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Corps, Air Force Open New Hickam Hangar

By Dino Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HICKAM AFB, HI NR 08-09) In continuing support of the C-17 beddown, a traditional Hawaiian Blessing and Maile lei-cutting ceremony was held April 14 to officially open the second new hangar on the Hickam flightline – Hangar 19 – since World War II.

The new hangar, built as the C-17 Fuel Cell Nose Dock facility, will be the only hangar in the State of Hawaii specifically designed for C-17 fuel tank maintenance and has been designed with a self-contained generator capable of powering the facility for up to 24 hours.

“This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning through construction award. It wouldn't have been possible without the valuable partnership of Pacific Air Force, the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron, the Honolulu District, Watts Constructors and their design firm RIM Architects,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col Jon J. Chytka during his remarks at the ceremony.

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2-2-2 HANGAR 19

“We’re especially proud that Hangar 19 matches the architectural style of the historic aviation buildings on Hickam. The art deco-styling of this state-of-the-art facility reminds us of Hickam's history and its mission.”

The ceremony was attended by U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Mrs. Lee Ann McClain, Military Affairs Liaison, representing U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Commander, 13th Air Force Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback, Hawaii Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Commander Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Darryl D.M. Wong and Dennis Watts, President of Watts Constructors, LLC, as well as Air Force, Honolulu District and contractor personnel.

Commander, 15th Maintenance Group Col. Richard S. Marks said in his remarks that the new Hangar 19 “will greatly enhance Hickam Air Force Base’s capacity to maintain and repair assigned, as well as transient airframes, while ensuring aircraft availability throughout the Pacific theater.”

Marks also stated that the facility is for enclosed area maintenance operations on C-17 fuel systems and also supports other airframes including KC-135, C-40, C-37, C-130 or KC-10 aircraft.

In his remarks Sen. Inouye praised the joint partnership of the Corps and Air Force in the construction of the new hangar, which he said results in an enhanced Air Force fuel cell maintenance capabilities in the Pacific.

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3-3-3 HANGAR 19

In his remarks Watts Constructors President Dennis Watts lauded his company's close partnership with the Corps and singled out Honolulu District employees Rocky Morita and Al Carvalho for their "their diligence and close working relationship with his on-site construction team."

The Corps' Fiscal Year 2007 C-17 Fuel Cell Nose Dock design-build contract No.W9128A-07-C-0005 was awarded on March 31, 2007 for \$20,951,510 to Watts Constructors LLC. Watts utilized RIM Architects-Hawaii as their design firm.

The 33,454 sq. ft. structure consists of an aircraft hangar/nose dock and aircraft fuel system maintenance shop. In addition, the facility has offices, a conference room, restrooms/lockers/showers, mechanical/electrical rooms and a tool crib.

"We enjoy being a valued partner with the Air Force in executing their military construction (MILCON) projects and meeting their mission needs," Lt. Col. Chytka said. "This is truly a great facility to support the Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard."