

PROJECT 614-011, SEISMIC/MODERNIZATION

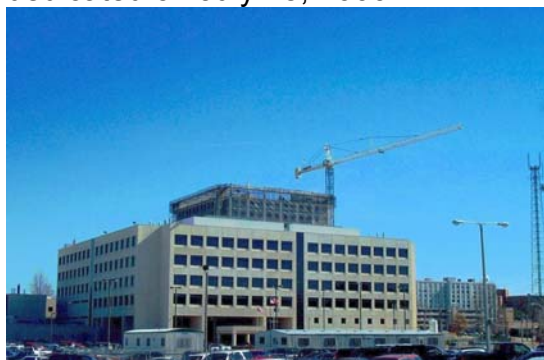
Demolition on the south side of the tower as seen from parking garage.



As a result of the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake, a VA Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of VA Facilities was appointed as required by Public Law 93-82. This committee decided that the VA design code should be based on the Earthquake Regulations of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) modified for each specific site taking into consideration the strongest expected ground movement during the planned life of the facility. The VA facility in Memphis, TN was determined to be located in a high hazard seismic area (Zone 3).

After several studies it was determined that the best approach to insure the building at Memphis conformed to latest standards, was to construct a new six floor addition adjacent to the existing facility, demolish the existing building tower from the penthouse down to the fourth floor and to seismically strengthen the remaining structure.

Phase I, the new six floor bed tower consisting of 308,000 gross square feet and renovations to areas of Bldg. 1, was dedicated on July 18, 2000.



Phase II, a best value contract, was awarded to Price-Davis Construction, Inc., of Nashville, TN, in March 2002. The demolition subcontractor is Asset Recovery Contracting (ARC) of Skokie, IL. This phase included the construction of office space for Medical and Pharmacy Services, so they could move out of the old tower. Next came the relocation of all the mechanical and electrical services located on the roof. These items were relocated into a new mechanical room on the fourth floor. The contractor then deactivated all the service and passenger elevators for the tower and removed them from their shafts. A tower crane was erected in November.



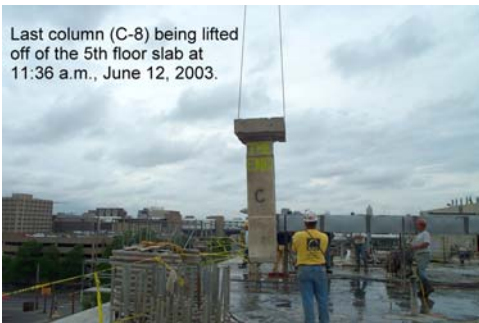
In addition, scaffolding with debris netting was installed around the entire building to ensure the safety of VA patients, visitors and employees. As the tower came down floor-by-floor, the scaffolding and netting were lowered as well. Remote control “munchers” were



used to chew the large amounts of concrete of the tower into smaller pieces. Munching allowed 90% of all demolition debris to be recycled.

This project is a first for the VA. Never before has a part of an existing VA structure been removed while the lower floors were still occupied. Nine floors of reinforced concrete, masonry, precast concrete and interior finishes were removed in six months. This was ahead of schedule and without major incidents.

Actual demolition of the penthouse began in December 2002. The last



column was removed from the 5th floor slab on Thursday, June 12, 2003.

The U.S. Flag that flew on the tower



crane throughout the removal was presented that same day to top management of the medical center.

To document this historical event, a live web cam was installed. This camera is



also sending pictures to a hard drive so that a time-lapsed record of the demolition will be available upon completion of the project. A bulletin board was updated weekly with progress photographs and noise level readings. The construction team also participated in six Medical Center employee-training sessions by video presentations of the dismantling progress. These presentations greatly helped ease the “fear factor” for the occupants of the lower floors. The employee sessions were well received and appreciated.

Another unique feature of this project was the make-up of our construction team. It was primarily “veterans working for veterans”. The vice-president/project manager of the general contractor is a veteran along with several of their employees. The mechanical subcontractor, Morgan and Turner of Memphis, is a veteran owned business and had numerous veterans working on this project, including one Vietnam veteran who is 40% disabled. A Korean War veteran came out of retirement to supervise the day-to-day operations of the tower demolition and ARC is a veteran owned company. The RE office consists of three Vietnam Era veterans and one Korean War veteran.

Phase III, the seismic retrofitting of the remaining portions of Bldg. 1, will involve the addition of interior and exterior shear walls, and installation of exterior metal panels to match the color of the new addition built during Phase I. This phase should be awarded by September 30, 2003.