

'Another Great Year for Military Projects'

New Department of Defense construction gathers force in Hawaii and the Pacific

BY BRETT ALEXANDER-ESTES

ordic PCL Construction Inc. will soon begin Phase 3 construction on a \$43 million F-22 Fighter Alert Facility. And it probably won't be long before the general contractor breaks ground on other rewarding work for the Department of Defense (DOD).

> Framing the 22,000-square-foot pre-engineered steel hangar at the F-22 Fighter Alert Facility, currently underway by Nordic PCL PHOTO COURTESY NORDIC PCL CONSTRUCTION INC.



"Fiscal Year 2021 will be another great year for military projects," says



Elton Au

tive outlook is shared by Bob King,

president of Niking Corp., which has just started work on the Mokapu Gate Entry Control Point project at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. "We expect to see a good number of military projects

Elton Au, Nordic's construction manager. "Nordic PCL is preparing to pursue several buildings and renovation projects to be released in the first quarter of 2021." Nordic's posi-



Bob King

come up for bid here in the state over the course of 2021," King says.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii,

NAVFAC Pacific and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District-the main sources of DOD work for Hawaii contractors-likely have more than enough to go around.

> "We expect to have a lot of pier and wharf projects coming up in the foreseeable future." -Cmrd. Don Dasher

"In Fiscal Year 2021, we are pressing forward with projects from our Strategic Waterfront Infrastructure Improvement Plan at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)," notes NAVFAC Hawaii Capt. James Meyer in Trade Media Hui's 2021



Capt. James Meyer

Construction Preview.

Meyer says these

projects include: • An upgrade of \$100 million or more of many JBPHH piers and wharves.

• A repair of \$50 million or more to JBPHH

- ammunition wharves.
- Additional projects planned for FY22 and beyond.

"We expect to have a lot of pier and wharf projects coming up in the foreseeable future in the (Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard) and other areas of

the base," said NAVFAC Hawaii Cmrd. Don Dasher during an October NAVFAC Hawaii presentation to the General Contractors Association of Hawaii.



Cmrd. Don Dasher

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As for the Corps, Lt. Col. Eric S. Marshall reports in *Construction*



s in Construction Preview, "USACE continues renovations at two quads at Schofield Barracks and is initiating more than \$50 million in renovations of two Fort Shafter barracks in 2021. We anticipate awarding design

Lt. Col. Eric S. Marshall

contracts in late 2021 for the Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project in Honolulu."

Boots on the Ground

Contractors who win these upcoming projects will join the ranks of Hawaii contractors like Nordic PCL and Niking Corp. that are currently busy on DOD jobsites.

Nordic's upcoming Phase 3 work on the F22 Fighter Alert Facility at JBPHH includes demolition of the existing fighter alert facility as well as interior improvements of the telecommunication system.



Nordic PCL's F-22 Fighter Alert Facility job site crew PHOTO COURTESY NORDIC PCL CONSTRUCTION INC.

"The project features a fully designed aircraft shelter including, but not limited to, a parking apron, a taxiway for F-22s and three new buildings for crew quarters, Sentry Aloha and an entry control point building," Au says. "Additional related work includes additional security fences and ATFP gates, airfield concrete pavement and various site improvements." Au says the project's key features include:

- 5000 linear feet of both temporary and permanent security fence to maintain security as well as deter potential flying debris from the project site to the airfield.
- A 5,500-square-foot crew quarter facility for eight personnel: four F-22 pilots and four

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- A 22,000-square-foot pre-engineered steel hanger facility for parking of four F-22 fighter jets.
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anchor that can withstand a 100,000-pound thrust force pulling from a F-22 engine at the Hush House pad.

"Upon project completion," Au says, "the new F-22 Fighter Alert

Facility will be a state-of-the-art facility that improves readiness, operations and the quality of life for the F-22 Squadron. The facilities will enhance national security and readiness to combat threats to the Hawaiian Islands."

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Groundbreaking and blessing at a recent NAVFAC Hawaii project



PHOTO COURTESY NAVFAC HAWAII

Nearby at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Niking Corp.'s project "includes an Entry Control Point (ECP) consisting of an ECP Canopy, ECP Guard House, ECP Utility Building, Guard Booth, Overwatch Station and a Final Denial Overwatch Station, along with many civil utilities and repaving of Mokapu Road," says King. "It also includes pop-up barriers, bollards—both fixed and retractable as well as other Anti-Terrorist Force Protection attributes which will help protect our Marines, their families and civilian employees from threats.

"For us, it is an honor to provide the Marine Corps Base Harbor with this enhanced security Entry Control Point. The P-877 Mokapu Gate project is set to run through 2021, with completion in early 2022."

Hawaii contractors Hensel Phelps, Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. Inc. and Nan Inc. are also currently busy on DOD jobsites in the Islands and in the greater Pacific.

All three contractors have projects on or near Guam that are part of a military buildup as vertical construction gets underway on Guam's new \$8.7 billion Marine Corps base. Nan is building three barracks at the base valued at approximately \$307.5 million, with about \$76.8 million in related projects nearby.

Guam contractors are busy, too. As of November, Guam general contractor Black Construction Corp.'s current and upcoming defense contracts were valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Black is also currently a task holder, or selected, for two multiple award construction contracts (MACCs), each valued at \$990 million.

