



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

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Riverside

Task Force Hope Edition

Issue 4 Sept. 25, 2005

Reconstitution continues at District office

Hurricane evacuees need to check in at earliest possible convenience

Another 150 District office employees will return to work this week to assist with Hurricane recovery efforts and begin planning for upcoming missions.

In a continued effort to get 90 percent of the workforce back to work in 30 days, District Commander Col. Richard P. Wagenaar has released new guidance for returning employees to full duty.

Employees working in the Greater New Orleans area who have livable homes should be returning to work if called to duty. Those not called to duty will remain on administrative leave until they are asked to return. Starting Oct. 3, those who are working and require time off, or those who are called back to duty and are not ready to return, will need to request leave (annual, sick, leave without pay) from their supervisor or request administrative leave from Col. Wagenaar, or be marked absent from duty.

Employees who do not have a livable home and have not been called back to duty will remain eligible for evacuation allowance for up to 180 days.

Employees who have been called to duty at the District and do not have habitable homes, will be permitted to live in the district assembly room with Col. Wagenaar's approval. Those asked to report to one of the eight satellite locations will be placed on TDY and eligible for travel entitlements while their dependents continue to receive evacuation allowance.

Once the Hurricane Katrina evacuation order is lifted all allowances will be terminated. Employees on TDY will continue to receive entitlements.

For more information about the back to work plan, District priorities and the commander's intent for future work, attend an informational meeting rescheduled for 2 p.m., Monday, Oct. 3, under a tent outside the District office.

Employees returning to work need to remember to bring lunch since the cafeteria is still closed. Bathrooms in the building are now operational but the water is not potable. Drinking water will be made available.

see RECONSTITUTION Pg. 2

District Office Numbers

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

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

IMO - Room 189
Computers, phones
Fred Lacheney, x 1199 or x 2686
Chris Colombo, x 1315

CPOC - Room 243
Kathy Borja, x 2792

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

EOC
Lynn Tinto, cell 504-451-7134

Satellite Office Contacts

Fort Worth District
Mike Palmieri, 817-886-1138
819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, TX

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

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

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

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

The Second Front Page

Commander's Comments

For the past month, much of the world's attention has been focused on New Orleans and a large portion of that attention has been on the Corps and what we are doing here. As you know, we built roads, repaired breaches and pumped much of the city dry. Normally, this would take months, but we did it in weeks. The results of our efforts were realized, especially at the 17th St. and London Ave. canals where we "held the line."

However, Hurricane Rita left new challenges in its wake. We continue to assess our damages, not just in New Orleans, but across the Gulf Coast.

Our District is also sitting in the middle of a situation that no other District has yet to experience. Not only are we writing (*not re-writing*) the book on reconstitution, but we have also been charged with the

responsibility to restore Category Three hurricane protection for New Orleans and the surrounding areas by June 1, 2006. That is only eight months away. This will be a phenomenal task, but we're not in it alone. We're getting support from throughout the Valley and across the country.

We continue to move forward in reconstituting the District. More people are coming back every day, every week. We have large milestones to achieve in the months to come, and it is important we continue to bring our team back together. Only as a unified team will it be possible to reach our goals. That is why I ask you to follow the instructions provided by the human resources personnel. If you are not reporting to the District office in New Orleans, report to your designated satellite office. Accountability is essential for us to determine the



Col. Richard P. Wagenaar

best way to utilize the available talents and begin setting the conditions for recovery.

As always, keep you and your family safe.

Essayons!

RICHARD P. WAGENAAR
Colonel
Commanding

RECONSTITUTION

The Castle Kids Child Development Center is still closed. The building suffered some damage and repairs aren't expected to be complete until mid November.

The Emergency Operations Center remains inaccessible 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.



Jeff Richie, a New Orleans District project engineer, inspects cables used to attach 7,000 pound sandbags to helicopters for delivery to overtop sites. (Photo by Hank Heusinkveld, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)