

Division Commander receives leadership award

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 28, 2007 - Brigadier General Robert Crear, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, was presented with the Distinguished Leadership in Critical Infrastructure Resilience (Public Sector) award this morning by The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) at their annual conference in Arlington., Va..

The TISP Annual Award for Distinguished Leadership in Critical Infrastructure Resilience recognizes the exceptional leadership of an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to Critical Infrastructure Resilience. Two awards are presented each year, one for outstanding contributions in the public sector and one in private industry.

Brig. Gen. Crear assumed command of the Mississippi Valley Division June 23, 2004. As MVD Commander, he is responsible for a \$7.5 billion civil works program. In addition, he plays a vital role in managing the Corps water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley.

Currently, Gen. Crear is also serving as Commander of Task Force Hope. Task Force Hope is the designation given to the division's effort in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national response plan to Hurricane Katrina. Task Force Hope is among the largest disaster recovery operations in the history of the Corps of Engineers. Gen. Crear oversaw the removal of 224 billion gallons of water that flooded New Orleans, and is now overseeing the repair and restoration of the hurricane protection system in New Orleans, which will ensure a better and stronger system of protection for the residents of south Louisiana.

The boundaries of the Mississippi Valley Division extend from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, include portions of 12 states, and encompass 370,000 square miles. The programs and activities overseen by the MVD and MRC are conducted by six district offices located in St. Paul, Minn., Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Tenn., Vicksburg, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

TISP defines "Critical Infrastructure" as systems, facilities and assets so vital that if destroyed or incapacitated would disrupt security, the economy, public health, safety or welfare of the public. Critical infrastructure may cross political boundaries and may be built (such as structures, energy, water, transportation and communications systems); natural (such as surface or groundwater resources); or virtual (such as cyber, electronic data, and information systems).

"Resilience" refers to the capability to prevent or protect against significant, multi-hazard threats and incidents, and to expeditiously recover and reconstitute critical services with minimum damage to public safety and health, the economy and national security.

TISP, a national public-private partnership, promotes collaboration to improve the resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure against the adverse impacts of natural and man-made disasters.