

MVD Welcomes New Commander

Story and Photos by Karen Buehler, MVD Public Affairs

In a formal change of command ceremony, Maj. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson transferred command of the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Miss., to Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, Jr. The Sept. 12 ceremony was officiated by the Corps' Deputy Chief of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Milton Hunter.

Anderson, MVD commander and president of the Mississippi River Commission since July 1997, transferred to Atlanta, Ga., to serve as commander of the South Atlantic Division, Corps of Engineers.

"The Division, the Commission and the district teams, have remained unbelievably strong. My job as Division commander has been made much easier because of you, and your efforts," Anderson said in his farewell address.

"Your dedication, your professionalism, your commitment to the Corps, the Mississippi Valley Division and the nation are unparalleled in my experience and MVD is the premier division as a direct result of your hard work, integrity and perseverance. I fully believe your new commander, Brig. Gen. Arnold, will have an easy transition, thanks to the competence, commitment and dedication of the members of this command," he continued.

Arnold came to MVD from Dallas, Texas, where he was commander and division engineer of the Southwestern Division, Corps of Engineers.

"I know I am following in a long line of most capable commanders and time will tell if I too will be placed among the ranks," said Arnold during his welcome.

"The accomplishments and challenges in the Mississippi Valley Division are legend and yet some of our greatest challenges may be in front of us. No doubt over the next several years we will have many, many opportunities to demonstrate our professionalism and competence as we tackle tough issues in rapidly challenging

times," he said.

As MVD commander, Arnold will be responsible for Corps' water resource programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La. In addition, Arnold will be nominated president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, the presidentially appointed agency that oversees the comprehensive Mississippi River and tributaries flood control and navigation project, as well as the entire Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Prior to Arnold's assignment in SWD he served as deputy commander and assistant commandant, Engineer Center and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Additionally, he served as the director of Battle Lab Support for the U.S. Army Engineer School and the Training and Doctrine Command Program Integration Officer for Terrain Data, also at Fort Leonard Wood.

Arnold's awards include the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal and the German Cross of Honor in Silver.



Practice Makes Perfect

By Mark Kane

When an athletic team is preparing for an upcoming game, it's only practical to get the players together and practice before you play. At LeClaire Base, in LeClaire, Iowa, Corps personnel are doing just that, but they're dealing with something much bigger than a football.

For the first time since the 1,200-foot lock was constructed in the early 1950s, the miter gates will be replaced.

Recently, Corps members from the Mississippi River Project Structures Maintenance Crew gathered at LeClaire Base to practice and plan for the miter-gate replacement that will take place during the lock's closure in January and February.

"The (spare) gate sections have never been assembled before," said Jim Wilson, chief, Mississippi River Project Maintenance Section. "The gate weighs 225 tons and is more than 52 feet high. The next larger gates on the Mississippi in our District are those at Lock & Dam 22 lowers. They're only 33 feet."

"We assembled them here at the base to make sure everything will go together, so we won't have any surprises this winter at Lock 19," said Wilson.

For the layman, trying to understand how the existing miter gates will be replaced at Lock 19, could be confusing.

"Changing the lower gates at Lock 19 is different than the other locks and requires some special procedures," said Wilson. "The upper gates are closed, the old gates are lifted out, and, in this case, placed on the storage pad. The new gate



Members of the Mississippi River Project Maintenance Crew place concrete on the surface of a barge to make a new smooth surface for use as work barges. The workers (left to right) Jose Coronado, maintenance worker; Dave Avenarius, boat operator; Gary Rose, crane operator; and Larry Badtke, maintenance worker; are also involved in the Lock 19 miter-gate replacement that will take place at Lock and Dam 19 this winter.

is brought along side the Quad Cities (Gate Lifter) in two sections."

Wilson emphasized that the gate is too tall to fit under the high-voltage transmission wires at the lower end of the lock when it is assembled.

"(After that) the top sections are placed on top of the two bottom sections and the gate is lowered into place in the 'wet,' said Wilson. "Our crane operators are skilled enough to 'feel' the pintle ball,

which the gate hinges on. The procedure is repeated for the other leaf."

"Once both gates are in place, the crane will back up and set bulkheads across the lower chamber," said Wilson. "The chamber is then pumped dry and the contact blocks at the quoin end of the gates are adjusted to make a close-fitting seal with the wall. Fill the chamber, remove the bulkheads and that's it."