US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Galveston District

BIOGRAPHY

2000 Fort Point Rd
Galveston, Texas 77550
(409) 766-3004
swgpao@usace.army.mil

Edmond J. Russo Jr., Ph.D., P.E., D.CE, D.NE, D.WRE

Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management
US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District

Edmond J. Russo Jr., Ph.D., P.E., D.CE, D.NE, D.WRE, serves as the deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, a position he assumed January 2014.

A 26-year Corps veteran, Russo oversees concept to delivery of projects and services in an area spanning 50,000 square miles of the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico, encompassing 16 congressional districts. Russo oversees programs valued at approximately $550 million annually to: advance navigation economics that are vital to the nation; manage coastal risk reduction; restore unique and significant coastal ecosystems; and support regulatory functions, emergency operations, military construction and international and interagency services mission areas. He leads a $4.5 billion program of feasibility studies, assessments, and construction projects under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 for reducing flood risks in Texas on America's Energy Coast. Russo supports a $650 M Border Infrastructure engineering and construction program in the Rio Grande Valley.

Russo previously served as chief, Ecosystem Evaluation and Engineering Division in the Environmental Laboratory of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), in Vicksburg, Miss., from June 2009 to January 2014. In this role, he supervised and managed product and service delivery valued at approximately $30 million annually across four branches for military and civil works clients. In support of the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, he led an ERDC team on developing analytical frameworks and linking USACE enterprise tools/databases for dredged materials decision management, as an enabler to applying the Engineering with Nature philosophy for achieving sustainable and resilient coastal features. Russo is director emeritus of the USACE Dredging Innovations Group, which integrates technical products and expertise of ERDC Laboratories to develop and deliver innovative solutions that address complex, high priority Corps dredging problems.

From 2005 to 2009, Russo held the position of chief, Coastal Engineering Branch, Navigation Division, ERDC Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. There he supervised and managed a branch of research scientists and engineers, in coastal, navigation, and dredging engineering research and development for provision of sponsored technical support in water resources project planning and execution. During this time, he led navigation infrastructure recovery for USACE, New Orleans District following the impacts of Hurricane Katrina, and served as Project Manager of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project. Following this tour of duty, Russo led an ERDC study team on advancing research on "Risk Quantification for Sustaining Coastal Military Installation Asset and Mission Capabilities (RC-1701)," under the Department of Defense's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program.

Previous to this position, Russo performed engineering and management activities on coastal navigation and ecosystem restoration projects and studies at the USACE New Orleans District from 1992 to 2005. He was project manager for the Louisiana Coastal Area Feasibility Study and served as operations manager for 10 shallow and deep draft navigation projects. During this time, Russo led, managed and was a team member on more than $100 million in completed projects, contributing to dredge materials beneficial use and restoration of more than 1,000 acres of coastal wetlands, barrier islands, cheniers and maritime forest habitats in Louisiana.

Russo was employed by Fugro-McClelland (Southeast Inc.), as a project engineer in New Orleans from early 1991 to late 1992, performing geotechnical engineering investigations and analyses for commercial and industrial land-based, near shore, and offshore projects in the mid Gulf. From 1986 to 1990, he was a civil engineering student technician in the Pile Driving Department of Boh Bros. Construction Company in New Orleans, performing time and motion studies and cost estimating support to a wide range of pile driving operations in the Gulf South.

A native of New Orleans, Russo graduated from Louisiana State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He earned a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a geotechnical engineering emphasis from University of New Orleans in1997. From 2002 to 2005, Russo completed doctoral course work at Tulane University. Following the closure of Tulane University's Department of Engineering after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he transferred his doctoral studies to Louisiana State University and completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering with a coastal engineering emphasis in 2009.

Russo is a licensed PE in Louisiana and is a board-certified Diplomate in Coastal Engineering, Navigation Engineering, and Water Resources Engineering of the ASCE. He is a 1999 graduate of the Army Management Staff College and served from 2004 to 2016 as vice chair and secretary of the Environmental Commission, Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses, which supports international development and distribution of technical information on contemporary topics for sustainable navigation infrastructure management practice.

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