



## Government Facilities

### Client

United States Air Force

### Location

Beale Air Force Base, CA, USA

## COM/OPS Center Design and Construction

Beale AFB needed to integrate their existing Network Communications Center (NCC), built in the early 1960's, into a consolidated communications facility. Exterior materials and architectural motif had to blend with neighboring facilities to form a campus compound.

### Project Description

CH2M HILL recently completed the design of the Communications Operations Center for the U.S. Air Force at Beale Air Force Base in California. Due to heightened Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures, the project integrated the existing NCC into the new facility without causing any disruption to its operations. The design team developed a plan that retained all of the existing structure and shell while integrating it into the final design scheme. This project won the Air Combat Command Citation Award in the concept design category.

The Communications Operation Center will consolidate 9th Communications Squadron functions to include the existing NCC building, support space, administration space, a break room, training areas, storage/supply areas, workshop, operations area, and mechanical/ electrical/ communications rooms.

The Com/Ops Center will also represent the first phase of a multi phase development of "B" Street into an urban boulevard from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Careful consideration was made to ensure the plan would create a pedestrian friendly environment and would be responsive to future development along the boulevard.

The Com/Ops Center entrance features a major landscape/hardscape statement using triangular walkways flanked by flowering trees leading to an offset plaza, resulting in subtly integrated AT/FP measures. Facility and parking siting are in strict compliance with AT/FP measures.

By integrating the NCC into the new facility, personnel would be able to learn about antenna repair and maintenance in a state of the art teaching environment. To accomplish this, the design team opted to leave the existing roof on the NCC and design a new structure around it. Features of the resulting design included:

- Spaces arranged so that visitors are met at the customer service window adjacent to the lobby.
- Loading dock and maintenance functions located at the rear of the facility, not visible from B Street.
- Force protection criteria were met by moving parking 25 meters away from the facility and by laminating the inside of all glass windows.

CH2M HILL developed the master plan for the Beale Visitors Quarters/Dormitory Area, which incorporates goals for the dormitory master plan, including accessibility to the "fabric" of the main base and is easily accessible from adjacent activities. It also included the design of a residential campus that reflects the pride of the Beale AFB community, and minimizes pedestrian vehicular conflicts.