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Hawaiian Ground Blessing begins Army Corps, Garrison Partnership to Build New Soldier Barracks Complex

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HI NR-20-09) In continuing support of the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), a maile lei untying and ground blessing ceremony for Schofield's new barracks complex was held Tuesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District and Absher Construction Company.

“With the groundbreaking and blessing of this jobsite -- we continue the great long-time partnership between the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the Honolulu District as we build the best facilities for our Soldiers stationed here and fighting in our overseas contingency operations,” said Maj. John Henderson, deputy commander, Honolulu District. “Many of these Soldiers will have just returned from overseas contingency operations.”

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The new barracks complex is being built on the corner of Lyman and Flagler roads and replaces existing motor pool buildings 2480 through 2488. The construction is the first of several projects to replace the existing motor pools along Lyman Road with new barracks, battalion and/or brigade headquarters, and company operations facilities through fiscal year 2014.

The Rev. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center offered a prayer and blessed the project, the workers and the 'aina (Hawaiian for land) upon which the barracks is being built.

“This is a great day for the Army-Garrison,” said Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, USAG-HI. “These new barracks will definitely enhance the lives of our Soldiers.”

The complex entails construction of two, five-story barracks for housing 200 Soldiers per barracks, each using a “1-plus-1” enhanced module design room configuration. The complex also includes construction of a central utilities plant.

Residential units boast a cooktop, oven, refrigerator and microwave in each module; each floor will have central laundry facilities; and support facilities will have a central Charge of Quarters (CQ) station, lobby, activity rooms and a mailroom. Site amenities include a basketball court and picnic/barbecue areas.

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Design and construction will meet current antiterrorism force protection requirements with a minimum standoff distance and controlled perimeter, plus they will meet a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating — a total facility energy savings expected to exceed 30 percent.

The construction of the complex's central utilities plant will support the mechanical requirements of both barracks, and parking will be provided as part of site improvements.

Because the project is using a "fast-track" schedule, hazardous material abatement and demolition of five buildings and structures have been completed to date, allowing Absher Construction to begin working on new footings and slab-on-grade.

According to garrison officials, the complex is being built to offset the current deficit of unaccompanied personnel housing and to facilitate the continued growth of the 25th Infantry Division.

Honolulu District awarded the project to Absher Construction Co., Puyallup, Wash., in January 2009, for \$73,164,201. The barracks complex contract completion date is Oct. 6, 2011.

"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," Henderson explained.

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Attending the ceremonies were Margotta; Lt. Col. Jay Hammer, USAG-HI executive officer; USAG-HI Command Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Williamson III; Greg Helle, executive vice president, Absher Construction Co.; plus contractor representatives, workers and Corps of Engineers project managers.

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