



**US Army Corps
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Army Corps, American Samoa Dedicate “Samoa Stone” Shoreline Protection

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA NR-04-08) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District, Vatia Village and American Samoa government officials held a dedication ceremony in mid-February for the completion of the \$1.419 million Vatia Bay Shoreline Protection project.

“We are proud to open this new vital shoreline protection project for American Samoa,” said Tony Paresa, Honolulu District deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. “The project clearly provides outstanding shoreline protection.”

According to American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono the project is, “a fulfillment of another commitment by this administration to the people of American Samoa to provide safe and adequate shoreline protection to prevent road erosion due and undermining high wave actions.”

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2-2-2 VATIA SHORELINE

The project was an Interagency and International Services Program work on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Samoa Department of Public Works. Funded by FHWA, the 1,000 foot seawall was constructed of “cheese-wheel”-shaped concrete armor units, now affectionately known to locals as “Samoa Stone.” This was the first-ever application of this type of armor unit.

Contractor McConnell Dowell (American Samoa) Ltd. was awarded the project contract Aug. 11, 2006 in the amount of \$1,419,471 to build the seawall in a period of 370 days. Construction management was done jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the American Samoa Department of Public Works - Civil Highway Division.

The work consisted of installing the concrete armor units along approximately 1,000 linear feet of shoreline fronting Route 15 in Vatia Village, Tutuila, American Samoa. Additional work included site clearing and preparation, compacted fill and other associated improvements.

Paresa 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.”

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3-3-3 VATIA SHORELINE

Dignitaries attending the dedication and ceremonial ribbon-cutting were American Samoa Lt. Gov. Ipulasi A. Sunia; Tuiasosopo Asovalu, Vatia Village representative and Taeaotui P. Tilei, director, Public Works, American Samoa.

Also attending were contractor Mark Liersch, president, McConnell Dowell (American Samoa) Limited; DPW engineers Reuben Siatu'u, Alofa Tanuvasa and Malo Ino; DPW Deputy Director Civil Highways Branch Faleosina Voigt; Corps of Engineers Project Manager Harold Nakaoka and Corps Chief of Civil and Public Works Branch Derek Chow.

In remarks read at the ceremony on behalf of American Samoa Gov. Togiola T.A. Tulafono, the governor said, "I would like to acknowledge and commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Director and staff of the Department of Public Works who continue to work diligently to meet the development goals and commitments of this administration that improve infrastructure in American Samoa."

At the ceremony Paresa lauded the Department of Public Works and Civil Highways Division staff members who were highly instrumental in working with the Honolulu District in completing the design and monitoring the construction contract.

Paresa also congratulated the contractor, McConnell Dowell, Ltd. for their outstanding work in the completion of the project.

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4-4-4 VATIA SHORELINE

The Corps of Engineers has also recently awarded a contract for Route 1 Permanent Landslide Repair, Fagatogo, island of Tutuila, American Samoa to McConnell Dowell (American Samoa) Ltd. in the amount of \$1,318,481.05.

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