

News Release 0607

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**Mary Kay Gominger
Public Affairs Specialist
Armed Forces Retirement Home
Gulfport, MS
202-365-4863**

Gulfport, Mississippi – The General Services Administration recently announced that on Thursday, October 25th, 2007, at 10 a.m., the Katrina-damaged Armed Forces Retirement Home will be imploded to make room for its replacement. It will be an emotional event for so many that lived and worked here for many, many years. This 11-story high rise opened its doors for business on August 3, 1976, as the U.S. Naval Home, moving from its original site in Philadelphia where it was in operation for 142 years.

When the destructive winds and tidal surge of Hurricane Katrina forced the closure of the AFRH-G on August 29, 2005, former residents, staff and the entire Gulf Coast community have anxiously awaited this day because now, the construction of the new facility can begin and the veterans can return to their new home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

GSA awarded the remediation and demolition project of the AFRH to Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama on August 29, 2007. The scope of the project included the abatement and demolition of the 11-story dormitory tower, adjacent support facilities, and an additional building. The Orlando, Florida Southeast District Office of Hensel Phelps Construction Co. and CST Environmental, Inc. are subcontractors to the Ma-Chis.

Following the demolition and removal of existing buildings, which is expected to conclude December 30, 2007, Yates Construction of Biloxi will construct the new \$188 million project. It is scheduled to be completed July 2010.

For more information about the AFRH, go to www.afrh.gov, or call 1-800-422-9988.