

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)**

**COMPLETE STATEMENT
OF**

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)**

FOR THE HEARING BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON
TERRORISM: ARE AMERICA'S WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT AT
RISK**

**ROOM 2167, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
10:00 am, 10 October 2001**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

INTRODUCTION

I am Mike Parker, for the last couple of weeks, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today, and I feel very much at home, having been in this room many times and seeing friendly faces with whom I previously had the honor to serve as a Member of this body.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Army Corps of Engineers activities to address the issues resulting from the events of September 11, 2001. First, allow me to say how proud I am to be associated with the Corps of Engineers, its record, and the manner in which it has begun to move out to protect the large part of America's water infrastructure that is our responsibility. I want to assure you that the Corps will prove itself worthy of the trust which that responsibility conveys.

Within two hours of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Corps employees were at ground zero lending assistance. Thousands of New York City residents were evacuated on Corps civil works vessels from lower Manhattan. We provided expert structural assessments, emergency power to get the stock market up and running and oversight for the removal of what will likely exceed 1 million tons of debris. Within hours of the attack on the Pentagon, Corps structural engineers were on site providing expert advice. We are presently conducting a comprehensive force

protection analysis to make the rebuilt Pentagon safer from terrorist intervention in the future. We continue to support local and military leaders with every asset the Corps can muster.

In conjunction with its military construction mission, the Corps has developed in-depth anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) expertise. The Corps serves as the DoD lead for "Public Works" under the Critical Infrastructure Program established under PDD 63. The Corps laboratories and technology transfer centers were instrumental in the development of the DoD AT/FP standards now used by all Services in MILCON, major repair and other programs. These standards and the underlying technologies are being widely used by the State Department in their embassy program.

For example, we have world-class AT/FP applications engineers at our Protective Design and Electronic Security Centers who are supported by the best available research assets within the Engineer Research and Development Centers six laboratory network. Expertise available there (to the Corps and others) includes, among other things: Survivability and Protective Structures, Sustainment Engineering, Battlespace Environment, Military and Civil Infrastructure, and Environmental Quality. We have hundreds of employees trained by them, and experience born of work on the Khobar Towers, Murrah Federal Building, World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and other sites, some well-known; others not-so-well-known. The Corps Centers and labs are supported by some of the leading AT/FP engineering and construction firms through effective contracting vehicles.

We are in the process of leveraging the expertise gained in the Corps military mission areas to protect the Corps critical water resources infrastructure from terrorist activities. Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch. Over the past few years the Corps has been working diligently with other agencies, including Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Energy, Tennessee Valley Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to develop a comprehensive security assessment process to identify risks to critical facilities such as locks, dams and hydropower facilities. As the security assessments are completed we will apply the Corps (and others) AT/FP expertise site by critical site to mitigate security risks uncovered.

Today, temporary protection measures are in place, including restricted public access, increased standoff distances to critical structures, increased patrol activities, contracted additional guard support, increased coordination with local law enforcement, and establishment of early warning telephone procedures.

A civil works infrastructure management team has been established at headquarters and the field, and the Corps has begun the task of assessing the need for more specific, effective protective measures. The centerpiece of this effort is the risk assessment and protection of dams methodology called RAM-D developed by the Interagency Forum on Infrastructure Protection from the efforts early mentioned. I have

with me a copy of the training material and workbooks that teams will be using over the next several months to complete this comprehensive civil works security assessment.

By using this Risk Assessment Methodology for Dams, security risks to dams and other Corps infrastructure can be assessed quickly, in a structured, systematic manner, even though the structures to be assessed have been built at different times to meet specific set of criteria and sited in unique environments. The Corps of Engineers has already put in place a plan to conduct these assessments on our critical dams and other infrastructure, and to cooperate with other agencies on still more dams. We will also cooperate on other types of structures, as requested. The lack of standardizing tools may make for a slower process, but the assessment should be no less accurate.

We are also actively involved with the Nation's leading engineering and construction industry associations, professional societies and standards writing organizations to improve the security and survivability of public and private buildings throughout the country.

The subject of this Hearing has been posed in the form of a question: "Terrorism: Are America's Water Resources and Environment at Risk?", and the answer can only be a reluctant, sobering, "Yes". Risk is everywhere, and impossible to eliminate, entirely. However, there are many forms of risk, many ways to minimize and manage it. The Corps of Engineers has already begun the process of protecting the resources entrusted to it, and the people who work and visit there. I am proud of the Corps and confident of its ability to achieve and maintain the results demanded by the American people and their representatives in this August body.

CONCLUSION

The President, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Army White and I are committed to providing the leadership and resources for the Army Corps of Engineers to carrying out its vital military and civil works missions in these difficult times. Mr. Chairman that concludes my statement and I would be pleased to address any questions that you or the committee may have.