

Ground is Broken, Full Speed Ahead on New CDC Facility

By

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The Rock Island Arsenal officially broke ground and took a step forward toward building a new facility for the post's Child Development Center on Oct. 16.

The ground breaking event, held on Island property west of the CDC Bldg. 16, drew a crowd who had the opportunity to learn about the plans for a building that's scheduled to be completed and used next year.

"We're breaking ground today on a facility that will greatly enhance the service we provide to families who live and work here on Rock Island," said Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager.

The new Child Development Center, slated to be completed in summer 2009, will have spaces for 144 children expanding the CDC's current capacity by 84.

"We're helping the parents of 84 children to know their children are safe and well-cared for when their parents are at work," said Himsl. "The CDC offers both full-day and part-time programs,

and those programs are certified by the Department of Defense and accredited by the National Association of Young Children. On the old 'MASH' TV show, the MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit was said to provide 'the best care, anywhere.' That is true here, when it comes to the way we provide care for children in our CDC."

The CDC program strives to offer quality services, which include a trained staff and a developmentally appropriate program to stimulate children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth.

The new facility, which will be an element used to enable the CDC to continue offering those services, is a \$5 million project funded under the Army Family Covenant.

"It shows again that the Army is backing up the words of that covenant with dollars and with action to improve the lives of our Soldiers and civilian employees and their families," said Himsl. "We want to thank the contractors, Atlantic Marine Construction and Murillo Modular Group LTD, who'll be working over the next several months to

build our new CDC."

The Army Family Covenant represents a \$1.4 billion commitment to improve the quality of life for Army Families. It formally recognizes the sacrifices made on the home front while the Army is at war and pledges to standardize funding for existing Family programs and services. The covenant also seeks to increase the accessibility and quality of health care, improve Soldier and Family housing, ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expand education and employment opportunities for Family members.

On the 'Net

Armed CDC: <http://riamwr.com/CYS/CDCmain.htm>

Army Child, Youth & School Services: www.armymwr.com/portal/family/childand youth



Participants at the ground breaking ceremony toss the first shovels full of dirt to mark the beginning of construction of the new Child Development Center. Pictured above: Kelli Overturf, Rock Island Arsenal Child, Youth & School Services; Maj. Joe Flood, Army Sustainment Command, with his son Sebastian; Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commander, Army Sustainment Command; Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager; Salvador Murillo, general manager, Murillo Modular Group LTD; Sgt. 1st Class DeShonda Davis-Locke, Army Sustainment Command, with her daughter Kyasue; 1st Lt. Tonda Thomas, Community Based Health Care Organization, with her daughter Tamber, and Debi Behl, Rock Island Arsenal Child, Youth & School Services. Left: Davis-Locke and Thomas give their daughters another shot at the dirt.

Photos by Ted Cavanaugh