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Subject: Request for Assistance (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Commanders,

Please distribute to all your subordinate commanders and have them discuss with Members during ongoing/upcoming congressional engagements. Both the President (today) and senior Members of Congress (REP Shuster/REP Graves) are publicly questioning whether USACE Civil Works missions belong in the DoD anymore. This is not a new issue, in fact it has come up periodically over the last 40 years but has never had support either across DoD, the Congress, or in the Administration. Bottom line wanted to make you aware of this dialogue, and assure you we are doing all we can in HQUSACE to address concerns raised by the National leadership. We need help in letting your Members know what we are doing.

Talking Points include:

-USACE recognizes this is a time of great opportunity, and failure is not an option (Supplemental, Infrastructure Initiative).

-USACE is participating fully in all Administration initiatives to streamline process and more efficiently and effectively deliver water resource solutions for the Nation.

-Effective reform requires legislative, policy, regulation, process, and culture change. USACE has, and will continue to identify legislative, policy, and regulation reforms to the Congress and Administration that will assist in project delivery. We are working to address internal organizational process and cultural impediments necessary to more efficiently and effectively accomplish all our missions.

-Our ability to deliver rests on great leadership (we have), a streamlined environmental review process (in the works), National priorities and reliable funding (we do not have).

-The Corps is an essential player in delivering infrastructure to the Nation, but there are renewed calls for the Army Civil Works program to be moved out of DoD to other Agencies. This call is coming from Congressional leadership, senior Members of the Administration, and several Governors. We need your help to reassure leaders, at all levels, **moving the Corps does not solve the problem.** We hear the frustration, and are working diligently in and out of the organization, to make necessary changes to achieve Administration's infrastructure goals for the Nation.

Thanks for your help.

Major General Ed Jackson, P.E.
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