

by Capt. Ryan Hignight, USACE Public Affairs Officer

Flying across the sands of the Middle East to protect our military members from enemies of the United States, or training in the heart of Colorado, Fort Carson's Blackhawk helicopter unit will soon have a new place to call home. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District is building a new hangar and administrative building for the unit as a small portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade expansion on Fort Carson's Butts Airfield.



The \$52.4 million building is approximately 117,000 square feet and will host between six and seven Blackhawk helicopters, depending on configuration. The administrative space includes offices, classrooms, and conference rooms giving pilots

and support staff a location to train and plan future missions. The administrative portion of the building will accommodate approximately 225 personnel after completion.

Additionally, the project contains a hard-field outside the hanger for 94,000 square foot aircraft apron, used for parking, as well as a taxiway. The parking area frees up space within the hanger for safety as well as allowing extra space for a sterile maintenance environment.

In addition to the Blackhawk hanger, the Omaha District has built, or is building, all the other required critical buildings for the 4<sup>th</sup> CAB to include: hangars, two air traffic control towers, a flight simulator, and the brigade and battalion headquarters buildings. The new buildings, runways, and hangars allow 4<sup>th</sup> CAB to operate and conduct realistic

training on Fort Carson safely while keeping a high operational tempo; allowing all aviation units to remain mission capable.

When all construction is complete the 4th CAB will “have everything they need to operate at Fort Carson,” said Jake Wiegmann, USACE Resident Engineer at the Fort Carson south resident office. “Our (Army Corps) construction projects will proceed without impacting their day-to-day missions.”

As soon as construction is complete, the unit will move in and begin training for a trip to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and then a future deployment. The project is scheduled to be completed by early next year.



A Blackhawk helicopter lands on Butts Airfield at Fort Carson, Colorado. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District has built, or is building various hangars, two air traffic control towers, a flight simulator, and the brigade and battalion headquarters buildings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, located on Butts Airfield. (Photo by Capt. Ryan Hignight, USACE Public Affairs Officer)



The Assault hangar is the newest upgrade to the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade and Butts Airfield. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District completes the hangar, an Apache unit will move in and begin training for future operations. (Photo by Capt. Ryan Hignight, USACE Public Affairs Officer)