

New Projects Focus On Sustainability

The new addition at the Inns of the Corps Miramar, Calif., achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

Department of Defense (DoD) lodging facilities, which account for nearly \$1 billion in revenue each year, provide approximately 280 diverse locations around the world for service members and their families to visit. As DoD pushes for new facilities to be built sustainably, many of the new lodges and lodging renovation projects are adhering to the strict green-building guidelines — the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program — developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a nonprofit organization committed to a sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

The Marine Corps, for example, has three Temporary Lodging Facilities (TLFs) that are LEED Silver certified, including the Inns of the Corps Pendleton South Mesa, Calif., and new additions at Inns of the Corps Miramar, Calif., and Inns of the Corps Lejeune, N.C.

“Sustainability is a pillar upon which Inns of the Corps stands,” said Siddhi Patel, Lodging Program specialist, Food, Hospitality, Commercial Recreation & Entertainment, Marine Corps Semper Fit and Exchange Services Division. “We have further stressed the importance of sustainability and added it into our daily operations. We have a linen recycle program; low-flow showerheads; a new amenity package featuring H2O branded amenities; recycled trash cans in every room; and energy-efficient lighting. The bedding package includes mattress sets constructed from recycled materials.”

Sustainability was a key part of the planning and execution of the new 102-guest room addition to Inns of the Corps Miramar TLF, which opened in July (see *September cover story in Military Club & Hospitality*). The addition has achieved LEED Silver certification through the use of highly efficient mechanical systems and low-flow fixtures. Whenever possible, building materials were sourced locally and recycling and landfill diversion occurred throughout the old building demolition and new construction processes.

“Inns of the Corps constructs buildings that are LEED silver and approach LEED Gold status, and we take pride in partnering with our communities and partners to provide environmentally friendly structures,” said Ric Pomeroy, Branch head, Food, Hospitality, Commercial Recreation & Entertainment, Marine Corps Semper Fit and Exchange Services Division.

The solar concentrator “farm” located adjacent to the facility generates approximately 30 percent of total electricity usage for the Inn of the Corps Miramar. Rainwater is designed to remain on site to reduce storm water runoff and contribute to Low

Impact Design. Energy Management and Control Systems, and occupancy sensors are incorporated throughout the project, helping to significantly reduce the amount of energy used by the facility.

“In addition to our LEED efforts, the Inns of the Corps Miramar is engaging our top suppliers to provide more sustainable products for our guests, from key cards to carpeting and Eco-Smart pillows,” said Pomeroy. “This reduces our direct environmental impact and offers our guests and associates a more eco-sensitive experience.”

With the opening of the new 504,000-square-foot, 1,000-room lodge at Fort Lee, Va., on Feb. 19, 2013, the Army also showcased its efforts to go green. The new lodge incorporates sustainable design principles to maximize water consumption reduction and optimize energy efficiencies and performance. Facilities are designed to achieve a minimum Silver level through LEED, and design features employed by Army Lodging meet and exceed federal government and Army goals for reduced energy consumption.

The Navy Lodge Program also had two Navy Lodges LEED certified this year, including the new building at Navy Lodge NAS North Island, Calif., which is LEED Gold certified, and the new building at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., which is LEED Silver certified. In addition, the Navy Lodge NBK Bangor, Wash., and Navy Lodge NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., received TripAdvisor’s Green Leader award.

“The Navy Lodge Program is committed to saving energy and our environment,” said Navy Lodge Program Director Michael J. Bockelman. “This year, every Navy Lodge continues to focus on electric usage reduction in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and lighting, changes in associate work schedules and transportation to help save gas, and water reduction programs.”

Additional green initiatives include installation of energy management systems to control packaged terminal air conditioners (PTACs); motion detection light switches in public spaces; energy-efficient light bulbs; energy-efficient and solar shades in the guest rooms; reduction in aerators and showerheads; increased guest participation in “Good Earth Keeping” and “Project Planet” programs; new commercial laundry equipment reducing water usage, chemicals and drying time; recycling programs; and landscape designs which use drought-resistant plantings.

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