



# Media Advisory

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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October 15, 2010

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## **USACE, USGS hold regional Mississippi Basin leadership team meeting**

**St. Louis, MO..** *Oct. 15, 2010* – Four divisions of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and five regional offices of the U.S. Geological Survey – Central U.S. Directorate, held a Mississippi River Basin Joint Leadership meeting on Oct. 13 at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center.

The meeting's purpose was to explore opportunities for expanded regional collaboration and coordination between the USGS and USACE regarding work within the Mississippi River Basin, the third largest in the world. The increased emphasis on collaboration will include efforts to develop closer working relationships between regional senior leaders.

“Improving collaboration and communication between our agencies is the only option we have if we are going to improve our responsiveness to our customers and stakeholders,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division.

Since 2005, the USGS and USACE have held quarterly partnership meetings providing a regular forum to address interagency coordination at a national level. This is one of the first efforts to improve working relationships at the regional level.

“Increasing knowledge about our agency's regional missions will lead to better performance by USACE and the USGS,” said Bill Werkheiser, Associate Director for Water at USGS Headquarters.

Geographic areas of concern for USACE division offices are largely based on watershed boundaries, whereas USGS regional directorships are grouped by political state boundaries. Rather than hold individual regional level meetings with overlapping offices, this meeting has been expanded to cover the entire Mississippi River Watershed that encompasses four USACE Division Commands and four USGS Regional Offices.

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