

# FLOOD OF '93 CHANGES FACE OF NGA WEST

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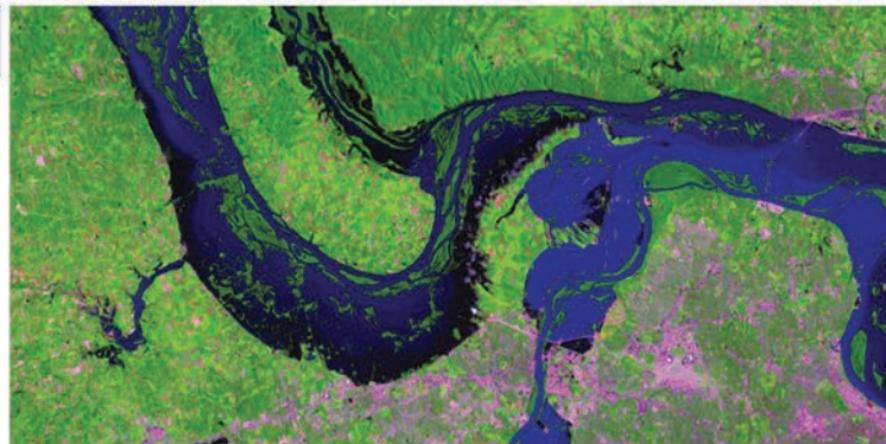
**THOSE DRIVING ALONG THE RIVER CITY CASINO BOULEVARD IN ST. Louis County** pass over the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's past. The road runs over what was Building 4 of the South Annex of the Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center, an NGA predecessor organization where about 1,000 employees worked in professions ranging from geodesy to acquisitions.

That is, until the summer of 1993, when despite the mammoth efforts of DMA employees, the facility was destroyed by a record level of floodwater.

Three to 10 feet of water soaked the buildings, destroying equipment, documents and furniture. By fall, the water had receded, leaving behind mud, mold and the remains of fish, snakes and other water creatures. DMA never fully moved back into the facility. Employees were shuffled to other locations throughout St. Louis until a replacement location was identified, funded and built.

In 1998, employees moved into a new, state-of-the-art facility in Arnold, Mo.

The summer of 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the flood that remains the most costly and devastating flood in modern U.S. history, according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. ✨



*A 1993 NASA satellite image shows flooding at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and their tributaries near St. Louis. The Mississippi River reached a crest of 49.58 feet at St. Louis, its highest in recorded history, according to NOAA.*



*A 2002 Landsat image of the area shows how the river normally looks.*