

# AMERICAN SAMOA SILVER JACKETS



**Benjamin Reder**

American Samoa Silver Jackets Coordinator

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*Honolulu District*



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of Engineers**



**U.S. ARMY**

# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## MISSION

Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.



## PRIORITIES

PEOPLE

READINESS

PARTNERSHIPS

INNOVATE

*ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR THE NATION'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES*



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To Learn More



SCAN ME

### Top 5 Most Valuable Asset Portfolio

of all federal agencies

Operating, maintaining, and managing more than **\$212 Billion worth** of the Nation's water resources infrastructure.



**68 studies started**  
**82 studies completed**  
over the past 5 years



**48** construction projects started  
**61** completed construction projects  
over the past 5 years

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

# U.S. ARMY CIVIL WORKS National Impacts



## Navigation Reliability

Improves transportation efficiency and supply chain, lowers import and export costs, and reduces carbon footprint

Recent investments have led to **25 channel & harbor deepenings completed and in progress**

Allowing cargo ships to carry **over 2.2 billion tons of cargo annually.** (2017-present)

**40%**

Increase in investment in USACE locks & dams since 2010



Resulted in a **80%** decrease of unscheduled stoppages (greater than 1 day)

More Efficient mode of Transportation

**1 BARGE** is equivalent to



15 RAILCARS



70 SEMI-TRAILER/TRAILERS

ECONOMIC GROWTH

INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY

**\$13 ROI** **\$1**

FLOOD DAMAGES PREVENTED

USACE provides technical assistance and innovative solutions that reduce risks, drive economic growth, and create resilient communities for future generations.

**more than 700 dams** of Federally Authorized Levees  
**13,000 miles**  
The reduce the risk of flooding to more than 45 million people a \$3.8 trillion in property



**400+ miles** of shoreline protection

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



Over the past 5 years

Successfully used innovative financing tools to deliver innovative, resilient, and sustainable projects.

**Public-Private Partnerships**  
Projected Federal Savings of more than

**\$450 MILLION & 23 YEARS**

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

**1.4 Billion visits** to USACE recreation areas over the past 5 years



**\$14 Billion Economic Impact** supports 210,000 jobs

more than **350** aquatic ecosystem restoration projects

in **40 states**

Restoring more than **200,000 acres** of aquatic habitat over the past 5 years



Steward of **12 Million acres** land and water in **43 states**

SUSTAINABILITY



**Hydropower**  
Improved Turbine Reliability  
**25%** decrease in unscheduled outages

over the past 5 years



Generating enough to power **11 Million + homes** every year

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

# TYPHOON MAWAR MISSION ASSIGNMENT PROFILE: **DEBRIS REMOVAL**

The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to reimburse eligible applicants for debris removal from public & private lands when it is in the public interest & essential to saving lives, protecting public health & safety, or preserving property.

**LANDFALL: MAY 24, 2023** (As of 16 Sept 23)



FEMA FUNDING TO DATE **\$47.1M**      ACTIVE DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACTS **2**      PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND **56** CIVILIANS      **0** MILITARY      **X** CONTRACTORS

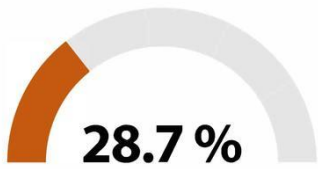
## MISSION FOCUSED

### AMOUNT OF DEBRIS REMOVED TO DATE:

#### ROW DEBRIS PROGRESS:

**GREEN WASTE + C & D**

*estimated total amount: 56,055 CY*



#### TDMS:

Cleared and accepted by village mayor



#### VILLAGE:

Villages completed



### TIPS TO REMEMBER DURING THE PROCESS:

- Certain types of debris are not eligible for removal, including daily household trash, tires, vehicles, boats, porcelain (toilets, tubs), electronics, & household hazardous waste (oil, batteries, pesticides, paint, cleaning supplies), are not eligible for removal.
- The first phase of the clean-up process includes a USACE debris refinement team, these teams will arrive prior to pick-up to ensure each home has their disaster related debris properly sorted.
- There may be multiple teams that collect debris from your ROW over multiple days.
- These trucks may arrive at different times in the clean-up process.

### Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Residential Properties

In an effort to speed the debris removal process, please follow these rules

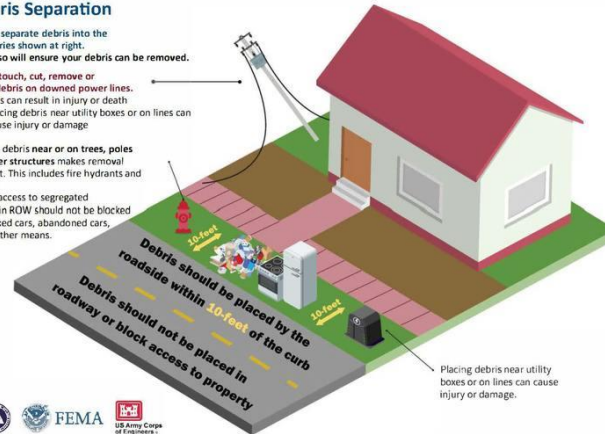
#### Debris Separation

Please separate debris into the categories shown at right. Doing so will ensure your debris can be removed.

- Never touch, cut, remove or place debris on downed power lines.
- This can result in injury or death
- Placing debris near utility boxes or on lines can cause injury or damage

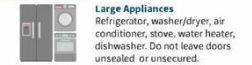
Placing debris near or on trees, poles or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meter.

Direct access to segregated debris in ROW should not be blocked by parked cars, abandoned cars, or by other means.

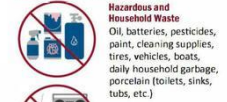


### What types of debris are eligible for removal?

#### Eligible Debris:



#### Ineligible Debris:



FEMA



To learn more about this FEMA debris removal mission visit: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4715>



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# SILVER JACKETS - MANY PARTNERS, ONE TEAM

## ***Emphasizes state leadership***

- Focused on Territory identified flood risk priorities
- Supported by USACE and other Federal agencies
- Established teams in 50 states, four territories & District of Columbia (55 total)

## ***Facilitates interagency collaboration and activities***

- Each agency supports its participation as budgets and authorities allow
- USACE funds District staff coordination with teams through the National Flood Risk Management Program and leverages other USACE programs to provide technical assistance (such as FPMS, PAS, etc.)

## ***Promotes integrated flood risk management solutions***

- Emphasizes shared risk management within a life-cycle framework
- Achieves a progression of outcomes, including risk identification & awareness, risk communication & outreach, and risk reduction & management actions



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# Why the name 'Silver Jackets'?



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# STATE SJ TEAM PARTICIPATION

## State

- Typically - State Hazard Mitigation Officer and National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator
- Others – Cooperating Technical Partners, Emergency Managers, Water Boards, Transportation Dept., Environmental Protection, Geographic Information System Analysts

## Federal

- Typically - FEMA, NOAA NWS, USGS, USACE
- Sometimes - EPA, DOT, HUD, NRCS, NOAA OCM
- Region Specific - BLM, USFS, USFWS, USBR, NPS

**Others** - Tribes, local governments, NGOs, universities, and/or private



FEMA



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# TEAM CHARACTERISTICS

- American Samoa rocks the party – we all have space on the dance floor
- Regularly recurring meetings
- Strive for consensus
- Membership expands/contracts depending on issues
- Evolves with American Samoa's needs
- Non-binding guiding document



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### Preparation and Training

- Levee safety risk and flood risk communication programs
- Floodplain mapping
- Tabletop exercises
- Training workshops
- Outreach and education

### Mitigation

- Mitigation planning assistance
- Investigate non-structural flood risk mitigation measures
- Outreach and education



### Response

- Technical assistance post-disaster
- Update or develop Emergency Response Plans
- Flood warning system planning
- Outreach and education

