

# USACE Levee Safety Program

## Committee on Levee Safety Kickoff Meeting

October 7, 2008

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*Shared Risks. Shared Solutions*

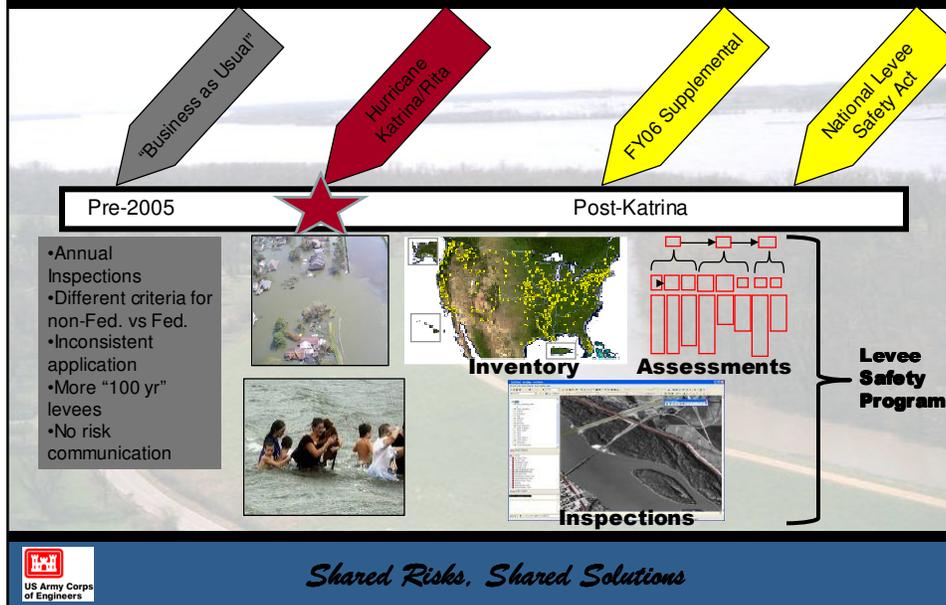
## Topics

- **Path to a Safety Program**
- **Mission**
- **Organization**
- **Inventory and Inspections**
- **Levee Certification**
- **Current Activities**
- **Challenges**



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# Path to a Safety Program



# Levee Safety Program Mission



West Columbus, Ohio

**Assess** the integrity and viability of levees and recommend **actions** to assure that levee systems do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property, and the environment.

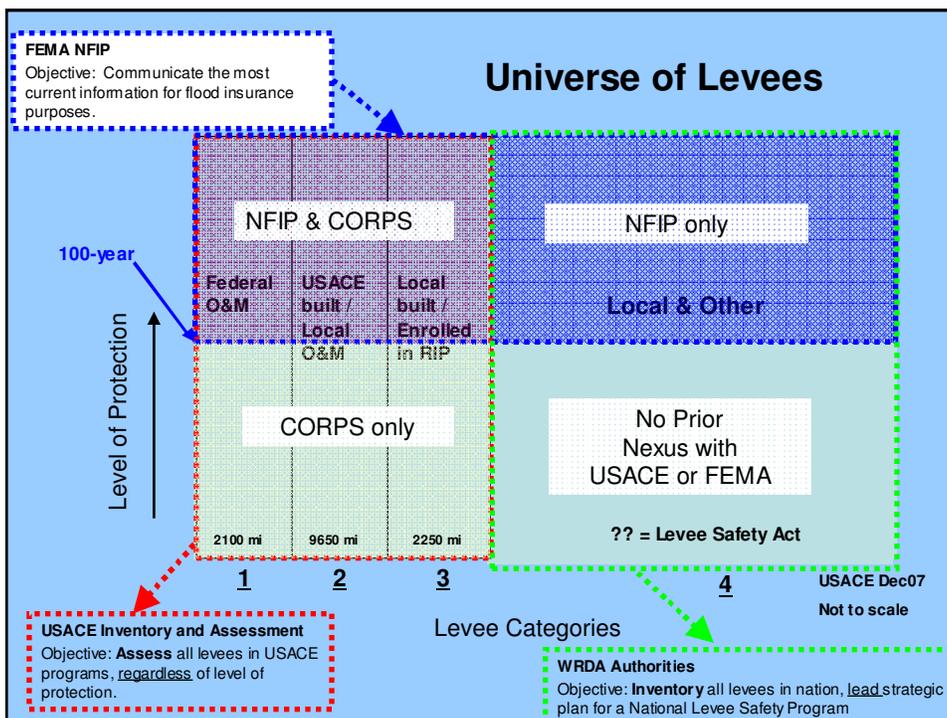
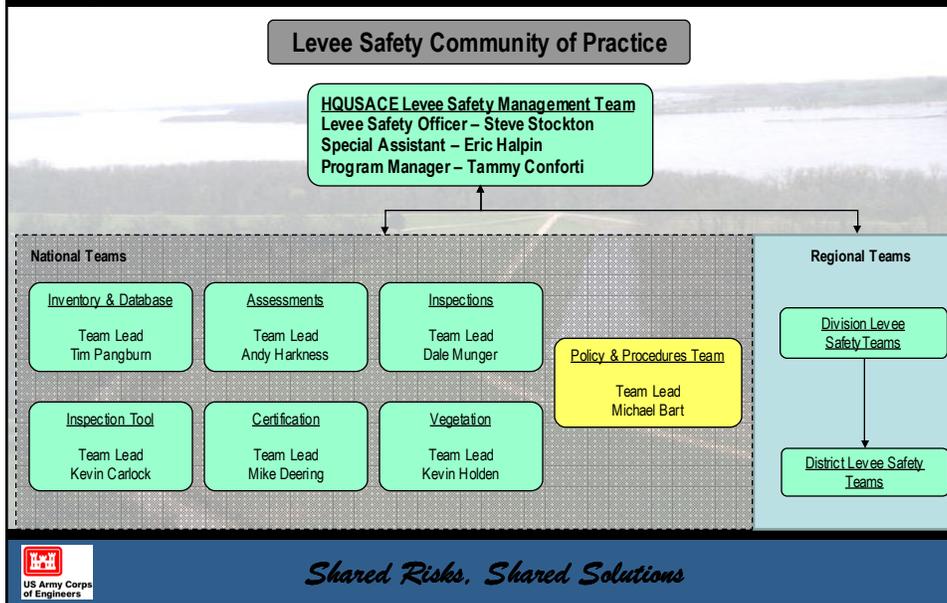
## Program Objectives:

