

Huntsville Center, partners test new concept for removing unwanted structures from Army installations

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SIERRA ARMY DEPOT, Calif. – So, you work on a small military installation with some small structures you no longer need and you're looking for a cost-effective way to remove them from your inventory. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., is looking for the same thing.

In July, Huntsville Center paired with Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, Calif.; Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Frankie Friend and Associates of Englewood, Colo.; B. Starling & Associates, Inc. of Mount Holly, N.C.; ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services of Oakland, Calif.; and R.J. Diven Consulting, LLC, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to test a new concept that may provide another avenue for removing unwanted structures from Army installations while reducing costs.

The concept, the Regional Mobile Demolition Team (RMDT) Program, provides a simpler, time-saving means to remove smaller, abandoned or other excess structures that are not normally large enough to constitute a cost-effective, stand-alone project.

“The intent is to offer a cost-effective solution for removing ‘nuisance’ structures by overcoming the overhead cost and administrative burdens associated with removing structures that are not normally ‘worth all the effort’ for such a small project,” said David Shockley, the Facilities Reduction Program manager at the Huntsville Center. “As envisioned, the success of this concept is contingent on the saving of time and money through centralized, streamlined procurement and administrative processes and the predictability and productivity of an RMDT contractor.”



Richard Diven, with R.J. Diven Consulting, LLC of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, left, and Andres Velazquez of ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services. discuss the project to remove

The Facilities Reduction Program has several options available for installations that need to remove unneeded structures. A Best Practices Toolbox is located on the Internet that provides information on those options at:

<https://eko.usace.army.mil/frptoolbox/index.cfm>. Anyone with access to Army Knowledge Online can access the site.

The test conducted July 18-21 at Sierra Army Depot successfully removed three structures that had long been on the list of buildings that needed to be removed from inventory. While the cost to remove the buildings was a little higher than expected, it was still about half what demolition usually costs.

“We had what I consider a great success at Sierra,” said Bob Starling, president of B. Starling & Associates, Inc. who is working as project coordinator for Frankie Friend and Associates, Inc.. “We got Bldg. 597 removed, the coal bin on main post near the front gate removed, and Bldg. 402, the old boiler plant, removed. We were not able to remove the two boilers completely from the site of 402, but Carol Gordon fully agreed with leaving them behind.”

Carol Gordon is the Sierra Army Depot real property specialist.

“I believe that we proved beyond a shadow of any doubt that the concept can work,” Starling said. “Part of the solution and execution must be a supportive DPW staff like Carol Gordon, Heather Coursey and Larry Duncan and a flexible demolition contractor. Andres Velazquez of ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services tried his very best to provide quality work in a timely fashion and I believe he was successful in his endeavor.”



Jose Avalos, ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services, keeps the building wet during demolition to ensure particles of asbestos are not released into the air.

The Huntsville Center project manager contacted Sierra Army Depot officials about conducting the test. The Center offered to remove the structures at no cost to the depot for a chance to test the concept.

“Every other year we provide building demolition statistics in our facilities reduction plan,” Gordon said. “The test helped us get rid of some eyesores and reduce our inventory. If this works out really well, I would like to have them come back and demo more facilities.”

The RMDT Program will reduce the installation’s demolition project workload by removing several administrative, financial and management burdens and shift them to a more efficient and productive central manager.

“The installation benefits by having a single central expert to manage the contract, assist with demolition contractor coordination and provide hands-on technical assistance for project preparation and execution,” Shockley said. “The demolition contractor benefits by getting more work, greater project scheduling flexibility, a centrally awarded and

managed Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity-(IDIQ) type contract and a more stable and reliably managed project. RMDT is a win-win proposition based on centralized contracting/management, expert assistance and leveraging the economy of scale by competitively awarding an overall larger quantity of work to a single regional contractor.”

“I am really excited and grateful that Huntsville Center reached out to the little guys that need more help for this project,” said Heather Coursey, chief of Engineering, Plans and Services at Sierra Army Depot. “It provides a mutual benefit. We are helping Huntsville establish a process for the future and we get something out of it. This is a five-year program. We could have an opportunity each year to have more structures removed.”