District Commander’s Farewell Remarks

Above Average Rainfall Leads to Devastating Flooding

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On the Cover
Photos by Jared Eastman.
A farewell message to the Vicksburg District – a “World-Class Workplace” and “Flagship” District

It is hard to believe that three years at MVK and four years in Vicksburg are coming to an end. The opportunity to serve as your commander has been the highlight of my 27-year Army career.

I hope you are all as proud as I am of this team and each other. The impacts that you are making for the Army, the region and the nation are remarkable. In navigation the Dredge JADWIN celebrated its 85th year of service, we have improved our dredging acquisition strategies, we are looking at opportunities to study both deepening and extending navigation on the Red River, and we are working with our partners to improve navigation through sediment reduction strategies and port expansion efforts. We are working diligently to reopen Columbia Lock and Dam after a year-long effort to make emergency repairs.

In flood risk management, we are working on constructing nearly 60 miles of Mississippi River Levees. We have improved our levee enlargement acquisition strategy, we are laser focused on upholding our federal levee maintenance requirements, we are working with levee boards across the region to fight floods, maintain our levee systems and reduce the number of levee segments that are currently rated “unacceptable.” Our teams have repaired dozens of levee slides, and we remain committed to working with Congress and within the administration in reviewing the Yazoo Backwater Pump project.

With the Corps’ Levee Safety Center being led out of the district, we are deeply involved in setting the national standards for levee safety. In environmental stewardship, we are involved in efforts to address environmental damage that may be caused by water control releases out of Wright Patman Reservoirs. Our Regulatory team has been recognized regionally and nationally for working with other Corps districts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and others in Standardizing Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES).

Our Regional Channel Improvement team, which is responsible for delivering navigation, flood risk management and environmental benefits, has continued the hard work of maintaining the Mississippi River in its current channel alignment, protecting Mississippi River and Tributaries levees and enhancing habitat along the Mississippi River and the Mississippi Delta.

The Mat Sinking Unit celebrated its 70th year of service and placed over 600,000 squares of articulated concrete mat over the past three sinking seasons and, in collaboration with SIA Solutions, Bristol Harbor Group and the National Robotics Engineering Center, will soon be replaced with a modern era sinking unit (known as Armor One).

Our involvement in disaster response and recovery missions has been astounding – California wildfires, devastating hurricanes and major and historic flooding in three out of the last four years that has impacted the Mississippi, Red and Ouachita-Black Rivers and the Yazoo Backwater Area. Over 300 Vicksburg District teammates have answered the call on nearly 800 taskers (including flood fighting) in ways that have had a national impact and enhanced the reputation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In recreation, even with ever-shrinking budgets, our teams are committed to making improvements to modernize the region’s recreational experiences. Our flood control reservoir lake projects provide multiplied benefits for flood protection, water supply, recreation, hydropower and the environment. We appreciate our lake champions and other agency partners in safely maintaining world class crappie and eagle habitat, campgrounds, hiking and biking trails, and the opportunity it provides to host special fishing/hunting/outdoor events for kids, the physically disabled and our Veterans. I’d like to recognize our rangers for their commitment to public safety, best expressed in 2017 with zero recorded public fatalities across all of the district’s recreational areas.

In water supply, we recently entered into historic water supply agreements at DeGray Lake with the City of Hot Springs and Central Arkansas Water. In hydropower, we appreciate the partnerships that we have with Department of Energy’s Southwestern Power Administration and the user group represented by Southwestern Power Resources Association. With more than a dozen customer-funded agreements valued at over $6 million we are working hard

(Continued on page 4)
(Commander’s Corner, concluded from page 3)
to maintain our hydropower plants and meet the regional
demand for hydropower energy, and we look forward to
the possibility of private equity investments in hydropower
at the Mississippi flood control reservoirs and at locks and
dams.

In support of overseas contingency operations, a special
thanks goes out to those who have deployed. Please keep
Bill Sisneros and Jason Mothershed in your thoughts and
prayers; they are currently serving down range. Our engi-
neering and contracting offices have also worked regionally
in designing and awarding marquee construction projects
in support of Combined Security Transition Command –
Afghanistan.

The Mapping, Modeling and Consequences Production
Center, headquartered at the Vicksburg District, brings a
capability to the table that is sought after nationally and
internationally. And in Supplemental execution, we have
prioritized our efforts on delivering channel improvement,
Mississippi River Levee enlargement, levee slide repair
and bank stabilization benefits in Arkansas, Louisiana and
Mississippi.

