



HFPO-Alaska

N E W S L E T T E R



Building the Future of Army Healthcare

November-December 2002

Welcome

This inaugural newsletter is a tool that we will use to distribute information on a bimonthly basis. As the New Bassett Army Community Hospital (New BACH) continues to rise from the ground and take a more definitive shape, this newsletter will be a basis for current status and issues pertaining to the new hospital and to other medical construction in America's northernmost state—Alaska!! Suggested information and topics for future issues are strongly encouraged.

The New BACH is a 269,000 square foot state of the art medical facility with 32 beds; 10 LDRPs and 22 Med-Surg. In March 2002, Dick Pacific Construction and Ghemm Construction were awarded the vertical construction contract in a joint venture (JV). Dick Pacific boasts a substantial background in complex medical facility construction and the Alaska-based Ghemm Company boasts considerable sub-arctic construction expertise. The JV met their initial goals and will make significant progress through the first winter.

Of Note

- 1,500 metric tons of steel erected.
- 11,285 cubic yards of concrete poured.
- Safety-over 140,000 man-hours worked with only one lost time incident.
- New BACH designed in metric dimensions.

BACH Commander makes first visit



CSM Brooks, COL Gamble, MAJ Koger and CPT Davidson during COL Gamble's initial site visit

COL Bryan Gamble, who assumed command of Bassett Army Community Hospital in August 2002 and his Command Sergeant Major, CSM Brooks, visited the New BACH project site in September 2002. As the commander during the critical construction phase of the new hospital project, COL Gamble will have a tremendous influence on the New BACH. Input from his staff during his command tenure will define the operational business of the New BACH.



Rendering of the New BACH main entrance

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COL Gamble, BG Dunn, Mr. Petty and MAJ Koger at the NBACH Project Site



Fort Wainwright's Hospital of the future

Visitors Log

BG Dunn, WRMC Commander

The Western Region Medical Commander, BG Michael Dunn recently toured the NBACH project site. Accompanying BG Dunn was his deputy, Mr. Michael Petty and the NBACH Commander, COL Gamble.

Charles Cogar, Congressional Assistant

October 22 brought two visits to the new site. Mr. Charles Cogar, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Don Young visited the project site as part of his tour of Fort Wainwright. Mr. Cogar expressed an admiration for the speed and quality of work that has brought the structure to its present state.

COL Seymour, WRDC Commander

COL Henry Seymour, the Western Region Dental Commander, joined COL Curtis Goho and SGM Alan Graykowski on a site tour in October 2002.

More Medical Construction

EarthTech awarded Vet Clinic Contract

A renovation/renewal project to provide a Veterinary Treatment Facility was awarded last month to EarthTech Construction Corporation. This complex project will renovate approximately 7,350 square feet of the old Ft Wainwright Cold Storage Facility, Building 3597. The new state of the art Vet Clinic will include exam rooms, x-ray, pharmaceutical services, a lab, kennels, administrative space and a food inspection section.

Rockwell Engineering and Construction along with McKinley Construction Company will be the primary local contractors involved in the project. Construction will begin soon with the renovation a scheduled completion by July 2003.

