



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Galveston District

BIOGRAPHY

2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550
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swgpao@usace.army.mil

COL David W. Dake District Commander and Engineer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

COL David W. Dake is the commander and district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District, a position he has held since July 29, 2025. He leads a water resource district with an authorized strength of more than 600 civilian and military professionals and project authorizations totaling more than \$7.4 billion.

The Galveston District provides construction, navigation, environmental restoration, flood risk management, shoreline protection, regulatory, and emergency management services for an area of responsibility that spans the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico, encompassing 50,000 square miles. As the commander and district engineer, the colonel is charged with executing the Galveston District's mission of providing public engineering services to strengthen security along the Texas coast, energizing the local economy, and reducing risks from disasters.

Before arriving at the Galveston District, Dake completed a U.S. Army War College Fellowship at the United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. Prior to that he served as the military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army IE&E, at the Pentagon, in Washington D.C.

Dake has served in a variety of tactical leadership positions from platoon leader to Company and battalion commander in combat engineering and construction engineering. As well as numerous operational command and staff assignments from brigade, to Department of the Army headquarters, combatant command levels, and USACE positions. He is a joint qualified officer who has served overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, Europe, and Africa.

Dake has a master's degree from Georgia Tech in construction management and facility planning. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia Southern University. His military education includes the Army Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Army Engineer Officer Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, the Joint Engineer Operations Course, the Joint and Combined Warfighter School, and the U.S. Army Airborne School. Dake is also an alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI fellowship program for national security professionals.

COL Dake's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; and the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster along with several other campaign and service awards. He is authorized to wear the Combat Action Badge, the Army Basic Parachutist Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. He is also the recipient of the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment's Bronze Order of the De Fleury Medal, the U.S. Army Field Artillery Association's Honorable Order of Saint Barbara Medal, and the U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association's Noble Patron of Armor Medallion.





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Byron D. Williams, PMP
Deputy District Engineer for Programs and
Project Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Byron D. Williams serves as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, a position he assumed in February 2021.

A 28-year USACE veteran, Williams currently oversees concept-to-delivery of projects and services in an area spanning 50,000 square miles of the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico, encompassing 16 Congressional districts. He leads a \$4.5 billion program of feasibility studies, assessments, engineering, design, construction projects, and related services under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 for reducing flood risks in Texas on America's energy coast. Williams helps the Galveston District sustain navigation economics that are vital to the nation, while managing coastal risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, regulatory functions, emergency operations, and military construction mission areas. He also supports a \$650 million border infrastructure engineering and construction program in the Rio Grande Valley.



Previously, Williams served as the Chief of Project Management in the Galveston District since December of 2016. During this time, Williams helped achieve project authorizations for improvement to the Houston Ship Channel and a \$1.5 billion project for the Sabine-Neches Waterway. His most recent duties as project management chief include coordinating the planning, scope, development, design, and construction of all major projects within the Galveston District's Civil Works portfolio and international and interagency support.

Williams' background consists of extensive experience within the Corps of Engineers, ranging from quality assurance/quality construction field engineer, planning lead, continuing authorities program manager, and senior project manager.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Southern University in 1995. He is a Certified Project Management Professional and a graduate of the Army Management Staff College.

Wayne Hiatt

Small Business Professional, Small Business Programs Office,
Contracting Directorate, **HQ U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**



Wayne Hiatt was appointed as a Small Business Professional in December 2018 and received his Defense Acquisition University Small Business Professional Credential in 2021. He is currently serving temporarily as the Galveston District Small Business Professional at least until the end of FY25. He served as the Chief of Small Business Programs for the Charleston District from December 2018 until March 2022 before assuming responsibility as the Small Business Program Management Team Lead and primary new Small Business Professional trainer for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C., in April 2022.

Prior to serving as a Small Business Professional, Wayne retired as an Army Acquisition Corps Officer in 2017 after serving over 30 years to include 18 years of diverse Acquisition experience in Contracting and Program Management.

He is mission focused and a passionate Small Business Advocate. Wayne is proud to part of the US Army Corps of Engineers as they celebrate their 250th birthday this year.





