

# SPECSINTACT Interagency Configuration, Control and Coordinating Board Meeting

Washington, D.C.

18-19 July 2000

## Attendees:

Mohsen Athari, NAVFAC

Rick Dahnke, USACE

Steven P. Freitas, USACE

Sherry Gebhardt, NASA

Jim Harris, NAVFAC

Thomas Hinshaw, NASA

Carl Kersten, NAVFAC

Miguel A. Morales, NASA

Jim Quinn, USACE

Pat Robinson, SGS

Jim Whitehead, SGS

## **Introduction** – Miguel Morales, NASA

- Welcomed attendees.
- Discussed reorganization and restructuring changes at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), which led to new positions for approximately ninety-five percent of all upper-level civil service employees at KSC.
- Described upcoming work at KSC to upgrade all buildings to enable them to withstand a strong category 3 hurricane.

## **USACE Reorganization** – Rick Dahnke, USACE

- Described recent major USACE reorganization that combined civil works and military operations into a single division, and reduced head count from 270 to 70.
- Instead of just one criteria program, Mr. Dahnke will now be overseeing five, including SPECSINTACT, and he will be working with a budget that has doubled in size.

## **NAVFAC Reorganization** – Carl Kersten, NAVFAC

- Discussed the recent significant restructuring of NAVFAC, including the relocation of his office from Port Hueneme, California to Norfolk, Virginia. His group will now be responsible for both the construction specifications and the accompanying criteria.
- Discussed ongoing efforts to unify construction manuals and specifications for the Tri-Service agencies.
- Attendees were reminded that the bulk NIBS subscription will expire in eighteen months.

## **Status of USACE Unified Submittal Format Efforts** – Jim Quinn, USACE

- Discussed ongoing specification efforts, and recommended changes to the submittal descriptions previously agreed upon, in order to adhere more closely to CSI format and reduce required USACE specification changes.
- Rick Dahnke stated that the USACE conversion process would be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, regardless of the board's decision on the changes recommended by USACE.
- Jim Whitehead described specification processing problems that have been caused by the release of USACE specs that have been only partially converted to the unified submittal format, and recommended that all remaining changes be released at one time once the USACE spec conversion effort is finished.

**Action: Jim Quinn will distribute copies of his presentation to all meeting attendees.**

**Action: Tom Hinshaw, NASA, and Carl Kersten, NAVFAC, will discuss the proposed submittal description changes with their respective agencies, and then the board will vote on the proposed changes at a later date. NOTE: the board subsequently voted against making any further changes to the SPECSINTACT submittal format.**

**Action: Jim Quinn will ensure that all remaining changes to USACE specifications for the unified submittal format will be released at one time.**

**Action: To accommodate specifications recently released by USACE containing reviewer codes of 'G', the SPECSINTACT development team will modify the SPECSINTACT software to accommodate reviewer codes of both 'GA' and 'G' for the old Army submittal format. This change will not affect the Army specifications that contain the unified submittal format once these are released with the October, 2000 CCB.**

**Action: Rick Dahnke will ask someone in the Corps to contact the SPECSINTACT team to coordinate e-mail routing for USACE specification Sections.**

#### **Review of SPECSINTACT Accomplishments** – Pat Robinson, SGS

- Enumerated web and CCB releases of the SPECSINTACT software since the last board meeting.
- Described new SPECSINTACT web site and its features, such as a site map, search capabilities, and technical notes. This site has received over 10,000 hits since January.
- Described SPECSINTACT participation in the USACE Specifications Workshop in February.
- Reviewed benefits obtained from the SPECSINTACT 3.0 alpha testing that was conducted in January at Kennedy Space Center.
- Described key new features of SPECSINTACT 3.0 software that was released in June to beta testers, including a new explorer-style interface, support for multiple working directories, better PDF and WordSpec integration, and improved reference editing capabilities.

#### **Demonstration of MASTERSPEC Specifications and Software** – Edward Smith and Michael King, ARCOM

- Demonstrated MASTERSPEC specifications and software.
- Described possible options for using MASTERSPEC specifications and/or software for agency projects.
- Pointed out limitations of design build construction process, particularly pertaining to building life cycle and maintenance.

#### **Demonstration of SPECSINTACT Version 3** – Jim Whitehead, SGS

- Demonstrated SPECSINTACT version 3, and described ongoing beta testing program.
- Stated that most users would be more productive with the current beta version of SPECSINTACT 3.0 than with SPECSINTACT 2.9.7, the latest public release.
- Targeted later this year for the official release of SPECSINTACT version 3.

**Action: Jim Whitehead will e-mail instructions and the URL for downloading the new software to meeting attendees.**

#### **Review Linking Specifications to AutoCAD** – Jim Harris, LANTDIV

- Stated that LANTDIV, with the assistance of the SPECSINTACT team, has been able to use Tailoring Options to mark up SPECSINTACT Sections in a manner that would allow an automated link between the Sections and AutoCAD drawings.
- Pointed out that the use of Tailoring Options for this link would facilitate the ability to pre-edit specifications based on the AutoCAD drawings for a project.
- Recommended several modifications to the SPECSINTACT software to facilitate the use of Tailoring Options for the link between specifications and AutoCAD drawings.

**Demonstration of e-SPECS** – Gilles Letourneau, InterSpec

- Demonstrated e-SPECS software, and described InterSpec's specifications processing services, including web-based access to specifications for clients.
- Demonstrated and described InterSpec's process and automated software for pulling specifications for a job based on a set of drawings.
- Described MASTERSPEC limitations, including substantial discrepancies between the specification criteria and the products described, as well as increased costs for MASTERSPEC projects due to the large numbers of product samples required.

**Review Software Change Requests** – Jim Whitehead, SGS

- Presented for the Board's consideration thirteen new Change Requests
- The board accepted all or part of seven of the proposed Change requests, deferred four for later consideration, and rejected two because the changes requested have already been incorporated into the new version of the SPECSINTACT software.
- Change Request Evaluations (PDF)

**Action: The SPECSINTACT Development Team will analyze the issues raised by providing alternative paragraph numbering formats in SPECSINTACT.**

**Action: The SPECSINTACT Development Team will study the request from USACE to optionally append a submittal list to the Submittal Procedures Section during SPECSINTACT processing, and make recommendations at the next board meeting.**

**Wrap-Up** – Miguel Morales, NASA, and Pat Robinson, SPECSINTACT Development Team

It was tentatively agreed to hold the next SI-CCCB in about six months.