

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **How the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Works**

Since its founding during the American Revolution, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) has been charged with providing "quality, responsive engineering service to the Nation in peace and war." Today, the Corps is the United States' largest public engineering agency, with a broad set of missions and capabilities distributed throughout its decentralized system.

In peacetime, the Corps performs projects concerning military construction, installation support, real estate, research and development (R&D), and civil works. In wartime, the Corps' resources can be rapidly converted to support emergency conditions. The Corps' primary missions are:

- managing and executing engineering, construction, and real estate programs for the U.S. Army and Air Force and performing R&D in support of these programs;
- managing and executing support programs for Army installations;
- managing and executing civil works programs, including the design, planning, engineering, construction, and R&D functions in support of these programs;
- performing R&D through nonsystems-specific advance development in systems, specialized equipment, procedures, and techniques relevant to engineering support of combat operations;