



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Corps of Engineers assists in hurricane recovery efforts in Florida

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the wakes of Hurricanes Charley and Frances, has deployed roughly 280 military and civilian employees from around the country to support recovery efforts. Of the personnel deployed, 16 are from the Fort Worth District.

“We had 12 team members deploy in support of response efforts associated with Hurricane Charley,” said Paul Krebs, who deployed as part of Emergency Support Function #3. “I deployed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 4 Regional Operations Center in Atlanta as a ESF #3 assistant team leader from Aug. 16-20. My role was to serve as liaison and accept mission assignments for the Corps from FEMA.”

To provide logistics support, three Fort Worth team members, Ross Black, Everett Morton and Ira Mathews, who were on the Southwestern Division Logistics Planning and Response team, deployed on Aug. 17 to support logistics missions at the FEMA Mobilization Center located at Lakeland airport. Bill Stanford and Fred Hilliard deployed to support the temporary housing mission by performing quality assurance on temporary roofing contracts.

The most immediate need was for ice, water and power. USACE delivered 20 to 40 truckloads each of ice and water per day into victimized communities prior to Hurricane Frances’ arrival. Eighteen Soldiers of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), a USACE unit, arrived in Florida a day after the hurricane to assess and install generators for communities blacked out by Charley.

“We moved into Lakeland the Saturday, immediately after the hurricane passed through to begin the recovery work,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Goetz, deputy district commander for south Florida. “What the Corps is doing now is really a team effort with the state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private contractors. Situations like these require a lot of effort from everyone.”

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USACE is using Deployable Tactical Operations System vans, which provide a full range of emergency communications and command-and-control support, as part of the recovery effort.

The Corps' water delivery operation is extensive. In the first five days of operation, the Corps provided 1.8 million 1-liter bottles of drinking water to the residents of southwest Florida. Water transportation has been accomplished in part through the use of contracted, British-owned aircraft. The aircraft's cargo area is sizeable and holds seven truckloads of potable water. The Corps in Iraq used these aircraft to deliver emergency repair parts for the Iraq power grid.

In addition to the electricity, ice and water support, FEMA has asked the Corps of Engineers to manage installation of temporary roofing materials. FEMA has transferred \$30 million in disaster-relief funds to the Corps for the temporary roofing mission.

The Corps is also conducting debris-removal assessment and coordination in nine of the 18 affected Florida counties. The Corps' Jacksonville District has activated its emergency operations center on a 24-hour basis, as has South Atlantic Division headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. Col. Robert Carpenter, the Jacksonville District Commander, is serving as the South Atlantic Division forward commander.

To date, FEMA has provided the Corps with more than \$60 million for ice, water, the temporary roofing and debris oversight missions, emergency power, logistics and technical assistance, among other missions.

The response by the Corps of Engineers was immediate, as preparations were being made before Charley blew ashore. According to Krebs, the Fort Worth District deployed four team members from its Debris Planning and Response Team to support Hurricane Frances efforts.

USACE is one of 26 federal agencies comprising the Federal Response Plan, which is administered by FEMA and Homeland Security and prescribes the federal response to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters.

Interviews with team members are available by calling Clay Church at 817.886.1310. Visit the Fort Worth District web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil.