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ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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Subject: Improving Quality of USACE Support for DOD Airfield Pavement Projects – Restrictions on Editing Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS)

Applicability: Directive

1. The purpose of this Engineering and Construction Bulletin (ECB) is to provide additional direction and guidelines regarding use of UFGS for DOD airfield pavement projects by USACE designers, specification writers, and request-for-proposal writers.

2. References:

- a. AR 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 12 February 2008.
- b. MIL-STD-3007F, Standard Practice for Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) and Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS), dated 13 December 2006.
- c. Memorandum, CECW-EWS, dated 5 November 2002, subject: Design Review Policy for Airfield, Railroad, and Roadway Projects.
<https://transportation.erdc.usace.army.mil/tsmcx/reviews.html>
- d. [UFGS 32 13 11](#), Concrete Pavement for Airfields and Other Heavy-Duty Pavements More Than 10,000 Cubic Yards.
- e. [UFGS 32 12 15](#), Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA) for Airfields.

3. Background. Airfield pavements projects are costly and complex, requiring a high degree of technical skills, specialized knowledge and extensive experience during both design and construction phases in order to construct and deliver quality airfield pavements for our military programs customers. Current USACE policy on design reviews of airfield projects is provided in paragraph 3.a. of reference 2. c. above.

Reviews of various design and construction problems with USACE airfield pavement projects reveal that one common cause of design and construction problems is the undisciplined, improper editing of sections of the mandatory UFGS (reference 2.a. and 2.b. above) by either USACE designers or A-Es working for USACE Project Managers.

4. Directions. Effective upon receipt of the ECB, all airfield project designers for USACE airfield projects are strictly prohibited from editing or rewriting un-bracketed text in the referenced UFGS (2.d. and 2.e. above) without specific prior approval by the USACE Transportation Systems Center. Engineering and construction project specification writers (USACE in-house and/or A-Es) are responsible to submit any recommended changes (line through deletions and underline additions) to current UFGSs to the USACE Transportation System Center for approval or disapproval prior to making any changes to un-bracketed portions of the UFGS. Recommended changes shall include specific recommended changes and supporting documentation indicating the reasons for the recommended change(s). USACE project managers and design managers are responsible to ensure that designs of airfield pavement projects are done in a disciplined manner for both in-house and A-E (design-bid-build or design-build) designs according to USACE policies and in conformance with USACE technical criteria and processes, including this restriction on editing of UFGS.

5. The USACE Transportation Systems Center staff works with Army and Air Force and other DoD and Federal engineering and aviation stakeholders to review and update annually the UFGS 32 13 11, Concrete Pavement for Airfields and Other Heavy-Duty Pavements More than 10,000 Cubic Yards, and UFGS 32 12 15, Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA) for Airfields. Designers from USACE, the Armed Services Base and Garrison engineers, and the private-sector are encouraged to provide any recommended changes on these UFGSs to the USACE Transportation Systems Center. These UFGSs are reviewed and updated every year in January by DoD/FAA/Industry technical working groups. Designers from USACE, the Armed Services Base and Garrison engineers, and the private-sector are encouraged to attend these working group meetings.

6. HQUSACE point of contact for this ECB is Jim Lovo, CECW-CE, 202-761-0995. Technical issues are to be directed to Terry Sherman, USACE Transportation Systems Center, <https://transportation.erdc.usace.army.mil/tsmcx> or www.tsmcx.com at 402-995-2399, terry.w.sherman@usace.army.mil.

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