

# MAPPS

## DOD/NAVFAC/AF Liaison Committee Meeting Notes

March 13, 2005

### Topics of Discussion

Using GSA schedules for the procurement of geo-spatial and mapping services

*Since our last meeting there has been no further use of the GSA schedule by the USACE for geo-spatial services.*

*There will be no COE GSA schedule solicitation this year.*

Policing and enforcing adherence to the Brooks Act

*The task of policing and enforcing compliance with the Brooks Act is best handled in the contractor community. The USACE invites MAPPS members to identify any incidents and bring them to the attention of MAPPS.*

Advocating the use of the Brooks Act to other Federal Agencies

*The USACE continues to support this initiative*

Aerial acquisition activities for emergency response to Natural Disasters and other events

*The USACE is in a support role for FEMA ( and other agencies) and in the case of an Emergency Acquisition a 'bid' is allowed and warranted to expedite the process. In almost all cases, FEMA is the designated lead agency for emergency situations.*

*Commercial activities competitive sourcing is a way for USACE to hire short term contract employees for certain activities. Generally these activities are "project-based special need" or administrative in nature. USACE will continue to use this.*

The new SF-330 form

*Discussion was held about the new 'page limitation' requirements/guidelines. It is unclear if the page limit i.e.. Project descriptions being a single page is a requirement or a guideline.*

*Everyone was in agreement that a single page requirement is desirable. The requirement needs to be policed on the USACE's side of the table. USACE agreed to look into policing this.*

*This prompted discussion on the recent solicitation from the Savannah corps which required an electronic submission (PDF format), with a 'defined' page limit and a maximum file size limit. There were some minor IT issues related to the actual submission system Savannah had in place, but several MAPPS members made electronic submissions.*

*There was complete consensus among the committee members that electronic submittals,*

*especially in PDF format, are preferred over paper submittals. The USACE will look into facilitating this.*

#### Proposed FAR changes on definition of Surveying

*The USACE continues to support the proposed changes to the Surveying and Mapping definition in the FAR. The OFPP ( Far Council) briefing predicted there will be no change to the FAR definition*

*Judith Blake suggested that addressing the issue through the NAICS code definitions could be an effective strategy.*

*Roger Crystal noted that the Census is reviewing codes now, and that some firms are getting surveys and review documents on this. Information on who is asked to review and comment was unknown.*

*John Byrd from MAPPS agreed to take this on as an action item.*

*Judith Blake offered that the NAICS code definitions are critically important to our business because ultimately NAICS flows down to the FAR and then to contracting.*

#### Civil Works funding

*MK briefed the membership on the present limitations on civil works funding, the instruction the Corps has received is to finish projects that are in process and not to initiate new projects studies, etc.*

*Judith and MK further briefed the membership on the increasing use of ‘design-build’ and how surveying and mapping is a integrated part of the design-build process, but under a design-build is not covered by the Brooks Act. All members were encouraged to look for opportunities on design-build teams.*

*MK commented that funding for Civil Works projects is declining and priorities have been set by the administration that prioritize projects in the following order:*

- 1. Build outs on existing projects – especially if nothing has been spent on them yet – will not be refunded*
- 2. Maintenance of existing Works*
- 3. Lastly, new projects. Especially hard if they are projects that have not received any prior funding.*

*MK said that the COE not changing procurement processes.*

#### GeoBase Conference

*The GeoBase conference is in Norfolk, June 5-9, 2005. There are opportunities for exhibiting, but the paper submission deadline has passed.*

*Additionbal Info furnished by Colonel Brian Cullis, USAF  
Exec Mgr, DISDI  
DUSD/I&E(BT-DISDI)*

