

Flood Risk Management Newsletter

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Mark Roupas Deputy Chief (Acting), Office of Homeland Security

The USACE Office of Homeland Security is pleased to welcome Mr. Mark Roupas as the Acting Deputy Chief, replacing Mr. Ray Alexander. In this role, Roupas will oversee matters related to Flood Risk Management, Emergency Management, and Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience.

Roupas’ last assignment was as a Senior Policy Advisor and the USACE Liaison Officer within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs. In this position, Roupas advised the Assistant Secretary of Defense and other senior DoD civilian and military leaders on USACE emergency response activities and actions under Emergency Support Function Three of the National Response Framework, the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and Public Law 84-99, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies. In addition, he was instrumental in the development of the National Mitigation Framework and several related Federal Interagency Operational Planning efforts. As such, Roupas has a solid background for his role overseeing emergency management and flood risk management activities.

Roupas served twenty years in the United States Army, with troop assignments at every operational level. He first became associated with USACE when he was assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade in Karlsruhe, Germany. His Army career culminated with his assignment as a Policy Officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, United States Army. Roupas began his civilian career with USACE in 2001 as the Chief of Military Personnel. He Roupas received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from East Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from George Washington University.

Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets 2013 “Webinar Week” Success Stephanie Bray, HQ

In the past the Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs have hosted an annual in-person workshop to bring together the many internal and external partners involved in flood risk management; to share new approaches, successes, lessons learned and challenges; and to improve overall flood risk management in the Nation. This year an in-person workshop was not feasible, due to budget limitations and travel restrictions. To encourage partnerships and share information in a more cost-effective manner, the Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs hosted a “Webinar Week” from 20-22 August, with training webinars on the 23rd. August. All webinar sessions were recorded. Recordings and presentation materials are available on the Webinar Week website (<http://www.nfrmp.us/frmpw/2013webinarweek/agenda.cfm>).

Numerous presentations were given those three afternoons of webinars. The opening plenary session was a panel discussion focused on Superstorm Sandy, with Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera (USACE), Mr. Roy Wright (FEMA), Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA), and Mr. David Rosenblatt (NJ Department of Environmental Protection) describing the immediate response and longer-term recovery efforts in the affected region. Many Federal interagency partnership efforts were highlighted, along with partnerships between the Federal agencies and the affected States. Other topics covered throughout week were Levee Safety, including a report for the Flood Protection Structure Accreditation Task Force; nonstructural flood risk management approaches; interagency partnership for flood inundation mapping; natural and nature-based infrastructure; and sea-level rise and climate change. There were presentations from key non-governmental partners, including the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies, and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association. Multiple partnership efforts with States for flood risk management, including several Silver Jackets interagency pilot projects, were also presented. The closing plenary session included an overview of important changes to the National Flood Insurance Program due to the Biggert-Waters 2012 legislation. Also during the closing plenary session, Durham-Aguilera presented the 2013 Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets awards – Flood Risk Manager of the Year, Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year, and Silver Jackets State Team of the Year.

A number of additional training webinars were offered on 23 August: Alternatives Analysis Under Executive Order 11988; Development of a Floodplain Management Plan; and Flood Warning Systems 101, presented by the National Hydrologic Warning Council. Several tools were also presented in training sessions: the Watershed Infrastructure System Decision Management Tool (WISDM); the National Flood Risk Characterization Tool (NFRCT); and a dam break simulation tool (the Dams Sector Analysis Tool).

The 2013 Webinar Week was a complete success. A total of 414 participants registered in advance of the event, with 59% from Federal agencies (with 11 Federal agencies represented), 25% from States (a total of 35 states participated), 9% from contractors, 4% from communities and tribes, and 3% from non-governmental organizations and universities. On average, it is believed that 150 people were participating across all concurrent sessions at any time during the event, and at least 200 people participated in the opening and closing plenary sessions. (POC: Stephanie Bray, Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil, or Jennifer Dunn Jennifer.K.Dunn@usace.army.mil).

