RISK MANAGEMENT CENTER
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
USACE manages a portfolio of more than 700 dams and more than 15,000 miles of levees. To do this, HQUSACE coordinates activities through a variety of programs managed by the RMC that include guidance, training, safety decisions, risk assessments, and quality management for dams and levees across the Corps. The Corps of Engineers uses risk management to effectively and efficiently manage and reduce risks through an effective use of funding and resources.

The Risk Management Center manages several programs on behalf of HQUSACE:

- The USACE Levee Safety Program
- The Dam Safety Seepage and Stability Correction Program
- The USACE Dam Safety Program
- The National Inventory of Dams
- The Guidance Update and Maintenance Program
- Review of Non-Federal Alterations of USACE Civil Works Projects

The USACE Levee Safety Program

On behalf of the USACE Levee Safety Program, the RMC coordinates the National Levee Database development, levee screenings, initial Periodic Inspections for levee systems, training and technical competency, risk assessment development, advancing critical guidance documents, management of the USACE levee safety program, and starting the National Levee Safety Program. The primary focus of the program from FY12-17 is to complete PI’s, complete all Levee Screenings for the Corps’ portfolio, and to complete the public version of the National Levee Database.

The Dam Safety Seepage and Stability Correction Program (the WEDGE)

The Dam Safety and Seepage/Stability Correction Program provides for studies and modification of completed Corps of Engineers dams. The Corps has identified 300 Dam Safety Class I, II, and III projects for studies and potentially $26 Billion in investments. The RMC and HQUSACE prioritize work on Issue Evaluation Studies (IES), Dam Safety Modification Studies (DSMS), and Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) for Dam Safety projects. RMC, on behalf of HQ, allocates most funds directly to Districts – tasks are developed by HQ, the RMC, and the lead District. RMC coordinates funding and tasks for regional cadres staffed by District forces. RMC leads each regional cadre with a senior advisor. RMC also participates on each vertical team for projects that are in the DSM, PED, and construction phases with one or two senior technical specialists.

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The USACE Dam Safety Program

Trained facilitators, managed by the RMC, conduct risk assessments as part of the Periodic Inspection/Assessment process. The results of the risk assessments are used at the national level to formulate study plans for inclusion in regular budget cycles, identify appropriate corrective actions, and determine the urgency of such actions. The RMC also leads training, advancing critical guidance documents, coordinating decisions, mentoring, and managing the national dam safety program. The RMC also leads the development of new methodologies, supports District efforts to update EAP’s, audits District instrumentation and monitoring programs, supports quality management, and manages resource queues.

Guidance Updates and Maintenance Program (GUMP)

Each year, HQUSACE supports the revision of civil works guidance documents. Every Community of Practice manages a queue of guidance documents undergoing a continual cycle of revisions. On an annual basis, USACE works on approximately 40 critical guidance documents. The RMC manages and reports on these projects.

The National Inventory of Dams

USACE is tasked with maintaining a database of all low, significant, and high hazard dams across the U.S. The RMC uses the Army Geospatial Center to host and maintain the National Inventory of Dams.

Review of Non-Federal Alterations of USACE Civil Works Projects

A new centralized initiative in 2016, HQUSACE is supporting Districts who are reviewing complex and labor-intensive permit applications to alter federal civil works projects. The RMC and HQ are working to develop a protocol and a plan to help Districts that are reviewing permit applications that are more effort than would be traditionally be budgeted for in the Inspection of Civil Works budget processes.