



US Army Corps of Engineers®

READINESS MANAGEMENT

Bulletin

INSIDE

DTOS.....	2
USCG.....	3
CISM.....	4



EM CoP Awards.....	4
Roofing.....	5
RAO.....	6
ENGLink.....	6
EM.....	7
Catastrophic Planning.....	8

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From the Top

By LTG Robert L. “Van” Van Antwerp
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, USACE



Although the 2007 hurricane season has been relatively good to us so far, we are definitely not out of the woods yet and conditions are still ripe for several hurricanes in the Atlantic and the Gulf. I encourage you all to remain poised and ready to respond, as you did so well with Hurricane Dean, which fortunately turned out to be a great practical exercise for us and the entire federal team.

The synchronization with our partners at FEMA is working well. Hurricane Dean’s mobilization showed that mission assignments were issued quickly to allow us the time to ramp-up our teams and resources. That made it possible to make essential decisions about the threats to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Gulf states. The federal and state teams followed the “L-Hour Sequence,” which guided the decision-making, ensuring the resources were in place and ready to go when and if they were needed. We also worked very closely with FEMA Logistics and Operations personnel and made informed decisions. We were able to save money by backing off on deployments, products, and services when forecasts indicated that U.S. interest would not be impacted.

To me, this says that we have the right people on the bus — people with a great professional will and commitment to serving this nation. I feel very confident in our ability to work as a well-oiled machine when that next disaster strikes

because you are on the USACE team.

I want to make sure you are aware of what a critical role you play on this team. As our emergency management and homeland security arm, each of you — whether you are part of a rapid deployment team on the ground in a crisis or an administrative assistant keeping us organized and coordinated — you are essential to our success. Two of my six priorities for the Corps directly involve you: Support the Global War on Terrorism & Expeditionary Forces and Effectively Plan and Prepare for Disaster Response. Because of your passion for what you do and the energy you bring to this mission each day, I believe we can take USACE from “good to great.”

There is still much work to be done to get there, but I know we’re on the way. One of the challenges ahead is Readiness XXI. As we bring together the civil and military systems into a single, organized, integrated contingency workforce that can be projected anywhere, worldwide, in support of FEMA, DHS, the State Department, DoD, or whomever, I am counting on you to Share Ideas Willingly (SIW) and steal ideas shamelessly (SIS), to make this transformation a success. We will continue to draw on a combination of volunteer and full-time resources to provide these services to the Nation, so I want to thank you in advance for your service to the Corps, the Army and the people of this Nation.

DTOS Conducts Regional Training Exercises

By the DTOS Management Team

June is late in the year for regional training exercises, but last minute funding provided an opportunity for DTOS to conduct two training exercises.

DTOS is the acronym for the Deployable Tactical Operations System. DTOS deploys into a disaster area, establishes communications, and enables emergency responders to conduct their response missions. These mobile command centers contain satellite earth stations, laptops, radios, phones, and other tools necessary for mission success. DTOS assets are in every USACE division and they connect to the CEEIS network via satellite. When the emergency response flag is raised, the DTOS deployment teams are subject to being deployed within six hours.

The DTOS program is managed by a team of five called the DTOS Management Team, an arm of the USACE Readiness Support Center. The team ensures the readiness of all DTOS assets and teams, and manages the DTOS response throughout the disaster.

Deployment team readiness is ensured through e-training and Situational Training Exercises (STE). The STE puts realism in the training through actual deployment of the DTOS assets. The teams prepare deployment plans and conduct pre-deployment equipment maintenance, checks and services. At the destination, the teams coordinate with mock customers and site personnel and set up their assets and make them operational. The teams are evaluated on the performance of their duties, as well as their ability to function as a team.

Then the Master Scenario Events begin, which may require the deployment team to contact different teams or locations by a variety of communications methods, or cause the team as a whole to formulate a written response to a particular issue.

Each day of the exercise is monitored. At day's end the teams gather for a performance evaluation. While there are countless ups and downs, the exercising places DTOS in a better position to accomplish the mission.



Ready to Respond

West Coast Exercise

The West Coast Regional Exercise involved 12 people and was held June 4-8 at Black Butte Lake Park, approximately 125 miles north of Sacramento. The units involved were Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV 4) (Los Angeles), Deployable Tactical Operations Center (DTOC 3) (Sacramento), and three members of the Management Team from Irvington, Alabama.



East Coast Exercise

This exercise involved 18 people and was held June 18-22 at the Memphis District Ensley Engineering Yard. The exercise involved RRV 1 (St. Louis), RRV 2 (Baltimore), RRV 3 (Nashville), and RRV 6 (Fort Worth).



The exercises were deemed a success by all, but none of it could have been accomplished without the consent and assistance of the Sacramento District and Memphis District project personnel. DTOS would like to extend its appreciation to Mr. Brad Long and his staff from the Black Butte Lake Project and Curtis "C-Don" Wilbanks and his staff from the Ensley Engineering Yard for the assistance and cooperation rendered during the exercise.

If you feel that you would like to be part of the DTOS program and to deploy into the disaster area to set the pace for the Planning and Response teams, call DTOS at 251-957-3801. You may speak to anyone on the Management Team. We have mobile emergency response assets in Baltimore, St. Louis, Nashville, Mobile, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Portland, and containerized assets in Mobile and Honolulu. We are looking for commercially licensed drivers (Class A and Class B), people with Information Technology skills, and folks that want to make a difference. Be part of the ONLY mobile emergency response program in the US Army Corps of Engineers...be a part of DTOS!

USACE/USCG Partnership

By Bill Irwin, Program Manager
Civil Emergency Management

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the US Coast Guard (USCG) have a long history of coordination and cooperation. In recent years, both USACE and the USCG have had important responsibilities related to the nation's response and recovery to manmade incidents and natural disasters, including shared responsibilities related to the restoration of the maritime transportation network. Prompt restoration of the MTS and its ability to support commerce following a natural disaster or other incident is a critical priority for the nation. Both USACE and the USCG have waterways maintenance and management expertise, authorities and responsibilities that support restoration activities in coordination with partners and stakeholders.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 Overview

USACE is the "Coordinating Agency" for ESF #3, and USACE and FEMA are "Primary Agencies" for ESF #3 to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support for public works and engineering-related issues.

Marking and Removal of Sunken Vessels and Other Obstructions

When the owner(s) cannot mark and/or remove a sunken vessel or other obstruction, both the USCG and USACE have authorities related to locating, marking, and removing hazards to navigation. USACE can implement emergency measures to remove vessels that are a hazard to navigation, and the USCG has the authority for the alteration or removal of sunken vessels when they pose a threat of discharge of oil or a hazardous substance, or if the discharge is a substantial threat to the public health or welfare.

Hurricane Katrina and Sunken Vessels

Hurricane Katrina resulted in hundreds of sunken and grounded commercial and recreation vessels. Soon after Katrina made landfall, the USCG established a Vessel Recovery Branch to address those vessels leaking oil or having the potential to release oil into navigable waters. Both USACE and the USCG, operating under FEMA Mission Assignments, received marine salvage as-



Current Initiatives

sistance from the Naval Sea Systems Command, Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV). SUPSALV contractors were used to execute ship salvage and wreck removal taskings from both USACE and the USCG.

Port Access and Vessel Movement Controls

Senior USCG officials commanding certain USCG units possess broad authorities in their role as Captain of the Port (COTP). This authority, within their respective zones, includes, in part, the ability to establish and enforce safety and security zones, order vessel movements, require vessel advance notice of arrival with pertinent information, or control vessels through COTP orders or denial of vessel entry. The COTP typically works collaboratively with key stakeholders, including the local Area Maritime Security Committee, Harbor Safety Committee, port authorities, and industry officials to determine when it is appropriate to implement such controls. Before easing controls on port access and vessel movements, the COTP must ensure that the waterways are safe and navigable. Following a hurricane or other incident, the USCG works closely with USACE, NOAA, the Navy, and others to survey the underwater and surface areas to determine the conditions of the waterways. Despite the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, the USCG authorized port access and vessel movements enabling commerce to resume.

Marine Debris

USACE conducts debris removal under ESF #3. Following Hurricane Katrina, the USCG, at the request of USACE, accepted a mission assignment from FEMA through ESF "Other" for removal of marine debris in coastal areas of Mississippi and Alabama due to the scale of the incident and overwhelming demands on USACE. The USCG led a team of federal and state partners that identified hundreds of sites that required marine debris removal action and managed the contracts that provided this service in support of FEMA.

