Securing the People’s House: Part 1 – Panel Discussion
Faculty Bios
Tuesday Aug. 9
9:00 - 10:45 am

Ted Blazel was elected Sergeant At Arms on January 6, 2003. The Sergeant at Arms of the Wisconsin State Senate is selected by the Majority Caucus and then elected by the full Senate every two years. Besides ceremonial duties as outlined in the Senate Rules, the Sergeant at Arms executes all orders of the Senate connected with the police and good order of the body. The Sergeant at Arms supervises a large staff of assistants (Senate Messengers) and performs all other duties as indicated by the rules of the Senate.

Tracy G. Cohen has occupied the position of Risk Management Branch Chief since February, 2009, when it was first developed. In this position, Mrs. Cohen is responsible for the oversight, management and supervision of all pertinent areas of guard operation, facility physical security, facility security assessments, communications, Mobile Command Van, HazMat, WMD and FPS provided countermeasures as they relate to field and regional execution. She also provides necessary and critical liaison services between Central Contracting Group operations and Region 5 to ensure that all final products are in line with existing regulations, policy, guidance and established boilerplate formats. Mrs. Cohen also serves as a backup to many Mission Support functions to include first level approval on all financial transactions.

Mrs. Cohen brings a wealth of GSA and FPS experience to the table. Prior to her selection as the Risk Management Branch Chief, she served as the Region 5 Protective Security Officer Program Manager position and as the Legacy GSA Supervisory Program Analyst providing guidance and direction to FPS Regional HQ employees in the contracting and procurement arena. Mrs. Cohen also served in the position of Supervisory Physical Security Specialist providing direction and guidance to Chicago District 1 Physical Security Specialists, Electronics Technicians and administrative personnel on security project installs, Facility Security Assessments, countermeasures, crime prevention and Facility Security Committee meetings.

Mrs. Cohen spent 8 years in the United States Army and Reserve program, heading up a Company HQ platoon, responsible for the administrative, technical and financial support to other subordinate platoons within her assigned company.

Currently, Mrs. Cohen is an Illinois State Certified Firefighter/EMT and serves as a paid-on-call Firefighter/EMT/Instructor with the Western Springs Department of Fire and EMS.
Mrs. Cohen has attended South Suburban College and College of DuPage. She has an AAS in Facilities Management and Business Administration. Mrs. Cohen also received her Real Property Administrator designation through the Building Owners and Managers Association and the Society of Real Property Administrators. Mrs. Cohen attends DHS required training classes at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and required training classes through the Illinois State Fire Marshal’s office and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Mrs. Cohen is also assigned a number of collateral duties that match up effectively with her skill sets and interests. Mrs. Cohen resides locally with her husband and children.

David H. Hart, FAIA, Executive Vice President of MOCA, has over 30 years of experience in program management, architecture and design of large, complex and politically sensitive projects. He has experience in multiple government facilities, educational facilities, hotels, and residential and high-rise office buildings. To increase programming efficiency, he developed a highly successful programming approach he termed “Early Project Definition and Alignment” that integrates the scheduling of design and construction tasks, bringing together qualitative and quantitative elements of a project to align the owner’s expectations from the beginning. His approach has resulted in astounding project success and has influenced management of complex public projects nationally. Hr. Hart has managed all aspects of programs throughout the project lifecycle, ensuring that project design addresses constructability and value engineering to effectively meet scope and budget requirements. In 2000, the Utah Capitol Preservation Board appointed Mr. Hart as architect of the Utah State Capitol, where he directed the entire restoration of the State Capitol. Some of Mr. Hart’s other recent projects include: the Minnesota State Capitol Renovation and State Legislative Office, Wyoming State Capitol Renovation, Salt Lake County District Attorney’s Office, Salt Lake City Public Safety Building and the Eccles Theater.