



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Norfolk District

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: Aug. 9, 2006,  
Contact: Gerald Rogers, (757) 201-7241, [gerald.rogers@usace.army.mil](mailto:gerald.rogers@usace.army.mil)

Release # 06-11

---

**On-time, on-budget**

## ***Army Corps delivers critical Langley AFB airfield upgrades***

**NORFOLK, VA** -- When you want significant upgrades to your 10,000-foot airfield in 60 days or less, who do you call? The Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va., had that challenge and called on their Army brethren with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps took on the task and demolished several portions of the base's aging airfield and replaced it by mixing, placing and fashioning 1,293,438 square feet of 18.5-inch deep Portland Cement Concrete slabs.

Now completed, this \$10 million critical airfield repair will better ensure safe operations for pilots and airframes for one of the Air Force's flagship bases and home of the first two operational F-22A Raptor squadrons.

The urgency of this Corps mission, part of a two-phased, in-house design and construction project, was necessary because the entire Langley flight line would be closed down and the Raptor and F-15 Eagle squadrons deployed to other military installations until the project was completed. In addition to the Corps' mission, 15 associated airfield projects are under way by the Air Force at a total repair cost of nearly \$40 million. Of that amount, the Corps work will total \$28 million.

In accepting this time-critical mission, which began in earnest May 30, Norfolk District engineers knew exactly what their goal was: To complete this phase of the construction project on time and within budget, recalled Project Manager Jonathan Jones, who added, "and that's exactly what we did."

### **Expertise in military design and construction**

The Norfolk District military construction mission supports the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and the Air Force at eight military installations throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Experts in engineering, architectural design and construction management, Norfolk District's responsibilities extend to such diverse military construction projects as hospitals, fitness centers, family housing, child development centers, barracks, commissaries, munitions production systems, control towers, Air Force squadron facilities such as Langley's F-22A Raptor squadron, armed forces recruiting centers, airfield upgrades and more.

Like any time-sensitive and critical project, Norfolk District, along with its partners, began their planning and preparation well before the first slab of aging concrete was demolished. Then, in March 2006, the contract to remove and replace the large portion of Taxiway Alpha and the East Parking Apron was awarded to Hi-Way Paving Inc., a small business based in Columbus, Ohio. Hi-Way Paving prepared required submittals, set up a batch plant on site and procured needed materials to produce the massive amounts of concrete necessary for 24/7 operations. Hi-way Paving also proposed a more aggressive schedule than that specified in the original contract.

-more-

## **Army Corps Delivers Langley Upgrades 2-2-2-2**

### **Can-do contractor, team approach**

"During the 60-day runway closure, the only work specified in the phase 1 contract was the removal and replacement of Taxiway Alpha," explained Jones. "Hi-Way Paving felt it could also complete the 120-foot wide Path along the south portion of the East Apron, referred to as the Flight Line Road area. This work was originally scheduled for later this fall. Langley officials approved the schedule change. Completion of the Flight Line Road area would allow jet fighters direct access to all of the base's maintenance hangars," continued Jones.

On May 30, Hi-Way Paving hit the "concrete" running. Its new aggressive schedule called for achieving several critical milestones in the first 28 days. While it met each of those milestones, the project was not without its challenges: Days of torrential rain, a record-breaking heat wave, a schedule change to replace an additional 250 feet of Taxiway Alpha and the expansion of the Hammerhead taxiway entry point leading directly to the runway. The Corps drew up a design for the Hammerhead in just 30 days and performed a sole-source, set-aside Small Minority (8A) Business contract with Alutiiq Corp., an Alaskan Native Indian small business. The Hammerhead expansion was completed during the runway closure.

All of these potential delays in meeting the 60-day schedule were overcome through a strong partnership formed between the Army Corps of Engineers field team, the Air Combat Command's project manager, the 1st Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Construction team, and the can-do contractor, Hi-Way Paving. "Together we worked through every potential delay; we agreed from the beginning that failure was not an option," said Jones. Air Combat Command Project Manager Barb Wilt, echoed these sentiments stating, "The team effort between the Corps' Norfolk District and the base has been outstanding."

### **On Day 60, the "Birds" land**

On July 27, the Corps project delivery team conducted a final walk-thru inspection of Taxiway Alpha and Flight Line Road. Air Force officials accepted the project the following afternoon. Later that day, exactly 60 days from the start of the project, the first wave of Raptors and Eagles, cruising in groups of two, made their traditional fly-by prior to safely landing on their refurbished airfield. The remaining jet fighters touched down later that evening and the next day.

"Without the cooperation and communication between Hi-Way Paving, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Air Force, we would not have been able to finish the project on time," said Ed Wessel, Project and Quality Control manager for Hi-Way Paving. "Our experience with these types of fast-track projects is that open communication is not a luxury, it is a job requirement."

—30—

#### **Editor's Note:**

**Story by Jerry Rogers, Public Affairs Office, Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**