Salvage Response Plans

The "Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006" (the "SAFE Port Act") requires that a "Salvage Response Plan" be included in an Area Maritime Transportation Security Plan (AMTSP). The goal of each Salvage Response Plan is to identify salvage equipment capable of restoring operational trade capacity and to ensure that the waterways are cleared and the ability to support the flow of commerce through the US ports is reestablished as efficiently and quickly as possible after a maritime Transportation Security Incident (TSI). USACE will be a key partner in the development of these plans, since we have authorities and expertise that will assist the COTP in their efforts to resume commerce following an incident.

Draft "National Response Framework"

The draft "National Response Framework" being developed by FEMA now includes language under ESF #3 for coordinating vessel removal, marine debris management, and other work associated with the rapid recovery and reconstitution of critical waterways, channels, and ports. The USCG and Navy SUPSALV are identified in the ESF #3 Annex as "Support Agencies" for these efforts. The "Salvage Response Plans" will be key documents for insuring a coordinated response and recovery effort under the National Response Framework.

USACE looks forward to strengthening our relationship with the USCG at both the Headquarters and Regional levels in the future. Our Memorandum of Agreement with the USCG was signed back in 1985 and addresses some aspects of how we work together to assist in the restoration of the nation's navigation infrastructure. A joint review of the MOA is planned to assess and, if needed, update and clarify roles and responsibilities and address changes that have occurred over the past two decades since this original agreement was signed.



Critical Incident Stress Management Program

By Terry Holt, Larry Bourge and Adam Jachimowicz

The Corps of Engineers has a long history of responding to disasters. Asking people to leave their homes and families, enter into a disaster zone and work long, hard hours in extremely stressful environments is a great challenge. To be successful, those employees must pay close attention to both their physical and mental health. Headquarters Emergency Management has been working with the Corps Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program over the past few months to integrate it into response and recovery missions. Recently, the EM bulletin 2007-05 was published. This document formalized the CISM program's role in Emergency management response and recovery missions.

At our numerous recreation projects, Park Rangers regularly adopt the role of First Responders and perform grim tasks such as body recovery. Doing this type of work naturally places a great deal of stress on individuals that can affect their work and personal life. Likewise, Corps employees are among the first on the scene of large natural disasters and witness immense levels of destruction and loss of life.

Throughout the country, CISM programs are commonplace in industry as well as federal, state and local agencies, including the US military. The National Aeronautics Space Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management are just a few examples of federal agencies utilizing CISM.

CISM is a flexible "First Aid" tool and a low-key confidential approach to addressing and mitigating the impacts of critical

incidents. It is a peer-driven crisis intervention and educational process that aims to provide employee support and healthy life choices in response to stressful work environments.

Exposure to critical incidents can, in some instances, lead to functional impairment in social and occupational settings. These impairments may involve serious acute stress symptoms, such as intrusive recollections, avoidance, and general numbing, irritability, and exaggerated startle response associated with exposure to a critical incident.

Delayed identification of impairment can result in an increase in health care costs, personal distress, absenteeism, and substance abuse. CISM has the potential to intervene early and refer the individual to a higher level of care if necessary, thereby decreasing recovery time, strain on the individual and their families, and health care costs. In addition, the CISM program works in conjunction with the Federal Government's Employee Assistance Program, which can also provide further support.

The CISM program now has deployable recon teams that can support a disaster response and recovery mission on the ground. These teams can rapidly deploy to scope out a mission and call on additional CISM resources if needed. The CISM response is attached as an item under the Regional Activation Mission Assignment. The ESF#3 Team Leader coordinates with FEMA and the District Commander to ensure that resources are properly allocated for this facet of support.

For more information please see the EM bulletin or the CISM website at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/cism/cism.html>.



EM CoP Awards

By Bill Irwin, Program Manager
Civil Emergency Management

Congratulations to Mr. Michael Park and Mr. Mark Wingate for being selected for the following Chief of Engineers' annual awards for excellence in the field of civil emergency management for the calendar year 2006:

Responder of the Year

Mr. Michael Park, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District has been selected as the USACE "2006 Responder of the Year". Mr. Park was selected as the individual within the Corps of Engineers whose actions while deployed for a civil disaster had the most impact during response and recovery operations. Mike has demonstrated exceptional leadership and knowledge while deployed at the Louisiana Recovery Field Office working as assistant to the RFO Deputy Commander and ultimately RFO Director in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Under his leadership, USACE was able to successfully execute various missions and deal with many sensitive issues that had national visibility.

Emergency Manager of the Year

Mr. Mark Wingate, South Pacific Division, has been selected as the USACE "Emergency Manager of the Year". Mr. Wingate was selected as the Emergency Manager whose actions throughout 2006 had the most positive national impact on the entire USACE Emergency Management Community of Practice. Mark was instrumental in ensuring the successful rehabilitation of critical California levees following the 2006 winter/spring floods. Mark's painstaking work paved the way for an unprecedented agreement with the State of California to do PL 84-99 Federal levee rehabilitation using State-contributed funds. In addition, Mark made significant contributions to the Kona Earthquake response as well as in the Infrastructure Assessment arena.

These selections place these individuals in an elite cadre of nationally recognized leaders in Emergency Management. The USACE Emergency Management Community of Practice is fortunate to have such exceptional individuals who are always ready to answer the call to meet the nation's disaster response needs.

New Directions in Temporary Roofing

By Tom Murrell
Temporary Roofing Project Manager

The 2005 hurricane season set records for the Temporary Roofing Program. Between Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, the Corps of Engineers, through its contractors and volunteer groups, installed more than 192,000 temporary roofs. The first 100,000 of these were installed in 50 days. The after action reports and audits identified ways USACE could go from having a good program to having a great program.

At the program level, work has started on a national standardized coverage policy. During the 2005, season coverage policy was verbal and subject to interpretation by contractors, Resident Engineers, Quality Assurance Specialists (QAs) and auditors. Once the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves the policy, it will be incorporated into the Advance Contracting Initiative (ACI) contracts. The policy will be put into the Roofing Field Guide and included in Planning and Response Team (PRT) training. The second major innovation will be the implementation of random sampling to evaluate the quality of the contractor's work and the accuracy of measurements for payment. This will shift much of the inspection responsibility to the contractor's Quality Control (QC) specialists. It will reduce the number of QAs needed to do final inspections by approximately 85 percent and result in substantial cost savings.

The 2005 hurricane season identified the need for more Temporary Roofing PRTs. As such, the Little Rock District Commodities PRT was converted by USACE to a Temporary Roofing PRT. In June, the St. Louis district was host to team training. Attendees were a mix of old hands and members who were new to the program. The first two days of the training consisted of presentations and discussions on various aspects of the mission with all of the presenters having been deployed in their specialty during the 2005 season. The last day of training was a practical exercise involving a fictitious hurricane with a strike line east of Houston Texas. Each PRT Team established and presented an initial response plan, a manpower redistribution plan dealing with a shortage of QAs, and made recommendations on how to respond to a variety of contractor problems.

In 2006, new ACI contracts were awarded for CONUS by the Mobile District. Five 10-state contracts were awarded. Three are unrestricted, one is a HUBZone award, and one is a Veteran-Owned businesses award.

In addition, seven Small Business 8a awards were made for six states. New contract language was included to correct problems with contractor crews and contractor quality control (QC) during construction. The capacity of the contracts was increased to eliminate the need to award additional contracts during an event. New OCONUS contracts will be awarded prior to the 2008 hurricane season. These contracts will incorporate both the new standardized coverage policy and the allowance for random sampling of the contractors' work. A new pricing system utilizing the industry standard of roofing squares (100 square feet) pricing instead of the current square foot pricing is being investigated, as well as changes for structural members and panels. Work will begin mid FY08 on new CONUS contracts for an award early FY09.

The ENGLink Team at the Readiness Support Center has been developing an Internet-

based database for use by all of the Roofing PRTs. It is ready to be beta tested by a Roofing PRT during an event. One current requirement is that the Resident Engineer Offices for the Temporary Roofing Mission must be established in an area that has active T-1 lines with Internet access. Once the ENGLink system has been fully field tested, an ENGLink light version will be developed for PRTs to use if they deploy into an area that does not have Internet connectivity.

