



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Corps lays revetment in Algiers

Big fleet protects underwater bank with concrete-steel mats

Who. Media are invited to see the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' specialized fleet of 25 vessels laying revetment at Algiers Point, directly across the Mississippi River from the downtown New Orleans.

What. Revetment protects the underwater bank. By preventing erosion, it safeguards navigation and the levees. Revetment is made of 3-inch thick concrete, 4 feet wide, articulated by steel cables to produce a 25-foot mattress.

When/Where. Wednesday, November 17, 2004, 8:45 a.m. on the West Bank at Mississippi River bridges, Madison at De Armas Street. De Armas goes over levee. Head for the quarter boats, each over 500 feet long. Driving directions:

Visitors. Staff and commissioners of Port of New Orleans www.portno.com <<http://www.portno.com>> and members of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development <<http://www.dotd.state.la.us/intermodal/division/directory.shtml>>.

What's to see. Unusual structure of main revetment-laying vessel. Picks up 25- by 4-foot mats from barges shuttled in and out by towboats. 7,600 mats will be laid at this site. The unit moves them into position on the launch deck. Dozens of workers leap in and wire the mats together. The laying vessel moves 25 feet away from bank and process begins again. This operation will be downstream of the river bridge.

Quarterboats are offices, cafeterias and cabins afloat for the hundreds of workers. They will be just upstream of bridges.

Tours not available to public. Attire, comfortable/casual. Please wear rubber bottom, steel-toed shoes, but no high heels.