



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

December 19, 2008

Corps' LACPR Final Technical Report moving forward

"The Corps was asked to complete a report that would typically take five to seven years... we are very proud to have completed it in three years."

*- Col. Alvin Lee, Commander
New Orleans District*

By Susan Spaht

In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the U.S. Congress directed the Corps of Engineers to "conduct a comprehensive hurricane protection analysis and design...to develop a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures... conducted in close coordination with the State of Louisiana." Congress' directive to the Corps was to develop a **Technical Report**. The Corps' report will include best performing alternatives that combine structural, non-structural and environmental features, and recommended implementation options.

The Corps assembled a team of expert scientists and engineers from more than 30 organizations, including universities, private firms, envi-



The LACPR study area includes a variety of Louisiana landscapes. Above is an aerial view of Fort Jackson on the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish. (USACE) Photo

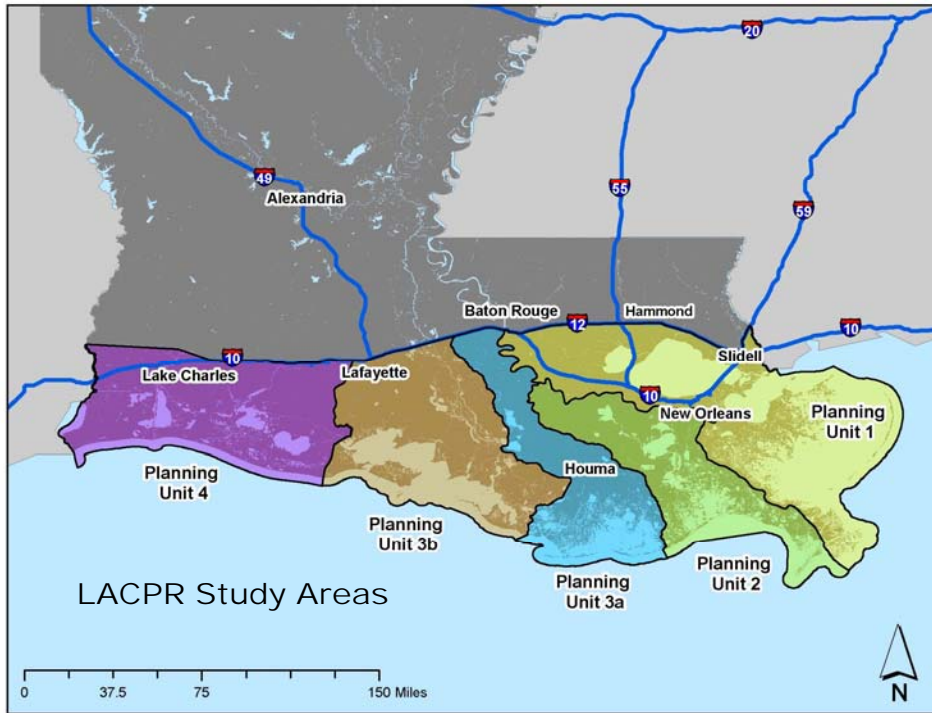
ronmental organizations, state and federal governmental agencies, and international groups. This integrated team set out to meet the goals and objectives of the **Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR)** report by producing the analysis required to enhance hurricane risk reduction and coastal restoration in coastal Louisiana. Close coordination was established with the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

Last year, the State of Louisiana released a report called **Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast**. The State described this document as "a concep-

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tual vision...a living document that changes over time as our understanding of the landscape improves and technical advances are made."

The State's Master Plan established a framework for the Corps' Technical Report.

"The Corps' plan is consistent with the State's Plan," said Troy Constance, Branch Chief of the Protection and Restoration Office. "The Corps' report also incorporates design elements, hydraulic modeling and analyses, cost estimates, real estate impacts, and economic and ecosystem affects.

The LACPR team made a concerted effort to use the best available scientific and engineering information and to work closely with its partners and stakeholders. The team recognized that the first line of defense against storms is Louisiana's coastal ecological features including barrier islands, marshes, ridges and coastal

forests.

In June 2006 the LACPR team submitted the Preliminary Technical Report to Congress. A Final Technical Report was scheduled to be delivered in December 2007. However, due to the size and complexity of the planning area, the Final Technical Report took longer to develop. Also, the Corps modeled the effects of this work and work planned under the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program to be sure neither state would be adversely affected.