Dennis McIntosh
Procurement Advisor
University of Houston APEX Accelerator

Dennis' government procurement experience includes founder and President of a technology consulting company where he successfully bid and managed programs with the federal government, as well as multiple state projects. Dennis later worked as an independent business Advisor where he was engaged as a senior consultant by several Fortune 100 companies to provide business process improvement and project management services. Dennis has been retained by multiple small businesses to provide consulting on sales, financial management, and capitalization. Dennis has also successfully worked with companies on federal and state procurement opportunities, as well as 8(a), M/WBE, and other supplier diversity certifications. Dennis has previously worked as a business advisor with the Dallas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and for the past six years with the University of Houston APEX Accelerator (formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Center) where he provides advisory assistance to business owners in varied areas related to government contracting.



Academically, Dennis holds dual advanced degrees - an MBA and Master of Management in Personal Finance from the University of Dallas. His undergraduate degree is in Economics from Southern Methodist University.



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Ida Benson
Business Opportunity Specialist
US Small Business Administration

Ida Benson has been with the US Small Business Administration (SBA) for over twenty (20) years. She has extensive experience working with the small business community, and understands in great detail the different federal certifications and contracting programs.

Currently, she is assigned to SBA's Houston District Office as a Business Opportunity Specialist (BOS). Ms. Benson responsibilities include: promoting SBA programs and services through outreach and marketing; the recruitment, training, education and development of small businesses interested in doing business with federal, state, and local government entities. She also consults small businesses and works with SBA's Procurement Center, and Commercial Market, Representatives (PCRs/CMRs) to identify the needs of government organizations and their primes/sub-contractors to assist them with meeting their small business goals, and engages in linking and matching the needs of those organizations to the capabilities of small businesses through business matchmaking and other outreach and marketing initiatives.





U.S. Small Business
Administration

Jesus Gomez
Business Opportunity Specialist, Houston District Office
US Small Business Administration

Mr. Jesus Gomez is a Business Opportunity Specialist with the Small Business Administration, Houston District Office. He is a degreed professional with over twenty-five years of business experience in the Houston/ Fort Bend area. His experience ranges from business banking to consulting small business owners. He has been with the SBA for 3 ½ years.



Currently as a Business Opportunity Specialist, reviews business plans, conducted mandatory annual compliance reviews, monitored compliance with non-8(a) Business Activity Targets, conducted eligibility determinations to ensure firms were eligible to receive 8(a) contracts, conducted annual site visits. Provide business development to 8(a) certified firms and small businesses, in the areas of marketing and financial analysis. Participates in outreach efforts to assure appropriate responsive to the needs of the acquisition and economic development communities.

He was also a Lender Relations Specialist with the SBA where he collaborated with public and private sector agencies, organizations, and individuals to ensure that identified under-served communities had knowledge and access to SBA and other federal, state, and community programs. Working with assigned lenders in the Houston District, he conducted outreach, training, education, development, lender recruitment, and consultation to small businesses.

Previously, Mr. Gomez was a Business Advisor with the Texas Gulf Coast Network Small Business Development Center, a position he held for over 14 years, his specialty was business advising which included, assisting clients with the loan application process and business development. Mr. Gomez also analyzed financial statements during the business loan-seeking process, interviewed principals, assisted with business research, and issued action plans and financial/business recommendations.



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Ann T. Young
Sr. Procurement Analyst
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Ann T. Young serves as the Senior Procurement Analyst for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District, a position she assumed in February 2022.

A 22-year veteran, Ms. Young is responsible for providing expert direction and advice to District elements, Branch Chiefs, and the Chief of Contracting in areas of acquisition planning, contractual strategy, and execution of acquisition programs. She develops and reviews management decisions affecting implementation and changes in the District's Contracting Division policies, procedures, and methodologies, to assure intended and consistent interpretation, application and compliance of procurement laws, regulations, policies, and procedures by the Galveston District.

Ms. Young provides analysis on evaluated cost and financial data contained for all types of contracts and recently served as the Sr. Procurement Analyst for the District's \$7B Construction Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) and \$900M AE MATOC. Additionally, Ms. Young serves as the District liaison for Galveston District and Southwestern Division (SWD)-Senior Contracting Official (SCO) for all matters concerning coordination of pre-award, post-award and other transaction approvals requiring senior level approval.

Prior to accepting her current position, Ms. Young served the USACE Omaha District as a Procurement Analyst in the Business Oversight Branch, Lead Contracting Officer for the Acquisition Support Team, and Contracting Officer and Team Lead for the District's Military Construction and Architectural/Engineering Branch where she awarded and administered construction and service contracts in support of the District's area of responsibility. Ms. Young was the Lead Contracting Officer responsible for simultaneously overseeing all A&E and Construction contracts in support of the Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha NE, Flood Recovery and Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, SD, B-21 Beddown programs valued at \$2.5B while serving as the Procuring Contracting Officer for the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Command and Control Facility (C2F) replacement project located on Offutt AFB, Omaha NE.

She has been a USACE employee since 2012. Her background consists of extensive experience within the Corps of Engineers, Air Force and Missile Defense Agency. In addition to her permanent role with Galveston, Ms. Young has fulfilled multiple developmental assignments at USACE HQ including Sr. Procurement Analyst for SCO-Atlanta and SCO-Alexandria and most recently served as Deputy Chief of the Contracting Division and Chief of the Business Oversight Branch for the Galveston District.

She is a graduate of the University of North Dakota where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Public Relations and completed her Masters in International Business at the University of Phoenix, AZ. Ms. Young is Level III certified in the Contracting Career Field, a member of the Army Acquisition Corp and serves as a USACE Learning Center instructor for both Design-Build Construction and Construction Contract Administration courses. Ms. Young is a recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal.





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Bernice Taylor
Programs Management Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Bernice Taylor is the Program Management Chief for the US Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District.

Her career began in the Huntington District, US Army Corps of Engineers in 2000 working for the Water Quality Section, Water Resources Branch. She began managing the Water Quality sampling contract and the sampling program for the local selective withdraw lakes. Bernice came to the Galveston District in 2007 and quickly found her way into the heart of the District, Programs. During her twelve years of working various roles in the department, she found her niche, specifically in Project Scheduling. As the Scheduling Chief, Bernice worked on high profile projects such as the Houston Ship Channel Feasibility Study, Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, and the Coastal TX project. Her knowledge of Project Scheduling and successfully managing a team easily set her up to transition into her current leadership role as the Programs Management Chief.



In her current role, Bernice provides responses to inquiries from leaders at multiple levels in order to administer, support, and defend the Galveston program. Those requests include inquiries for information from headquarters, effects statements from congressional members to assess the impact of proposed legislation, clarification and justification of current and future budget packages and requirements, as well as additional information on the current status of the projects, and funding analysis and requirements. To ensure the most accurate information is shared, Bernice authenticates Programs data quality is in accordance with all prescribed policies, guidelines, and supporting implementation of Programs and Project Management Information Systems. To best provide this information, fostering and facilitating good relationships and concise messaging with Co-Branch and Division Chiefs in other departments is required and executed.

Bernice has created a positive work environment for the staff of Programs Management that fosters inclusion, respect, kindness, and ingenuity. She maintains clear communication, encourages collaboration, and shares her passion for the USACE civil works mission. Bernice continues to conduct and provide training and support to section chiefs and junior team members on good leadership, programs guidance, and communication.

Bernice is a native of Houston, TX, and she earned a degree in business administration in 2001. When she is not at work you can find her spending time with family, hiking, camping, and doing DIY projects.



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Elizabeth McCarty, PMP
Senior Project Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Elizabeth McCarty currently serves as Senior Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District (SWG) Project Management Branch.

She oversees the Houston Ship Channel as well as the District's two Plant Replacement and Improvement Projects (PRIP) - the Corpus Christi Joint Resident and Regulatory Joint Field Office (CCJRRFO) and the Ft. Point Operation and Maintenance Building. She is responsible for the overall management, control, coordination, and execution of each project. As the PM, she controls and manages contract milestones and budgets from initiation through construction.

In addition to her role as a PM, McCarty is a Mission Manager for the Critical Public Facilities Team for SWG, having been deployed twice in support of the Maui Wildfires, building the West Maui Temporary School. During her deployment in November 2023 McCarty was awarded the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for her role in support of the wildfires. The project won the Construction Management Association of America 2024 Project of the Year.