### Recovery

- Damage assessments
- Post-disaster resource guides
- Outreach and education



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# SILVER JACKETS - EXAMPLES



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# Learning from History: How a Multi-Agency Silver Jackets Team Conducted a Successful Outreach Campaign Around Hurricane Agnes



**Stacey Underwood**  
*Silver Jackets Coordinator*  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District

**Maggie Dunn**  
*Outreach Coordinator*  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region 3

**Rob Shedd**  
*Service Coordination Hydrologist*  
NWS/Middle Atlantic River  
Forecast Center

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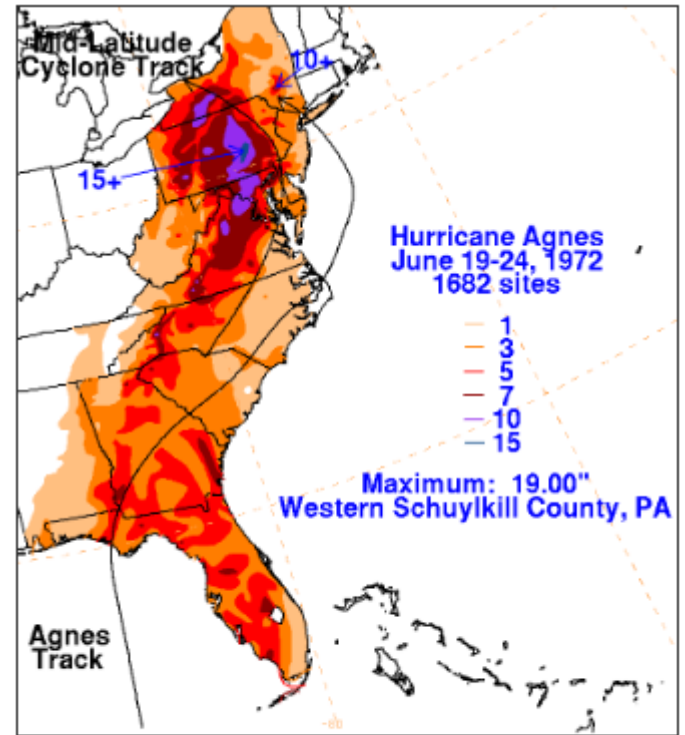




*Flooding in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., after Hurricane Agnes, 1972.  
Office of History.*



*Coal Brook Trailer Park, Pa., after Hurricane Agnes, 1972.  
Office of History.*



*Rainfall totals from Agnes. NOAA Weather  
Prediction Center.*



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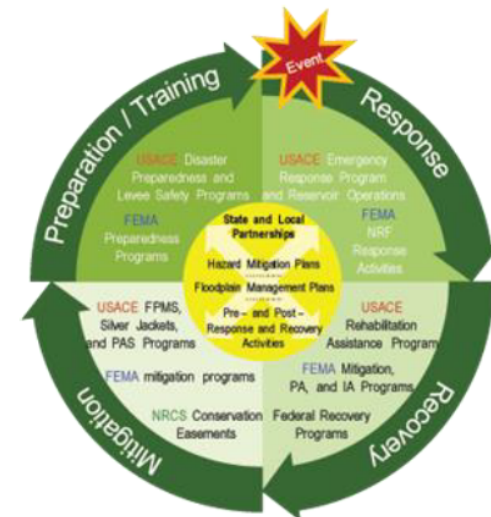
# Goal of Outreach Campaign

*“Learn from the Past and Prepare for the Future”*

**Project Goal:** Use the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic flood to continue to educate the public on flood risk and to encourage everyone to take actions to reduce their risk.

## Key Messages :

- Hurricane Agnes and the subsequent remnants **caused devastating floods**, with significant loss of life and flood damages.
- Floods similar to Hurricane Agnes **can and will happen again** and the likelihood of similar events is **increasing with climate change**.
- **Mitigation works**. Mitigation projects reduced flood risk prior to Agnes and many projects were built after.
- **New technology** and service improvements since Agnes **helps reduce the flood risk** (weather monitoring/technology, flood warning, etc...).
- Everyone should **take actions to reduce their flood risk**.