I am proud of our community efforts in operating (in
partnership with the City of Vicksburg and our volunteers)
the Jesse Brent Lower Mississippi River Museum and
our passion for investing in the community by adopting
schools, conducting STEM and career outreach events and
hosting the Army’s Society of American Military Engi-
neers summer STEM camp. Behind the scenes, we have
an award-winning cast of support staff and national level
organizations that help keep us programmed, staffed, safe,
secure, planning, able to communicate, compliant, afford-
able, fair, legal, supplied, informed, negotiated, adminis-
tered and under contract with both large and small busi-
nesses. Without this full team, it would be impossible to
accomplish our mission.

I appreciate all of our partners at the federal, state and
local level – especially our members of Congress and the
record-setting appropriations they have entrusted in the
Corps in recent years. In many of our projects, our partners
are invested financially as non-federal project sponsors and
collectively they represent our fundamental purpose – to
serve the public and deliver benefits to the nation. This
assignment has been

an opportunity and an
experience of a life-
time. I appreciate the
opportunity to work
with each one of you,
to be a part of such a
professional and high-
performing team, and I
will miss you.

Farewell! Auf
Wiedersehen! I look
forward to keeping in
touch and continuing
to hear about the great
things that y’all are
doing!

Photos courtesy of Jared Eastman and Colleen Cummins.
The Vicksburg District has coordinated the closure of John H. Overton Lock and Dam with industry and users of the waterway. A 30-to 40-day closure is scheduled to begin August 2019. The district’s Engineering and Construction Division will conduct the inspections and monitor the lock chamber during the dewatering process. The district’s river operations maintenance section will provide the equipment needed to perform the dewatering and assist with work at the site.

Construction of John H. Overton Lock and Dam began in 1982, with operations beginning in 1987. Since construction of the lock and dam, the lock chamber has never been completely dewatered.

Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) prioritizes dewatering annually based on the last dewatering and/or construction date of locks within the division. MVD identified the dewatering of Overton as a priority for fiscal year 2019. The dewatering provides an opportunity to inspect and make minor maintenance repairs to the lock chamber components, which are vital to a functional and reliable lock chamber. The findings of the inspection are updated in the Inland Navigation Operational Condition Assessment Tool, which better informs work packages for maintenance needs.
Elevated water levels on the Ouachita River have delayed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District’s emergency repair work at Columbia Lock and Dam, located approximately seven miles upstream of Columbia, Louisiana.

Due to unusually severe rainfall in 2019, river stages have been at or slightly above the top of the lock’s walls. The Vicksburg District and Massman Construction Co. have successfully used alternative construction methods to mitigate impacts to the repair work required at the site. However, district engineers estimate that approximately four weeks of work remains at the site when river conditions permit the full scope of repair work to commence.

Emergency repair work at
District Signs
Two Water Storage Space Agreements at DeGray Lake

By Reagan Lauritzen
Photo by Jared Eastman

The Vicksburg District hosted a signing ceremony for two water storage space agreements at DeGray Lake near Arkadelphia, Arkansas, April 3. Vicksburg District Commander Col. Michael C. Derosier, along with Central Arkansas Water (CAW) Chief Executive Officer Tad Bohannan and City of Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe signed the agreements. The agreement with CAW is for an estimated 157,014 acre-feet of storage and will supply approximately 100 million gallons a day (MGD) of water to their customers. The agreement with the City of Hot Springs is for an estimated 31,456 acre-feet and will supply approximately 20 MGD to the city.

Representatives from the Vicksburg District, CAW and the City of Hot Springs provided remarks during the ceremony.

“This is absolutely remarkable what is being achieved today,” said Dale Kimbrow, CAW’s manager of planning and regionalism. “The older you get, the more you start thinking about your family, your kids, and your grandkids, in my case. I know they are taken care of for the most important thing that’s going to be in their lives 30 to 40 years from now. We have now secured their future.”

CAW and the City of Hot Springs have requested a combined 188,470 acre-feet of storage space, which equates to approximately 120 MGD, to be withdrawn from the main reservoir or upper pool of DeGray Lake. The agreements are the largest water storage space agreements executed in the Vicksburg District and throughout the Mississippi Valley.

Located on the Caddo River in Arkansas, DeGray Lake is a multi-purpose reservoir with flood control, hydropower, water supply, environmental and recreational functions.

