



National Dredging Meeting

# Raise The Flag

## USACE Minimum Fleet for ICHDMG

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## Navigation Mission

Provide safe, reliable, efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems for movement of commerce, national security needs and recreation.



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## WRDA '96 LEGISLATION

- **Section 3 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (33 U.S.C. 622; 25 Stat. 423), is amended by adding at the end the following:**
  - (c) Program to increase use of private hopper dredges.
    - (1) Initiation
    - (2) Ready Reserve status for hopper dredge Wheeler
    - (3) Testing and use of ready reserve hopper dredge
    - (5) Procedures

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## IMPLEMENTATION OF WRDA '96

- **ICHDMG formed to coordinate hopper work**
- **Wheeler Ready Reserve**
  - Readiness training exercises
  - Full crew, part crew?
  - Evolved to 'fire truck' analogy
- **Developed Emergency Contracts**
  - Open By Amendment
  - Broad Scope of Work
  - Task Order
- **Raise the Flag guidance**

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## RAISE THE FLAG PROCESS

- **HQ Guidance issued Jan 2002**
- **Pre-Flag Procedures**
  - District foresees a possible Urgent or Emergency dredging requirement
  - District reviews weekly Hopper Dredge Availability Report
  - Check with District Project Manager to confirm
  - District sends an 'Alert' message and calls the Industry POC's
  - ICHDMG members are to respond within 24 hours\* (\*next business day on weekends and holidays)

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## RAISE THE FLAG PROCESS

- **Yellow Flag**
  - District alerts ICHDMG members, MSC and HQ
  - District Commander must sign the Rational for Urgent or Emergency Dredging
- **Red Flag**
  - No suitable alternatives identified in Yellow Flag
- **Activation Request**
  - District Commander
  - MSC Commander
  - HQ Deputy CG for Civil Works & Emergency Operations
- **Automated process on Nav Gateway**

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## RAISE THE FLAG PROCESS

- Considered to be working well...until
- 2008 Post Hurricane response
  - Industry fully utilized
  - 3 USACE hopper dredges in Yard
  - Calcasieu waited 3 months for a dredge
- Mar 2009 South West Pass dredging
  - 2 contracts awarded, both dredges experienced delays arriving
  - Wheeler completing training exercise
  - HQ notified Friday, 4pm

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## RAISE THE FLAG

- Raise the Flag request was stopped at MVD Commander step
  - Review basis of an activation request:
  - Loss of Property (channel?) and to what extent
  - Contract non-performance
  - Need Revision?

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## STATUS

- **Lessons Learned Review**
  - Follow the process
- **Raise the Flag Process Revisions, if needed**
- **Respond to Navigation Stakeholders**
  - Sen. Vitter
  - National Association of Maritime Organizations

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## Dredging – Remember the Mission!

- **Mission Accomplishment**
  - Provide the channel
- **Mission Failure**
  - Navigators can't traverse the channels



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