*The USAF Headquarters Geo Integration Office has defined the standards used for the GeoBase program, which are defined in the GeoBase architecture and approved through the Air Force Chief Information Officer. CH2MHill was not the prime developer of the standards, but was just one of several companies, to include several MAPPS members, who are under contract to support the USAF GeoBase program around the world, which is led by the Headquarters Air Force Geo Integration Office. If you have any specific questions, you should contact Colonel Hal Tinsley, Chief of the USAF GeoBase program, at hal.tinsley@pentagon.af.mil. Thanks!*

#### Small Business set-aside IDIQ Surveying and Mapping Contracts

*The USACE has not reached their small business participation goal of 41%. The USACE encourages the small business members to identify solicitations that could be reissued from unrestricted to a small business set aside.*

Is the small business prime required to perform 50% on every task order? Or is this an aggregate total of 50% of all task orders over the life of the contract?

*The 50% requirement is a contract requirement, but the nature of IDT/IDIQ makes this measurement uncertain, as there is no assurance that additional task orders will be awarded. Judith Blake said that they are not playing games with small business requirements. They have congressional pressure on this.*

*Discussion of a recent OMB requirement for a Certified Project Manager. Will this be something the USACE will require? MK: Doesn't sound relevant for photogrammetry projects.*

How does a firm bring a project to the USACE through an IDIQ?

*MK: No set rules on how this work.*

*Some related discussion on the Thomas Amendment (from a few years ago) that discouraged this.*

*Also, mention of "Section 22" Planning assistance to states that allows the USACE to facilitate this.*

Are there fees for the USACE to administer projects of this nature?

*MK: Yes. As an example, some projects that went through St. Louis had a 10% management fee. Hard to say what this is, because it really depends on the project/scope/USACE involvement.*

Discussion of the "work for Others" program.

*It gives the USACE specific statutory authority to spend money and help other governmental agencies. This does not include private and/or charitable organizations (e.g. Ducks Unlimited or a non-profit environmental organization). Judith said it may happen, but only in very limited circumstance.*

Does the QBS/Brooks Act requirement trickle downward from the Primes to the subs, creating and expectation that the Prime will 'select and negotiate' with it's subs and not engage in 'bidding' with subs.

*The response is, this issue has been brought to the USACE previously and an ECB memo may already exist that can be circulated on this topic. Harry and MK from the USACE agreed to look into the status of this memo. MK felt that this was an issue that they had addressed before.*

Can a firm negotiate which FAR clauses are included in an IDT/IDIQ contract?

*Yes, but this must take place in advance of the submittal of the firms proposal, or at a minimum as soon as you become aware of it ( this is especially important if the referral is a cost driver, if it is, identify it as such immediately).*

*Judith Blake said that Lynn Richardson of the Cincinnati USACE office is actively looking into standardizing processes and procedures related to this.*

*Discussion of the USACE contracting classes. 10-12 courses are held a year, around the country. MAPPS/ACEC members are welcome to fill empty seats (presumed for free) if not filled by USACE staff.*

*Some discussion on the Federal Real Property Inventory. This is very different from the National Cadastre. MK: Congressman Dunkins staff in charge of USACE committee that oversees this. By Executive Order, this is a property inventory only, and not a mapping task ( more or less a sophisticated spreadsheet and not spatial data development). Discussion was had about how accurate and complete this can be without mapping.*

*Judith Blake offered that in their internal Small Business meeting, that Subcontracting is going to be a big push this year. Reason is they have tremendous Congressional pressure on this issue. Currently Small Business quotas are at a goal of 41%, but actually is only 36%.*

Attendees

**USACE**

MK Miles

Judith Blake

Harry Goradia

**MAPPS**

Scott Perkins, Chair

Dave Hart\*\*

Kevin Conlon

Herb Gauch

Jerry Stewart

Audwin Helton

Sally Riker

Rick Judd

Tony Jackson  
Kent Alexander  
Roger Crystal  
Brian Wegner  
Bill Trimbath  
Jim Loncella  
Susan Marlow  
Mark Oldknow  
Brad Adams  
Jerry Wilson

\*\* Many thanks to Dave Hart for recording the notes this meeting.\*\*