Today’s Briefing

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission
- Events leading up to New Orleans flooding
- Corp’s Response
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission

- 35,000 Employees
- Spectrum of Services…
  - Warfighting
  - Water Resources
  - Environmental
  - Infrastructure
  - Homeland Security
- Military Construction
- Across 9 Business Lines
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District is a full-service, civil works organization, accountable and responsible to the Northwestern Division for the efficient execution of its assigned programs. Our specialties include… Planning, engineering, construction, operations and maintenance, real estate, legal and regulatory functions, resource management, contracting and vital support activities…

To provide… Hydroelectric power, flood damage reduction, navigation, environmental restoration, water supplies, recreation, emergency management, regulatory support and support for others.

District Boundary follows the Snake River Basin
Includes parts of 6 states: WA, OR, ID, WY, NV & UT
Covers about 107,000 square miles
Corps’ Disaster Relief Mission

- Eight mission areas
  - Emergency power
  - Humanitarian support (water & ice)
  - Debris removal
  - Temporary housing
  - Structural stabilization or demolition
  - Temporary construction of access routes
  - Temporary roofing
  - Emergency restoration of critical facilities
Confluence of Events & Location

- **Katrina** – Class 5 Hurricane
  - Huge
  - 165 MPH
  - 20-30 foot storm surge

- **New Orleans**
  - Vulnerable
  - Surrounded by water
  - Below sea level
  - Served by levees
Several Levee Breaks

The result – a flooded city
The Corps’ Role

- Support Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Corps of Engineers carrying out a wide variety of missions in response to Hurricane Katrina
    - Get the water out of New Orleans
    - Temporary power generation
    - Ice and Water
    - Remove Debris
    - Housing Strike Team and Temporary Roofing
Deployed 17 from Walla Walla District

- Power Team, 8 people
  - Standing by a week before storm hit
  - Deployed Monday, Aug 29 to Alabama
  - Support region’s power needs – set up generators for emergency responders
  - Damage not as extensive as feared
- Debris Removal
- Structures
- 82 volunteers
Corps People Deployed

- Corps-wide over 1,000 people deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina
- Many more employees prepared to deploy for this or other major storms or natural disasters
Un-watering New Orleans

- Get water out of New Orleans
  - The 17th Street Canal Breach has been closed, except for a 40-foot opening in the middle of the outflow wall to allow the pumping station to come online
Un-watering New Orleans

How long will it take?
- Estimates vary because conditions change daily
- Our best guess 24-80 days
- As of noon today, 28 of city’s 148 pumps & 17 portable pumps were operational
Housing Strike Team

- Corps assembled and deployed several teams
- Assess damage to structures to ensure they are safe
  - Bridges
  - Homes
  - Other buildings
Temporary Housing

- 235,400 people have been evacuated and safely housed in 750 shelters nationwide.

- The Temporary Housing planning and response team has activated and deployed

- The Memphis District team is working on a Catastrophic Housing Plan for 50,000 Mississippi citizens
Emergency power mission

- FEMA has stocks of generators
- Shipped to areas where needed
- Corps works with contractors to ensure generators are installed
- Assessing power needs at New Orleans Airport, the Navy Yard, New Orleans Convention Center, and several more
Water & Ice Mission

- 474 trucks (10,238,400 liters) of bottled water have been delivered to the staging area, and 518,400 liters distributed.
- 4,676 trucks of ice (187,040,000 pounds) are under contract.
- In the past 24 hours, 640,000 pounds of ice were distributed.
This is a BIG operation

- More than 70,000 response, rescue, recovery and law enforcement personnel are working around the clock to bring critical aid and support to the Gulf Coast region.
- More than 47,000 lives have been saved or rescued.
- Nearly 21 million liters of water and 11.9 million MREs distributed by FEMA.
- 12 Disaster Recovery Centers open in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.
- 85 National Disaster Medical System Teams engaged in Gulf Region.
Corp’s three priorities are…

- Support efforts to save lives and find people
- Sustaining lives
  - Water and shelter
- Set conditions for recovery
  - Cleanup, debris removal, restore infrastructure and navigation