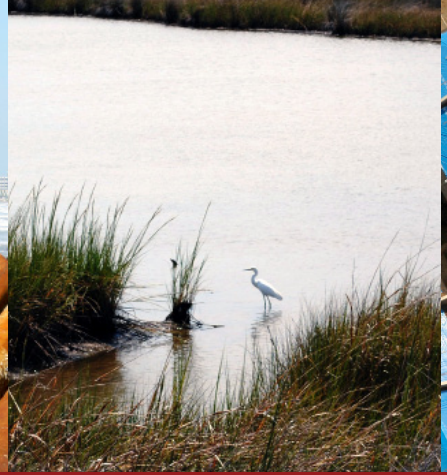
BUILDING STRONG®

Galveston District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Engineers of Excellence

"The Galveston District provides vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters."

Cover: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, began construction of the iconic Galveston Seawall in 1902, which has protected the city for more than 100 years.

Coastal Custodians

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, established in 1880 and fondly known as the "Custodians of the Coast," plays a key role in America's well-being by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce and serves the nation as part of the world's largest public engineering, design and construction management agency. Encompassing the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico; an area that spans across 50,000 square miles, contains more than 1,000 miles of channels (750 deep-draft and 250 shallow-draft), serves 28 ports and 700 miles of coastline, the district successfully executes its mission of providing vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters. With its 350 dedicated professionals, the Galveston District will continue to provide valuable navigation, flood risk mitigation, ecosystem restoration, shoreline protection, regulatory services, military construction and emergency management services to our nation and remains fully committed to continuing our mission of "BUILDING STRONG."

Good Stewards

"The Galveston District provides strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment while restoring properties and ecosystems to make them available to the public for beneficial use."

BENEFICIAL USE

The Galveston District contributes to the well-being, economic success and quality of life of local communities through beneficial use of dredged material. Annually, the Galveston District dredges approximately 30 to 40 million cubic yards of material. If placed on one city block, the material would create a mountain 14,000 feet above sea level. While undertaking its mission of keeping America's waterways navigable, the Corps is able to turn that into an added benefit for homeowners, tourists and businesses. The Corps employs environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities and improve eroded coastlines through beach nourishment and beneficial use programs.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides ecosystem restoration and protection to maximize environmental restoration opportunities. Environmental impacts and mitigation are considered in every project managed by the Galveston District ranging from operations and maintenance of waterways to flood risk management projects. The Corps carries out aquatic restoration and protection projects if environmental quality is improved, it is in the public's interest and is cost effective for taxpayers.

"The Galveston District implements Environmental Operating Principles on all projects to ensure environmental success."

Delivering Innovative and Sustainable Solutions

"The Galveston District is prepared to respond to disasters, both within our area of responsibility and globally for the protection of life and property."

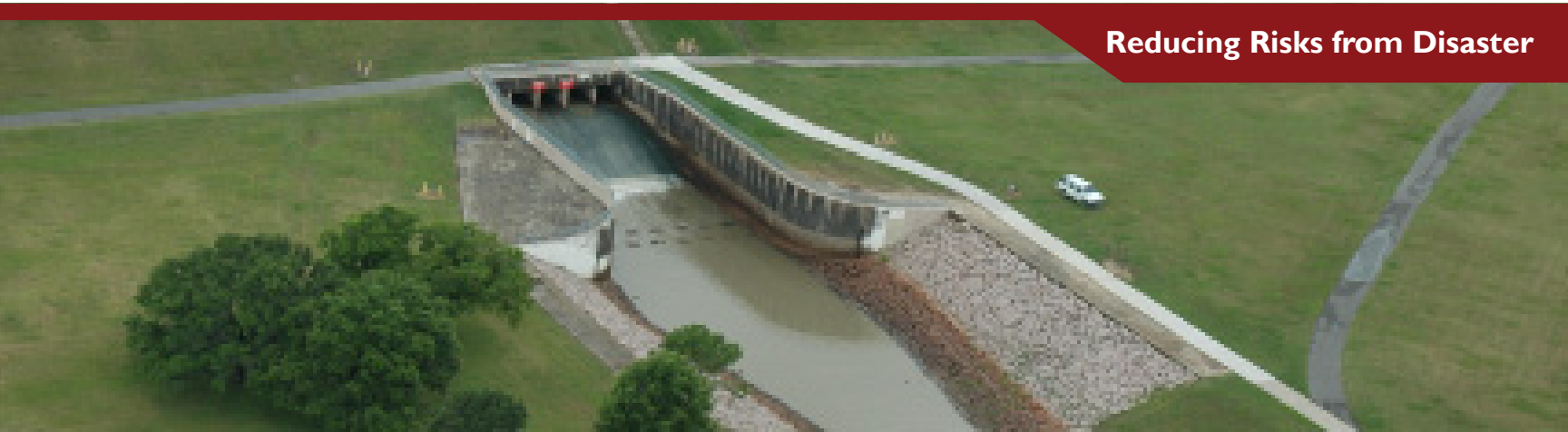
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Galveston District is prepared to respond to disasters, both within its area of responsibility and globally. When help is needed before, during and after man-made and natural disasters, the district responds quickly and collaborates with our partners, local communities, the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA missions completed by the Galveston District include providing emergency supplies of water and ice, installing emergency generators and temporary roofing on homes, removing debris from public property and managing the installation of mobile homes as transitional housing. In addition to FEMA missions, the Corps provides flood fighting and levee repair assistance.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

"We provide current and accurate flood-plain information to the public and decision makers; identify and assess flood hazards; improve public awareness and comprehension of flood hazards and risks; and improve capabilities to collaboratively deliver and sustain flood damage reduction and flood hazard mitigation services to the nation."

The Galveston District contributes to the safety, economic success and quality of life of local communities by reducing the risk for flooding along the Texas coast. Flood risk management projects prevent or reduce flood water damage in Texas' low-lying coastal areas, flood-prone river valleys and further inland bayous that can quickly become raging torrents during heavy rains. Hurricane protection structures at Texas City, Freeport and Port Arthur along with Corps' operated levees systems are frequently inspected by our engineers to ensure structural integrity and minimize the potential for loss of life and property. In the Houston Metropolitan area, Addicks and Barker dams and reservoirs, Sims Bayou, and Brays Bayou are part of a flood risk management system that helps to mitigate flood waters that may threaten residents. With all projects, public safety is the Corps' top priority.



Energizing the Economy

"The Galveston District identifies and improves projects that promote and enhance port capabilities, encourages investment in inland and coastal waterway transportation (to reduce highway congestion), and promotes vital economic activities throughout the U.S. that form important linkages to the global community."

NAVIGATION

The Galveston District plays a key role in America's well-being by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce. A priority is deepening and widening waterways, such as ports, ship channels, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, for the safe and expeditious accommodation of commercial waterborne traffic. The Galveston District is directly responsible for maintaining more than 1,000 miles of channel, including 270 miles of deep draft and 750 miles of shallow draft. Dredges are constantly at work keeping vital marine arteries open for waterborne traffic carrying cargo ranging from crude oil to coffee. Other priorities include construction of jetties or breakwaters to protect harbor and inlet entrances and the locks along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at the crossing of the Brazos and Colorado rivers.

REGULATORY SERVICES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Regulatory Branch provides strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, balancing economic prosperity with environmental sustainability. The district regulates activities in U.S. waters including wetlands, navigable waterways and tributaries. Wetlands serve as valuable nurseries for fish and wildlife and are also vital barriers during storms. Through permitting, the Galveston District ensures that economic development in coastal areas can move forward while minimizing the impact on our environment. The Galveston District also carries the responsibility of permitting structures in navigable waterways of the U.S. such as docks and piers and issues approximately 2,500 permits annually.

"The Galveston District contributes to an efficient administration of the Corps' Regulatory Program by maintaining fair and reasonable decision-making processes for the public."

Neither an Opponent or Proponent of Projects

Serving the Nation and our Armed Forces

"The Galveston District provides quality planning, design and construction services to other federal agencies, including contributing to the defense mission and Army vision by building communities of excellence from which Army power can be projected worldwide."

SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

The Galveston District provides technical and management services in engineering, environmental, construction and emergency response to federal, state and local agencies that do not have in-house capabilities and to those who are interested in combining their resources with the Corps' – creating a partnership to support various needs and projects. The district partners with the Department of Homeland Security, International Boundary and Water Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and supports sister districts to execute a robust military construction program that benefits Soldiers and their families.

"U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vision: A great engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the nation's engineering challenges."

USACE AT A GLANCE

- Owns and operates 24 percent of the U.S. hydropower capacity or three percent of the total U.S. electric capacity.
- Provides technical, construction and humanitarian support to more than 100 countries and 70 domestic agencies.
- Researches and develops technologies to protect the nation's environment and enhance quality of life.
- Restores, creates and enhances or preserves tens of thousands of acres of wetlands each year under the Corps' Regulatory Program.
- Is the nation's number one federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation.
- Owns and operates more than 670 flood damage reduction and navigation structures.
- Operates and maintains 12,000 miles of commercial inland navigation channels.
- Maintains more than 920 coastal, lakes and inland harbors.

Providing Vital Public Engineering Services

BUILDING STRONG®

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