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Fort Shafter celebrates progress of new barracks

By Lacey Justinger, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 18-09) - Less than a year after the groundbreaking and blessing, Fort Shafter's newest high-rise was celebrated with a topping-off ceremony after the roof was set in place on the new barracks here.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, partnering with Nan, Inc. celebrated their midway point in constructing the six-story barracks' building located next to Favreau Hall during a ceremony July 24.

"This set of barracks is a great addition to the future population on Fort Shafter," said Lt. Col. Richard Gledhill, Fort Shafter garrison commander, stating that the Post's Soldier population will continue to grow.

"The additional barracks are being built to a high standard," he said. "Our construction partners here have done an outstanding job in building a quality product that is being delivered to the Army in an expeditious manner ahead of schedule."

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2-2-2 BARRACKS

The barracks were scheduled to begin housing 156 Soldiers in July 2010 but Sonny Kang, quality control manager for Nan, Inc., said the project is running ahead of schedule and should be turned over three months early for government occupation.

"I believe this project is a model for partnering sessions between the government and construction companies," said Stan Sagum, project manager for Nan, Inc. "Our team has a lot of experience working together on construction."

The partnering effort between the Corps of Engineers and Nan, Inc. workers has kept the project progressing 15 percent ahead of schedule even past the halfway mark in the construction timeline with no accidents reported to date, Sagum said.

Mike Miyata, a quality assurance representative with the Corps of Engineers said that the barracks project coordination has been better than any past project of this size that he has worked on. Work orders have flowed smoothly from the project manager, to the foreman, to the workers and subcontractors in the field.

"This is a project with high visibility," said Randy Mita, contracting office representative for the Corps of Engineers. "There hasn't been a project of this size at Fort Shafter in many years and so there is a lot of interest. Both sides have worked together to solve any issues and that is the main reason why everything is going so well and ahead of schedule."

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3-3-3 BARRACKS

The new barracks will house unaccompanied enlisted Soldiers. Two Soldiers will occupy each unit with two separate bedrooms, a shared bath and kitchen. The barracks will have a special texturized paint that is more resilient to wear-and-tear, moisture resistant and mold proof. Additional improvements from previous barracks here include solid interior doors, nine foot ceilings, solid surface kitchen countertops and 30 inch range ovens.

Paul Choy, project engineer for the Corps, said the barracks will meet the requirements to be LEED Silver certifiable and was designed to match the motif of the buildings around it, namely the Fort Shafter Community Theater and Building 520. The Army uses LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) as a system to rate the green standards in construction.

The topping-off ceremony, which included a pupus buffet and live music, was a thank-you celebration for the construction workers and was well attended by key leaders from the Corps of Engineers staff and Fort Shafter command staff.

"The whole design and your efforts are truly going to enhance the quality of life for our Soldiers," said Gledhill during the celebration. "People often forget that you're here doing your duty by doing your jobs and helping out the Soldiers."

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