Congress controls fate of military courses

By Peter Blais

The battle brewing over control of the military's 240 golf courses could be settled in early 1993.

That's when Congress is likely to act on Sen. Dennis DeConcini's (D-Ariz.) bill to turn operation of the facilities over to private management companies and open them to the public.

Management companies, most notably American Golf Corp., are lining up behind the idea, claiming DeConcini's Senior Government Officer Benefit Limitation Act will provide public golfers with more places to play, improve services at the government layouts and make more money for a financially strapped federal government.

The Pentagon is generally opposed, arguing that opening the courses to private managers and public play would jeopardize security at sensitive military installations, deprive service men and women of a well-deserved benefit and reduce funding for non-profit activities currently subsidized by golf course revenues.

"Golf courses are something the military is involved in that they don't need to be," said Shannon Brown, a DeConcini staffer.

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BIG-small partnerships in vogue

By Hal Phillips

Aeromix Systems Inc. of Minneapolis and Otterbine/Barebo Inc. of Emmaus, Pa., have a lot in common. Both firms are members of the golf course industry, providing complete lines of aquatic systems products and services under the Toro brand name, financial terms were not disclosed.

This sort of BIG-small relationship has become increasingly common in the golf course industry, as large national park district companies seek the marketing and distribution power offered by megafirms — and these

Fazio part of $10 billion Malaysian deal

By Mark Leslie

A $10 billion theme park centered around eight golf courses, is about to be undertaken in Malaysia, according to sources.

An Italian developer reportedly has brought together the Italian and Malaysian governments and private money to build the facility.

It is expected to eventually include 24 hotels with 1,000 rooms each. Developers, who have been working on the project for the past 18 months, expect the park to draw 150,000 people a day.

American golf course architect and builder Jim Fazio of Juno Beach, Fla., has been contracted to organize the golf construction. He will design two courses and sign others to design the six remaining layouts on the 300,000-acre...