



News Release

**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Norfolk District

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2007 ACC Construction Project Manager of the Year

Air Force command hails Army Project Engineer

NORFOLK, VA – The Air Combat Command (ACC), Langley Air Force Base, Va., recently praised the outstanding performance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in completing its mission-critical airfield repair project by selecting Norfolk District Project Engineer, John Clark, as its 2007 ACC Construction Project Manager of the Year.

Clark will be honored Feb. 28 at the annual ACC Design/Construction Awards Luncheon, and will compete later this year for the 2007 Air Force Construction Project Manager of the Year Award. Additionally, Norfolk District captured the 2007 ACC Citation Award for Concept Design on the base's Distributed Ground System-1 Operations Center project, which will also compete for the 2007 Air Force Design Award.

The ACC cited Clark for his “results-driven” leadership ability and his innovative techniques in “pushing the envelope” to ensure the project was successfully and *safely* completed on time and within budget. Clark was also praised for his fiscal resourcefulness, in which he was characterized as an “excellent negotiator who saves time and dollars.”

“John exceeded ACC’s expectations and flawlessly executed mission critical projects to support Langley’s mission,” said ACC Project Manager Barb Wilt. “His teamwork and expertise were immeasurable. The projects were delivered well ahead of schedule and within budget. We couldn’t ask for anything better!”

Last spring the ACC called on their Army brethren with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage several significant upgrades to their aging 10,000-foot airfield – and with only 60 days or less to complete the initial, critical phase. The urgency of the in-house design and construction project was necessary because the entire Langley flight line would be closed down and the base's F-22A Raptor and F-15 Eagle squadrons deployed to other military installations to await the project's completion.

With both project phases now complete, this \$28 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 Raptor squadrons.

In completing this critical mission, Clark and his interagency team managed the task of demolishing several portions of the base's deteriorating airfield and replacing it by mixing, placing and fashioning 1,293,438 square feet of 18.5-inch deep Portland Cement Concrete slabs.

LANGLEY AIRFIELD UPGRADES

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The strong team partnership was formed between the Norfolk District field team, headed by Project Manager Jonathan Jones and Project Engineer John Clark; the Air Combat Command's Project Manager, Barb Wilt; the 1st Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Construction team, led by 2nd Lt. David Mogge; and their Small Business contractor, Hi-Way Paving, Inc. "Together we worked through every potential delay; we agreed from the beginning that failure was not an option," stressed Project Manager Jones.

While Clark, an 8-year Corps veteran who has worked on several key Langley military construction projects since 1998, and his team successfully met each of its milestones, the "60-day" critical phase I portion of the project was not without its challenges: Days of torrential rain, a record-breaking heat wave, and a significant construction schedule change to replace an additional 250 feet of Taxiway Alpha, along with 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 original phase I work, the Taxiway Alpha addition, and the Hammerhead expansion were completed during the 60-day flight line closure.