



Aerial view of Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island at the mouth of the Savannah River. Completed by the Corps in 1847, the fort still stands in near-perfect condition, despite having borne the brunt of numerous powerful hurricanes and one unrelenting bombardment.



Two Corps snagboats and a dredge clear the Savannah River at Augusta, Ga., in the 1920s.

When Robert E. Lee was fresh from the U.S. Military Academy, he was assigned to assist in the work on Cockspur Island at the mouth of the Savannah River.



How the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers got into the outdoor recreation business

Normally, you wouldn't associate an organization like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with outdoor recreation. But where there's a dam, there's a lake; and in the 1900s Congress authorized the Corps to build numerous dams for flood control, hydroelectric power generation, and commercial navigation. Later, Congress authorized other purposes, including outdoor recreation.

The Corps traces its service to the nation back to Bunker Hill, which was the first of many fortifications [the origin of the Corps' castle emblem] the Corps built during the Revolutionary War. After the war, the engineers were mustered out of service. But in 1802, Congress recognized the importance of having a continuous national engineering capability and re-established the engineers as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to its role in wars during the country's early history, the Corps also surveyed roads and canals, built coastal fortifications, improved harbors, and cleared major rivers as the nation expanded westward. The agency was among the first to explore Yellowstone National Park and promote the preservation and protection of that national treasure.

Today, the Corps serves as custodian to 12 million acres of land and water. With 80 percent of its lakes located within 50 miles of a major metropolitan area, it has become the leading federal provider of outdoor recreation in the nation. Recreational use of Corps lakes provides about \$6 billion in local visitor spending and supports approximately 250,000 jobs in the local communities surrounding the lakes. These dam and lake projects also provide 24 percent of the nation's hydroelectric power.

For more information on the history of the Corps, go to www.hq.usace.army.mil/history/index.htm.

The Corps has only 2 percent of federal lands but is the leading federal recreation provider with 456 Corps lakes across the nation