



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

No. 2018-12

Issuing Office: CECW-EC

Issued: 20 Aug 18

Expires: 20 Aug 20

SUBJECT: The Transfer of Data Collected by Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) Devices onto CorpsNet.

CATEGORY: Directive and Information.

1. References:

a. CJCSI 6510.01F; Information Assurance (IA) and Support to Computer Network Defense (CND)

b. Flash Media Exception to Policy Process & Procedures Version 1.2, 14th June, 2013 Information Assurance Branch 7th signal Command (Theater) Fort Gordon, GA

2. **Purpose.** This ECB establishes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) policies for collection and downloading geospatial data collected using GPS receivers and/or data collectors used in surveying and GIS data collection. Its purpose is to ensure that data collected from various surveying and GIS work in support of USACE activities can be transferred efficiently in a secure manner without having to purchase special equipment or connection devices.

3. **Applicability.** This ECB applies to every CONUS/OCONUS USACE Command and is effective upon issuance.

4. **Background.** DoD Instruction 6510.01 limits the use of removable media. This instruction is interpreted as prohibiting flash memory cards and field survey equipment which accept flash media (e.g. SD cards) from being connected to CorpsNet computers. Field data collection activities typically acquire planimetric and topographic features, such as: levee centerlines and slopes, property lines, boundary corners, monuments, fire hydrants, utility poles and edge of road. It is USACE policy that geospatial data collection performed using an electronic data collection device as part of a surveying and mapping activity and/or GIS activity have the ability to be able to be downloaded to a PC or laptop without having to use special equipment or connection devices.

5. Data Transfer Methods.

a. Commercial Business Solutions. Where internet access is available in the field, data can be directly uploaded to vendor web based servers (such as Trimble Connected Community, Trimble TerraFlex or ArcGIS Online). Data the District determines to be “sensitive” shall not be uploaded to commercial web based servers. In this context, “sensitive” data is defined as data that cannot or would not be released under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. In district offices where there is a USACE Guest ACE-IT Wi-Fi network, users can use this as

ECB No. 2018-12

Subject: The Transfer of Data Collected by Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) Receiver Devices onto CorpsNet

means of transferring data to commercial web based servers for later download to CorpsNet computer.

For geospatial data collection devices capable of the transfer of files between the field and a web-based service, such as the Trimble Connected Community (or Trimble TerraFlex) with AccessSync service, or mobile collection apps (such as ESRI Survey123 or Collector for ArcGIS), field personnel may use this method or service to transfer data from the survey/data collection device to the vendor's storage server. Once the data is loaded to the on-line storage device, it can be transferred to the user's computer on CorpsNet using established methods.

b. External Hard Drives. High end data collectors such as the Trimble TSC2 and TSC3 accommodate external hard drives plugged directly into the survey devices and those external drives can then be plugged directly into a computer on CorpsNet.

c. Survey Data Collection Platforms (DCPs). DCPs are computers that are considered part of survey equipment and are not under ACE-IT or local IT management. DCPs are not allowed on CorpsNet and file transfer must take place through writing to CD or an external hard drive.

d. USB Encryption Devices. DoD/DA approved USB encryption devices are available; however, the devices must be treated as controlled access medium as outlined in reference 2.b.

e. Data Collection Devices without Flash Memory. There are several data collection devices that do not contain flash memory and can be connected directly to a CorpsNet computer for download via USB port and approved data transfer software.

6. Purchasing GPS Equipment. GPS equipment used in GIS data collection, surveying data collection, or other geospatial data collection in support of engineering, mapping, real estate, or planning activities should not be purchased through CHES. GPS and survey equipment are considered science and engineering equipment, and not business/office equipment. GPS and survey equipment are not part of the consolidated buy program under CHES.

7. Update. All new requirements will be included in the next appropriate policy document update.

8. Points of Contact. HQUSACE points of contact for this ECB are Ms. Nancy Blyler, Geospatial Community of Practice Lead, 202-761-7755; and Mr. Conrad Rabalais, ACE-IT Chief, Operations Division, 601-634-3977.

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