on mission execution and delivering value to the Nation will result in continued trust and confidence in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

# District Team Member Receives Honor with Naming of Vessel

by Shirley J. Smith  
Photos by Jared Eastman

Norma Jean Walker began her career with the District as a civil engineering technician in the urban studies section of Planning Division in 1977. She never *dreamed* that one day she would be looking at a boat or any other vessel with her name on it.

The boat is not just a boat with the same name as hers, but it is named in her honor. It is a navigation boat of the Corps' Vicksburg District, the *Norma Jean*. The boat idea came about as a way of recognizing Walker's unselfish work ethics and dedication. Henry Dulaney, chief of Engineering and Construction Division, stated, "Because of Norma's years of dedicated service, including weekend duty, she is well-deserving of this honor. I am proud for her and happy that the hydraulics team thought enough of her to give her this remarkable honor."

Norma's immediate supervisor, Drew Smith stated, "Norma has been a cornerstone of the water control section for many years as someone who always goes the extra mile to accomplish the mission. We wanted her legacy to live on for many more years in a vessel named for her; one that will serve the water control section while accomplishing its mission." Smith is chief of the water management section

of the hydraulics branch of Engineering and Construction Division.

Smith stated that the boat will be used for collecting valuable gage and discharge data for future forecasting and modeling efforts for the hydraulics branch.

Since 2000, Walker has been serving as a hydraulics technician in the hydraulics branch. She is responsible for preparing and disseminating the daily river summary and basin reports. She also prepares river forecast voice recordings and maintains river and reservoir data and spreadsheets. Norma has been a steady voice to the public and multiple industries who call to get daily river stage information from her and her recordings.

Having served under 15 Commanders, Walker says that she looks back at when she came to the District and now. She stated, "I began my career as a worker trainee, doing drafting work. Later, after having taken Corps sponsored computer training, I became a civil engineering technician. For the past 18 years, I have been responsible for daily reports, and those reports require me to work weekends and holidays. I enjoy my job and work with some great

*(Continued on page 17)*



*Pictured with Walker are left to right, Michael Sorrels, Drew Smith, her supervisor; Col. Derosier, and Henry Dulaney, chief of Engineering and Construction Division.*



*Pictured with Walker are co-workers, left to right, John Hogue, John Smith, Tim Rodgers, Col. Derosier, Devon Gijbers, Patrick McGuffie, and Christopher Simms.*

# An Inside Look at the Geotechnical Branch

Story and photos by Catherine Jennison

Have you ever wondered what happens in the geotechnical branch at the Corps? For starters, geotech has a magnitude of responsibilities ranging from soil sampling and subsurface exploration to relief well rehabilitation and maintenance. In their laboratory, technicians perform various tests including, but not limited to, organic content tests, sediment analysis and compaction tests.

During a recent visit to one of geotech's work sites, I had the opportunity to watch the drill crew drill for soil samples. In this particular case, a civil engineer project manager had been contacted regarding a roadway that was full of cracks and dips and the soil underneath was continuously washing away during large rainstorms.

In order to address the underlying problems of soil washout, the project

manager assessed the site and determined a subsurface investigation was necessary. During subsurface investigations, soil samples are collected to determine the current stability of each soil layer. Soil is collected using different methods starting at the topsoil and working through subsequent layers.

Some of the dips and cracks on this particular roadway were easy to repair



*Drill crew drills for erosion in Military Park.*



*Drill crew member collects soil in Military Park for testing.*

by patching or repaving. However, in one area the cracks and dips of the roadway paired with the displacement of soil were posing a problem; the roadway was quickly progressing towards potential failure.

Undisturbed soil samples are taken using a five-inch wide “shelby tube.” Shelby tube sampling methods are used to collect samples of soft, fine-grained soils in an effort to study the soil density and water content, two factors essential for evaluating properties such as the strength, compressibility, permeability and density of fine-grained soils. Once the samples have been collected, they are preserved in a wax casing until they return to the laboratory to be tested.



*Shelby tube sampling.*

Another method of soil sampling is the “split spoon” method. Split spoon sampling methods are used to collect shallow and deep subsurface soil samples. The samples are collected in a two-inch metal tube, extracted from the earth and transferred to plastic containers where they are stored and sent to the laboratory to be studied.

Technicians begin their testing when the soil samples arrive at the laboratory. The technician takes the soil samples, transfers them to tin cans where they are weighed and documented by color and put into an oven where they are baked. Once the soils have cooled, the technician weighs the soil again determining the soil water content. The technician then classifies each sample to determine the overall properties.

After the results are concluded, the information and all investigation notes are passed back to the project manager and a team of civil engineers. The team assesses the information and proposes a corrective action. This more permanent fix will then be passed to the property owner/client who originally inquired about the initial problem, in this case it was the cracked and washed out roadway.



*A trimming frame that is used to trim each specimen to the required diameter for testing.*

Geotech will soon be losing one of its technicians. After 35 years of service to the Corps, Hattie Johnson, a laboratory technician, will be retiring soon. As a laboratory technician, Hattie goes out into the field for specialty tests, but for the most part, she is needed in the laboratory to oversee and carry out compaction tests, classification tests, sediment analysis and more.

While classifying several samples of sand and clay from a revetment site on the Mississippi River, Johnson stated, “I love studying and documenting the different types of soil and dirt.”

When reflecting upon her career with the Corps, Johnson stated, “This job has been a great opportunity for me. When I began working here, I knew I would be able to work for the Corps long-term and eventually retire.” Hattie is an exceptional technician who has earned the respect of her co-workers and others throughout the Vicksburg District. ◀



*Hattie Johnson, laboratory technician, plans to retire soon.*

# What is EMAP?

by Catherine Jennison  
 Photos by Johnathan Silas

EMAP provides management and coordination of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities for all hazards. The system encompasses all organizations, agencies, departments, entities and individuals responsible for emergency management and homeland security, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“EMAP affects everyone at the district. Different programs and offices play a role in the overall emergency response to disasters,” said Sherry Losapio, emergency management specialist for the district.