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# Project Partners



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FEMA



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



pennsylvania  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Maryland  
Department of  
the Environment



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# Outreach Campaign

## Three Components:

- Website
- Social Media
- Outreach Events



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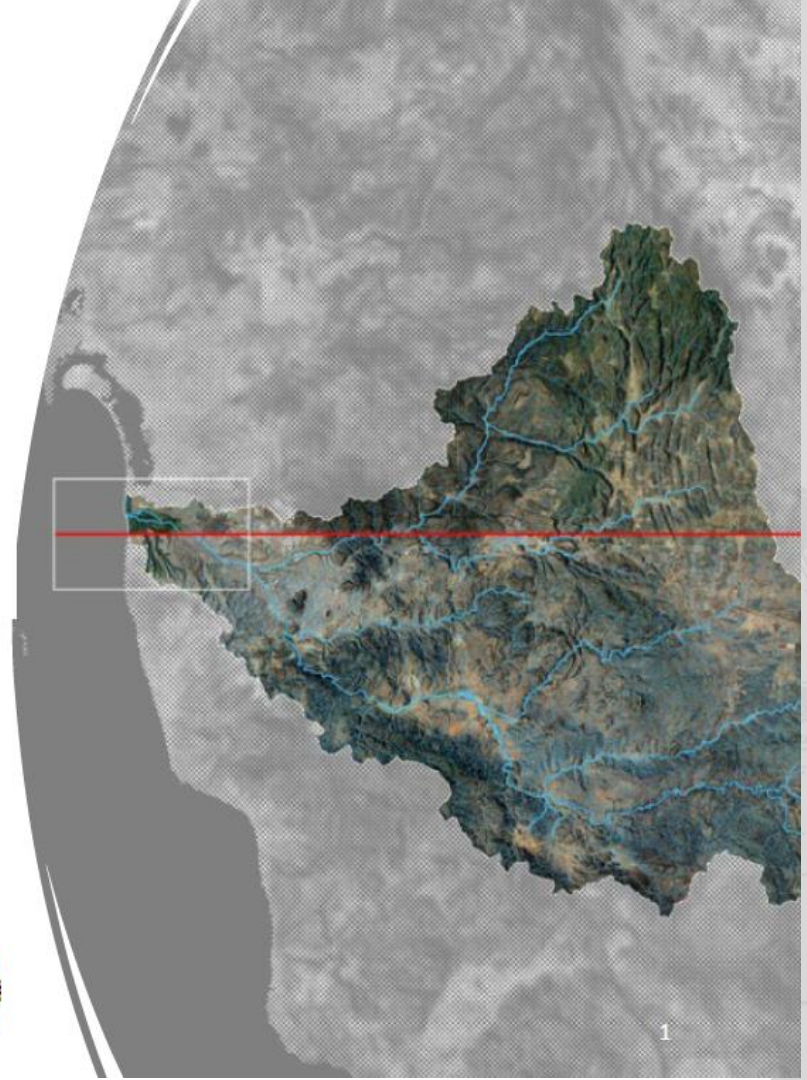






State of California Silver Jackets Team  
Equipo de las Chaquetas Plateadas del estado de California

# Tijuana River Watershed Bi-National Dam Safety Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Overview



# Bi-National Communication Group

- Address potential issues associated with cross-border communications during an incident that requires coordination between agencies within San Diego County and Mexico.
- Provide guidance for operational coordination with Mexico during compromised communications.
- Build bi-national relationships between appropriate operation center levels through regular meetings and drills.
- Identify and maintain key contacts between agencies and their counterparts.
- Compliment pre-existing agreements.



