



News Release

**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Mississippi Valley Division

cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

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Contact: Bobbie Galford

Phone: 601-634-5760

Mississippi Valley Division Corps of Engineers

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Vicksburg, Miss., December 20, 1999 -- All U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), major systems associated with the critical operations of navigation, hydropower and water control will successfully undergo the year 2000 (Y2K) transition.

"Through top level command support and the dedicated efforts of our people, the Mississippi Valley Division's Y2K sensitive infrastructure is positioned well to enter the new millennium," said Jim Waller, Director of Information Management at MVD.

Confidence in this success is due to extensive system testing and evaluation carried out over the past eighteen months as a part of the Corps' comprehensive action plan, developed in accordance with the Department of the Army's Year 2000 Action Plan.

The plan included extensive technological evaluation and established redundant safeguards in many crucial systems. All Division employees associated with these operations have been trained in emergency preparedness procedures to ensure our navigation, hydropower and water control systems operate effectively and efficiently in the event of computer failure.

In addition, the Division will have its Emergency Operations Center actively monitoring all infrastructure systems through the millennium change. If any disruptions should occur, this posture should minimize any impacts and assure a prompt response. "A plan has been developed that requires key members of the

Crisis Management Team to contact the EOC at a specified time in the event a disaster strikes and normal communications has been disrupted," said Jerry Smith, Deputy Chief of Readiness Branch.

Systems associated with safe navigation on the Mississippi River can be maintained manually. Division navigation systems will continue to operate on January 1 because they do not incorporate embedded processors. Locks and dams can be controlled by onsite generators and all communications between river traffic and lockmasters are wireless.

Division hydropower facilities are also able to operate manually by on-site staff who are able to carry out functions performed by computers. The Division has teamed with its partners to ensure that electricity produced by Corps facilities will not be affected by possible Y2K complications.

Regional and municipal water control systems can be maintained indefinitely by on-site staff. These systems, which generate information used in navigation, flood damage reduction, hydropower generation and water control, have been determined to contain no technical complications in their embedded processors.