“It’s very exciting to have these multi-purpose projects and to be able to move them in a direction that provides the benefits that Congress and all of you expect them to deliver,” said Derosier.

CAW and the City of Hot Springs initiated the request for a water storage agreement with the Vicksburg District in October of 2013.
The Mississippi River Commission conducted its annual high-water inspection trip on the Mississippi River, April 8-12.

Four public meetings were scheduled aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI in selected towns along the river. Commission members met with local partners, stakeholders and residents to hear their concerns, ideas and issues. The meeting dates, times and locations were:

- **April 8** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Port of Hickman, Ky.
- **April 9** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Memphis, Tenn. (Beale Street Landing)
- **April 10** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Port of Rosedale, Miss.
- **April 12** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Baton Rouge, La. (City Dock)

All meetings were open to the public. Interested parties presented their views on matters affecting the water resources infrastructure needs in the valley, including flood control, the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, and other water resources challenges.

The agenda for each public meeting included:

- The president of the commission provides a summary report on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
- District commander provides an overview for the commission on current project issues in the respective area.
- Local organizations and members of the public provide comments issues affecting the commission and the Corps of Engineers programs and projects.

The Mississippi River Commission, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and vetted by the Senate. Three of the organization’s members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the commission include recommending policy and work programs, studying and reporting on the necessity for modifications or additions to the flood control and navigation project and conducting semi-annual inspections.
Col. Michael C. Derosier provides an update on the Vicksburg District during the Mississippi River Commission’s high-water inspection trip.

Col. Robert A. Hilliard, Secretary of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC), provides remarks during the MRC high-water inspection trip.

Maj. Gen. Richard G. Kaiser, President of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC), discusses precipitation trends in the Mississippi River watershed during the high-water inspection trip.

The public hearing process is unique to the Mississippi River Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the public meetings is to maintain a dialogue between watershed interests, the public and the Corps. Presentations by the public are made orally, and a copy of the remarks is presented to the commission for official record and written response.

The benefits of hearing the issues and concerns first hand through the public hearing process are invaluable to the commission and the Corps. Also, the interaction with congressional, federal and state interests, local boards and non-government organizations and the public is crucial to the decision-making process for the nation’s water resources.

The Mississippi River Commission brings critical engineering representation to the drainage basin, which impacts 41% of the United States and includes 1.25 million square miles, over 250 tributaries, 31 states and two Canadian provinces.

Photos by Jared Eastman

Col. Michael C. Derosier provides an update on the Vicksburg District during the Mississippi River Commission’s high-water inspection trip.
Above Average Rainfall Leads to Devastating Flooding

By Reagan Lauritzen
Photos by Jared Eastman

Extreme rain in the Ohio Valley in late February 2019 caused a major flood on the lower Mississippi River, resulting in a top 10 record crest of 51.5 feet at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in March 2019. Extreme rain in Mississippi during the same time frame caused tributary flooding in the Yazoo Basin, extending from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ four flood control reservoirs in northern Mississippi south to Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Vicksburg District used its four flood control reservoirs in the Yazoo Basin – Grenada, Enid, Sardis and Arkabutla lakes – to reduce the peak flow of rainfall runoff by approximately 90 percent during the unprecedented rainfall event throughout the region in February 2019. The use of the reservoirs for water storage provided tremendous benefit to the Mississippi Delta.

Due to high Mississippi River stages in February and March 2019, the gates at the Steele Bayou Control Structure were closed to hold more than four feet of water out of the Delta; however, due to heavy local rains while the gates were closed, the Yazoo Backwater Area set a new all-time peak stage of 97.2 feet and inundated nearly 450,000 acres of hardwood timber and agricultural land, as well as numerous homes and camps.

After the March 2019 peak, heavy rains on the upper Mississippi River, the Missouri River and the Arkansas River basins have caused the lower Mississippi River to remain high, thus not allowing the Yazoo Backwater area to drain.

Additional heavy rainfall in April 2019 combined with persistently high stages on the Mississippi River led to a second peak of 98.2 feet in the Yazoo Backwater area in May 2019, surpassing the previous all-time record set in March 2019.

