



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Memphis District

---

# News Release

---

Release No.

PA-04-14A

Contact:

Jim Pogue

---

For Release:

Immediately

Phone: 901-544-4109 (office)

---

## **Butte High School graduate takes command of Army Corps of Engineers in Memphis**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 28, 2004 – Col. Charles “Charlie” O. Smithers III, a 1975 graduate of Butte High School, assumed command of the Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a ceremony held in Memphis, Tenn., on July 13. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Smithers Jr., (Owen and Elva) of Butte.

Prior to taking command of the Memphis District, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Chief of Staff, C7 (Engineer) for the Third U.S. Army, “Patton’s Own,” and Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Atlanta, Ga. As the C7, he deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from October 2002 through July 2003 for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, where he synchronized Coalition Forces engineering efforts across the Land Component Commander’s area of operations.

In his present assignment as Memphis District Commander and District Engineer, he is responsible for flood control, navigation and environmental protection on 355 miles of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, covering a 25,000 square mile area between Cairo, Ill., and Rosedale, Miss.

-MORE-

Smithers/2-2-2-2

Smithers entered the Army in 1979 after graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He also holds a master's degree in industrial engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a master's degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. In addition, he is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Ranger Tab/Parachutist Badge, the Joint Meritorious Unit and Army Superior Unit Awards.

Smithers is married to Dr. Maureen Arendt Smithers of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis, and they have one daughter, Elizabeth.