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February 23, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Economic Development Committee Approves Raytheon NAPI Expansion

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In a historic and profitable move, the Navajo Nation's Economic Development Committee approved a Raytheon NAPI Expansion project Friday morning.

"It's an investment," said Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Upper Fruitland) who sponsored the legislation for the project expansion. "It's an opportunity for the Navajo Nation to capitalize on in terms of recognition, development, employment, and utilizing the Navajo Nation Arbitration Act to promote business on Navajo."

The Navajo Nation Arbitration Act is a new mechanism passed by the Navajo Nation Council in which a panel handles disputes between businesses on the reservation and the Navajo Nation. Bates added that the Raytheon-NAPI expansion will create 80 to 100 new jobs, and includes approximately 40 construction jobs.

"This lease is a historic action under the new business site lease regulations," said Sharlene Begay-Platero, project manager. "We as a Nation took over the management of business site leasing from the Bureau of Indian Affairs beginning on Oct. 1, 2006."

One committee member and Council Delegate, Tom Lapahe, (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) spoke enthusiastically for the expansion. "Let's do it!" Lapahe said in Navajo and English. "Ao!" ("Yes" in Navajo)

Lawrence Platero (Tohajiilee), Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee and Council Delegate expressed his gratitude for the Raytheon-NAPI facility which has been on the Navajo Nation for more than 18 years.

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Page 2-2-2/Raytheon-NAP/Begay

“We are very grateful to the Raytheon Group,” said Lawrence Platero “This is an opportunity for our people to be educated and train to learn new skills.”

The project investment for this expansion is two fold. The New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund with the support of Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico contributed \$2 million. The Navajo Nation invested \$2.3 million into the project. “We worked diligently to seek resources for this project and we were able to secure financing to assist Raytheon’s expansion efforts,” said Begay-Platero.

The percentage of Raytheon NAPI Navajo employees is 91 percent.

The Raytheon Missile System-NAPI facility opened July 1989 as General Dynamics and now is owned by the Raytheon Company since 1997.

The Raytheon Company is a Fortune 100 company with 80,000 employees worldwide. It is the fourth largest United States defense contractor with its headquarters in Waltham, Massachusetts. The Raytheon Missile Systems Company has 12,000 employees worldwide and is a world leader in missile defense technology.