

# Quyet La recognized for significant contributions to environmental program

By Jenn Domashevich, public affairs

Greatness can be achieved at various levels of one's professional career and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, Quyet C. La, has demonstrated that it is never too soon to start. After only four and a half years of employment with the Louisville District, Mr. La received a prestigious military engineer award, the Steel de Fleury Medal, June 28 for his significant contributions to the district's environmental program.

Mr. La's Corps career started as an engineering co-op student in January 2007, which in turn, led to him being offered an internship position. Upon completion of the internship in May 2011, he became a full-time employee as an environmental engineer for the district.

"Mr. La hit the ground running with a can-do, will-do attitude and really delivered," said Chris Kareem, chief of the environmental branch, in the district's engineering division. "Through his technical and organizational excellence, he has already earned a leadership role in the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program for the district. This, in itself, is a remarkable accomplishment considering his experience level."

Mr. La serves as a technical manager in the district's environmental engineering division. He conducts fieldwork, which involves surface water, groundwater and sediment sampling, develops groundwater reports, assists project management in developing Project Closeout Reports (PCOs), and he also leads the Inventory Project Report (INPR) program.

"He has unarguably become the district expert in preparing INPRs," said Kareem. "This first step is undoubtedly the most important step for any FUDS project. It establishes the course of the project, which can be long and unmanageable if not navigated strategically from inception."

In addition to his key role in INPR preparation, Mr. La has also been assisting project management in completing multiple PCOs by the end of Fiscal Year 2011.

"Effectively completing multiple PCO reports requires thorough knowledge of the FUDS program, the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, and many other complex technical issues," said Kareem. "Within the first month, Mr. La helped in the completion of approximately one-third of the PCOs and is doing an outstanding job."

His professionalism and work ethic has made him an extremely valuable member of the environmental branch and engineering division. Not only has his dedication brought numerous improvements to the FUDS program, but has also helped make great strides towards the program's completion goals.

"I'm proud to say I work for the Corps," said La. "I would like to believe that my work assists in the programs managed by the Corps. By doing our part well, the people who would need the product that we develop will be able to address their respective responsibilities. Ultimately, the Corps is here to enhance the lives of the public. To know that I am a part of the effort of improving society makes it more peaceful to sleep at night."



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers former Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry presented environmental engineer Quyet C. La with the Steel de Fleury Medal June 28, 2011, for his significant contributions to the district's environmental program.

# Landry in hot seat during retirement roast

By John Neville, public affairs

What better way to say farewell to a boss than to make fun of him in front of a hundred people. That's just what district employees did June 28 at the Bristol Bar and Grill located in downtown Louisville.

Commonly referred to as a roast, several of the district's branch chiefs walked to a podium and hurled insults at their soon-to-be former commander, and it was all in good fun.

But the luncheon wasn't all about laughs. Col. Landry honored 14 employees for superior service by presenting them the de Fleury Medals, the highest regimental premier award given to civilian and military engineers for service to the nation. The award is named after Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, a French engineer who served with the American Army during the Revolutionary War. There are four de Fleury medal levels – steel, bronze, silver and gold.

In all, 14 employees received medals. Four received Steel de Fleury Medals and 10 received the Bronze order. That's a lot of de Fleury Medals to pass out, but the district's 2010 mission was enormous. The district is responsible for the nationwide and overseas Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, emergency response and a civil works mission of a five-state area. It saw a workload figure of \$1.3 billion in 2010, the largest figure in district history. Award recipients played a large role in behind the scenes efforts to stimulate the economy.

"We're not the first district to give one [de Fleury Medal], but we're the first district to give this many in one shot," Landry said.

Landry, who served in the Army 26 years, reflected on his three years as district commander.

"I hope I've been that commander—not the commander that I want to be, but the commander that the district needs me to be," he said.