California Silver Jackets Team is Officially Active

Judy Soutiere, SPK

On Monday, 4 November 2013, the California Silver Jackets team became the fortieth active team in the Nation. USACE and the state partner, the California Department of Water Resources, participated in a signing ceremony to officially initiate the team partnership effort. The Department of Water Resources will serve as the lead coordinating agency for the state. Other partners will include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, California Office of Emergency Services, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

In participating in the signing ceremony, Sacramento District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Braden LeMaster stated, “Silver Jackets is about each state and other agencies starting discussions before disasters, building relationships, and improving communication, coordination, collaboration so that we can more effectively respond in an emergency and help recover faster afterward.”



California Silver Jackets Team Agency Representatives

After noting that in California one in five people live in a floodplain and the significance of flood risk to the state, Mr. Gary Bardini, Deputy Director of Integrated Water Management, California Department of Water Resources, said, “Silver Jackets is really what expresses the cooperation, the resourcefulness of agencies working together to promote recovery after a crisis occurs.”

The California Silver Jackets team will include two regional sub-teams, allowing the team to maximize resources during this time of reduced availability of Federal funds and still address regional diversity in the state’s flood risk management challenges. Having sub-teams focused on Northern and Southern California, respectively, will minimize the amount of travel required to attend meetings and address different flood-related challenges in the different regions of the state.

The signing ceremony that initiated the California Silver Jackets team also initiated the second annual California Flood Preparedness Week 4-9 November 2013. The annual California Flood Preparedness Week was created as a means of improving awareness of flood risk and community preparedness for flood emergencies. (POC: Judy Soutiere, Judy.M.Soutiere@usace.army.mil)

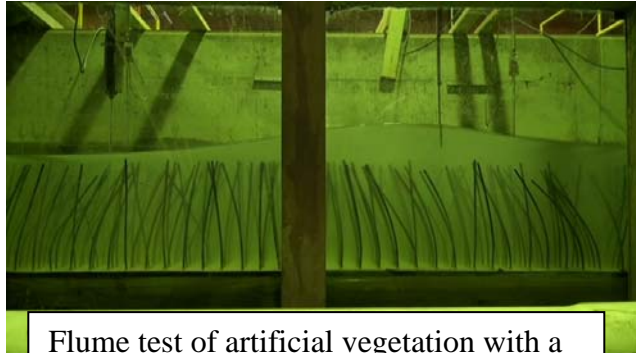


California Silver Jackets Coordinators Terri Wegener (CADWR) and Judy Soutiere (USACE SPK)

Laboratory Studies of Wave Attenuation through Artificial and Real Vegetation

Mary Anderson, CHL

Although it is generally acknowledged that coastal vegetation can reduce surge and waves, data and quantitative methods to address this reduction in modeling and design is lacking. The Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory conducted a laboratory experiment whose objectives were to demonstrate and quantify the wave attenuation potential of coastal vegetation. The experiment consisted of two phases. Phase 1 subjected three different densities of artificial flexible vegetation to a range of hydrodynamic conditions, including different water depths, wave heights, and wave periods, in order to evaluate the effect of each parameter on wave attenuation. Phase 2 modeled the same hydrodynamic conditions with live *Spartina alterniflora*, a coastal grass native to the Gulf of Mexico and the eastern United States. Following analyses of the laboratory data, a term for vegetative dissipation will be implemented into STWAVE and validated using both existing and the newly collected datasets. Various phases of this research are documented in [CHETN-I-82](#), “Wave Dissipation by Vegetation,” and [ERDC TR-13-11](#), “Wave Attenuation through Artificial and Real Vegetation.” Results of this work will be published in *Coastal Engineering*, vol 83, January 2014. (POC: Mary Anderson, Mary.Anderson@usace.army.mil; Jane Smith, Jane.M.Smith@usace.army.mil)



Flume test of artificial vegetation with a stem density of 200 stems/m²

The USACE perspective of Regional Sediment Management

The November 2013 issue of “Coastal Voice,” the newsletter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association, has an article of interest – ‘The USACE perspective of Regional Sediment Management,’ by Linda Lillycrop, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. See <http://www.asbpa.org/1113asbpa.pdf> and go to page 12.

2013 Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Awards

Stephanie Bray, HQ

On 22 August, as part of the closing plenary of the 2013 Flood Risk Management – Silver Jackets Webinar Week, Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera continued the tradition of recognizing excellence in the Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs. Ms. Durham-Aguilera used this opportunity to recognize the winners of the 2013 Flood Risk Manager of the Year, Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year, and Silver Jackets State Team of the Year. Lacking an in-person opportunity, announcing these awards during the well-attended Webinar Week offered an excellent venue for broadly recognizing the great work done by the award recipients.



