No. 2006-5	Issuing Office: CECW-EC	Issued: 12 Jun 2006

Subject: Transition Plan for Migrating from MCACES 5.30 Gold and MFW to the New 2nd Generation of the MCACES Software Program (MII)

Applicability: Directive

Reference:

- Engineering Regulation, ER 1110-3-1300, dated 26 August 1999, entitled "Military Programs Cost Engineering"

- Engineering Regulation, ER 1110-2-1302, dated 31 March 1994, entitled "Civil Works Cost Engineering"

1. Background: Current guidance requires all Current Working Estimates (CWE) and Government Estimates (GE) to be prepared using the latest version of the Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System (MCACES), PC-Cost or a HQUSACE approved parametric estimating tool (PACES).

2. MII, the 2nd Generation of the MCACES Software Program is the latest version of the Micro Computer Cost Estimating System (MCACES). It was developed in conjunction with the Project Time & Cost (PTC) firm of Atlanta, GA and is the detail cost estimating program that all cost engineers are required to use for preparing all CWE's and Government Estimates (GE) for Military, Civil Works and Environmental Restoration Projects.

3. The Microcomputer Aided Cost Estimating System (MII) is one of several modules of an integrated suite of cost engineering tools called Tri-Services Automated Cost Engineering System (TRACES). It interfaces with other PC based support modules and databases used by Tri-Service Cost Engineering community. Other modules include Area Cost Factor, PACES, Historical Analysis Generator, CostRisk, and ENG 3086/DD 1391 processors. Databases include the Cost Book, equipment, Maintenance & Repair, assemblies and models databases.

4. The Unit Cost Book that supports MII is structured based on the CSI format. This database contains approximately 22,000 plus line items and is updated annually.

5. Purpose: The referenced Engineering Regulations requires all USACE activities to use the latest version of MCACES, to prepare all planning, programming, design, and detailed cost estimates. The intent of this bulletin is to provide policy for uniform business processes and procedures, and standard tools within our Cost Engineering Community of Practice. The use of older versions and other unauthorized cost estimating programs are prohibited. Older versions

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of MCACES (MCACES Gold 5.2 and MFW) continue to create problems when running on the current standard operating system platform. These versions, as well as locally developed and/or other commercial Off-the-Shelf programs eliminate our ability to uniformly collect, archive and distribute current and historical cost data; sample routine or unique project information, and interface with locally developed models, assemblies and crews; They also eliminate our ability to provide virtual cost estimating and collaboration throughout each Region Business Centers (RBC). In the long run, to maintain and support these systems would increase the cost of doing business for the Corps, our customers and adversely impact our efforts to maintain a standardized cost estimating system throughout the Department of Defense (DOD).

6.   MII and the TRACES suite of cost engineering tools were developed to eliminate these problems. By providing standard cost estimating tools and databases, we are able to provide interchangeable models and assemblies for repetitive type work, provide for virtual cost estimating and regional collaboration, and provide the capability of interfacing with the latest technology and databases necessary to perform our mission.

7.   Policy: MII provides an integrated cost estimating system (software and databases) that meets all USACE requirements for preparing cost estimates. It is imperative for the Cost Engineering Community supports this Tri-Service effort, so that standard operating systems and business practices can be establish. To facilitate this process, the following guidance is applicable:

-   All CWE and Government Estimates will be prepared using the latest version of the Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System (MII) or an approved parametric estimating tool (PACES or PC-Cost).

-   All Corps of Engineers' costs engineering branches/sections shall immediately start transitioning from the old MCACES programs (MCACES Gold 5.2 and MFW) to the new MII software.

8.   Point of contact for ECB program is Raymond L. Lynn, CECW-CE, 202-761-5887.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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