



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

News Release

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Corps accepts new 65-foot survey boat

Such boats use sonar, other technology to aid navigation, protect levees

What. Ceremony to accept a 65-foot survey boat, the M/V Teche, from its builder SeaArk Marine Inc. Total cost, including design and construction, \$1.3 million.

When. 10 a.m., Friday, March 15.

Where. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans. On the levee, between Carrollton Avenue and Audubon Park. Enter opposite Prytania Street.

Who. Lt. Col. Michael Burt, deputy district engineer, New Orleans District, will accept the boat for the Corps. Mike Park, chief, Technical Support Branch, under which the Teche and nine other survey boats operate, will also be on hand.

What's to see? Boat operating near New Orleans District wharves. Media trips available. Will explain equipment on board, which helps map often-changing river bottom contours. Also, printouts of large color charts that are produced by the survey boats, relayed by satellite to New Orleans and placed on the Web. Data available in 24-48 hours.

Boat's function: Hydrographic surveys are made of the federally maintained navigation channels. This pinpoints places that require dredging to maintain authorized depths, and also locates underwater obstructions. Also used to detect riverbank erosion to aid revetment placement and protect levee system.

Teche's name, new home. Is named for the famous Louisiana bayou from Port Barré to Morgan City. Bayou Teche, however, is too shallow for this ocean-capable boat, which will be based in Morgan City, beginning in April. It will operate on the Atchafalaya River, including the bar channel in open water, and nearby waterways.

Safety. Lifejackets are required on the wharf and the boat, and will be provided.