



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Northwestern Division



NOR'WESTER

FALL 2012

COMMANDER'S COLUMN



COL Anthony C. Funkhouser
Northwestern Division
Commander

The first 90 days at the NWD helm

Greetings to the Northwestern Division Family and Friends!

It's hard to believe it has already been more than 90 days since I took command. Each day has been amazing as I marvel at all that you do for our Soldiers, Families, and Nation. I can honestly say I sleep well at night knowing that I am a member of such a great team.

I have received some great orientations from each district and have seen many of our Civil Works and Military Program projects across the region. I have been extremely impressed with our team of professionals and the high standards of safety and quality across the board. I am in awe of the pride everyone shared with me about being part of the US Army Corps of Engineers and about their contributions to our Nation. It is enlightening and energizing when I visit our project sites and meet the people on the front lines of the Corps, serving America selflessly every day.

I have enjoyed some insightful conversations and appreciate the team's candid ideas and feedback. Every stakeholder and partner I have met has been positive about the Corps' professionalism and quality of effort.

Now that I have traveled to each district, I have put together a 90-day assessment to share with HQ. I have tried to assess the region, the culture and all of the constraints and restrictions of what we can and cannot do. I have also completed our NWD Command Climate survey and received my staff's feedback.

As a result, I am laying out my division-level focus areas linked to LTG Bostick's priorities established in the latest USACE Campaign Plan.

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DEPUTY'S CORNER



COL Robert A. Tipton
Deputy Commander

Deputies report productive Community of Practice meet

NWD recently hosted a consolidated COP meeting for District Deputies, PAOs, Security Managers, Safety Managers and Emergency Management Chiefs from across the division.

While these COPs are not new, the concept of holding them concurrently and integrating meetings and backbriefs with District Deputy Commanders, was new to the Division.

The intent was to bring these key enablers together with the District/Division Deputies once a year to better synchronize and prioritize efforts and to build the team for more effective collaboration virtually.

Based on an after-action review and the backbriefs provided at the end of the consolidated meeting, participants agreed the effort was extremely worthwhile.

The CoP groups that met stated that the

ability to share best practices, discuss issues, challenges, and successes with their counterparts, and present a summary to the District Deputies was an excellent way to enhance two-way communication.

From my perspective, I believe the deputies have gained a much greater appreciation for the challenges of these key enablers and how they could better champion their issues.

Each of these groups established actionable strategies for addressing their challenges throughout the year. Of course, the true value of this event will be measured on the results achieved as a consequence of building a stronger team and accomplishing the tasks identified.

In future newsletters, I will address the challenges and strategies starting with the area of safety in the next newsletter.

Transform Civil Works

- Execute the FY13 Budget/Program (CW, IIS, and MP)
- Execute the four National Priority GI Studies and integrate the SMART Planning initiative
- Develop a regional planning capability that still empowers geographic districts
- Reduce risk by leveraging more Maintenance dollars from Operations for deferred Infrastructure repairs
- Collaborate with HQ to establish Puget Sound Restoration as a watershed pilot program
- Execute critical regional/strategic CW Projects/ Requirements:
 - Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 in collaboration with Bonneville Power Administration – regional engagement and deliverables
 - Missouri River Mainstem System Repair & Restoration (Flood 2011)
 - Coal Regulatory Permitting
 - Levee Safety Strategy / Way Ahead (ETL, SWIF, PGL)
 - Columbia River Fish Program, including Estuary Habitat
 - Missouri River Recovery Program
 - North Dakota Water Supply Letter Report / Contracts / Permits

Defend and Protect Our Nation

- Provide our best talent and resources to support Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)
- Integrate and support Combat Commands (COCOMs), particularly through NORTHCOM command engagement and reachback for Central Command (CENTCOM).
- Provide first class Emergency Management and Storm Season Preparedness/Response
- Execute MILCON Mega Projects (STRATCOM HQ / Fort Riley Hospital / Combat Aviation Brigade) to standard
- Enforce a safety program for employees, contractors and the public (Our goal is zero fatalities)

Prepare USACE for the Future

- Integrate the Chief's Priorities/Actions into the Division Command Implementation Plan
- Prepare an executable FY14/15 CW Budget/Program and Testimony
- Improve Program Management Processes within the Division (P2 / QMS)
- Continue to lead the USACE in Sustainability/Energy Expertise/Net Zero Expertise and Delivery
- Maintain a Strong Human Capital Plan and Leader Development Program for the Future (recruit/train/recognize/retain)
- Build Strong Strategic Relationships with partners (federal/state/local/tribes/military/etc) to enable execution of our programs
- Build a Strong Relationship and Support the Regiment by providing leader- broadening opportunities and professional development

I'll talk more about these focus areas in the coming months in our newsletter, at Town Hall events, and during district visits. I look forward to your perspective.

I also wanted to take a minute to encourage your support for the Combined Federal Campaign. We are starting our effort to give back with a theme of "Be Involved . . . Now More Than Ever." Please contact your respective CFC district representative or NWD representative if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for helping to make a difference.

Also, all of us take great pride in our service to the Nation, The Army and the Corps of Engineers. One thing that links us to these is our history and our vision of today and the future. One way to capture our past with what we do today is our motto. A motto is a phrase meant to formally summarize the general motivation or intention of a social group or organization. The Army has Army Strong, and the Corps has Building Strong.

I have received numerous suggestions for possible mottos for the Northwestern Division to capture our history with Lewis and Clark and that emphasize our ethos of collaboration and professional engineering services. We have set up a link to a NWD sharepoint site to give you a chance to vote on a preferred slogan. I've included the web address in the email that accompanied this issue. I plan to reveal our selection in a future newsletter.

Finally, we still have a large number of personnel serving in support of OCO and other deployments around the U.S. and overseas. I would like to wish our teammates a heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving from across the division and wish a safe holiday season for them and their families at home. You are making a difference.

Many thanks, also, to all those that volunteered to deploy in support of Super Storm Sandy. The impacts of the storm have been significant, and I know our team is making a difference to help restore normalcy to the lives of many, including those of family and friends. Let me personally thank you for all you do - we look forward to your safe return.

I am so proud of our entire team for their selfless service.

Respectfully,

Tony

Anthony C. Funkhouser

COL, EN

COMMANDING

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