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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

CREECH AFB, Nev. — From left to right, Capt. Raymond Swallow, 432d Wing Construction Project Manager, Col. Pete Gersten 432d Wing Commander and 432d Air Expeditionary Wing Commander, Mr. Benden Parker President and Chief Executive Officer of Cobblestone Construction, and Army Capt. Ben Ashton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles district, prepare to break ground for the new 432d Wing Headquarters building here, Oct. 7.

New headquarters building for Creech

By Colonel Debra Millett

432d Wing Public Affairs

CREECH AFB, Nev. — Another new building soon will be constructed on Creech's north side, following last Wednesday's ground-breaking ceremony for the new 432d Wing Headquarters building.

Wing Commander, Colonel Peter "Gunz" Gersten and Benden Parker, President / Chief Executive Officer of Cobblestone Construction used ceremonial golden shovels to break ground at the site located in the traffic circle. Colonel Gersten said, "As I look across this great vista, I can't think of a better location for this building. Moving over to this side of the base near the operators makes sense and streamlines operations."

Construction is expected to begin later this month on the \$6.1 million dollar building and should be completed by October 2010, according to Captain Raymond Swallow, 432d Wing Headquarters program manager. The 19,600 square-foot, single-story structure will house key staff agencies.

The headquarters building will house a premier reception center

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designed to welcome the frequent visitors to Creech Air Force Base. An RQ-1 Predator, on loan from the Air Force Museum, will be suspended from the ceiling in the open, high entry vestibule. Historical Air Force artifacts that will showcase Creech's history will also be on display.

Captain James Ashton of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explained, "This building was developed as a design-build contract: The Air Force formulates initial concept drawings with minimum requirements and allows the contractor to complete the design and then build the facility. Cobblestone Construction Architect, Gary Carlson, said the building's shape was inspired by the Predator's wing. "We used 'heightened optics,' which in architectural terms, the building is turned in slightly to enhance it's wing-like appearance. We related the building to the unit's mission," said Mr. Carlson.


Captain Ashton said the structure will be environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The building will attain at least "silver certified" under the LEED program, with a goal of gold. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a rating system developed by the Green Building Council. The rating evaluates the degree to which a building incorporates environmentally friendly building practices. Ratings are silver, gold, and platinum.

Mr. Carlson explained the proactive building techniques that garner LEED points, "To name a few initiatives, we've oriented the building for the sun's location. The building is optimally placed for energy efficiency," he said. "The mechanical system is organized to reduce the duct work, and we're installing extremely efficient units," he said.

Furniture, carpeting and lighting will also provide energy efficiency. "We also will use preindustrial and post-industrial materials, meaning we use recycled building products where we can," said Mr. Carlson. "We also recycle the building materials during construction." The desert landscape planned for the building also garners points on the LEEDS program because of the water-saving benefits the landscaping provides.

The Headquarters building is one of five Military Construction funded projects that are slated to break ground here by early 2010. In addition to the Wing Headquarters, those projects include a dining facility; Predator Flight Simulator; an addition to Predator Operations building; and a new UAS Main Gate, which will be built where the east gate currently is located. Additionally, several other smaller projects are planned and underway.

"The bottom line, Creech AFB is growing and the landscape as we know it will continue to change so we can provide the facilities needed for our Air Force professionals to meet operational requirements," said Capt. Swallow.



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