"The Corps was asked to complete a report that would typically take five to seven years," explained Col. Alvin Lee, Commander of the New Orleans District, "and we were asked to complete that report in a mere two years. We are very proud to have completed it in just three years.

"The study area for the report is roughly the size of the State of West Virginia," Col. Lee added, "and covers a very complex landscape which required different types of analyses."

The LACPR study area covers such diverse landscapes as bays and estuaries, sounds, as well as chenier planes.

"The Corps has three major missions that we routinely have to balance," said Constance, "flood control, navigation and the ecosystem. We had to consider all those things as well as the diverse cultures of the people living in the study area.

"When all these factors are taken into consideration, it means that there will be conflicting interests and preferences to consider," explained Constance, who is from St. Bernard Parish. "For every action there will be a tradeoff. Everything we do will require a decision by the stakeholders on values."



Troy Constance

Over the past three years, the Corps and CPRA have hosted public meetings throughout the study area to obtain suggestions and preferences from stakeholders in the area as well as non-governmental organizations, including academia and environmental groups. So far, 16 meetings have been held, four meetings in each of the four planning areas.

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“The Corps’ Final Technical Report is an array of alternatives,” said Constance, “it will demonstrate that a broad range of viable options are available for the reduction of risk from large storm surge events in South Louisiana.

“The report includes the benefit of complete performance evaluation of the plans and the now-documented tradeoffs,” Constance explained.

“The State and its residents, as the direct bearers of the resultant benefits as well as any tradeoffs, should be the first to begin weighing and determining their preferences.”



***Planned review/approval
schedule for the Corps’
LACPR Final Technical Report***

By Dec. 22, 2008 – submission of Final Technical Report to Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) for review.

After MVD endorses the Final Technical Report, the Report goes to Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. which will release it to the National Academies of Science for independent external peer review.

All comments and review findings will be addressed.

Summer 2009 - the Report goes to the Chief of Engineers for transmittal to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

When cleared by the Administration, the Report will be submitted to Congress.



Looking southeast, a marsh landbridge between the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and Lake Borgne.
(pre-Katrina USACE Photos)

LACPR study area covers diversity of Louisiana landscapes and cultures



Raised houses along LA Highway 90 at Lake St. Catherine in Orleans Parish.

IHNC Surge Barrier construction begins



Corps personnel, VIPs and the members of the press gather on the bow of a Corps barge to view pile driving activities for the monumental IHNC Surge Barrier project.

(USACE Photo by Scott Riecke)

**"We never wavered
from our determination
to get here today."**

*- Karen Durham-Aguilera
Director, Task Force Hope*

By Susan Spaht

On Dec. 4 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its partners held a groundbreaking ceremony to announce the start of construction of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier project, the largest design/build civil works project in Corps history.

About 200 people boarded a Corps barge that was pushed from the Michoud Canal to a site near the Bayou

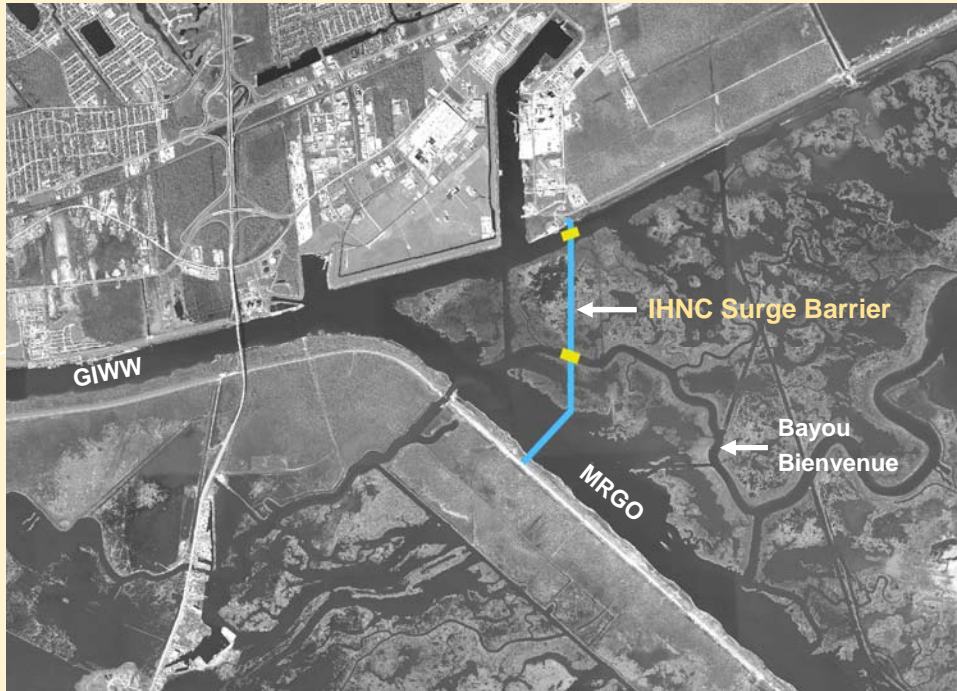
Bienvenue closure structure, basically following the planned path of the new barrier structure, to view the official start of construction.