The 2013 Flood Risk Manager of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Michelle Hamor, the Flood Risk Manager for Norfolk District. This award recognizes her efforts to energize the Norfolk District Flood Risk Management Program. Hamor personally brings strong technical skills and understanding to the team and has accessed additional assets by integrating across various sections of the District to reach staff with relevant and necessary skills to strengthen the program. She dedicated significant effort to forming relationships with critical external partners, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, leading to increased and improved coordination and collaboration on flood risk

management issues. Hamor increased public outreach and communication within the District. She provided numerous presentations to communities and at various conferences on flood risk management issues, including on the topic of sea-level rise. In doing so, she served as a strong ambassador for the National Flood Risk Management Program and assisted communities in understanding their flood risk and the actions they could take to manage that risk.

The 2013 Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Tony Krause, the Silver Jackets Coordinator for Omaha District. Krause serves as the Silver Jackets Coordinator for Nebraska and brings a mix of engineering and technical skills, a comprehensive understanding of flood risk, creativity, and leadership to this role. Under Krause's leadership, the Nebraska team established a charter in November 2011 that brings together eight active Federal and state agencies to partner on flood risk management issues. He led the team in a successful effort to develop a risk communication website for many target audiences within the state in alignment with the teams' goal to improve flood risk communication. On the website, each partner agency developed specific information to be shared. Krause also led the team in consolidating and making more broadly available essential stream gage data necessary to all partners to improve their flood risk planning, response, and recovery efforts.



The 2013 Silver Jackets State Team of the Year was presented to the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Team. As in the past, the winning team was selected by other Silver Jackets team representatives through an online voting system. The Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team was formed in the fall of 2010 while the Commonwealth's Hazard Mitigation Plan was being updated, and was formalized through development of a charter in summer 2011. Since then, the major focus of the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team has been flood risk management outreach and education. A Flood Risk Management Resources website was prepared by compiling a number of online resources in response to common questions from the public across all phases of the flood risk management lifecycle. The team has also held training workshops on nonstructural flood risk management approaches, which have assisted communities in understanding these techniques and their use. After the historic flooding in fall 2011, the team shared information and leveraged resources for response and recovery. The team also invited multiple Federal and state agencies to meet with communities in early 2012 to provide information on post-flood activities and funding opportunities. The Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team developed a Flood Inundation Mapping Tool for the City of Harrisburg and neighboring communities, and has been involved in the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Many highly qualified candidates were submitted for consideration for these awards this year, resulting in a challenging decision-making process for the selection panel. The selected recipients are to be commended for the passion and dedication they bring to the Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs. Their efforts exemplify the broader work accomplished through flood risk management and Silver Jackets teams across the nation that is responsible for the success of these programs. (POC: Stephanie Bray, Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil)



Calls for Proposals

7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration & 24th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and The Coastal Society (TCS) announce the first ever Summit that will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities. The Program Committee has issued its Call for Proposals for this Summit. All proposals are due 28 February 2014; for information on submitting a proposal, go to <http://www.estuaries.org/summit>.

Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration Elevating the Science and Practice of Restoration

The Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER 2014) is a collaborative effort of the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). Abstracts are due 10 January 2014.
<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CEER2014/>

Other Links – Information, Newsletters, Fun Stuff

The Flood Risk Management Gateway, <http://operations.usace.army.mil/flood.cfm>, is an excellent source of FRM information and the place to submit research Statements of Need (SoNs). If USACE District personnel have problems or situations they feel should be addressed by research, the FRM Gateway is the place to submit a “Statement of Need,” the first step in the process of becoming a requirement for research and development. Past issues of this newsletter are also available, as are various links, news items, and presentations. Check it out!

CIRP Newsletters are available at <http://cirp.usace.army.mil/news/> .

The **Silver Jackets** website, with newsletters – <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/>.

