

**Minutes from SAC meeting
December 8-9, 1999
Jerkily Island, Georgia**

1. Everyone introduced himself or herself. There were several new attendees at this meeting. This is the first meeting for a year that we had all the representatives from each of the FAC groups. The attendees were

Ed Middleton	Jacksonville District	904-232-2251
John Hood	WES	601-634-3138
Ghassem Khosrownia	Sacramento District	916-557-7347
Stan Shirk	Omaha District	402-221-4557
Larry Rodgers	Fort Worth District	817-978-2179
Julie Davin	Walla Walla District	509-522-2419
Arthur Connolly	New York District	212-264-9056
Joe Jaccobozzi	Chicago District	ext. 3000 312-353-6400
Deborah Duncan	Seattle District	206-765-6739
James Roberds	Savannah District	912-652-5600
Toby Wilson	WES	601-634-3604
Jean McGinn	HQUSACE	202-761-1052
Debbie Solis	Jacksonville District	904-232-1189
John Kincaid	Rock Island District	309-794-5492

2. Brian Doyle, Joe Rogers and Phil O'Dell were not able to attend. Joe announced he plans to retire this year. Joe suggested his Assistant, William Plunkett would be an ideal representative if we would accept putting someone on the SAC who wasn't a Chief of Engineering. After discussion, the SAC agreed that Bill would be a welcome addition. The consensus is that the SAC should be predominately Engineering Chiefs. This composition can best serve the needs of the Districts and higher authority.
3. Ed went though some overview discussion of the SAC's involvement in the "Kitchen Cabinet" that was held in 1999 with Dwight Beranek and Carl Enson. He also discussed his briefing to HQUSACE Engineering and gave the assessment that HQ indicated that they believe the SAC has been successful in helping Engineering implement technology in the Corps design processes. It was discussed that SAC can assist the HQ staff in staying current with issues that impact the District's. Ed presented his assessment that HQ is interested in maintaining technical excellence throughout the Corps.
4. The SAC will be OMA funded for \$100K for FY2000 with \$25K quarterly allotments. The SAC tasked Jacksonville District with managing the funds according to the SAC's plan. Funds not used in a timely manner will be retrieved and put to other uses.

5. The Corps pooling of Bentley credits to do projects joint project was discussed and is a great success. Ralph Scheid from the New Orleans District is to be commended for making the initial suggestion for this use. The pooling of credits funded the development of the training manual for users of the Tri-Service Workspace (TSWS). These classes trained over 36 persons. The Systems Field Action Committee (SFAC) led by John Kincaid worked this issue to conclusion. Near the end of the year, several districts offered additional credits. The original agreement with the Bentley Corp. was that the credits would expire at the end of FY 99. Discussions have been held with Bentley, with more to be held in January 2000, for credit extension with some reasonable restrictions that will be beneficial to the Corps.
6. John Kincaid is to make additional copies of the CD's for the workspace training information for distribution to each district. Debbie Solis led a discussion on the workspace training. The training evaluations were very positive and representatives from 31 Corps offices were trained with most from districts.
7. **Stan Shirk, Jean McGinn, Larry Rodgers, Milton Richardson and Glenn Kato were appointed to a committee to review the <http://ckb.wes.army.mil> web page for content and functionality.** John Kincaid suggested funding be made available for this effort. John recommended moving the server to Rock Island or Seattle. The committee will look into the fire wall issue and how items on the web page can be updated remotely. Larry Rogers will provide QA on this item.
8. Toby Wilson went through the FileManager and Workspace applications. There was a good discussion about the Workspace and the File Manager. There was also a good discussion about the AEC standards. Toby stated that the AEC and SDS standards symbology (cells) will be the same on version 1.9 of each.
9. Jean McGinn announced that there would be SAC and FAC meetings at the 23 - 25 May 2000 St. Louis CADD/GIS Symposium. The SAC favored this arrangement in that it would provide a great synergy for our groups to help work issues. 26 May 00 will be the day for the SAC/FAC meetings. Some funding SAC may be available for travel.
10. There will also be a Corps breakout session at the Symposium. Civil Works/GIS will take 45 minutes. Military Programs/CADD gets the other 45 minutes. We need to use that time to discuss what needs to be offered to the Corps community on what to present that would entice people to participate in our groups. Ideas discussed was to have a brochure that describes what the SAC and FAC does. We might also have a booth available for use at the Symposium. This booth is 10'x10', 3 sides. Jean suggested that the SAC-FAC administer the booth.
Action Item: Jean and Arthur develop a survey to be passed out at the Corps breakout session.

Action Item: Jean will set up how the time period will be used at the breakout session. SAC will give its accomplishments and FAC chairs theirs.

11. **Action Item:** John Kincaid, Dave Himmerich/Debbie Solis and Stan Shirk will head the group to work the SAC/FAC booth. Ed Middleton will be our SAC contact for this effort. We need to use our own equipment. We need to have feature times posted for presentations. We need to have an outline of our plan ready by 1 February. This would allow us to have a distributed workload that might entice people to work on this project.
12. Toby Wilson gave an update on the TSC's new name and the agencies that they now support. (See the web page for information tsc.wes.army.mil) These new agencies are attending the meetings but not providing presently providing funding. The entire organization is now in flux but starting to gel. Their new charter, business and marketing plan is now being posted on the web. Jean McGinn is going to publish the status of the Center's progress on their projects. Toby also stated the new CADD details library is available. This version also implements metric symbols. Toby stated that this library was intended for a demonstration on how to develop a standard detail library. It was not intended to be an all-encompassing standard library. **Action Item:** Toby will send out a list of projects to all meeting attendees.
13. The AutoCAD workspace is now being modified and developed. It is modeled from the Coast Guard software. The software is being developed using Visual Basic so it can work with other platforms.
14. John Hood to explore getting a BPA awarded for MDL programming. We might be able to develop a BPA for InStep to do MDL, WEB and Oracle programming. John Kincaid will discuss with Hood. John Hood gave a status of CADD contracts. We are in the 8th year of purchasing for the CADD2 contract. The method in favor is to develop a BPA for work instead of having an IDIQ contract, like we currently have. We would develop several of these BPAs to provide the services we require. The Navy has negotiated the purchase portion of the CADD2 contract to extend 4 more years until 2005. John said that BPAs could be used for IT services. John thinks that the SAC needs to help in pursuing getting products on the CADD2 contract through Intergraph. **Each FAC chair query their groups to see if there is any software they would like to add to the CAD2 contract – one paragraph telling why want it and what it provides different from what on contract now – also send out message to Chiefs of Engineering – Joe will draft letter to send out to all chiefs in Corps. John Hood will help. The SAC needs that list by 30 Jan 00.**
15. Justin Taylor gave an overview of the Totally Integrated Project Delivery system(TPIDS). The program is not defined to develop another CEFMS. . The groups responsible for this tried to learn a lesson from CEFMS and are using COTS. It is targeted for use in 2005. The goal is to develop a seamless,

interconnected, design and engineering services solution with easy data exchange. This project has \$1.2M for the next 5 years. There should be 3 products delivered this fiscal year: Criteria Link, Web, and Design Charette Tool.

16. John Kincaid gave an overview of the SFAC activities from last year and insights on their directions for FY 2000. **John will write a paragraph for CADD newsletter about the workspace FileManager File-Loader utility.** Need to state when it will be done and what it will do. It will allow a common file naming convention for CADD files that will promote a corporate approach to our dealings with CADD. It will allow an easier flow of work between districts and between districts and contractors. **John Kincaid needs to write a note to Jean** that includes Mary Diel, Lynn Riggs, Steve Hutsell, Debbie Solis, Roger Porzig, Toby Wilson, Glenn Kato, and any other names to thank them for their efforts on the TS Workspace training.
17. Debbie Solis reported for Dave Himmerich on the Civil Site Group. Debbie mentioned that Select CAD works in IntelliCAD. Their group met at Intergraph after IGUG. Mike Cavanaugh is teaching an advanced InRoads class in Jacksonville in late January 2000. There are 17 people signed up for a 24-person class. There is no fee for this class. Civil/Site FAC has two products, an InRoads preference set, configuration file, that is AEC compliant. They also have an InRoads solution manual. Both of these products are available for download from [HTTP://TSC.WES.ARMY.MIL](http://TSC.WES.ARMY.MIL). This year the Civil FAC has one major project funded by the Center. It is a virtual center of expertise for civil site design. They might be interested in hosting this site at CKB. Jean write congratulatory letter for Dwight signature for FAC members on efforts accomplished in FY99. **Toby will work with FAC Group to determine how Civil project is going to be funded.**
18. Ghassem has now added technicians to his Structural FAC Group. Larry Witt from St. Louis was added. He has been having a problem getting engineers to participate in his group. Ghassem is also having difficulties generating projects. Ghassem is an advocate of Intergraph's Frameworks Plus software. He also likes SmartSketch as a design layout tool. Ghassem wants to be an active member of the committee and not the Chairperson. SAC members noted that it may be that the structural technicians might be more interested in helping promote the use of CADD around the Corps. The SAC Chair will establish a committee to work with the Structural FAC to find a good Chairperson who could help with moving the group forward. James Roberds recommended that John Roberts from Savannah be involved. Justin will work with Ghassem to incorporate more people. Joe J. suggested that we might consider having a database for details that reference the standard library of designs. This could be developed into a project that would benefit not just the structural engineers, but also the other disciplines. SAC Chair put together committee to work with Ghassem to help develop Structural FAC and get new chair. Joe J. send message to his people who are

involved in the CASE committee and see if there is any interest in getting involved with the CADD committee.

19. The CADD Library of Designs is now based upon using CALS files for posting.
20. Stan Shirk briefed on the AFAC. They have a good group of people, about 18. Stan thought that the following topics were significant, the whole building design guide from the Navy (search the web for that web site), the workspace and its training, Axiom's Spec Enforcer software and the TIPIDS project. Stan thinks that the Spec Enforcer will help us keep our standards. It actually works behind the scenes and alerts you when you are placing an element that is not in compliance with the standards. We might consider developing a data set that would allow us to use the standards within this software. Someone from SFAC might want to contact Axiom and see what their product is and how it works. We might want to get a demo copy to see what the data structure required is to make the AEC standards work within it. Stan made a good point that as our customer base diversifies, so should our tools to meet their needs. We need to work hard to ensure that the products that we develop are forward thinking. We need to make sure that the workspace is setup to ensure that it works with MicroStation J and the next version.
21. The SFAC might want to develop a project to modify the standards checker to allow us to select the discipline and file type that we want checked. This might be funding that the SAC sends to the Center and expedite the completion of that phase of the work or we could check into using Bentley credits for this effort.
22. Does the SFAC need to post the minutes of the SAC and highlight those projects that we have completed this year? We might want to have some links from our page in a special area that makes it easy to show our success stories. Maybe we should highlight persons?
23. SFAC needs to investigate with John Hood the possibility of developing a site license for the entire Corps for CADD and GIS software. There are a number of issues that should be considered. Does AutoCAD support license pooling? Does the license manager from MicroStation support this issue? How would you distribute the costs for maintenance? Who would manage the pool? What type of software should be developed to make something like this happen?
24. Julie Davin, from Walla Walla the new Cost Chair is hoping to be proactive in leading this group in embracing CADD. She has 8 members and expects that they will be aggressively pursuing identifying and addressing needs. She will be willing to work the booth at the Symposium. She is also interested in making the web page work on CKB.

Julie Davin	Walla Walla District
Gareth Clausen	Walla Walla District
Daniel Long	Louisville District
Milton Schmidt	Fort Worth District
Arthur Belanger	Sacramento District
David Brown	Savannah District
Bill Sillers	Savannah District
Terry Patton	Engineering and Support Center Huntsville

25. Jean discussed with Toby the concept of modifying the workspace to place a tag element on all graphic elements inserted into the design file using the workspace. Obviously there would have to be some intelligence placed in the file to ensure that we are not placing redundant tags in the file for line segments, etc. We might be able to search for those tags with a utility to report back to the cost engineer what is in each design file. We might also be able to search for cells in this effort. This tag placement could take the form of a single tag table placed in the design file that lists all the element types in the design file. Could it be used to help with quantities? We could use those tags to help the estimators locate elements in the design file for their estimating. Could we develop design guides for people who want to maximize their use of this technology?
26. James Roberds gave a briefing of the activities of the EMFAC. James believes that the workspace needs more work on electrical cells. He believes that the leveling is correct, but the cells will be a priority for his group. CERRL is working on an electrical design package for lighting. It is essentially done. James stated that he would provide information on what CERRL has accomplished. MVR might want to look into this since they are so close to that office. The Mechanical-Electrical group sees that input to the workspace is their top priority.
25. The Center has a new effective rate that includes 47% overhead. That is an issue that possibly the SAC could help support them in their efforts to get an exemption for the ERDAC general overhead.
26. Is there a utility within MicroStation to batch print all the line styles similar to what we do with cell libraries? Should we pursue this as a project?
27. There is a web site named <http://www.buildings.com> that has great references for architects.
28. Should the Corps develop a standard database format that will help manufacturers sell their products to the Corps and their AE's? We might consider creating a paper for proposals. We might want to interconnect our workspace and software, from vendors, to pull data in for our designs. There was considerable discussion on whether you can develop a web page that would allow vendors to update their databases and vector drawings of their products? We would have to be specific on what we want from these vendors.

29. HQUSACE allocated \$100K for SAC-FAC work this FY. The breakdown for the distribution of this funding is as follows:

SAC meetings at 8 members x \$900/meeting x 3 meetings	\$21.6K
FAC/SAC meetings at 6 chairpersons x \$900/meetings x 3 meetings	\$16.2K
FAC specific funding	
StFAC at 4x\$900	\$3.6K
CoFAC at 6x\$900	\$5.4K
MEFAC at 4x\$900	\$3.6K
AFAC at 7x\$900	\$6.3K
CFAC at 8x\$900	\$7.2K
SFAC at 8x\$900	\$7.2K
Total	\$33,300

This money would be given to the FAC chair and it would be up to his discretion as to how to spend it providing the expenditures are in accordance with promoting CADD on as wide a basis as possible within that FAC. The SAC is most interested in having projects come out of these money not just minutes for the meetings.

- a. The remaining \$28.9K would be up for project specific funding granted by request to the groups.
 - b. The Jacksonville district was tasked with managing the fund disbursement. Fund withdrawal requests need to include an articulation of the needs to Ed in an email so he can have justification for the funds distribution.
30. The call for projects for FY 01 funding is due for submission by sometime in February. We need to get those submittals in early. We need to be proactive in submitting projects just as we did last year.
31. **Jean McGinn will send out the format and requirement tips for submitting projects.** We should use those tips for creating our project proposals.
32. The proposed theme for FY2000 is “Implementing Standards for Corporate Business Process: Tools for Productivity”. The SAC will finalize that statement at the next meeting.
33. Debbie Solis and Justin Taylor are going to explore obtaining a mouse pad that references the SAC and FAC organizations to advertise our existence.

34. John Kincaid will work on a brochure for the SAC/FAC. Ed will provide review or comment. Their district is doing some brochures for their projects; he might have some insight for us.
35. The next SAC meeting will be held in March 00. Larry Rodgers will set the exact date and time.
36. Bentley is currently selling maintenance at \$405 per license for no credits, or \$505 for \$100 credits. Doug Moat suggested that he might be able to get the credits raised to \$120 if we thought that idea worth pursuing. The SAC did not endorse this concept but suggested Ed follow-up in discussion with Bentley to better understand what was taking place
37. The extra credits this year will be used toward the updating of the standards checker to include individual selection of the discipline that should be used to check the design file against instead of using the file name to determine the discipline.
38. SFAC will disseminate information to the districts on the procedures for checking on the number of concurrent MicroStation licenses used at each site. It could be that some districts have more licenses than they need. We might be able to transfer those licenses to other Corps Districts. This process lines up with the investigation into Corps wide pools for software.
39. Larry Rodgers will assume the Chairmanship of the SAC at the next meeting. He will send out the letters for the SAC thanking each ED Chief for their participation in the Bentley credit utilization program and letting them know how we plan on using the remaining credits. Ed will provide a draft letter.
40. Jean McGinn will be working on an Engineering Division breakout session for the PDT conference. The meeting will be in Seattle in July 00.