

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

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Division Commander heads to Minnesota

VICKSBURG, Miss., August 3, 2007 -- In response to the I-35W bridge collapse over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn., a team from the Mississippi Valley Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, led by Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, departed today for Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Once on the ground General Crear will be the senior Army representative operating in the area. The team is there to assist all local, state and federal response agencies by offering equipment and expertise to assist in recovery operations such as the Corps' barge-mounted cranes, boats and structural engineers, as well as to observe the assistance provided thus far by the men and women of the St. Paul District to the recovery efforts.

Corps employees based in St. Paul have been working closely with emergency responders who used Corps boats and the Corps' Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock for the initial search and rescue operations.

At this point, there is no formal request for assistance from the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation or the federal Dept. of Transportation, but communication and offers of assistance between the Corps and these agencies is occurring.

The St. Paul District, commanded by Col. Jon Christensen, is one of the six Corps districts under the Mississippi Valley Division.

The division is responsible for water resources engineering solutions in a 370,000-square-mile area, extending from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and encompassing portions of 12 states. Work is carried out by district offices located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

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