

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Across the Globe

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's oldest engineering organization and one of its oldest military branches. Corps history started during the Revolutionary War, on June 16, 1775, when George Washington appointed Colonel Richard Gridley as Chief Engineer of the Continental Army. The Corps' water resource program began in 1824 when the U.S. Congress first appropriated money for improving river navigation. In the following decade, the Corps' involvement in civil works mushroomed, including new roads, railroads, and bridges throughout the nation.

The Corps Castle

In the early 1800s, Corps engineers built fortifications along the Atlantic Coast that were referred to as castles, such as Castle Williams and Castle Clinton in New York Harbor. An Army engineer named Col. Richard Delafield, perhaps influenced by the architecture at West Point Academy where he was superintendent, suggested using the castle as an insignia for the Corps. Military personnel began wearing the turreted castle on their uniforms in 1840. The castle became the official U.S. Army Corps of Engineers insignia in 1902.

Across the Nation

The following are just some of the thousands of projects carried out by the various divisions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **The Great Lakes** The Corps

maintains the channel to the twin ports — Duluth and Superior--the leading bulk-cargo ports on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway System. **The Lower Snake River** The Lower Snake River projects provide enough generating capacity to supply the electrical needs of three cities the size of Seattle. **The Space Command Headquarters** The Space Command Headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, designed and built by the Missouri River Division, is a unique example of space-age architecture. **The 1989 San Francisco Earthquake** Following the 1989 San Francisco earthquake, Corps personnel from around the country inspected private homes, businesses, and dams to determine whether they were structurally sound. **Lake Sakajawea** The Corps manages Lake Sakajawea in the Missouri River Basin, the largest human-built lake in the United States, for flood control, hydroelectric power, navigation, recreation, and irrigation.

History of the Corps

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| 1775 | Americans fighting for independence in the Revolutionary War. | Position of Chief Engineer established in Continental Army. |
| 1779 | War for independence continues. | Congress formed Army Engineers into the Corps of |

ENGINEERS. THE UNIT
was disbanded after
the war.

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| 1802 | One year later, in 1803, the U.S. will buy the Louisiana Territory, then send Lewis and Clark to explore it. | Congress established a permanent Corps of Engineers stationed at West Point. |
| 1824 | Americans heading west to Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, and other Midwest states. | Corps authorized to survey, plan, and submit estimates for roads and canals deemed of national importance. Also authorized to improve navigation on Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. |
| 1846 | Boundary of Oregon Territory and Canada settled. | Congress authorized first regular company of engineer troops. |
| 1928 | The eve of the Great Depression. | Corps directed by Congress to begin |

measures in
Mississippi River
valley to protect life
and property.

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| 1936 | Middle of Great Depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt is president. | Corps flood control responsibilities extended nationwide. |
| 1941 | United States enters World War II. | Corps takes over all construction for the Army's war effort. |
| 1942 | United States involved in World War II. | Alcan Highway completed by the Corps of Engineers. It extends from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. |
| 1950 | North Korea attacks South Korea in June of this year. | Many Army Engineers engaged in combat initially as infantry. Since almost all Korean valleys are subject to constant |

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flooding, bridge building became a daily occupation for the Engineers.

1965 Height of the
- Vietnam War.
1969

Army Engineers built 26 major base cantonments and an enormous road network complete with bridges.

1995 Budget impasse
- between
1996 executive and legislative branches causes the longest U.S. Government shutdown in history.

Seattle District Corps provided flood fighting and major restoration for record flooding in Western Washington.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missions

MILITARY - To contribute to the defense mission by building ranges and other training facilities, barracks, dining halls, hospitals, schools, daycare centers, recreation centers, commissaries, and exchanges for Army and Air Force families. **NAVIGATION** - To

maintain and improve navigation channels, maintain, improve or build jetties, breakwaters, and navigation locks; and to clear navigation hazards in waterways.

FLOOD CONTROL - To design, construct, operate, and maintain flood control projects, such as dams and levees.

HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION -

To study, plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain hydropower projects, such as Chief Joseph Dam.

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY - To help meet the water needs of municipal, industrial, and agricultural interests.

ENVIRONMENTAL - To regulate the deposit of dredged and fill materials into the nation's waters, including wetlands.

The Corps helps protect wetlands and other natural resources, such as fisheries. They also help to clean up military installations and formerly used defense sites.

WORK FOR OTHERS - To supervise wastewater treatment plant construction, clean up hazardous and toxic wastes, design and build space launch facilities, and provide assistance on contract to other agencies.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - To develop mapping, terrain analysis, and image processing systems and techniques; support the Army's effort to design, construct, operate, and maintain its infrastructures; devise methods for living, working, fighting, and navigating in the world's cold regions; and to research improvements in water-related structures, hydraulics, and geotechnical, environmental, and coastal engineering.

DISASTER RELIEF - To assist in fighting floods, rescue work, and rehabilitating flood control

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structures damaged or destroyed by floods. Also, upon request, to provide both technical advice and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency during disasters, such as earthquakes. RECREATION - To offer recreational opportunities and facilities, such as campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, boat ramps, marinas, hiking trails, and wildlife viewing areas at Corps lakes and recreational areas.

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