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**Traditional
ceremony salutes
new Detroit District
Commander**

Detroit District welcomes Lieutenant Colonel Greg Turner as new Commander

By Lynn Rose, PAO Chief Detroit District

District employees, distinguished guests, family and friends welcomed Detroit District’s 55th Commander at the traditional Change of Command Ceremony, held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Lt. Col. Greg Turner assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USACE, Detroit District, Thursday, July 26, in a ceremony rich with symbolism and heritage presided over by Maj. Gen. Mark Toy, commanding general of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

“All of you in the Detroit District should feel confident that you are getting an outstanding new commander. I have no doubt the Detroit team will continue to flourish under his [Turner] leadership,” said Toy, during his remarks at the ceremony.

Turner is now responsible for carrying out the district’s mission within the Great Lakes Basin, which along with the district’s more than 400 employees, oversees an approximate \$80 million program. The district is responsible for an area which includes all of Michigan and parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Indiana – a total area of 82,000 square miles of land with 4,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Approximately 14 million people live within the district’s boundaries. The district maintains 611 miles of channels and 95 harbors and connecting channels on lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and part of Lake Erie. Much of this work is carried out through four area offices located in Duluth, Minn., Detroit, Mich., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and Appleton, Wis./Grand Haven, Mich.

“I’m honored to be given the opportunity to command the Detroit District. This is something that has been my dream for more than 20 years,” said Turner as he took

command of the Detroit District. “Now, aside from the assignment to headquarters USACE that I’m just coming from, I’ve spent most of my career on the tactical side of the Army at the brigade level and below. I’m excited to get back to where the rubber meets the road for the Corps... at the district level.”

Lt. Col. Turner most recently served as the Assistant Director for Civil Works and as the Secretary of the General Staff for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to that, Lt. Col. Turner served as a battalion operations trainer at Fort Irwin’s National Training Center. Previously he was the Battalion Operations & Training Officer for the 40th Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan and served as the Battalion Commander during the unit’s inactivation. Turner was assigned to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as an instructor and Deputy Branch Chief. He also led his Company in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Turner was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and assumed command of Bravo Company, 91st Engineer Battalion before overseeing its conversion to Echo Company, 1-5 CAV. He deployed to Baghdad where he served as a Battle Captain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Turner was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division’s 20th Engineer Battalion in Fort Hood, Texas where he served as the Training Officer. Lt. Col. Turner served as the Executive Officer for the 320th Engineer Company (Topographic) and the assistant Operations Officer for the 565th Engineer Battalion (Provisional) after he was assigned to Hanau Germany as the assistant Operations Officer for the 130th Engineer Brigade. He served as a maintenance platoon leader to 94th Engineer Battalion, Vilseck, Germany, and he also was in charge of a heavy

equipment platoon in a Combat Support Equipment Company.

Turner’s professional and military education includes Airborne School, Topographic Operations Management Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Bradley Leader’s Course, and the Command and General Staff College. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and a Masters in Civil Engineer from the University of Missouri at Rolla. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania.



His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster and the Combat Action Badge.

“But today is not really about me; it is about the strength of the Detroit District, it is about our 412 world-class employees, it is about the our noble purpose of creating opportunity for our fellow citizens by securing our nation, protecting the environment, energizing our economy and reducing risk from natural disasters, it is about engineering solutions for the nation’s toughest challenges, it is about mission first and people always, it is about continuing the incredible work the

district has done alongside innumerable partners for 177 years. It is not about me, it is about you. Thank you for welcoming me but, more importantly, thank you for making this district, this region, and - yes - this nation great,” concluded Turner.

Supporting the Great Lakes Navigation System, the Detroit District, established in 1841, investigates,

plans, designs, constructs, operates and maintains congressionally authorized water resource projects related to navigation, flood control, hydropower production and recreation. The district also provides support to tribal nations, international organizations and other federal, state and local government agencies. As a steward of the environment the Detroit District

exercises regulatory authority over wetlands adjacent to navigable waterways and completes ecosystem restoration projects throughout the region. In addition, district employees support Overseas Contingency Operations and are poised to provide emergency management and disaster response services in times of crisis.



The Change of Command ceremony symbolizes the continuation of leadership and unit identity despite changes in individual authority; it also represents the transfer of responsibility and authority from one individual to another. The ceremonial passing of the command flag from the departing commander to the arriving commander physically represents this transfer. Photos by Emily Schaefer and Ricardo J. Garcia-Diaz

Detroit District,

Thanks again for two great years, and for your continued service to the Corps of Engineers, and the Great Lakes Region.

My time in command was more enjoyable than I could have imagined, and I will miss the Detroit District dearly. Most of you know that I am a transplant to Michigan, and to the Midwest. This assignment has been an educational journey for me, and I've enjoyed every step of it.

I wanted to list a couple of my favorite things from this assignment:

Visiting area offices and our projects was probably the best part of my job. Nothing can replace getting on site with the people who deliver. You are blessed that you get to handle design, construction, permitting, and oversight. I'm just a visitor to those things, and I loved seeing your work.

I liked being apart of the bigger conversation with our partners and regional leaders. Our mission is important, and inspiring, and it

was a pleasure to learn and take part in important conversations and decision making.

Whenever I would interact with our agency partners and customers, I would ask them for feedback. I'd ask them for a letter grade. I overwhelmingly received positive feedback on Detroit District, and it made me proud to be part of the team.

I wasn't faking it, PRBs were my favorite meeting. The instigator inside of me enjoyed asking questions and challenging assumptions. I especially enjoyed when the group challenged itself, and asked difficult questions that better our project delivery.

I enjoyed visiting you at your cubes, and getting to know you better. I liked to deliver signed documents in person to learn where people sat and see what you display in your workspace. The casual conversations I've had with many of your outside your cubicles was a favorite of mine.

You taught me many things, about the region, our mission, about engineering and science, and life in



general. This has been a tremendous learning experience of mine, and I know I have gained more from you than you have from me.

Detroit District ifs full of quiet professionals, don't be afraid to brag about yourselves on occasion. I will brag about you every chance I get.

From my family at home, Flori, Sean, Connor, and I thank our Corps family for a great two years. We wish you all the best, and hope to see you again in the near future.

-Lt. Col. Dennis Sugrue & Family



Maj. Gen. Mark Toy bids farewell to Lt. Col. Dennis P. Sugrue and his wife Flori as he presented her with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.