

V.I.C. Carville, La



Executive Summary

Victim Identification Center



OVERVIEW

September 2005 USACE was tasked to construct a facility for DMORT that would include housing for a staff of 1000. As planning continued and the staffing needs were adjusted, the final plan was for housing for a staff of 450 with kitchen and dining facilities, a warehouse area, administrative work areas and to prepare a storage area for 75 refrigerated trucks.



Located approximately 35 miles south of Baton Rouge, The Victim Identification Center (VIC) was completed, completely operational and turned over to State/DMORT/FEMA officials on November 28, 2005. The certificate of occupancy was signed by the City of St. Gabriel-Iberville Parish on November 1, 2005. The completed fenced 32 acre compound includes six (6) Butler buildings which will house 300 staff members, a 52,000 square foot Tension Fabric Structure (TFS-1) which will contain overflow sleeping accommodations for 186 additional staff, complete kitchen and dining facilities, recreation facilities, warehouse facilities

and administrative offices for state and federal workers.

The 19,000 square foot TSF-2 houses the morgue operations, casketing and re-casketing operations and ample storage for additional caskets. This site provides a decontamination area for vehicles, a fueling point for vehicles and generators, a guard house for federal security staff, and a state of the art security system. Additionally, located within this fenced facility is a heavily secured parking area for the refrigerated trucks which contain the human remains.

Set on a 32 acre fenced and secure site, the facilities include all necessary infrastructure to support the facility and staff.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Power is supplied through the local distribution network with generator backup on site. Each building has its own circuit box and is designed and operated

to local codes. The TFS-1 and the TFS-2 are equipped with independent generator backup. There is no generator backup for the Butler building living quarters. Perimeter lighting and the lighting in the truck parking area is generator powered. Permanent use of the facility will require hard wiring and the addition of outdoor lighting.

In order to support the needs of the refrigerated trucks on site there is a two thousand gallon above ground refueling station. Also in support of the morgue operations an area has been set up to meet federal decontamination guidelines.



Water is provided through the Iberville water district. There is an onsite water tank to assure an adequate supply of potable water and pressure. Finalization of the system is not yet complete. A 66,000 gallon water bladder is on site to provide additional resources for fire suppression. There is no sprinkler system for fire suppression as required by state law. There is a fire ring for suppression support efforts that has allowed for a 1 year temporary permit from the State Fire Marshal. Permanent use of the facility will require a retrofit sprinkler system.

Three T-1 communications lines provide the backbone for telephone and internet support.

OFFICE SPACE



TFS-1 is divided into 6 distinct sections. Two are currently utilized for office space. Section 1 is separate from the rest and includes 6 private offices, 2 conference rooms and approximately 3,672 square feet of open office space divided in 26 cubicles. Section two includes 10 private offices, 3 conference rooms, tech support room and a 16 cubicle open work space. Designated space can readily be redesigned.

WAREHOUSE

The facility is currently using 9,360 square feet of warehouse space. There are no drop ceilings that allows for multi-floor stack storage. Roll-up garage doors allow for vehicle entry and indoor parking. Mechanical/electrical access rooms are located in the warehouse area.



CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is designed with a full service kitchen. The 2,700 square foot kitchen has the capacity to prepare a full three meals per day and includes a steam table, a walk-in freezer and refrigerator, steam table and has a full complement of cooking utensils. The dining area is setup to accommodate 200 diners at a time.



RECREATION/COMMONS

The remote location and initial proposal called for all personnel to remain on site during the mission. Subsequently, a recreation/commons area was included to facilitate personal down time, reduce stress, and allow for health and fitness activities. The current footprint includes laundry facilities, as well as exercise machines. The commons area is also used as an all hands briefing area and facilitates social activities.

BILLETTING

Overflow housing includes a 10,000 square foot dormitory style housing area. This area currently includes bunk beds for a capacity of 184 staff. Separate men's and women's shower facilities are included in this area. The medical clinic is on site and located in this area.



In addition to the overflow housing, six metal structure "butler buildings" are located on site. Each of the 25 units is designed to accommodate two guests for a total capacity of 300. Each room is wired for telephone and television. There are separate shower facilities for men and women.

MORGUE

The centerpiece of the VIC is the morgue facility, TFS-2. The morgue was designed to support the primary mission of the VIC. The 18,720 square foot facility is divided in to two sections.



One half of the facility contains 10 separate analysis stations for various forensic tasks. One of the sections is lead lined to facilitate the safety of workers in the digital X-ray functions. The other half of the building is divided into a warehouse facility and a re-casketing workspace. Both ends of the morgue facility are complete with full height roll up garage doors. The warehouse section of the TFS-2 contains private office space, rest rooms, and a conference room.

The morgue was designed to facilitate the processing of 150 victims per day. This number may vary dependent on the scope of the examination and the mission parameters. This has been described as one of the finest facilities of its kind.

TRANSPORTATION

Located 27 miles from the Baton Rouge L.A., metropolitan airport, the Carville VIC is strategically located on the Mississippi river with deep water access. Rail lines are located within a mile of the facility. Interstate 10 is easily accessed 10 miles from the facility.



POTENTIAL USES

- The highest potential for the long term use of the facility is as a National Mass Fatality Processing Center. This can utilize the infrastructure in place and will require little modification. The addition of permanent morgue equipment, (the current equipment is part of a DPMU cache) will be necessary to make this a standing operation. Fatalities can be brought here from any location in the country and the morgue could be stood up with minimal effort.
- The site is well suited as forward staging and mobilization center for any federal asset. The facility lends itself to be utilized during preparations for a catastrophic event of any type. The ability to house over 400 personnel immediately makes it a rare resource.
- A gulf coast states NDMS disaster staging facility. The available acreage and facilities allow for storage of supplies and staging of Mobile Emergency Medial Units, supply trucks and additional equipment. Billeting resources allow for the staging of staff and support personnel in a safe area in anticipation of hurricane landfall.
- A national NDMS training facility. The availability of space that could be converted to classrooms, the telecommunications networks, billeting, and morgue facilities could make this a very cost effective training center. Current training initiatives require extensive planning for identifying locations that include classroom space and lodging. Utilizing the VIC for training functions provide readily available lodging. A standing food service contract can provide further support for year round training opportunities.