



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

St. Louis District®

# News Release

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## **St. Louis District Coordinates post-Rita Imagery Collection and Helps Restore pre-Katrina Protection in New Orleans**

ST. LOUIS – The St. Louis District, Army Corps of Engineers has issued a \$1.4 million task order to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in obtaining aerial imagery of 12,000 square miles of Hurricane Rita-impacted areas in Louisiana and Texas. The task order is being coordinated by the District's Technical Center of Expertise for Photogrammetric Mapping, which recently coordinated a similar mission that successfully obtained aerial imagery of 11,800 square miles of Hurricane Katrina-impacted areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Starting today, the contractor, 3001 Inc., will fly daily missions until all imagery is collected. The flights are dependent on weather, daylight and access. The imagery will be provided to FEMA, the respective states, the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Corps' Vicksburg District. The imagery will help identify the extent and magnitude of the hurricane damage. It will also provide assistance in determining requirements for the debris, temporary roofing and temporary housing missions.

St. Louis District Engineer Col. Lewis F. Setliff III arrived in New Orleans yesterday to lead initial long-term levee recovery efforts. A press release issued today by staff in New Orleans announced the establishment of his team – dubbed Task Force Guardian. The team consists of 19 St. Louis District employees and a larger contingent of New Orleans District personnel.

“The restoration of the levee system will be done by the New Orleans District project managers,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division commander. “Each project manager has been hand picked for their position. They are among the best and brightest who have a stake in providing the best flood protection for their families and neighbors.”

Col. Setliff said, “Many of the people in my St. Louis contingent remember well how their New Orleans colleagues came to St. Louis in our time of greatest need, during 1993's Great Midwest Flood. They stood shoulder to shoulder with St. Louis and we're here to repay that debt. We will stay as long as they need us.” New Orleans is expected to take over the mission once its work force is reconstituted.

To date the St. Louis District has 90 people deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. The majority of employees are assisting with the FEMA-directed missions of debris removal and temporary roofing.

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Editor's Note: For additional information related to Task Force Guardian, or to receive the press release referenced above, media can contact Alan Dooley at 504-862-2201 or Alan.J.Dooley@mvs02.usace.army.mil