



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [August 11, 2010](#)

Release No. 10-19

POC: Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer
E-mail: denise.emsley@navy.mil
Tel: 808-471-7300
Cel: 808-221-6387
Fax: 808-474-5479
Author: Thomas Obungen, Public Affairs Specialist

Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii
400 Marshall Road
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3139

Large Navy Exchange Xeriscape Project at Pearl Harbor Completed, Water Savings to Follow

PEARL HARBOR— Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii completed the final phase of a large-scale, drought-tolerant xeriscape project August 2 for the Navy Exchange (NEX) at Pearl Harbor.

The design incorporates hearty, drought-tolerant plants, efficient irrigation, ground cover and balanced soil to produce a landscape that requires half the amount or less of water to maintain than traditional landscaping. Over 45,000 plants, ranging from crown of thorn shrubs to dwarf sugar cane, were planted.

"Phase II incorporates both the planting of a host of new, native plants, synthetic turf, and drought-resistant plants, as well as the removal and treatment of weeds and other undesirables," said Matt Flach, NAVFAC Hawaii landscape architect.

NAVFAC Hawaii awarded the \$470,569 contract to Hawaii-based KN Lawn Service. The project was awarded and completed in two phases to allow the landscaping contractor enough time to gather the large quantity of plants from local nurseries and to repair and prepare areas before any work could begin. The second phase began in October 2009, and expands the approximately 96,000 sq. ft. of work done in Phase I to nearly 200,000 sq. ft.

"The contractor completed prep work on the soil prior to November-December 2009 to ensure that most of the weeds would be germinated for their removal in the summer and to allow time to grow enough plants for the project" said Flach. "In addition, 12,000 sq. ft. of synthetic turf was added into the design because it requires little maintenance and virtually no water, while preserving the look of real grass, saving time and money for the customer."

Native Hawaiian plants account for eight of the 20 different species used throughout the NEX complex, totaling about 22,000 plants. Their role in xeriscaping is essential to the project, because they are naturally accustomed to Hawaii's temperate climate and unpredictable weather patterns.

After completing the installation project, the contractor entered a mandatory 120-day maintenance period to guarantee the new plants mature and weeds stay at bay. During this time they will be fertilizing, weeding, watering, and maintaining the grounds until the final inspection in January 2011.

(more)

Naval Facilities Engineering Command: www.navfac.navy.mil

2-2-2-2 Large Navy Exchange Xeriscape Project at Pearl Harbor Completed, Water Savings to Follow

After the maintenance period is over, KN Lawn Service will smoothly resume its previously standing grounds maintenance contract with NAVFAC Hawaii to perform normal upkeep of the NEX's landscaping.

With any new landscaping job, the new plants will require constant watering despite their drought-resistant qualities. However, the customer will begin to see water savings in upwards of 50 percent once the plants have matured, contributing to the Navy-wide push to become environmentally responsible and energy efficient.

In addition to this project, design plans are being finalized for similar xeriscaping projects at Camp H.M. Smith and at the main gates to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

###

Photo/Cutline: *High resolution image available. Please contact Denise Emsley.*



100510-N-76290-001 – KN Lawn Service personnel talk with Matt Flach, a landscape architect at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Hawaii, about the planting of Norma Crotons which provide instant color and height to the planter beds fronting the Navy Exchange (NEX) Mall and Commissary at Pearl Harbor. They are one of 20 different drought-resistant plant species being used in the water-saving xeriscape design that will save half or more water than conventional landscaping. *Photo by Thomas Obungen, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Assistant.*



100805-76290-001 – An elaborate, yet water-saving xeriscape design that features 20 different species of plants and 12,000 square feet of synthetic turf has been installed at the Navy Exchange (NEX) Mall and Commissary at Pearl Harbor. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii contracted KN Lawn Service to complete the project, which entered a 120-day maintenance period on August 2. KN will resume its grounds maintenance contract at the complex following the 120 days. *Photo by Thomas Obungen, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Assistant.*



100805-76290-002 – A crew from KN Lawn Service tends to a planter bed fronting the Navy Exchange (NEX) Mall and Commissary at Pearl Harbor. As part of a contract with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, for the next 120 days they will maintain over 200,000 square feet of work they have completed for the past two years. The design of the landscape is based on xeriscape principles to ultimately save the customer at least half the amount of water than previously. *Photo by Thomas Obungen, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Assistant.*

For more information about NAVFAC Hawaii and/or Naval Facilities Engineering Command visit:

www.navfac.navy.mil

Innovation, Leadership, Performance

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) manages the planning, design, construction, contingency engineering, real estate, environmental, and public works support for U.S. Navy shore facilities around the world. We provide the Navy's forces with the operating, expeditionary, support and training bases they need. NAVFAC is a global organization with an annual volume of business in excess of \$18 billion. As a major Navy Systems Command and an integral member of the Navy and Marine Corps team, NAVFAC delivers timely and effective facilities engineering solutions worldwide.

Additional updates and information about NAVFAC can be found on social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Become a Fan at www.facebook.com/navfac and follow us at www.twitter.com/navfac.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command: www.navfac.navy.mil