



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

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## MVD prepares for Ivan

Vicksburg, Miss., September 15, 2004 - In anticipation of Hurricane Ivan making landfall along the north-central Gulf Coast, the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, based in Vicksburg, Mississippi, began preparations Monday to support hurricane response operations. As the intensity and actual landfall of Ivan become clearer, one of the first steps in the process has been to activate the Emergency Operations Center to a 24/7 extended-hours operation.

"Right now, we are tracking the path of Ivan," said David Sills, acting Chief of the MVD Emergency Operations Center. "MVD has over 100 personnel still deployed supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recovery operations for Hurricanes Charley and Frances, so we've got a good idea how tough this mission will be if Ivan hits the Mississippi or Louisiana Gulf Coast."

"The South Atlantic Division of the Corps is currently engaged with response and recovery operations after the landfalls of Hurricane Charley and Frances," said Sills. "No matter where Hurricane Ivan makes landfall, volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers around the nation will respond to the call."

"I am proud of our employees and their spirit of service in a time a need," said Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division commander. "Team members are all volunteers, some of whom have just recently returned from service in Iraq."

With an excess of 800 Corps personnel already deployed in Florida, it will require an even larger contingent of Corps personnel to support response operations if Ivan comes ashore in our area of responsibility as a Category 4 or 5 hurricane.

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And while still not knowing what path Ivan will settle on, MVD planners are not standing by and guessing what assets will be needed. MVD has teams that are trained and ready to move into impacted areas with necessary support like ice, water, power and debris removal. The division is posturing elements of the response plan so that it can most quickly react either to a strike on New Orleans or other parts of the Gulf Coast.

"Teams from our six districts are trained, rehearsed and ready to move into the area with FEMA and state emergency management teams as soon as practical," said Crear. "We also want to make sure our employees and their families are safe while providing continuity of operations."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities: the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99, as amended) and the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended). Under the Stafford Act, the Corps supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency in carrying out the Federal Response Plan, which calls on 26 Federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations.

The Mississippi Valley Division has a primary role in support of the Federal Response Plan. The plan describes the basic structure by which the federal government will mobilize resources and conduct response and recovery activities to assist states and local governments in coping with the consequences of significant natural or man-made disasters, to include terrorist events.

Within this plan, the Department of Defense has designated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the primary agency for planning, preparedness and response under the Emergency Support Function #3, Public Works and Engineering. The type of assistance provided by the Corps includes restoration of critical public services and facilities, including supply of adequate amounts of potable water and ice, temporary restoration of water supply systems, provision of temporary emergency electrical power, temporary emergency housing, structural evaluation of buildings and damage assessment, and clearance, removal, and disposal of debris.

### IVAN/3-3-3

The Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for emergency preparedness and developing plans for all hazards response. In addition, each of its six districts has a specific primary mission assignment for execution in support of FEMA under the Federal Response Plan. These missions are executed by a Planning and Response Team trained specifically for the assigned mission. These teams may respond within the Mississippi Valley Division or may be deployed anywhere worldwide.

MVD includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The district offices that conduct the programs and activities overseen by the Mississippi Valley Division are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.