



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

# News Release

Release No. 0631  
For Release: 13 June 2006  
P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Nanciann Regalado, CCO  
Phone: 904-232-2236 - FAX: 904-232-2237  
Email: nanciann.e.regalado@saj02.usace.army.mil

---

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PREPARED AT LAKE OKEECHOBEE AS STORM SEASON BEGINS**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – With the passing of Hurricane Alberto, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is confident and prepared for all possibilities on Lake Okeechobee and Herbert Hoover Dike. Staff members in the Jacksonville and Clewiston offices are fully engaged in preparedness activities.

The lake level today is at 12.37 feet, the lowest level in nearly two years. With the 72-hour forecasts issued this morning, Corps water management experts expect the level of the lake to rise little if any following the rains caused by Alberto. The total rainfall in the area was less than what had originally been forecast, increasing the Corps' confidence that Alberto skirted the west coast of Florida without having a major impact on Lake Okeechobee.

Historically, piping and seepage have not occurred until the Lake has reached about 15.5 feet and above. Piping and seepage are the movements of sediments below the dike which can, if left unattended, lead to problems. The Corps has on hand in the Clewiston area 35,000 tons of materials to be used in cases of seepage and piping. Another 30,000 tons of material is on immediate order and should be delivered soon.

More good news is that the Kissimmee River basin lakes are still below schedule, which will allow for storage of water in those lakes before releases are sent into Lake

Okeechobee.

“For this time of year, Lake Okeechobee and the Herbert Hoover Dike are both in good shape,” said Jacksonville district commander, Robert Carpenter. “We have a long season ahead of us, but I can assure the residents of south Florida that the Corps will stay on top of the situation throughout this hurricane season.”

# # #