



Seasons Greetings

HFPO-Alaska

N E W S L E T T E R



Building the Future of Army Healthcare

Oct – Dec 2003

MAJOR MILESTONE MARKED



A local ironworker is seen here placing the flag onto the last piece of steel for the new hospital. The flag was later given to COL Gamble to be displayed at the current hospital.

WORLDS OF WINTER WORK



As seen by this aerial photo taken November 2003, the Specialty Care Clinic side is almost completely enclosed, while the Green's shape is quite evident.

Winter has returned and work continues on the replacement hospital. An enormous amount of progress was made during the end of the summer and the short Alaskan fall. The outpatient clinic wing has a significant number of windows in, literally flooding the wave corridor with natural light. Work on the structural steel is complete and with the cooler weather, the focus is on indoor activities. The work now being done covers a wide spectrum of construction. Painters are putting the finishing touches on rooms in the VA clinic. Plumbing rough-ins, ventilation rough-ins and electrical rough-ins are being installed in the primary care areas. Meanwhile, the Central Energy Plant is filling up with the equipment that will soon heat, cool and electrify the new hospital. A total of 272,126 square feet of dry wall and 14,349 linear feet of wall framing have been installed. Ceramic tile is scheduled to begin the week of 5 Jan 04 and the elevator contractor is scheduled to be on site this week and may start some work this month. While a lot of work went on this past quarter, we had several other activities keeping us busy. We officially "topped off" the structure on 5 September with MG Brown, USARAK Commander, as the guest speaker. BG Dunn, WRMC Commander, COL Bond, HFPA Commander attended along with multiple civilian dignitaries, including Senator Wentworth and Mayor Boyles. Dick-Pacific/Ghemm did an outstanding job with the ceremony. In the Holiday Spirit, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and I sincerely hope you enjoy this time with your family and friends!!

Transition Question Of the Quarter:

Were the '2nd Level' Blue Book reviews helpful?



Pediatric Clinic (MAJ Tullberg, SSG Graham) goes over their area layout and equipment plans with Don Kelley, Doug Schroeder and Sharon Poland of HFPO-AK

In the last newsletter I wrote: "The Blue Book is one of the most important planning tools the MEDDAC can develop regarding the replacement hospital." I admit I wrote that rather tongue in cheek because I hadn't sat through a Blue Book Review. I simply trusted the opinion of experts at the Health Facility Project Office and the Health Facility Planning Agency. But now, after sitting through 32 Blue Book Reviews I consider myself an expert and my opinion is: "The Blue Book is one of the most important planning tools the MEDDAC can develop regarding the replacement hospital." BG Dunn and COL Gamble can be proud of MEDDAC-AK's effort throughout the process. Most sections came well prepared. Sections that were less prepared were predominately sections with recent turnover. Without the Blue Book we would all have been ODF ("out der flappin").

Without the Blue Book new personnel wouldn't have a clue as to what had been done by their predecessors and all that hard work would have been for naught. This stresses the importance of the Blue Book and the hand-off of the Blue Book as staff members and leadership changes. Some came to the Blue Book Review a bit skeptical and suspicious but I don't believe anyone left with the impression that we at HFPO-AK are the bad guys. Rather, they left with the impression that we are working together to get everything needed for Bassett to continue to provide "world class healthcare" to all beneficiaries. We at HFPO-AK now have the rather large task of entering all the information in the DATABASE to capture our collective hard work. Here's how you can help - the Blue Book is a living document, don't let it get dusty sitting on the shelf between now and the '3rd Level' review nine months from now. If you have a new requirement or a change in the way you do business give us a call or send an email. And remember, "The Blue Book is one of the most important planning tools the MEDDAC can develop regarding the replacement hospital."

Just a friendly reminder, with the holiday's approaching, please keep the men and women that can not be with their families in your thoughts.

WINDOW WONDERLAND

The photo to the right is of the windows on the wave corridor when the outdoor temperatures were between 35-40 below zero Fahrenheit. Larry Flemming from the Corp of Engineers decided to test our installed sections of Bassett Hospital's Proprietary Spec Vision Wall windows. We are impressed with initial performance results, even breathing on the windows did not produce condensation. The digital thermometer was set outside the window for a graphic of that, but the LCD does not display at about -35. While we recognize that we are probably experiencing somewhat lower humidity conditions during this construction phase, results still look favorable so far.



FROM FLOOR TO WALL IN NO TIME FLAT



Core drilling for utility installation



Plumbing roughin for sinks prior to stud installation



Corridor studs installed

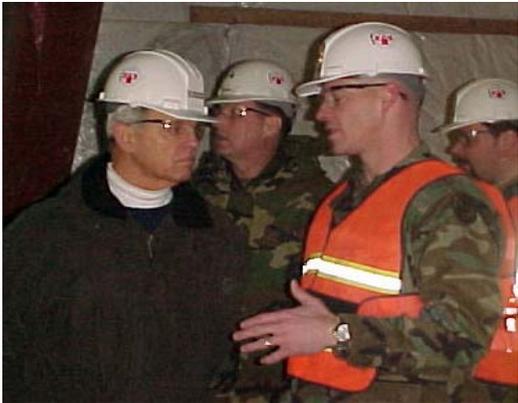


Corridor with walls painted

Live web cams of Bassett construction progress can be viewed online at: <http://209.193.47.141/index4.html>



MAJ T. Kent Koger presents LTG Peake a HFPO coin as BG Dunn and COL Gamble look on. During LTG Peake and BG Dunn's visit to Fort Wainwright on 6 November 2003,



From left to right - Honorable Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary of the Army; Major General John M. Brown III, U.S. Army Alaska Commander; MAJ Kent Koger, Chief, Dan Gerdes, Project Engineer both of HFPO-AK



From left to right - CPT Ross Davidson, Cathy Binder, MG Stephen Tom, Dan Gerdes, BG John Ma, LTC Dan Fisher during a November tour.

Excerpt of a conversation overheard recently in the Health Facility Project office:

"So, just how busy have you been Major Koger?" "Sir, we've been busier than a one-legged indoor soccer player. Some very important people have recently taken time out of their schedules to stop by HFPO for a briefing and a tour of the replacement hospital. Additionally, requests for tours from personnel at Bassett are starting to increase. We're hoping that even more of the Bassett staff will take the opportunity to get a first hand look at the space they will soon be working in for many years to come."

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK



It is with saddened, heavy hearts that we say farewell to CPT Ross Davidson and his family. CPT Davidson left to attend the Advanced Course and then to assume a Company Command at Fort Detrick. He was a very important member of the team that got the Veterinary Clinic up and running for Fort Wainwright. He was also the resident architect for the New Bassett Hospital. The staff and family of the NBACH Project Office will surely miss him.

Site Visits

With the second winter season upon us you can see that the New Bassett is coming together nicely. The HFPO team will be completing walk-through. Please call Dawn Davids at 353-5826 to arrange a walk-through. For safety reasons we will limit the tour groups to a maximum of 8 persons.

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