



Suggested Remarks for Mr. Louis Carr, Technical Director, Mississippi Valley Division, at the Comparing Rivers Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, 7 November 2002

Good morning.

It is indeed a pleasure to be here today representing Brig. Gen. Don Riley and the Mississippi Valley Division. General Riley sends his regrets at not being able to attend and participate in this important conference.

The Corps' Mississippi Valley Division is responsible for water resources development and environmental programs along the entire Mississippi River. Our division boundary includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Our mission is to develop and maintain flood protection systems, navigation improvements, channel stabilization measures, as well as undertakings that preserve, restore, and enhance environmental resources.

The Corps' involvement in the water resources field began in 1824 by surveying and pulling snags from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The Mississippi River has always been a vital factor in the physical and economic growth of the United States. No river has played a greater part in the development and expansion of America. It is a major resource, a national asset, a giant river unequaled among American waters.

We at the Mississippi Valley Division are very proud of our past and the role the Corps has played in the history of this nation.

The Corps has made a strong commitment to preserving and exploring its past to strengthen understanding of the principles, values, concepts, and traditions inherent in our programs.

The point I'm trying to make, if I may repeat a portion of Gen. Flowers' message, is this: "The Corps of Engineers has a long history of effectively developing, managing, and protecting our nation's water resources."

And the Corps is happy to share with you what we've learned over the years.

Furthermore, as proud as we are of our past accomplishments and aspirations for the future, we are equally proud of the relationships that we've developed over the years.

These partnerships are very important to us. It is through conferences such as this, that we develop partnerships, and work toward common goals and objectives.

With this conference, we seek to strengthen international relations and enhance cooperation on the African continent that reinforces peace and prosperity.

In July of 2001 Lieutenant General Robert Flowers visited several African nations, one of which was Nigeria.

In Nigeria we established relations with several ministries -- one of which was the Ministry of Water Affairs.

This conference on comparing rivers is a prime example of our mutual good will, commitment to forge lasting relations, sharing of information, and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I hope you enjoy the rest of the conference.