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# Participating Agencies

- **U.S. Federal** – Custom Border Protection, EPA
- **California** – OES, Public Health, CAL FIRE
- **County of San Diego** – OES, Sheriff, Public Health, Environmental Health, EMS
- **City of San Diego** – OES, Fire-Rescue, Police
- **Baja California** – Protección Civil de Estado, COEPRIS, 911 Center
- **City of Tijuana** – Protección Civil, Bomberos, Police



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# Silver Jackets Program / Programa de las Chaquetas Plateadas

*Silver Jackets Teams **Facilitate Collaborative Solutions** to State Flood Risk Priorities*

*Los Equipos de las Chaquetas Plateadas **Facilitan Soluciones** Colaborativas para las prioridades estatales de riesgo de inundación*



## Program Goals:

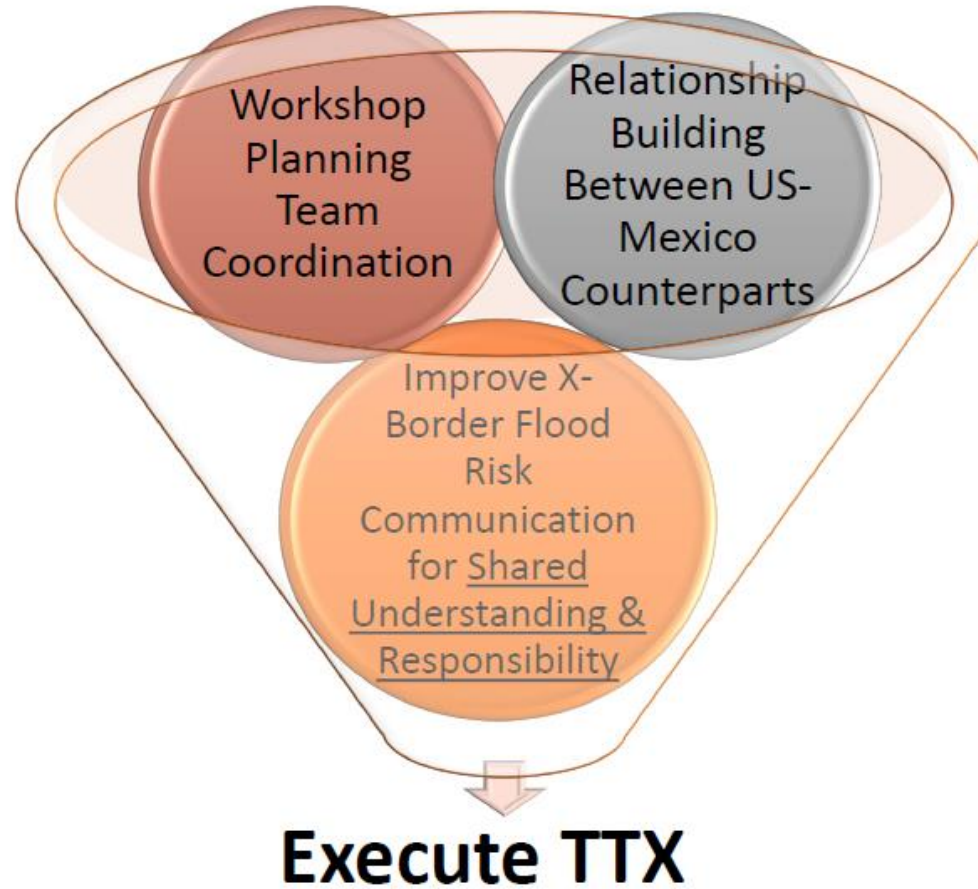
- Work in interagency teams
- Reduce Flood Risk
- Promote **Shared Responsibility** for Flood Risk Management
- **Communicate** Flood Risks

## Metas del Programa:

- Trabajar en equipos interinstitucionales
- Reducir el riesgo de inundación
- Promover la **Responsabilidad Compartida** para el manejo de inundación
- **Comunicar** riesgos de inundación



# Project Purpose



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SISTEMA ESTATAL DE PROTECCION CIVIL  
BAJA CALIFORNIA



GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO



COMISIÓN ESTATAL DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS DE TIJUANA



CONAGUA  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL AGUA



SALUD  
SECRETARÍA DE SALUD



FEMA



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

The City of  
**SAN DIEGO**



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WATER RESOURCES**



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



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