In June 2019, the Vicksburg District monitored a second large peak that made its way through the lower Mississippi River Valley, resulting in conditions requiring the gates of the Steele Bayou Control Structure to be closed again for the fourth time in 2019 to keep Mississippi River backwater out of the south Delta.
Current Events

Mississippi River

High Line / High Ground

Steel Bayou

Sunflower River

Marks

Clarksdale

Greenville

Coldwater River

Tallahatchie River

Yazoo River

Yazoo City

Vicksburg

Memphis

Arkabutla Lake

Sardis Lake

Enid Lake

Grenada Lake

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District

The Yazoo Basin

Illustration courtesy of Colleen Cummins
ARMOR One, the replacement for the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU), reaches an important milestone in 2019 as the program transitions from design to construction. ARMOR One has been through a detailed concept-to-design prototyping process over the last several years.

The design team will continue to prototype and test the robotics throughout the year and will finish major portions of the robotics. Bristol Harbor Group, leading the barge design and other marine aspects of ARMOR One, will wrap up a significant portion of the marine plans. These two major actions, complete in early 2019, will allow the District to move forward to award the construction contracts necessary to build ARMOR One. The design renderings for ARMOR One were introduced at the International Work Boat Show in New Orleans in November 2018 to start the contracting process. Several major shipyards expressed interest in building such a unique vessel for the Corps. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2019.

ARMOR One’s design is not focused solely on robotics but is driven along three overarching standards: Safety, Reliability and Efficiency.

- Safety – marine safety design is in accordance with the American Bureau of Shipping Group (ABSG) standards. The ABSG standards are used for both commercial and
governmental marine vessels to ensure these vessels are in compliance with all modern design specifications.

- Reliability – the current mat sinking has been in operation since 1948 and is both difficult and expensive to maintain. Many of the MSU components are no longer manufactured and have to be either machined on site or specially ordered, which often results in repair delays. Modern common components, modern winching systems and marine hull design are among the many features that will dramatically increase reliability.

- Efficiency – ARMOR One will be built to double the production rate, use fuel more efficiently and be easier to move from place to place. Increased efficiency also reduces impact to our industry partners who rely on an open waterway with less restrictions for the commercial movement of goods.

The design process for ARMOR One consists of extensive prototyping and testing to ensure that all of the systems work both individually and collectively. This very deliberate process helps ensure that the best design available is used for final construction plans. Part of the testing process is to source parts and components that are readily available and are checked for best cost and durability. Prototype robotic components are run through a series of tests at the National Robotics and Engineering Center (NREC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These tests result in the robotics being disassembled, redesigned and improved. This iterative method is the best approach to ensure a complete design that fully meets the needs of the Corps.

The ARMOR One systems are designed to work with standard specification articulated concrete mattress (ACM). The Vicksburg District provided NREC with different quality levels of ACM early on in the design process, which led to improvements such as cable grabbers that fit into the scarf box to pull cables into the tie head and greatly improved lifting arms that pick up and secure the ACM to help prevent breakage. A new active deck roller system al-

(Continued on page 14)
(ARMOR One, concluded from page 13) allows the alignment of scarf boxes supporting the robotic tie gantry system. Improved robotic systems will allow ARMOR One to meet the full production rate of 4,000 ACM squares a day, more than doubling current output.

One of the more hands-on aspects of the design is the development of a new manual tie tool. This new electric tie tool is for revetment workers on ARMOR One to perform quality control assessments and will allow them to use the tool to make ties that the robotics were unable to make. The first and second generations of this new tool were tested on the MSU during this past sinking season. Revetment workers were able to use the tool to provide onsite direct feedback to the NREC engineers who are designing and building the new equipment. The new tie tool is battery operated using a chargeable lithium battery similar to a drill or leaf blower. This will eliminate the yellow pneumatic hose lines that often are a safety nuisance across the deck of the MSU. The tool is also substantially lighter at 35 pounds and easier to use with many upgrades over the older tie tools. NREC will build three of the latest generations of the tie tool for use and more testing with delivery to the MSU in the spring of 2019.

The most important aspect of ARMOR One is support to our work force. The district is working with Hinds Community College (HCC) to establish training to help prepare our workforce for the transition to ARMOR One. As the design is complete over the next year, NREC will define tasks necessary to run and maintain the robotic machinery and new equipment on ARMOR One. HCC is researching a training curriculum that supports those skills and provides the necessary training to make the transition successful. This training program is anticipated to be introduced in 2020 with training becoming available in 2021.