Encompassing a set of 64 standards, this voluntary accreditation program is available to local, state, federal, higher education and tribal emergency management programs. The district’s emergency management program has been assessed and the district has applied for EMAP accreditation, which is anticipated for November 2018.

These credible standards and baseline of performance ensures the district has a well-developed emergency management program, which will be reassessed in five years. ◀



*Cpt. Stephen Brooks inspects a sand boil’s depth in support of flood fighting efforts.*

*District team members, left to right, Johnathan Silas and Brett Holloway, work along a Mississippi River levee while inputting sand boil information into a database for monitoring sand boils.*



# District Hosts Fifth Annual Blessing of the Fleet

by Shirley J. Smith  
Photos by Jared Eastman

During the months of July and August, as in many, many years past, the District's floating plant of men and women began to prepare for revetment season. This floating plant and its crew, known as the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU), do some unique work along the Mighty Mississippi.

For the past five revetment seasons, the District has hosted a Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony for the MSU before its departure for revetment season. The ceremony was held recently aboard the District's inspection barge at the site of the MSU along with its fleet of vessels.

Cpt. Stephen Brooks, Acting Deputy Commander for the District, opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone aboard and then giving safety points. After his safety message, Cpt. Brooks gave information on the tradition of the ceremony by stating, "In keeping with tradition, the District is conducting this ceremony prior to the departure of the MSU for the revetment and dredging season. This ceremony serves as a tribute to the crews and fleet of all vessels, Federal and industry, supporting safe passage for all on our navigable waterways." Cpt. Brooks then intro-



*Cpt. Stephen Brooks begins the ceremony with welcoming remarks.*



*Col. Derosier gives opening remarks with the fleet in background.*



*Col. Robinson delivers the Invocation*

duced those who would provide the invocation and conduct the blessing of the fleet who included Col. Raymond Robinson, chaplain for Corps Headquarters, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Joe Mosely, local minister and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church; and Father Malcolm O'Leary of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Vicksburg. Col. Robinson then gave the Invocation.

The invocation was followed by comments from District Commander, Col. Michael C. Derosier. Col. Derosier stated, "This season, the MSU is tasked with maintaining the alignment of more than 900 miles of the navigation

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Blessing of the Fleet, concluded from page 9)*

channel and to protect levees from constant forces that the Mississippi River delivers. We anticipate fortifying the channel with approximately 272,600 squares of articulated concrete mattress. That would equal 625 acres of three-inch concrete. The MSU, with its 300 team members and motor vessels, should complete the mission by late December. By the time they return home, their mission would have covered 1,800 river miles. Our nation is truly grateful for these men and women.”

Col. Derosier’s remarks were followed by a pause in the ceremony for the District team members of the river operations branch who passed away during the past year. This was followed by recognition by Cpt. Brooks for the motor vessels already on duty in support of the revetment season, by recognizing each and giving its history.

To begin the blessing of the fleet, Cpt. Brooks asked Col. Robinson, Rev. Mosley and Father O’Leary to begin the blessing ceremony on each vessel that included motor vessels BENYAURD, WILLIAM JAMES, HARRISON, MARY WEPFER and MUDDY WATER.

The ceremony concluded with remarks by Cpt. Brooks who thanked all in attendance for supporting the ceremony, which has become an honored tradition at the District.

The Blessing of the Fleet originally started in early European fishing communities and is a tradition that dates back to medieval times. A blessing bestowed by a local priest was meant to ask for an abundant and safe season. The MSU fleet consists of towboats, quarter boats and a floating factory. ◀



*Rev. Mosley, left, and Father O’Leary, right, bless the fleet.*



*Col. Derosier, right, chats with Col. Robinson before beginning the ceremony.*



*Col. Robinson, left, and Cpt. Brooks, right, discuss the schedule for the ceremony.*

# District Encourages Fitness

By Catherine Jennison  
Photos by Colleen Cummins

Living a healthy and active lifestyle seems like it would be a no brainer, but for some, it can prove to be difficult. When it comes to health care, Mississippi is nationally ranked the worst state in the nation. (U.S. News, 2018) Health care access, quality care and public health have gone to the wayside. To top it off, cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, is the leading cause of death in Mississippi. (Mississippi, 2018) Some major lifestyle changes are needed if Mississippi wants to get back on the map in a healthier, more positive way.

Claiming up to 44 lives each day, or one death every 34 minutes, cardiovascular deaths are on the rise. The District is working to promote healthy and active lifestyles, while monitoring the ongoing health of its employees. (American Heart Association, 2017) In the fall of 2017, the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology published a new set of guidelines for the detection, prevention, management and treatment of high blood pressure. With these changes, nearly half of the United States adult population is presumed to have high blood pressure or hypertension. (American Heart Association, 2018)

The district health office (clinic) has a blood pressure and heart rate monitoring machine, and a digital scale for employees to use at their leisure. The clinic serves any employee needing medical advice/attention.



Jennifer (Jenni) Owen  
Photo by Jared Eastman

Jennifer Piazza Owen, registered nurse at the District, says she has seen an increase in the number of employees visiting the clinic to check their blood pressure and heart rate since the new guidelines were released. “Some people come daily, while others stop by once a week,” Owen stated. Owen is also available for anyone seeking diet and exercise tips and recommendations.

With more than 1,200 employees, the District is working to ensure its employees have the necessary resources to live healthy and active lifestyles.

Along with health monitoring resources, the District has a fully equipped fitness center open 24/7. Due to these encouraging mechanisms at the district, employees are seen using the gym before work, during their lunch break and after work. “It is important not only for our employees and their families, but for the community and state to live healthy lifestyles to lower Mississippi’s cardiovascular death rate,” Owen stated. With risk factors for cardiovascular disease encompassing obesity, lack of exercise, smoking, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and more, it is imperative that children, teens and adults stay informed and educated on the most beneficial healthy lifestyle practices.

