



News Release

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General Crear addresses Nuclear Station employees

VICKSBURG, MISS., June 3, 2005 -- Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, addressed more than 200 Grand Gulf Nuclear Station employees Tuesday, May 31, at the plant's all-hands meeting to discuss its upcoming fall refueling outage. Gen. Crear spoke to the station's employees about teamwork and being a Soldier in the United States Army.

"Today, virtually all organizations are under tremendous pressure to improve their performance, in order to gain a competitive edge and survive," said Crear. "... and the most consistently successful strategy to improve performance has proven to be, not some new management "flavor of the month," but the use of teams and teamwork."

During his presentation, Gen. Crear showed various pictures of Soldiers currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan ... somber pictures of memorial services; pictures that communicated how very young our Army's Soldiers are; pictures identifying the less-than-ideal conditions under which Soldiers must function; and pictures bearing witness to the teamwork and closeness that automatically comes with being a member of the Army family.

Crear also spoke about how he spent Memorial Day ... over a hot grill, barbequing ... but he also attended the city of Vicksburg's Memorial Day program, commemorating the many Soldiers who have lost their lives for our freedom. He believes we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we can live free. "We can start to pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did and what they stood for," Crear added.

During his remarks, Gen. Crear posed the question: What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country?

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"The answer is values," he stated. "The proud legacy of our Army - and our country - is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These values made the Army strong. Carried with us over the threshold of history into the new millennium, these values will keep this nation strong."

While at the nuclear station, Gen. Crear was given a tour of the plant. The tour route included a visit to the Turbine building, Spent Fuel Pool, Control Pods, Control Room Viewing Gallery and the Containment building. During the tour, General Crear had the opportunity to see first hand the control panels that station operators use to monitor plant performance.

Crear stated that he was very impressed with the plant's security defenses, both at the entrance gates and on site. "I have traveled all over the world and have been through many airport metal detectors, but I've never been through a detector quite as sensitive as Grand Gulf's," Crear said, as he was asked to remove his dog tags. "I've never had to remove them at any of the airports."

Grand Gulf personnel participating in the tour included: Dub Barfield, outage manager; Mike Renfroe, technical assistant to director of engineering; and Timothy Crisler, corporate communications specialist.

The Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for the 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, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La. The presidentially appointed Mississippi River Commission is responsible for the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries flood control and navigation project.



Brig. Gen. Robert Crear is given a tour of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station by Dub Barfield, outage manager.