



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

## Task Force Hope Edition

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Issue 1 Sept. 19, 2005

## Reconstitution Day

Monday marks the return to work by New Orleans District employees displaced after Hurricane Katrina made landfall here Aug. 29.

Nearly 40 District employees are slated to report to the District headquarters on Leake Avenue, the rest of the workforce is required to check in at one of eight satellite locations listed at the bottom of this page.

“Selected employees will report Monday to the District office to join Task Force Hope and assist in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts across the region,” said Col. Richard P. Wagenaar, Commander, New Orleans District. “Another 50 employees will return by midweek.”

Employees who haven’t been instructed to report to the District office should follow the instructions outlined below to ensure they are accounted for and available to work when called upon.

Those returning to work should be at the District office by 8 a.m. in casual attire, and be prepared to work until 4:30 p.m. Employees should bring their government issued identification card and a lunch. Drinking water will be provided.

All employees must depart the District office no later than 6 p.m. with the exception of those working the emergency.

Returning employees should report to their regular work area and a supervisor will assign work.

*see RECONSTITUTION Pg. 2*

*New Orleans District employees who have not been recalled must report to one of the below satellite offices by 1 p.m. Monday.*

### **Those offices and the points of contact are as follows:**

#### **Fort Worth District**

Mike Palmieri, 817-978-9999  
819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, TX

#### **Galveston District**

Clyde Barre, 409-762-6300  
2000 Ft. Point Rd, Galveston, TX

#### **Baton Rouge RFO**

Mike Lowe, 225-925-7337  
1900 N Lobdell Blvd,  
Baton Rouge, LA

#### **Lafayette Area Office**

Troy Constance, 337-291-3012  
646 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA

#### **Mobile District**

Eric Forest, 251-690-2400  
109 Saint Joseph St., Mobile, AL

#### **Vicksburg District**

MAJ(P) Starkel, 601-631-5322  
4155 Clay St, Vicksburg, MS

#### **Memphis District**

Gloria Reeves, 901-544-0811  
617 N. Main, Memphis, TN

#### **St. Louis District**

Falcolm Hull, 314-331-8567  
1222 Spruce St. St. Louis, MO

## Commander's Comments



Welcome back. It seems like an eternity, but it’s been three weeks since Hurricane Katrina pummeled Southeastern Louisiana. I know each of you have faced multiple significant personal challenges since then. Many of you have lost homes. Some have lost family members and other loved ones in the storm.

There is still a lot of suffering and misery in our community and within our Corps family as people return to the area. In the days, weeks and months to come, we are all going to have to show a great deal of patience and understanding for each other.

While tragedy is evident across this great city and region, incredible gains have also been realized since the storm made landfall. Our unwavering task force and other state, federal and contract partners have pumped out more than 25 billion cubic feet of water from the city. Their work is setting the conditions that will allow the New Orleans District team to assume its role in rebuilding this city and the surrounding areas as quickly as possible.

*see COMMANDER Pg. 2*

**COMMANDER**

President Bush has promised “one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen.” Much of that work will lie here in the District and with our partners. Together we will accomplish this mission, and together we will protect our families and the other 1 million people who call New Orleans home.

Although family and personal issues continue understandably to remain number one, our senior leadership clearly expects New Orleans District employees to play a significant role in rebuilding the city. This is our home. We’ll begin recovery and rebuilding just as soon as we restore our capabilities here. That’s why I need you.

We have accounted for all but one of our 1,232 employees. This in itself has been a gargantuan task that has never been done before Hurricane Katrina. Following the storm, I asked higher headquarters for a sample reconstitution plan. I was told that we are writing it.

Each of us is dealing with one of the most significant situations we have ever faced. We must now pull together as a Corps family and face these combined personal and professional challenges. Together we will make it through this. Together we will rebuild this city and Southeastern Louisiana – our home.

You all know our Corps motto: **Essayons: Let Us Try.** I pledge to each of you my absolute best effort to take that motto one step further: “We will prevail.” I am counting on no less from each of you and know in my heart that you will do this for your Corps family, your community and your nation.

**Hooah!**

**RICHARD P. WAGENAAR**  
Colonel  
Commanding

“We’re asking that you remain flexible and understand that your duties may vary depending on current needs,” said Wagenaar.

Employees willing to return to work at the District office who have an uninhabitable home should call (504) 862-5325 by close of business Sep. 19.

The New Orleans District will reserve 20 spaces to include housing, food and washing facilities for those who return. Family members left in evacuated areas will remain in Safe Haven status.

Employees living in the greater New Orleans area who have an inhabitable home in an officially reopened parish are required to attend an informational meeting at the District office at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22. The meeting will take place under a canopy outside the building.

Employees should bring their government issued identification cards to gain access to the reservation and expect some delays at the access gate because of heightened security measures.

If none of the above categories apply, employees must call (601) 631-5325 by close of business Sept. 19.

**RECONSTITUTION**

Due to the condition of the District Office amenities are limited. The cafeteria is not serving, but microwaves are operational and available for use.

The day care center is closed until further notice and parking is limited. Water pressure in the building is low. Toilets can only flush liquid waste.

Portalets are available outside the front of the building for solid waste.

Drinking water in the building is not potable, bottled water will be available.

Vaccinations will be available for all returning district staff. Starting today, counselors from the Crisis Care Network will be on site offerering assistance to those in need.

These efforts are the first phase of the District’s reconstitution process.

“My intent is to account for the entire workforce of the New Orleans District and employ those who are capable of returning to work,” Wagenaar said.

The Emergency Operations Center is currently not accessible to employees other than those officially tasked.

Employees needing to reach the EOC may call (504) 862-1102/2244. All other questions and concerns should be directed to (601) 631-5325.

**Contact List for Incoming Personnel**

**Health Office** - Room 143  
Vaccinations, EAP  
Peggy Plaisance, x 1223

**LMO**- Room 263  
Parking, facilities  
Shelton Kennedy, x 2007  
Mary Pizzuto, x 2009

**EOC**  
Lynn Tinto, cell 504.451.7134

**IMO** - Room 189  
Computers, phones  
Fred Lacheney, x 1199 or x2309  
Chris Colombo, x1315

**Security** - Room 146  
Joe Baker, x 1184  
Jerome Wise, x 2342

**CPOC** - Room 243  
Kathy Borja, x 2792