In May, the District held its annual health fair. Thirty-seven local and state organizations joined forces to promote healthy lifestyle resources that were available to employees and their families. Participants included a local physician, dental health offices, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the YMCA of Vicksburg, Mississippi Blood Services and Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition. Together, they had an

*(Continued on page 12)*



The Health Fair included vendors representing physical as well as emotional health.

*(District Encourages Fitness, concluded from page 11)*  
overall mission to support employees and encourage them to seek the necessary resources needed to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

With the average age of district employees being about 46, cardiovascular disease is something that should be on everyone's minds. A heart attack can occur at any age, therefore living a heart-healthy lifestyle is critical. Prevention and reducing risk factors can mean the difference between life and death.

In addition to the resources available at the district, the Employee Recreation Organization and several branch offices have hosted fun runs and walks for employees and their families during its annual Engineer's Day picnic. "Cardiovascular disease is preventable, however, it will



*Sharon Brown, mailroom clerk, browses materials at River Region Hospital's booth.*

Claiming up to 44 lives each day, or one death every 34 minutes, cardiovascular deaths are on the rise.

continue to be an ongoing problem until people realize they need to get their health in check," Owen stated. Lifestyle modifications, health management and physician treatment can help reduce the risks for cardiovascular disease.

Owen concluded by saying, "If people take the time to assess their health, visit their primary care doctor on a regular basis, and adapt a more active and healthy lifestyle, they can reduce their chances of suffering from cardiovascular disease in the future."

Employees are urged to keep track of their health and can visit the clinic for more information on cardiovascular disease and heart health. In addition, employees and their families, along with the community, can visit the Jackson-Metro American Heart Association chapter at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org). ◀



*Retiree, David Haworth, left, former chief of Engineering Division, discusses the health fair with Deborah Hall, secretary for Engineering and Construction Division.*



*Team members had many booths to visit and get advice regarding staying or becoming physically fit.*

Mississippi Valley Division's Regulatory Branch Conference, at the New Orleans District.

# Army's Technical Engineer Competency Development Program Rewarding

by Cameron Fulford

Photos by Jeff Hawk, Chief, Public Affairs, Pittsburgh District and Jared Eastman

As a First Lieutenant recently promoted to Captain in the Army, I never imagined I would be working with the Corps of Engineers (USACE) through the Army's Technical Engineer Competency Development Program (TEC-DP). Participating in this broadening opportunity is by far one of the most rewarding experiences I have had.

TEC-DP allows first lieutenants with engineering and architecture degrees the opportunity to work for USACE for 18 months before entering the Engineer Captain's Career Course. TEC-DP not only develops technical skills but provides exposure to professional level experiences. The Army Engineer Regiment includes missions in military construction and civil works. These are opportunities that few military officers are offered.

Previously stationed at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Georgia, I was one of nine lieutenants throughout the Army Engineer Regiment accepted into the summer 2017-2018 cycle for TEC-DP and was placed with the Vicksburg District. With a civil works mission, the Vicksburg District's area of responsibility spans a 68,000-square-mile area through parts of Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas.

While at the Vicksburg District, I have worked in both the regulatory and hydraulics branches. Leaving the tactical part of the Army behind, my responsibilities shifted to more strategic tasks. I began working in the regulatory branch as a project manager where I oversaw the verification of nationwide permits for both rivers and wetlands.

In August 2017, I was invited to attend the Mississippi Valley Division's (MVD) Regulatory Branch Conference at the New Orleans District. At the conference, each regulatory branch within MVD highlighted its accomplishments

from the past year and any conflicts they were currently experiencing. The conference was also a time for open discussion where branches worked together to combat any conflicts.

In late fall of 2017, something unexpected happened. Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with devastating force, activating USACE's emergency response mission. Along with a plethora of civilian USACE employees, I was tasked to help with the relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Working with the power restoration mission, I was assigned to Task Force Power and worked as a Battle Captain and S-1. While in Puerto Rico, I worked side by side with team members from across USACE to request personnel needed for specific jobs on the island. This was my first humanitarian mission, and it was not only eye opening but it allowed me to truly understand what it takes to accomplish a mission in the wake of a natural disaster.

In April 2018, I rotated out of the regulatory branch and into the hydraulics branch, where I began working as a project engineer. To date, I have worked on a wide range of projects including an aquifer recharge, and sediment/erosion control in the Mississippi Delta. These projects have allowed me to use my environmental engineer degree to its fullest extent.

With a wealth of knowledge among the civilians I work with, I am truly thankful I have been provided this opportunity. Through continuing education and professional credentialing, USACE has been the backbone to my personal and professional growth. Along with self-studying for

*(Continued on page 17)*

# Brazil Benefits from District Team Members Expertise with River Engineering

By Catherine Jennison  
Photos by Freddie Pinkard

Given the opportunity to serve worldwide with Corps deployments and missions, Corps employees gain a vast amount of knowledge and understanding that prove beneficial to the Corps and others.

Freddie Pinkard, a hydraulic engineer at the District, recently participated in a mission with the Corps' Committee on River Engineering on the Madeira River in Brazil. The Committee on River Engineering is one of four Corps

