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William S. Farrow
256-895-1693
william.farrow@usace.army.mil

Acting Chief of Engineers visits Center

HUNTSVILLE, Ala--While touring north Alabama July 7, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acting chief of engineers, Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple got a first-hand look at the damaged communities affected by the April 27 tornadoes and to review the Corps' actions in the aftermath.

While in north Alabama, he also took time to visit the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, review directorate briefings and receive project updates and meet with the Corps future, as more than more than 15 Leadership Development Program members geared for the event.

During the briefing, Temple was brought up-to-speed regarding Huntsville Center's developing work with energy initiatives.

Stan Lee, Chief of Energy Division, presented a majority of the briefing concerning the Center's work relating to energy saving and finding energy alternatives.

Following Lee's briefing, Rick Suever, Director of the Business Management Office, spoke about the strategic plans during FY 11-15. Suever also discussed what the vision of the Center is into the years 2020 and beyond.

Mike Hubbard, Director of Ordnance and Explosives, then briefed Temple on OE's continued efforts in locating and properly disposing of ordnances found all over the world and especially in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Concluding the briefing, Dan Heinzelman, Director of Resource Management, gave an overview of HNC's response following the April tornadoes.

Huntsville Center commander Col. Nello Tortora, said anytime the chief of engineers visit the Center, it's a great opportunity to expose him to the great work Huntsville Center people are doing.

"It's always a good opportunity to brief Maj. Gen. Temple on what Huntsville Center is doing, but it's even better to inform him of the programs we see the Center focusing on in the future, especially our work with energy initiatives," Col. Tortora said.

At the close of the director's briefings, Temple took time for a question and answer period among current Huntsville Center Leadership Development programs. The participants mainly asked Temple questions concerning leadership.

Temple said communicating effectively and having confidence in your abilities is what he found to be important leadership traits.

"A successful leader is one that can create a vision, communicate that vision, follow-up and not waste people's time," Maj. Gen. Temple said.

Jean Allen, a project manager in Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, also in level 3 of her LDP, said she appreciated the points Temple made.

“He explained that all decisions made must be value-based decisions, and it’s hard to punch holes in value-based decisions,” she said. “I also appreciated what he said about surrounding ourselves with those who are strong, to balance the things in which we are not strong.”

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Photo cutline: Acting Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. “Bo” Temple meets with U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville personnel before a mission update at Huntsville Center July 7. Temple was in Alabama to observe Corps efforts in debris removal. (U.S. Army photo by William S. Farrow)