

## 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

urricane 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).

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

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"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 <sup>66</sup>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. Poque **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. Flanagin 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

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**Contact Information** 

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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.



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



efforts.



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.



Mark Gonski, New

**Orleans District, in-**

spects a flooded subway station in Man-

hatten as part of the Corps' unwatering

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

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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

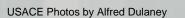
Corps Hurricane Respon



# 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.





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

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from TFH Chief Mike Park. Mabry was honored for his service as Program Manager in Task Force Hope.