



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

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2007 Miss. River navigation maps released

Corps' new book is more compact, but features more information

NEW ORLEANS—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published the 2007 version of its Mississippi River Flood Control and Navigation Maps.

The cover makes it clear why this is the 62nd edition of the Lower Mississippi maps, picturing a 25-barge tow from the Midwest passing New Orleans' skyline, bound for the coal-export terminals downriver. The coal tow symbolizes the huge tonnages moved on the Big River from early in U.S. history, requiring many navigation and flood-control improvements, and thus map changes over the years.

“The Lower Mississippi from Baton Rouge to the Gulf serves America's largest-tonnage port complex, with four of the top 15 ports shoulder-to-shoulder,” said Ralph Scheid, the Corps' coordinator for the project.

The heart of the volume is 111 maps, as the cover says, “Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico/Mile 953 to Mile 0 A.H.P” (Above Head of Passes). It also maps 20 miles more down Southwest Pass to the sea buoy.”

The 2007 book is physically smaller and has more features than its 1998 predecessor, which has been out of print since January:

--Size is reduced to 11 by 17 inches from the previous 15 by 22 inches. Weight was reduced to 5½ pounds from 8¼ pounds.

--There is more information on riverside facilities, such as ports and industries, made possible by placing more material on reverse side of each page.

-- Many of the geographic features in the book were drawn from new, larger-scale aerial photography, adding richness of detail, to include many precise footprints of docks and river facilities.

--A new feature is added: The Corps' Road Access maps are reproduced as a new section. The access maps help mariners and others find routes to specific landings and access points to the river.

The maps are a joint project of the three Corps districts on the Lower Mississippi: Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans. It is on sale for \$22 on paper and also available on compact disc and (soon) on the Web sites of the three districts and on the USACE Mississippi Valley Division page: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/navigation.

"The 11 by 17 inch is a format that will make the maps more useful as well as easily printable from office laser printers," said Scheid, who is assistant chief of the Design Services Branch in the New Orleans District, which is responsible for surveying and mapping functions.

"It's easy to use in the office," Scheid said. "Users can pull them into Adobe Acrobat (software) to make changes for their particular needs."

The Corps will continually update this edition on the Web and CDs. "The river and its surroundings keep changing, so our maps must keep pace," Scheid said.

Where to obtain maps:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
Map Sales Office
167 N. Main Street
Memphis, TN 39103-1894
901-544-3351
www.mvm.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
Map Sales Office
4155 E. Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183
601-631-5042
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
District Library/Map Sales
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
504-862-1706
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/edsd/ordform.htm>

Port tonnage table

<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/wcsc/portton05.htm>

Cover of 2007 flood control/navigation map book

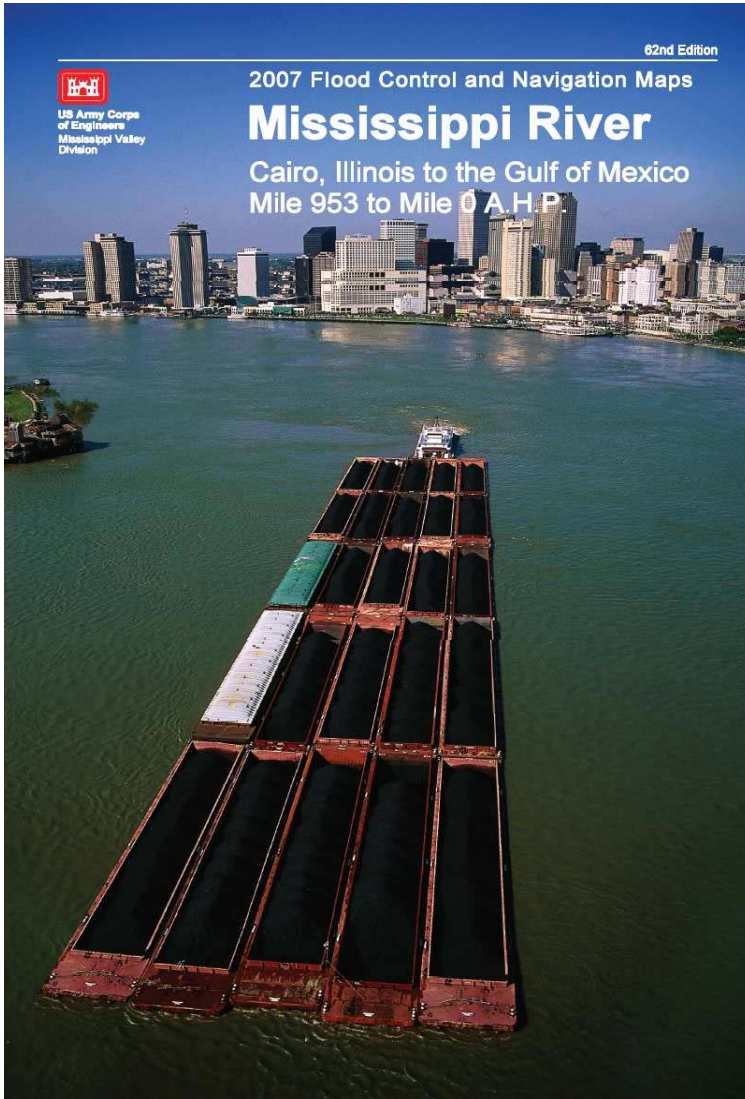


Figure 1: 2007 Mississippi River Navigation Book Cover