

DR. DAVID W. PITTMAN



Testifying before Congress about the newly released U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Research and Development Strategy, our Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon said, "we must execute our comprehensive research and development strategy to meet the challenges of the 21st Century."

Released in November 2021, the strategy issues a clarion call to invest in and embolden R&D across the enterprise. It has encouraged me and other R&D leaders to connect the dots and better share the story of how USACE R&D is meeting and exceeding mission expectations.

This annual report is an important way we "Tell the Story" of the innovative R&D being done by USACE, and specifically the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, to support the nation, from Civil Works to Warfighter Support, and everything in between.

In addition, we have launched an annual USACE Operational R&D Workshop to better connect our world-class research with Division and District engineers, as well as stakeholders throughout the Department of Defense and beyond.

Focused on applying off-the-shelf solutions to today's problems, this workshop has already provided innovative answers to long-standing challenges and has given USACE leaders critical information.

In that same spirit, we also started the "Power of R&D" newsletter to shine a light on the engineers and scientists working each day to tackle the engineering obstacles before them. It has given better insight into their processes, their abilities and the passion they bring to this mission.

These efforts seek new pathways to ensure targeted research meets critical needs.

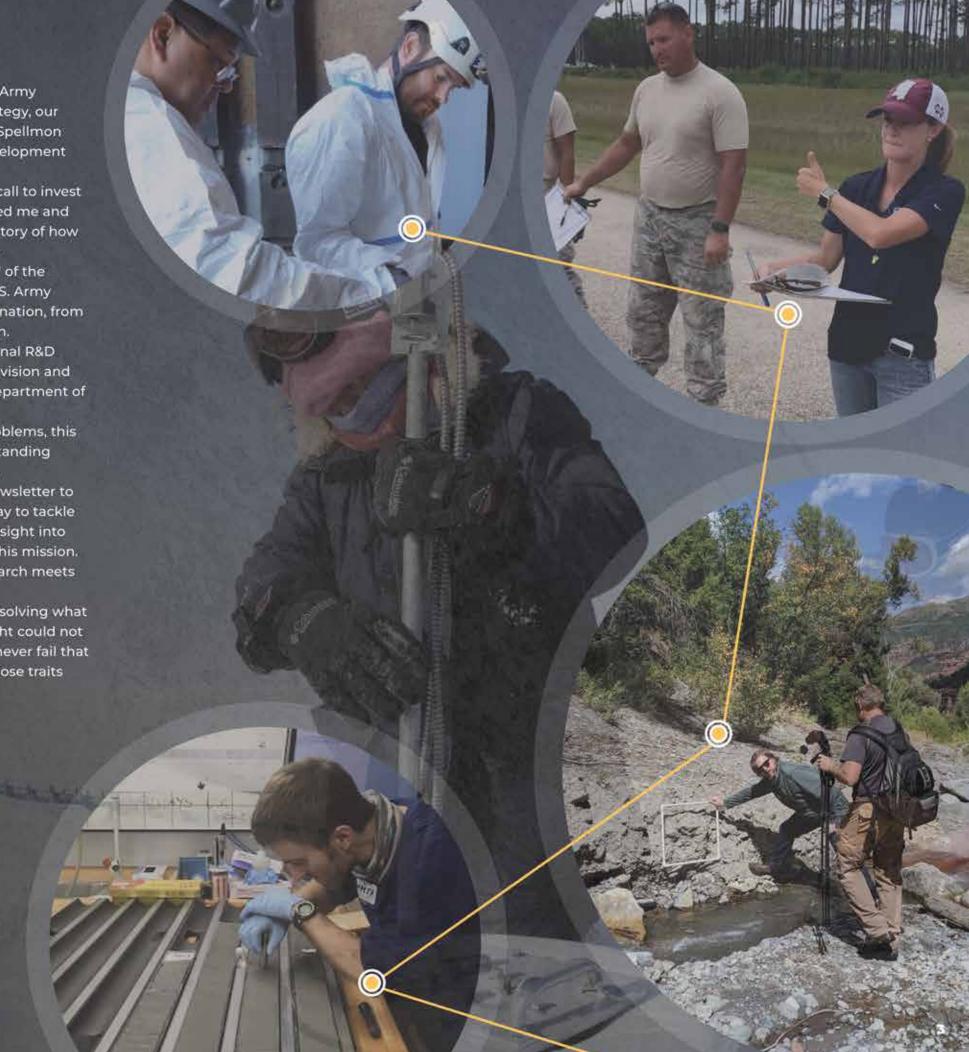
We are an organization and a community that thrives on solving what others think is unsolvable and discovering what many thought could not be found. It is that dedication, commitment and tenacity to never fail that has made the USACE R&D community successful. It is also those traits that will ensure we succeed in the future.

