



Understanding the Army Environmental Structure

By Ms. Martha M. Miller and Ms. Laura Carney

There are several organizations in the Army with specific environmental missions: regional environmental offices (REOs), the Army Environmental Policy Institute (AEPI), the Environmental Law Division, the United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Army Engineer School (USAES), the United States Army Environmental Division (Department of the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management–Installation Services Environmental [DAIM–ISE]), and the United States Army Environmental Command (USAEC). It's important to understand the differences between each organization's specific mission so that inquiries and requests for information can be properly directed to get expedient responses and assistance to ensure the health of Soldiers while also accomplishing the mission. (For the entire organizational structure of the Army's environmental agencies, see chart, page 63.)

Organizations and Missions

REOs and AEPI

The REOs and the AEPI fall under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health. The Army's Strategy for the Environment sets forth the triple bottom line of sustainability—mission, environment, and community. REOs work to reach this bottom line by opening lines of communication, coordinating efforts, and facilitating solutions to ensure the readiness of the Army and the well-being of people and the environment. REOs are regionally based teams focused on helping the Army and its installations rapidly respond to and resolve environmental issues that might adversely affect operations. They conduct important legislative and regulatory monitoring and outreach activities within their regions. They work with military leaders, legislators, and regulators to ensure that the military can conduct training and operations while

complying with environmental regulations. They coordinate regionwide environmental issues; review, analyze, and comment on proposed and existing state legislation and regulations; facilitate partnerships with states, tribes, and other federal agencies; communicate Army and Department of Defense (DOD) positions; share ideas and innovations; leverage regional, state, and local environmental management resources; and serve as Army and DOD experts for environmental regulatory and legislative issues in their regions.

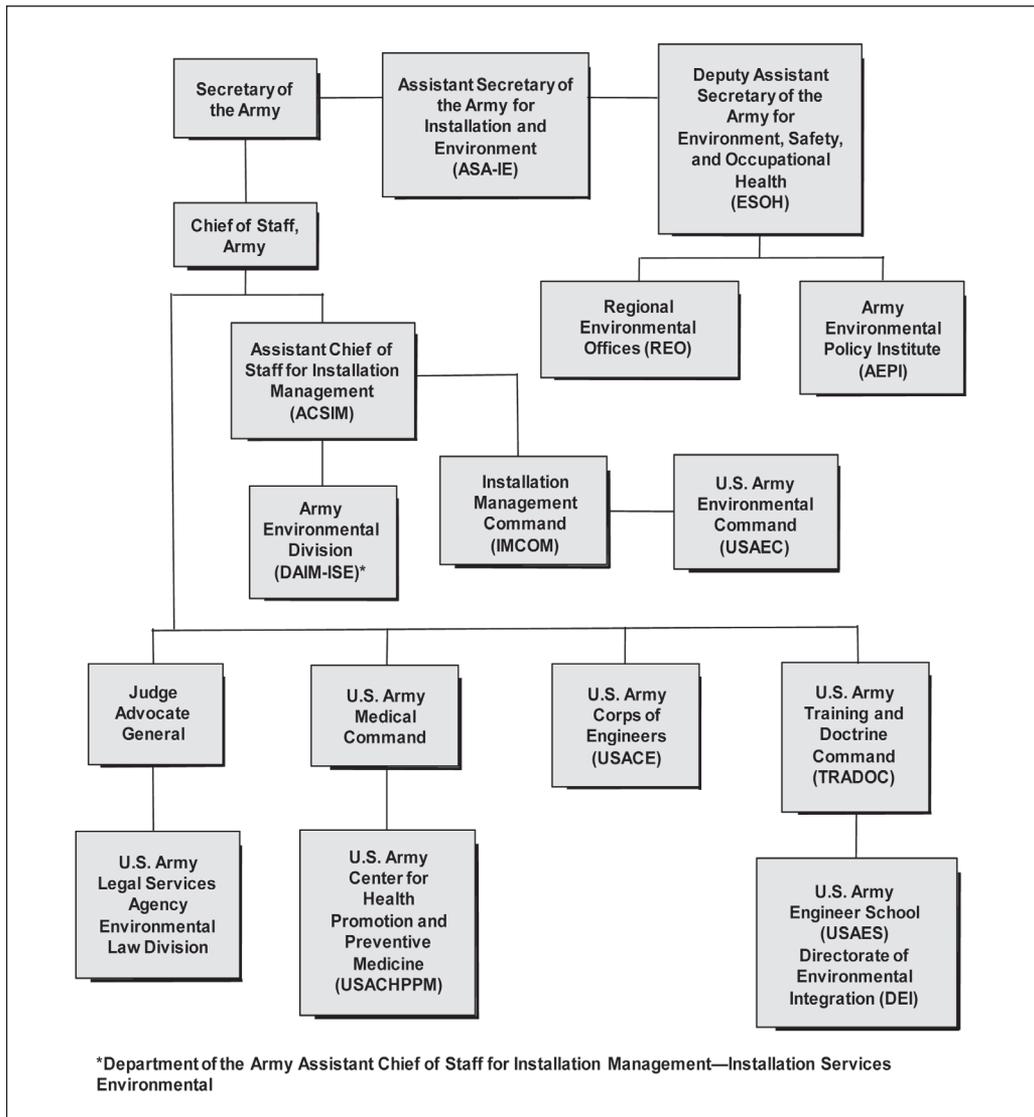
AEPI conducts studies of emerging and existing environmental issues that may significantly impact the Army, then helps develop proactive policies and strategies that affect the sustainment of Army installations and operations. This is a persistent process because environmental issues continually emerge as awareness and technology progress. AEPI's responsibility is to inform the Army secretariat about environmental challenges and opportunities that affect the Army. Its initiatives help the Army sustain readiness, improve quality of life, strengthen community relationships, and reduce total costs of ownership by suggesting sound environmental investments for force transformation and installation sustainability.

Environmental Law Division

The Environmental Law Division, as part of the United States Army Legal Services Agency, provides commanders and their staffs with accurate and proactive legal advice—and representation when necessary—on all environmental compliance issues affecting the Army.

USACHPPM

As part of the United States Army Medical Command, USACHPPM provides worldwide technical support for implementing preventive medicine, public health, health promotion and wellness services, and environmental health and environmental quality programs



for all aspects of the Army and the Army community. It anticipates and rapidly responds to operational needs and remains adaptable to a changing world environment. Its primary focus is to—

- Prevent and control diseases and injuries of military significance.
- Promote health and well-being in military populations.
- Anticipate, identify, assess, and control occupational and environmental health hazards.
- Control advanced and sustainment preventive medicine training.
- Provide targeted health information.

The USACHPPM team is key to the medical support of combat forces and the military managed-care system. It provides worldwide scientific expertise and services in clinical and field preventive medicine, environmental and occupational health, health promotion and wellness, epidemiology and disease surveillance, toxicology, and related laboratory

sciences. It supports readiness by keeping Soldiers fit to fight, while promoting wellness among their families and the federal civilian workforce. USACHPPM supports all Soldiers and federal civilian employees, regardless of their branch of Service.

USACE

USACE provides vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks of disasters. Its Military Programs Environmental Division manages, designs, and executes a full range of cleanup and protection activities; complies with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations; minimizes use of hazardous materials; and conserves natural and cultural resources. The division supports strategic integration such as Base Realignment and Closure, the Gulf Region integration and security assistance, military construction transformation, and stability and reconstruction operations.

USACE has a civil works environmental mission to ensure that all its projects, facilities, and associated

lands meet environmental standards. It supports military construction and demolition projects; provides environmental, real estate, international, and interagency services; and provides support for installations and contingency operations.

The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) comprises the following regional research facilities within USACE:

- Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Environmental Laboratory, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Information Technology Laboratory, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, Illinois
- Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, New Hampshire
- Geospatial Research and Engineering Center (previously the Topographic Engineering Center), Alexandria, Virginia

These laboratories synergistically address research and development (R&D) in four major areas:

- Military engineering
- Geospatial research and engineering
- Environmental quality for installations
- Civil works or water resources

ERDC is one of the most diverse engineering and scientific research organizations in the world. It conducts R&D in support of the Soldier, military installations, USACE civil works mission, other federal agencies, state and municipal authorities, and American industry. ERDC R&D focuses on five primary technical areas to support the Army and USACE:

- Warfighter support with geospatial information, system development, operational support, force protection, and force projection and sustainment
- Transformation, operation, and environmental issues of installations
- Environmental remediation and restoration, land planning, stewardship and management, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources
- Water resources and infrastructure, environmental issues, navigation, flood control, and storm damage reduction
- Information technology, informatics, geospatial technologies, computational services, and high-performance computing applications

Integrated teams of engineers and scientists within ERDC can address a wide range of scientific and technological issues. Some issues previously addressed are the effects of arctic temperatures, vehicle mobility in desert sands, the protection of wetlands, the pinpointing of exact locations of unexploded ordnance, the prediction of habitat ranges for endangered species, and most important, the protection of Soldiers in various conditions.