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), was the keynote speaker. Following Mr. Woodley on the program were Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers; Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division; Garret Graves, Chairman, Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority; Tim Doody, President, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East; Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope; and Col. Michael McCormick, Commander of the Hurricane Protection Office.

At the conclusion of the group's remarks, Lt. Col. Victor Zillmer, Resident Engineer for the project, radioed the construction crew to "commence operation". With that order, the giant pile driving equipment began operation.

The two-mile long IHNC surge barrier, including three navigable gates, will be completed in 2011 and will provide 100-year level protection to a large portion of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc., a Louisiana company, was awarded the \$695 million contract. A provision in the contract requires the contractor to provide a certain measure of risk reduction, called Advance Measures, in August 2009.





“This is going to be an incredible piece of work; the significance of it is truly historic.”

*Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)*



“This is an amazing project...this shows what the Corps of Engineers is capable of.”

*Garret Graves, Chairman
Louisiana Coastal Protection
& Restoration Authority*



“Here’s where we take a stand.”

*Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp
Chief of Engineers*



“It took a monumental amount of collaboration to get us here today. Many said we couldn’t do it, but we never wavered from our determination to get here.”

*Karen Durham-Aguilera
Director, Task Force Hope*



“All six districts of the Mississippi Valley Division will be involved in our mission here and working with our local partners. Together we are building strong and building right.”

*Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh
Commander, Mississippi Valley
Division*

