



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Media: For e-mail or hardcopy photos of Lt. Col. Lee, call 504-862-2201.

Lee tapped as N.O. District's 60th commander

NEW ORLEANS – Lt. Col. Alvin (Al) B. Lee has been named as the next New Orleans District commander and district engineer. Lee will be promoted to colonel in early June in Washington, D.C. Lee will officially take the reins on July 20, 2007, 10:30 a.m., in a formal change of command ceremony to be held at district headquarters.

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, division engineer, Mississippi Valley Division, and president of the Mississippi River Commission, will place the Corps of Engineers flag into Lee's hands at the ceremony. In military tradition, passing the flag represents the transfer of command.

Outgoing commander and district engineer, Col. Richard P. Wagenaar, will participate in the ceremony, which also marks his retirement from the U.S. Army.

In addition to overseeing the district's \$2.6 billion portion of the entire \$5.7 billion for the hurricane protection system already appropriated by Congress in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lee will be responsible for water resource development in the 30,000 square miles of south and coastal Louisiana that make up the New Orleans District. Projects under his jurisdiction will include over 2,800 miles of navigable waterways, among them the Mississippi River deepwater channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

Lee's responsibilities will include administration of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Flood Control Project, which includes the Bonnet Carre Spillway, Atchafalaya Basin, and 973 miles of levees and floodwalls along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.

Lee will also oversee construction of five hurricane protection projects and the execution of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project in Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. Lee will also serve as chairman of a multi-agency task force conducting a comprehensive program to restore and prevent the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990.

BIOGRAPHY



Lt. Col. Alvin (Al) B. Lee

Lt. Col. Lee most recently served as a Fellow in the Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows Program assigned to Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois.

Colonel Lee is a distinguished military graduate from Georgia Southern University and holds a masters degree in Engineering Management from St. Martins University. His military schooling includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

Other assignments include Operations Officer for 1st Battalion 50th Infantry Regiment, 36th Engineer Group Assistant Operations Officer and Ranger Support Element Operations Officer, and Instructor/Writer at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia; Deputy Resident Engineer, Alaska District Corps of Engineers, and Deputy Commander Forward, Rocky Mountain Area Office in Colorado Springs, Colorado with the Omaha District Corps of Engineers.

Other key command and staff positions include: Company Commander, 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized); Commander, Alaska Projects Office, Cold Regions Research Laboratory (CRREL); Battalion Executive Officer for the 10th Engineer Battalion, and as the Engineer Brigade Operations Officer, Third Infantry Division (Mechanized). He most recently commanded and was District Engineer for the Charleston District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Charleston, South Carolina; and he also served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom as the Deputy Commander for the Afghanistan Engineer District.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (5 OLC), and the Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC). He is a recipient of the Bronze de Fleury medal, and earned the Parachutist's Badge.