



# USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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## CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions and/or comments to [jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil](mailto:jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil).

### HQUSACE Restructuring Update

The HQUSACE restructuring is proceeding as planned. All of the HQUSACE staff except for 60 members of Engineering and Construction Division have moved to 441 G Street. Ten persons from E&C are in the G Street location, and the remaining personnel moved from the Pulaski Building on 1 November to the renovated third floor of the Kingman Building. The new mailing address is Kingman Building, Room 321, 7701 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22315.

### SAC Group/FAC Chairs Meeting

Members of the SAC Group and the FAC Group chairs met at Jekyll Island, GA, 7-8 December 2000. Topics of discussion were as follows: FY00 accomplishments, review of CECI's A2K+ document and Technical Reference Guide (TRG), FAC Groups' membership, planned activities and projects for FY01, and A/E/C Standards Implementation. The group determined that the TRG does not adequately address engineering applications, including CADD, GIS and engineering analysis applications. These issues need to be resolved with CECI. Comments were provided to CECI by CECW-E.

## **FAC Group Accomplishments**

The Systems FAC Group has continued to hold monthly phone conferences, which provide an open forum for the CADD System administrators to air questions and resolve problems. Contact John Kincaid at Rock Island if you want to participate in these calls. The Systems group has spearheaded the efforts to use all the pooled Bentley Select credits, which were used to update Corps MDL utilities, provide enhancements to the MicroStation Workspace, and update the training materials. Additionally, they have developed an A/E/C Standards Implementation Guide for the Corps (see following article for more details on the plan).

The Structural FAC chair has developed a POC list of all district structural sections. There are now 14 members in the Structural FAC, and they are starting monthly telephone conference calls. Contact Lori Taylor at St. Paul District, 651-290-5581, if you are interested in participating. The FAC has collected details from six districts which they will submit to the Center to be included in the CADD Details Library. They reviewed the level tables in the A/E/C Standards and provided suggested levels for the civil discipline. The group worked with the Center to get some line styles and cell libraries added to the Standard for civil/structural. They are currently working on developing a structural web site.

The Mechanical/Electrical FAC obtained funding to do an in-depth review of the Center's A/E/C standards. The group reviewed them and turned comments in to Center. They met as a group in Fort Worth with Steve Spangler and Ed Huell. They came up with some electrical/mechanical level/layer assignments for the Standards and resolved some problems. At the present time there are three electricals and two mechanicals in the group.

The Civil Site FAC has been working on a project to develop SelectCAD preference sets that should be completed in the next month. The Civil Site web site, which they have developed, should be available soon. The chair of this FAC, David Himmerich, has taken a position as a project manager, and the group needs to select a new chair.

This year the Cost FAC will be working on their project which is in the Center FY01 program. This project is # 01.026 and the description can be found on the Center web site under "Projects."

A new Geotechnical FAC is being developed, and there should be more information about this in the next newsletter. If you are interested in this FAC, contact either Jean McGinn at 703-428-7320, or Larry Rogers, CESWF, at 817-978-2179.

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## **Implementation Plan for the A/E/C CADD Standards**

The Corps Systems Field Action CADD (FAC) Group has developed an A/E/C CADD Standard Implementation Guide. This guide will aid USACE districts in developing a plan for implementing the Standards. In addition to the Guide, the Group, in coordination with the CADD/GIS Technology Center, has developed a plan to provide assistance to districts in their efforts to implement the standards. The guide and the plan are based on real world experiences from districts that have tried to implement the standards.

The plan will be tested at two pilot districts prior to offering the services to the rest of the

Corps. Jacksonville District will be first test site of this implementation. A Standards Action Workspace Team (SWAT) will be assembled to carry out the plan. The team will be made up of one person from the Center and 2-3 people from the Systems FAC. The team will give an overview of the standards, workspace training and then do discipline specific workshops. They will help the district look at its business processes, see where the implementation applies, and facilitate the dialog among district personnel as they develop their implementation plan. The standards implementation needs to be rolled into the whole business process. The way drawings are assembled will probably need to be changed if districts are going to use the standards. Jacksonville will document the results from their implementation.

After Jacksonville does the pilot test, they will send out their implementation plan to other districts who are interested. A military district will be selected for the second pilot implementation.

After the pilot implementations are complete, the SWAT team will be available to help districts develop a Standards Implementation Plan on a reimbursable basis. Once a district implements the plan and the standards, they should generate a list of problems encountered with the standards and send them to the Center so they can revise the Standards.

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### **MicroStation Workspace Status**

The MicroStation Workspace vs. 2.0 is complete and should be ready for download from the Center web site after the first of the year. This new release addresses sheet files, attribute links, and multiline capability. All Workspace users' training materials were updated to reflect the changes between R1.4 and R1.8 of the Standard. Some new exercises base on field drawings were developed. For more information on the workspace contact Steve Spangler at 601-634-3104.

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### **AutoCAD Workspace**

The AutoCAD compact version with the same functionality as the MicroStation version, is available for Beta testing download at [http://tsc.wes.army.mil/TSWS\\_Acad\\_Workspace.asp](http://tsc.wes.army.mil/TSWS_Acad_Workspace.asp). The site describes the program and its functionality online as well as allowing download of the program for passing Standards Layer information into AutoCAD. The program has been used on AutoCAD versions: 14.0, 14.01, 2000, and 2000i.

Custom objects (doors, windows, concrete blocks...) and symbols (various architectural and engineering symbols) are also available for download. These objects are referenced by the TSWS program, and will set the correct layer properties when brought into an AutoCAD drawing. A drawing scale factor is selected during the initial connection with AutoCAD, and the scale factor is saved with each drawing. The scale factor sets the correct scale for inserting Objects and Symbols, as well as for entering Text. *Submitted by Dave Johnson, CEWES.*

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## Concurrent Licensing vs Individual Software Licenses

At the SAC/FAC Chairs meeting, the FACs suggested that Chiefs of Engineering should look into how they are buying and maintaining their CADD software: They need to reevaluate how many licenses they have for CADD software in their district. With license pooling they only need licenses for concurrent use. Rock Island has 80 licenses, but the most hits for concurrent licenses at any time is about 50. Bentley is proposing new select system which will cost more but will have more services; with fewer licenses a district can afford the new system.

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### Relatively Painless

A valuable tool on the Corps Knowledge base web site (<http://ckb.wes.army.mil>) is the knowledge base. You can access this information through the link at the bottom of the left side directory. Here you can find information about what software and hardware other districts are using, and a contact to call for more information about how these systems perform. Actually, **you can only get this information about 10 districts** -- Rock Island, Sacramento, Seattle, Albuquerque, St. Paul, Mobile, **New England, Memphis, Honolulu, and Baltimore** – **we are making progress, with the addition of four districts' information!! So, what is relatively painless???** Getting your information into the system is the answer. Contact Mary Diel of Sacramento District (by e-mail) for instructions, login, and password. This information is valuable to us at Headquarters, and pulling it off the web is much simpler than sending out another survey to the field! We appreciate all those who have posted information so far. Let's all get on the bandwagon and get the information posted so that we don't have to send out another RFI.

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### Spatial Data Standards Implementation Workshop

The next Spatial Data Standards (SDS) Implementation Workshop will be held at the CADD/GIS Technology Center, Army Engineer R&D Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi on January 30 - February 1, 2001. For additional information, and to register for the workshop, go to the "Classes" area on the CADD/GIS Technology Center's Internet Web Site , <http://tsc.wes.army.mil> . The workshop provides both classroom and "hands-on" instruction concerning implementation of the SDS using commercially available GIS and relational database software. The "hands-on" instruction is based upon Intergraph GeoMedia & ESRI ArcView GIS software, and Microsoft Access database software. *Submitted by Bobby Carpenter, CEWES*

## **Call for Articles**

All articles except 2 in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CECW-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of March.