



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

December 18, 2012

New York City officials tour IHNC Surge Barrier

In aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, East Coast officials are looking to New Orleans and its response to Hurricane Katrina

by Susan Spaht

Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005 with a devastating impact. It was soon labeled the nation's worst natural disaster, and the response to it became the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' largest civil works mission in its history.

The East Coast recently experienced Hurricane Sandy, a giant and destructive hurricane that is reminiscent of Katrina. It is only natural that officials whose areas were affected by Sandy want to learn from the lessons of Katrina.

Response and Recovery

The Corps' immediate response to Katrina included blue roof and ice missions, unwatering approximately 80% of the Metro area, building temporary structures, managing a monumental debris mission, and then designing and constructing a state-of-



Col. Ed Fleming, Commander of the New Orleans District, conducts a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier for New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, left, and officials of New York City which is recovering from Hurricane Sandy. NYC visitors included Robert K. Steel, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development (at Landrieu's left); Linda Gibbs, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (left, foreground); and Carter Strickland, Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection (right, foreground).

USACE Photo by Guy Volb

the-art surge defense system for the five-parish area.

Through speedy and generous Congressional action after the storm, the support of two Administrations, and seven years of hard work and dedication by Team New Orleans, the Greater New Orleans area now has the formidable Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System to

defend it against surge from a 100-year storm. The new system proved its strength and value this past November when it stood fast against Hurricane Isaac.

Continued on page 2

Also in this issue:

Task Force Hope wins awards.....Pages 4

Continued from page 1

“We learned some very valuable lessons from Katrina,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope, the Corps office that oversees management and funding of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. “And we are often called upon to share those lessons with other Corps districts, other states and even other nations.

“When Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast last month, our experienced team of professionals from the Mississippi Valley Division were among the first to volunteer to help. They were able to offer valuable advice, guidance and expertise to the local responders, and they continue to assist. Many of these volunteers have personal as well as professional experience in dealing with the destruction of property and disruption of lives that hurricanes cause.

“We have not forgotten that after Katrina we were the beneficiary of many volunteers from areas now affected by Hurricane Sandy. We are happy to return the favor.”

Many Mississippi Valley Division and MVD District personnel have assisted with the Hurricane Sandy response. Below are those who deployed to help:

Mississippi Valley Division

Robert T. Anderson
Cynthia D. Constancio
Joseph J. Danyeur
James D. Gutshall
Eric T. Haliburton
Alvin B. Lee
Marilyn J. Phipps
Carl E. Pigott
David W. Sills

“We had a very interesting and informative visit in New Orleans with city officials and Col. Fleming of the Corps of Engineers.

New Orleans has experienced and recovered from a devastating hurricane, and we can learn and benefit from their disaster response and their recovery efforts.”

**- Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson
New York City**

Vicksburg District

Tammy L. Baine
Ashley R. Ebersole
Edward L. Jenkins, Jr.
Jasper E. Lummus, Jr.
Jonathan D. Pennington
Cynthia B. Simmons
Greggory R. Williams

Memphis District

Jason E. Allmon
Steven L. Barry
Hafford W. Barton, Jr.
April J. Branch
James R. Clark
Zachary Heath Cook
Jason E. Dickard
Celestine G. Evans
Valerian C. Frierson
Brian M. Hall
Terrance D. Knowlton
Arthur Miller, Jr.
Boyd R. Mullins
Marie L. Normandie
Thomas D. Patton
James T. Pogue
Jackie Primer
Jennifer R. Rodriguez
Steven A. Sansone
Stephen P. Shankle
Henry D. Stimpfel
Carla R. Wells
Jack L. Wilkerson

New Orleans District

Lester G. Brown
Andre D. Dehaan
Maik C. Flanagan
Brian J. Gannon
Mark H. Gonski
Kenneth Holder
Michael A. Krehely
Keith J. Marino
Kevin R. Pigott
Rene G. Poche
Scott Daniel Turygan
Kevin G. Wagner
Herbert J. Wagner II

St. Paul District

Timothy Sam Bertschi
Bonnie K. Greenleaf
Andrew J. Maxa
Patrick N. Moes
Barry W. Simmonds
Byron G. Williams

Rock Island District

James W. Bartek
John T. Behrens
Mark J. Deschenes
Kevin D. Ewbank
Ronald F. Fournier
Roger A. Less
Denny A. Lundberg

Continued on page 3

Mississippi Valley Division employees help with cleanup and restoration after Hurricane Sandy hits East Coast



Mark Gonski, New Orleans District, inspects a flooded subway station in Manhattan as part of the Corps' unwatering efforts.

USACE Photos



The Task Force Unwatering Team poses for a photo in Manhattan. From the Rock Island District are, from left, Denny Lundberg, Encer Shaffer (NY District), James Bartek, Roger Perk, John Behrens and Roger Less. Not shown is Kevin Wagner, New Orleans District, the photographer.



Scott Turygan (right), New Orleans District, provides Debris Technical Assistance to EM Coordinator Jerry Greenburg of Atlantic County, NJ.

Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Task Force Hope

(504) 862-1488

New Orleans District

(504) 862-2201

The Task Force Hope 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 Corps' hurricane risk reduction efforts to stakeholders.

This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.

This issue and past issues can be found at:

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

Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

The Status Report Newsletter is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.



Status Report Newsletter

Task Force Hope
Strategic Communications
7400 Leake Ave., Room #186
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 862-1949

Continued from page 2

Jeff D. Mccrery
Roger A. Perk
Joshua T. Wolf

St. Louis District

Gregory E. Bertoglio
Melvin E. Cundiff

Christopher G. Hall
Mary E. Markos
Katharine H. Meadows
Blaine K. Napier
Mark A. Smith
Portia C. Stagge
Julie A. Ziino





Task Force Hope receives *Medallion of Innovation, Excellence, and Service Award* during R5 Conference in Vicksburg, MS

“This award honors the entire Task Force Hope team,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope, who accepted the award from Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division. This special award recognizes the TFH team for “superb achievement and tireless dedication since the 2005 devastation by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita...and for executing the largest Civil Works program in the history of the Corps of Engineers.”

Mike Park (center), Chief of Task Force Hope, receives the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal from Maj. Gen. John Peabody and Eddie Belk, SES with the MVD. The de Fleury is one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by the Army. Park also received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his exemplary performance and for “inspiring others to improve the quantity and quality of their work” while serving as Chief of Task Force Hope.



USACE Photos by Alfred Dulaney

John Hess, the former Program Manager for Task Force Hope, receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from Maj. Gen. Peabody for his outstanding work while at TFH. Hess is now Chief of Programs Management Branch for the New Orleans District.



Reuben Mabry (now retired), right, accepts his award for Meritorious Civilian Service from TFH Chief Mike Park. Mabry was honored for his service as Program Manager in Task Force Hope.