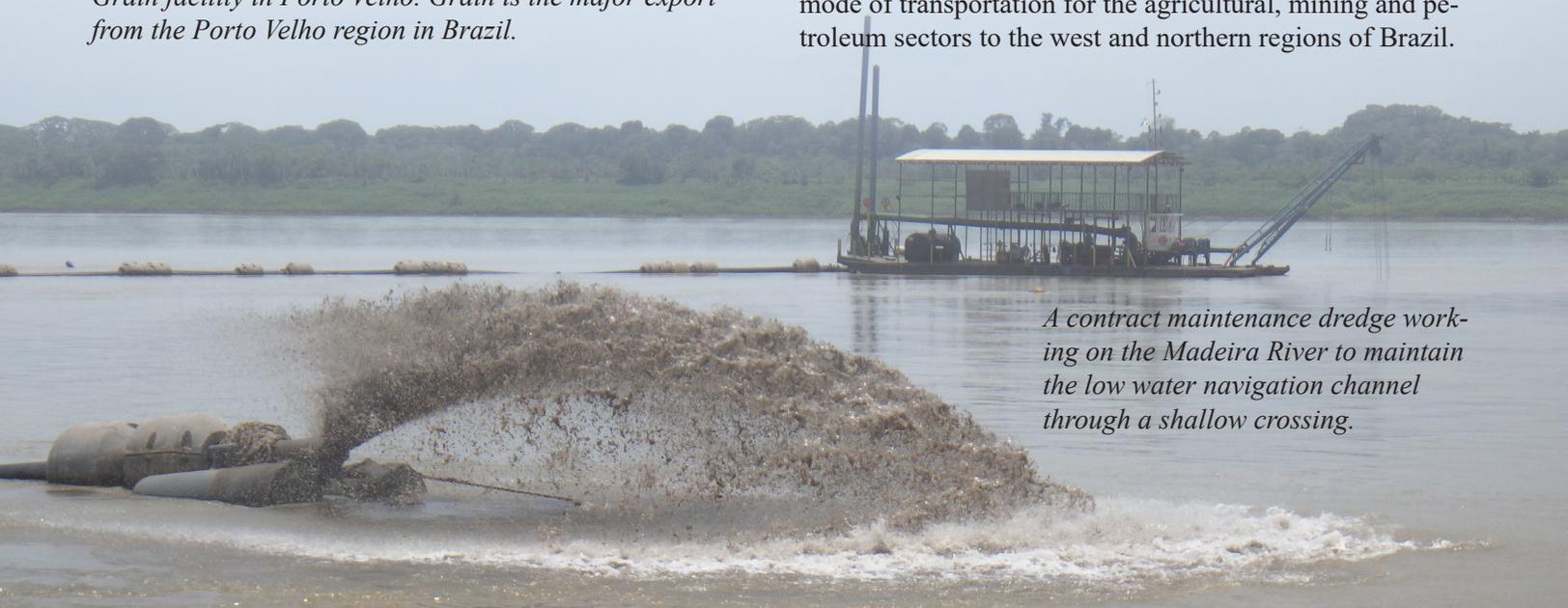
permanent technical advisory committees and consists of subject matter experts from various Corps' division and district offices around the country and the Engineer Research and Development Center. The committee's areas of responsibility include alluvial channel hydraulics, channel stabilization (bank stabilization, erosion control, and river meandering), watershed and riverine sedimentation, river mechanics, and river restoration.

In 2016, the Corps and the Brazilian National Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DNIT) entered into an Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement. This agreement supports both short-term and long-term objectives of the DNIT in the areas of river engineering and river navigation services. As a part of the partnership, the Corps was tasked with helping DNIT develop their in-house technical capabilities that include knowledge transfer to analysts, engineers, planners and others in the DNIT.

The Corps is now supporting the mission by providing subject matter experts, like Pinkard, to work with DNIT to improve the navigation reliability on the Madeira River. The Madeira River is a tributary of the Amazon River and provides commercial navigation for more than 1,000 kilometers. Currently, the Madeira River provides an important mode of transportation for the agricultural, mining and petroleum sectors to the west and northern regions of Brazil.



*Grain facility in Porto Velho. Grain is the major export from the Porto Velho region in Brazil.*



*A contract maintenance dredge working on the Madeira River to maintain the low water navigation channel through a shallow crossing.*



*This boat, the Dorn Nestor 1, transported the river engineering committee on a reconnaissance trip on the Madeira River while they provided knowledge and insights on navigation projects in the United States.*



*A tow pushing barges with containers and trailers of water. Water transportation is critical to the economic health of the region.*



*Petroleum being towed on Madeira River near Manicore. Petroleum products are the major import to the Porto Velho in Brazil.*



*Being that there are very few roads along the Madeira River, ferry boats are common. They are used to ferry locals to and from the various villages along the Madeira River.*

The major problem facing those navigating the river are the low water levels during the dry season when navigation drafts are significantly impacted in critical reaches of the navigation channel. The number of barges in each tow traveling the river are reduced during the dry season and are light-loaded to reduce draft. The Corps will provide recommendations to DNIT on how to improve navigation and channel alignment on the Madeira River.

Pinkard will work with the committee to generate a cumulative report that includes recommendations to improve the reliability of navigation on the river during periods of low water. DNIT is interested in using existing navigational systems found around the United States as a pattern for their own navigational systems. Many of the navigation system's features discussed during the trip were based upon current techniques used and designed by the Corps.

The committee's potential recommendations include the addition of navigational aids such as buoys, day markers, electronic navigational charts, etc. Improvements will also be recommended for various channel training structures (dikes) and bank stabilization (revetments). Other areas of interest to DNIT include the removal of rock outcrops and improvements to dredging efficiency.

Although Pinkard is no longer an active member of the committee, he was asked to join this mission as a subject matter expert due to his having been a member of the Corps Committee on River Engineering for 10 years. He has a diverse background in navigation planning and design experience on the Mississippi River and Red River Waterway, making him an integral asset to the committee. ◀

# Hired Labor Crew Performs Work on Sykes Creek Bridge near Cape Canaveral

**By Shirley J. Smith**  
**Photos by Bruce Auchter,**  
**Brevard County Public Works**  
**Department,**  
**Jennifer Cate and Jana Jacobson**

As with any disaster, the District readies for deployment. Sometimes it is unknown as to where or what mission the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will assign the Corps. So, the aftermath of Hurricane Irma was unlike *deja vu* for the District.

Hurricane Irma, the first Category 5 hurricane of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, struck two days and 12 years after Hurricane Katrina. She caused widespread and catastrophic damage throughout its long lifetime, particularly in the northeastern Caribbean and the Florida Keys. It was also the most intense hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in the same year, and the first Category 4 hurricane to strike the state since Charley in 2004. Irma lasted as a hurricane from August 31, 2017, until September 11, 2017.