ESSAYONS!

David W. Pittman, PE, PhD, SES Director of R&D and Chief Scientist U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Director

U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center





ACTIVITIES

During FY22, the USACE research and development community continued to grow stronger, particularly at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Through new partnerships, agreements and contracts, R&D investment at ERDC surpassed \$1.86 billion, giving birth to more solutions to our nation's toughest engineering challenges. ERDC research is sorted into four categories: Civil Works (CW), **Installations & Operational Environments** (IOE), Warfighter Support (WfS) and Support for Others (SfO).

R&D INVESTMENTS FY22 BILLION

> INSTALLATIONS & OPERATIONAL **ENVIRONMENTS**

14% CIVIL WORKS

ENGAGEMENTS OCT 2021 TO SEPT 2022



4% SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

CONTRACTS

\$500M OBLIGATIONS

1,881 NEW ACTIONS



SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTS

73% WARFIGHTER SUPPORT



COOPERATIVE R&D AGREEMENTS 23 UNIVERSITY CRADAS



PUBLICATIONS



JOURNAL ARTICLES TECHNICAL

REPORTS

294

280

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

OALIGNMENT WITH-

USACE STRATEGY

When released in November 2021, the USACE R&D Strategy laid out a framework that reshaped the focus and direction of its R&D community. ERDC's rich history and expertise well positions it as a leader for each of the strategy's 10 priorities. Since its founding in 1929, ERDC has leveraged its world-class facilities, capabilities and most importantly, its people to confront the most difficult engineering challenges of our time.

CW CIVIL WORKS

IOE INSTALLATIONS & OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

WfS WARFIGHTER SUPPORT

STO SUPPORT FOR OTHERS



MITIGATE & ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and extreme weather require unprecedented innovation. ERDC plays a key role in the national response, including assessing DOD and national vulnerabilities to climate-change effects; accelerating transition to renewable and zero-carbon energy; sequestering greenhouse gas emissions; and protecting warfighters and communities from severe weather impacts.



WIN FUTURE WARS

Future conflicts will occur at a longer range and greater speed than ever before. American Warfighters must be agile to rapidly respond to evolving threats from increasingly advanced adversaries. ERDC's foundation in geospatial research, military engineering, environmental characterization and advanced modeling and simulation will ensure our Armed Forces maintain overmatch and battlefield superiority.







SUPPORT RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

support tomorrow's demands.

Local and regional communities are facing growing hazards to commerce, human and ecosystem health, water supply, transportation, and other functions. ERDC provides open-access data and technologies to quantify present and future hazards and evaluate alternatives to support resilient communities while meeting national goals such as environmental justice and social equity.

MODERNIZE OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Much of our nation's civil and military infrastructure is beyond

its original life expectancy. ERDC is developing new materials

techniques, new structural designs, innovative data capture

analysis, computer models, and other methods to ensure America's infrastructure is resilient, safe and affordable to

and practices, advanced maintenance and construction



ENABLE SMART & RESILIENT INSTALLATIONS

Army installations must be more resilient in the face of constantly changing missions and threats. ERDC is developing advanced technologies and analytical capabilities and integrating smart features that will increase efficiency; enhance Soldier and family well-being; save money, water and energy; and make installations more resilient to hazards.





































ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

ERDC is developing design guidelines and techniques for executing projects that maximize environmental benefits. This includes innovative technologies and approaches that improve and sustain ecosystems while supporting the Warfighter and civil works missions.



SECURE RELIABLE INSTALLATION ENERGY

Military installations and missions must redesign their energy systems and move from carbon-intensive fuels while increasing resilience and grid independence. As extreme weather tests the strength of power-generation assets, ERDC is developing cyber-secure technologies that provide renewable and resilient energy for Army installations.



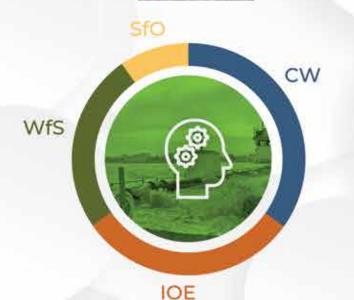












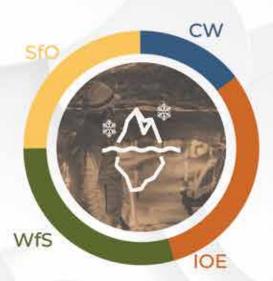
REVOLUTIONIZE AND ACCELERATE **DECISION MAKING**

Decision makers must use timely and reliable datasets to understand societal and environmental threats to operational capabilities faster and more accurately. ERDC is developing decision-support solutions powered by advances in big-data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence, computer simulations, autonomy and robotics.



