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Army Corps Restores Aloha to Historic Fort Shafter Welcome Center

By Gerald D. Young and Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR19-10) The Fort Shafter “Aloha Center” is well-remembered by Soldiers, families and those who lived, worked or traveled through Fort Shafter during the past 70 years.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, recently completed a two year, nearly \$7 million rehabilitation and restoration project of the welcome center.

Constructed in the 1940s, the Aloha Center welcomed thousands of Soldiers, civilians and families to the post and provided them with their first taste of the U.S. Army Aloha spirit.

During recent years, the offices located at the Aloha Center – officially known as Building 330 – were a place where personnel would go to pick up travel tickets, obtain base vehicle passes or get identification cards.

Because of its advanced age, the building was in need of major restoration since most of the internal structure had become termite eaten and unstable. And because of historic preservation requirements, specific portions of the building could not be demolished, essentially making engineers rethink how to reconstruct on and around untouchable sections of the facility.

“Honolulu District is proud to refurbish this historic building and renew its Aloha spirit for future generations of Soldiers,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen. “Our engineering team and contractor worked tirelessly to preserve history and restore the luster of this building.”

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2-2-2 ALOHA CENTER

Working closely with Honolulu District's Architect Maydean Martin and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Directorate of Public Works Architectural Historian Ken Hays, the contractor carefully removed almost 65% of the original structure, restored the facility to its original exterior appearance from the 1940s and brought the facility up to current building codes – plus adhering to current Anti-terrorism / Force Protection requirements.

The original building consisted of one and two-story masonry brick walls and wood studs, wood siding, a second floor of wood framing and concrete floor slab. Some alterations and repairs were performed on the facility in the 1980s.

Challenges during the current construction included removing the old roof in sections and lifting it off of the building, retrofitting all of the buildings with new fire sprinkler lines and installing blast resistant windows around steel tubing frames.

Honolulu District's project construction oversight was done by Project Engineer Gerald Young and Construction Representative John Kawaakoa from the District's Fort Shafter Area Office. Honolulu District's Project Manager was Jenelle Kim. Small business 8(a) contractor Alutiq-Mele, LLC completed the Corps' Fiscal Year 2008 project at a cost of \$6,694,077.

Specific repairs included replacing the roof, floors, windows, doors, all utilities, constructing new bathrooms, reconfiguring office/administration spaces, installing new air conditioning, electrical, telecommunication and water systems as well as constructing an exterior gate and upgrading handicap access.

The majority of the redesign effort was done by an in-house Honolulu District design team of Architect William Yuen, Electrical Engineer Cynthia Wong and Structural Engineer Victor Abril. Mechanical design was performed by contractor Mechanical Enterprise and the fire protection design by contractor S.S. Danaway and Associates.

U.S. Army organizations scheduled to move back into the building include the Army Community Service (ACS), Defense Military Pay Office (DMPO), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and U.S. Army Pacific G-8.

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