PRESS RELEASE

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Local Engineering Firm Authors National Structural Bulletin

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), nationally recognized for its continuing work on engineering practices that affect the construction industry, retained local structural engineering firm, Baldridge & Associates Structural Engineering, Inc. (BASE), to compose a publication entitled, "Reinforced Concrete and Secure Buildings: Progressive Collapse". Published in November 2004, BASE utilized their extensive knowledge and training in the Antiterrorism / Force Protection (AT/FP) field to create this bulletin as an intended effort for free exchange of structural design ideas among practicing engineers.

In a paralleled effort, as more than 600 delegates meet in Hawaii for the annual Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit 2004 (November 14-17), presentations will be made to stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches in support of anti-terrorism strategies. BASE recognizes this threat and as a result of current world events, structural engineers are being required to consider building security as another design criterion. Most engineers are experienced in designing for natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, but few are knowledgeable in concepts such as "Antiterrorism / Force Protection", "Progressive Collapse"

and “Blast Design”. The impact of abnormal loading events (i.e. blast loading) on a structure is a highly specialized field. Practicing engineers however should possess a basic understanding of the principles behind designing more secure buildings.

The purpose of the structural bulletin is twofold. The first objective is to provide the reader with general background information on AT/FP. In this rather broad subject matter, the main topics of interest to structural engineers are Progressive Collapse and Blast Design. The second objective is to demonstrate to the reader how reinforced concrete can be efficiently used in designing secure buildings. The authors, Steven M. Baldridge, P.E., S.E., President and Francis K. Humay, Ph.D., S.E., Associate, made use of actual example buildings to illustrate how Progressive Collapse mitigation and Blast Design can be economically incorporated into building design.

Illustrating their remarkable commitment to understanding AT/FP issues, Mr. Baldridge and Dr. Humay have also been recently recognized by the National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA) for their work on the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (Oklahoma Hall) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Due to their knowledge and experience, Mr. Baldridge and Dr. Humay were able to create an innovative structural design that met stringent AT/FP requirements within budget constraints. Oklahoma Hall was selected as 2004 Outstanding Project in the “New Buildings $10 million to $30 million” category. In the past, this awards program has highlighted some of the best examples of structural engineering ingenuity throughout the world.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Steven M. Baldridge at (808) 534-1300.

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