



Task Force Hope Status Report

July 11, 2007

Corps Releases West Bank Risk Analysis Maps

West Bank Risk Analysis Maps Include Areas of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes

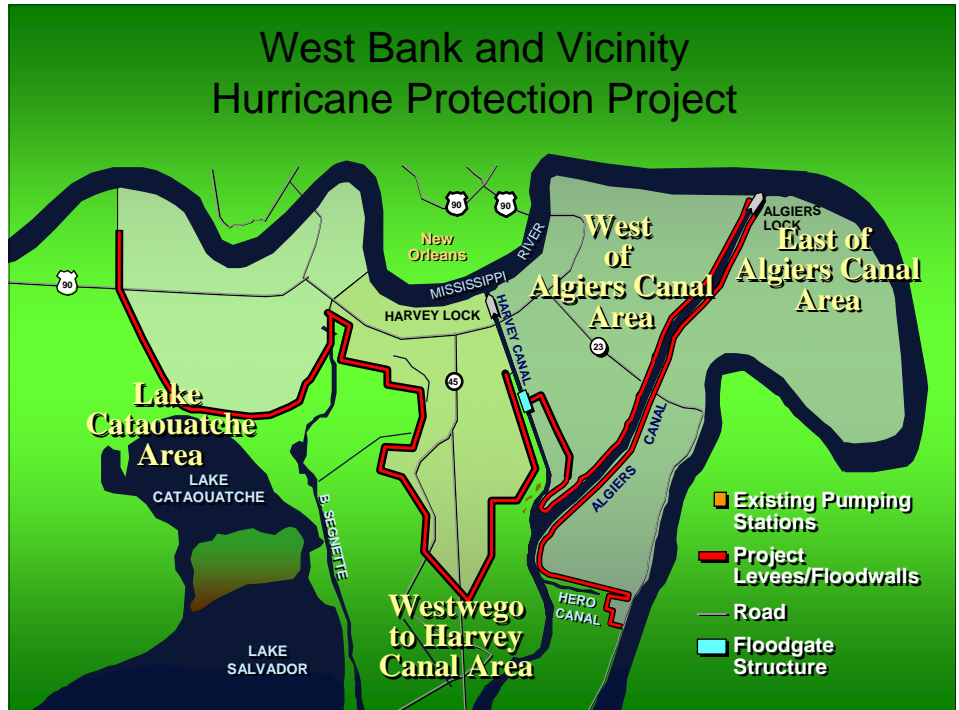
By Susan Spaht

The Corps of Engineers released the much-anticipated Risk & Reliability Analysis on June 20. These products are part of the comprehensive risk analysis that was developed by the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) under its mission to study the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the protection system.

The risk assessment map products provide flood vulnerability information on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. The analysis actually divides the hurricane protection system into 37 sub-basins and illustrates flood possibilities 1) as it existed pre-Katrina, and 2) as of June 1, 2007.

The Corps released 31 sub-basin maps on June 20, but withheld the six West Bank maps because the technical review on those was incomplete.

The West Bank maps are now available with the others on this Web site: <http://NOLArisk.usace.army.mil>



The Corps of Engineers has released the IPET Risk Analysis map products for the West Bank of both Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. Corps contracts for flood protection are on-going in this area. (USACE Illustration)

The six maps released today encompass West Bank areas in both Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The risk assessment report concluded that the West Bank remains vulnerable to the threat of hurricane damage because work on the area's hurricane and flood projects was approximately 40% complete in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck.

The Corps of Engineers recognizes that the West Bank is vulnerable and has awarded a number of contracts to strengthen the area's protection system, including pump stations and

the Westwego and Company Canal floodwalls. Work is also progressing along the Lake Cataouatche levees south of Avondale.

The Corps has also awarded a contract to construct a floodwall that will extend from the floodgate in the Har-

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Risk & Reliability Analysis Press Conference: June 20, 2007



“We’ve conducted a world-class study so people will understand their risk.”

- Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp,
Chief and Commander,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers




Media from around the country came to the Corps’ June 20 press conference to hear the results of the Risk & Reliability Analysis. Watching the slide show before speaking were, from left, Chairman Donald Powell of Gulf Coast Recovery; Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief and Commander, Corps of Engineers; Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, Corps of Engineers; Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director, Task Force Hope; and Dr. Ed Link, Director of the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force.

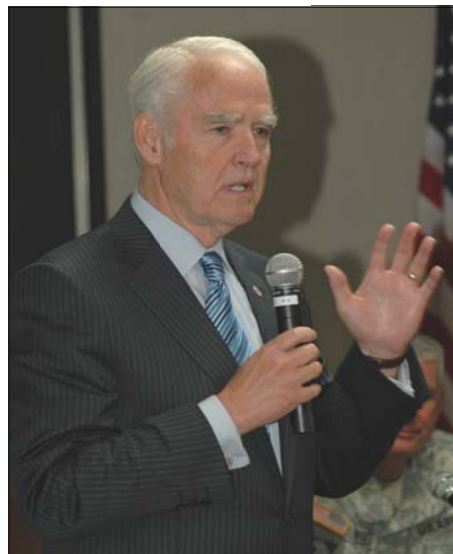
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vey Canal at Lapalco to below the Hero Pump Station. The contractor, Cajun Constructors, has started site preparation work and will be driving sheet pile within the next few weeks. The entire floodwall is expected to be completed by early 2009.

Levee contracts for work at Lake Cataouatche and the Bayou Segnette State Park area are scheduled for award in this month.

Future risk analysis work using the IPET modeling tools will look at the next level of protection (the 100-year level of protection) for the system that will be provided by the Corps in the next few years.

The maps indicating the risk of flooding associated with the 100-year level of protection will be released in the coming weeks. 



“I’ve had this job for 18 months now, and this may be the most important day since I’ve been on the job.”

“For the first time people will understand their personal risk, their community risk. They’ll understand things that will impact their decisions for the future.”

- Chairman Donald Powell,
Presidential appointee to
Gulf Coast Recovery



“We are really fortunate in New Orleans - we are the only city in the country right now that has a scientific analysis that tells us what our risk is.”

- Karen Durham-Aguilera
Director, Task Force Hope

USACE Photos

Demystifying 100-Year Terminology in New Orleans

A guide to help you differentiate between 100-Year definitions regarding risk

100-Year STORM	100-Year WATER LEVEL	100-Year DESIGN ELEVATION	100-Year FLOOD
<p>A 100-year storm is a statistical <u>weather</u> event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year.</p> <p>The 1% chance is based on the combined chances of a storm of a certain size and intensity following a certain track.</p> <p>Different combinations of size, intensity and track can result in a 100-year flood.</p> <p>Hurricane Rita was about a 100-year storm.</p> <p>100-year rainfall – statistical event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year. Approximately 13" of rain in 24 hours.</p>	<p>A 100-year water level is a statistical event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year <u>at a given location</u>.</p> <p>The 1% chance is based on water levels that would be created by a wide variety of storms. 99% of the time water levels would be less.</p> <p>The 100-year water level can be quite different in different locations.</p> <p>Many storms (<u>above or below 100-year</u>) can create the 100-year water level, but the 100-year water level is unique.</p>	<p><u>Structure elevations</u> designed to withstand the 100-year water level.</p> <p>Not a statistical level but a deliberate design, taking into consideration the 100-year water level, expected subsidence and sea level rise for the life of the project, expected wave run-up and <u>freeboard</u> against overtopping.</p> <p>Since these factors can all vary with location, the 100-year design elevations <u>are not necessarily the same at all places</u>.</p>	<p>A 100-year flood is a statistical event that has a 1% chance of occurring each year in a given area.</p> <p>The 1% chance is based on how often flood waters in a protected area would be higher than certain elevations.</p> <p>On the average, you would have a 63% chance of experiencing a 100-year flood in 100 years.</p> <p>Changes in the capability of protection measures and pumping capacities can dramatically change the 100-year flood elevation.</p>

Corps Hosting Series of Public Meetings

The New Orleans District Corps of Engineers will be conducting another series of public meetings in Orleans, St. Charles, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes to present the current status of the environmental compliance effort, provide updates on construction projects, and answer questions on the proposed 100-year hurricane protection for the West Bank and the Lake Pontchartrain areas.

