

BEQ receives major improvements and more to come

Mass Communication Specialist Vivian Blakely

19 July 2011

IMPROVEMENTS

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – Single Sailors may notice changes that are going on around the barracks on Naval Air Facility Atsugi. Improvements have been in motion for months, but these aren't the first, nor will they be the last. Some pretty big plans are on the books for ``the entire bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ).

On NAF Atsugi, the newest building, 1289, was built in 1998. The oldest buildings, 981 and 982, were built in 1973.

“That’s the one that’s finally undergoing a full renovation,” said Bob Simonton, facilities maintenance manager for the bachelor enlisted quarters. “It’s had a lot of work done to it, but we’re actually tearing it down to concrete and starting over.”

The outdated floor plan used to house eight sailors to four rooms, one bathroom and one common area. The new plan, however,

will be similar to that of the building 1289 barracks, with just a little extra.

“What we’re really doing is just putting a wall in the middle of that common area,” said Simonton. “And instead of being just a lounge, it’s going to be a kitchenette plus your very own washer and drier.”

This floor plan is what is called the “One plus One E” program, mandated by the Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC). A similar plan can be seen in the 1289 barracks with out the kitchenette and washer/drier combination.

There are numerous plans for the near and distant future. Currently, there are improvements going for building 1289.

“There’s a basic shelf life for certain things in here like furniture, or carpeting,” said Michael Morris, building manager of 1289. “It’s supposed to be replaced after so many years.”

When it comes to that time, Morris brings it to the director of the BEQ. After putting in a request for new mattresses, an order was placed to replace all mattresses for all the barracks.

Mattresses aren’t the only thing that that have been replaced.

The flooring is changing from old carpet to fresh new tiles.

“Carpet starts looking bad really fast and once carpet gets damaged, you have to replace a whole roll which is expensive,” said Simonton. “Tile, even though it gets dirtier faster and looks dirtier faster, it’s easy to repair a single tile vice a whole roll of carpet.”

“For those who have said something [about the new tiles], it’s been positive feedback,” said Morris. “I haven’t heard anything negative. The only thing I’ve heard about the tile is that it’s louder.”

Future improvements include placing a kitchenette in what is now the conference room of building 1289 which will include four stoves and a cook top area.

“Due to the age of most of our buildings and the fire code, you can’t cook unless you have a fire suppression system,” said Simonton. “Building 1289 is the only building that has one.”

This kitchenette will have a trial period. “If nobody burns the building down, we’ll do the rest of the floors as well.” Simonton continued.

“As far as maintaining and improving the quality of life, I’m trying to do my part and ask that everyone do their part,” said Morris. “Maintain room cleanliness and taking care of the grounds. It’s not that hard.”

For more information, contact the Bachelor Housing Director at 264-3334.