

SERVING LOUISIANA



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

Mission Statement

The New Orleans District provides comprehensive water resources management to include navigation, flood and hurricane storm damage reduction and environmental stewardship for South Louisiana to ensure public safety and benefit the nation. Be prepared to conduct contingency operations and support the national response framework.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Serving the Nation

As a public service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides vital engineering services and capabilities across the full spectrum of operations—from peace to war—in support of national interests.

Corps missions include: water resources, environment, infrastructure, homeland security and war fighting. These capabilities are complementary and reinforcing. For example, employees working on water resources projects on our nation's waterways have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and applied their technical skills to support the Global War on Terrorism.

For more information on the overall Corps mission, visit <http://www.usace.army.mil/missions>.



Serving Louisiana

The Corps of Engineers' involvement in New Orleans dates back to 1803, when an Army engineer was sent to the newly acquired city to study its defenses. The Corps' early work in the area was of a military nature, but soon expanded to include navigation and flood damage reduction, which have been part of the New Orleans District's primary missions ever since.



Navigation

By 1824, Army engineers had turned their attention to the development and maintenance of safe river channels. The Mississippi River – a vital transportation link between the Gulf of Mexico and the nation’s heartland – was a dangerous waterway littered with toppled trees, shoals and wrecked ships. Navigable waterways were vital to settlement, commerce and growth. The Corps was directed to make the waterways safer and more reliable.

Today the New Orleans District’s navigation mission has grown to include 2,800 miles of navigable waterways– the largest maintenance dredging program in the Corps – and the operation and maintenance of 12 locks and 10 control structures.

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) experiences its heaviest traffic along Louisiana’s coast and is the lifeline for industries in Louisiana. Both small and large craft use the route to reach the channels flowing into the Gulf. The New Orleans District operates and maintains six of the locks along the GIWW, making navigation possible and supporting the Port of New Orleans, where the GIWW has its major connection with the interior of the country. There, it joins with the Mississippi River system. The combined Mississippi River ports of south Louisiana – four ports in the span from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico - are rated number one in the nation in total tonnage.





The Calcasieu River & Pass project, located in southwest Louisiana, provides deep draft access to the Port of Lake Charles. This port currently ranks as the eleventh largest port in the nation based on tonnage. Facilities located in Lake Charles refine 4 percent of the nation's motor oil. Currently, one of the nation's largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities is located in the Calcasieu River, a second LNG facility is being constructed on the Calcasieu River and is scheduled to begin operating in the Fall of 2008, and a third LNG facility is in the planning phase. When all three LNG facilities are operational, the Calcasieu River will provide 20 percent of the nation's imported LNG. Additionally, a gasification plant to be constructed in Lake Charles, which will bring more jobs and economy to Louisiana and the nation, is in the financial planning phase.

To maintain navigation channels we use depth-finding boats, dredges and structures. The latter includes revetments, jetties and dikes. The district dredged 66 million cubic yards in fiscal year 2003, more than 38 percent of Corps dredging nationwide.





Flood Damage Reduction

Geography puts the New Orleans District in the unusual position of facing three distinct flood threats from the Mississippi River and other streams, hurricane storm surges and rain.

To protect against river flooding, the district has built 973 miles of levees and floodwalls along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. The Bonnet Carré Spillway is a vital element of the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR&T) that provides flood protection for the alluvial valley from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the Head of Passes. The MR&T project also includes reservoirs and pumping plants for flood damage reduction drainage.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is the southernmost floodway in the MR&T system. Located in east St. Charles Parish, La., the spillway protects New Orleans and other downstream communities during major floods on the Mississippi River. It does so by diverting a portion of the floodwaters northward into Lake Pontchartrain and then into the Gulf of Mexico, bypassing New Orleans.



In addition, the Corps built 350 miles of hurricane and storm damage reduction levees and floodwalls. On Aug. 29, 2005, many areas of these levees and floodwalls were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Damage was severe on 41 levee miles and moderate on 128 miles, and 63 of 74 pump stations were damaged.

All of the recovery efforts are overseen by Task Force Hope, which was established immediately after Katrina.

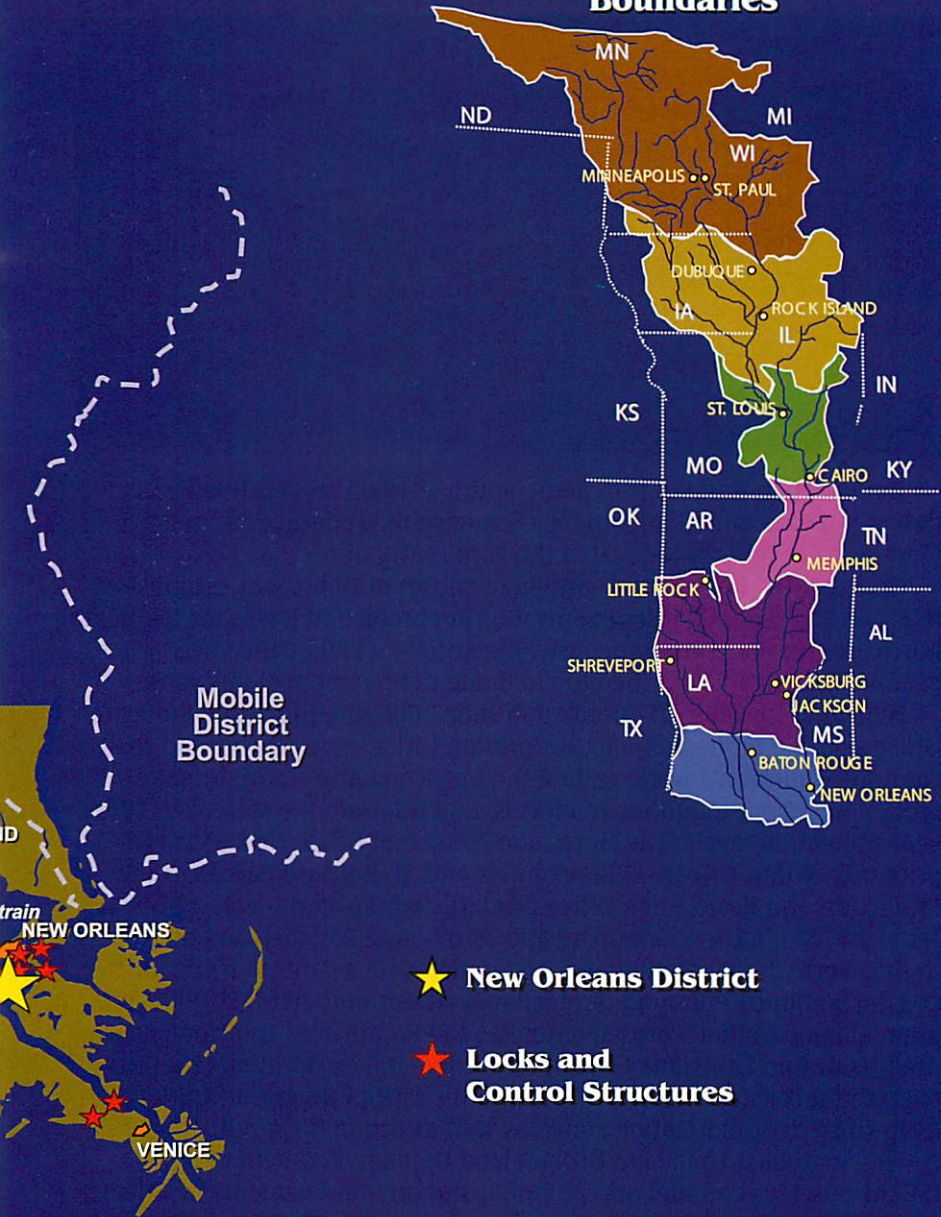


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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans

Mississippi Valley Division Boundaries





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Hope's main mission is to manage the work on levees, floodwalls, debris removal and all emergency response the Federal Emergency Management Agency requested the Corps carry out.

On Sept. 19, Task Force Guardian, a subset of Hope, was established to repair the federal system to pre-Katrina protection levels for the next hurricane season. Simultaneously, the Recovery Field Office was established to carry out the blue roof and debris removal missions.

Following the close of Guardian in June 2006, the Hurricane Protection Office and the Protection and Restoration Office were established to continue Guardian's work, restore the hurricane and storm damage reduction system to authorized levels, and upgrade the system to 100-year protection levels. The Hurricane Protection Office's projects are primarily within Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes. The Protection and Restoration Office primarily works on projects within Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. In addition to this work, the Protection and Restoration Office is responsible for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act (CWPPRA) program administration, Corps-sponsored CWPPRA projects, Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) and Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LaCPR), overseeing coastal restoration and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet deep-draft deauthorization study, as well as urban flood reduction.

The Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Project (SELA) provides channel and pumping station improvements in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes to improve drainage and flood damage reduction on a level associated with a 10-year rainfall event. SELA also reduces damages for larger events. St. Tammany Parish plans will provide flood protection for various rainfall events, but will focus on 10-year events.



Environmental

The three great estuaries or basins surrounding New Orleans suffer from saltwater intrusion and the loss of wetlands and habitat for fish and wildlife. Hurricane protection is also reduced as more open water appears. To counter these effects, freshwater diversion projects introduce Mississippi River water and nutrients into each basin. Caernarvon, in the Breton Sound Basin, opened in 1991, and Davis Pond, in the Barataria Basin, opened in 2002.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), also known as the Breaux Act, provides money for planning and implementing projects that create, protect, restore and enhance wetlands in coastal Louisiana. It was enacted in 1990, and is authorized until 2019. As of Dec. 2006, 143 CWPPRA projects were approved, 70 constructed and 20 de-authorized. The CWPPRA Task Force is composed of the state of Louisiana and five federal agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Governor's Office of Coastal Activities represents the state of Louisiana.

The Louisiana Coastal Area initiative began in 2001 to address projected future loss of coastal Louisiana's larger projects with more ecosystem impacts that must be constructed, which exceeds the funding



capacity and authorization period of CWPPRA.

On Jan. 31, 2006, Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock approved a report that recommends proceeding with the restoration of the Louisiana Coastal Area ecosystem, and signed a partnership agreement with Louisiana Gov. Kathleen B. Blanco to restore the ecosystem. Strock provided the report to the Secretary of the Army for review and submission to Congress. Strock recommended that Congress approve the Coastal Louisiana Restoration Plan and provide conditional authorization for near-term critical restoration features.



Since the 1930s, coastal Louisiana has lost more than 1,875 square miles. The loss rate from 1990 to 2000 was 23.9 square miles per year. In 2000 it was estimated that coastal Louisiana would continue to lose land at a rate of 10.3 square miles per year over the next 50 years. About 30 percent of the land losses are due to natural causes; the remaining 70 percent are attributed to man's effect on the environment.

Because Louisiana is losing coastal wetlands at an alarming rate, restoring these wetlands is imperative to protecting the state's abundant resources from devastating storms and hurricanes. A promising option for restoring coastal wetlands and reducing land loss is the beneficial use of dredged material. New Orleans District has the largest annual channel operation and maintenance program in the nation and dredges an average of 70 million cubic yards of material annually during the maintenance of navigation channels. Not all of this material is available for beneficial placement in the coastal ecosystem; however, there is the potential to use up to 30 million cubic yards annually to enhance coastal wetlands through marsh creation, wetland nourishment, barrier island restoration, ridge restoration and other techniques. Between 1985 and 2006, beneficial use has created 8,901 acres of marsh.



Global War on Terrorism

As a branch of the Army and a major Army command, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a vital role in defense by providing engineering, construction, and environmental management for the Army, Air Force, other assigned U.S. government agencies and foreign governments. This role includes designing, building and helping maintain the facilities our Soldiers use throughout their military service, from the recruiting stations where they join, through the facilities where they live, train and work.

When the Army goes to war, the entire Corps of Engineers mobilizes to provide vital support to our troops. Some of the frontline services the Corps of Engineers provides include base camp construction, force protection, utility assessment and repair, contingency airfields, tactical military hydrology, rapid mapping, bridge assessment and repair and other support.



As of October 2008, the New Orleans District deployed 86 employees in support of the Global War on Terrorism.





For more information, contact:

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