



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Biography



Colonel Debra M. Lewis

Colonel Debra M. Lewis assumed command of the Gulf Region Division Central District on June 18, 2006. As commander and district engineer, she is responsible for engineering and construction management support of deployed forces and Iraqi reconstruction in Baghdad and Al Anbar provinces, Iraq. The total program for Central District represents over 1400 projects valued at \$2.6 billion.

Colonel Lewis has commanded two previous U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts. She was District Engineer for the Seattle District, Northwestern Division responsible for constructing or operating military/civil works projects with a staff of 850 people covering over 99,000 sq. miles in 4 states. She also served as Commander of the Philadelphia District, responsible for the Delaware River Basin water resource issues affecting 17 million people in 5 states.

Colonel Lewis' experience in command and staff positions spans over 26 years. She served on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon where she supported the JCS Chairman's responsibilities for combating terrorism before and after 9/11. Other key jobs have included company command in the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C.; operations officer and executive officer of engineer battalions in Hawaii; Chief, Military Engineering Division, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), dealing with nations and U.S. territories throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and Staff Officer in the Congressional Activities Division of the Office of the Chief of the Staff of the Army.

A woman of many firsts, Colonel Lewis is a member of the first class with women to graduate from West Point. She also was the U.S. Military Academy's first female captain of its highly successful intercollegiate equestrian team, the 1980 Academy Equestrian of the Year, and as an alumnus in 2000 competed for West Point at Nationals. Colonel Lewis' military education also includes Airborne School, the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy. Her post-graduate education also includes an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School. Following Harvard, she joined the Department of Systems Engineering at West Point, where she taught problem solving and the capstone engineering management course.

Colonel Lewis has been recognized for her significant contributions with a variety of awards, including the Legion of Merit, Defense and Army Meritorious Service Medals, and the Army Engineer Regiment's Silver deFleury Medal. She earned special recognition as the Staff Officer of the Year for USARPAC, and received the Stephen Girard Maritime Day Award from the Delaware River port community and the Federal Leadership Award from the Seattle federal agency community.

Colonel Lewis and her husband LTC (Ret.) Doug Adams have three children: Theresa, Douglass and Emily.

Of her many pursuits, COL Lewis especially enjoys collecting quotations. She believes quotations serve to remind us that there are many varied perspectives on life and how we choose to approach it. A few of her favorites:

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you will help them become what they are capable of becoming."
-- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst... a spark that creates extraordinary results." -- The Power of Attitude from Successories

"May you always have enough happiness to keep you sweet; enough trials to keep you strong; enough sorrow to keep you human; enough failure to keep you humble; enough success to keep you eager; enough friends to give you comfort; enough faith to give you courage; enough wealth to meet your needs; and enough determination to make each day a good day." -- Rev. Paul Osumi