ARMOR One will be built over the next three years with a full trial test in 2022. The mat sinking season in 2023 will be the first full sinking season with the new equipment. ARMOR One will allow reliable armoring of the channel for the next 50 years to protect our nations’ waterway infrastructure along the Mississippi River.
Project

Scarf box, the square hole in the mat where the tie is made  Robotic tie tool in operation

Sketch of ARMOR One

DuVerger is a native New Englander who joined the U.S. Army in 1996 as a combat engineer. He served his first tour of duty as an enlisted Soldier in the Virginia Army National Guard and was later selected for U.S. Army Officer Candidate School and commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2003.

His previous tactical assignments include: Platoon Leader, A Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), Fort Stewart, Georgia; Company Executive Officer, A Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), Fort Stewart, Georgia; Battalion Maintenance Officer, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), Fort Stewart, Georgia; Battalion Logistics Officer, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), Fort Stewart, Georgia; Company Commander, Savannah Recruiting Company, Jacksonville Recruiting Battalion; Assistant S3 - Chief of Operations, 18th Engineer Brigade, Schweinfurt, Germany; Staff Engineer Officer, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany; Battalion S3, 15th Engineer Battalion, Grafenwöhr, Germany; and Battalion Executive Officer, 15th Engineer Battalion, Grafenwöhr, Germany.

DuVerger’s combat deployments include two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and one deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, the Joint Engineer Operations Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from The College of William and Mary, and a master’s degree in geological engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Combat Action Badge.
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District selected Julie Vignes as chief of its Operations Division in May 2019.

Prior to her selection for this position, Vignes worked for the USACE New Orleans District since 1988. During that tenure, since 2014, she served as the chief of the physical support branch in the Operations Division and oversaw major maintenance and repair of navigation and flood risk management infrastructure, including 11 major locks and flood control structures. Among those structures were the Old River Complex, the Bonnet Carre Spillway and the Hopper Dredge Wheeler.

In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Vignes was reassigned as a branch chief in the Project Management Protection and Restoration Office after 17 years in the Operations Division. There, she led efforts to execute the planning, design, construction and turnover to the non-federal sponsor of more than $4 billion of Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System projects. Those projects included more than a hundred miles of levees and floodwalls, waterway and highway flood gates, pumping stations and the West Closure Complex, one of the most complex civil works structures designed and constructed by USACE.

During her tenure with the New Orleans District, Vignes served in various other capacities, including as a project manager in Regulatory, Operations project manager on draft navigation and other Mississippi River and Tributaries projects and Navigation Function Chief in the Technical Support Branch. In 2017, she served a 120-day assignment as the deputy to the commander.

Vignes is a graduate of the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. She is Defense Acquisition Workforce Facilities Engineer Level 3 certified and an Army-certified Black Belt in Continuous Process Improvement/Lean Six Sigma. She is a recipient of the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her professionalism, dedication and outstanding service to the USACE and the Army.

Vignes is a second-generation USACE employee. Her father, Bernard Dorcy, served as a draftsmen and Civil Engineer Technician with the New Orleans District for 40 years, and Vignes recalls making family trips to the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg when she was a child. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, she and her husband Ray have three children, Christian, Kaycee and Kaila.
Vicksburg District Selects Chief for Real Estate Division

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Alfred Dulaney

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District selected Chrystal Spokane as Chief of its Real Estate Division in May 2019. In this position, Spokane provides technical expertise relating to the district’s real estate mission, which includes real estate acquisition, land management, real property accountability, and disposal of real property.

Prior to this assignment, Spokane has worked in all aspects of the Real Estate Community of Practice, including planning, acquisition, land management, disposal, overseas contingency operations and disaster recovery. She is a Real Estate Contracting Officer and a Certified Acquisition Professional Facilities Engineer Level III.

Regulatory Selects 2019 Regulator of the Year

By Shirley J. Smith
Photo by Jake Pope

The regulatory branch awarded Jennifer G. Brown the 2019 Larry N. Harper “Regulator of the Year” Award in April. Brown was recognized for her can-do attitude, mission success and specialized knowledge in regulatory.

Brown was recently presented the award at regulatory branch’s Earth Day luncheon.

She was nominated by her peers as this year’s award recipient. Regulatory team members nominate a peer who demonstrates outstanding service to the mission to receive this prestigious award. Her expertise as a senior environmental specialist in the regulatory branch and its mission embody the essence of the award’s namesake, Larry N. Harper.

Brown, a native of Maryland, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology from Salisbury University and a Master of Arts in international relations from the University of Oklahoma. She began her career with the Corps in the regulatory branch of the San Francisco District in 2001. She joined the Vicksburg District regulatory branch in 2015.