Long term, USACE is not only looking at how to improve procedures and contracts, but how to better serve more people with roofing damage. We have started testing new materials for possible use on asphalt shingle and metal roofs. Many new solutions may come from working with the National Roofing Contractors Association. The long term goal is to have multiple solutions for each type of damaged roof we may encounter during an event.



ENGLink Public

By **Bill Irwin, Program Manager**
USACE Civil Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Community of Practice has recently made improvements to the Corps of Engineers Response Portal (CEERP) that is better known as "ENGLink Public" (www.englishlink.usace.army.mil). This portal is outside of the firewall and allows rapid access to key Emergency Management Community of Practice knowledge and information. Since there are no password and login requirements, the site is readily available to the entire community, which includes our USACE employees and our federal, state, local and private sector partners.

Sharing Knowledge

One of the main purposes of ENGLink Public is to establish a forum for sharing knowledge that can be used to build state and local capabilities to respond to disasters. The recent FEMA "Gap Analysis Initiative" revealed that there are significant planning gaps within the hurricane prone regions of the country. Some of the gaps identified are directly related to areas where USACE has expertise and knowledge that can be shared (i.e. commodities distribution, ice/water procurement, debris management, temporary housing, temporary roofing, etc.).

An example of "knowledge sharing" is the "Commodity Distribution Planning" information that is now posted on ENGLink Public. Over the past several years, USACE has collaborated with the State of Florida, FEMA and others to develop guidelines and procedures for setting to assist with commodities planning and setting up "Points of Distribution" following disasters. This information is now available on ENGLink Public and includes layout, manpower, and equipment guidelines that can be downloaded and modified by state and locals to meet their particular requirements. ENGLink Public also has contracting information that can be modified by state and local governments for establishing capabilities to engage the private sector. For example, USACE "Scopes of Work" and cost estimates for ice and water are posted and provide information that can assist state and local governments in establishing their own contracts. Templates and plans are also provided for establishing debris management contracts and capabilities at the local level.

Mission Models on ENGLink Public

Through the use of geospatial tools, USACE provides estimates of possible debris volumes, needs for water and ice commodities, the number of people and households likely within hurricane force winds, and possible temporary roofing and temporary housing needs beginning approximately three days prior to a forecasted hurricane

landfall. Model estimates are developed and posted on ENGLink Public. Timing of the release of model results is dependent on the National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast times, the speed of a storm and estimated time of landfall. The models are applicable for the US East Coast and Gulf Coast. Planning models estimates are also posted to ENGLink Public to assist with federal, state and local efforts to plan for hurricane disasters.

Conclusion

The FEMA Gap Analysis Initiative confirmed that there is a need for additional intergovernmental planning to improve our nation's ability to respond to disasters. As the Coordinator for Emergency Support Function #3 under the National Response Plan, USACE has a responsibility for coordinating federal, state and local "Public Works and Engineering" disaster planning and preparedness. As states and locals improve preparedness and abilities to manage disaster operations, there is less of a requirement for federal assistance following major incidents. ENGLink Public is one tool that is now available for sharing information and building disaster response and recovery capabilities, both internally within the Corps and also within the entire federal, state and local emergency management community.



Reemployed Annuitant Program Update

By **Don Binder, Program Manager**
RAO

As the work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans comes to an end for the Corps, the 150 plus RAO personnel who were there in mid-August are heading home. During much of the last few months, the RAO program did exactly what it was supposed to: It provided more resources for the final push to complete mission requirements than any Corps element, thus allowing the divisions and districts to continue to deal with issues of critical importance to the respective missions.

In addition to QA and QAS for both debris and housing, the RAO encumbered key positions, which included the RFO Director, entire IR and PAO staffs, part of the HR, security, safety, and contracting staffs. Additionally, the RAO are working in the Task Force Hope (TFH), Hurricane Protection Office (HPO), MVD, MVN, and

MVK.

With approximately 190 RAO presently assigned to work around the Corps, this group of highly trained retirees has added to the Corps capabilities not just in the actual disaster AOR, but throughout aiding in backfill or mentoring in divisions and districts.

