



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

Office of Congressional Affairs

One Corps serving The Army and the Nation

The mission of the Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) is to serve as the Chief of Engineers' principal congressional liaison, to assist the Chief and the Command in responding to congressional issues, and to improve the understanding Congress has of Corps of Engineers missions, programs, and policies.

Established in January 1998, the primary goal of the OCA is to improve access and communications with Congress. The office is designed to serve as "the one door to the Corps" for Congress, where Members and their staffs go if their issues involve one or more Corps directorates or offices, cut across several layers of the Command, or if a Corps office is not represented by a separate legislative element.

The OCA complements the Civil Works Directorate's effective, long-standing relationships with both the Appropriations subcommittees on Energy and Water Development and the public works committees, extending those types of close working relationships among other directorates in the Corps to other committees and Members of Congress.

The Office of Congressional Affairs seeks to integrate the congressional activities of the Civil Works, Military Programs, and other Corps directorates and programs in order to facilitate a consistent and positive strategy for congressional relations and a sharing of critical information about Members of Congress and significant congressional issues.

This critical information is shared throughout the Command and with other appropriate elements of the Army and DoD.

The Office responds to and tracks congressional inquiries and issues relating to all aspects of Corps work, including water resources, military construction and support to other Federal and state agencies and international organizations.

With the exception of the direct communication among the Civil Works Directorate and the congressional committees with which it is aligned, all congressional inquiries, issues, and contacts originating in Washington, DC or of national importance should be first coordinated through the Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs is organized geographically in support of the Corps 8 divisions, 41 districts, and 7 laboratories. Each of the office's three congressional liaison officers is responsible for Corps-Congress relations in either the western, central, or eastern regions of the nation respectively.

For more information, contact Mr. James Rausch, Chief, OCA, 202-761-1059. For inquiries concerning Corps issues in the West Coast and the Mississippi River Valley, contact Dr. Georgeanne Reynolds, 202-761-1058; for inquiries concerning the East Coast, contact Dr. Dale W. Jones, 202-761-1048; and for inquiries concerning the Southwest and the upper Midwest, contact Mr. Don Emmerling, 202-761-1034. Website: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/oca/main.htm>