IMPROVE CYBER AND PHYSICAL SECURITY

Attacks on our nation's critical infrastructure by our adversaries have become more frequent and severe, including sophisticated cyberattacks. Through innovations in risk detection, mitigation and reduction, ERDC is developing technologies that ensure critical infrastructure remains safe.



PROTECT AND DEFEND THE ARCTIC

As Arctic ice melts, competition for resources and influence in this strategically significant region increases. ERDC leads USACE, Army and DOD efforts to understand and adapt to changes in permafrost, snow, sea ice cover and ecosystems to promote mission resilience, military operations and polar region navigation.



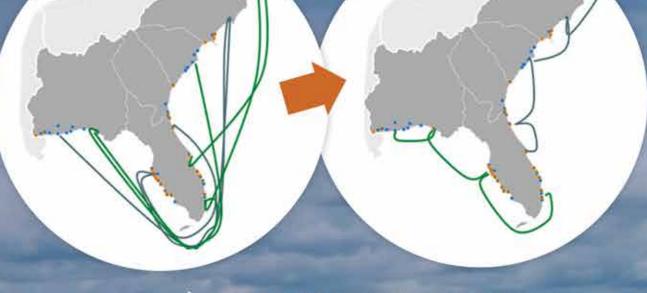
DREDGING

OPTIMIZATION STRATEGIES

USACE spends \$1.5 billion each year to dredge hundreds of navigation projects across the country – its largest civil works expenditure. Yet, there has not been a rigorously quantitative or repeatable process to determine the most efficient and effective way to conduct maintenance dredging across hundreds of projects nationwide.

Through ongoing research and development, USACE engineers have created dredging optimization models using artificial intelligence to streamline and optimize dredging operations across the enterprise. Two separate models - the Dredge Project **Selection Optimization** model and the Dredge Fleet Scheduling Optimization model - aim to facilitate strategic decision making. These models can highlight the most critical locations from a nationwide perspective.

Adopting these strategies will enable more cost-effective mission delivery and limit disruptions to our nation's ports and vital supply chains.



SCHEDULING OPTIMIZATION CONCEPT

While accounting for project-level requirements and environmental work windows, new models allow decision makers to schedule dredging so as to minimize mobilization costs.

Optimizing dredging operations will LIMIT DISRUPTIONS

to our nation's port operations & supply chain

Harmful algal blooms, which occur in freshwater when microorganisms grow rapidly and sometimes release dangerous toxins, are one of the most complex and economically damaging issues threatening the nation's ecosystems. In addition to harming aquatic life and threatening drinking water supplies, these events cause an estimated \$82 million in economic losses annually.

Given the immense damage harmful algal blooms cause the environment and economy, the 2018 Water Resources Development Act authorized USACE to implement a five-year technology research program to deliver scalable technologies for harmful algal bloom detection, prevention and management.

During the program's first three years, 32 projects have been initiated, featuring collaboration between USACE and federal, state and academic partners, including 24 led by ERDC.

Between 2010 and 2020 HABs cost U.S. communities

\$1 BILLION

A SANATIONAL PRIORITY

For more than a decade, the USACE Engineering With Nature® (EWN) initiative has partnered with multi-sector organizations worldwide to advance the use of nature-based solutions for infrastructure and communities.

In April 2022, President Biden focused national attention and federal effort on nature-based solutions through Executive Order 14072, which directs multiple actions to tackle the climate crisis.

EWN contributed to key products of that order: a White House roadmap and resource guide for accelerating progress on nature-based solutions.

During FY22, USACE
incorporated nature-based
solutions across its missions,
including civil works and military
engineering. EWN worked with
the Army, Navy, Marine Corps
and Air Force to advance the use of
natural infrastructure for installation
resilience, a growing opportunity across
the Department of Defense.

EWN also sponsored and co-hosted the Measuring What Matters Summit at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which drew more than 1,000 participants and leaders from multiple sectors to highlight opportunities to expand and diversify value through nature-based solutions.

In its fifth season, the EWN Podcast reached 30,000 listeners.



