

# Constructing facilities, relationships in Kenya

By Andrew Stamer

A new facility to conduct computerized tomography (CT) scans at the Kenyan Armed Forces Memorial Hospital was dedicated by the U.S. ambassador to Kenya on March 28.

The project is significant because it "will house the only military CT scanner in Nairobi and will be used for the benefit of both military and civilians throughout Kenya," said William M. Bellamy, the U.S. Ambassador who presided over the ceremony for the \$800,000 clinic.

Completion of this project involved the talents of several U.S. government agencies, working with the Kenya Department of Defense, said Douglas Hopper, a project manager for Engineering and Construction Management Division.

The Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC) was responsible for providing engineering, contracting and construction management assistance in support of a foreign military sales case for the U.S. Army

Security Assistance Command (USASAC), said Hopper. Because this was a design-build contract, the U.S. contractor, Salient Associates, designed the building and TAC was responsible for reviews of the design submittals.

A support agreement with the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa was used to provide construction oversight. Through this agreement, the task force assigned a military engineer from its engineering section to Kenya and conducted oversight throughout the construction phase of the project, said Hopper.

The U.S. Army Health Facility Planning Agency (USAHFPA) played an integral part in the planning, technical assistance and source selection for this project.

USAHFPA participated in a site survey of the project site, recommended design specifications for the request for proposal, provided technical information on the CT



*Photo by Doug Hopper*

This computerized tomography (CT) scan facility at the Kenyan Armed Forces Memorial Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, was

dedicated on March 28. The facility will be used to benefit both military and civilian people throughout Kenya.

equipment specifications, participated as a member of the source selection board, and reviewed design submittals for the clinic, said Hopper.

This project included the procurement of new CT scan equipment and construction of a new clinic building for accommodating and operating the equipment, Hopper said. USASAC provided training on the new CT scan equipment.

"The new CT equipment has the capability of reconstructing images in different sizes and shapes, assisting doctors in diagnosing patient's ailments," Hopper said.

"What is unique about this project is not only did we build the clinic from the ground up, but we provided the Siemens CT scanner, all of the furniture, and even provided computer equipment to help manage the patient load," said Bellamy.

"The United States and Kenya have shared years of positive military-to-military relationships. We have continued multiple training opportunities both within Kenya and in the U.S. for Kenya military personnel. We have continued military exercises with the Kenya military on both the land and sea," said Bellamy. "And we have continued to strengthen our ties with this \$800,000 computed tomography clinic."

A site visit during the project initiation phase indicated that the military hospital was referring more than 20 studies per week to other areas with CT scan capabilities within Nairobi, said Hopper.



*Photo courtesy of Doug Hopper*

Team members from the United States and Kenya stand in front of the newly dedicated computed tomography clinic. Jim Madden (third from left) and Doug Hopper (third from right) from TAC were present for the dedication.



*Photo by Doug Hopper*

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, William M. Bellamy, signs the guest book before presiding over the dedication of the new computerized tomography facility.

"Due to the costs, these referrals were limited to only the most critical cases," he said.

With the new CT clinic complete, radiologists have predicted the number of CT studies to rise considerably, with the average daily census to increase to an estimated 80 to 95 patients.

The 300 square-meter clinic was designed to accommodate much of what would be found in a normal facility of this type. Required areas include a waiting room, offices, reception and records room, CT preparation and process rooms, CT scanner room and other essential spaces. The building was also designed and constructed to allow future expansion to accommodate an addition, Hopper said. This addition, meant to house a radiology department, is currently being done.

It took 12 months to complete design and construction of the clinic.

A CT scan, formerly known as computed axial tomography (CAT) scan, is a technique that takes three-dimensional images and produces two-dimensional pictures of the internal organs to help doctors diagnose any number of diseases.

A CT scan can be used to diagnose muscle and bone disorders, such as bone tumors and fractures; pinpoint the location of a tumor, infection or blood clot; guide procedures such as surgery, biopsy and radiation; detect and monitor diseases such as cancer or heart disease; and detect internal injuries and internal bleeding, according to the Mayo Clinic Web site.

Unlike other imaging systems, CT scans can be done even if a patient has a pacemaker or an internal cardioverter defibrillator, which are devices implanted in the chest to help regulate heartbeat, according to the Web site.