Perspectives from the Gulf

presented by
Dale Lehman, PE, CFM

URS
Storm Tracks

KATRINA

RITA
IMPACTS

- 1.5 million residents seeking Individual Assistance
- 600,000 people needing shelter
- 250,000 homes destroyed or damaged
- 1,200 fatalities
- $50- $100 billion required for recovery
FEMA MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

- Remote Sensing to Assess Damage
- Mitigation Assessment Team Report
- High Water Mark Data Collection
- Wind / Water Line Investigation
- Substantial Damage Assessment Support
- Flood Recovery Data and Reconstruction Guidance
- Long-Term Recovery Support
- Mitigation Planning
- Hazard Mitigation Projects
REMOTE SENSING
HIGH WATER MARK DATA

- Collecting both coastal and riverine high water mark data
- Collecting both surge and wave data
- Observations as high as 28 feet storm surge
SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SUPPORT
FLOOD RECOVERY DATA

Phased Approach

Phase I:
- Basic Storm Surge and Wave Height Data

Phase II:
- Refined data based on details from high water mark data

Phase III:
- Updated surge and wave height data based on analysis and modeling
LONG-TERM RECOVERY

- Economic Issues
- Prioritization of Recovery Projects
- Planning Charettes
- Public Outreach
- Short and Long-Term Housing Needs
MITIGATION PLANNING

- Examining Risk and Mitigation Priorities in Approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans
- Technical Support to Communities in the Plan Review Process
HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS

- Benefit-Cost Training
- Acquisition
- Elevation / Flood Proofing
- Planning
- Codes and Design / Construction Standards
QUESTIONS

[Image of flooded areas and grid overlay]
DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Is rapid documentation of observed flood levels helpful?
- Should communities use rapidly developed data in reconstruction?
- Should Federal / state / local agencies require use of rapidly developed data to qualify for mitigation grants?
- Are there additional post-disaster studies / support that would build flood mitigation into the recovery?