

## History

The Corps of Engineers is the nation's premier and largest water resources development agency. In its civil role, the Corps of Engineers became increasingly involved with river and harbor improvements, carrying out its first harbor and jetty work in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The Corps' ongoing responsibility for federal river and harbor improvements dates from 1824, when Congress passed two acts authorizing the Corps to survey roads and canals, and remove obstacles on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Over the years, the expertise gained by the Corps in navigation projects led succeeding administrations and congresses to assign new water-related missions to the Corps in such areas as flood control, shore and hurricane protection, hydropower, recreation, water supply and quality, and wetland protection.

Today's Corps of Engineers carries out missions in three broad areas: military construction and engineering support to military installations, reimbursable support to other federal agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency's "Superfund" program to clean up hazardous and toxic waste sites); and Civil Works, centered around navigation, flood control and -- under the Water Resources Development Acts of 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992 and 1996 -- a growing role in environmental restoration.

Point of Contact: Charyl Francois Phone: 206-764-5522 Email: Charyl.L.Francois@usace.army.mil