



# Infrastructure Assessment Mission Overview



## **US Army Corps of Engineers®**

Questions, comments, and suggestions related to this overview are encouraged. For more information, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Homeland Security, Civil Emergency Management, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000.

**Edward J. Hecker**  
Chief, Office of Homeland Security  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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## Scope of Infrastructure Assessment Mission

The USACE Infrastructure Assessment (IA, formerly Structural Safety Assessment) Planning and Response Team (PRT) mission is to augment local efforts to conduct quality inspections of buildings, primarily residential, and to manage inspections of public works facilities following a major disaster. The purpose of the structural evaluations is to determine whether damaged, or potentially damaged, buildings are safe for use or if entry should be restricted or prohibited. The buildings are inspected for damage and assigned a safety rating or posting category in a uniform manner. Inspections are closely coordinated with the appropriate local representatives.

While the traditional function of the IA PRT is to conduct rapid building inspections in conjunction with the Applied Technology Council-20 (ATC-20 post earthquake, or ATC-45 post-flood) procedures, a secondary function is to provide a management cell to track a wide variety of inspections that typically fall under the public works areas of responsibility, such as mechanical, electrical, and water/wastewater infrastructure engineering applications. The management cell can also be applied to management of structural inspections that warrant more detailed evaluations for special emergency usage (e.g. hospitals to ensure mass care or school auditoriums that might be used for temporary housing). Special structural inspections are conducted by individuals with an appropriate level of structural engineering that commensurate with the complexity of the structure. Special inspections under the IA mission may include additional areas of discipline (e.g. geotechnical engineering, hazardous material specialists, environmental engineering, etc). The IA mission is intended to be highly flexible and scalable in order to meet the specific and changing needs of the local public works during response and recovery efforts.

## Infrastructure Assessment Lead Division and Assigned Districts

The lead USACE Division coordination responsibility for the IA mission has been assigned to the South Pacific Division (SPD). SPD's responsibilities include leadership and mentoring of the assigned PRT Districts, monitoring status of team staffing, assuring teams are aware of pending training, hosting training sessions, assuring database information is current, and monitoring and disseminating current team changes and information. The following USACE Districts have been designated to provide Infrastructure Assessment PRTs for emergency response on a rotating basis:

LRB (Great Lakes & Ohio River Division) Buffalo District  
NWS (Northwestern Division) Seattle District  
POA (Pacific Ocean Division) Alaska District  
SPK (South Pacific Division) Sacramento District

## Infrastructure Assessment Team Staffing

The core IA PRT is comprised of a 6-person mission management team which is augmented with inspectors as needed to fulfill mission requirements. The PRT configuration is designed to staff the Joint Field Office (JFO), the Recovery Field Office (RFO), and multiple Emergency Field Offices (EFO) as required. The standard PRT is expected to be capable of managing the efforts of 100 inspectors (50 two-person field inspection teams). The core IA PRT includes:

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Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 Action Officer (AO)  
Mission Manager (MM)  
Mission Specialist (MS)  
Mission Data Manager (MDM)  
ATC-20/45 Training Officer (TO)  
Supervisory Inspection Team Leader (SITL)

The ATC-20 Training Officer's responsibility is to train individuals to inspect buildings for safety of occupancy or for restricted use after a major disaster in accordance with the procedures and guidelines for the building safety evaluation process known as ATC-20 Procedures for Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings and ATC-20-1 Field Manual: Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings. The Training Officer's primary role is to ensure that each individual is trained in all aspects of structural safety assessment and the hazards associated with this type of work. The IA PRT manages the data associated with the inspections, but does not contain inspectors per se. Non-structural assessments (electrical, mechanical, etc) will be conducted by deployees with background and experience that commensurate with mission requirements. In addition, SPD has identified IA Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to provide expertise when needed to support both exercises and real event response efforts.

## Infrastructure Assessment Mission End State

The mission is generally complete when the remaining need for inspections, including re-inspection of repairs, is within the capabilities of local building officials. The mission terminates when all assigned rapid and detailed inspections have been completed as determined by FEMA in coordination with local officials. Generally the initial PRT deployment will last 30 to 45 days; Districts have the responsibility to staff and deploy replacement teams to support the mission through completion.