Scan for the EWN website



Scan for the EWN podcast

Executive Order 14072

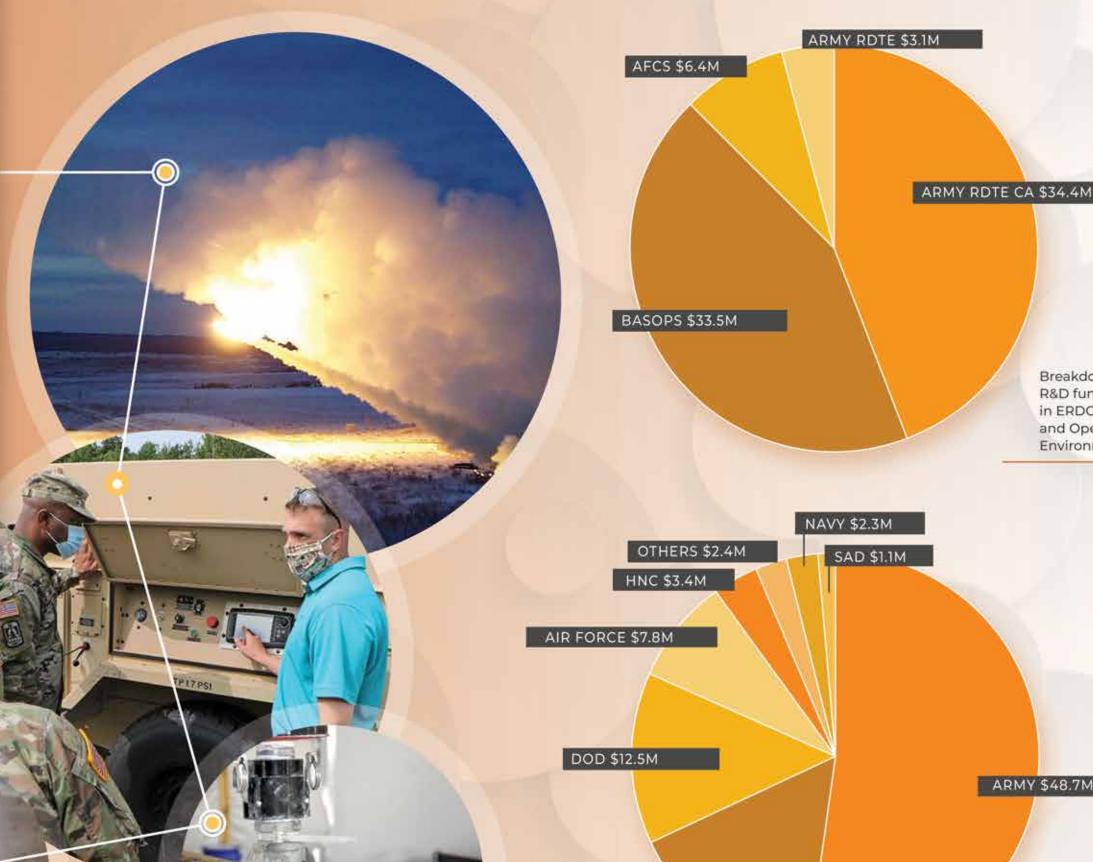
FOCUSED FEDERAL EFFORT

on Nature-Based Solutions

The Installations and Operational Environments portfolio is focused on improving the reliability, efficiency and effectiveness of military infrastructure at installations and on the battlefield.

This includes improvements in military construction technology, capacity and resource planning, and minimizing negative impacts of military infrastructure to the environment and communities. Through this work, USACE enables the execution of the Army Modernization, Installations and Climate strategies.

This effort accelerates technological innovation to meet current and future mission and project delivery demands, specifically in the areas of enabling smart and resilient installations and securing reliable installation energy.



HQ \$14.7M

ARMY \$48.7M

Breakdown of reimbursable R&D funding by source in ERDC's Installations and Operational Environments portfolio

Breakdown of direct R&D funding by source

in ERDC's Installations

Environments portfolio

and Operational







WARFIGHTER SUPPORT

USACE applies its engineering and scientific expertise to support the Warfighter by improving all aspects of mission planning, preparation, execution and sustainment, including innovations to better protect our Soldiers.

The Warfighter Support portfolio helps advance Army modernization priorities, ensure battlefield dominance, and prepare U.S. Forces for multi-domain operations and other changes to the character of war. USACE is applying this research and development around the world. It is engaged in more than 130 countries on any given day, working for combatant commands, the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense and other federal agencies that support the Warfighter.







COLD WEATHER MOBILITY

In support of USACE's mission to develop new techniques and technologies to support our military in the Arctic, ERDC engineers and scientists developed new criteria and specifications for evaluating cold weather tire performance.