If you have questions about the RAO program, EC 11-2-190 (now available on USACE publications site) and SOP CECWHS No. 1 (available on ENGLink), dated 1 Aug. 2007, provides policy and procedural guidance. If you have any questions regarding this program, feel free to contact our office directly.

As you continue to plan for future response capabilities of your organization, remember that a number of the RAO were members of various PRTs or have experience either while they were permanently employed or since joining the cadre that would make them quality candidates for

the various PRT positions. If you are interested in discussing this further, give us a call or send an email.

The RAO cadre now has more than 600 personnel. While we are encouraged by that number, should we be dealing with a major event, we can rapidly expend the capabilities of the cadre. Therefore we are exploring additional avenues of recruitment. We have been in contact with Operations Managers and CPAC staff to aid in "getting the word out." We ask that you provide us with additional recommendations for attracting qualified personnel, whether getting ready to retire or already having done so. If you provide them with our e-mail address or provide us with their e-mail or phone number we will be sure to provide them with the necessary information to apply.

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Seattle District Team Works to Repair Levees Damaged in November 2006



By Nola Leyde
Seattle District

Record rains and roaring rivers tested the metal of the Seattle District in November 2006. Known for wet weather, the district has one active Emergency Management staff with a trained cadre in flood response because flooding occurs routinely. Record-breaking floods do not.

November is usually wet in the Pacific Northwest, but November 2006 went down in the history books as the wettest month ever for Seattle with more than a foot of rain in as many days.

The storms started rolling in when a classic Pineapple Express, a tropical wet flow of weather, sent the wicked wet weather into Washington. A series of storms followed every few days, adding more water to saturated levees and rivers, and damaging roads, homes, farms, bridges, water, and sewage treatment plants.

In Washington, 24 counties were declared a state of emergency by Governor Christine Gregoire, who then asked that 11 counties be declared as federal disaster areas. Two

deaths were attributed to the massive storm and more than 100 homes were destroyed.

As media outlets mused, it was a November to remember, Larry Schick, district meteorologist, noted “We saw extraordinary rainfall with the active, progressive weather patterns giving us one weather system after another. The Pineapple Express was a very big event and likely the biggest for most of Western Washington since the historic floods of 1996 or even the epic 1990 floods. In some basins all-time record high flows were seen.”

For Doug Weber, Seattle District natural disaster manager, the yearly training and coordination spent in more than eight river basins paid off. Although some of the river basins had just completed flood awareness training, in the Wynoochee River Basin in northwest Washington, it became the real thing.

The flood fight started Nov. 5 and ended just before Veterans’ Day weekend. The next critical step was to go out and check the conditions of the levees. Even with the flood waters receding, the fall flood season was in full swing and time was of the es-

sence. Some 26 flood engineers spent the weekend assessing more than 120 levees in eight river basins – on the Nooksack, Skagit, Snohomish, Puyallup, Chehalis, Olympic Peninsula, Cedar-Green, and Yakima-Naches rivers.

The teams, working with the counties’ emergency management officials, assessed levee damages, prioritized the work, and identified those structures that needed repairs expedited, including temporary repairs.

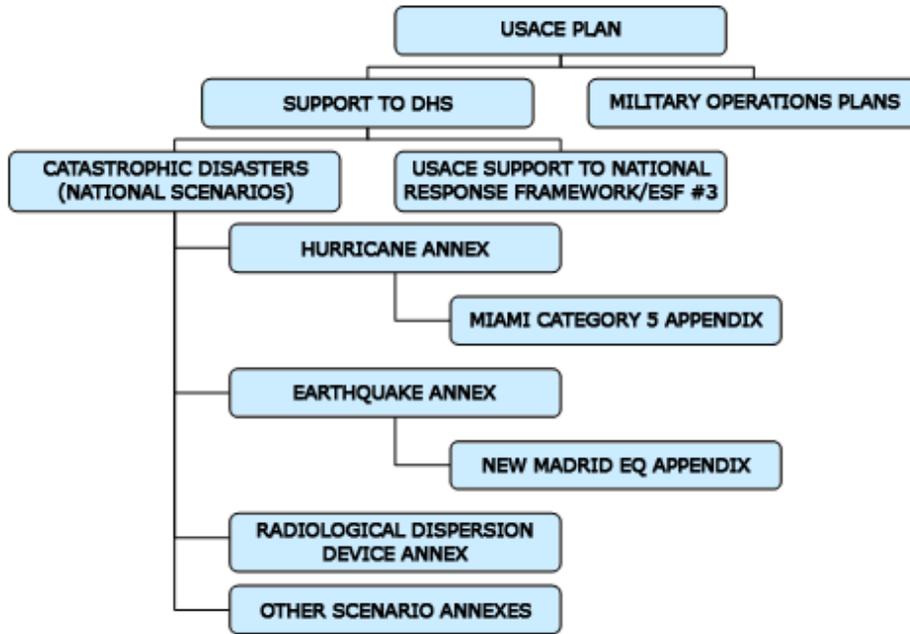
Work to repair the levees includes the investigation of damages, estimates of repair costs, engineering design of repair work, and construction. The estimate for the cost of repairs is more than \$21 million. Funding for the repairs was recently received by the district so work has begun in earnest. Investigation and estimates of repair work have been completed on many of the levees with some of the engineer design work under way. Construction on some of the levees began in August.

