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Brigadier General Robert Crear honored



VICKSBURG, Miss., February 22, 2006 – Brigadier General Robert Crear, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, received two awards February 18 at the 20th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference held in Baltimore, Md.

First, Gen. Crear was honored by U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology magazine as one of its 100 Most Important Blacks in Technology for 2006.

The magazine's honorees represented the top echelons of technology, business, education and government and were selected because of their significant professional contributions. Gen. Crear was one of eight recognized in the government category.

Second, Gen. Crear was recognized with the 2006 Black Engineer of the Year Alumni Achievement Award, presented by the Corps' Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock. Crear was recognized for his significant contributions to the engineering profession. In 2004, Crear received the Black Engineer of the Year Award for professional achievement in government.

In presenting the award, Gen. Strock noted that in the past three years, Gen. Crear led reconstruction efforts for two of the largest and most difficult missions the Corps has faced - leading the efforts to extinguish oil fires during Operation Iraqi Freedom (which also included the monumental effort to restore the Iraqi oil system for the people of Iraq) and directing a two billion dollar effort on the Gulf Coast in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency following Hurricane Katrina.

Strock added that Gen. Crear "also oversaw the removal of 224 billion gallons of water that flooded New Orleans, and is now leading the repair and restoration of the hurricane protection system in New Orleans."

Brig. Gen. Crear assumed command of the Mississippi Valley Division June 23, 2004. As MVD Commander, Crear is responsible for a \$5.3 billion civil works program. In addition, he plays a vital role in managing the Corps water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley.

The boundaries of the Mississippi Valley Division extend from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, include portions of 12 states, and encompass 370,000 square miles. The programs and activities overseen by the MVD and MRC are conducted by six district offices located in St. Paul, Minn., Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Tenn., Vicksburg, Miss., and New Orleans, La. Currently, he is also serving as Commander of Task Force Hope. TF Hope is the designation given to the division's effort in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national response plan to Hurricane Katrina. Engaging more than 3,800 personnel at its peak, TF Hope is among the largest disaster recovery operations in the history of the Corps of Engineers.