



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

No. 2018-17

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**SUBJECT:** New Requirements for Visual Notification for Mass Notification Systems

**CATEGORY:** Directive and Policy

## 1. References:

a. Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 4-021-01 Change 1, DESIGN AND O&M: MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS, January 2010

2. **Purpose.** This directive provides new requirements for mass notification systems.

3. **Applicability.** This applies to new mass notification systems for new construction and rehabilitation projects for U.S. Army facilities. This also applies to new mass notification systems for new construction and rehabilitation projects for U.S. Air Force facilities when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the design and construction agent. This ECB has been approved for U.S. Air Force facilities by the USAF AHJ office (AFCEC/CO), and applies unless otherwise directed by AFCEC/CO.

4. **Background.** UFC 4-021-01, Design and O&M: Mass Notification Systems, requires Army and Air Force facilities to use amber strobes at all locations inside the facility as the visible signal to alert occupants with hearing disabilities about non-fire related emergency situations. These amber strobes are activated in conjunction with the delivery of pre-recorded or live voice messages over the mass notification system. The amber strobes are provided at the same locations as would be required for fire alarm clear strobes.

## 5. Directive.

a. Amber strobes must no longer be used in new mass notification systems. In lieu of amber strobes, clear or white strobes marked with the word “ALERT” must be used for new mass notification systems. Clear or white strobes must be provided for shared use by the facility’s combination mass notification and fire alarm system. The clear or white strobes are activated in conjunction with voice messages over the mass notification or fire alarm system.

b. Light-emitting diode (LED)-type text signs must be installed for the new mass notification system, and the fire alarm system (if present). These text signs are activated in conjunction with voice messages over the mass notification or fire alarm system.

c. Comply with the following changes to UFC 4-021-01:

(1) Add the text “Army and Air Force” to the beginning of the first sentence in Section 4-3.4.2.1.

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- (2) Delete the Section 4-3.4.2.2, “Army and Air Force installations shall, ...”
- (3) Add the text “Army, Air Force and” to the fourth bulleted item under Section 4-4.2.
- (4) Delete the sixth bulleted item under Section 4-4.2, “Army and Air Force, ...”
- (5) Add the text “Army, Air Force, and” to the title of Section 4-6.2.1.
- (6) Delete Section 4-6.2.3, Army- and Air Force-Specific Requirements
- (7) Add the text “, Army and Air Force” to the beginning of the first sentence in Section 5-4.4.2.2.
- (8) Delete Section 5-4.4.2.1, “Army and Air Force installation shall, ...”
- (9) Add the text “Army, and Air Force” to the fourth bulleted item under Section 5-5.2.
- (10) Delete the sixth bulleted item under Section 5-5.2, “Army and Air Force ...”
- (11) Add the text “Army, Air Force, and” to the title of Section 5-7.2.1.
- (12) Delete section 5-7.2.3, Army- and Air Force-Specific Requirements
- (13) Delete the third sentence in Section 7-3.4, “The Army and Air Force use...”
- (14) Add the text “Army, Air Force, and” to the fourth and sixth sentences in Section 7-3.4.
- (15) Add the text “Army, Air Force, and” to the title and display callout in Figure 4-1 and delete Figure 4-2, “Individual Building Mass... (Army and Air Force)”
- (16) Add the text “Army, Air Force and” to the title of Figure 5-1 and delete Figure 5-2, “Individual Building Mass... (Army and Air Force)”
- (17) Add the text “Army, Air Force and” to the title of Figure 5-4 and delete Figure 5-5, “Individual Building Mass... (Army and Air Force)”
- (18) Add the text “Army, Air Force and” to the title of Figure 5-6 and delete Figure 5-7, “Use of... System: Army and Air Force”

6. **Update.** All new requirements will be included in the next appropriate policy document update prior the expiration of this ECB.

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7. **Point of Contact.** The point of contact is Mr. John W. Wilkus, P.E., Chief Fire Protection Engineer, HQ USACE/CECW-EC, (816) 389-3227.

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