

OUR HISTORY

The history of the United States Army Corps of Engineers can be traced to June 1775, when the Continental Congress organized an army and appointed Colonel Richard Gridley as General George Washington's first Chief Engineer. Army engineers were instrumental in some of the major battles of the Revolutionary War. In 1794, Congress organized a Corps of Artillerists and Engineers but it was not until 1802 that it reestablished a separate Corps of Engineers. In that same year, Congress established a military academy at West Point, N.Y. Its first Superintendent, Jonathan Williams, was also the Chief Engineer of the Corps. From its inception, many politicians wanted the Corps to contribute to both military construction and works "of a civil nature."

Throughout the 19th century, the Corps supervised the construction of coastal fortifications and mapped much of the American West, constructed lighthouses, helped develop jetties and piers for harbors, and surveyed and mapped the channels of many rivers for navigation improvements.

With the organizational evolution of the Corps, district offices began forming in the 1870's. Division offices were created by general orders in 1888. In 1901, the Central Division office, at Cincinnati, Ohio was established to manage the civil works program. In 1933, it was renamed the Ohio River Division, responsible for Corps civil works and defense missions in the basin.

In 1997, the Corps restructured several of its divisions, which led to combining the Ohio River and North Central divisions to form the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

The division's area of operation consists of the Great Lakes (which include the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River) and the Ohio River watersheds.

SPECIAL MISSIONS

International Joint Commission (IJC)

The Great Lakes are a shared resource between the U.S. and Canada that contain 90 percent of our fresh water. The division commander is the U.S. Chair of Lake Superior, Niagara, and the St. Lawrence River Boards of Control, while Great Lakes Districts provide continuous technical support in determining monthly lake releases as well as for special studies requested by the IJC Commissioners.

Mississippi River Commission (MRC)

The LRD commander is a member of the MRC, a seven member presidential commission charged with improving navigation and flood protection throughout the lower Mississippi River Valley. The Ohio River provides 60 percent of the flow of water for the lower Mississippi River and actions within LRD play a critical role in achieving MRC goals.

Global Contingency Support

LRD supports military contingency operations and global disasters with agile, responsive technical engineering, contingency planning and contract construction support capabilities. More than 300 LRD employees have deployed to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For additional information, please visit us online at:

www.lrd.usace.army.mil

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

ABOUT US

OVERVIEW:

The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD), is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, operates as a regional business center with seven districts covering 335,000 miles in 17 states and consists of about 4,200 team members. Our seven districts are located in Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville and Pittsburgh. LRD serves 70 million people, 25 percent of the total U.S. population, who reside within the Great Lakes and Ohio River watersheds.

MISSION:

The Corps delivers vital engineering solution in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce our risk from disaster. LRD has two major mission areas: Civil Works and Military Programs.

CIVIL WORKS:

The civil works missions provide navigation, flood risk management, environmental, emergency response, recreation, hydropower, water supply and regulatory permits.

- **Navigation:** LRD has a robust navigation mission. The Great Lakes transport vital commodities to and from the Nation's heartland. Total annual commerce on the Great Lakes averages 175 million tons. LRD maintains operations along the Ohio River's mainstem and its tributaries. The basin's 2,582 miles of waterways carry 35 percent of the country's waterborne commerce.

- **Flood Risk Management:** LRD operates and maintains 83 dams to protect communities the region. The majority of the them are within the flood-prone Ohio River basin region. In addition, the division has 539 miles of levees and over 100 local flood protection projects which include walls, levees and channel improvements. These projects have saved lives, homes, businesses and prevented over \$39billion in damages since 2012.

- **Environmental:** LRD is charged with planning, design and construction of projects to restore and enhance aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands.

- **Emergency Response:** LRD provides temporary restoration of water supplies and wastewater treatment systems, drinkable water, ice, generators and temporary housing. LRD also removes debris, inspects structures and repairs damaged streets, bridges, ports, waterways, airfields and other facilities necessary for emergency access to disaster victims. LRD also provides assistance and materials during floods.

- **Recreation:** LRD provides 34 percent of the Corps' total outdoor recreational opportunities. Recreational sites provide boating, swimming, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, hunting and fishing. Our personnel served as hosts to more than 83 million visitors at our lakes and navigation pools in 2013.

- **Hydropower:** LRD has ten federally-owned hydropower plants, 33 generating units with 935 megawatt generating capacity. All of this hydropower is produced at nine plants on the Cumberland River and the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. In addition, LRD water resource projects have fifteen privately-developed plants and five under construction.

- **Water Supply:** Every one of our multipurpose reservoirs has water, used for many purposes including municipal water supplies. Many communities along the Ohio River get their water from the river.

- **Regulatory:** Our mission is to provide strong protection of the Nation's aquatic environment, efficient administration of the Corps' regulatory program, and fair and reasonable decision-making for the public. Annually, LRD issues over 10,000 permits.

MILITARY:

LRD's military missions provide engineering, construction and real estate services to DOD installations in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. We design and construct barracks, hospitals, airfields and family housing on military installations. Our Louisville District provides design and construction services for Army Reserve and Air Force facilities throughout the United States.