Corps Guidance on Flood Control. <http://operations.usace.army.mil/policy.cfm?CoP=flood>

Flood Risk Management Program (FRMP) <http://www.nfrmp.us/>

CEIWR-HEC newsletter http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/newsletters/HEC_Newsletter_Fall2013.pdf

The **National Ocean Council**'s portal for data, information and tools supports planning for the future of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. This site hopes to become a one-stop hub to support planners and to provide useful information to the public – <http://www.data.gov/ocean>

Subscribe – Unsubscribe – Feedback

To subscribe/unsubscribe: <http://operations.usace.army.mil/flood.cfm>.

We would love your input – recommended article length is ½ to 1 page. Articles should be submitted to Doyle L. Jones, Canvassing Editor, Doyle.L.Jones@usace.army.mil.

We would also appreciate your feedback. Contact Dinah McComas, Managing Editor, Dinah.N.McComas@usace.army.mil or Doyle Jones.

FY14 PROSPECT COURSES

Advanced Streambank Protection	Granada, MS	31 March 2014 – 4 April 2014
Coastal Ecology	Newport, OR	16 June 2014 – 20 June 2014
Coastal Engineering	Vicksburg MS	24 February 2014 – 28 February 2014
Coastal Project Planning	Duck, NC	21 April 2014 – 25 April 2014 9 June 2014 – 13 June 2014
Consequence Estimation with HEC-FIA	Davis, CA	5 May 2014 – 9 May 2014
Dam Safety	Grenada, MS	3 February 2014 – 6 February 2014 3 March 2014 – 6 March 2014 7 April 2014 – 10 April 2014 9 June 2014 – 12 June 2014
Dam Safety	Branson, MO	5 May 2014 – 8 May 2014
Streambank Erosion and Protection	Vicksburg, MS	24 March 2014 – 28 March 2014
Risk Communication & Public Participation	Huntsville, AL	3 September 2014 – 5 September 2014
For more information: http://ulc.usace.army.mil		

FY 2014 Purple Book – <http://ulc.usace.army.mil/downloads/PurpleBook2014.pdf>

FY 2014 Projected Schedule – <http://ulc.usace.army.mil/CrsScheduleNewFY.aspx>

Conferences

This listing is for information only and is not a complete list of FRM-related meetings. These meetings are not endorsed by the Corps of Engineers unless specifically stated. If we have failed to list a conference/meeting/symposium that would be of interest to the Flood Risk Management community, please forward the conference details to us.

9-13 December 2013 – American Geophysical Union’s 46th Annual Fall Meeting – San Francisco, CA – <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2013/>

12-14 February 2014 – National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology – Stuart, FL - <http://www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference.html>

14-16 April 2014 – Association of State Dam Safety Officials Southeast Regional Conference and Exhibit – Montgomery, AL - <http://damsafety.org/conferences/?p=80a01428-fa17-4eee-a0fc-0818d3cde8e8>

14-16 May 2014 – 2nd International Conference on Environmental and Economic Impact on Sustainable Development – Ancona, Italy – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/environmental-impact-2014.html>

1-6 June 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA – <http://www.floods.org>

4-6 June 2014 – Risk Analysis 2014 – New Forest, UK – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/risk-analysis-2014.html>

11-13 June 2014 – 4th International Conference on Mole, Adaptable and Rapidly Assembled Structures – Ostend, Belgium - <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/maras-2014.html>

17-19 June 2014 – Sustainable Irrigation 2014 – Poznan, Poland – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/sustainable-irrigation-2014.html>

18-20 June 2014 – 4th International Conference on Flood Recovery, Innovation and Response – Poznan, Poland – <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/friar-2014.html>

28 July - 1 August 2014 – Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration – New Orleans, LA – www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CEER2014

14-19 September 2014 – Oceans 2014 MTS/IEEE – St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada – www.oceans14mstsieestjohns.org

16-18 September 2014 – 6th International Conference on Flood Management (ICFM6), “Floods in a Changing Environment” – São Paulo, Brazil – <http://icfm6.com/index.php>

21-25 September 2014 – Association of State Dam Safety Officials Dam Safety 2014 – San Diego, CA – <http://www.damsafety.org/conferences/?p=8fac187-a4b0-406d-b9d6-f71c8ba9d192>

1-5 November 2014 – 7th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration – Washington, DC – <http://www.estuaries.org/conference/>

8-11 December 2014 – ACES 2014 – Washington, D.C.

27-28 February 2015 – 7th World Water Forum – Gyeongju, Republic of Korea – worldwaterforum7.org