Snow and ice degrade ground vehicle traction and impact mobility, reducing operational effectiveness, and creating safety hazards for those operating military vehicles in frigid conditions.

In FY22, ERDC transitioned specifications for tires supporting 700 High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle within the 11th Airborne Division. ERDC expects to update performance specifications for Joint Light Tactical Vehicle tires in FY24.

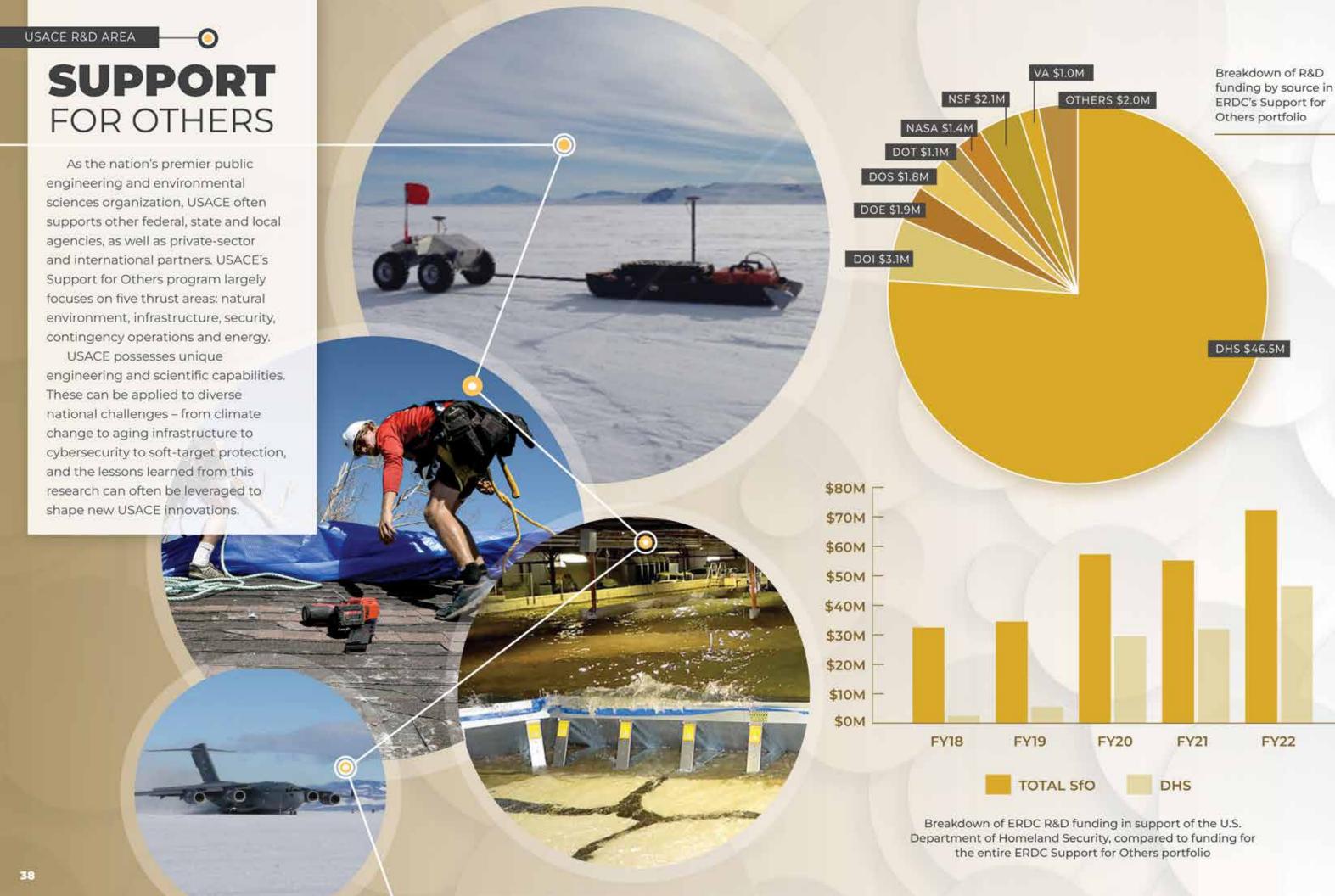
This vital information will provide our Armed Forces cost-effective solutions for improving the safety and performance of ground vehicles operating in Arctic environments. These new specifications enable and support enhanced mobility in the Army's mission of "Regaining Arctic

Dominance."



New tire specifications will improve the SAFETY & PERFORMANCE

of ground vehicles operating in the Arctic



COLD REGIONS

RESEARCH

Home to the DOD's only R&D organization focused on cold regions, USACE also supports the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the U.S. Antarctic Research Program.

