



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division/  
Mississippi River Commission  
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## Mississippi River Commission hosts open house

VICKSBURG, Miss., April 7, 2005 – Wednesday, April 20, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River Commission (MRC) will host two open house events in celebration of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Open houses for the public will be held at the Mississippi River Commission Building and onboard the Motor Vessel *Mississippi* from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Visitors will be given introductory briefings followed by tours that highlight the commission's work in the Mississippi valley.

The Mississippi River Commission Building is located at 1400 Walnut Street in downtown Vicksburg immediately across from City Hall. The structure, regarded as the finest example of Romanesque architecture in the state of Mississippi, serves as headquarters for the Mississippi River Commission/ Mississippi Valley Division.

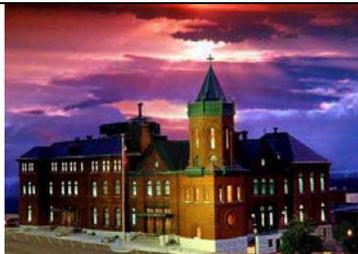
The Motor Vessel *Mississippi* will be docked at Vicksburg City Front at the foot of Clay Street. The *Mississippi* serves as an inspection boat and workboat for the commission. Based in Memphis, Tenn., more than 90 percent of the vessel's time is spent as a working towboat for the Corps' Memphis District. The vessel will be in Vicksburg April 20 serving as a public meeting venue for the commission's annual high-water inspection trip.

The commission conducts inspection trips on the Mississippi River during the high-water season each spring and during the low-water season each summer or fall.

## 2-2-2/125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. Three of the organization's members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the Commission include recommendation of policy and work programs, the study of and reporting upon the necessity for modifications or additions to the flood control and navigation project, recommendation upon any matters authorized by law, and making semi-annual inspection trips. The duties of the Commission include the entire length of the Mississippi River from its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to Head of Passes, La., where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico.



**Mississippi River Commission Building, 1400 Walnut Street**



**Motor Vessel Mississippi V**