

Ribbon cutting held for Cannon control tower

by Joan Mier

May 1 marked the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the new \$5.1 million air traffic control tower at Cannon Air Force Base. Construction began on the state-of-the-art tower in October 2001, according to Dan Lenz, project manager.

“The only thing we have left to do now is remove the existing tower,” Lenz said. The existing tower, which was built in 1958, was the oldest tower in Air Combat Command. It is part of the base operations building and only the tower itself will be demolished. After the tower is removed down to the 3rd floor, the contractor will simply put a roof cap on the remaining structure.



Photo by Sharon Dictson

Participating in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left, Chad Lydick, Randy Harris, Barret Stewart, Doc Stewart, then SPD Commander Brig. Gen. Larry Davis, Wing Commander Col. Robert Yates, Deputy Wing Commander Col. Bill Bitler, and Base Civil Engineer John Bower.

Baca School design incorporates Navajo culture

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move in,” says Jacque Mangham, Principal of the new school. “The increased space, new technologies, and cultural resource areas will greatly increase the learning environment for the Navajo students - a much needed improvement.”

If you are driving west on Interstate 40 near Prewitt, be sure to stop and see the new school. It has been confused as a new casino, but the only thing we are betting on here is a better and brighter future for the many students who will begin their educational journey here. □

“Air traffic control procedures are much more advanced now than when the old tower was built,” Lenz said. The new tower boasts numerous visual improvements. Horizontal visibility of the airfield is now 100 percent, whereas aircraft hangars blocked the old tower’s visibility to Runway 13. The vertical visibility is enhanced to 85 degrees by the shape of the cab.

The tower boasts a jewel-topped cab, which is where the controllers sit, Lenz said. “It looks like a diamond.” The entire facility offers quite a bit more room than the old tower. The old cab held six positions, but only four controllers could operate. The new cab can accommodate all six controllers.

“This tower has more floors and there is a lot more office space. There is a breakroom and space to conduct training,” Lenz said. “And, of course, the equipment is much more modern and state-of-the-art,” he added. □



Photo by Sharon Dictson

The control tower is 126 feet high and provides controllers the absolute latest in technology.



Photo by Robert Koteff

The sprawling 79,000 square-foot single story school building will house nearly 400 students.