1. **Purpose.** This regulation establishes policy and procedures for the assignment of work within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

2. **Applicability.** This regulation applies to all USACE activities. It takes precedence over all other USACE regulations, circulars, directives, letters, and operating procedures with respect to the assignment of work except as noted herein.

3. **References.**
   a. ER 5-1-9, *Assignment and Transfer of Project Responsibilities.*
   b. ER 10-1-8, *U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES).*
   c. ER 10-1-11, *U.S. Army Center for Public Works (CPW).*
   d. ER 10-1-22, *U.S. Army Engineer Division, Huntsville,* currently referred to as Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville (HNC).
   e. ER 10-1-23, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Support Center (WRC).*
   f. ER 10-1-25, *U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRL).*
   g. ER 10-1-26, *U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories (CER).*
   h. ER 10-1-45, *U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center (TEC).*
   i. ER 10-1-46, *U.S. Army Engineer Marine Design Center (MDC).*
   j. ER 1110-1-8158, *Corps-wide Centers of Expertise (CX) Program.*

4. **Distribution.** Approved for public release, distribution is unlimited.
5. Policy.

a. General. As an integral part of our normal business practices USACE activities have been assigned geographical or functional responsibilities to ensure customers receive the best corporate response to their needs and expectations. Each USACE activity is expected to conduct business in accordance with these responsibilities and to be open and flexible to entering into voluntary agreements with each other to jointly satisfy a customer’s needs when it is in the best interest of the customer and the Corps to do so. This voluntary agreement which is referred to as “brokering” can go a long way in providing our customers with a “one door to the Corps” philosophy whereby a customer can contact any Corps office and obtain information on total Corps capabilities and/or a specific project/program regardless of geographical location. USACE activities are expected to advise customers of how the Corps normally conducts business and to encourage customers to follow these business practices. When the customer desires to deviate from normal Corps business practices, the USACE activity with whom the customer desires to work must broker the work with the affected USACE activities or obtain written approval from HQUSACE prior to executing the work in accordance with the procedures prescribed herein.

b. Work Responsibilities. Unless specifically approved by the Commander, USACE, all work shall be accomplished as follows:

(1) Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) shall accomplish all work that occurs within their assigned geographical areas of responsibility (AORs) with the exception of HNC.

(2) Huntsville U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center (HNC) is a MSC with no geographic AOR and, therefore, cannot engage in normal geographic work assignments unless through brokering. The HNC charter provides for programmatic and functional boundaries in lieu of geographical boundaries. The Director of Military Programs has primary staff supervision and shall submit work assignments for HNC to the USACE Board of Directors (BOD) as described below.

(3) Laboratories (Labs) and Field Operating Activities (FOAs) shall accomplish work in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in their charter. When this work involves operations within a geographic MSC’s AOR, written notification shall be provided to the MSC.

(4) Mandatory Centers of Expertise (MCX) work assignments shall be executed, reviewed or otherwise controlled as specified in ER 1110-1-8158, Corps-wide Centers of Expertise Program.
(5) Brokered work assignments may be performed by MSCs, Labs and FOAs outside their assigned areas provided that they have the written approval of the USACE activity in whose geographical or functional area the work is located.

(6) All work that does not conform to the above shall be forwarded to the BOD for consideration.

c. Poaching is the unauthorized performance of work in another USACE activity’s AOR. Poaching is forbidden and shall be reported to the BOD.

6. **USACE Board of Directors (BOD).** The BOD shall evaluate requests and make recommendations to the Commander, USACE. Once the Commander, USACE has made a decision, the BOD shall notify all USACE activities. The BOD shall maintain a list of all approved requests.

7. **Requests to Perform Work Outside USACE Activities’ AOR.** Request Contents. All requests to perform work outside MSCs’ geographic and Lab/FOAs’ functional AORs that are not brokered shall be forwarded with full justification to the BOD with information copies to the affected USACE activities. Affected USACE activities may provide comments to the BOD for consideration. As a minimum the request must include a description of the work to be performed, a suggested BOD decision date (past which the work assignment would be impacted), the duration of the effort, the value of the work, the affected USACE activities, a description of efforts undertaken to broker the work and the reasons this did not work, the benefits to the customer and the benefits to the Corps.

8. **Existing Business Practices, Memoranda of Agreement, Memoranda of Understanding and HOUUSACE Directives.** Arrangements that provide for work outside any MSC geographic or Lab/FOA functional AOR and that are not brokered, shall be submitted to the BOD in accordance with paragraph 7 within one year of the date of issuance of this regulation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

OTIS WILLIAMS
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Chief of Staff
| CEMP-MP/CECW-EP | Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, DC 20314-1000 | ER 5-1-10  
30 September 1997 |
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<td>Engineer Regulation 5-1-10</td>
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