



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

News Release

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Control structure exercise a success

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District ran an internal hurricane exercise at the Harvey Canal and all three outfall canals beginning at 6:45 a.m. today in preparation for the simulated “Tropical Storm Mildred.”

Each year the Corps holds hurricane preparation and response exercises to rehearse the Corps’ response plan and improve internal coordination.

For purposes of today’s exercise, Mildred’s tropical-storm force winds reached the New Orleans area this morning and brought with her an expected storm surge of 6-9 feet above normal.

At 6:45 a.m., gates at Harvey and London canals began to close to block the expected surge from entering the canals. Pumps at Harvey Canal were turned on at 7:09 a.m. to pump out the rain accompanying the simulated scenario.

Capt. Eric Marshall, a project manager for the New Orleans District, used his expertise gained through combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan to deliver real world situations to the exercise. These inserts were used to test the team’s abilities to react to unknown problems.

As Mildred continued to bear down on the Greater New Orleans area, Mike Stack, captain of the Harvey Canal, received a scenario from Marshall - pump four was overheating and needed to be shut down. What would the canal captain do to rectify the situation? He started pump five, shut off pump four and continued his mission.

At the 17th Street Canal, Canal Captain Ray Newman had to ensure operation of the pumps during a power outage. It wasn’t a problem for Newman and his crew, who simply operated everything manually.

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The crew at Orleans also experienced a power outage as well as a man overboard. The scenario at London was a pump on fire.

“The teams on the ground reacted well in the field and successfully completed their missions,” said Capt. Steven Ogden of the district’s Emergency Operations Center and creator of each scenario.

“Operation of the structures was a success,” said Col. Alvin Lee, district commander.

The exercise was complete by 3 p.m. today, after the storm surge subsided and the gates were opened following Mildred’s landfall along the coast of Louisiana.