Hurricane Irma swept through Florida on Sept 10, 2017, causing damage in over 30 counties and areas such as the Florida Keys, Tampa and Orlando. In Brevard County, Irma damaged a bridge that crossed over Sykes Creek, in Titusville, and near Cape Canaveral. This bridge serves as the support structure for the 36-inch diameter and only waterline to the Canaveral harbor. Canaveral harbor's residence, commercial activities, government agencies and industry would have no water, which would cause another emergency. Both the county and the state determined they did not have the capability during the emergency to perform the required work. Brevard County, the state of Florida and FEMA immediately requested that the Jacksonville District provide a preliminary damage assessment (PDA).

Based on the PDA, FEMA tasked the Jacksonville District with emergency stabilization of the bridge piers, which included providing scour protection to the bridge pilings. The contractor's bid far exceeded the independent government estimate and no agreement could be reached. Instead of proceeding back through the procurement process, the Jacksonville District requested assistance from the Vicksburg District and the hired labor crew, who has proven their ability to provide timely and cost effective construction.

The work required the construction of access roads, handling of material, and placing three different gradations of stone to a scoured area to restore the design elevation of the river bottom around the bridge piers. The new material will temporarily shore up piling which provides stability for the bridge.

The District also provided a manatee observer.

Project execution had many critical aspects. The county could not allow complete closure of the waterway to perform this in a dry environment. Leaving the waterway open meant both manatee and boat traffic. Manatee sightings mean temporary work halt. Boat traffic, if inconsiderate and

*Hurricane Irma swept through Florida on Sept. 10, 2017, causing damage in over 30 counties and areas such as the Florida Keys, Tampa and Orlando.*



District team members placing #57 stone into scour hole above Sea Ray Drive Bridge in Merrit Island, Florida.

traveling above idle speed, could have temporarily stopped work. Even so, with all of these hazards the project was completed within two weeks of the initial schedule and at or slightly under budget (which was less than half of the local contractor’s proposal). Once again the Vicksburg District team proved their value to the Corps and the Nation! ◀



Jennifer Cate, standing on top of bridge, observes the work area for the West Indian Manatee. If a manatee was spotted in the construction zone, work was halted.

*(District Team Member Receives Honor, concluded from page 5)*

co-workers. Although I always do my best at any job, never in my wildest imagination did I ever think that anything here at the Corps would bear my name. I guess my dedication and hard work have been worth it all.”

Walker’s dedication and excellent work ethics have not gone unnoticed and are very favorable reflections upon herself, the Vicksburg District, Mississippi Valley Division and the Corps. She will leave a legacy that will be around for quite a while. So, whenever you see the *Norma Jean* among the District’s fleet, it will be a reflection upon the lady for whom it is named.

Smith, Walker’s supervisor, stated, “I do believe this is the first vessel named for a female employee at the District.”

Congratulations to Norma Jean Walker. ◀

*(Army’s Technical Engineer Competency, concluded from page 13)*



Lieutenant Cameron Fulford is promoted to Captain.

the Project Management Professional (PMP) Exam, some USACE districts host study classes to prepare and study for the PMP. Additionally, USACE has supported me while I prepare to take the PMP.

Overall, my time with the Vicksburg District has been exciting and gratifying. If you are ever presented the opportunity to apply for TEC-DP, I highly recommend it. This broadening opportunity has allowed me to develop USACE experience, strong technical skills and professional level environmental engineering knowledge. ◀

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photos by Jared Eastman

# Engineer's Day 2018



*"You are delivering value to the nation,*

# District Recognizes Team Members at Annual Engineer's Day Awards Ceremony

The District recently hosted its annual Engineer's Day Awards Ceremony at District Headquarters. During the 243rd anniversary of the Corps, District Commander Col. Michael C. Derosier, began his opening remarks by stating: "Today we recognize individuals and teams for excellent performance across the District. I am humbled by the hard work and diligence you do for the nation. You are delivering value to the nation, region, and stakeholders. By all accounts we're doing a great job as a District. Coming to work to set a record is the mindset that leads to excellence. Everybody is doing great works in the corners of the District. Keep doing the great work of the District."

Col. Derosier's opening remarks were followed by the awards portion of the ceremony. Some team members who received recognition were:

(1)\* **Kristopher C. Ellis**, supervisory facility operation specialist, Monroe Navigation Project Office, received the Vicksburg District's **Employee of the Year Award**. Ellis received this award for his demonstration of Army and Corps values, leadership and mentorship, extraordinary accomplishments, and excellence in meeting the District's mission.

Among other team members and teams receiving Honorary Awards were:

(2) **David L. Wallace**, chief, design branch of Engineering and Construction Division, received the **Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)**. Wallace received this award for his significant contributions to the EEO Program to assure full opportunity in employment for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and physical or mental handicap.

(3) **Drew A. Smith**, chief, water management section of hydraulics branch of Engineering and Construction Division, received the **Engineer Award**.

**Tammy D. Fant**, Lake Greeson, received the **Park Ranger Award**.

(4) **Stephanie A. Doyal**, hydraulic engineer, hydraulics

branch of Engineering and Construction Division, received the **STEM Employee of the Year Award**.

**Julie G. Vicars**, cartographer, technical services branch, Engineering and Construction Division, received the **Scientist Award**.

**Trevor A. Strong**, student aide in the Modeling, Mapping, and Consequences Center of Engineering and Construction Division, received the **Student of the Year Award** for District Headquarters.

(5) **Jon A. Munz, II**, student aide at the Lake Ouachita Field Office, received the **Student of the Year Award for the Field**.

(6) **Brandon L. Davis**, economist/planning liaison, Regional Planning and Environment Division South, received the **Commander's Award for Civilian Service**.

**Cameron Broussard**, **Devon Gijsbers**, (7) **Dana Moree**, **Jimmy Elliot**, and **Gabrielle Tran**, of Engineering and Construction Division, also received the **Commander's Award for Civilian Service**.

**Gary D. Lammers**, supervisory natural resource specialist at Lake Greeson, received the **Emergency Management Award**.

(8) **Jeremy H. Beall**, carpenter, river operations plant, Operations Division, received the **Paddle Wheel Award**.

**Vivianna Berrios-Williamson**, channel improvement coordinator, river engineering section of hydraulics branch of Engineering and Construction Division, received the **Professional Award**.

**Jimmie Kirkwood**, revetment operations assistant foreman, Mat Sinking Unit, received the **Wage Grade Leadership Award**.

(9) **Margaret T. Branan**, administrative assistant, regulatory branch, Operations Division, received the **Administrator Award**.

Those receiving **Team Awards** were: the (10) **Mississippi River Levee-Construction Project Team**; (11) **Enid Lake Wage Grade Staff**; and the (12) **Dive Team** received the **Team Safety Award**. ◀

*\*(n) All are pictured on the left.*

*region, and stakeholders." – Col. Derosier*

# District Hosts Pre MathCounts Competition

By Catherine Jennison  
Photos by Jared Eastman

The District recently hosted the Sixth Annual Society of American Military Engineers Pre MathCounts Competition for 6 – 8th graders from local Vicksburg schools.

“This competition is an event that allows students to practice their math skills in individual and team settings while competing against other schools,” stated David Randolph, the district’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math coordinator. Ellie Blanche and Emma Strelzoff, 7th graders from St. Aloysius Catholic School, were enthusiastic to begin the competition. “I am excited because I have never done anything like this before. I think this experience is going to challenge me and make me a better math student,” Strelzoff stated.

The competition consisted of three phases: the sprint, the target and the team. The sprint round of the first phase consisted of 30 questions that were required to be answered in 40 minutes. This was an individual event and calcula-

two questions in six minutes, this consisted of four targets for a total of eight questions. Tamikki Burks, a 7th grade teacher at the Academy of Innovation said her students were excited to come to the competition for the fourth time. Students from the Academy of Innovation have won the team aspect of the competition each year that they have participated. “This competition exposes our students to different opportunities and allows them to see how their skills compare to students at other schools,” Burks stated.

The team round was the third phase of the competition. Each school nominated four students to work together on 10 problems in 20 minutes. St. Francis Xavier Elementary School’s team was composed of four 6th graders who were all attending the event for the first time. James, a member of the team said, “This being my first year, I think I did well individually, but my team did great.” His teammate, Walker, reminisced of the days at school where they would



*Students participating from St. Aloysius Catholic High School are right to left, Thomas Dowe, Will Keen, Will Dowe and Matthew Pitre.*

tors were not permitted during the sprint. David Stinson, a retired Corps employee who now teaches at Porters Chapel Academy, said he was glad his students participated in the event. “This is a chance to challenge our students and it allows them to develop their skills to be able to compete in other math challenges. This event stretches the students’ minds and helps them grow,” Stinson stated.

The target round was the second phase where students were allowed to use their calculator to individually answer



*Walker Lambiotte of St. Francis Xavier Elementary School.*

practice, and said it was different than working on a team during an actual competition. “Even though it is different from the classroom, my team was able to work together to solve the problems in the challenge,” he stated.

Overall, Liberty H., a student from the Academy of Innovation earned the top honors for the individual competition, with second and third place going respectively to Will K. from St. Aloysius Catholic School and Adam B. from the Academy of Innovation. The first place team was awarded to the Academy of Innovation for the fourth year in a row. At the conclusion of the competition, Burks re-

flected on her students' work by stating, "This competition is a great building block for our students and I am glad they were able to attend." ◀



*The Academy of Innovation team.*



*Henry Dulaney, chief of Engineering and Construction Division, far left, is shown with students of the winning team of the Academy of Innovation, left to right, Josef Wolf, Katrina Wolf, Chaney Parman and Ethan Erekson.*

## Vicksburg District's Deputy for Small Business Receives Small Business Professional Award

By Shirley J. Smith

Photo by Catherine Jennison



Department of the Army's Office of Small Business Programs recently presented the 2017 Small Business Professional of the Year Award to Demetric T. Erwin. Erwin is the Deputy for the District's Small Business Program and also serves as a special assistant to the District Commander on all Small Business Program matters.

Erwin was commended for her outstanding performance in managing the Vicksburg District's Small

Business Program during the period October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. Her outreach involvement with small businesses to coordinate their capabilities with Corps requirements exemplified her effectiveness in making the Small Business Program a success within the Vicksburg District. Through her leadership, the District continues to make significant contributions to the small business accomplishments of Corps and Army's overall Small Business Program.

The award recognizes the Army's Small Business professional who has created/maintained a well-managed small business program; created challenging initiatives; and otherwise made significant contributions to both his or her respective Command and the Army's Small Business programs. Erwin developed and administered the Small Business Program to meet and exceed the goals required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters.

She began her career with the District as a student clerk in the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office. She later served as a contract specialist in the service and supply branch of the District's Contracting Office. In 2012, Erwin was appointed Deputy for Small Business Programs.

Erwin has Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level 3 certification in contracting.

A native of Vicksburg, she is a graduate of Vicksburg High School, and earned her bachelor's in business administration and her master's in guidance and counseling, both from Alcorn State University. She is a member of the Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She and her husband, Walter Erwin, have two daughters. The mission of the Corps' Small Business Office is to

*(Continued on page 25)*

## Office of Counsel's Steven Finch Sworn to Bar

By David Dyer  
Photo by Catherine Jennison



Steven Finch, the newest assistant district counsel for the Vicksburg District, was sworn to the bar on April 26, 2018. The swearing in ceremony included judges of the Mississippi Supreme Court and other federal courts. He is now admitted to practice before all the courts in the State of Mississippi as well as before the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Finch's Corps career path began in 2010, when he started work in Office of Counsel as an entry-level paralegal. Since then, he has provided all levels of administrative and paralegal support, and assumed the position of senior paralegal in 2017, which brought stability to an office that had experienced a 100 percent turnover in other personnel.

In 2011, he assisted with the flood recovery mission in Minot, North Dakota, and he served a six-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, serving as the first garrison paralegal. He was also an active member of the U.S. Army Reserve until 2015.

In 2013, while continuing to work full time, Finch entered law school at Mississippi College. He not only successfully obtained his Juris Doctorate in December of 2017, but was also qualified by the Corps' Chief Counsel into the very selective Honors Program.

He now serves as an assistant district counsel for the District, focusing primarily on procurement law. His success has been a vital part of the District legal team's success, and his career path exemplifies the strongest commitment to the legal profession, Office of Counsel and to the Corps. The District is proud to have Steven Finch as a part of our Office of Counsel. ◀

## Regulatory Selects 2018 Regulator of the Year

By Catherine Jennison  
Photos by Angela White



The regulatory branch has awarded Kristi Hall the 2018 Larry N. Harper "Regulator of the Year" Award. Hall was recognized for her can-do attitude, mission success and specialized knowledge in regulatory.

Hall was nominated by her peers as this year's award recipient. Her dedication to the branch, willingness to go the extra mile, and countless volunteer hours, embody the essence of the award's namesake, Larry N. Harper.

Col. Michael C. Derosier, District Commander, stated, "She has a great attitude and is always on top of the mission. She is a strong team member, is always thinking big and has tremendous ambitions. She is truly deserving of this award."

Hall, a native of Vicksburg, earned her bachelor's of science in biochemistry from Virginia Tech and her master's in fisheries and wildlife biology from Colorado State University. Hall began her career with the regulatory branch in 2015 as an environmental scientist. She is also a certified professional wetlands scientist.

The award honors the memory of Larry Harper who was a District team member and gained his "Professional Wetland Scientist Certification" while in service with the Corps. Harper established an interagency team to provide technical wetland training for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and served as the primary instructor. He began his regulatory career with the Corps in November 1978 where he worked in the surveillance and compliance section. Harper retired in June 2007 following 35 years of dedicated service to the Corps. He also served his country well by serving with the Army Reserve where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. ◀

SECURITY  
ENVIRONMENT  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
PLANNING  
CONSTRUCTION  
VETERAN  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITY  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

LEGAL  
TECHNICAL SERVICES

MILITARY  
REGULATORY

CIVILIAN  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAFETY  
REAL ESTATES

PERMITS  
PARK RANGER

DESIGN  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
NAVIGATION  
FLOOD CONTROL

HISTORY



*District team members presenting at Career Fair, inside Castle.*

## District Hosts Fifth Annual Career Fair

By Shirley J. Smith  
Photos by Jared Eastman

A familiar saying, “Inquiring minds want to know,” was also the feel of the atmosphere at St. Aloysius Catholic School on April 5, when the District held its fifth annual career fair.

Approximately 400 students with inquiring minds attended the day-long career fair. District team members represented 21 disciplines to provide an array of areas of expertise for the young, eager-to-know, and inquisitive students.

District Commander Col. Michael C. Derosier welcomed the students and school administrators upon their arrival to the Career Fair. He stated, “Welcome to this Career Fair. It’s a pleasure to have you here with us. This

is an opportunity for us to showcase the Vicksburg District and the Corps of Engineers. Many times we have found that not many really know what the Corps does, its significance to the river, and the river’s significance to the Corps. In a town such as Vicksburg, the Mississippi River is a very vital part of the Corps’ mission, and vital to our economic growth as a nation. While you’re here today, stop and look at our booths and displays. The Corps employs nearly any profession in which one might have an interest. We have river boat pilots, winchmen, deckhands, secretaries, cooks, accountants, biologists, accountants, engineers, photographers, geologists, park rangers, computer engineers/computer technicians, and others. We also have a nurse and a doctor who work part-time.”

*(Continued on page 24)*

*(District Hosts Career Fair, continued from page 23)*

Following his remarks to the students, Col. Derosier then introduced Maj. Gen. Richard G. Kaiser Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division. Gen. Kaiser began by asking the students a question. “How many of you know what you want to do when you grow up?” He ended by stating, “The world is wide open to what you want to do. The U.S. is a maritime nation, and here in Vicksburg you’re in the center of it. Today, you’ll learn a lot about what the Corps does. For instance, the Corps has more parks than the U.S. Park Service; look at the Mississippi River, 95 percent of our imports move on that water, east to west and north to south. So finish strong and dream big.”



*Maj. Gen. Kaiser speaks to the students about work that the Corps does.*

Students and instructors in attendance were from The Academy of Innovation, Porters Chapel Academy, St. Aloysius Catholic School and Sumner Hill Junior High School of Clinton. The students, as well as instructors, gained valuable knowledge about the Corps, its hiring practices, and how to prepare for the workforce. The students were also afforded the opportunity to talk with professionals representing fields of engineering: civil, mechanical, and electrical; accountants; secretaries; biologists; lawyers; park rangers; media specialists and writers/editors.

Corps missions were exemplified through some of the booths/displays as the park rangers from lakes and field offices gave advice and demonstrations on water safety. District military captains Stephen Brooks and Cameron Fulford loaded a backpack with military equipment onto students, or those willing to do so, and asked them to do push-ups!; Kiera Jackson, a student trainee in the Resource Management Office (RM), explained to students the courses necessary to become an accountant or budget analyst in the Resource Management Office. Blake Gober of geo-tech branch explained to the students the procedure



*Cpt. Fulford adjusts a backpack for a student.*

for a gradation test of sand and gravel. RPEDS held three tables set up. One held animal exhibits i.e., furs, skulls, track identifiers, etc. Another table held a computer monitor that cycled through a presentation of the type work done in RPEDS, some archeological tools and a few artifacts such as arrowheads and pottery shards. The third table held forestry equipment, tree species’ identifiers, and a display of some common tree pests/insects; another presenter was Kaylee Kilgo of the Resource Management Office who discussed the field of accounting with the students, and that it is a rewarding career.

The Career Fair is a part of the District’s Operations Plan that promotes outreach, Task 4d2.1.

Virgil Strickland, principal at St. Aloysius stated, “This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore what is in the real world. It makes them think about what classes they need to take in order to do a certain job. I think it’s great too because a lot of our students don’t understand the scope of what the Corps does.”

Crystal Gray, an instructor at Sumner Hill, stated, “This



*Kiera Jackson discusses jobs in the Resource Management Office with the students.*



*Students do pushups with loaded backpack.*

is a great opportunity for the students to interact with professionals who are actually working in professions in which they, the students, are studying. It's like a learning experience outside of the classroom."

