

IN THE NEWS

Runway, supply warehouse ready to be renovated

Story and photo by
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437 AW Public Affairs

Two of Charleston AFB's top construction projects, improvements to the runway at North Auxiliary Airfield and a new Mobility Center/Base Supply Warehouse, were funded for about \$20 million in the Fiscal 2001 defense budget, recently passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Both projects were identified by the 437th Airlift Wing as their top construction projects. They will be managed by the Navy Facilities Engineering Command in North Charleston.

Approximately \$9.4 million will be spent building a new supply warehouse facility to replace the aging 1953 supply warehouse, Bldg. 611 on 101 W. Stewart Ave., that has severe deterioration in several wood support structures and roofing.

The new warehouse will include a mobility processing center with a centralized staging area, with space for personnel processing, mobility bag storage and a weapons vault. It will also feature administrative areas and a smaller, but more functional warehouse area for the 437th Supply Squadron.

The other major project will fix failing pavement on the primary, 10,000-foot runway at North AAF and is budgeted for approximately \$10.3 million. The runway, never designed to accommodate modern aircraft, has

deteriorated to the point where there is an increased risk of damage to base aircraft from loose pieces of pavement. The 2,300-acre North AAF, used to support the majority of CAFB's C-17 training, is near North, S.C., 95 miles northwest of CAFB.

"We're completely rebuilding the runway on top of the old primary runway," said Rob Crossland, a base pavements engineer in the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and project manager for the North Field work. "It was cheaper for us to build on top of the old one, than to tear it up."

The recently designed runway is expected to last 20-25 years. Crossland said the last time the runway had major repairs was in 1962.

"We're also going to put in all the required navigation aides like distance markers, runway edge lighting, threshold lighting and lighted airfield guidance signs," Crossland added.

The North AAF repairs could close the runway for up to 6-9 months, but base civil engineers are working with the Navy to get the work done quicker when the contract is awarded sometime in January. Construction is expected to begin in February after the base's mobility exercise.

The 3,500-foot assault strip at North Field will stay open during the primary runway repairs. "The wing will continue to use North's assault strip and drop zones, but we'll be limited to about three aircraft in the area at a time," said Larry Gill, air-

field manager in the 437th Operations Support Squadron. "We are looking at other airfields to use also during this down time."

The Mobility Processing Center and Base Supply Warehouse will modify the five existing, 200-foot by 200-foot storage bays (Bays 1,2 and 3). The remaining two concrete and metal bays will be renovated. Bay 5 will become the mobility processing center, and Bay 4 will become warehouse storage. New administrative areas and shipping and receiving docks will be constructed where the old Bay 3 was located.

"We are ecstatic that the new facility is finally becoming a reality," said Maj. Mike Pierce, 437th Supply Squadron commander. "We currently have one of the shabbiest buildings, and this project will give our outstanding people a premier facility that they deserve."

Tom Bone, 437 CES project manager said he expects the Navy to award the contract before March 30.

The renovation will reduce the size of the 200,000 square foot supply warehouse to 113,000 square feet, according to Bone. He added the project will take about two years to complete from the time the contract is awarded. Plans to relocate base supply during this renovation are still under development.

"The reasons why we are able to reduce our Bldg. 611 square footage is two-fold," Pierce said. "First is the



Airman 1st Class Reginald Williams, 437th Supply Squadron locator specialist, signs off on a medical kit for currency, after examining its contents in preparation for an upcoming mobility exercise.

use of specialized handling equipment that allows us to make maximum usage of vertical space.

"The second and most important reason is that the proposed FY 2003 new flightline support facility will allow us to forward locate all of our C-17 parts," he added. "This means all parts will be closer to our customers on the flightline, reducing our response and delivery times."

A primary benefit of the new supply facility will be the "one-stop" mobility processing center. "Our deploying members can pick-up mobags, weapons, receive briefs, visit the doc, etc. and do it all in one facility," said Lt. Col. Kermit Getz, chief of wing plans.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Dorm tour

Tech. Sgt. Bill Wright, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron dormitory manager, talks with a group of thirty students from Berkeley Alternative School during a tour of Charleston AFB Tuesday. The high school students also toured a static C-17.

CAFB Angel Tree Program



The Charleston AFB first sergeants are sponsoring the Angel Tree Program. People interested in participating should select an ornament from either the Christmas tree in the base chapel, or the one in the Family Support Center. Included with the decoration will be the age and sex of a CAFB child. Participants then select an appropriate Christmas gift for the child, wrap it and return it to one of the two locations by Dec. 20. For more information, call your unit first sergeant.

