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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The following fact sheet explaining the Type and Extent of Army responsibility and participation in Flood Control, Flood Fighting and the Relief of Flood Victims is furnished for your information and further reference;

Flood control and flood fighting primarily are the responsibilities of the Department of the Army, and these responsibilities are normally performed by the Army's Corps of Engineers.

To execute their various functions within the United States, the Corps of Engineers has divided the country geographically into divisions and districts. These units are responsible to and work directly under the Army's Chief of Engineers. The units are staffed with professional Army Engineer officers and men, as well as by civilian specialists.

The Sixth Army area of the eight western states is divided into two engineer divisions - the North Pacific Division with headquarters at Portland, Oregon, and the South Pacific Division with headquarters at San Francisco. There are three District Engineers' offices located in each division - Portland, Seattle and Walla Walla in the Northern Division, and San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles in the Southern Division.

Flood control is one of the major functions performed by these Engineer divisions and districts. It is accomplished by the construction of dams, levees, and other water controlling devices. It is the Army Engineer's job to make sure that all flood control works and projects, including those turned over to local agencies for operation and maintenance, function satisfactorily and are protected from damage.

Flood fighting, a necessary adjunct to flood control, is likewise the responsibility of the Army Engineers. When flood conditions occur which are beyond the capabilities of the



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Engineers and such local and state resources that may be available, the Army Commander involved will furnish further assistance upon the request of the Engineers. In the case of the states of California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Montana and Idaho, such assistance is furnished by the Sixth Army Commander, Lieutenant General A. C. Wedemeyer, USA.

Flood rescue and relief operations are not the responsibility of the Army. The American Red Cross, assisted by the local and state governments, controls these operations. On occasion, when all other resources have been exhausted and no other means of relief assistance is available, the Army will again come into the picture, furnishing medical assistance, emergency food, shelter and so forth. This help from the Army is only possible as a last resort, and not even then if such aid will interfere with the Army's primary mission of the military defense of our nation. Requests for Army help in relief operations must channel through state or local government heads and the Red Cross. In cases where Army Assistance is required, civic or state government officials call upon the nearest Army commander for help. For relief operations of this type, the Sixth Army is responsible for the eight western states. The Army engineers do not enter into the relief picture.