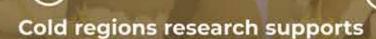
Researchers who call the Scott-Amundsen
South Pole Station home must deal with extreme
conditions. Although their elevated facility was
designed to mitigate the effects of windblown snow,
it must periodically be lifted on its support columns
to maintain its height above the snow surface.

A USACE-developed computational model simulates snowdrift formation around the building, giving decision makers a better understanding of when and how the building's elevation needs to be changed. USACE is also building a basic understanding of Arctic and Antarctic climate processes and incorporating this knowledge into predictive models to inform operations and provide future situational awareness.

This effort helps the NSF successfully execute its cold regions research missions, increasing the safety and efficiency of personnel and providing reliable, resilient infrastructure.







RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & MILITARY OPERATIONS

in cold, complex and austere environments



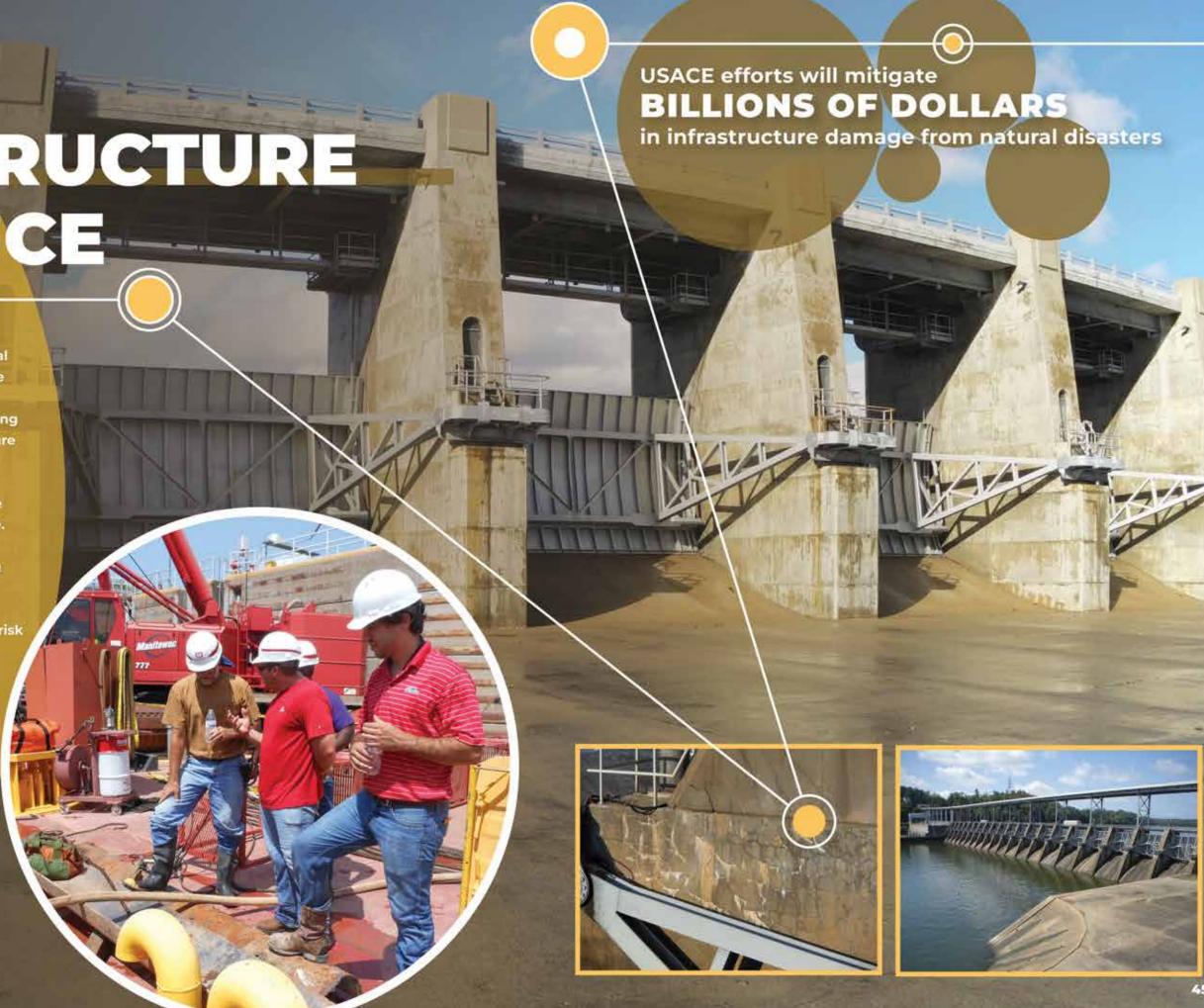
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

USACE is an industry leader in science and technology related to critical infrastructure, natural hazards and resilience. A new partnership with the Department of Homeland Security is focused on addressing infrastructure challenges and supporting the priorities of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These include mitigating flooding impacts and using research to extend the service life of aging water resources infrastructure.

