



News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District Hurricane Mission Developing

ST. LOUIS – The St. Louis District, Army Corps of Engineers is assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in obtaining aerial imagery of 11,800 square miles of Hurricane Katrina impacted areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. A \$1.4 million task order was awarded today for the work, which is being coordinated by the St. Louis District's Technical Center of Expertise for Photogrammetric Mapping.

Contractor planes will fly daily imagery collection missions, which are dependent on weather, daylight and access, over the next several weeks. Imagery will be available 24 hours after collection. Imagery will be provided to FEMA, the States of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division and St. Louis District, as well as the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center and others. The imagery will be used to determine the magnitude and extent of hurricane damage. It will also provide assistance in determining requirements for the debris, temporary roofing and housing missions, as well as an accurate depiction of water inundation, environmental issues and other structural damage.

The St. Louis District is coordinating with the Mississippi Valley Division and New Orleans District staff to determine the level of assistance New Orleans needs with its civil works mission. New Orleans District has the largest civil works mission in the Division, roughly \$400 million. St. Louis is prepared to support its sister district with fiscal year 2005 financial management; lock operations, dredging and other navigation related issues; execution and management of construction contracts; planning and programs assistance and any other areas designated as high priorities for New Orleans.

So far the District has deployed 21 employees to emergency response staging areas in Louisiana and Mississippi. The District was notified Wednesday of a \$3 million temporary roofing mission for the State of Mississippi. Five employees from the District's Temporary Roofing Planning and Response Team forward deployed last weekend and the remaining four team members departed for Mississippi today.

The District's Roofing Team is responsible for initiating the contract for temporary roofs, acquiring Rights of Entry from homeowners, and providing quality control while temporary roofs are placed over damaged homes. Currently damage assessments in Mississippi are ongoing, and the team is pre-positioning supplies and working to locate a forward operating office. Quality assurance personnel will be deploying in the near future to coordinate temporary roof installments by the contractor.

Navigation and channel condition updates can now be accessed through the Mississippi Valley Division's website for Hurricane Katrina: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chur.htm>. Click on the 'Navigation' link. Recent press releases and Q&As are also available at this site. Media inquiring about the status of navigation or the Corps' emergency recovery response can call 601-631-5328.