



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORK TO COMMENCE ON KEY WEST HARBOR DREDGING

KEY WEST, Fla. – By mid-May, Key West Harbor could have a uniform depth of at least 36 feet, giving U.S. Navy ships and commercial vessels a clear, 300-foot wide channel, free of sand which shoaled in portions of the passage following the 2005 hurricane season.

Work should begin by the end of March to dredge the harbor, regaining the designed depth that was lost due to shoaling after the 2005 tropical storm season.

Sponsored and funded by the U.S. Navy, the project is being engineered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, which awarded a \$1.1 million contract to the B&B Dredging Company of Portsmouth, Va. In 2006, the Navy and the Corps completed the original maintenance dredging of the harbor and channel.

“The area covered by the new project includes the main shipping channel, from its southernmost end, northward to the Cut A Widener,” said project manager Jacqueline Keiser. “Dredged materials will be deposited in deep water approximately 13 miles from the harbor.” The disposal area is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-permitted ocean disposal site.

For further information on the project, please call the Jacksonville District Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-2236.