VeraFix™ Criteria Watch

Federal design criteria changes, every two weeks

Sample Issue | Coverage window: 8 September to 7 October 2026

From the Logroom

The main event this cycle is the 30 September release on WBDG of 45 reformed, digital UFCs. The digital text can differ from the PDF edition many firms hold on file, so a full issue lists the differences we found in each one. This sample is longer than a typical issue because so much changed at once. It shows a selection of entries, including a group of related changes with an overview followed by an entry for each item, to illustrate what Criteria Watch covers.

The second big story is on the USACE Louisville District's Army Reserve design guides page: a new October 2026 RFP manual, six documents moved to the Archive tab with no replacement listed, and new October guide specification packages. Elsewhere, NAVFAC Interim Technical Guidance FY26-03 moves Navy and Marine Corps hangar fire protection away from foam, and USACE ECB 2026-22 makes the Site Safety and Health Officer level a project-by-project choice. Not every change is a criterion: online tools, resources and processes change just as quietly, and they are covered too.

Lee Sisco

How to use this issue

Tap or click any title below to jump to the entry. The table gives each reader the entries for their discipline; the contents list every entry with its page number. Inside the issue, each entry title links to the source.

Who should look at what

Reader	Entries to read
Project and contract managers	Louisville Army Reserve overview | Army Reserve D/B RFP manual
Specification writers	AR48 and LRL06 guide specifications | Army Reserve D/B RFP manual | USACE ECB 2026-22
Civil, site and utility designers	UFC 3-201-01 | Fence drawings
Mechanical, plumbing and fire protection engineers	UFC 1-200-01 | UFC 3-410-01 | ITG FY26-03
Electrical and energy engineers	UFC 3-501-01 | UFC 3-550-05

Antiterrorism, security and SCIF planners	UFC 4-010-01 | Fence drawings
Corrosion and other specialists	ICCET links removed
Capture and business development leads	Louisville Army Reserve overview

Roles are a guide drawn from each entry’s "Who should review" line. Open the entry to confirm it applies to your project.

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New this cycle

Joint DoD criteria

WBDG UFC Digital Content Library: 45 UFCs dated 30 September 2026 (32 added, 13 changed)

Overview of a batch dated 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What happened. On 30 September 2026 the Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) dated 45 Unified Facilities Criteria (UFCs) in its digital UFC library. Thirty-two of them are new to the digital library, many of them facility-specific, and one of those, UFC 3-550-05 on energy storage, is a brand new UFC with no earlier edition. The other 13, including UFC 1-200-01, UFC 3-201-01 and UFC 3-410-01, were already digital and changed on that date. For the 44 that replace earlier editions, WBDG now lists the earlier PDF editions as superseded and directs project teams to UFC 1-200-01 for applicability.

What that means in plain terms. WBDG now presents the digital text as the current edition of each of these UFCs. The digital text can differ from the PDF you may have saved, sometimes by a lot: the Arctic site assessment UFC, for example, lost most of its detailed investigation methods. A contract or task order may still cite a particular edition, so the first question for each UFC your project uses is which edition your contract names.

Where to start. Seven changes are more likely than the rest to affect design work. The full issue has an entry for each; this sample shows six of the 45 entries below.

Building code and fire protection. UFC 1-200-01, the DoD Building Code, now disagrees with itself on who approves fire protection equivalencies. Section 104.1 says the authority having jurisdiction, section 104.11 still says the Chief Fire Protection Engineer, and UFC 3-600-01 says the regional authority in collaboration with the Chief Fire Protection Engineer. Route requests as UFC 3-600-01 states.

Flood and pavement design. UFC 3-201-01 drops the Climate-Informed Science Approach from flood design and replaces the sea level rise equation with a site-specific value from the DoW Regional Sea Level database. Pavement designers must now characterize subgrade strength with the California Bearing Ratio.

Ventilation and noise. UFC 3-410-01 removes the sentence that barred zone-level equipment such as fan-coil units and heat pumps from conditioning ventilation loads, and adds commentary on dedicated outdoor air systems. Noise and vibration provisions now point to a technical guide posted with UFC 3-401-01 instead of UFC 3-450-01; UFC 3-101-01 makes the same change.

Antiterrorism. UFC 4-010-01 gets a new purpose statement, a mass notification reference to UFC 3-600-01 in place of UFC 4-021-01, and a renamed tactic heading. The Louisville Army Reserve update later in this issue involves a 2019 memo written for the 2018 edition of this UFC.

New and replacement documents. UFC 3-550-05 is new. UFC 4-610-04, Legal Facilities, is a DoD-wide UFC that replaces the Air Force-only Facility Criteria FC 4-610-04F.

Requirements that disappeared. UFC 3-501-01 no longer requires electrical designers to follow UFS 3-501-01 for design analysis and documentation, and UFC 3-230-01 no longer contains the 6-inch vertical separation rule for water main crossings.

Detail removed. UFC 3-130-02 and 3-130-03 (Arctic and Subarctic) are shorter than the 2025 PDFs. Teams that relied on the detailed

investigation and foundation guidance should confirm where it now comes from.

How to read the entries. A full issue has an entry for each of the 45 UFCs, in numeric order, so teams can find their own UFCs quickly. The date matters less than the document, so the entries follow UFC number rather than the order in which we found them. Each entry says what changed and who should review it. This sample shows six of them.

Suggested action. List the UFCs your active projects and proposals cite, find each one in the entries below, and check the edition your contract names. Where an entry changes a requirement your design relied on, raise it with the project manager before the next submittal.

UFC changes in this batch, in numeric order

UFC 1-200-01 DoD Building Code

Revised 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. Section 104.1 now says fire protection and life-safety alternates are 'equivalencies' that must be approved by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) per UFC 3-600-01 section 2-12. The prior version (27 July 2026) named the Chief Fire Protection Engineer (CFPE). Section 104.11 of the same UFC still says equivalencies must be approved by the CFPE, and UFC 3-600-01 (2 July 2026) has no section 2-12: it covers equivalencies in section 2-6, which says they must be approved by the regional AHJ in collaboration with the CFPE. Waivers and exemptions continue to follow MIL-STD-3007.

Who should review. Fire protection engineers and design teams should route equivalency requests as UFC 3-600-01 section 2-6 states (regional AHJ in collaboration with the CFPE), and should not rely on UFC 1-200-01 sections 104.1 and 104.11 alone, because they now differ. For Army projects, UFC 3-600-01 refers to ER 1110-345-100.

Suggested action. Check what the solicitation or contract incorporates: confirm how equivalency approvals are routed under UFC 3-600-01 section 2-6.

UFC 3-201-01 Civil Engineering

Revised 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. The flood design provisions no longer include the Climate-Informed Science Approach. The Design Flood Elevation table drops its Climate-Informed Science Approach column, and the equation used to calculate the sea level rise design flood elevation is replaced by an instruction to use the site-specific value from the DoW Regional Sea Level (DRSL) database for the designated scenario. The Basis for Flood Risk Reduction may now use scenarios and timeframes other than the default values in the DRSL column of the table, and when none is available the designer of record must prepare or update one under paragraph 1-1.2.3. In the pavements chapter, designers must now use the California Bearing Ratio to characterize subgrade strength on all pavement designs, may use either UFC 3-250-01 or state DOT criteria, and the fixed 650 psi minimum flexural strength for concrete pavement is replaced by a reference to UFC 3-250-01.

Who should review. Civil and site teams working in or near flood hazard areas, especially coastal sites, should check whether their flood design basis relied on the Climate-Informed Science Approach or on the old equation, and revisit it against the revised table. Pavement designers need subgrade strength expressed as

CBR and should confirm the concrete strength requirement in UFC 3-250-01 instead of the figure previously stated here.

Unchanged text. The phrase 'climate-informed science approach' remains in the freeboard wording for mission critical roads and parking (paragraphs 1-8.5 and 1-11.3), which did not change.

Suggested action. Check what the solicitation or contract incorporates: confirm whether the project's flood design basis cites the Climate-Informed Science Approach.

UFC 3-410-01 Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Systems

Revised 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. The requirement that zone-level HVAC equipment, such as fan-coil units and heat pumps, must not be used to condition ventilation loads has been removed from the general ventilation paragraph (1-7). New commentary on the dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS) paragraphs explains the humidity and comfort problems of space-level and zone-level systems and notes that zone-level units that cycle their fans may not deliver the required ventilation when spaces are occupied. Noise and vibration provisions now point to a Noise and Vibration Control Technical Guide posted with UFC 3-401-01, and the references to UFC 3-450-01 are dropped.

Who should review. Mechanical teams that relied on that sentence to rule out fan-coil or heat pump ventilation should check what now governs: the DOAS paragraphs (1-7.2 and 1-7.3) and the psychrometric analysis requirement in 1-8. Acoustic designers should locate the technical guide on the UFC 3-401-01 page.

Suggested action. Compare versions: compare the digital UFC 3-410-01 ventilation paragraphs 1-7.2, 1-7.3 and 1-8 with the PDF on file.

UFC 3-501-01 Electrical Engineering

Revised 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. The two requirements that directed electrical designers to Unified Facilities Supplement UFS 3-501-01 for design analysis and documentation have been removed from the requirement text. A commentary note now says UFS 3-501-01 provides guidance for design analysis and documentation associated with electrical engineering.

Who should review. Electrical teams should confirm whether their contract still requires the UFS 3-501-01 design analysis and documentation content, since the UFC no longer mandates it in its requirements.

Suggested action. Check what the solicitation or contract incorporates: confirm whether the contract still requires the UFS 3-501-01 design analysis and documentation content.

UFC 3-550-05 Installation-Level Energy Storage Systems

Added 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. WBDG has published a new UFC, UFC 3-550-05, Installation-Level Energy Storage Systems (version dated 30 September 2026). It applies to energy storage systems that connect at medium voltage to an installation's distribution system, and it says microgrids that include storage must also meet UFC 3-550-04. It covers battery systems

(lithium-ion, flow, nickel-cadmium, lead acid and valve-regulated lead acid, with VRLA allowed only for small footprints or places where leakage cannot be accepted, and prohibited in uncontrolled-temperature or unmonitored locations), hydrogen storage, compressed air storage and thermal storage. Key requirements: comply with NFPA 855; battery management systems must monitor cells and shut down or isolate on hazardous conditions; inverter-based resources follow IEEE 2800 and IEEE 1547; fire protection includes an off-gas detection system and fire-rated barriers to UL 263; the ESS fire alarm must connect to the installation fire alarm system; hydrogen storage must follow NFPA 2 and NFPA 853 and be outside, away from structures and air intakes; MIL-STD-461 applies if the system serves a critical mission or is within 100 feet of communication or radar facilities. Design must include an electrical model, short circuit, arc flash and coordination studies per UFC 3-501-01, seismic bracing with an Importance Factor of 1.5 under ASCE/SEI 7-22, and flood design under UFC 3-201-01 using ASCE 24-14 Flood Design Class 3b or 4. Siting goes through the DoD Siting Clearinghouse, and the system must work with the installation's utility monitoring and control system (UFC 3-470-01).

Who should review. Teams designing or pursuing battery, hydrogen or other energy storage on DoD installations now have a UFC with specific safety, fire, seismic and flood requirements, instead of project-specific criteria. Electrical, fire protection and microgrid designers are most affected.

Suggested action. Review: read the new UFC 3-550-05 if you design or pursue energy storage on DoD installations.

UFC 4-010-01 Antiterrorism, Force Protection and Security Engineering

Revised 30 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. A purpose statement was added to Chapter 1: the UFC establishes project-specific ATFP and security engineering design criteria during the planning phase so a project is scoped with adequate funding to mitigate identified threats. Mass notification now refers to UFC 3-600-01 in place of UFC 4-021-01, with a commentary note that the inactive UFC 4-021-01 may still be used as a reference for wide-area mass notification. The tactic heading Explosives Tactics is renamed Explosive and Incendiary Devices in the threat severity table, figure references in two planning steps were corrected, and the planning team commentary now lists Public Works.

Who should review. AT/FP planners and mass notification designers should update the references they cite, and planning documents that use the old tactic name should be aligned with the new heading.

Suggested action. Replace the local master: update your copy of UFC 4-010-01 and the references that cite it.

WBDG removing broken ICCET Corrosion Toolbox links from CPC Source and other pages

Changed 1 October 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. In a 1 October 2026 reply, WBDG Support said the Corrosion Toolbox (the ICCET tool) was taken down in 2024, that it is under review for possible restoration on the new WBDG portal, and that WBDG will update the CPC Source page and other pages to remove the links to the tool. On 3 October

2026 the tool's WBDG page returns 'Failed to load tool'.

Who should review. Corrosion prevention and control designers should not expect the ICCET tool to be available on WBDG.

Suggested action. No action, unless your process relied on the ICCET tool; it is no longer available on WBDG.

Army and USACE

Louisville District Army Reserve design guides page: new October 2026 RFP manual, six documents moved to Archive, and new October guide specification packages

Changed 27 September to 1 October 2026 | USACE Louisville District, Army Reserve Customers, Design Guides

What happened. Between 27 September and 1 October 2026 the Louisville District changed the Army Reserve section of its Design Guides page in three steps. It posted a new October 2026 edition of the Army Reserve Design/Build Request for Proposal (D/B RFP) Instruction Manual and moved the March 2026 edition to the page's Archive tab, labelled 'Superseded October 2026'. It moved five more documents into the Archive tab with no replacement and no superseded label: the Army Reserve Design Process and Submittal Requirements (DPSR) Parts A and B, a January 2019 antiterrorism memo, a file called 'Standard Fence Drawings' and the Warranty Implementation Plan. DPSR Part C is listed in the same tab. On 1 October it also posted October 2026 editions of two guide specification packages, AR48 for the Army Reserve and LRL06 for the Louisville District.

The short version. Only the March manual has a stated replacement. For the other five archived documents the page does not say whether they are withdrawn, kept as the last posted edition or simply retired, and the page does not say what will replace them. Two describe criteria that have since been republished: the antiterrorism memo interprets the 2018 edition of UFC 4-010-01, and the fence file is the 2013 edition of UFC 4-022-03. The guide specification packages fit the new manual. The Statement of Work moved from the Army Reserve set to the Louisville set under a new number, and the Louisville set shrank from 20 sections to 4, with several of the dropped sections matching the sections the manual renumbered.

What we cannot tell you. Whether the archived documents are withdrawn, and which edition of each a given task order applies. The task order scope of work and the Louisville Reserve Support Team Criteria Manager settle that. The page's own rule is to use the most current version of a document that applied at the time of award.

Who should review. Firms holding the Louisville Army Reserve IDIQ, and anyone preparing or checking Army Reserve D/B RFPs, design-bid-build submittals or specification sections for it.

Suggested action. Start new RFPs from the October manual and the October packages. For each archived document, read the task order scope of work to see which edition it names, and if it is silent, ask the Criteria Manager in writing and keep the answer in the project file. The six entries below give the detail.

Document (date on document)	What the page did	Effect on the firm
Army Reserve D/B RFP Instruction Manual, October 2026 (70 pages)	Posted 30 September 2026 as the current edition	New RFPs use the October template. Several Division 00 and 01 section numbers changed.

Army Reserve D/B RFP Instruction Manual, March 2026 (76 pages)	Moved to Archive, labelled 'Superseded October 2026'	Do not start new RFPs from it. Packages already built from it need a section-number check.
Guide specification packages AR48 and LRL06, October 2026	Posted 1 October 2026	New Statement of Work 01 10 00.00 06. LRL06 holds 4 sections, down from 20.
Design Process and Submittal Requirements (DPSR) Parts A and B (10 October 2024)	Moved to Archive; no superseded label; no later edition listed	Last posted AE submittal requirements for design-bid-build work. Confirm which edition the task order scope of work applies.
Memo to PPMD for ATFP (22 January 2019)	Moved to Archive; no superseded label	Interprets the 2018 edition of UFC 4-010-01, since republished. Do not cite its standard numbers.
Standard Fence Drawings (the file is UFC 4-022-03, 1 October 2013)	Moved to Archive; no superseded label	Superseded by the 31 July 2026 digital UFC 4-022-03 and UFS 4-022-03. Use those.
Warranty Implementation Plan, Annex R (12 March 2012)	Moved to Archive; no superseded label	Still the only warranty roles document posted. Defects traced to design deficiencies are in its scope.

Louisville Army Reserve update: selected individual items

Army Reserve D/B RFP Instruction Manual: October 2026 edition replaces March 2026

Part of the Louisville Army Reserve update | Posted 30 September 2026 | USACE Louisville District

What changed. The October 2026 manual (70 pages) is now the edition listed on the page. The March 2026 edition (76 pages) was moved to the Archive tab and labelled 'Superseded October 2026'. The manual is the Army Reserve's road map for the firm that prepares a D/B RFP (the manual calls this role the RFP Preparer). It describes itself as the '80% solution': the preferred approach for most projects, with individual projects authorized to depart from it.

What is different from March. We compared the two tables of contents and read the October sections cited here. October adds three Appendix A template sections: 01 45 00.25 10 Construction Management Platform, 01 45 35 Special Inspections and 01 78 00 Closeout Submittals. It merges the March contractor quality control section (01 45 04.10 06) into a single 01 45 00 Quality Control. It renumbers four sections: Project Description and Design Requirements from 01 10 00.00 48 to 01 10 00.00 06; Project Schedule from 01 32 01.00 06 to 01 32 01.00 10; Sustainability from 01 33 29.00 06 to 01 33 29 (retitled Sustainability Requirements and Reporting); and Government Safety Requirements from 01 35 26.00 06 to 01 35 26. Temporary Environmental Controls and Permits changes from 01 57 19.00 06 to 01 57 19. March's Appendix D, a sample Division 00 and 01 submittal

register, is gone; October ends at Appendix C, although section 2-4.1.5 still requires the RFP Preparer to attach a completed Submittal Register for Division 01 to Section 01 33 00.

Two leftovers to catch. The October text still refers to the old project description section number 01 10 00.00 48 in two places: the note on salvage materials in the Section 00 80 00.00 06 comments, and optional bid item (i), underground stormwater detention, in Appendix C. A preparer who copies those passages will cite a section that no longer exists in the October template. The correct October number is 01 10 00.00 06.

> **Who should review.** Whoever prepares or checks Army Reserve D/B RFPs on the IDIQ: project managers, specification writers and the discipline leads who write the Statement of Work in 01 10 00.00 06. Two rules in the manual bear on every task order. Section 1-1.1 says the manual does not supersede any contract, and if the manual and the contract conflict, the contract governs. Section 1-1.4 says design submission requirements come from the Louisville District Design Guide Chapter 2 Deliverables and ER 1110-345-700, not from the Statement of Work, and that offeror submittal direction belongs in Division 00. The manual's antiterrorism rule is in section 2-2.8: assume the standards in UFC 4-010-01 apply unless the DD1391 or a Design Basis Threat and Level of Protection summary says otherwise.

Suggested action. Start new RFPs from the October template. For RFPs already drafted from the March template, check each renumbered Division 00 and 01 section, replace any 01 10 00.00 48 reference with 01 10 00.00 06, and confirm with the Louisville Reserve Support Team Criteria Manager which edition the task order calls for.

Guide specification packages AR48 and LRL06 (October 2026): new Statement of Work 01 10 00.00 06, and the LRL06 package cut from 20 sections to 4

Part of the Louisville Army Reserve update | Posted 1 October 2026 | USACE Louisville District

What they are. Guide specification sections are the editable specification text that an RFP preparer tailors for a project. The AR48 package is the Army Reserve set; the October posting holds three telecommunications sections dated 02/25 (cable trays, building telecommunications cabling and telecommunications outside plant). The LRL06 package is the Louisville District set.

New Statement of Work. LRL06 now contains Section 01 10 00.00 06, Statement of Work, dated 10/26. The Army Reserve version, 01 10 00.00 48, was in the March 2026 AR package and is not in the October one. That matches the October manual, which renumbers the project description section from 01 10 00.00 48 to 01 10 00.00 06. We have not compared the old and new Statements of Work line by line.

LRL06 shrank. The January 2026 and May 2026 LRL06 packages each held 20 sections. The October package holds 4: Special Provisions (00 80 00.00 06, Change 2, 05/26), the new Statement of Work, Insulating Concrete Form System (03 11 19.00 06) and Stone Protection (35 31 19.00 06). Seventeen sections are gone. Six of them match sections the October manual renumbered or merged: Project Description and Design Requirements (01 02 10.00 06), Project

Schedule (01 32 01.00 06), Sustainability Reporting (01 33 29.00 06), Government Safety Requirements (01 35 26.00 06), Contractor Quality Control (01 45 04.10 06) and Temporary Environmental Controls and Permits (01 57 19.00 06). The other eleven are Design Submission Requirements After Award (01 03 00.00 06), Temporary Customer Facility (01 52 00.00 06), Lead in Construction (02 83 13.00 06), Flowable Fill (03 62 15.00 06), Testing, Adjusting and Balancing of HVAC (23 05 93.00 06), Earthwork (31 00 00.00 06), Geotextiles for Earthwork (31 05 19.13 06), Low Mobility Grouting and Grout Piles (31 32 23.00 06), Full Depth Reclamation Cement Stabilized Subgrade for Roads (32 11 32.00 06), Portland Cement Concrete Pavement for Roads and Site Facilities (32 13 13.06 06) and Roller Compacted Concrete Pavement (32 13 16.16 06). We did not find where the page or the manual says those eleven now come from.

Old references in the new Statement of Work. The new Statement of Work's reference list cites UFC 4-010-01 as '2018; with Change 3, 2024', an edition WBDG now lists as superseded, and several passages cite UFC 4-021-01 for mass notification, which the 2026 UFC 4-010-01 now replaces with a pointer to UFC 3-600-01. One passage cites 'UFC 04-010-01', which looks like a typing error.

Who should review. Specification writers and the lead who writes the Statement of Work for an Army Reserve D/B RFP.

Suggested action. Pull the October packages when you start a new RFP. When you tailor the Statement of Work, update the UFC editions in its reference list to the current ones and decide the antiterrorism wording against the current UFC 4-010-01. If your own templates were built from one of the 17 sections that are no longer in LRL06, keep your saved copy and ask the Criteria Manager which text to use.

'Standard Fence Drawings' file is the 2013 UFC 4-022-03; the current edition is dated 31 July 2026

Part of the Louisville Army Reserve update | Archive file dated 1 October 2013 | WBDG edition published 31 July 2026

What changed. The page's description is a DoD approach to the design, selection and installation of security fences and gates. The file behind it is UFC 4-022-03 Security Fences and Gates, 1 October 2013, which WBDG lists among the superseded versions. WBDG's current UFC 4-022-03 was published on 31 July 2026 and is active in the digital UFC library. Its related materials include UFS 4-022-03 Security Fences and Gates (31 July 2026) and the CAD drawings package for security fencing, gates and cabling. The UFC states that its examples are for illustration and must be adapted to the service and installation.

Who should review. Civil and site designers and security engineers who detail perimeter fences, gates or pedestrian access on Army Reserve centers, and anyone whose standard details were taken from the Archive file.

Suggested action. Use the 31 July 2026 digital UFC, the UFS and the WBDG drawings package. We have not compared the 2013 and 2026 texts line by line; check any fence or gate detail already on a drawing sheet against the current edition.

Army and USACE: other items

USACE ECB 2026-22 Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO) Level Options

Added 9 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. USACE issued ECB 2026-22 (9 September 2026) telling project teams to pick one of three SSHO levels from EM 385-1-1 for each project instead of using the same coverage everywhere: Level One full-time SSHO, Level Two collateral-duty SSHO, or Level Three task-specific SSHO. Teams must edit UFGS 01 35 26 Governmental Safety Requirements to show the level chosen. For small projects of $20M or less, collateral-duty or dual-hatted roles are allowed, for example the contractor's quality control manager serving as SSHO, as determined by the District Chief of Construction with the District Safety Officer. It applies to all USACE facility design and construction including MILCON, Civil Works and support for others.

Who should review. Specification writers and contractors on USACE projects should expect the SSHO level to be set in UFGS 01 35 26 for each project, and small projects may allow dual-hatted safety roles.

Suggested action. Check what the solicitation or contract incorporates: confirm which SSHO level the project's UFGS 01 35 26 section sets.

Navy

ITG FY26-03 Design Criteria for Low Level Fire Protection in Navy and Marine Corps Aircraft Hangar Facilities

Added 23 September 2026 | Whole Building Design Guide

What changed. NAVFAC has issued Interim Technical Guidance FY26-03 (23 September 2026) on low-level fire protection in Navy and Marine Corps aircraft hangars. It cancels and supersedes ITG FY26-01 of 5 February 2026. Because fluorinated firefighting foam (AFFF) is being phased out, a hangar must use one of four options: (1) an automatic sprinkler system with an Ignitable Liquid Drainage Floor Assembly (ILDFA); (2) a sprinkler system with a new low-level water flushing nozzle system; (3) an overhead sprinkler system for hangars housing only unfueled aircraft; or (4) a low-level fluorine-free foam grate nozzle system, which needs approval from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment). The ITG applies to new and existing Navy and Marine Corps hangars and records 30 September 2027 as the final date for removing AFFF.

Who should review. Teams designing or renovating Navy and Marine Corps aircraft hangars should use this ITG for fire suppression instead of foam-based approaches, and should check it against UFC 4-211-01 and UFC 3-460-01, which it cites. A project that relied on ITG FY26-01 should note it is cancelled.

Suggested action. Compare versions: check ITG FY26-03 against UFC 4-211-01 and UFC 3-460-01, which it cites, and note that ITG FY26-01 is cancelled.

Still current: the last 30 days

Selected items from the 30 days before this cycle's window (9 August to 7 September 2026), shown in brief. UFS (Unified Facilities Supplements) are For Information Only: they support a UFC with best practices, procedures and documentation requirements, and bind a project only when a UFC, the contract or the UFS itself says so.

Joint DoD criteria

UFS 3-570-01 Cathodic Protection | 2026-08-11 | Supplement to UFC 3-570-01, dated 31 July 2026. Covers how cathodic protection systems are designed: galvanic and impressed current types, field surveys and tests, protection criteria, design submittals and design-build handling, and components such as anodes, deep anode beds, rectifiers and test stations. So what: corrosion control and electrical designers get the detailed

method in one reference; confirm what your contract incorporates before treating it as a requirement.

UFGS 21 22 00 Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems (new) | 2026-08-27 | New 08/26 section for total flooding or local clean agent systems conforming to NFPA 2001 and UL 2127 or UL 2166. The contractor designs and provides the whole system: detection and control, agent storage, nozzles, manual release and abort stations, alarms, testing and training, and the section calls for a Qualified Fire Protection Engineer and qualified releasing-system personnel. So what: spec writers for rooms protected by clean agent systems have a current UFGS section to edit.

UFC 4-740-14 Child Development Centers | 2026-08-30 | New UFC dated 28 August 2026, Child Development Centers. It incorporates and cancels UFC 4-740-14 (1 August 2002) and Navy FC 4-740-14N (April 2014), with service-specific differences noted in the text as Service Exceptions. The earlier UFC covered USACE and Air Force projects only and Navy and Marine Corps projects used the FC; the new UFC follows the applicability in UFC 1-200-01 paragraph 1-3 with no exceptions. So what: update any design basis or RFP that cites the older documents.

Army and USACE

USACE ECB 2026-21 Design-Build Requirements for Energy Optimization | 2026-09-01 | Issued 26 August 2026, effective on issuance. Rescinds the requirement in ER 1110-1-8173 to complete energy optimization before advertising a design-build project. Teams may still optimize before solicitation, and may specify an energy performance target (a percent reduction from baseline, a maximum energy use intensity or an annual energy limit) instead of prescribing systems. So what: USACE design-build RFPs may now carry performance targets and leave more of the energy analysis to the design-builder; confirm what a given RFP requires.

Navy

FC 2-000-05N Facility Planning Criteria for Navy and Marine Corps Shore Installations | 2026-09-02 | Republished 1 September 2026; the changelog carries two new dated entries (17 July and 24 August 2026). Changes include a pier water clearance increase from 4 to 6 feet and VHF/UHF communications facility space programming moving from net to gross square feet. So what: Navy and Marine Corps planners on pier or communications facility projects should recheck programming and clearances.

Corrections

None this issue.

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