ERDC, in partnership with the USACE Inland Navigation Design Center, Hydrologic Engineering Center, Risk Management Center, and Kansas City District, has been conducting research to demonstrate improved repair methodologies and risk assessment tools over the next two years.

This effort will mitigate billions in damages from natural disasters, enhancing community resilience and ensuring the reliability and economic benefits provided by the USACE infrastructure portfolio.





In FY22, R&D senior leaders engaged with critical decision makers throughout the Department of Defense. These engagements allowed DOD leaders to learn more about how ERDC's world-class people, facilities and multi-disciplinary capabilities are providing innovative solutions to the Warfighter and the Nation.

SHARING THE STORY

VISITS TO ERDC . OCTOBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2022

To fulfill our Commanding General's guidance to better connect the dots between researchers and practitioners, ERDC invited USACE leaders to tour its facilities and engage one-on-one with its engineers and scientists. Representatives from all nine USACE Divisions made a visit during the fiscal year. The average visit lasted nearly two days and included capabilities from all seven ERDC laboratories.





Hon. Michael Connor Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works



Hon. Rachel Jacobson Assistant Secretary of the Army,



Mr. William Nelson Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Installations, Energy & Environment Army for Research and Technology



Mr. Jaime Pinkham Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works



Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd Deputy to the Commanding General, Army Futures Command



Maj. Gen. Jim Bonner Commanding General, Maneuver Support Center for Excellence



Brig. Gen. Joseph Ricciardi Director of Operations,



Brig. Gen. William Glaser Director, Synthetic Training



Mr. Gregg Thompson Deputy to the Commanding General, Maneuver Support Center for Excellence



Dr. Shawn Howley Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School



Col. Joseph Goetz Director, Office of the Chief of Engineers

ACADEMIA

ERDC's commitment to attract the best talent and maintain a diverse workforce includes its engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions. This effort supplies student recruiting pipelines, stimulates collaborative R&D, increases continuing education opportunities and facilitates exchanges between faculty and researchers. In FY22, ERDC specifically engaged three HBCU/MI institutions.



BUILDING STRONG





FY22 PATENTS PATENTS Measuring Deflection to Determine a Characteristic of a Cantilever Inventors: Rebekah C. Wilson, Benjamin C. Masters Patent Number: 11,209,369 Comprehensive, Multi-Species **Environmental Modeling System** Inventors: Mark A. Chappell, Michael L. Mayo, Jonathon A. Brame, Matthew C. Brondum Patent Number: 11,210,441 Over Decking Systems and Methods Inventors: Jonathan M. Polom, Ashley L. Genna, Justin S. Strickler, Gary E. Johnston Patent Number: 11,214,932 Advanced Filtration Membranes using Chitosan and Graphene Oxide Inventors: Victor F. Medina, Christopher S. Griggs, Jose Mattei-Sosa, Brooke Petery, Luke Gurtowski Patent Number: 11,235,291 Deployable Expedient Traffic Entry Regulator Inventors: August N. Johnson, Bowen G. Woodson, Austin C. Hopkins Patent Number: 11,248,351 Hardened Alternative Trailer System and Methods of Producing Same Inventors: Justin M. Roberts, John M. Hoemann, Craig R. Ackerman Patent Number: 11,267,516 Scalable Three-Dimensional Printing Apparatus Inventors: Megan A. Kreiger, Michael Patrick Case, Gerald R. Northrup, Chassan Al-Chaar, Bruce MacAllister, William Jacob Wagner Patent Number: 11,273,574 Compositions and Methods for Treating Contaminated Water Inventors: Clint M. Arnett, Martin A. Page, Donald M. Cropek, Ashley N. Boyd, Justin Lange Patent Number: 11,279,542 Ready Armor Protection for Instant Deployment and Loading Inventors: Omar Esquilin-Mangual, Catherine S. Stephens, Omar G. Flores, Andrew B. Edwards, Erik M. Chappell Patent Number: 11,280,588 Hardened Compression Frame Systems and Methods Inventors: John S. Judson, David V. Senior, Craig R. Ackerman, Daniel Duke Patent Number: 11,286,711 Modular Guard Towers and Methods of Construction Inventors: John M. Hoemann, Justin M. Roberts Irface Adhesion of Crystalline Materials Patent Number: 11,293,724

