

Geocell Demonstrates Rapid Deployment Flood Wall for Nashville District Corps of Engineers

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Corps of Engineers purchases new portable, reusable flood wall

GRAND RIVERS, Ky. (October 25, 2002) - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Coips) officials from the Lake Barkley Resource Office of the Nashville District were provided a demonstration today of a revolutionary new Hood control technology it purchased recently as a new tool for fighting floods. Called the Rapid Deployment Flood Wall (RDFW), the new technology can be used as a direct replacement for sandbags to protect lives, businesses, and property in flood fighting situations.

The RDFW, developed through a cooperative research and development agreement with the Corps, is an expandable, stackable, modular wall made of a tough, lightweight, environmentally responsible plastic that can be filled with sand or other locally available fill material for use as a flood protection barrier. The makers of the RDFW, Geocell Systems Inc., gave Corps officials a first-hand look at why this new technology is a faster, less expensive, and less labor intensive alternative to sandbags.

"The Nashville District is eager to purchase RDFW for demonstration purposes to learn more about its flood fighting capabilities and potential to save time and manpower in protecting lives and property," said Jared Gartman, Natural Disaster Manager for the Coips' Nashville District. "We rely on sandbags to construct flood protection barriers in various situations and look forward to considering ways in which the RDFW may be able to supplement or replace sandbags throughout our district."

RDPW is more cost efficient than sandbags. And because it is reusable, RDFW becomes dramatically more competitive after its first use. In its first use, RDFW is about 90 percent of the cost of sandbag walls when employing volunteer labor and about one-third of the cost when reused. In addition, sandbags only last about 30 days, can become contaminated, and usually require costly disposal at designated landfills. RDFW is easy to clean up and can be reused. The sand or other fill material can be stockpiled or reused as needed for other projects, and RDFW.



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