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President Shelly praises \$4.4 million Raytheon Dine' Facility expansion



President Shelly and officials from Raytheon Missile Systems and the state of New Mexico broke ground for a new 30,000 square foot warehouse facility at the Raytheon Dine' Facility on Oct. 7. The \$4.4 million project preserves 44 jobs at the facility. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

FARMINGTON, N.M.— Navajos make the best tomahawks. Tomahawk Missiles, that is.

On Oct. 7, the Navajo Nation and Raytheon Missile Systems celebrated the 30,000 square foot high bay warehouse expansion of the Raytheon Dine' Facility, located on the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry industrial park on the outskirts of Farmington.

Hundreds of employees, company leaders, tribal, state and local officials gathered for the celebration, which also

marked the 25th anniversary of the facility.

Raytheon plans on utilizing the facility for the storage and transition of products.

For more than 25 years, Raytheon has operated the Dine' Facility and worked with the Navajo Nation and state of New Mexico producing weapons. In addition to the Tomahawks, the facility also produces Stingers, TOW, Javelin, RAM, Excalibur and other missiles.

The workforce is more than 90 percent Navajo and is involved in such manufacturing techniques

as electro-mechanical integration, mechanical assembly, harness manufacturing, and launcher assembly.

President Ben Shelly addressed the audience on behalf of the Navajo Nation and said the relationship with Raytheon was about partnership and economic development.

"Not only do we make the best Tomahawks in the world, but we are also working together to advance lives of Navajo people through employment and economic development," President Shelly said.

He noted that of the 330 people that work at the Raytheon Dine' Facility, the bulk of the workforce is Navajo and that they are skilled workers proving the ingenuity and capability of Navajo workers.

The president said that if Raytheon Missile Systems needed further expansion, the Navajo Nation could also host facilities in the Arizona and Utah portions of the Nation.

"Navajos are good with their hands, we've proven that again and again," President Shelly said. "If you need to expand to other

states, maybe it's time we look into that."

His suggestion drew applause from the audience of workers.

Praising the cooperative efforts of Raytheon, NAPI, state of New Mexico, San Juan County and the Navajo Nation, President Shelly reiterated the strength and symbiotic nature of partnership.

"The Navajo Nation did not hesitate to assist when talks began for the expansion of their warehouse here. Our relationship with Raytheon is about partnership," he said.

Dr. Taylor Lawrence, President of Raytheon Missile Systems, echoed the president's sentiments and praised the high caliber workforce of the Raytheon Dine' Facility.

"I would like to thank the people, the employees of Dine', for 25 years of hard work," Lawrence said.

He likened the new warehouse expansion as the first stepping-stones toward jobs and opportunities for the future.

"Back in 1989, the main facility started as a Stinger program," Lawrence said. "Since then, the program has grown to become a large volume, multi program production facility with many awards earned for excellence in operations, quality and safety.

"You are certainly role models for the company," he added.

Lawrence said the Dine' Facility as earned a stellar reputation for high quality work and tremendous leadership for the 10 missile programs at the site.

Representatives for the state officials shared comments about the expansion before the commemorative groundbreaking ceremony took place at the location of the new warehouse. The celebration concluded with a lunch of mutton stew, fry bread and Navajo tacos.

The Navajo Nation invested \$3.3 million from the Business and Industrial Development Fund for the project.



President Shelly encouraged Raytheon Missile Systems to consider expansion in other areas of the Navajo Nation, perhaps in Arizona and Utah. The Raytheon Dine' Facility in Farmington has been in operation for more than 25 years and employs 330 workers, 90 percent of which are Navajo. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Raytheon Missile Systems President Dr. Taylor Lawrence had only praise for the Navajo workforce at the Raytheon Dine' Facility. He said they were a role model for the rest of the company and that they have earned a stellar reputation for their stellar work and commitment to safety. (Photo by Rick Abasta)