Larry Harper, a district team member, 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 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. He also served his country in the U.S. Army Reserve where he was promoted to the rank of colonel and was inducted into the district’s Gallery of Distinguished Employees in 2017.
The DeGray Lake Field Office staff attended the Arkadelphia Public School District’s Central Primary Parent-Teacher Committee (PTC) Central Spring Fling to promote environmental stewardship and water safety to students and their families.

This year’s Spring Fling was held in the Arkadelphia Recreation Center, where booths were arranged like a carnival. The DeGray Lake staff received a prime location for our booth, which allowed us to effectively reach students and parents with our message of environmental stewardship and water safety.

Our booth’s theme was fishing but with a twist. We filled a kiddie pool with water, magnetic office supplies, water safety supplies and trash. Students who visited our booth received a fishing pole with a magnet at the end of the line. Once the students started to fish for water safety supplies, they would inevitably ask about the trash in the water. Their questions provided us with the opportunity to talk about environmental stewardship at our projects. We spoke with them about the importance of taking care of our lakes and waterways and shared water safety tips. After fishing, students picked out water safety supplies and took photos with Bobber the Water Safety Dog.

Event coordinators estimated the Spring Fling’s attendance at approximately 1,000 people, and we reached a significant number of them with our message of environmental stewardship and water safety. Because of this booth’s success at the Spring Fling, we plan to use the fishing theme again in the future.
The Grenada Lake Field Office recently hosted the third annual HOPE Outdoors Duck Hunt at the Haserway Wetland Management Area.

HOPE Outdoors is an outdoor ministry whose mission and goal is to work with other organizations to bring renewed meaning to the lives of those less fortunate. The Grenada Lake Field Office is proud to provide hunting opportunities to various organizations like HOPE Outdoors.

Twelve hunters from Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee harvested a total of 12 ducks during the three hunts.

Some volunteers drove from Illinois and Ohio hauling trailers of decoys, duck blinds, and retrievers to show their love and support to the hunters and families.

Volunteers showed up early to brew the coffee and begin the migration from the Ranger station atop the dam to the duck blinds just below the dam. Park rangers loaded trailers with action-track chairs for the hunters to use. Track chairs made it possible for the hunters to traverse rough ground and knee-high flood water to be able to pull right into duck blinds. Mallards, Green-winged teal, wood ducks and ring necks accompanied them and British and Irish Labrador retrievers were directed into the water.

For one of the hunters, Chris R., the duck hunt provided him his first visit to Grenada Lake. Chris stated that he had done some duck hunting in his younger years and fell in love with it. But, since becoming wheelchair bound, he never thought that he would have a chance to experience that love and excitement again. He summarized the duck hunt experience by stating, “God, guns, good times, great friends and Gadwalls, a weekend I will never forget!”

Pictured left to right:
Front Row: Gregg Vowell, Chris Riley, Emily Hickman, Doug Price, Anthony Guiden, Nick Landsdell
Back Row: Matthew Ard, Greggory Vowell, Kevin Coleman, Colt Hall, James Bornes, Brian Bowman.
Warren Central Jr. High’s Career Fair
Photos by Jared Eastman

Mardi Gras parade through downtown Vicksburg
Photos by Jared Eastman
Col. Derosier addresses audience at City of Vicksburg’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration  
Photo by Jared Eastman

Vicksburg District members judge Black History Month Poster Contest at Beechwood Elementary school  
Photos by Shirley J. Smith

Vicksburg District members judge science fair projects at St. Francis Elementary school  
Photos by Reagan Lauritzen

River Class  
Photo by Angela White

Vicksburg District Invites the Public to Talk with a Regulator  
Photos by Angela White
Vicksburg District members judge science fair projects at Beechwood Elementary school
Photos by Angela White

Day of Caring
Photos by Colleen Cummins

Maj. DuVerger III speaks to a Chamber of Commerce leadership group
Photos by Jared Eastman

Team members volunteer during Earth Day
Photos by Jared Eastman

“Wear Your Life Jacket to Work” Day
Photos by Jared Eastman
District Field Offices & Services

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Vicksburg, MS 39183
www.mvk.usace.army.mil
email: cemvk-pa@usace.army.mil
601-631-5000

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

Other Engineer/Federal Organizations in Vicksburg

Mississippi Valley Division (601) 634-5760
Engineer Research and Development Center (601) 634-2504
412th Theater 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

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