

## **What does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers do?**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the world's largest public engineering organization, consisting of U.S. Army military leadership and approximately 35,000 civilians. Programs include:

-Design and construction of major projects for the Army and Air Force. Services for the Army include construction of ranges, barracks, hospitals and workplaces for the Army. Services for the Air Force include design, construction management and real estate

-Implementation, construction and maintenance of water-related civil works projects including:

- flood control protection
- shore erosion protection
- hydropower
- outdoor recreation facilities
- improvements to navigation

-Environmental cleanup programs on lands currently or formerly used by the Department of Defense

-Regulation of wetland development under the Clean Water Act

-Engineering and construction assistance to international, federal, state, local, tribal and territorial agencies and organizations through a variety of statutory authorities

Examples of historical projects that the Corps has completed are:

- Construction of the Washington Monument
- Construction of the Panama Canal
- Construction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command

Examples of current Corps projects include:

- Restoration of the Florida Everglades
- Southeast Drought Response
- Columbia River Basin Salmon Recovery

To find out more, please visit the following website:

Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters: ([www.hq.usace.army.mil/hqhome](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/hqhome))

## What Does the Alaska District do?

The Alaska District runs a full spectrum of programs, with extensive expertise in cold regions engineering. Examples of projects within these programs include:

### Military Program

- Construction of Bassett Replacement Hospital at Fort Wainwright
- Construction of the Alaska Command Center at Elmendorf AFB
- Construction of the interceptor missile system at Fort Greely

### Civil Works

- Maintains roughly 50 river and navigation projects
- Responsible for the dredging of five deep water harbors
- Operation of the northernmost Corps recreation facility at Chena Lakes
- Control of costal erosion in Shishmaref, AK

### Formerly Used Defense Sites

- The Alaska District has identified 312 environmental cleanup and restoration projects
- 132 of these projects have been completed
- Drum removal at Cold Bay, AK
- Excavation of PCB contamination at Drury Gulch

### Historical projects

- Construction of the ALCAN highway
- Construction of the Whittier tunnel, the longest combined vehicle-railroad tunnel in North America

To find out more, please visit the following websites:

Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division: <http://www.pod.usace.army.mil/>

Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/hm/default.htm>

Alaska District, Office of Counsel: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/oc/oc.htm>

Do people in Alaska live in igloos? Of course not, but that is one of the many misconceptions about Alaska. Anchorage is much like any other thriving metropolitan city in the United States with the exception being that Anchorage is surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery and wild rugged outdoor life in the world. The Corps' is located on Elmendorf AFB, adjacent to the north side of Anchorage. The weather in Anchorage, a city of about 275,000, is actually quite moderate compared to interior Alaska, mainly due to our proximity to the Pacific Ocean and low humidity. Yes, we get cold weather and snow in the winter, but the average highs range from 22 degrees in January to an absolutely perfect 65 degrees in July, with the highs occasionally reaching into the 80s. If you are wondering about shopping availability, don't be worried, Anchorage has it covered. There are two large indoor malls along with a new outdoor mall. Stores range from Target to Nordstrom's and everything in between. Anchorage also has many cultural and entertainment opportunities for a city of its size -- think great Performing Arts Center offering nationally touring Broadway productions (including "The Lion King" for six weeks in 2009), opera, symphony, children's' programs, etc. The typical restaurant chains are present as well varying from McDonald's to Chili's to Benihana's. Whether it is world class skiing, hiking, fishing, bird watching, night life, or sight-seeing, we have what you are looking for.

<http://www.adn.com/>

<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov>

<http://www.alaska.com/>

<http://www.anchoragechamber.org>

## POA-OC LEGAL PRACTICE AREAS

Attorneys in the Alaska District office of counsel provide a wide range of legal services to a variety of clients within the agency. Attorneys in the office can expect to practice in one or more of substantive areas briefly described below.

1. Procurement – Furnishes legal advice concerning procurement law and policy primarily in contract formation and administration, including questions arising under the Competition in Contracting Act and the Federal Acquisition Regulation and its supplements. Provides legal sufficiency review and counsel regarding solicitation, award, administration, and termination of all types of contracts relating to the military and civil works mission of the district. Examples of contractual instruments reviewed include construction, supply, services, architect-engineer, and other contracts, contract specifications, change orders, supplemental agreements, bid, performance and payment bonds, assignments, powers of attorney, work orders, and termination agreements and related instruments. Investigates circumstances surrounding contract claims of a wide range of complexity and provides advice regarding contracting officer's final decisions in response to those claims. Presents the agency position in connection with GAO and Agency bid protests.
2. Regulatory - Provides legal reviews and advice regarding the administration of the District's regulatory program under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act addressing private uses impacting navigable waterways and the nation's wetlands. Relevant laws considered in reviewing decisions addressing permitting requests include the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Clean Air Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, together with the attendant implementing regulations and executive orders.
3. Real Estate - Provides legal advice on all facets of real estate law and policy, including acquisition, claims, management and disposal of real property. Reviews real estate documents, including deeds, leases, licenses, easements, rights of entry, relocation agreements, title insurance policies and other documents for legal sufficiency. Provides attorney's opinions regarding matters such as sufficiency of title and compensability of facility relocations.
4. Civil Works – Provides legal advice regarding the district's civil works program, including interpretation of legislative authority, review of Project Partnership Agreements, decision documents, feasibility reports, and planning reports.

5. **Litigation** – Represents the district as trial attorney before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals in matters of government contract disputes and appeals, responsible for preparation of and presentation of the government's position before the Board. Provides support and assistance to Department of Justice attorneys in contract appeals to the United States Court of Claims and in environmental, tort, and other litigation before the United States district court. Evaluates cases for appropriateness for Alternative Dispute Resolution and represents the district in such proceedings.
6. **Personnel/EEO/Labor** – Provides advice on matters pertaining to allegations of prohibited personnel practices filed with the MSPB, EEOC, or FLRA. Advises on labor and collective bargaining matters.
7. **Environmental** - Provides legal advice and counsel supporting the successful performance of district's various environmental restoration programs including the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. Specific programs under the DERP include remediation of Formerly Used Defense Sites addressing hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste, military munitions, and building demolition/debris removal, as well as active installation restoration. Legal support for the environmental restoration programs includes matters involving procurement law, CERCLA statutory and regulatory compliance requirements and interpretations, natural resource damages, environmental justice principles and practices, and Potential Responsible Party matters. Also provides legal advice concerning the district's implementation of the DoD's Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation program, addressing DoD caused environmental impacts to native Alaskan owned property.
8. **General Law** – Provides legal advice in a wide variety of matters, for example, those involving the Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, fiscal law, legislative authorities, emergency response authorities, and ethics.