



## **Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety**

**Ms. Connie K. DeWitte**

Ms. DeWitte began serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety on September 24, 2001.

From 1994-2001 she was Chief of the Safety and Occupational Health Office for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a major command of the U.S. Army. She successfully advocated maximum leadership for and command-wide commitment to safety and occupational health, in this 37,000 person, high-hazard exposure organization. During her tenure the accident rate was reduced by fifty per cent. The Fiscal Year 2000 employee lost time rate of .81 incidents per 100 worker years denotes a remarkable breakthrough of the psychological barrier of one incident per 100 worker years. This rate is half that of most military organizations (twice as good). Chief of Staff, Army, presented four safety awards to the organization over the past five years.



She served from 1990-1994 at the Pentagon in the Army Safety Office, an office of the Chief of Staff, Army. She was responsible for developing Army-wide policy in radiation, range, nuclear reactor, explosives, transportation, joint exercise, and system safety, and automated information systems development. She successfully integrated safety concerns into planning, operations, logistics, and personnel policy.

Ms. DeWitte began her Department of Defense safety career in 1975, building a solid technical foundation as an Army safety and occupational health intern, then specialist, during a decade with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colorado. She provided expertise for tactical field exercises at the National Training Center and for Return-of-Forces-to-Germany exercises. She was named Fort Carson Employee of the Year in 1982.

From 1985-1988 she served as Safety and Occupational Health Manager, U.S. Army Support Command, Hawaii, at Fort Shafter. She transformed a laissez-faire safety program into a viable, dynamic, highly visible program, widely respected throughout the command. During her three-year tenure the accident rate was reduced thirty per cent.

Ms. DeWitte served a year at the U.S. Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama, managing world-wide safety inspections of major commands for Headquarters, Department of the Army, and publishing the Army's five-year plan for safety.

In 1999 she completed a four-month professional development assignment with Force Protection, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Environmental Security.

Ms. DeWitte, a Minnesota native, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and French from the University of Minnesota and was an exchange student to Germany. She received a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University, Pentagon Campus in 1993. She attended the Federal Executive Institute in 1995. Awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service.