Many Agencies …

Common Solutions …

Managing Risk

The Silver Jackets Program

*"Silver Jackets allows the **State and Federal partners to work seamlessly...and anticipate needs during disaster events**. The Silver Jackets program **maximizes the funding** available… and allows the team members to work together in a synergistic manner, tapping into one another's needs and capabilities, thus **creating… services that otherwise would not be available**. The program allows the partner agencies to look ahead and identify potential challenges and identify **solutions to address those challenges before they happen**."*

Manuela Johnson, Indiana Dept of Homeland Security

Silver Jackets teams are collaborative state-led interagency teams, continuously working together to reduce flood risk at the state level. Through the Silver Jackets program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, additional federal, state and sometimes local and Tribal agencies provide a unified approach to addressing a state's priorities. Often, no single agency has the complete solution, but each may have one or more pieces to contribute. The Silver Jackets team is the forum where all relevant agencies come together with the state to collaboratively plan and implement that interagency solution. Through partnerships, Silver Jackets optimizes the multi-agency utilization of federal resources by leveraging state/local/Tribal resources, including data/information, talent and funding, and preventing duplication of effort.

The primary goals of the Silver Jackets program are to:

- Facilitate strategic **life-cycle** flood risk reduction,
- Create or supplement a **continuous** mechanism to **collaboratively** solve state-prioritized issues and implement or recommend those solutions,
- **Improve processes**, identifying and resolving gaps and counteractive programs,
- Leverage and **optimize resources**,
- Improve and increase **flood risk communication** and present a unified interagency message, and
- Establish close relationships to facilitate **integrated post-disaster recovery** solutions.

State Team Perspectives

Pilot teams initiated in Ohio in 2005 and Indiana in 2006 have shown value. Coordination through the Ohio team enabled a community to acquire detailed mapping by tapping into an ongoing regional watershed study. By integrating the USACE Planning Assistance to States program and FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance program a Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed, and stormwater flooding and flood warning system projects were initiated. The Indiana team was able to link technologies not often used together to identify when specific flood areas will be impacted, the expected depth and breadth of flooding, and the expected damages. Through the use of real-time river gage data, the city knows when and where to take

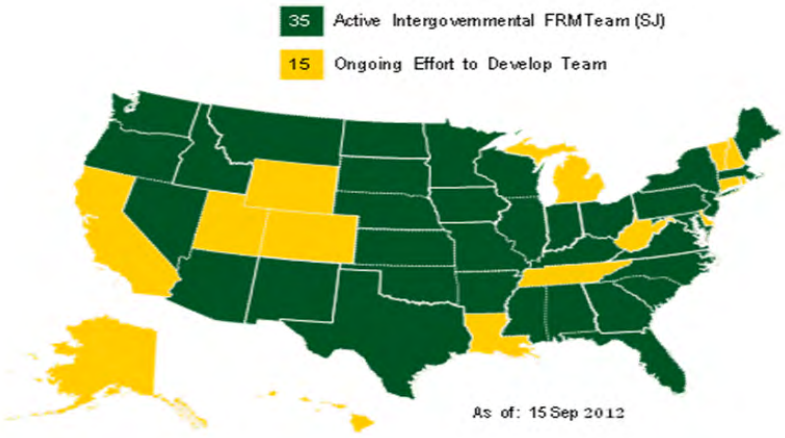
protective actions, hazard mitigation measures now can be implemented more effectively, and residents can be more responsible for their own safety and property.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2011, USACE initiated pilot projects through Silver Jackets teams. Thirty-three interagency projects are ongoing in 25 states, with approximately $1.9 leveraged for every $1 in USACE program investment. Projects cover a wide range of flood risk management strategies, including integrated flood response planning and flood warning systems, inundation mapping, unified flood risk communication, and emergency action planning.

The first Pilot Project was completed in Maine in August 2012. The project supported an ongoing multi-agency program to complete a hydraulic failure analysis for more than 600 stream crossing structures. The Maine State Hazard Mitigation Plan states that "the greatest amount of damage from flooding events occurs to the roadway system, both state and municipal roads, bridges, culverts and ditches"; replacing priority undersized culverts before floods occur avoids significant impacts. The $40k pilot study investment leveraged $80.8k from Maine agencies and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service. The hydraulic analysis identifies the expected capacity of each structure for various extreme weather events, providing 21 communities with the information required to prioritize culvert and bridge replacements. Assuming that providing for increased hydraulic capacity doubles culvert installation costs and that approximately 10% of the culverts are high-risk and warrant enlarging, the project investment can be roughly estimated to mitigate approximately $700,000 of replacement value plus the extensive costs associated with reconstructing roads damaged from the effects of stream crossing failures. At a recent meeting, community officials were eager to obtain and make use of the data. The data will also be integrated into the Federal Emergency Management Agency's non-regulatory RiskMAP product as "other points of mitigation interest."

Find A Team

Currently there are thirty-five states with an active interagency flood risk management team. Efforts to offer a team in the remaining 15 states are ongoing, with the ultimate goal of supporting an interagency team in every state. Team focal areas vary, as state priorities vary. The intent is not to duplicate existing teams, but to supplement and strengthen current efforts, and establish collaborative relationships where they do not yet exist.



For further information, please view the individual state team pages and national Silver Jackets website at www.nfrmp.us/state. Questions and comments may be directed to Jennifer Dunn, the National Program Manager at Jennifer.K.Dunn@usace.army.mil or to Lindsey Laroque, USACE representative on the South Carolina state team at lindsey.laroque@usace.army.mil