Mekayla Burns, an 8th grader at The Academy of Innovation stated, "We have had a Career Fair at The Academy but we were given the opportunity to browse only one chosen field of study. Here at this Career Fair, we have various fields of study to browse, which might help us to



*Kaylee Kilgo of the Resource Management Office discusses accounting opportunities within the Corps with the students.*

decide what we want to do later in life. I've always wanted to be a nurse practitioner but this Career Fair has me second guessing my choice. After talking with some of these engineers, I'm now considering the possibility of a field of engineering."

Hopefully the Career Fair enlightened the students' knowledge about the Corps and its various missions and fields of interest. ◀



*Blake Gober of the geo-tech branch explains to the students the procedure of a gradation test of sand and gravel.*

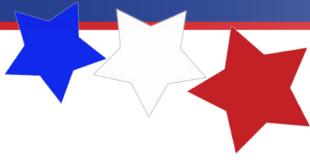


*The team of public affairs specialists gave the students the opportunity for photo shoots.*

## Finish strong and dream big.

*(Deputy for Small Business, concluded from page 21)* sustain the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a premier organization in developing small businesses and maximizing their opportunities to participate in our procurements.

This ensures a broad sense of capable suppliers to support the Corps' mission and strengthen our Nation's economic development. ◀



## STARZ OF MVK



▶ Lake Ouachita’s natural resource management specialist, Joe Bailey, along with biologist Dustin Thomason, and forester, Shannon Herrin, deployed 30 PVC bucket-type fish shelters constructed by Boy Scout Troop #65 into Lake Ouachita. The fish shelters were constructed and deployed as part of an Eagle Scout project for Jonathan Hunter. The locations were marked and will be documented for use by Lake Ouachita anglers.

▶ Natural resources specialists Sarah Nix, William Oliver, Jesse Wisterman and park ranger Mitchel Strode, Louisiana Field Office, recently conducted water safety and wildlife programs at Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge. This effort was a partnership with Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge, with more than 200 students in attendance.



Lake Ouachita’s natural resource management specialists, Karl Studenroth and Pam Herrin, participated in Earth/Arbor Day events at Entergy Park. More than 500 students from Hot Springs Intermediate schools attended the event. Studenroth discussed the various snakes of Arkansas with the students. Herrin’s presentation to the students was water safety demonstrations.

# Grenada Lake Hosts Annual Thunder on Water Festival

Story and photos by Catherine Jennison

The 25th Anniversary of the Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival was held June 6 - June 10 at Grenada Lake. With temperatures in the mid to upper 90's each day, more than 117,000 people attended this year's festival.

Events included a 5K walk and 8K run across the levee, sponsored by Blue Streaks; a kids fishing rodeo with more than 350 participants; a barbecue competition sponsored by the Memphis BBQ Network with 15 competing teams; helicopter rides sponsored by Stephen and Laura Jennings of Greenwood; and a tractor pull featuring V8 and antique tractors from various locations within the state.

During the last night of the festival, visitors had the opportunity to participate in tethered hot air balloon rides and listened to a concert showcasing Fade 2 Blue, an 80's top 40 dance rock cover band, the Troy Laz Band from New Orleans and Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monsters.

With an emphasis on water safety, Grenada Lake's Water Safety Team and natural resource specialists worked throughout the festival to strengthen relationships with stakeholders, partners and the public while raising awareness and educating children and adults about safe boating practices.

Grenada Lake's Water Safety Team also gave away 250 water safety t-shirts, made more than 700 direct water safety contacts and interacted with the 350 children and families who participated in the fishing rodeo.

The festival was another huge success and beneficial to many in regards to safety. ◀



*Troy Laz performs with the Troy Laz Band of New Orleans during the festival.*



*Fear Factor tractor participating in the tractor pull.*



*Col Derosier, on the left in the red shirt, participating in the 8K run.*

*The hot air balloon provided rides for festival participants.*

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Photos by Jared Eastman

# ENGINEER'S DAY PICNIC AND MARDI GRAS PARADE





# FAREWELL TO GREG RAIMONDO

## Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

-Alfred Lord Tennyson



## Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight  
I am the soft stars that shine at night  
Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, lift your eyes up high  
Let the sun shine warm upon your face  
Feel my strength and lean into the embrace

-Mary Elizabeth Frye



## District Field Offices & Services

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Vicksburg District  
4155 E. Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
www.mvk.usace.army.mil  
email: cemvk-pa@army.us.mil  
Twitter: @vicksburgusace  
601-631-5000**

Lake Ouachita (501) 767-2101  
Lake Greeson (870) 285-2151  
DeGray Lake (870) 246-5501  
Sardis Lake (662) 563-4531  
Arkabutla Lake (662) 562-6261  
Enid Lake (662) 563-4571  
Grenada Lake (662) 226-5911  
Bayou Bodcau (318) 949-1804  
JBJ Waterway (318) 677-2673

Ouachita-Black Rivers, Monroe  
Navigation Project Office, &  
LA Field Office (318) 322-6391  
Corps Wetland Permits (601) 631-7071  
*Apply, ask questions, or report violations*  
Contracting & Bids (601) 631-7684  
*Vendors, status of bids, specs*  
Community Support (601) 631-5223  
*Tours, speakers, volunteers*  
Historical Questions & Research (601) 634-7023  
*Mississippi River History Center*  
Real Estate Issues (601) 631-5979  
*Corps impacts to your property*  
Employment Questions (601) 631-5858  
*Vacancies, status, qualifications*  
River Forecast (601) 631-5900

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## Other Vicksburg Engineer/Federal Organizations

Mississippi Valley Division (601) 634-5760  
Engineer Research and Development Center (601) 634-2504  
412th Engineer Command (601) 636-1686  
168th Engineer Brigade (601) 313-5290  
Vicksburg National Military Park (601) 636-0583  
Marine Safety Detachment Vicksburg (601) 636-5516  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (601) 629-6607

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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