The Corps will use these meetings to provide additional information regarding the Risk and Reliability depth of flooding maps released on June 20, as well as to demonstrate how residents may access and use this important information.

Tasked with the mission to design and construct a 100-year hurricane protection

system in the New Orleans area, the Corps will over the next 12 months complete a series of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental compliance documents using alternative arrangements implemented in March 2007.

Questions concerning the proposed hurricane and storm damage reduction actions should be addressed to:

Gib Owen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 6027, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267; phone: 504-862-1337; fax: 504-862-2088; or email: www.mvnenvironmental@mvn02.usace.army.mil

For more information, visit the following Web site: www.nolaenvironmental.gov



The four public meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish

JULY 17 Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Lake Cataouatche Sub Basin

JULY 19 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
329 S. Jamie Blvd.
Avondale, LA 70094

New Orleans East

JULY 24 Avalon Hotel & Conference Center
10100 I-10 Service Road
New Orleans, LA 70112

St. Charles Sub Basin

JULY 26 Ramada Inn
100 James Dr. (off Airline)
St. Rose, LA 70087

Faces of Hope

MAJ. NAZARKO FINDS DIFFERENCES & SIMILARITIES BETWEEN IRAQ & NEW ORLEANS DUTIES

“Whether in Iraq or in New Orleans, we still have the same over-arching sense of purpose: we are here to save lives.”

*- Maj. Nicholas Nazarko,
Chief of Staff,
Hurricane Protection Office*

By Susan Spaht

Major Nicholas “Nick” Nazarko joined the Army Reserves when he was 17 years old. “I was an Air Force brat,” he explained. “My Dad was a B-52 bomber navigator and, naturally, I wanted to fly as well.”

But young Nazarko also knew he wanted to be an engineer. So when he applied for and received his U.S. Army ROTC scholarship for college and engineering school, he soon discovered that the Army wouldn’t let a good engineer go off flying planes. “There was an abundance of pilots at that time,” he said, “so the Army put me right into the Corps of Engineers.”

And it has proved to be a good fit.

Nazarko graduated from Michigan Technological University with a degree in civil engineering and received his 2nd Lieutenant’s commission the same day. He later earned a master’s degree in geological engineering from the University of Missouri.

His first active duty assignment was Fort Hood, Tex. And it was in Texas where he met his wife, Kaye. Soon the young officer was ordered to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for further training. The next stop was Germany; first to Hanau and then Bamberg where his red-headed, identical twin boys were born.

While in Germany, Nazarko was sent on two, one-year tours of duty in Iraq. On his first tour he served as a section chief in construction management. “It was combat, very basic stuff. We tried to keep the roads open and built landing zones for helicopters,” he said.

His second tour in Ramadi was very different. He was a company commander of over 100 combat engineers. “Our job was route clearance,” he said. In Army-speak that means he led a group of engineers who sought out and removed I.E.D.s (improvised explosive devices) from roads. “You might say our job was to keep other soldiers alive.”

He led a highly trained group of soldiers who had the best equipment available to search out and destroy explosive devices placed by insurgents. “We found them, or they

found us,” he said profoundly. “They didn’t care who they blew up.”

The major’s next stop was New Orleans. “I had worked for Col. Jeffrey Bedey (commander of the Hurricane Protection Office) when I was at Fort Hood,” Nazarko explained. “He commanded the 299th



Maj. Nicholas Nazarko

Engineer Battalion. I was one of his lieutenants, a platoon leader, the company executive officer, then his assistant brigade engineer.”

The two officers stayed in touch over the years.

When Nazarko’s time in Germany and Iraq had come to an end, he decided he would like to take his young family stateside. He contacted Col. Bedey. “I had a lot of respect for him,” the major said, “so I requested an assignment to his district – in Omaha.”

The major checked with his wife about the possibility of moving to Omaha. She agreed. The assignment came through – but not to Omaha. It was for New Orleans

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where Col. Bedey had just become commander of the Hurricane Protection Office (HPO).

In Jan. 2007, Maj. Nazarko was made Chief of Staff, coordinating administrative and logistical support for the HPO, located at the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers. He is the colonel's liaison with internal and external agencies and stakeholders. Among his many other duties, Nazarko is also the Officer in Charge of the important London Ave. load test which will take place later this summer.

"This is by far one of the most challenging jobs I've ever had...including Iraq."

He said he finds many similarities, and just as many differences, between his Iraq and New Orleans assignments. "In Iraq, I had a singular purpose and pretty much knew exactly what I would be doing every day," he explained. "In New Orleans, every day is different. It's very fast-paced; I never know what to expect with each day."

"However," the major continued, "whether in Iraq or New Orleans, we still have the same over-arching sense of purpose: we are here to save lives." 

"The bottom line is – when I was forming my team here in New Orleans, I wanted to put together the best group I could. And I couldn't ask for a finer engineer, leader and soldier than Maj. Nick Nazarko."

*- Col. Jeffrey Bedey,
Commander,
Hurricane Protection Office*

Maj. Nazarko with Team Mates in New Orleans



Maj. Nazarko, right, discusses the day's activities with his team mates in New Orleans: Master Sgt. Rodney Downey, left; and Capt. Brian Becker, center. (USACE Photo by Susan Spaht)



Maj. Nazarko with Team Mates in Falluja, Iraq



Maj. Nazarko, center, poses with his team mates in front of a bridge damaged by insurgents in Falluja, Iraq. At left is Specialist Donald Heiney, and at right Specialist Joshua Coster. "We were there to assess the bridge for repairs," said Nazarko. (USACE Photo)

THE ENEMY IS EROSION

Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Important Mission for Corps of Engineers



Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LaCPR) is an important mission of the Corps of Engineers. The mission includes protecting and restoring Louisiana's precious coastline not only from hurricanes, but from erosion as well.

The Corps is working diligently in partnership with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's State Master Planning effort to develop the LaCPR Technical Report due to Congress in Dec. 2007. The report will present a comprehensive coast-wide plan containing measures for flood and storm damage risk reduction to Louisiana's citizens and developments, as well as integrated measures for restoring the state's



coastal barrier islands and wetlands. LaCPR engineers and scientists are currently gathering performance data and submitting the information into the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) Tool. This tool compares plans and will allow stakeholders to weigh metrics based on their values

so they can see how competing plans rank. This process was explained recently during stakeholder meetings held across coastal Louisiana. Additional meetings are being scheduled for later this summer to provide for stakeholder input. Public meetings will follow.

For more information on LaCPR and public meetings, go this Web site:
<http://lacpr.usace.army.mil/>

Contact Information

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(504) 862-1836

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Louisiana Recovery Field Office

(504) 681-2317

The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the hurricane recovery work to stakeholders.

This is an online publication and open to public distribution.

This issue and past issues can be found at:
www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps

Comments and questions may be sent to the

Status Report Newsletter editor at:

b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

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Status Report Newsletter

Task Force Hope

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PUMP CAPACITY REPORT

17th Street Canal.....approx. 5,200 cfs
London Ave. Canal...approx. 2,800 cfs
Orleans Ave. Canal....approx. 2,200 cfs

As of July 11, 2007

Note: The Status Report Newsletter will give regular reports on the pump capacity of the three temporary outfall canals under construction. For more details, please visit:

www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps

