



MG

STEPHEN

AUGUST 30, 2011

TOM

REMARKS

GROUND

BREAKING

CEREMONY

SENATOR AND MRS. INOUYE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CONSUL GENERAL SUH, GEN (RET) BRAMLETT, MG
WONG, MG PAWLING, MG CHAVEZ, RADM (RET)
CRISP, RDML SMITH, BG OSSERMAN, Mr.
FROTHINGHAM, MR. PICUTTA, MR. KAILIWAI, MS.
ZEDALIS, CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SEC. ARMY HOE,
AND COL WONG FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA,
OTHER FLAG OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

ALOHA AND GOOD MORNING! I WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND A WARM WELCOME AND MAHALO TO
EVERYONE FOR COMING OUT THIS MORNING AND
HELPING US BREAK GROUND ON OUR NEW FACILITY.

A BIG MAHALO TO NAVFAC, JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR , AND NAN INC. FOR THE INCREDIBLE ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING TODAY'S EVENT.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE AND PARTNERS WHO MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE. I WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK SMITHGROUP THE DESIGNERS OF THE NEW FACILITY, AND SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE FOR HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT TO THIS LONG AWAITED JPAC PROJECT.

TODAY, WE CELEBRATE NEW BEGINNINGS.

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER PLATO WROTE THAT
“THE BEGINNING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF
WORK.”

THIS IS NOT ONLY TRUE OF WHAT HAPPENS TODAY
WITH THE CEREMONIOUS FIRST SHOVEL OF
DIRT...BUT FOR THE JPAC MISSION AS A WHOLE.

EACH NEW BEGINNING FOR THE MIA ACCOUNTING
MISSION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS REPRESENTS
THE IMPORTANT WORK AND EVOLUTION OF OUR
ENDEAVOR TO BRING HOME ALL OF OUR FALLEN
COMRADES, AND RETURN THEM TO THEIR FAMILIES.

ALL OF JPAC'S PREDECESSOR UNITS STARTED THIS IMPORTANT WORK AND EACH IN THEIR OWN RIGHT ARE IMPORTANT BENCHMARKS OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY. STARTING WITH THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER, OR JCRC, AND CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY-THAILAND OR CIL-THAI, BOTH WHICH BEGAN IN 1973. THEY STARTED THE WORK OF RETURNING OUR POW'S AND MIA'S HOME FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

THE MISSION EVOLVED EVEN FURTHER WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY KNOWN AS CIL-HI IN 1976 AND WITH THE JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) ESTABLISHED IN 1992. IT WAS DURING THAT TIME THAT THIS MISSION EVOLVED INTO AN EFFORT TO BRING OUR MIA'S HOME, FROM OTHER PAST CONFLICTS BESIDES THE VIETNAM WAR.

IT WAS IN OCTOBER 2003....ALMOST EIGHT YEARS AGO... WHEN THE TASK FORCE AND LABORATORY COMBINED TO BECOME WHAT WE ARE TODAY: THE JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND.

THIS NEW BUILDING AND SPECIFICALLY TODAY'S
GROUNDBREAKING IS TRULY A SYMBOL OF WHAT
WE MERGED TO BECOME NEARLY EIGHT YEARS AGO.
THIS NEW FACILITY WILL ALLOW US TO
CONSOLIDATE OUR RESOURCES BY HAVING THE
CORE FUNCTIONS COLLOCATED INTO ONE MAJOR
STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY. IT HAS BEEN A LONG
JOURNEY TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY. AND WE
ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT
THIS BEGINS A NEW ERA FOR JPAC.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN TASKED BY
CONGRESS TO INCREASE OUR CAPACITY AND
CAPABILITY TO SUCH A STATE WHERE WE ARE ABLE

TO PRODUCE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE CURRENT NUMBER OF IDENTIFICATIONS WE ARE PRODUCING EACH YEAR BY 2015. TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ACHIEVING THAT CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE.

BEFORE I INTRODUCE OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO REAR ADMIRAL, RETIRED, DONNA CRISP, FORMER JPAC COMMANDER AND MY PREDECESSOR FOR LAYING THE GROUNDWORK AND SHAPING THE CHARACTER OF OUR NEW FACILITY.

DONNA, YOUR LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE DURING THE MILCON AND DESIGN PHASE OF THIS PROJECT

WAS TREMENDOUS AND I THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING YOU PUT IN PLACE THAT HAS
BROUGHT US HERE TODAY.

AT THIS TIME IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE
OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, WHO IS ALSO ONE OF OUR
HONORARY GROUND BREAKERS TODAY.

THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. INOUE, IS OUR
SENIOR UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM HAWAII,
THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE UNITED
STATES SENATE, AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE US
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. SENATOR
INOUE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN SHAPING

THE DEFENSE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR
48 YEARS. HE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO
STRENGTHEN THE ARMED FORCES, AND ENHANCE
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

HE IS A WORLD WAR II COMBAT VETERAN WITH
THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. FOR HIS
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR TWO HE EARNED
THE NATION'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR MILITARY
VALOR, THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. WE
ARE ESPECIALLY HONORED TO HAVE HIM HERE

TODAY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SENATOR DANIEL
K. INOUE.