> "Hawaii will continue to see yearly investments of \$50 million to \$100 million in Army construction projects." —U.S. Rep. Ed Case

New DOD Funding

Military construction in Hawaii and the Pacific will be bolstered further with passage of the new National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

As of publication, the NDAA is awaiting President Trump's signature.

"Assuming the NDAA is enacted largely as agreed to by Congress," says Hawaii's U.S. Representative Ed



U.S. Rep. Ed Case

Case, "the bill will authorize roughly \$300 million for major construction projects at military installations in Hawaii, roughly the same amount as last year."

Case says this year's bill includes funding for:

- Two new child development centers (\$97 million).
- An aircraft maintenance hangar at Wheeler Army Airfield (\$89 million).
- Two wharf improvement projects at JBPHH (\$115 million).



Black Construction Corp. is building the 260 Corrosion Control Hangar on Guam as part of the island's ongoing surge in military construction. PHOTO COURTESY BLACK CONSTRUCTION CORP.

The Department of Defense, Case says, "is beginning a major realignment of resources to the Indo-Pacific, with our Hawaii playing a central role in that effort.

"This year's proposed construction projects in the NDAA reflect efforts to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, expand current military capabilities and invest in service members' families so our troops can focus on their important missions.

"In the coming years, Hawaii will continue to see yearly investments of \$50 million to \$100 million in Army construction projects through the Hawaii Infrastructure Readiness Initiative; hundreds of millions of



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dollars to support a discriminating radar station; and as much as \$4 billion to build a new dry dock, support facility and related infrastructure at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard."

"This publicprivate partnership near a future rail station will include an estimated 2.3 million square feet of ... residential and commercial space." —Sherry Menor-McNamara

As of June, the new NDAA also provided for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI).

"The passing of the PDI is America's commitment to the region, and it is bipartisan and enduring," says Sherry Menor-McNamara, Chamber of



president and CEO. "The PDI increases security assistance resources dedicated to the Indo-Pacific that include funding military operations and construction projects."

Commerce Hawaii

Sherry Menor-McNamara

tion funding for Hawaii will also be released with the Naval Sea Systems Command's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP).

"SIOP is a comprehensive, 20-year, \$21 billion effort to modernize infrastructure at the four (national) naval shipyards," says Connie Lau, Hawaii Military Affairs Council

(MAC) chair. "Pearl Harbor will benefit tremendously from this program and receive a new dry dock. It is an investment of billions that will require more engineers and artisans."



Connie Lau

Pacific Connectors

When Hawaii contractors pursue military projects in the Pacific, they also ship their crews, equipment and materials. Hawaii's carriers are reporting a slight increase in pan-Pacific construction shipments this year, and are ready to take on more.

Project Transport

"The military is one of the largest industries in Hawaii, so naturally we do see a large number of military shipping projects in a given year," says Alvin Haslim, vice president of Project Transport Inc., a carrier specializing in shipping from the U.S. Mainland and Canada to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam and the Pacific islands.

"We have had quite a number of projects this year," Haslim says, "and based upon the number of bids we've submitted, military projects should once again comprise a substantial portion of our business. We anticipate shipping across the entire spectrum of construction goods to military sites, from various categories such as electrical and power to heating and cooling."

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"We have not experienced a large spike in volumes," says Keith Sasaki, Oahu sales manager for DHX/DGX, which specializes in domestic and international freight shipping to and from Hawaii, Guam and the U.S. Mainland. "But quote requests are increasing, which is good. Also, a customer who previously reported as no longer doing business in Guam received a purchase order (and moved with DHX/DGX), which is a positive sign.

"Our weekly routes off the West Coast, coupled with the latest receiving cut-off times, are crucial to projects needing a constant supply of goods in a timely manner. Off the West Coast, transit to Guam is 12 days. We offer a weekly sailing from Honolulu Port that departs every Tuesday and arrives the following Wednesday."

Hawaii Air Cargo

Global air freight forwarder Hawaii Air Cargo, which specializes in air cargo into and out of Hawaii, currently ships construction materials to Guam to contractors from suppliers in Honolulu and on the Mainland, says Brian Suzuki, HAC president. HAC ships to Guam via direct flights with United Airlines, regular cargo flights from Honolulu with Asia Pacific Airways and once-a-week cargo flights with United Parcel Service. "We do work with several Department of Defense contractors," Suzuki says, and "sixty percent of what we ship from the Mainland to Hawaii is construction material."

NAVFAC will also support the state's private sector through a proposed P3 redevelopment of 70 Navy acres next to JBPHH's Makalapa Gate.

"This public-private partnership near a future rail station will include an estimated 2.3 million square feet of low-, medium- and high-rise residential and commercial space," says Menor-McNamara. The project, she says, will also include "a high-rise hotel and pedestrian walkways over the H-1 Freeway and Kamehameha Highway connecting it all with Pearl Harbor, which is the state's largest industrial employer with more than 6,000 who work in the Shipyard. This will provide job opportunities both related to construction and development as well as the associated job market (for) the construction and facilities that are created, and will have to be maintained and operated. It will create value and address transportation challenges for both public and private sectors.

"It is a community win-win." 💼