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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Corps Transforming Fort Shafter's Favreau Field Into New Soldier Barracks**

**By Honolulu District Public Affairs**

**(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 37-08)** Cpl. Arthur A. Favreau Field on Fort Shafter began its transformation into a new Soldiers' barracks today with a traditional Hawaiian blessing and groundbreaking ceremony held on the historic field.

“Since we are a nation at war, we cannot over emphasize the importance of our efforts to deliver high-quality housing for our Soldiers,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka at the ceremony. “This is a morale issue and we all take it very seriously. This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning through construction award. It wouldn't have been possible without the valuable partnership of the (U.S. Army) Garrison, the Honolulu District and the design-build team of Nan, Inc.”

The project entails constructing a six-story barracks complex on Favreau Field, which will ultimately house approximately 156 single Soldiers in 78 room units.

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## **2-2-2 FAVREAU FIELD**

The ceremonies held on the construction site were attended by construction representatives, project managers and personnel from the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Garrison- Hawaii Directorate of Public Works and project contractor Nan, Inc.

Cpl. Arthur A. Favreau of Woonsocket, R.I. died of wounds suffered when a five-inch naval antiaircraft shell struck his barracks at Fort Shafter and exploded in the early morning of Dec. 7, 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ball field was part of the Fort Shafter Cantonment Area established in 1936. The existing Favreau Field (ball field) was constructed after 1948 and was named in honor of Favreau on August 13, 1975. To make room for the new barracks all existing ball field improvements and utilities will be removed.

Site work includes construction of the new barracks with central air conditioning, a 90 stall paved parking lot, concrete curbs and walks, new covered bike racks and a covered motorcycle shed.

Each room unit consists of two private bedrooms, a shared bathroom and a kitchen. A laundry room is located on each floor as well.

The project is expected to be completed on June 8, 2010.

Chytka added that the “facility presents significant challenges, especially to ensure that the new barracks is built with respect to the historic integrity of the other buildings and structures on Fort Shafter.”

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### **3-3-3 FAVREAU FIELD**

Cpl. Favreau was a member of Battery E, 64th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-Aircraft), and is interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in Honolulu.

The 64th artillery regiment was the major unit at Fort Shafter from 1922 to 1942, and had gun crews deployed on Dec. 7, 1941 that were able to directly assist in the close-in defense of Pearl Harbor during the attack. Favreau's unit was not involved in immediate response to the attack. He was detailed to unlock the small arms room in a barracks and was performing this duty when he was mortally wounded.

Favreau was recognized June 7, 2004 at Fort Shafter for his sacrifice when a newly renovated barracks facility by the Corps of Engineers near the ball field was rededicated in his honor. A plaque mounted by the elevator in "Favreau Hall" recounts the story of a simple man who gave his life fulfilling his duty to the Nation and his fellow Soldiers.

"It is fitting that Cpl, Favreau and his sacrifice will be immortalized once again when this new facility is completed and the new Favreau Hall will be dedicated in 2010," Lt. Col. Chytka said. "We look forward to working with everyone to complete this building and create a place Soldiers will be proud to call their own."

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