Challenge: The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command housed more than 150 troops on a rotational basis to provide direct command and control capabilities for air security in the nation's capital. The Joint Air Defense Operations Center (JADOC) is staffed around the clock by Air Force and Army National Guard personnel at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling to watch for potentially dangerous aircraft such as the hijacked jetliner that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

The Army Command's existing housing contract for the troops expired on December 24, 2016. The General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) Assisted Acquisition Services Division (AASD) was providing the recompete contract using Schedule 48 on the GSA Multiple Award Schedules. A Schedule vendor filed a solicitation-based protest with the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The new contract was on hold pending GAO's determination. Without an award, troops would have to move from their current housing, and JADOC would potentially experience a significant disruption in mission.

Action: While exhausting all possible extensions of services, the AASD contracting team quickly developed a four-month bridge contract to sustain the 263rd Army Command during a scheduled rotation of troops. The bridge contract required sensitive reviews in conjunction with the outstanding protest. AASD identified a cross functional team comprised of subject matter experts in the fields of legal, policy and financial management to review the bridge contract. This $6 million contract was awarded in 35 days and two days prior to the contract expiration.

Solution: The long-term solution was to resolve the GAO protest and establish a cost-effective, firm-fixed price, competitively competed contract to provide a housing solution for the Army Command for the next five years. AASD used GSA Schedule 48, Relocation, Transportation, and Delivery Solutions, to provide a broad spectrum of consulting services for planning troop moves.

Result: The bridge and recompete contracts allowed the troops to remain in temporary and long-term quarters respectively. The Army troops maintained unit cohesiveness and morale during the Christmas holiday by avoiding an unplanned move. The scheduled troop rotations occurred without impact, and their important mission to monitor and safeguard the skies was not impacted.

GAO upheld the GSA's award which was valued at $36.8 million. A direct savings of more than $219,000 was realized through this competitive effort. The transition of services from the bridge contract to the replacement contract caused minimal impact to the customer.

Reference:
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Contract number: Bridge ID04170016 / Recompete ID04160045