



**PROJECT PROFILE:  
GOVERNMENT**



## **Assessments at Federal Facilities Help Mitigate Terrorist Risk**

### **Risk Management**

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#### **Situation**

Bombings in the US and around the world have raised the level of awareness regarding terrorist attacks on public buildings. The US General Services Agency (GSA), landlord for most federal buildings in the United States, contracted ABS Consulting to assist in their program to mitigate the risk of vehicle bomb attacks for key facilities.

#### **Approach**

To help determine the potential consequences of a terrorist attack, ABS Consulting assessed glass hazards and progressive collapse potential for over 100 federal facilities throughout the US. For each facility, our personnel inspected the building construction, structural drawings and key security features. Then, analytical models of the building's structural elements and exterior glazing were developed and analyzed for the specified threats to determine the extent of potential damage, and if the damage level would result in an unacceptable level of risk to the building occupants.

#### **Result**

To address and mitigate the predicted hazards, ABS Consulting developed retrofit strategies for the facilities, including structural modifications, glazing protection and replacement, and modifications to existing site protection measures. The analyses were run again with the modifications in place to verify the risk criteria were met. Cost estimates for these modifications were generated and presented together with the conceptual drawings to provide a complete submittal that could be integrated into RFPs for future building renovations.

#### **Benefits**

The specialized software tools ABS Consulting developed to complete this project increased efficiency and improved the technical accuracy of the analyses. Because of this unique analysis capability and the performance of the project teams, the client chose to expand the project scope to address additional federal facilities.