



Issue 25

ARMY

ACQUISITION REFORM



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ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS (ADR)

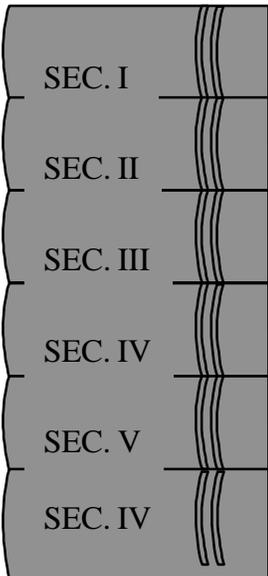
“PARTNERING”



Partnering, a dispute avoidance technique involving front-end team building and early discussions between the contractor and government of how to handle potential disagreements, has transformed federal construction projects from an adversarial process into one of cooperation and commitment towards common goals. The US Army Corps of Engineers Alternative Dispute Resolution and Partnering Program has reinvented processes to make significant strides in reversing an overwhelming flood of litigation. The Corps estimates that use of ADR and partnering has reduced pending contract claims 69% (1103 to 344) between 1986 and 1995 -- 34% between 1993 and 1995. ADR techniques have been used to resolve contract claims and appeals ranging from thousands of dollars to more than \$50M. Earlier this year, Vice President Core presented the Corps with a National Performance Review (NPR) Hammer Award for its use of ADR and partnering to reinvent government.

SIMPLIFYING

UNIFORM CONTRACT FORMAT



The Army and Air Force jointly propose to revise the Uniform Contract Format (the standardized format to structure government solicitations and contracts) to make it more “user friendly”. The new format, which consists of six sections, focuses on usefulness to customers at all levels, is more flexible, less piece-meal, and more logically organized. It clearly focuses on improvements that will effectively communicate contractual information and significantly reduce confusion and the need for extensive cross referencing. The joint service effort was initiated as a result of concerns expressed by industry for a shorter and simpler solicitation, an end to recycling clauses and sections, and reducing duplicative information. More information to follow as this initiative proceeds.