

Andrews AFB becomes first military base with 54 holes of golf

By MARK LESLIE

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. — “Non-appropriated funds” and “great golf” are the key words at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) here as it became the first military base in the world with 54 holes of golf when the South Course opened Aug. 1.

The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) built the third 18-hole course with no taxpayers’ money, just profits from the other two courses operated by Michael Thomas. And they built it in what could be termed the best-case environmental scenario.

“We took an old refuse site, capped it, and built a beautiful golf course on top,” said Brian Ault of Ault, Clark & Associates, who co-designed the South Course with his son Eric. “We created wetlands, discovered an endangered wild flower during the process and fenced off a half acre to preserve it, and greatly improved the overall property.”

Ault cited course builder Ryan Central of Janesville, Wis., for doing “an outstanding job under a very bureaucratic process that involved a lot of regulations and paperwork not routine in constructing golf courses... I don’t know that another contractor could have persevered.”

Whenever Air Force One was flying in or out, for instance, the rule was that



The 3rd hole on the new South Course at Andrews AFB, overlooking the base lake with the flight line in the background.

work must stop and workers must gather in one spot until released.

The landfill caused other problems, such as when a crew digging out a pond ran into underground debris and had to abandon it.

And the drought of 1997 exacerbated problems for head superintendent Luke Maisonpierre and assistant Chris Dwyer, since water had to be shut off to the other 36 holes while a well was dug.

Since all three courses had to start at a common clubhouse, Ault borrowed two holes from the East Course for the new nine and built two new holes for the East Course.

But the results, Ault said, are inspiring, especially since one of the other nines at the base was designed by Ault’s father Edmund.

“They made it clear from the beginning,” he said, “the East and West courses

were modest in challenge and character. This new one was to have some sparkle to it and attract the ardent golfer.”

Ault said they took “great advantage” of the existing Base Lake, layout out the par-3 3rd hole and par-4 4th along the water. “They are the signature holes,” he said.

Concerned with conserving water and chemicals, the military mandated that Bermudagrass be used on the fairways.

Partners line up for World Golf Village

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The St. Joe Co. and Davidson Development, Inc. will join forces to help develop Saint Johns and the World Golf Village.

St. Joe has agreed in principle to acquire 400 acres of the core commercial portion of Saint Johns from SJH Partnership LTD., an affiliate of Dunavant Enterprises, Inc. St. Joe will also be acquiring certain commercial development rights for office and warehouse development within Saint Johns, home of the World Golf Village in St. Johns County.

The 400-acre corporate campus/business park is designed for companies that want to conduct their day-to-day business in an especially pleasant and well-planned setting.

Zoned for office and industrial, the park is expected to attract national and international companies.

“Golf is a great office part amenity, and we believe there is the potential to create a premier business environment complementing this exceptional development,” a spokesman for The St. Joe Co. said.

Jim Davidson, president of Davidson Development, developer of Saint Johns said, “We wanted a company that shared our commitment to cutting-edge development that respects individual and community needs. Given the track record of St. Joe’s people, we are confident that we have aligned with the best team possible.”

Billed as “a small city,” Saint Johns will eventually offer more than 6.4 million square feet of office, commercial and industrial space along with 7,200 residential units, 54 holes of golf, environmental preserves, parks and schools, in addition to the World Golf Village international destination resort, according to Davidson.

Saint Johns and the World Golf Village is a 6,300-acre, \$1.75 billion real-estate project that local government officials believe could attract as many as 1 million visitors each year.

It includes a World Golf Hall of Fame, a golf academy, a championship golf course, and the headquarters of PGA Tour Productions.

Architects release RFP info

Developers, investors and companies involved in golf course development can benefit from a free planning guide offered by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

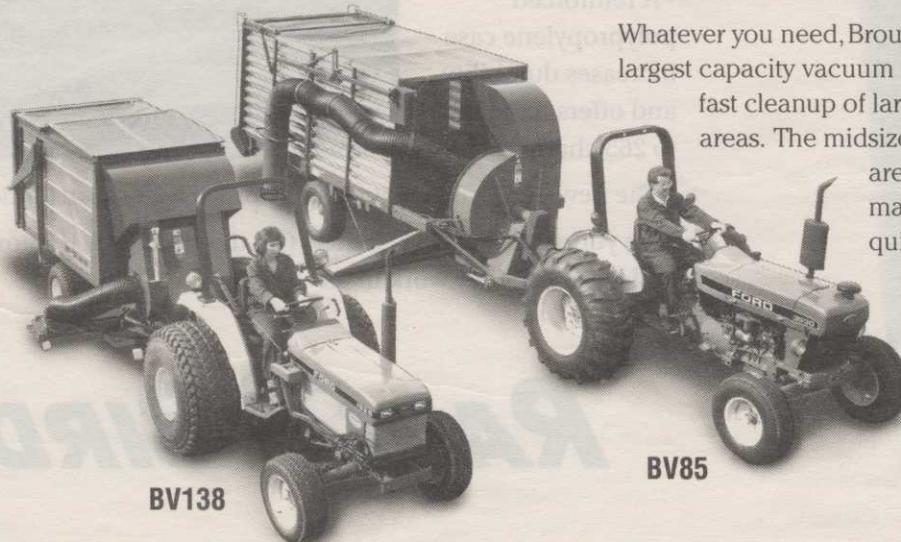
Request For Proposal For Golf Course Architectural Services is a comprehensive document designed to help developers address key elements of a project, including general notice, scope

of services, owner’s responsibilities, submittal requirements and the selection process.

“The Request For Proposal document benefits everyone involved in a golf course project,” said Bob Lohmann, president of the society.

Those interested in obtaining a copy of the RFP form and the ASGCA’s membership list should contact the ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill 60601; phone 312-372-7090.

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