

## **NORTHROP GRUMMAN'S NEW SITE TO HELP UPDATE AGING WEAPONS**

Oklahoma City – Richard Mize  
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Northrop Grumman Corp.'s consolidation into a new building this fall will help the defense contractor deal with an aging weapons fleet, including B-2 bombers at Tinker Air Force Base, company officials said Thursday.

The company will continue its B-2 Bomber Weapon Systems Support Center on base, but will move about 250 employees from several other locations into the 49,000 square-foot building in Liberty Business Park, a development by Gardner Property Interests and Premier Assets.

"The Air Force and other armed services are extending the life of their existing weapons systems well beyond what was originally anticipated when the systems were first fielded," Mark Bojarski, site manager for the company's defense enterprise solutions business unit said Thursday at a ceremonial groundbreaking.

"Service life extensions, system upgrades, technology insertion and other sustainment engineering initiatives are being used to cope with this challenge."

R. Stewart Scannell, site manager for the company's air combat systems unit on base, said the building, just outside Tinker's south gate near SE 59<sup>th</sup> and Air Depot Boulevard, "will afford us the opportunity to collaborate, share best practices and give our customers the total benefit of this diverse corporation."

Tinker isn't Northrop Grumman's only customer. The company also does work for the Federal Aviation administration Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center and state and local governments.

Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, one of several state and local dignitaries at the groundbreaking, said the building, one of two under construction, is the beginning of a great future for Liberty Business Park.

She said the site is close to two of Oklahoma City's biggest employers, Tinker and General Motors Corp.

Location however wasn't the only draw for Northrop Grumman to keep its anticipated growth here. An educated work force, Fallin said, is an attraction – an idea echoed by Scannell.

More than half of Northrop Grumman's Oklahoma City employees are graduates of Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, Southern Nazarene University or other state colleges, he said.

"we're here not just because our customer is here," he said referring to the military. "Our customer has a presence in any number of locations. We're here because of the culture of support that the greater Oklahoma City community has fostered here.

"Through difficult times, I've watched the community respond to the needs of the base and for the base to respond in kind. This creates the opportunity for success."

The building will house about one-half of Northrop Grumman's local work force of about 500, with the remainder staying on base or in other government facilities

officials said. The building will have three engineering research labs, five conference rooms and a large safe room the company ordered immediately after tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City area May 8 and 9.

Employees in the building will come from five Northrop Grumman sectors: information technology, integrated systems , space technology, electronic systems and mission systems.

The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker “has proven vital to supporting the nation’s weapon systems and addressing innovative and effective ways to extend system service life,” Bojarski said.

“Northrop Grumman is one of a select few companies able to provide the kinds of engineering skills and technological expertise needed to keep aging weapon systems operating within performance specifications. This new facility will enable us to expend our ability to help the Air Force meet this critical need.