



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

October 28, 2013

Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System reaches

## \$3 Billion in Small Business contracts

**More than 50% of HSDRRS Small Business dollars go to Louisiana-based companies as the prime contractor**

by Susan Spaht

**On** October 7, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reached **\$3 billion** in Small Business prime construction contract awards for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. This includes all construction contracts awarded since the Corps began work on the HSDRRS eight years ago. More than 50% of those contract dollars went to Louisiana-based Small Businesses.

"This is a huge milestone for the Corps," said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope. "We are very proud to announce that we've reached the \$3 billion mark in Small Business contracts for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, and to have so many of those contracts go to Louisiana-



# \$3,000,000,000

**October 7, 2013**

based companies – the people and businesses who were most affected by the 2005 hurricanes."

The Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System is a \$14.6 billion repair and construction mission that the Corps began immediately after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The system includes levees, floodwalls, gated

structures, and pump stations that form the 133-mile Greater New Orleans perimeter defense system as well as approximately 70 miles of interior defense structures. The sys-

*Continued on page 2*

**Also in this issue:**

Open Letter from our new Commanding General.....page 6

**“The Corps has a commitment to Small and Disadvantaged Businesses...”**

- Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca,  
Commanding General,  
Mississippi Valley Division

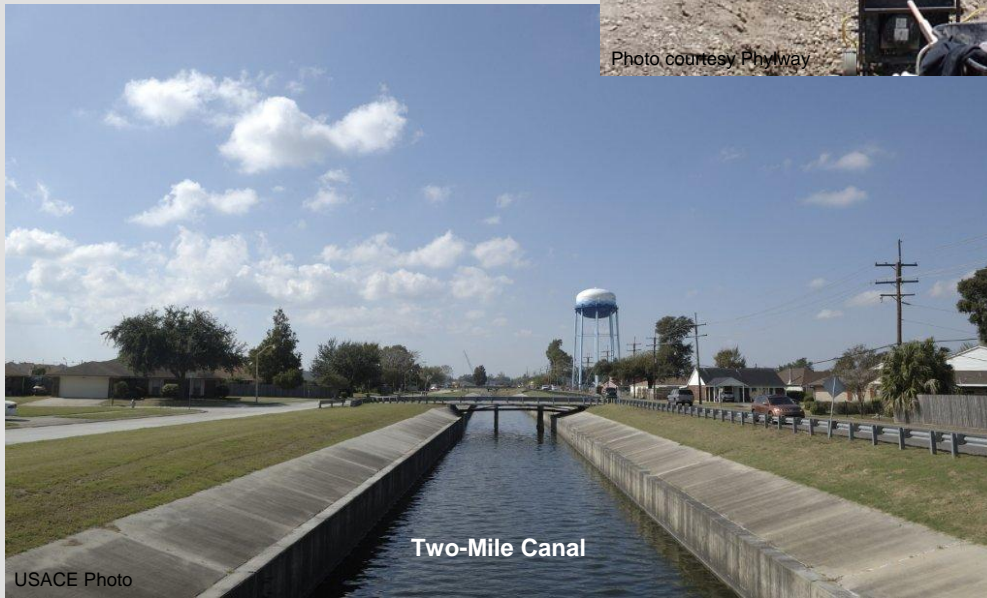


New Westwego Pump Station

Photo courtesy Phylway

Small Business Contractor:  
**Phylway Construction**  
HSDRRS Project:  
**New Westwego Pump Station**

Small Business Contractor:  
**Bucktown Contractors & Co.**  
HSDRRS Project:  
**Two Mile Canal (SELA)**



Two-Mile Canal

USACE Photo

Continued from page 1

tem was designed and constructed to withstand the surge from a 100-year level tropical event.

In April 2010, the Corps reached the \$2 billion mark in Small Business HSDRRS contracts; and just three and a half years later it has reached the \$3 billion mark. Over the past eight years (2005-2013), that averages out to approximately \$375 million a year in Small



Mike Park

Business contracts. To put that in perspective, in 2004 (the year prior to Hurricane Katrina), the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers awarded \$65.3 million in Small Business contracts.

That \$3 billion figure is only for HSDRRS contracts, it does not include the District’s other Small Business contracts (i.e., normal District business). When *all* Small Business contracts over the past eight years are added in, that \$3 billion figure jumps to more than \$4 billion. And that figure does not include sub-contracts that Small Businesses receive from large businesses working on the Corps’ larger projects. Those sub-contract dollars add up to an-

other nearly \$2 billion over the same period.

"The Corps of Engineers has a commitment to small and disadvantaged businesses," said Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division. "This \$3 billion mark clearly shows that the Corps is executing on its commitments and is determined to promote and include Small, Small-Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, HUB Zone, Veteran-Owned, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses in the construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System work, as we do in all other Corps contracts."