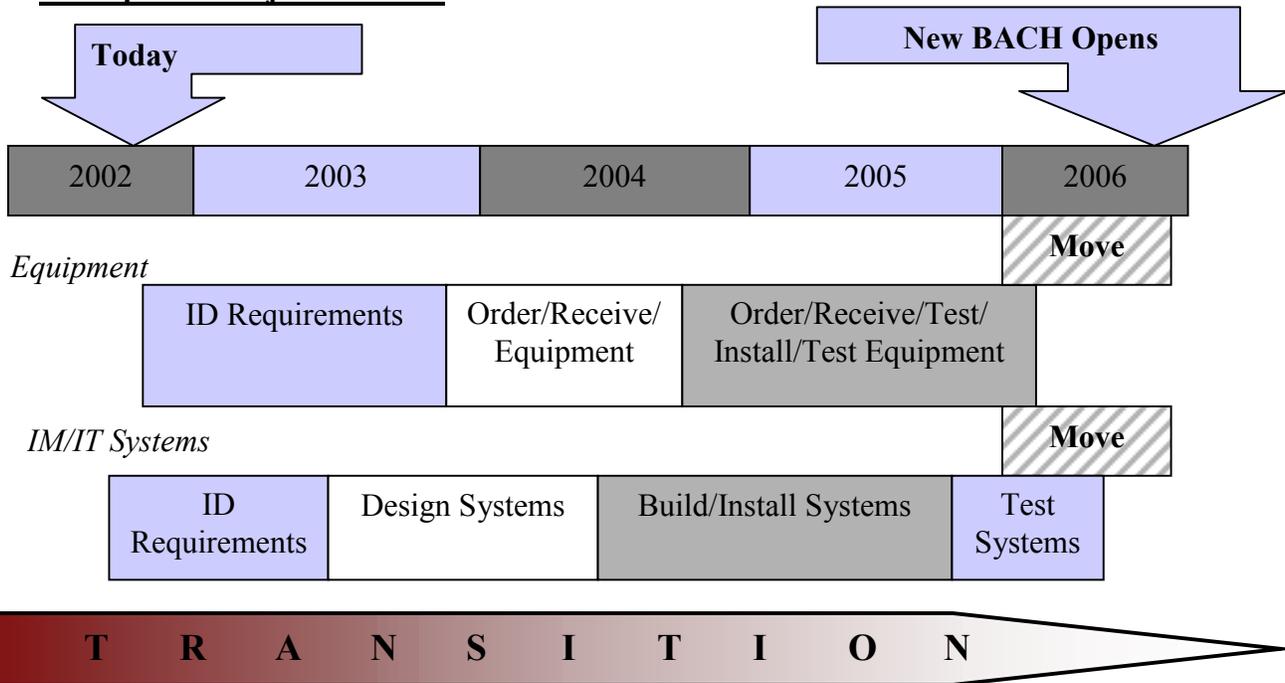
Strong Earthquake Rocks Alaska Interior

A 7.9 magnitude earthquake rocked Alaska's Tanana River Valley on November 3. Just two weeks earlier, the region was shaken by a 6.3 magnitude quake in the early morning hours. With both epicenters roughly 75 miles south of Fairbanks, the area sustained significant vibrations but little physical damage. Engineers from the Bassett Resident Office completed numerous inspections of the project site within hours of the quake and are pleased to report the facility suffered no damage.



The NBACH is designed to not only withstand a 1,000-year seismic event, it can also operate in a completely self sustaining mode for at least 96 hours. This includes having internal power, heat and water supply and disposal capabilities.

A Simplified Project Timeline



Many tend to imagine that the slow process of building a state of the art medical facility equates to plenty of time for planning and occupying the new hospital. However, as indicated in the simplified diagram above, critical components of the new facility require detailed user input during the entire construction phase. To ensure the building is outfitted with the appropriate equipment, from X-ray machines to soap dispensers, the process of identifying each department's requirements begins during design and is constantly revalidated through the construction phase.

The new hospital will be constructed over the next 3 ½ years. During this time, it is critical that a solid transition plan is developed, refined and implemented. Transitioning is a complicated process involving far more than just moving into a new building. Elements of the transition plan include planning of:

- Medical equipment
- IM/IT systems and equipment
- Training of technical and clinical staff
- Artwork and furniture packages
- Movement of equipment to the new facility

- Moving people to the new facility
- Security systems and operations
- Daily business operations and procedures.

The US Army Health Facility Planning Agency provides much experience in this field but works hand-in-hand with the user to formulate and execute planning. For New BACH the HFPO has a Transition Manager (John Bristow) on staff that coordinates the efforts of several specialists in equipment planning, engineering, administration and architecture. Clinical Coordination is provided through the Nurse Methods Analyst (LTC Lazarus) who is a BACH TDA asset attached to the Project Office. This multi-disciplinary team is already working closely with the BACH staff on specific issues relating to their areas of responsibility.

A critical outcome of the BACH Strategic Planning Conference is standing-up a Transition Committee that will be the focal point for command decisions relating to the New BACH.

More about this next issue!

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Site Walk-throughs

With the first summer construction season behind us - there is now enough of the building available to show visitors, and for them to make sense of what they see! As we get further into construction, the HFPO team will be completing focussed walk-throughs in specific areas to familiarize staff and to identify any issues which can be readily addressed. But for the next 18 months or so we will be offering limited site tours for staff wishing to get a closer look at the construction.

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.



The friendly staff at the New BACH Project Office



The site in May, 2002

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October 2002-The New Bassett Project Site

