



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District Emergency Management chief named Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year

Constantine G. (Gus) Marinos, chief of the Emergency Management Office for the Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, was recently named the Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager of the Year for 2008. The award is in recognition of his efforts in support of the Galveston District response to three hurricanes and a tropical storm during the 2008 Hurricane Season. This includes Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in the Galveston area in September 2008.

“Gus Marinos was selected from among Corps Emergency Managers across the nation in a highly competitive process,” said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. “His outstanding performance and dedication in managing our response and recovery efforts during the 2008 Hurricane Season were truly exemplary. Add to his efforts the fact that he suffered tremendous personal damage from Hurricane Ike, and his accomplishments are even more impressive.”

Marinos provided oversight and management of the District’s response to Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav, and Ike, as well as Tropical Storm Eduard. Hurricane Dolly made landfall on the southernmost Texas coast, impacting District operations in the Corpus Christi to Brownsville area. Marinos ensured that the response organization was in place, managed funds, and executed the mission. His involvement in Hurricane Ike included establishment of the District’s Alternate Emergency Operations Center in Houston, overseeing a full spectrum of Federal Emergency Management Agency missions (including debris, temporary power, commodities, ice, water, temporary roofing, assessment of critical infrastructure), and providing oversight and management of the Recovery Field Office, which was established in the Houston area. Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides support to the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency by executing assigned missions.

“I am so honored and grateful to receive this award,” Marinos said. “Honored because every year there are so many who *could* very easily be recognized. And grateful that the accomplishments of Team Galveston and all those supporting our District are also recognized by this award.”



Gus Marinos, Galveston District Emergency Manager, was recently named the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Manager for 2008. (USACE photo)

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Marinos, who is a Galveston native and graduate of Texas A&M University, has been with the Galveston District for 27 years and Emergency Management chief for 18. He has supported all Galveston District emergency operations

since Hurricane Alicia in 1983, and considers Hurricane Rita in 2005 as one of the most significant.

“Not only was Rita a major hurricane,” he said, “it affected two states and strategic port facilities in Beaumont. Additionally, our response resources were limited due to a significantly larger simultaneous response to Katrina.”

From his vantage point of having been involved in both Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike, Marinos saw several differences.

“From my perspective, Ike was much smoother,” he said. “During Ike, evacuation to our alternate Emergency Operations Center at Addicks was improved to the point we were able to stand up non-emergency teams to continue the District’s routine work. We had more survey assets for a quicker assessment of channels and we had improved communications with our survey teams and our port partners.”

Marinos also pointed out that the District had many more employees directly impacted by Hurricane Ike, with most having damages to homes and residences.

“As a result,” he said, “the Fort Worth District held lead on the FEMA mission much longer (almost a month) to allow our team to take care of family issues. Also, Rita did not cause significant damage to hurricane protection projects, whereas Ike did.”

Marinos himself sustained heavy damage to his personal property, and could not live in his home for almost one year. In fact, he lived in 15 different places after Hurricane Ike, waiting for his home to be repaired. How did he cope with these challenges?

“The Army’s Safe Haven Program and the support from co-workers and the command staff were tremendous,” he said. “I also had the support of family and friends.”

As testament to his strong support of the Galveston District and its emergency operations, Marinos has received numerous awards in addition to this most recent recognition. Among them are the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal, Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and three Commander’s Awards for Civilian Service.