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., are lining up behind the idea of turning over the government layouts and open them to the public.

The race is on!

By MARK LESLIE

Gentlemen, start your engines.

From Saskatchewan to Nebraska and Arizona to Florida, research and development offices of golf course and turfgrass industry companies are competing with each other to bring new technology to show the world that golf courses can be managed more efficiently and effectively in the future.

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Toro doesn't have five years to develop an aeration line. They need it today.

— Peter Gross, president, Aeromix Systems Inc.

Aeromix accepted it. Last spring, Aeromix and Toro had approached by The Toro Company to form partnerships, whereby Toro would manufac-