

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Crear addresses junior highs Touts Black History Month**

VICKSBURG, MISS., February 27, 2007 -- Brig. Gen Robert Crear, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, was the key-note speaker at Port Gibson High School celebrating Black History Month.

Crear, a Vicksburg native, is the first African-American to hold the position of commander at MVD in its history. "The rank and the position is a manifestation of the dream, but by no means paints a picture of the path or responsibility that brought me to this rank and position. I certainly didn't get here by myself," said Crear. "I know that I would not be standing here before you today, a Brigadier General in the United States Army, if not for people taking time to teach and mentor. I am a testament to, and living proof of, "The Reality of the Dream," said Crear.

Crear told the students the real heroes in his life watched over him as he grew up and ensured that they collectively and individually had a better life, a dream, and worked toward a common goal. These ordinary people, who accomplished extraordinary deeds, were his teachers.

Crear held a captive audience and answered questions at the end of the program.

"The general was great," said Jamel Dagher, a seventh grader from Warren Central Junior High. "He taught us this word, "Hooah", which they use in the military. It means positive things," said Dagher.

Crear told the students that it meant anything but "no".

"Gen. Crear told us that the reason we have Black History Month is so we won't forget what all these people have done for us," said Dagher. "I now realize why we have this great month," he continued.

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