

Colorado Springs to double staff, focus tech expertise

CH2M HILL's Colorado Springs office soon will become a center for geographic information systems, providing services to the U.S. Department of Defense and other clients. The office is increasing its staff by year's end to 45, with some employees relocating from other offices, including Redding, Calif.

"Colorado Springs is a good location for positioning with so many military installations in the area," said Bill Knapp, area office manager. "It's an exciting place to be."



The office will support software application and implementation services to the U.S. Air Force's "GeoBase Initiative." The GeoBase program guides the use of geospatial information and technologies to aid critical decisions, such as crisis

management and routine operations at military installations and ranges worldwide.

The GeoBase program includes mapping services provided by the Geospatial Technologies Group in Redding. "Our GeoBase services include \$1.4 million in digital mapping for all seven air bases in Korea. This puts us in a great position to dominate the GeoBase mapping market," said Ed Riegelmann, Global GeoBase program manager.

CH2M HILL is also developing GIS software for the Air Force Academy. "Our GeoLibrary application incorporates a lot of cool ideas," Riegelmann said. "You can search for and select geographic datasets from a map library using a card catalog system of metadata records. Once

CH2M HILL's Colorado Springs office is located in the landmark Hibbard Building. The structure, built in 1878, has its original red brick facade and white terra cotta moldings. It housed the family-owned Hibbard & Co. department store for more than 100 years.

selected, you can display the maps in your Web browser. Another feature, designed by Aaron Fischer, Mike McMorries and Donna Nasser, allows users to change the style or look of their maps on the fly."

Also concentrated in the Colorado Springs office will be services related to GeoProtect, a suite of technology services and tools developed by CH2M HILL to improve client infrastructure security. A trademark is pending.