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Robert Ray Holmes, Jr. was born in Harrisburg, Illinois on May 31, 1965. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and 1989 with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering. He began work with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in January 1987 in the Missouri District and conducted research and investigations of flood hydrology, river hydraulics, and sediment transport. He transferred with the USGS to the Illinois District, located in Urbana, in July 1994 and concurrently began study in the Environmental Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering Ph.D. program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his time in the Illinois District, Robert has served in many capacities for the USGS including Surface Water Technical Specialist, Chief of the Hydrologic Data Collection and Analysis Section, and since January 1999, in his current capacity as Chief of the Illinois District, Water Resources Discipline (WRD). In this capacity, he manages and directs all WRD field operations and research in Illinois. He has authored numerous papers and reports on such topics as sediment transport, river hydraulics, rainfall-runoff modeling, and floods. He is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Missouri. Robert is a member of Sigma Xi Research Society, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honorary, Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honorary, Phi Kappa Phi Honorary, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Past-President of the Mid-Missouri Section of ASCE.