



# RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN CIVIL WORKS PLANNING

**Jerica Richardson,  
HQ AI Policy & PCoP Lead**

**Erin Rooks, IWR - AI Technical Advisor**

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# AGENDA

01

## Ethics Memo Overview

Purpose, scope, guiding principles, governance, approved and prohibited uses

0-10 min

02

## Approved Tools

CoPilot, Army Vantage, AskSage, UPoP chatbot: access, data rules, what each does

10-20 min

03

## Live Demonstration

AI-assisted workflows mapped to RAPID 360 planning phases with real examples

20-40 min

04

## Q&A + Resources

Open questions, prompt library, PCoP resources, office hours sign-up

40-45 min



# THE MEMO: PURPOSE & SCOPE



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# THE MEMO: PURPOSE & SCOPE

## PURPOSE

Translates federal EO and DOD AI policy into practical USACE expectations

Applies to all Civil Works planning activities using AI, advanced analytics, or machine learning

Certified and uncertified tools. In-house, contracted, or enterprise-provided

AI is a decision support tool only. It does not replace professional judgment or approval authority

## SCOPE STUDY TYPES COVERED

### **GI Feasibility / GRR / LRR**

General Investigations, General and Limited Re-evaluation Reports

### **Validation / Comprehensive**

Including watershed, basin, and comprehensive studies

### **Beach Renourishment / DMMPs**

Dredged Material Management Plans and renourishment evaluations

### **Reallocation & Feasibility**

Plus analytical activities, planning models, and stakeholder documentation

# EIGHT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## Mission-Driven

AI must support Civil Works missions and comply with applicable law. Cannot replace legally required human judgment.

## Transparency

Document AI role in the decision record: tools used, purpose, and stage of the planning process.

## Bias Avoidance

Tools must avoid unintended bias in alternatives formulation, evaluation, or public comment summaries.

## Cybersecurity

All AI uses must comply with DOD and DA cybersecurity requirements, including the AI Cyber Risk Tailoring Guide.

## Human Control

Planners own study design, interpretation, and recommendations. AI output is advisory. Never binding.

## Reliability & QA

AI tools must be tested appropriate to their risk. Outputs validated against established methods or SME review.

## Data Stewardship





PII and sensitive data must not be entered into external AI services unless explicitly authorized.

## Accountability

Responsibilities for AI development, testing, and use must be clearly assigned and documented in study files.




# WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO

## APPROPRIATE USES

-  Explore large datasets to identify patterns, trends, or outliers for scoping and problem identification
-  Draft report sections with full planner review planner takes responsibility for all final language
-  Scenario analysis and model-based decision support where the tool has undergone appropriate technical review
-  Summarize public comments or meeting notes to organize themes, with human verification of key findings

*DOD approved use cases: [genai.mil/resources](https://genai.mil/resources) | Army Vantage*

## PROHIBITED USES

-  **Final plan selection**  
AI must not make final determinations on the recommended plan, statutory compliance, or commitments to non-federal sponsors
-  **Bypass certification**  
AI must not be used to circumvent existing model certification or approval processes
-  **Fabricate data**  
AI must not create records that do not reflect actual study conditions or legally accurate information

# GOVERNANCE: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## HQ Civil Works

- ▶ Publishes technical guidance on AI use cases, model review, and documentation standards
- ▶ Maintains oversight of AI governance implementation across the enterprise
- ▶ Updates the memo as federal and DOD policy evolves

## MSC AI Planning Coordinator (GS-13 or above)

- ▶ Tracks district-level AI use within planning studies and reports to HQ CW
- ▶ Identifies workforce training needs and collects lessons learned across the MSC
- ▶ Designation submitted to HQ CW within 60 days of memo issuance

## District Study Teams

- ▶ Ensure all AI use within studies is consistent with this memo
- ▶ Coordinate with MSC AI Planning Coordinator on novel applications or areas of uncertainty
- ▶ Maintain documentation of AI use in the official study file

# APPROVED TOOLS FOR GOVERNMENT USE

## CoPilot

- + Available on select USACE machines
- + Integrates with Word, PowerPoint, and the MS environment

*Current rollout ongoing confirm your machine has access. Do not use for CUI.*

## Army Vantage (Threads)

- + Chatbot with file uploads
- + Highly secure government environment
- + Connects with other Palantir tools, PowerBI, and agents

*Note: Anthropic-based tools on Vantage are migrating to OpenAI over the next 6 months.*

## AskSage (GenAI.mil)

- + Access to multiple large language models text, image, audio, video
- + Keeps chat history; highly secure

*Limited tokens unless you have COCOM access codes. Registration can be confusing on first use.*

## UPoP Chatbot

- + USACE-specific chatbot in active beta testing
- + Will integrate with USACE systems and planning data as inputs grow

*Currently in beta. Lunch-learn for PCoP scheduled. Verify outputs against source material.*



# AI RAPID ALIGNMENT



AI does not replace RAPID steps. It reduces the time planners spend finding and organizing information so they can focus on analysis and decisions.



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# AI USE: SCOPING

## Statutory and Policy Research Synthesis

AI reviews a dataset of planning laws (NEPA, NHPA, WRDA, Real Estate, Policy Memos) and categorizes them by Civil Works mission area and compliance trigger. Before this would take several days. AI produces a working spreadsheet in minutes that the team verifies and refines.

RAPID 360 Workgroup Example

Memo §5 Appropriate Use

## Problem Statement and Scoping Confirmation

AI drafts a preliminary problem statement from raw stakeholder notes and PDT inputs. Planner reviews and takes full responsibility for final language. Confirm AI use does not displace required engagement with non-federal sponsors or resource agencies.

Planner / PDT Lead

Memo §6 Scoping

## Dataset Exploration for Early Scoping

AI scans large geospatial, hydrologic, or historical project datasets to surface patterns, trends, and outliers that inform study scoping. Reduces manual analysis time and improves accuracy of baseline condition development.

GIS / Biologist / Economist

Memo §5 Appropriate Use

# AI USE: ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

## Alternatives Comparison Tables

AI structures NED/RED tradeoff narratives across alternatives and formats comparison tables for PDT review. Planners verify economic assumptions and cross-check with conventional methods before use in recommendations.

## Technical Report Synthesis

Long hydrology, geotechnical, and ecology reports synthesized into decision-relevant summaries for PDT briefings or plan formulation tables. AI reduces cognitive load. Planners apply technical judgment.

## Compliance Crosswalk Generation

AI builds a compliance crosswalk across NEPA, NHPA, Real Estate, and WRDA requirements, flagging applicable authorities and known guidance gaps. Planners confirm accuracy and use the crosswalk to drive early PDT awareness.

## Public Comment Summarization

AI organizes themes from public meeting notes or transcripts. Planners must verify that summaries fairly represent the full range of perspectives. Memo bias avoidance requirement applies Memo §4.

# AI USE: PLAN FORMULATION AND DOCUMENTATION

## Report Section Drafting

Memo §5

AI drafts Alternatives, Environmental, and Plan Formulation chapter frameworks. Planner populates with study-specific content, reviews, and owns all final language.

## Environmental Documentation

Memo §5

EA/EIS chapter frameworks, affected environment descriptions, and no-action alternative narratives generated from study inputs and prior reports. Human QA required before any ATR submission.

## Agency Coordination Letters

Memo §6

Template + study inputs generate draft Section 7, 404(b)(1), SHPO, or tribal consultation letters. Reviewed, revised, and signed by the responsible planner.

## Decision Record Attribution

Memo §4 & §6

Document AI role in the study record: tools used, purpose, inputs, outputs, assumptions, and limitations. Preserve AI inputs and outputs in the study file. Chief's Reports upload to PAL within one week of finalization.



# E-RISK & UPOP DEMONSTRATION



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# THE TOOL: WHAT IT IS & HOW TO ACCESS IT

## What It Is

- AI-assisted planning support tool
- HQ-vetted and policy-aligned
- Built for USACE civil works workflows
- Not a replacement for planner judgment

## How To Access

- Access: <https://auth.genai.mil>
- User permissions and licensing
- Supported browsers and environments
- IT approval and account setup process

## Data Handling

- No PII, FOUO, or CUI inputs
- Approved data types only
- Output is a draft, not an official record
- Attribution and version logging required

# EXPANDING YOUR UNDERSTANDING: One-On-One Opportunities

## AI OFFICE HOURS

<b>Format:</b>	30-minute one-on-one sessions
<b>Frequency:</b>	Bi-weekly (open calendar sign-up)
<b>Who:</b>	Planners, PMs, technical staff
<b>Purpose:</b>	Work through a specific AI application on your active study
<b>Outcome:</b>	You leave with a working approach — not just information

## PDT INTEGRATION SESSION





<b>Format:</b>	60-minute team session (by request)
<b>Who:</b>	Full project delivery teams
<b>Purpose:</b>	Develop a study-specific AI use plan aligned to the ethics memo
<b>Deliverable:</b>	Documented AI integration approach for the PDT record
<b>Outcome:</b>	Team executes with clarity, confidence, and compliance

# ONGOING TASKS AND FUTURE DIRECTION

## CURRENT PRIORITIES

-  Planning & Policy Data Management Migration (PAL) - Ongoing
-  AI Ethics Memo (April 2026)
-  UPoP Chatbot - LIVE
-  AI Use Training Course development for Civil Works missions (September 2026)

## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

-  Meeting transcription and auto-generated action items for PDT coordination
-  NLP for public comment analysis and sentiment tracking
-  AI-powered LLM built on internal policy documents (ERs, ECs, PMP templates, NEPA guidance) with citation tracking
-  Whole-of-government collaboration and identification of AI pilot study opportunities



## RESOURCES AND NEXT STEPS

### AI Ethics Memo

USACE intranet full text [URL to be added per Memo §6 planning records site]

### AI CoP / Tools List

[usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-AI](https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-AI) current approved tool list maintained here

### AI in Planning

[usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-PLAN](https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-PLAN) Exploring AI in Planning hub

### Prompt Library

[usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-PLAN](https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-PLAN) submit and browse planning prompt examples

### UPoP Chatbot

Beta access via [link] PCoP lunch-learn scheduled, watch for announcement

### AI Office Hours

[Calendar sign-up link] bi-weekly 30-minute one-on-one sessions with Jerica Richardson

### Udemy AI Courses

[armyciv.udemy.com](https://armyciv.udemy.com) 180+ free AI courses available to Army Civilian workforce

***AI is a partner, not a replacement. Where do you see it having the biggest impact in your own workflow?***