



Information Bulletin

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Engineer Research and
Development Center

Topographic Engineering Center

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OFFICIAL

Energy Surcharge Expansion

Lodging facilities in California have begun adding an energy surcharge to their daily room charge. These energy surcharges in the United States and non-foreign OCONUS locations are fully reimbursable as a miscellaneous travel expense (similar travel and transportation-related expenses) under JFTR, par. U4520, item 17 and JTR, par. C4709-A, item 17.

This information is based on a Flash Travel Advisory issued by General Services Administration on Feb. 28, 2001.

(Terri Norman, Team Leader, Travel Section, Champaign Site, (217) 373-6708)

Ethics Training Added to Web Site

A new link for *Ethics Training* has been added to the ERDC's Training and Professional Development web site. This link takes you to the Department of Defense (DoD) Standards of Conduct Office and provides the DoD FY 2000 Ethics Briefing, which can be taken on-line. Other ethics training materials from previous years are available here, and cover topics such as: Post Government Employment, Conflict of Interest, Use of Government Resources, and Gifts and Travel Benefits. You can access *Ethics Training* at <http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/training>. As always, questions on ethics should be referred to your on-site Office of Counsel ethics counselor.

(Susan Koh, ERDC Training Coordinator, Hanover Site, (603) 646-4500)

Thrift Savings Plan Update

Federal employees will have two new Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) investment options, under rule changes published in the Federal Register March 26. In addition, new federal employees will be able to begin participating in the TSP immediately and investors will be able to roll over some outside investments into their TSP accounts. The new rules are scheduled to take effect this summer, with the new investment options debuting in May and the immediate participation and rollover options beginning in July. The new rules will open up two additional investment options: the I Fund, which invests in international stocks, and the S Fund, which invests in the stocks of the many small- and mid-sized companies that are not included in the Standard and Poor's 500.

(Government Executive Magazine)

Calendar of Events

May 16	Tour for Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers and USACE Staff – Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
June 20	Engineer Day – Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3 - 9 a.m. to Noon

Web Sites

Ethics Training

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/training>

ERDC Awards

(<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/training/awards/awards.htm>)

Local College and University Links

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/training/collegelinks.htm>.

Lab Demo Statistics Available on Intranet

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/hr/labdemo/index.htm>

ERDC Intranet Notes: Personnel Directories

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil>

Site Bulletins Available on Intranet

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/command/index.htm>

ERDC Travel Update

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/lmo/travel/index.htm>

ERDC Publications on Internet

<http://erd.usace.army.mil/pubs/index.htm>

ERDC Job Vacancies

<http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/hr/vacancies/index.htm>

<http://www.cpol.army.mil/va/scripts/public.html>

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a9.htm>

Commander's Mailbox

ERDC team members are reminded that an electronic mailbox has been established to allow employees to send questions and/or comments to the Commander. If an employee wishes to remain anonymous, his or her name will be deleted from the question before it is forwarded to the Commander for comment. Employees' questions will be answered via return e-mail. Answers to anonymous and frequently asked questions will be posted in the Employee Information Bulletin.

The address in Outlook is, "ERDC Commander." Again, all information is kept strictly confidential and all questions are addressed directly by the Commander.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

JACKIE L. BRYANT
Public Affairs Office