



Corps Announces Hurricane Protection Office

HPO, Protection and Restoration Office to share common mission

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, through its Task Force Guardian (TFG), has worked diligently to restore levees, floodwalls and floodgates in preparation for the 2006 hurricane season. That important work continues under the auspices of two teams headquartered at the New Orleans District – the Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) and the Protection and Restoration Office (PRO). While each organization focuses on specific projects, they share a common mission: to restore, complete and improve the hurricane protection system of southeast Louisiana.

TFG was formed by the Corps of Engineers immediately following Hurricane Katrina to be the organization responsible for the first of a four-phase comprehensive mission. It repaired floodwalls, federal and non-federal levees, and repaired and improved pump stations prior to the start of the 2006 hurricane season on June 1.

HPO and PRO are assuming responsibility for the remaining three phases of hurricane protection – restoration, completion and improvement. These longer-term projects are primarily within Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes in Louisiana.



Construction continues at the 17th Street outfall canal where temporary pumps and flood gates are being installed. (USACE photo)

The improvement projects will focus on four key areas:

- Strengthening levees and floodwalls
- Reinforcing existing pump stations
- Constructing new permanent pumping operations
- Installing navigable floodgates in the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal

“This is like nothing we have ever approached before within the United States,” says Brig. Gen. Robert

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COL Jeffrey Bedey Picked to Command HPO

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, has appointed Col. Jeffrey A. Bedey to command the new Corps Hurricane Protection Office (HPO).

Col. Bedey additionally is the Commander and District Engineer of the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reporting to BG Crear.

A native of Montana, Bedey received his commission through ROTC as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to his command in Omaha, Bedey attended Quaid-I-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he earned a master's degree in defense and strategic studies.

The Colonel received a Bachelor of Science degree in


construction engineering from Montana State University in 1983. He also earned a Master of Science degree in construction management from Colorado State University in 1991.

As District Engineer of the Omaha District, Bedey oversaw federal civil works activities including administration of the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program in the upper Missouri River basin, engineering design and construction for the Army and Air Force in eight Mountain and Upper Midwest states, and environmental remediation cleanup work for the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Defense sites throughout the United States.

Bedey's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf



COL Jeff Bedey, new HPO commander

Clusters; Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal and a Humanitarian Service Medal. 

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
Overall Task Force Hope Information	(504) 862-1836	Task Force Hope Public Affairs
Debris Removal in Louisiana	(225) 218-9325	Louisiana Recovery Field Office
Debris Removal in Mississippi	(601) 631-5065	Mississippi Recovery Field Office

The **Status Report Newsletter** supports 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 Task Force Hope, Hurricane Protection Office 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: www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane. Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil.

Status Report Newsletter

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Faces of Hope

“Everybody here is so professional and determined to get the job done...”

Frank Monfeli has seen more than his share of disasters. As a civil engineer and Project Manager Professional for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1991, Monfeli worked on the Chicago Flood in 1992. The same year he went to Florida to provide disaster response for Hurricane Andrew.

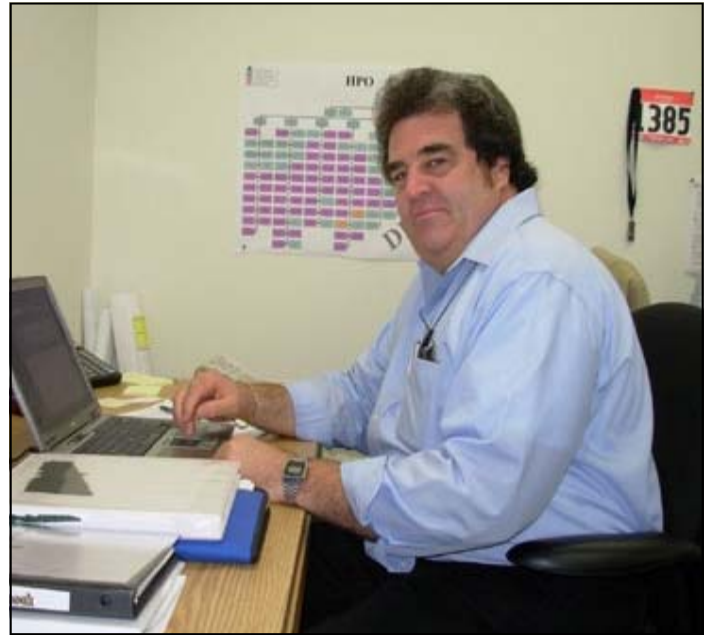
In 1993, he went to Hamilton County, Ill., and worked on the “Great Flood” of the Mississippi River. Then, in September 2006, Monfeli was called to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to respond to the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. “We lived in very wet hotel rooms in the upper floors of a Biloxi casino,” he said.

For 30 days, Monfeli was part of the St. Paul District’s Portable Building Unit providing temporary municipal offices and schools to the Mississippi coast from East Bay St. Louis to Ocean Springs.

“We saw houses and buildings that were six blocks from where they originally stood”, he said. “Katrina pretty much wiped out everything there.” In 30 days, Monfeli and his group provided 54 sites with temporary buildings for police, courts, schools and more.

Monfeli graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He went on to get his MBA from St. Ambrose University in Iowa. He also earned a special license as a Project Manager Professional from the PMI Institute. More recently, he graduated from the Army’s Leadership & Development Program, which is a civilian course for people who work for the Army.

Monfeli was assigned to New Orleans following his stint in Mississippi. His first assignment was to put together the Program & Project Management support contract for the Hurricane Protection System which he describes as “the largest amount of



Frank Monfeli

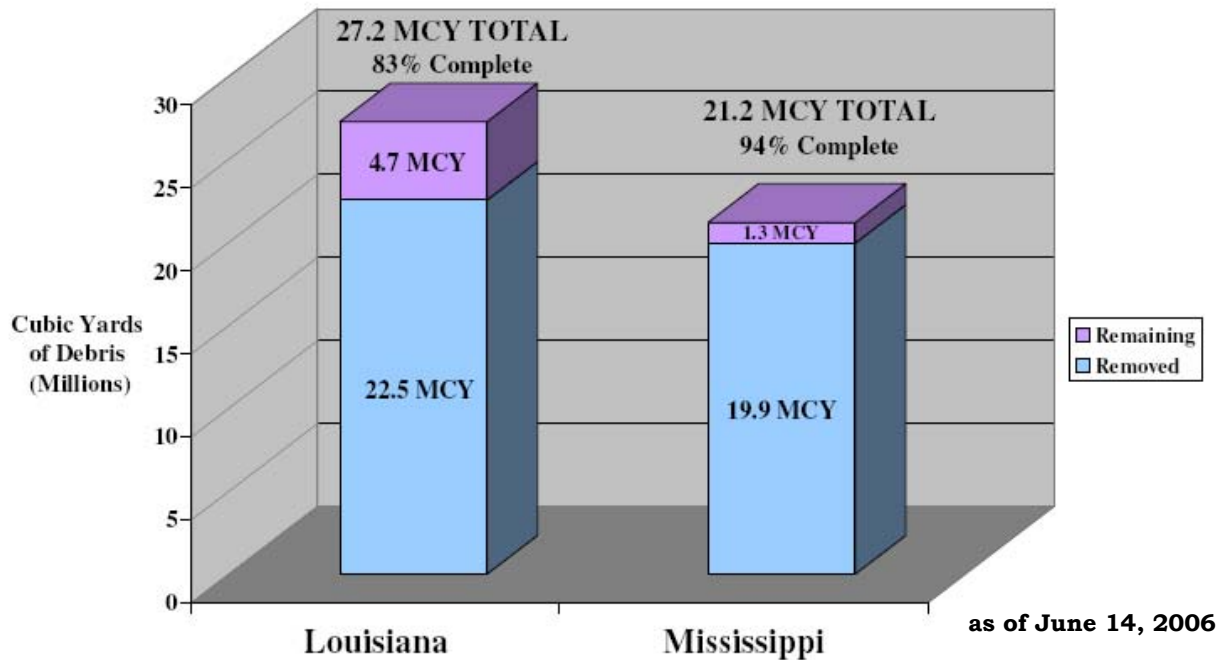
work under one district the Corps has undertaken in a very long time.” He also put together the contract for the permanent flood gates on the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC) and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

Monfeli’s work is part of the effort to stand up the new Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) which took over when Task Force Guardian stood down. HPO and the New Orleans District will provide the planned hurricane protection for Southeast Louisiana through 2010.

As Monfeli’s work in New Orleans winds down, he offered some observations on his experiences here. “Everybody here is so professional and determined to get the job done,” he observed. “I’ve been working with District people who don’t even have their own homes rebuilt yet. They are working 12 to 14 hours a day, then go back to their damaged homes and work there. It’s been pretty amazing.


“When you work with people like that it’s easy to want to give it your all.” 

Hurricane Katrina and Rita Debris Removal



Work continues on projects on Inner Harbor Navigation Canal — also known as the Industrial Canal — (above) and the 17th Street Canal floodgates (right).

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Crear, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division. "With \$6 billion in federal funds appropriated for massive system improvements to the hurricane protection system, we are working on a scale never attempted before. It requires innovative engineering and creative application of skills on the part of the Corps and our private sector partners." 



**Contact us with
comments and questions:**

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