# Small Businesses play BIG part in HSDRRS success



Chalmette Loop Levee and Floodgates

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**Integrated Pro Services LLC**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Chalmette Loop Levee and Floodgates**



Citrus Lakefront Levee

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**L&A Contracting Co.**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Citrus Lakefront Levee**



Raised roadway ramp over levee at Lakefront

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**Cycle Construction**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Raised roadway ramp over levee at Lakefront**

USACE Photos





**Lincoln Beach Levee and Gate Replacement**

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**Shavers-Whittle Construction**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Lincoln Beach Levee and Gate Replacement**

USACE Photos

**"We are very proud to announce that we've reached the \$3 billion mark in HSDRRS Small Business contracts..."**

*- Mike Park, Chief, Task Force Hope*



**Mayronne Canal**

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**Fleming Construction Co.**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Mayronne Canal SELA)**

*Small Business Contractor:*  
**Fleming Construction Co.**  
*HSDRRS Project:*  
**Industry Canal (SELA)**



**Industry Canal**

Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Task Force Hope

(504) 862-1836

New Orleans District

(504) 862-2201

Hurricane Protection Office

(504) 862-1708

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 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](mailto: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 #388  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 862-1949



Industry Canal construction

USACE Photo

Small Business Contractor:  
Fleming Construction Co.  
HSDRRS Project:  
Industry Canal (SELA)

More than 50% of  
HSDRRS Small Business  
dollars go to Louisiana-based  
companies as the  
prime contractor

Small Business Contractor:  
Phylway Construction Co.  
HSDRRS Project:  
Lake Cataouatche Pump Station



Lake Cataouatche Pump Station  
prep work

Photo courtesy Phylway



# An open letter from our *new* Commanding General

**Hello** to everyone from me and from my wife Marianne. Although the plan for the first few weeks on the job was meant to be one of getting to know my MVD staff team and for them to educate me on the scope and depth of activities and challenges in the region – well, it got filled with other interesting events thanks to the chaos in the national capital region. Pretty sure the government shut-down had no relationship to my MVD assignment, to have such an influence on events would be a great gift that I would leverage everyday if I could!

Obviously, we are excited to be here. This is one assignment my wife Marianne and I definitely wanted to take on, and we are ready to go now that we are officially reopened for government business (and all the boxes are out of the house and the pictures hung – typically the last step when a military family lands somewhere).

A man named Viktor Frankl, an Austrian neurologist and psychologist, survived the death camps of World War II and went on to write a short but hugely influential book called Man's Search for Meaning. It demonstrates that all people (including USACE public servants) need a purpose in life to feel contentment and worth. My number one purpose as Commander is to help the MRC and MVD succeed, to help each of the regional teams succeed, to help our partners succeed, that also means to help you succeed, now and in the long-term future.

We can begin our road to success together by talking about our vision for the future and what we want the future to look like. You have some strong views on this I am sure, I need to know them. It will be necessary to



**Brig. Gen. Peter "Duke" DeLuca**

be sure that I am seeing the same thing you are, and vice versa, or at least that we understand each other's vision even if they emphasize slightly different features. It is OK if we discuss and debate alternative futures, so long as we all understand each other and don't think we have consensus if we really don't. Warning, I enjoy the debate - so please call everything like you see it and we will forge a common approach based on enhanced understanding through dialogue.

We can succeed in working toward that shared vision with a comprehensive planning approach to watershed projects. We will also succeed by communicating clearly with everyone, by fulfilling our commitments to our customers and stakeholders, and by delivering our projects on time and within budget. These are "must do" things to lay the foundation for success; but even if we do them, we might not achieve all that needs to be achieved in the region. This is the other role that I must work on as Commander – educating citizens, stakeholders, and leaders on the status and risks in the region and the ways we can and should address them, including the resources needed.

On the topic of budgets and funding, I must send a hearty congratulations to the Task Force Hope Team for reaching the **\$3 billion** mark in Small Business prime construction contract awards for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. What a huge milestone for the Corps' number one domestic project and for the entire MVD team. The achievement includes all construction contracts awarded since the Corps began work on the HSDRRS eight years ago, with more than 50% of the contract dollars awarded to Louisiana-based small businesses - the people most affected by the 2005 hurricanes.

The \$3 billion in contract awards also demonstrates the Corps commitment to promoting and working with Small-Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, HUB Zone, Veteran-Owned, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses. I will definitely tell this success story during the upcoming USACE Small Business Conference in November.

Marianne and I are excited to meet you and as many of our team as we can, and get to know many of you and get to know a region that is a new adventure for us. Thank you for the service you provide the nation as a member of USACE and thanks in advance for the welcome!

Building Strong!

*Duke DeLuca*

BG Peter "Duke" DeLuca, Commander  
Mississippi Valley Division



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**