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Officials hold ceremonial groundbreaking for Cape Army Reserve Center

Written by Rod Clarke, special to news-press.com



Wielding shovels at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Army Reserve Center in Cape Coral Saturday are (l to r) Tricia Molzow from U.S. Rep Connie Mack's (R-Fla.) office, state Rep. Gary Aubuchon, Cape Coral Mayor John Sullivan and U.S. Army Col. Patrick Briley

A ceremonial groundbreaking Saturday moved a new \$13.5 million, 46,600 square foot Army Reserve Center in Cape Coral off the drawing board and one step closer to reality, as local officials welcomed the facility and the Army pledged to be a “good neighbor and citizen” of Cape Coral.

Col. Patrick Briley, public works director for the 81st Regional Support Command, said the center, located next to the new Veterans Affairs clinic on Diplomat Parkway and Corbett Road, will have more than 300 reservists assigned to it and will have a staff of 10 full-time Army and civilian employees.

Briley said the new facility will help prepare the units assigned there, the 365th Engineer and 451st Quartermaster Companies, in the event they are called to active duty.

“Today is a great day to be a soldier in the United States Army,” Briley said. “They’ll be ready when the call comes – and we know it will come – to deploy and defend our country.”

“Not since the Revolutionary War have our citizen-soldiers played such a critical role in defending our nation,” Cape Coral Mayor John Sullivan told the gathering.