



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

Project Fact Sheet
Sept. 11, 2003



Pentagon Memorial

Project: Memorial to honor those who were killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon

Location: Memorial will be built on the grounds of the Pentagon near the impact area.

Current Project Phase: Construction

Status: The construction agent for the memorial, the Pentagon Renovation Program, may be contacted at 703-693-8933; web site: <http://memorial.pentagon.mil>.

Background: On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon. The crash resulted in the deaths of 59 passengers and crewmembers aboard the aircraft and 125 military and civilian personnel within the Pentagon, as well as many injuries and substantial damage to the building. Shortly after the attack, Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish a permanent memorial on the grounds of the Pentagon. The Defense Department's Washington Headquarters Services gave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the mission to provide planning, site selection, design, and related services for the memorial.

The Corps' Baltimore District began planning in October 2001. To build a major memorial so soon after the event was unprecedented. The Corps studied other recent memorial efforts and found that achieving success requires a process that is completely open, fair, and inclusive. Public involvement was determined to be key. The Corps, therefore, engaged stakeholders from the beginning of the project.

In early November 2001, a working committee called the Focus Group was created, with Pentagon staff members and representatives from other federal and local agencies essential to planning this memorial. Later that month, Corps officials began meeting with a volunteer group of about a dozen family members of the victims, which was named the Family Steering Committee. Committee meetings were held regularly, and committee input was sought at every step of the project. Early in March 2002, the Corps hosted an information meeting for all the victims' families.

The Family Steering Committee and the Focus Group were involved in the Corps' evaluation of 10 potential sites. The Corps prepared a *Pentagon Memorial Site Selection Report*, and in April, Washington Headquarters Services approved the site for the memorial near the impact area on the west facade of the Pentagon.

A competition to select an artistic concept that was open worldwide to everyone was determined to be the clearest path to establishing the best memorial. The two-stage competition began in June, and Stage One entries were due in September. One thousand, one hundred twenty-six individuals and teams from all over the world submitted entries that met the competition requirements. The Corps established a jury made up of highly respected design professionals, family members, and Washington dignitaries, including two former Secretaries of Defense. In late September, the Corps and the National Building Museum held a private exhibit of the competition entries for the families and loved ones. Their written comments were provided to the jury. The jury met, reviewed the submissions and chose six finalists, who then developed and submitted more detailed proposals. In the interim, a selection of 84 of the competition entries, including the six finalists, were displayed to the public at the National Building Museum.

For Stage Two, a family exhibit of the six finalists' submissions was held at the National Building Museum, and the submissions were displayed at the Pentagon for employees. Hundreds of written and electronic comments from family members, loved ones, and Pentagon employees were provided to the jury and used in their deliberations when it reconvened in February 2003. The jury chose Number 1717 as the winning concept. The public announcement was made March 3, 2003, concluding Corps involvement in the project.

Contact information: The Corps' project web site: <http://pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil>. Public affairs specialist: Mary Beth Thompson, (410) 962-2809. E-mail: Pentagon.Memorial@usace.army.mil.

Authorization: Section 2864 of Public Law 107-107, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, gives the Secretary of Defense the authority to establish a memorial on the grounds of the Pentagon.