“Public safety is our number one priority, and our intent is to repair as many as possible in the short time we have left before the start of flood season in November,” said Paul Komoroske, chief of the Corps’ Seattle District Emergency Management Branch.

The Corps had identified 13 levees for repair this year. Repair of the levees is subject to in-water work windows, real estate issues, and the ability to mobilize equipment, materials, and contractors.

The effort requires a massive coordination of more than 30 staff specialists that includes emergency management, project managers, environmental, hydrology, real estate, design, cost engineering, public affairs, office of counsel, contracting and construction support. Providing support, both virtually and “boots on the ground,” are Omaha, Portland, and Kansas City districts.

Included in the repairs scheduled this year are levees in King, Pierce, Skagit and Whatcom counties. Preliminary work on the remaining levees will also begin this year. Construction is expected to take place on those levees next year. Seattle District emergency managers will work with sponsors of levees that will be repaired next year to develop flood fight plans in advance of the upcoming flood season.



Catastrophic Disaster Planning

By **Germaine Hofbauer**
USACE Office of Homeland Security

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Catastrophic Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (CDPAC) was chartered on 20 April 2007. The CDPAC was established to provide advice in the development of policies, guidelines and procedures for the EM CoP in support of the USACE Catastrophic Disaster Response Program (CDRP). The CDPAC is led by David Sills (USACE Mississippi Valley Division) and is made up of headquarters, division and district members of the Emer-

gency Management Community of Practice (EM CoP). The CDPAC held its initial meeting July 10-11 in Washington, D.C., and developed a draft action plan to support the committee's charter.

One goal of the CDPAC is to develop standardized catastrophic disaster planning templates based on specific threats such as earthquakes and hurricanes. The catastrophic planning templates will be utilized by Divisions and Districts for developing event-specific catastrophic disaster response plans as funded in accordance with the five-year planning cycle. The CDPAC will draft guidance for the USACE CDRP

program to include guidelines for "base plans" and disaster annexes. The committee will also recommend guidance for prioritizing and resourcing catastrophic planning efforts, taking into consideration USACE, DHS, DOD and FEMA priorities.

To date, the committee has completed the Plan of Action and the Project Management Plan with milestones. The following products are planned by the committee:

- FY09 and out-year budget requests for the National Emergency Preparedness Program
- Review of existing catastrophic disaster response plans
- Guidance for prioritizing and resourcing catastrophic planning efforts
- Develop catastrophic planning templates
- Establish a "Review and Approval" process for CDRPs
- Develop metrics measuring and funding performance
- Establish a CDRP Repository of existing plans
- Insure USACE participation in the development of catastrophic disaster plans produced by others (e.g. FEMA, DHS Incident Management Team "National Scenario" plans, etc.)

The CDPAC will meet face-to-face twice per year and will also meet virtually to further the goals and objectives identified in the CDPAC charter and Action Plan. The CDPAC will be instrumental in revitalizing the Catastrophic Disaster Response Program and will provide direction as we produce executable plans. These plans will not only improve USACE preparedness, but will also improve our relationships and abilities to work with our federal, state and local partners.