Disclosures

New

Multi-Spectral Photocatalytic Compounds

Inventors: Emily Asenath-Smith, Emma K. Ambrogi Patent Number: 11.298.689

Digital Buoy Systems and Methods

Inventors: Tung N. Ly, Duane N. Morrison, Denise R. LaDue Patent Number: 11,350,382

Airfield Tie-Down and Deployable Talons

Inventor: Nolan R. Hoffman Patent Number: 11,370,558

Vertical Draw System and Method for Surface Adhesion of Crystalline Materials

Inventors: Emily Asenath-Smith, Garrett R. Hock, Christopher J. Donnely, Jordan M. Hodge Patent Number: 11,421,340

Predicting the Future Magnetic Alignment of a Runway

Inventors: Theodor A. Lee, Mihan McKenna Taylor Patent Number: 11,454,737

88 ACTIVE PATENTS

Modular Guard Towers and

2022

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49

2022 Presidential Rank Award -Distinguished Senior Professional (SL/ST) Dr. Todd Bridges

> 2022 Presidential Rank Award -Meritorious Executive (SES) Dr. David Pittman

2022 Federal Laboratory Consortium Award (Tech Transfer)

Bart Durst 2022 Director of the Year

Southern Public Relations Hall of Fame Induction COL Christian Patterson

Congressional Record Recognition from Congressman Bennie Thompson Donna Williams

2022 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA)

Christo Lunderman 2022 Science Spectrum Trailblazer

Brianna Thompson 2022 Modern-Day Technology Leader

Herman Moore 2022 Modern-Day Technology Leader

2022 Women of Color Awards

Dr. Afrachanna D. Butler Technology Rising Star

Brenna E. Bennett Technology Rising Star

Soniael Duncan Technology Rising Star

Vernessa Noye Career Achievement Award

2022 HENAAC Award

Margarita Ordaz

Military STEM Hero for Most Promising Scientist or Engineer (Undergraduate Degree)

2022 Society of American Indian Government Employees Military Meritorious Award Sissy Hudson

> 2022 ASCE Norman Medal Dr. Fred Tracy

2022 USACE Innovation of the Year Award

Personnel Bunker Retrofit (Team of ERDC-GSL, USACE TAD, and USACE Omaha Protective Design Center)

2022 Sustainability and Environmental Award

Green Dream Team (of Fort Hunter Liggett PDT; ERDC & USACE Sacramento, Mobile Districts and U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville)

> 2022 HR Community of Practice Award Lauren Dunkin USACE Manager of the Year

2022 USACE Meritorious Logistician of the Year Thomas Bouke

2022 Bagley College of Engineering Distinguished Fellows (MS State U) Dr. David Pittman

Meritorious Civilian Service Medal (from GEN Daly, AMC) Dr. Buddy Bartels

2022 Technology Transfer Advocate (3QTR) Lynn Zanow





USACE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNING PROJECT:

Expedient Personnel Bunkers

The Jan. 8, 2020, attacks on the Al Asad Air Base in Iraq resulted in more than 100 service members and civilian contractors being diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). In response, engineers and scientists at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), in coordination with the USACE Transatlantic Division and USACE Protective Design Center, developed, tested and validated enclosure door designs that decrease the exposure to personnel within the bunker and reduce their vulnerability to TBI. The design was quickly adopted at nearly 1,000 bunkers spread throughout multiple countries, and the research team was recognized with a 2022 USACE Innovation of the Year award. "I am confident that your study findings will reduce the risks posed to our military and will ultimately save lives," USCENTCOM Commander Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. said in a note thanking the research team.



2022 Federal Laboratory Consortium Award (Tech Transfer) Bart Durst 2022 Director of the Year

TELLING THE

The ERDC communications community combines best-in-their field journalists, designers, visual information specialists, social media experts and support personnel. Spread across ERDC's laboratories and offices, these professionals are working to both elevate the story of research and development and connect this research to real-world opportunities.

ARTICLES WRITTEN ABOUT ERDC

3,414



ARMY AL&



245 ARTICLES & VIDEOS











BROADCASTS

Power of ERDC Podcast, ERDC Live, Beyond the Gates radio show

4,563 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



20% **SOCIAL MEDIA** GROWTH



ERDC:

348 ERDC **PUBLICATIONS**

\$40M ADVERTISING EQUIVALENT

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