

difficulty taxiing through this area, said Warner, because the hot Mediterranean sun would heat the asphalt so much that the planes could literally sink in. The smaller fighter jets could nimbly maneuver around, he said, but when larger aircraft, known as “heavies,” started using the area, taxiing and parking became a serious problem.

“Parking is at a premium here,” said Warner, with heavies such as C-17s, 747s, L-1011s, and refueling planes all vying for spots. Space is critical on this apron, Warner said, because here the aircraft can be both parked and maintained, which is important for quick turnaround.

A straightforward undertaking, the project includes digging out the asphalt and filling in the holes

with concrete. When finished, the zone is slated to shoulder up to six heavy aircraft. “This will definitely expand our ability to handle and park the heavies,” Warner said.

The “Apron A” project is critical to accomplishing the Air Force’s logistics mission, said the District’s deputy resident engineer at Incirlik, Army Capt. Tyler Faulk. “This project testifies to the significance the Air Force has put on logistics in recent years and is a telltale



Photo by John Rice

The U.S. Engineering Group (TUSEG) team discusses with a local contractor the various phases of the Eagle Housing project in an air-conditioned building by the Eagle Housing site.

sign of transformation.”

The District’s second project aiding the logistics mission is the construction of a new flight line pallet yard. While the project is under construction, a grassy field on the northern side of the installation has been

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the Air National Guard’s 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker International Airport, Ohio, touches down on the flightline at Incirlik Air Base. Flights like these providing air-refueling support for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have become more common since 2003.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Vince Parker



covered with hard matting for use as a temporary pallet storage site, Warner said.

In fact, since the logistics hub mission started, the Air Force had to use whatever space was available for storage, "including using some of our hangars ... out in front of the hangars, everywhere they could find to offload pallets," said Warner.

This ad hoc method allowed only for the stacking of about 300 pallets.

Once the new pallet storage yard is complete, it will not only create one consolidated cargo yard for the storage of 500 pallets, but will also reposition the fence line enough to seat U.S. forces, who will conduct the pallet transfer mission.

Extra storage is a necessity for the Air Force because of the complicated logistics involved in transportation, said Warner, as many flights arrive bearing supplies for multiple locations. These supplies would then have to be separated, stored, and marshaled until a flight to the correct location is ready to leave.

"Because tail-to-tail swaps are pretty uncommon, considerable storage area for these hundreds of pallets is a necessity," said Faulk. "This new yard will work much better for them because it's closer to the flightline and allows for

better organization and storage."

Although these changes are making life easier for the logistics staff, the District is also helping give the Airmen on the installation a better quality of life by

replacing the homes located in the current Eagle Housing area.

"Incirlik is in a unique position in that force protection considerations dictate that all of our folks live on base," said Warner. "But the housing on this installation is old. It's been old."

The \$15 million Eagle Housing project will see the demolition of 150 smaller, substandard homes and the construction of 100 four-bedroom homes.

"The need is not for more houses, but for bigger and more modern houses, to suit the current and future needs of the forces located here," Faulk said.

In addition to new houses, the



Photo by John Rice

Okan Nalbant, Incirlik office engineer, looks over the ongoing demolition at the Eagle Housing site before a project review meeting.

project, dubbed a whole neighborhood revitalization project, will also redesign and rebuild the roads, sidewalks, playgrounds, and other recreation areas.

The last phase of the project is currently scheduled to be finished by mid-2008.

"Incirlik is definitely seeing the effects of the transformation," said Faulk. "The projects that we're doing here not only improve the Air Force's operational and logistical posture, but they also increase the quality of life for the service members and their families – and we're more than happy to provide that support."



Photo by John Rice

Capt. Tyler Faulk, Incirlik deputy resident engineer, briefs Col. Jeffrey Hansen, commander of the 39th Mission Support Group at Incirlik Air Base, on the status of the \$15 million Eagle Housing project.