



NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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Lakehurst to hold Ground Breaking Ceremony

Navy Begins Construction of New Fire Rescue Station

MEDIA arrive at front gate by 10:00 a.m.

LAKEHURST, NJ, July 26, 2004 - - **On Wednesday, July 28, 2004** at 10:30 a.m., officials at Navy Lakehurst will hold a ground breaking ceremony to mark the start of construction for a new Fire Rescue Station. The ceremony will be officiated by Congressmen Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Jim Saxton (R-NJ).

The \$5 million military construction project of a new 20,000 square foot Fire Rescue Station is scheduled to be complete within a year and will include new living quarters, administrative space, training areas, truck bays and maintenance shops.

The new station will result in a substantial upgrade to the currently inadequate and undersized facilities on the base. Current facilities are situated in two separate buildings, with too few bays to house all response vehicles and too small to accommodate new rescue vehicles.

The new facility will combine the aircraft fire rescue station with the structural fire rescue station and properly protect Navy Lakehurst assets that include: two 5,200 foot general use aircraft runways, one 12,000 foot test runway, five jet car test tracks, 7,430 acres of partially forested land and approximately 300 structures on the base that house industrial, engineering and test complexes.

“The new consolidated crash, fire, and rescue station enables us to support the current and future mission needs of the many unique Joint and Interagency commands that reside aboard Navy Lakehurst” said Lakehurst Commanding Officer, CAPT Mark Bathrick. “Military testing, operations, and training are inherently more dangerous than typical residential or business operations. Our ability to provide efficient crash, fire, and rescue services to support these unique activities can be critical to their ultimate mission success.”

With the combining of all fire rescue operations into one building, there will be a substantial savings on infrastructure costs and overall response times will be dramatically reduced. The existing fire rescue station (3,600 square feet) will also be demolished.

MEDIA are invited to attend the ground-breaking ceremony and are requested to arrive at the Navy Lakehurst front gate not later than 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 28, 2004

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Navy Lakehurst – “A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future”