Air Force Plans $2.1 Billion in Military Housing Construction By 2007

The U.S. Air Force plans to coordinate construction and renovation of more than 22,000 homes worth $2.1 billion for military families between now and 2007, as part of its ongoing housing privatization program.

Capt. Mark Donnithorne, Air Force Housing Privatization Program Manager, told attendees at the May Market Forecast Series event this week that the program offers a proven business opportunity for engineers.

"This allows us to accelerate our ability to eliminate inadequate housing units for our military families," Donnithorne said. "This also brings the expertise of the nation's A/E industry to our military installations."

The program requires the A/E firm to partner with a developer who takes ownership of the homes on a 50-year lease agreement with the government. The construction team is then responsible for securing primary financing, developing, and maintaining the residences.

The housing privatization program already has resulted in $1.4 billion in construction or renovation of 10,977 military family residences nationwide since 2002. Today, more than 38 percent of Air Force family housing remains substandard and requires either major improvement or replacement.

He would not comment on the recent Pentagon proposal to close 33 military installations nationwide, or how the closing would impact the housing privatization program.

Contracting information for the housing program is available by contacting the program website at **http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/**.▪

Risk Management Convocation

The Radius of Risk

November 4th and 5th Dallas

The Best Practices of Risk Management for Engineers and Project Managers

Mark your calendars now! Following on last year's successful Convocation, another day and a half program will concentrate on risk management/loss prevention for structural engineering firms. The program is meant to reach down to the project manager level, where frequent decisions are made that can have either disastrous implications or lead to greater profitability depending on how they are made. So make plans for all your decision-makers at all levels to attend.

The program will feature advice on what to do if you ever have a disaster on one of your projects. Also extremely valuable will be a session on how to negotiate with the owner's attorney to get onerous provisions out of a contract. A primer on general vs. professional liability insurance will be given. And, while many insurers say don't touch condo projects with a ten foot pole, learn how to manage risk on them and turn them into extremely profitable projects.▪

What Hazards May Be Encountered When Entering A Collapsed Structure?

Excerpted from the OSHA Website: **www.osha.gov**

The following hazards should be considered to protect rescue workers and emergency responders when preparing to enter a collapsed structure:

- Water system breaks that may flood basement areas
- Exposure to pathogens from sanitary sewer system breaks
- Exposed and energized electrical wiring
- Exposure to airborne smoke and dust (asbestos, silica, etc.)
- Exposure to bloodborne pathogens
- Exposure to hazardous materials (ammonia, battery acid, leaking fuel, etc.)
- Natural gas leaks creating a flammable and toxic environment
- Structural instability
- Insufficient oxygen
- Confined spaces
- Slip, trip or fall hazards from holes, protruding rebar, etc.
- Being struck by a falling object
- Fire
- Proximity to heavy machinery such as cranes
- Sharp objects such as glass and debris
- Secondary explosive devices left by terrorists
- Secondary collapse from aftershock, vibration and explosions
- Residual chemical, biological or radiological contamination
- Unfamiliar surroundings
- Adverse weather conditions
- Noise from equipment (generators/heavy machines)▪

Photos courtesy of FEMA

Risk Management Tip of the Month

Presented by the Risk Management Program

The SER should also consider the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in the building. This coordination extends beyond designing the structure to support the loads imposed by those systems. For example, in buildings with tight ceiling plenums, mechanical ductwork or electrical and plumbing lines may be required to penetrate the structural framing. The SER must account for these penetrations to maintain the integrity of the structure. Other items to coordinate include roof-mounted or ceiling-suspended mechanical units and trench drains.▪

Best Practices of Risk Management for Engineers and Project Managers

RMP

The RMP division of CASE is made up of three committees: an Insurance Engagement committee to work with the professional liability insurers, a Convocation committee to plan and organize the annual RMP convocation and the Toolkit committee which develops tools to improve our practice.

The Toolkit committee has developed a program called the "Foundations for Risk Management". This is a 10 item list of professional practice issues that a structural engineering firm must adopt to successfully confront the problems of risk management.

The Toolkit committee of RMP will communicate through the convocation, web seminars, periodic e-mails and magazine articles.▪

Transportation Bill Moves, Adds ACEC-backed Provisions

The U.S. Senate voted by a wide margin to boost its TEA-21 reauthorization bill to $295 billion, representing an $11 billion increase over the House bill and a strong show of support for additional transportation.

In addition to increased funding, the package in the Senate includes several key recommendations advocated by ACEC. The first would improve the environmental review process, although the measure also includes problematic planning mandates that ACEC will seek to remove during the conference negotiations.

The second is ACEC-supported bonding provisions authored by Senator Talent that enable public and private entities to raise additional resources to support transportation infrastructure projects.

The third is a provision that would apply Qualification Based Selection (QBS) and uniform federal audit and overhead regulations to all state Departments of Transportation on federal-aid design work.

First and foremost will be discussions on the differing funding levels between the Senate's $295 billion bill and the $284 billion House proposal.▪

4th Annual TISP Congress On Infrastructure Security Set For October In Jacksonville

The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) will hold its Fourth Annual Congress on Infrastructure Security for the Built Environment (ISBE), October 18-20 in Jacksonville, Florida.

ACEC is a founding member of TISP, which was created following the events of September 11 to offer technical support and comment on public policy related to the security of the nation's built environment.

TISP membership currently includes more than 180 organizations, representing more than two million individuals and firms involved in the planning, design, construction, and operation of the nation's critical infrastructure.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

ISBE 2005 will feature meetings between government and industry experts from all infrastructure sectors working in the built environment; latest updates on government plans and projects to improve homeland security; and local, state, and regional emergency response, planning, and preparedness strategies.

For further information on TISP, visit their website at **www.tisp.org.**▪