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## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Air Force partners break ground on Replace Hydrant Fuel System project**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**By Joseph Bonfiglio, Honolulu District Public Affairs**

**(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-44-08)** In continuing support of the C-17 bed-down, a groundbreaking ceremony for Hickam's newest flight line project was held Dec. 23.

The project, awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, to Watts Constructors for \$23.4 million, entails the demolition of an existing pumphouse and associated piping and the construction of a brand new, state-of-the-art hydrant fueling system to service C-17s and other aircraft at Hickam Air Force Base.

The new pumphouse and fueling system will provide twelve hydrant outlet pits with a design capacity of 600 gallons per minute. It is expected to be completed in 2010.

"This project has challenges but I am confident that it will accomplish all our goals with a great sense of teamwork. We wouldn't be here today without the valuable partnership of Pacific Air Forces, the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron, the Honolulu District and Watts Constructors," said Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, commander, Honolulu District.

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## **Hydrant Fuel 2/2/2/2**

“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.

Lt. Col. Shirlene Ostrov, 735<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Squadron, commander, discussed some of the benefits of the project.

“The project gives Air Mobility Command much more flexibility on where we send our aircraft. With the system at full capacity, we’ll have much greater throughput to support any future contingency or humanitarian effort. This new capacity has tremendous potential to enhance the Air Force’s velocity supporting the war fighter,” Ostrov said.

The Rev. William Kaina of Kawaiaha’o Church blessed the project and the ‘aina (Hawaiian for land) upon which it is being built.

Also attending the blessing ceremony were: Col. Rich McClain, commander, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing; Col. Jeff Mintzlaff, commander, 715<sup>th</sup> AMOG; Ed Kwock, Defense Logistics Agency; Lt. Col. Dwayne Thomas, commander of the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron; Tony Paresa, deputy District engineer for Programs and Project Management; and Vince Fragomene, project manager for Watts Constructors.