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# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Detroit District

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## Local Army Corps teams sent to help recovery and relief efforts following hurricane destruction

**DETROIT** – Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District have already deployed to help in the aid efforts following Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf of Mexico region.

Six Corps employees from Detroit left on a moments notice Saturday morning en route to Vicksburg, Mississippi to be pre-positioned in the area once the storm hit. When they arrived they went right to work in support of FEMA and the National Response Plan for the storm ravaged region.

Two of Detroit's top executives were also called to duty Wednesday to lead teams in what will probably be months of recovery and rebuilding efforts. The Detroit District Commander, Lt. Col. Donald P. Lauzon, and the district's top contracting officer, Wanda Carter-Davis will work on a joint task force for relief and recovery efforts in the affected region.

There are numerous other Detroit team members from various disciplines awaiting deployment to the Gulf of Mexico region to help support emergency response and recovery operations. These volunteers include structural engineers, biologists, economists, project managers, and construction inspectors.

The Corps is receiving many calls from contractors, members of the public and former employees willing to go to the region and provide expertise and assistance.

“We really appreciate the interest and support we are getting from members of the public and our contractor partners in the area,” says Gary Bailey, acting chief of the Detroit District Emergency Operations Center.

“However, the first step in the process is establishing support systems for our volunteers before we send them in. As time passes, we will have a clearer idea of the requirements and what processes we can use to meet those requirements,” Bailey says.

Locate additional information at: [www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil). The Detroit District will update information as soon as it is received from the headquarters office in Washington D.C., or from the division offices in the Gulf of Mexico/Mississippi River region.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District civil works program encompasses 82,000 square miles of land inhabited by about 14 million people in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio. The Corps operates and/or maintains 94 harbors. Its mission includes real estate transactions, flood control, regulatory activities, disaster response, and mobilization readiness.