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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partners with Team Hickam to break ground on C-17 Ramp Expansion Project**

By Tom Czerwinski - Hickam Kukini staff writer

**(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 29-08)**

In continuing support of the C-17 beddown, a groundbreaking ceremony for Hickam's newest flightline expansion project was held Sept. 3. The expansion project, awarded to San Juan Construction of Honolulu, is expected to be completed in August 2009 at a cost of \$15.5 million.

The expansion project will add more than 40,000 square yards of aircraft parking space and access roads to Hickam's C-17 ramp. The project has been in the planning and design stage for the past two years.

"This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning through construction award," said Army Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Commander, Honolulu District Corps of Engineers.

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## **2/2/2/2 C-17 Ramp Expansion Project**

“It wouldn’t have been possible without the valuable partnership of PACAF (Pacific Air Forces), the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron and the design-build team of San Juan Construction,” Chytka said.

Lt. Col. Dwayne Thomas, 15th Civil Engineering Squadron commander, discussed some of the benefits of the ramp expansion.

“The project, in addition to adding five C-17 parking spaces will feature new lighting poles, drainage system improvements and access road improvements,” he said. “This will expand the parking space capability for active-duty and Air National Guard C-17 operations.”

The colonel added that, not only will this project benefit aircraft operations, it would also enhance Hickam Fire Department operations by improving access to the flightline.

The project will be built in accordance with horizontal Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design “LEED,” which is a “Green Building” rating system that provides a standard for environmentally sustainable construction, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

“Since we are a nation at war, we cannot overemphasize the importance of our joint efforts to deliver these essential mission capabilities for our military men and women,” Chytka said.

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### **3/3/3/3 C-17 Ramp Expansion Project**

The Reverend Kordell Kekoa, Kamehameha Schools chaplain, blessed the project and the ‘aina (Hawaiian word for land) upon which it is being built.