

Detroit District Team,

Well, they say time flies when you're having fun, I knew it would go at a swift rate but never would have imagined I would have enjoyed the ride as much as I have. It has truly been my honor and privilege to have served as the Detroit District Commander over the past two years. I would like to thank each and every one of you for what you do to make this district run like the well-oiled machine that it is. I can assure you that this assignment at the Detroit District has been one of the most challenging and exciting assignments thus far in my career.

Two years ago, when I was told I would be coming to Detroit for my next assignment, I wasn't sure what to expect, but I will tell you this experience has exceeded any and all of my expectations. I've enjoyed visiting the various area offices and project sites, walking around the district headquarters, and most of

all, getting to know all of you a little more in the process.

I will proudly look back on the many milestones the district has accomplished during my tenure for years to come. On the top of my list are my many visits to the Soo, seeing the various Locks projects. From my first visit up until my final one, I was always amazed and impressed each time I witnessed a freighter passing through the Locks so effortlessly. Seeing both the MacArthur and Poe Locks de-watered, initiating the beginning of the second Poe sized lock Economic Re-Evaluation Report, construction and completion of the Frankenmuth Habitat Restoration Project, and executing the largest dredging budget in a decade, are just a few other accomplishments that come to mind when I think back on the last two years. I would be remiss if I did not mention the impressive abilities and capabilities of our floating plants/strike removal teams with efforts like Port Washington, Duluth Entry Way

and the Rock Cut. None of that work happens without the efforts of the entire team! The work you all do, day in and day out, positively impacts the region and this great nation. I never really appreciated, nor understood, the importance of the Great Lakes before this experience, but now I know why they are called Great, and you have a direct impact of keeping them that way. Be proud of what you do, have done, and will do in the future to continue the legacy of the Detroit District.

Christie, Elizabeth, Andrew and I cannot thank you enough for welcoming us into the Detroit District family and for the continued friendships that will last well after we move on. We consider ourselves damn-near Michiganders!

Again, thank you for all you do. You're a great team and I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with you over the past two years. I am a better Engineering Officer because of it.

-Lt. Col. Michael Sellers & Family



*The Sellers Family:
Lt. Col. Mike Sellers,
Andrew Sellers and
Christie Sellers*

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*Detroit District Welcomes
New Commander,
Lt. Col. Dennis P. Sugrue*

Detroit welcomes new commander in traditional ceremony

By 1st Lt. Erica Mitchell, PAO Detroit District

The Detroit District welcomed its new commander, Lt. Col. Dennis P. Sugrue, during the district's 54th Biannual Change of Command Ceremony, July 28, 2016, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Distinguished guests, fellow officers, staff, family and friends were all present to witness Sugrue assume command of the district from Lt. Col. Michael Sellers, who served the district well for the last two years.

In his last speech to the district, Sellers expressed his new appreciation for the Great Lakes region and thanked employees for the work they do.

"I never really appreciated, nor understood, the importance of the Great Lakes before this experience, but now I know why they are called Great, and each and every one of you have a direct impact of keeping them that way, I thank you for what you all do every day," Sellers said.

Sellers also told guests that Sugrue was prepared to be the next commander and he was confident he would carry on the greatness of the district.

"I am ready," Sugrue said in his first appearance as the commander of the Detroit District. "I'm excited for the opportunity to lead such a fine organization and humbled to command the team that has served the Great Lakes region for 175 years."

Sugrue said that he is focused and prepared for the challenges ahead and looks forward to growing as

a leader and connecting with the people that make the district such a wonderful place. He added that he hopes to advance initiatives on the Great Lakes and build relationships that create district projects.

Sugrue recently served as the Deputy District Commander of the Los Angeles District. Prior to that, he was assigned to 3rd BDE, 10th Mountain Division where he served as the Brigade Engineer and Executive Officer of the 3rd BDE Special Troops Battalion. Sugrue has served in leadership positions as Platoon Leader with the 40th Engineer Battalion in Baumholder, Germany, and as Troop Commander of HHT, 3-71 Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He also served as an assistant professor of Environmental Engineering at the US Military Academy from 2009-2012. His deployments include two tours in Afghanistan, and one to Kosovo.

Sugrue was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1999 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from West Point. He later earned two Master of Science degrees in Geological Engineering and Environmental Engineering from Missouri Science and Technology and The Johns Hopkins University, respectively.

"For myself and my family, this is a great opportunity. We feel at home coming to Detroit and look forward to the experience," Sugrue said "The community has already thrown its arms around us; we feel welcomed and look forward to the experience."



Lt. Col. Mike Sellers, former District Commander, giving his last speech to the Detroit District.



Lt. Col. Dennis P. Sugrue, District Commander, giving his first speech to the Detroit District.



Spc. Derrick White from Tacom LCMC Command performing the invocation at the ceremony



Office of Counsel welcoming Lt. Col. Dennis Sugrue and his wife, Flori to the District.



Lt. Col. Dennis and Flori Sugrue



Rachel Malburg welcoming District Commander, Lt. Col. Dennis Sugrue and his wife Flori.



Detroit District staff socialize and celebrate with cake after the change of command ceremony.



Col. Benjamin Bigelow wishes farewell to Lt. Col. Sellers after the ceremony.