McCarty began her career in Hamilton, Mississippi, as a project engineer for Kerr McGee Chemicals Titanium Dioxide Plant in 1993. Soon thereafter, she transitioned into a production manager role within the Oxidation Unit. In 1998, she moved to Orange, Texas, as an Area Engineer in the Nylon Division for E.I. DuPont. McCarty took a leave of absence to raise her family before returning to a career as an educator in League City, Texas, where she taught mathematics, physics, chemistry, and engineering at the secondary level, also working closely with NASA supporting their High Schools United with NASA Creating Hardware (HUNCH) program.

McCarty started her USACE career in July 2022 as a project engineer on the Sabine to Galveston (S2G) Orange Project for the Hurricane Flood Risk Reduction (HFRR) Branch before being assigned as Project Engineering Section Team Lead. She was awarded the Civilian Service Achievement Medal in June 2023 for improving work accountability, productivity, and transparency. In April 2024, McCarty transitioned to Project Management Branch. She was awarded the 2025 SWG PPMD Project Manager of the Year.

Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University, a Postbaccalaureate Degree in Secondary Mathematics from University of Houston – Clear Lake, a Master of Education in Teacher Leadership from Lamar University and is pursuing a Master of Construction Management from Texas A&M University. She received her Engineer in Training Certification (EIT) in March 2023 and her Project Management Professional Certification (PMP) in February 2025. She is a class of 2025 graduate of the USACE Leadership Development II Program, holds USACE Projects and Programs Management Level 1 Certification and multiple Commander recognitions.

She is the mother of two daughters, Jessica and Elyse. Elizabeth loves to travel, having been to twenty-eight countries, thirty-one states, and six of the seven continents. She is a professional photographer and enjoys spending time with her girls and her dog.





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Belynda Kinman Acting Chief, Operations Division U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District

Belynda Kinman serves as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District's Operations Division Acting Chief of the Operations Division where he currently oversees the Operations and Maintenance of the Galveston District's Navigation and Flood Risk Management programs.

Prior to this position she held the position of Deputy Chief of Operations/Chief of Navigation Branch a position she has held from December 19, 2021 to June 2025 where she managed the Navigation Operations and Maintenance program of the District. This program includes 1,000 miles of deep- and shallow-draft Federal navigation channels within Coastal Texas, including: maintenance dredging of 25-30 million cubic yards of dredged material and various associated marine construction activities.

From 2016-2021, she worked as an Operations Manager with the Navigation Branch. During this time, Mrs. Kinman managed several Deep-Draft and Shallow Draft Federal Navigation Projects that entailed producing maintenance dredging contracts, placement/disposal levee improvement contracts and managing each project's budget.

Prior to coming to the Corps, she worked in the private industry for a large dredging contractor for almost 6 years. Her dredging background had a primary focus on production and estimation for Hoppers and Pipeline dredges, but also includes land and hydrographic surveys. During her time in the private industry, Belynda traveled full time, working on and around dredges on all U.S. coasts. She has worked on the contractor side of projects for most USACE districts that administer large dredging contracts.

Mrs. Kinman received her Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M University in 2010.





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Erin Williams

**Acquisition Program Manager
Mega Programs Division
Galveston District, USACE**



Erin Williams is an Acquisition Program Manager in Mega Programs Division in Galveston District. In this role, Ms. Williams manages the acquisition planning, schedule, and base contract procurement for new and replacement contractual vehicles in support of Galveston District, Southwestern Division, and its customers and stakeholders.

Ms Williams has 20 years of experience in acquisition, procurement, and program management with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has worked on Border Infrastructure, Veteran Administration Construction, Military Construction, and Civil Works while with district offices in Galveston, Fort Worth, and Omaha.

Ms. Williams started her USACE career in 2001 with the Omaha District. Prior to joining the USACE, served in the US Army Reserve while in college and deployed to Iraq in 2003 - 2004. Ms. Williams earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from Excelsior University.

Ms. Williams received a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in 2024, a Department of the Army Commanders Award for Civilian Service in 2011 and the Department of the Army Commanders award for Public Service in 2009.