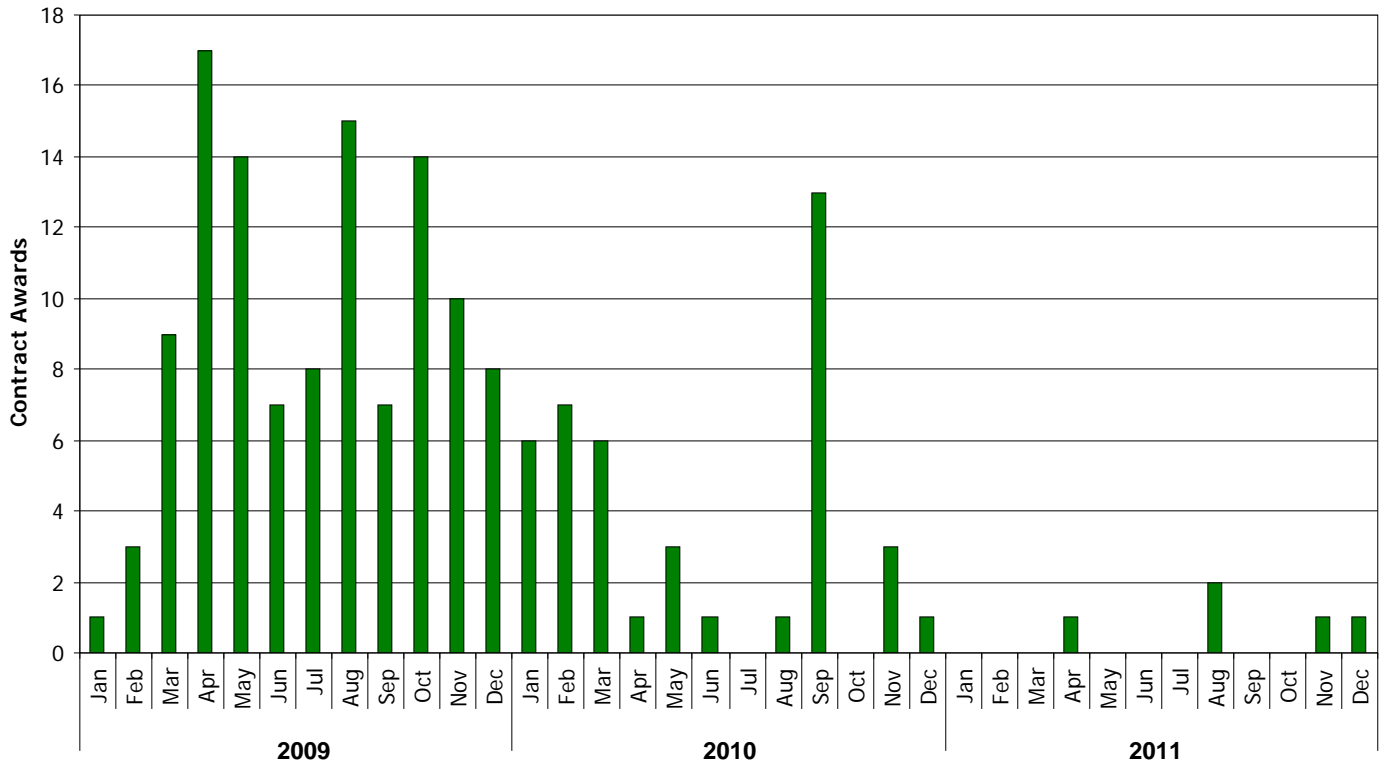


“We had many challenges to overcome...this is a results-driven team.”

*Col. Michael McCormick
Commander, Hurricane
Protection Office*



2009 biggest year for HSDRRS contract awards



This bar chart illustrates the number and chronology of contracts scheduled for the next three years. The Corps will award more contracts in 2009 than in all previous or future years in the process of constructing the HSDRRS. (USACE Illustration)

By Susan Spaht

The year 2009 is going to be a very busy one for the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans.

As the Corps marches forward with design and construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for the greater New Orleans area, it is preparing to award the largest number of contracts in a given year in 2009: **113 contracts.**

Of the approximately \$10.5 billion allocated for all construction contracts for the HSDRRS, over **\$4.1 billion** is allocated for 2009 alone.

“Certainly the amount of contracts that will be awarded in 2009 will test

the Contracting Offices of the New Orleans District, but will also test the capabilities of the Mississippi Valley Division,” said Jim Barr, New Orleans District Contracting Officer and Contract Coordinator for Task Force Hope. “And I have no doubt that our team will meet – and exceed – the challenge.”

One of the largest HSDRRS planned projects is the West Closure Complex. That contract is scheduled to be awarded in 2009 and will exceed \$500 million.

“Five hundred million is a staggering amount,” said Bob Rowlette, Senior Program Manager in Task Force Hope. “A normal Corps district doesn’t award that much in a year, and



Jim Barr



Bob Rowlette

we are going to award that amount for just *one contract* in 2009!”



\$32 million 100% federally funded

Final contract awarded for Harvey Canal



Floodwall construction on Harvey Canal

On Dec. 8 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$32 million contract to Shavers-Whittle Construction, LLC of Covington, La. for construction of levees and floodwalls at the southern end of the east bank of Harvey Canal.

“This is the final Harvey Canal construction contract that will be awarded,” said Gary Brouse, Senior Project Manager for floodwalls. “It will complete the flood

protection system along Peters and Concord Roads from the Harvey Canal Floodgate complex on the northern end, including fronting protection at the Hero Pump Station, and stretching all the way to the Algiers Canal levee on the southern end.”

Approximately 1,200 linear feet of T-walls will be built to an elevation +14 ft. using over 3,500 cubic yards of concrete. The foundation will require approximately 70,000 linear ft. of steel H-piles. The floodwall will then transition into a levee

at the tip of the confluence of the Harvey and Algiers Canals.

Approximately 4,200 linear feet of earthen levees will be built using over 200,000 cubic yards of clay borrow material.

The levees and floodwalls under this contract will tie into the floodwalls and pump station fronting protection currently under construction along Peters Rd.



Earthen levee construction

This project will provide 100-year level protection for an area which previously had no federal protection.

Under post-Katrina legis-

lation, the federal government will pay for 100 percent of the project. The Corps is working in coordination with its non-federal partners, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West, and the West Jefferson Levee District.



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It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane recovery work to stakeholders.

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<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at:
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