



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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SUBJECT: Reformed Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) and Modernized Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG)

CATEGORY: For Information.

1. **Purpose.** This Engineering and Construction Bulletin (ECB) provides information regarding the newly released, revised Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) and the modernized Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) portal. It outlines the collaborative effort, the strategic objectives of the reform, and the anticipated positive impacts on military construction costs, schedules, and modern technology integration.

2. **Applicability.** This ECB applies to all Military Construction (MILCON), Sustainment, Renovation and Modernization (SRM) projects, and Civil Works construction projects.

3. **Background.** The Department of Defense (DoD) has confirmed the release of the revised Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC), which is now fully accessible through the modernized Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) portal at <https://www.wbdg.org/dod/ufc>.

Working in close collaboration with the Office of the Secretary of War (OSW), and our Army, Air Force, and Navy counterparts, USACE has substantially reduced mandatory criteria for military construction. This was achieved by streamlining the first 25 “core” UFC documents. These core documents reflect the primary engineering and design disciplines (including architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, etc.) applicable to all projects regardless of facility type or location.

The primary goal of this comprehensive review was to more closely align DoD requirements with the International Building Code (IBC) and other recognized industry standards. The initiative rigorously challenged the extra criteria previously mandated for DoD facilities, focusing on designing to mission requirements and reducing the overall cost of military construction.

4. **Key Outcomes.**

a. **Dramatic Page Count Reduction:** This reform has resulted in a 72% reduction in core UFC page count, shrinking from 2,685 pages down to 744 pages, while significantly simplifying the requirements retained.

b. **Removal of Excess Requirements:** The majority of requirements that exceed IBC and standard industry practices have been eliminated. Key examples include:

(1) **Progressive Collapse:** Removal of progressive collapse mitigation requirements for installations with a fully controlled perimeter.

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(2) Sustainability Certification: Removal of mandatory LEED Silver certification requirements for Army projects.

(3) Roof Slopes: Reduction of minimum roof slope requirements from 1/2":12 to 1/4":12.

c. Industry Alignment and Cost Savings: These changes establish an estimated 85% overall alignment with the IBC, which is anticipated to greatly reduce MILCON cost premiums.

d. Ongoing and Future Reforms: The remaining UFCs continue to be reformed and are scheduled for publication this summer/fall. Upon completion of the full revision, the UFC portfolio will feature an integrated digital presence that improves clarity, relevance, and logical organization.

e. Digital and AI/LLM Integration: The modernized digital format will efficiently define technical requirements for architects, engineers, and designers. Furthermore, it will enable Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Model (LLM) tools to support future initiatives related to the structure, organization, management, and cost modeling of DoD-specific technical requirements for military facilities.

f. Agility and Cost Focus: This major revision enhances USACE's ability to quickly address industry feedback and drill down on specific areas of technical concern within DoD. The focus on monitoring and analyzing the cost and schedule implications of this effort will continue.

5. **Whole Building Design Guide Website.** The reformed UFC digital platform is located on this website: <https://www.wbdg.org/dod/ufc>.

6. **Update.** No additional policy updates are necessary. The newly released core UFC documents published on 04-05 June 2026 will go into effect on 1 July 2026 for project delivery teams, applicable to all projects that have not yet reached the 35% design milestone. Refer to UFC 1-200-01 for project applicability.

7. **Point of Contact.** The HQUSACE point of contact for this ECB is Ryan Murphy, CEEC-EC, (202) 948-1737.

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THOMAS P. SMITH, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Construction
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers