

Dear Mr. Southern:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Cairo, Illinois, on March 4, 2002. In your statement you expressed the desire for the Corps to join your organization in communication exercises to utilize satellite communication capability in preparation for its use following a catastrophic disaster.

The Memphis District will contact you to see if the technology can be integrated to allow such exercises to occur. The Chief of the Memphis District's Telecommunications Branch has already begun to make some initial inquiries to see if the capability exists. We agree that communications between our office, other Corps offices, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, and the Delta Center would be advantageous to responders after a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

The Commission thanks you for the update you provided regarding your facility's further enhancements. It is still our intent to utilize the Delta Center in our New Madrid Catastrophic Disaster Response Plan. As you know, this plan assigns specific responsibilities for the state of Missouri to the Kansas City District. The Kansas City District's current draft plan incorporates the Delta Center as an emergency field office.

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We appreciate the diligence you have shown in natural disaster preparedness and response. The Commission looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission