



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**Public Affairs Office
Honolulu Engineer District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440**

**Contact: Dino Buchanan
or Joe Bonfiglio
Telephone (808) 438-9862**

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Army Corps, America Samoa Open “Vital” Traffic Artery

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA – NR-03-07) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District and American Samoa officials recently held ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the completion of the \$12.3 million Route 1 Reconstruction & Shoreline Protection - Phase V, Faganeanea to Nuuuli project.

“We are proud to open this new vital roadway for American Samoa,” said James Bersson, Honolulu District Deputy Engineer for Project Management. “The roadway project clearly improves and protects the remaining gap in Route 1 from Nuuuli to Pago Pago. Residents who will use the roadway – those living near the airport, the industrial area and those living outside of Nuuuli - will now be able to get to the government center area more efficiently.”

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2-2-2 SAMOA ROUTE 1

The Route 1 Reconstruction & Shoreline Protection - Phase V, Faganeanea to Nuuuli project was Interagency and International Services Program work in behalf of Federal Highways Administration and the American Samoa Department of Public Works. According to Bersson, this was the largest construction project managed by the Corps of Engineers in American Samoa and arguably the most important since the roadway serves as a critical backbone for all commerce and residents on the island of Tutuila, the center of government and business for the territory. The project duration was 18 months.

Bersson added that the project clearly demonstrates the continuing partnership and assistance between the Corps, the Government of American Samoa and Federal Highway Administration for improving the quality of life for the citizens of American Samoa.

Dignitaries attending the ceremonies were American Samoa Lt. Gov. Ipulasi A. Sunia, Director of Port Administration Fofo Tony Tuitele, Abraham Wong, Federal Highways Administration, Hawaii Division Administrator, Pat Phung, Federal Highways Administration, Territorial Representative.

Also attending were contractors Mark Liersch, President, McConnell Dowell (American Samoa) Limited, Michael Buckland, Construction Manager for New Zealand and the Pacific and Roger McRae the McConnell Dowell General Manager.

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3-3-3 SAMOA ROUTE 1

At the ceremony Bersson lauded the Department of Public Works and Civil Highways Division staff members who were highly instrumental in working with Honolulu District in completing the design and monitoring the construction contract, specifically noting the work of Deputy Director, Civil Highway Division Faleosina Voigt, Project Engineer Siva Gnaseswaren, Construction Inspectors Vaimapu O'Brien and Alofa Tanuvasa.

“They coordinated the project with other governmental and utility agencies; insured site specific requirements were included and were our eyes and ears during the construction period to questions/issues which arose during construction. They were at the forefront in working with the residents living along the construction site and driving public answering their questions and concerns.”

Bersson also congratulated contractors, McConnell Dowell and AE M&E Pacific, Inc. for their work in the completion of the project.

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