USAES

Under the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, the USAES commandant is one of the senior leaders within the Army environmental community, serving as the proponent for the development and integration of environmental considerations across the domains of military operations and doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF). With this mission, USAES developed the Army Environmental Integration Plan and formed the Directorate of Environmental Integration (DEI).

The mission of DEI is to fully implement the Army Environmental Strategy and integrate the environmental perspective into the Army's Future Force concept. To meet this goal, DEI—

- Integrates environmental considerations and incorporates lessons learned into all appropriate Army and joint publications and references.
- Provides an organization of environmental subject matter experts to support operational requirements.
- Develops and provides training for military and civilian personnel.
- Develops military and civilian leaders who understand their environmental responsibilities and incorporate environmental considerations into their operational planning and decisionmaking.
- Instills an environmental ethic and situational awareness in Soldiers and civilians to support the Army environmental vision.
- Enhances quality of life and community relations.
- Ensures that environmental considerations are incorporated where support functions are provided to the operational force.

The goal is to integrate environmental considerations in support of the Army's mission while protecting the force and the environment by building a professionally competent force with the appropriate skills, knowledge, and environmental ethics.

DEI provides many environmental products, examples of which include—

- Army correspondence course programs.
- Training videos, graphic training aids, and training support packages.

- Doctrine products such as field manuals and training circulars.
- Environmental Baseline Survey and the Occupational and Environmental Health Site Assessment Handbook.
- Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Base Camp Handbook.
- Online training catalog and courses.
- Environmental Deployment Toolkit compact discs.
- Joint environmental training.
- Environmental management system training materials.

The organization also has mobile training teams that can provide predeployment environmental training when needed. DEI is actively involved with various Army and multi-agency committees and work groups.

DAIM-ISE and IMCOM

The Army Environmental Division (DAIM-ISE) and Installation Management Command (IMCOM) operate under the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM). ACSIM and its subordinate organizations focus on the concerns specific to military installations. DAIM-ISE is the principal advisor to the ACSIM regarding environmental programs. It develops strategic policies and establishes priorities, resources, strategy, and program guidance related to managing and resourcing all environmental programs. It also ensures that environmental program priorities and activities enable the Army mission. Its vision is to foster environmental stewardship and installation sustainability through integration of environmental values.

DAIM-ISE develops and issues Army Environmental Program priorities so that subordinate elements have adequate authority to accomplish installation/activity missions. It has the responsibility for environmental program resource requirements, validation, and programming of resources into the program objective memorandum and establishment of resource levels to support the Army Environmental Program priorities. Coordination is conducted internally and with Army staff elements, the Secretary of the Army staff, Army commands, Army service component commands, direct reporting units, the Reserve Components, and field operators to ensure that environmental requirements are integrated into their programs. It participates in federal department-level meetings and workgroups led by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to represent service-level positions on issues affecting the Army's mission.

The development and visibility of environmental program issues are maintained through coordination with components and states. Program reviews for performance management are conducted according to established strategies and program priorities. DAIM-ISE prepares briefings, information papers, and reports for Army leadership and Congress and supports audits and Freedom of Information Act requests.

USAEC

USAEC is directly subordinate to IMCOM in the Army environmental structure. Over the past 36 years, under various names and through evolving missions, USAEC has supported the Army's expanding role as a world leader in environmental stewardship and responsibility. It integrates, coordinates, and oversees the implementation of the Army's environmental programs for the Army staff. Armed with lessons from the past and the vision of a transforming Army, USAEC provides the knowledge, tools, and program development assistance that enable military readiness and sustainable military communities through training, operations, and acquisition, using sound environmental practices.

The command provides a broad range of environmental products and services to Headquarters, Department of the Army, major commands, and commanders worldwide, including leadership, focus, direction, and innovative solutions to the Army's future environmental challenges. USAEC has developed and sustains a team of environmental professionals dedicated and empowered to accomplish the mission through the support of military installations.

Environmental Purpose

There are several different organizations within the Army with specific environmental missions. Each organization supports the Army mission, its strategy for the environment, and its installations worldwide; ensures compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and ensures the health and well-being of the Army's Soldiers and their families through the use of sustainable practices and programs.



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