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## **First Marine Corps Relocation Projects Completed**

**SANTA RITA, Guam (Jan. 20, 2014)** -- A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Jan. 22 for the completion of the first two U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) relocation projects on Naval Base Guam.

The USMC-funded Apra Harbor Wharf Improvement and the Government of Japan-funded USMC Welcome Center projects total more than \$80 million in construction.

Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment Roger Natsuhara will cut the ribbon at the event. Other prominent attendees include Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo; Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, Commander, Joint Region Marianas; Capt. Mike Ward, commanding officer of Naval Base Guam; Joe Ludovici, Joint Guam Program Office director; Bryan Wood, director of the USMC Headquarters Pacific Division, and distinguished guests from the Government of Japan.

Other USMC-funded projects already in progress on Guam include the construction of the North Ramp parking area and associated facilities at Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB) for military aircraft and improvements to Routes 1, 8 and 11. Other Government of Japan-funded projects include the construction of a new gate to AAFB and utilities and site work for the North Ramp. In the latest Defense Bill signed by the president, congress has authorized the construction of an USMC aircraft hangar at AAFB, expected to begin next fiscal year, as well as the design and planning for future relocation projects.

The Wharf Improvements and Welcome Center directly support the USMC relocation to Guam and provide immediate utility to forces currently stationed in Guam or transiting the region. "Projects such as these not only improve the facilities at the naval base but also provide many jobs for Guam citizens and infuse money into the local economy," said Ludovici, Joint Program Guam Program Office Director.

Several other DoD military construction projects are in progress on Guam to include the Naval Hospital, a state-of-the-art, world-class healthcare facility, with over \$150 million in construction, expected to be completed in the fall of this year and base housing improvements that will total more than \$20 million in construction.