

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 11, 2004**

**ARMY ANNOUNCES FORT BLISS, TEXAS PARTNER  
FOR RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

Today, The Army announced its selection of GMH/AB/Centex Military Communities, LLC (GMH/AB/Centex) to develop the Community Development and Management Plan (CDMP) for Fort Bliss, TX as part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI). Included in this solicitation was an option for inclusion of White Sands Missile Range, NM. The Army intends to exercise this option and develop a joint Ft. Bliss/White Sands Missile Range RCI project. Under the RCI Program, the Army plans to privatize family housing at 34 installations, almost 71,000 family housing units, located throughout the United States.

GMH/AB/Centex will work with the Army to develop the CDMP, which will serve as the blueprint for the Army's residential communities at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range. Preparation of the CDMP is expected to take about six months. Following acceptance of the CDMP by the Army, Department of Defense, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress, implementation of the CDMP is expected to begin in July 2005.

Approximately \$324.4 million in private sector debt, and equity will be spent during the initial 6-year development phase to renovate existing and construct new family housing at Ft. Bliss alone. Over the anticipated 50- year term family housing will be rehabilitated, restored, or replaced. In addition, it is expected that RCI will bring new community centers, other ancillary facilities and amenities to meet family housing needs at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range.

RCI will improve, in a relatively short period of time, the quality of life for soldiers and families assigned to Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range. The overall family housing appearance will weave the natural and built environments together as a planned community.

The Army is committed to improving family housing as a means of sustaining the quality of life of our people. This will be accomplished through increased Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), traditional Military Construction, and the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) family housing privatization program. Through the RCI program, the Army engages with private sector firms in public-private partnerships to manage, construct, renovate, maintain and operate family housing. The RCI program is a critical part of the Army's plan to alleviate housing shortages, rapidly improve the condition of our existing housing, and sustain quality communities over the 50-year life of these projects.

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GMH/AB/Centex/Military Communities, LLC consists of an exclusive group of three partners. GMH is headquartered just outside of Philadelphia, PA, The Benham Companies (formerly Atkins-Benham) based in Oklahoma City, OK, and Centex Construction Company, Inc with regional headquarters in Dallas TX. The GMH/AB/Centex/Military Communities, LLC partners have created Military Housing Privatization Housing Initiative communities, private housing and commercial properties throughout the United States. The Army's partnership with GMH/AB/Centex/Military Communities, LLC will result in adequate, comfortable, and safe homes which is very important in promoting the sense of well-being necessary to allow our Soldiers to focus on their missions.

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**For more information:**

**Please call Cynthia Smith at 703-697-5344 [Cynthia.Smith@hqda.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.Smith@hqda.army.mil)**

**Internet availability for the RCI program: [www.rci.army.mil](http://www.rci.army.mil)**