- Hold Public Safety Paramount
- Reduced Economic Impacts
- Maximize Cost Effectiveness
- Develop Reliable and Accurate Information
- Build Public Trust and Acceptance

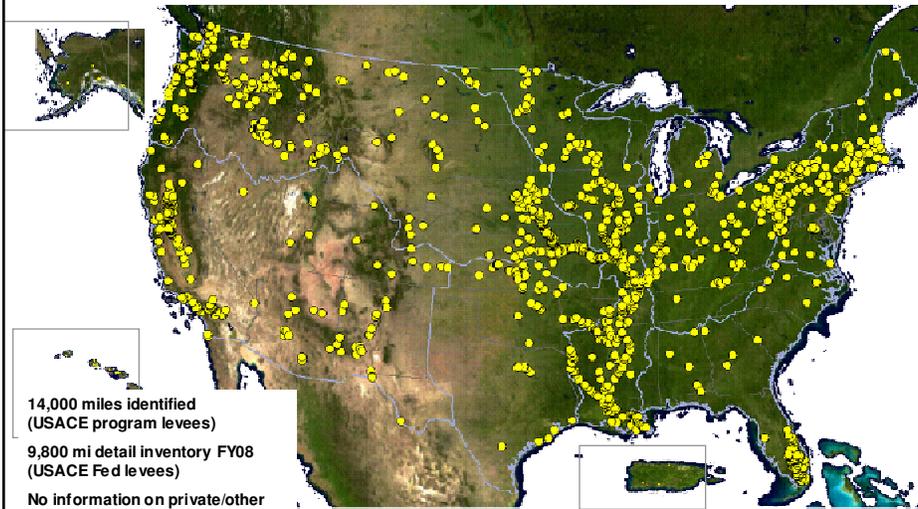


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# Levee Safety Program Organization



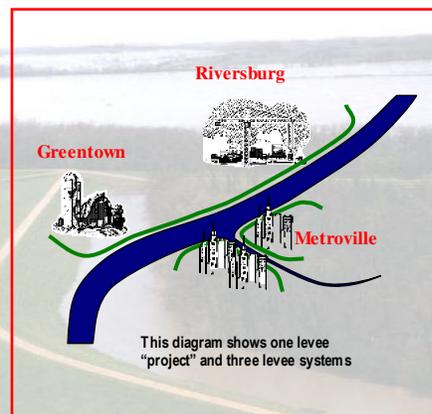
# USACE Program Levees



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# Levee System

**Levee System: All components and features which collectively provides protection (reduces the probability of flooding) to a defined area up to a specific event.**



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## Inspection Program

### Routine Inspections:

Verifies O&M, More Rigorous Standards, Improved Communication, System-based, Every Year

### Periodic Inspections:

Verifies O&M, Evaluates Structure Stability, Compares Constructed Criteria to Current Criteria, Every 5 Years

### Periodic Assessments:

Periodic Inspection + Potential Failure Mode and Consequences Analysis, Every 5 Years

### Risk Assessments:

Data Intensive, Determine Likelihood and Consequences of Failure, Every 10 Years

Increasing Rigor

Continuous Feedback



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## Levee Certification

- **Some authorities to perform certifications.**
- **Agency policy not to fund certifications.**
- **Reimbursable process is difficult.**
- **EC 1110-2-6067**
  - Risk analysis is required for H&H.
  - No partial certifications – systems approach.
  - Requires a report approved by LSO.
  - 10 year validity period.



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## Levee Screening Tool

- Developed in FY08 to assess the condition and consequences of levees in the Corps of Engineers portfolio.
- Combines information from -
  - National Levee Database
  - Revised routine levee inspections
  - Limited engineering assessment of project features.
- Starting “Beta Testing”



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## Levee Screening Tool Outcomes

- Identification of relative risk
- Assist in the assignment of the Levee Safety Action Classification
- Guide setting priorities
- Identify performance concerns and potential consequences of levee failures
- Identify issues to assist in prioritizing interim risk reduction measures



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## Other Policy/Procedure Activities

- Draft Interim Risk Reduction Methods
- Engineer Regulation on Levee Safety
- Communication Products
- Levee Safety Action Classification
- Portfolio Risk Management Process for Levees
- Organizational Roles, Training, et al.



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## Challenges

- Not just about USACE  
Shared Responsibilities
- Not just about engineering  
Multiple Business Lines
- Not just about constrained funding  
Prioritization
- Not about business as usual  
Transparency



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