



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
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cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

Phone: 601-634-5760

Chief of Engineers Visits Mississippi Valley Division, Engineer Research Development Center and 412th Engineer Command

Vicksburg, Miss., October 18, 2004 – Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commander of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), visits the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Headquarters today for a Townhall meeting with MVD staff members and additional briefings on a wide array of projects and issues relating to the Mississippi Valley and its watershed.

Strock, the 51st Chief of Engineers is responsible for all Corps of Engineer projects globally including support to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). This is his first visit to Vicksburg since taking command in July. His primary focus is to talk with employees about the on-going transformation of the Corps and the Corps' warfighting support mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"With the broad issues affecting USACE today ranging from the GWOT to transformation, having the Chief take time out of his busy schedule to visit is important for the valley," said Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division Commander and President-Designee of the Mississippi River Commission. "He is a great advocate of listening to the members of his command, and his Townhall meetings are an important venue for him to pulse the workforce on their issues and concerns."

Besides meeting with employees during the townhall, Strock will receive briefings on several critical projects that have national impact like the Upper Mississippi Valley – Illinois Waterway Navigation Feasibility Study and the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study.

Following Strock's visit with MVD, he will meet with the Director of the Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC) for senior staff meetings and conduct a town hall meeting with ERDC personnel. Following that session, he will meet tomorrow with the 412 Engineer Command for their semi-annual Training Brief.

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The Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for Corps water resources programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans.