Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Veterans Affairs Coordinator Called up to Help with Mississippi River Flooding in South Dakota

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Capt. Rene Coronado, Veterans Affairs coordinator at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will help with the relief efforts for residents of South Dakota who have been affected by the recent Mississippi River flooding from June 16-25 during his annual two-week Army Reserve Training.

Currently, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to relieve pressure on levees throughout South Dakota by releasing record amounts of water from river dams that have accumulated due to heavy spring snowmelt and rain. In addition, the South Dakota National Guard is working to sand-bag local communities to reduce the damage caused by rising flood waters.

Coronado’s unit, the 211th Regional Support Group (RSG) from Corpus Christi, is already in South Dakota assisting local Native American tribes transport fuel and firewood and other supplies in preparation for winter. Due to the threat from the Mississippi River, the local Reserve unit has changed missions to assist local communities affected by flooding. After the unit returns to Corpus Christi at the end of June, Coronado will assume the duties of company commander on Saturday, July 9.

Coronado joined the Texas Army National Guard in 1991. After graduating from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 1997, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, serving on active duty until December 2007. Since becoming coordinator of the University’s Veterans Affairs Office in June 2010, enrollment of students using veterans’ benefits has grown from less than 400 to more than 700 and is expected to continue to grow as more veterans enter college under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

-A&M-Corpus Christi-