

# Riverside

## Task Force Hope Edition

Issue 9, October 9, 2005

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### Photo of the Day



Col. Richard Wagenaar awarded Alison Hebert and Kathy Romero achievement medals for their hard work and dedication during the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. The two were support staff to the EOC and worked long hours to ensure everyone's needs were met. Both are employees at the Atchafalaya Basin Flood Way System in Port Barre, LA. (George Stringham photo)

## **Leave policy clarified for rest of the year**

In response to questions and concerns of employees affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, District Commander Richard P. Wagenaar has approved a special leave policy to address the unexpected conditions.

Army policy requires all employees to schedule and use their "use or lose" leave by the end of the leave year, Jan. 7, 2006. Wagenaar will review, on a case-by-case basis, instances where employees may be authorized to have up to 40 hours of leave reinstated.

"It is District policy that all employees be provided opportunity to use accrued "use or lose" annual leave before the end of the leave year," said Wagenaar. "The Corps will do everything it can to aid employees during this difficult time." Only employees who choose to do so, or who fail to schedule the leave far enough in advance, should lose leave at the end of 2005, Wagenaar added.

Supervisors are encouraged to check their departmental leave schedule for the remainder of the year to assure staffing needs are met and to make any necessary adjustments.

Lost annual leave may be restored only when the leave was:

- Scheduled in advance
- Cancelled by the supervisor in order to meet the requirements of the mission
- Approved in writing by the Commander prior to cancellation of the leave

## **Motor Vessel Mississippi arrives at District**

The flagship of the Mississippi Valley Division, the Motor vessel Mississippi, arrived at the District office on Saturday and will remain here for the next 30 days.

The ship has been serving as headquarters for Brig. Gen. Robert Crear and Task Force Hope since the start of the Army's Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

Today's Motor Vessel Mississippi, like her predecessors, serves a dual function. It serves as an inspection vessel for the Mississippi River Commission each spring and fall. The commission conducts a series of public meetings aboard the vessel at various river communities. It also serves as a towboat during the revetment season (mid July to the end of November). It is responsible for the movement of a variety of floating plant and barge loads of articulated concrete mattress in association with revetment operations.

## **Corps, Army & local agencies join forces to repair pumps**

Soldiers, contractors and Corps employees came together Friday to help the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board load two 22,000-pound motors onto a commercial trailer. The motors, from a pump station serving the 9th ward, were sent to a nearby plant in Arabi for repair.

Members from the 138th Field Artillery Brigade stationed at Lexington, Ken., the New Orleans District Port Allen crew and employees of the Sewerage and Water Board, came together to accomplish a task none of them could have handled alone.

The 138th Field Artillery Brigade provided a Palletized Load System, which was “the perfect vehicle to remove the pumps,” said Joseph Findley, a Seattle District employee working with local District employees. The PLS was able to transport the motors through as much as 14 inches of water and with the help of Corps cranes, the motors were loaded onto trucks for transport to the General Electric plant.

“Capt. Carl Oborski [with the 138th FA Brigade] made this happen such that we didn't need to wait for the unwatering,” said Arill Berg, also on load from Seattle District.

“If all goes well, the first motor will be returned to be placed back in service after a guaranteed '72-hour' turn around by General Electric,” said Findley. The contractor expects one of the motors to be ready and returned Tuesday morning, he added.

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Mississippi Valley Division Commander, was very pleased with the coordinated effort. “Thanks. Good work by all,” Crear said. “Total team effort.”

### **Key phone numbers for utilities, assistance**

Human Resources (504) 862-2791  
New Orleans District Emergency Operations Center (504) 862-1102  
FEMA Assistance (800) 621-FEMA  
FEMA Baton Rouge (225) 925-7500  
Consumer Help Line and Fraud Complaints (877) FTC-HELP  
Credit Unions and Credit Union Members (800) 827-6282 x4049  
Gas Gouging (800) 244-3301  
Louisiana School Information (877) 453-2721  
National Flood Insurance Program (800) 638-6620  
Family News Network (American Red Cross) (877) 568-3317  
Donation and Volunteer Line (877) 872-2677  
SPCA (Dogs) (225) 647-0712; (504) 733-8572  
Orleans Utility and other Information  
ENTERGY (800) 968-8243; (800) 368-3749  
ATMOS Gas (800) 692-4694  
New Orleans Police Department (504) 821-2222  
New Orleans Fire Department (504) 565-7800  
Public Works (504) 585-6844  
Sewerage & Water Board (504) 585-2000  
Blue Roof 888-ROOF-BLU Asphalt shingles only  
American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund (800) 435-7669  
Southeast Louisiana Red Cross (504) 587-1500

### **Information by Parish**

Jefferson (504) 349-5360

Orleans (504) 565-7200  
Plaquemines (504) 297-5500  
St. Bernard (504) 278-4268  
St. Charles (985) 783-5050  
St. John the Baptist (985) 652-2222  
St. Tammany (985) 898-2323

**Satellite office locations**

Fort Worth District  
Mike Palmieri (817) 886-1138  
819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, TX

Galveston District  
Clyde Barre (409) 762-6300  
2000 Ft. Point Rd, Galveston, TX

Mobile District  
Eric Forest (251) 690-2400  
109 Saint Joseph St., Mobile, AL

Vicksburg District  
(601) 631-5363  
4155 Clay St, Vicksburg, MS

Memphis District  
Melvin Ray (901) 544-0802  
617 N. Main, Memphis, TN

St. Louis District  
Falcolm Hull (314) 331-8567  
1222 Spruce St., St. Louis, MO

Baton Rouge RFO  
Mike Lowe (225) 925-7337  
1900 N Lobdell Blvd,  
Baton Rouge, LA

Lafayette Area Office  
Troy Constance (337) 291-3012  
646 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA