



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



## Corps Hurricane Response

### Task Force Hope Status Report

May 24, 2006

The US Army Corps of Engineers established Task Force Hope immediately after Hurricane Katrina hit the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts. Task Force Hope's mission is to manage the work on levees and floodwalls, debris removal and all emergency response efforts that Federal Emergency Management Agency requested the Corps to carry out. Task Force Hope oversees the efforts of Task Force Guardian and Recovery Field Offices in Louisiana and Mississippi. Task Force Guardian is repairing damages to the Greater New Orleans federal hurricane and flood protection system resulting from Hurricane Katrina, restoring the system to pre-storm levels of protection by June 1, 2006.

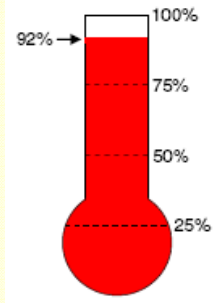
### Hurricane Protection System Restoration

#### Percent of Pre-Katrina Protection Restored

92 % complete

38 of 59 contracts complete

The Hurricane Response  
Web site is located at: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/>



#### Corps completes IHNC levees, floodwalls

The Corps has restored the hurricane protection to pre-hurricane Katrina conditions at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

In the areas of the breaches, the project replaced or repaired walls and levees back to pre-storm project authorized elevations. In the areas of scour, the walls and levees were repaired accordingly.

The work area included five miles of levee and floodwalls on each of the east and west banks through the heavily industrialized area.

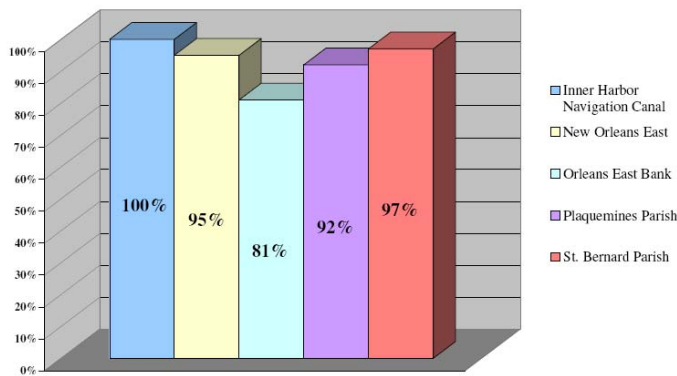
See IHNC, page 2 for project overview

#### Looking at the environment



Damages from Katrina to wetlands were severe east of the river where more than 70 square miles of wetlands were destroyed in less than one day. For more information see Looking to the Environment, page 4.

Hurricane Protection System Repair Status



The percent figures represent actual construction. The reason Orleans East Bank shows only 81 percent is that the construction there includes additional improvements (temporary gate closures and pumps).

#### In this issue:

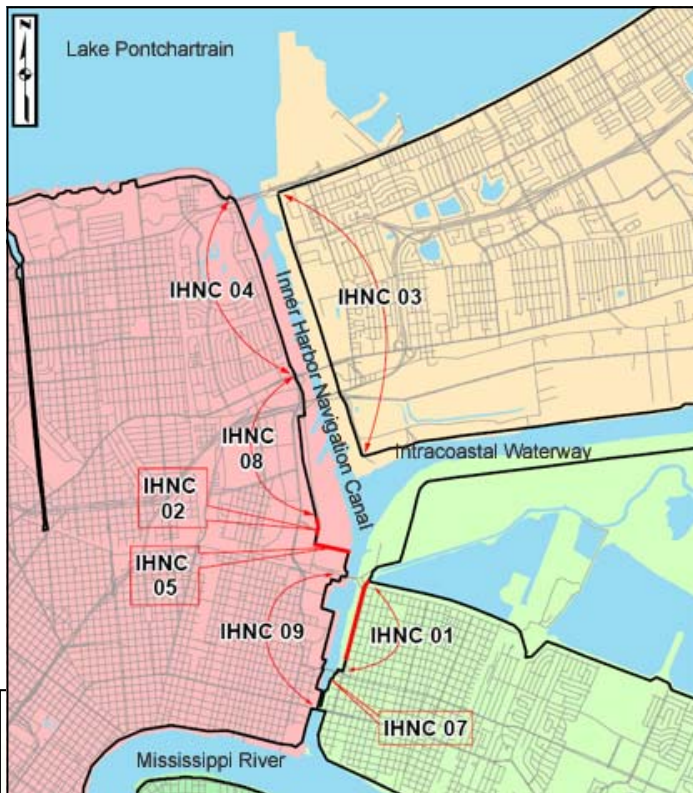
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# Corps completes work at IHNC; here's what was done

Continued from front page

## IHNC01

The Corps placed approximately 4,000 lineal feet of concrete I-wall flood barrier along the east side of the IHNC Canal between North Claiborne and Florida avenues. The damages in this reach consisted of a 250-foot breach and an 850-foot breach. The Corps replaced the concrete I-wall with a concrete T-wall, supported on H-piles and sheet piling.



## IHNC02

The Corps repaired a breach and scour of the floodwall at the container terminal along France Road. Work removed approximately 1,300 lineal feet of the damaged concrete I-wall and replaced the damaged section of wall with new concrete L-wall. The new wall is supported by steel H-piles and longer steel sheet piles.

## IHNC03

There are approximately 2.75 miles of floodwall and levee along the east side of the IHNC Canal between the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Lake Pontchartrain. The Corps filled in scour areas, repaired gate concrete sills and seals and installed new sheet piling. Workers placed rock and ballast, and stone erosion protection.

## IHNC04

The floodwall West Side from Hayne Blvd. to Hwy 90 - consisted of concrete I-wall extending from Hwy 90 to Lake Pontchartrain and received minor scour damage along its base. The repairs consisted of filling in the scour areas, installing steel sheet pile walls to prevent canal seepage from going beneath the wall, and cleaning existing and installing new relief wells.

## IHNC05

The area of existing levee and concrete floodwall that extends from the vicinity of France Road ramp toward the IHNC was breached and experienced severe scour. The repair consisted of replacement with a new concrete T-wall for approximately 1,600 feet.

## IHNC07

In the IHNC canal between the IHNC lock and N. Claiborne Ave., the Corps filled in scour areas and provided erosion protection along approximately 1,400 lineal feet of concrete I-wall flood barrier along the east side.

## IHNC08 and IHNC09

The Corps repaired scour and added erosion protection. These sections of flood protection consisted of concrete I-wall embedded in compacted earthen levee embankment.



Above, the map shows locations of the IHNC repairs. Before and after photographs show the progress at IHNC 01 from January 2006 to pre-



# The Faces of Hope:

## Corps employee says, "I wanted to do something"

**L**ou Statz is serving as the right of entry administrator for Covington and Perry counties for the Task Force Hope – Mississippi Emergency Field Office –North in Hattiesburg, Miss. Lou has been at the EFO since February 2006.

Back home at the Omaha District, Lou is an administrative support assistant in the Construction Division. She deployed to the hurricane recovery area to help with the mission and says that it has been a wonderful experience.

"I wanted to do something," she said. At home recovering from surgery, Lou watched the hurricane news coverage with frustration. "It was so frustrating to feel helpless," she said.

Returning to work after surgery, co-workers encouraged Lou to deploy. "The first tasker came down and I was not physically able to go," she said. "The second tasker came down and I put my name in and was selected."

While loading her car, Lou heard

what she and many others would consider a sign. "I opened the car door to load my suitcase in the car and the song Blackwater by the Doobie Brothers was playing and the first line I heard was "Mississippi she's callin' my name," she said. "So I figured that was a good sign."

Lou said she was really impressed by the number of agencies working under one roof to restore life to the area. "It was overwhelming coming from a small office," she said.

"I got to know the people I was working with and understand the mission and I realized how blessed I was to come to Hattiesburg."

The deployment experience has been one that Lou will carry with her for a long time and she would like to do again. "I like to be here working for my country," she said.



**Lou Statz works as an administrative support assistant in the Construction Division in Omaha.**

**"I realized how blessed I was to come to Hattiesburg."  
Lou Statz**



Contact us with your comments and questions:  
[b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil](mailto:b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil)

The mission of the **Status Report Newsletter** is to support the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as one of the Task Force Hope's primary communication tools for accurately transmitting the work of not only Task Force Hope, but the efforts of Task Force Guardian and the Recovery Field Offices in Louisiana and Mississippi to the Gulf Coast community and its citizens. This is an online publication and open to public distribution. This issue and past issues can be found at: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane>. Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: [b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil](mailto:b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil).

The **Status Report Newsletter**  
Task Force Hope  
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# Looking to the environment for flood protection

## What is the Cat5 LACPR Project?

Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in close coordination with the State of Louisiana, to begin a project titled the Category 5 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report to identify, describe and propose a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures for south Louisiana. Representatives from other state, federal and local agencies are participating on this project.

Congress has directed the Corps to prepare a technical report with recommendations for Comprehensive Category 5 protection for South Louisiana. The preliminary report is due to Congress in June 2006, with a final report due December 2007.

## Public involvement

The Corps is reaching out both nationally and globally to scientists, engineers and planners in an effort to collabo-

rate on developing the strongest and best technologies for protection from Category 5 hurricane flooding.

The public is an important part of the information gathering process. The Corps has held numerous public meetings and planning sessions for input over the past few months to hear comments and concerns.

"Public input does make a difference and is an important part of planning," said Julie Morgan, public outreach coordinator. "The entire study team has gone the extra mile to be proactive in keeping the public and our stakeholders informed and incorporating their comments where appropriate in the report."

The Corps held public meetings in Houma and Larose in May to present the currently considered alternative for category 5 hurricane alignment and related coastal restoration features, and to solicit comments from the public on the full scope of issues to be considered.

## PEIS

The public plays a very important role in the project development process. The National Environmental Policy Act provides for an early and open public process for determining the issues, resources, impacts, and alternatives to be addressed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement known as PEIS.

The PEIS will describe and evaluate proposed action and alternatives, including the no-action alternative. The PEIS will highlight the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing flood control, coastal restoration and hurricane protection measures for south Louisiana. Effects to communities, natural resources, and infrastructure will be evaluated.

The goal of the team is to continuously solicit ideas, concerns, and issues from individuals, local, state, and other fed-

eral agencies and public and private organizations for consideration in plan development.

## Alternatives considered

Alternatives under consideration include:

- **Structural.** Earthen levees or concrete walls with floodgates and other devices.

Continued on page 5



Located in Plaquemines Parish, the damaged but still-standing home in the photograph withstood Katrina's winds and waves in part due to its strong design and construction techniques. This is considered a "non-structural" feature and a success story, one which could influence how recovery and rebuilding could be conducted to improve survival of communities along the coast.

- **Structural-coastal restoration combination.** Structural with coastal wetlands and barrier island restoration commensurate to the level of structural fortification to protect against a Category 5 hurricane.
- **Non-structural.** Elevating homes and improving evacuation plans, with coastal restoration.
- **No action.** Maintain current protection against a Category 3 hurricane.



This is another example of a “non-structural” feature.

## A closer look at NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to include environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

“Scoping” meetings are held to receive public comment on possible actions to be taken or considered. Public involvement is required and included, where appropriate, throughout the process, preparation and publication of the NEPA document, the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement .

The PEIS is due for public release in early spring, 2007.

## What’s happening with LaCPR

### LCA

Discussions with the state’s Department of Natural Resources on “work-in-kind” has delayed signing of the Project Management Plans (PMP) for the Chenier Plain, Myrtle Grove and Mississippi River Hydro studies. Local Cooperation Agreement’s Science and Technology team has produced a PMP with a cost share agreement that will fund Corps and state efforts to execute model development, data collection and post-storm assessments.

### Communications

LaCPR study managers spoke to members of the Louisiana Landowners Association, owners of almost one million acres in coastal Louisiana and are talking to Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE) representatives, keeping both groups apprised of progress on the report.

### Points of Contact

The report from the March public scoping meetings is available on the LaCPR web site at <http://www.lacpr.usace.army.mil> under Calendar of Events, as is the Executive Summary from the Plan Formulation Workshop February.

Questions and comments can be provided through the web site at [www.LaCPR.usace.army.mil](http://www.LaCPR.usace.army.mil) or by U.S. mail to LaCPR EIS Environmental Manager, CEMVN-PM-R, P.O. Box 60267, N.O. La 70160-0267.

# Debris removal nears completion across Mississippi

BILOXI, Miss. – More than 41 million cubic yards of debris scattered throughout Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29 has been removed, according to state and federal recovery officials.

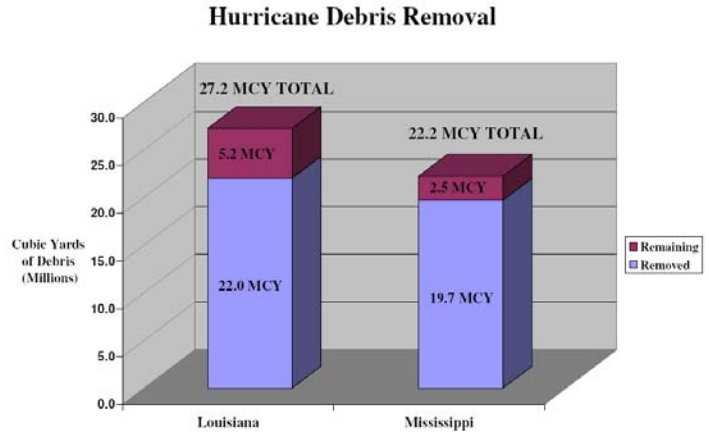
About 1.70 million cubic yards of debris, or 4 percent of the estimated total debris statewide, remains to be removed. Debris removal is complete in 75 of Mississippi's 82 counties.

Debris removal is the clearance, removal and disposal of items such as trees, sand, gravel, building components, wreckage, vehicles and personal property.

Debris already removed in South Mississippi's three coastal counties amounts to 22.87 million cubic yards, which is more than half of the total statewide

- In Harrison County, crews have removed 10.82 million cubic yards of debris, or 97 percent of the estimated total.
- In Hancock County, 5.75 million cubic yards of debris has been removed, which is 94 percent of the estimated total.
- In Jackson County, 5.29 million cubic yards has been hauled away, which is 99 percent of the estimated total.

In other south Mississippi counties seriously damaged by Katrina, Jones County debris removal is 99 percent complete and Pearl River County is 86 percent complete.



The costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures will be reimbursed 100 percent by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) until June 30, 2006. After that date FEMA will reimburse 90 percent of debris removal and the costs of emergency protective measures with state and local governments splitting the remaining 10 percent.

FEMA funding of debris removal is scheduled to end August 28.

Where can you find the latest information about the Corps' Hurricane Katrina work?

The Hurricane Response website is located at:  
<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/>

Points of Contact for Information		
Topic	Phone	Organization
Overall information about work being performed by the Corps of Engineers in the New Orleans District	504-862-2201	New Orleans District Public Affairs
Levee construction being performed to restore the hurricane and flood protection system to pre-Katrina condition by June 1, 2006	504-862-2076	Task Force Guardian Public Affairs
Debris Removal in Louisiana	225-218-9325	Louisiana Recovery Field Office
Debris Removal in Mississippi	601-631-5065	Mississippi Recovery Field Office
Overall Task Force Hope Information	504-862-1836	Task Force Hope Public Affairs