

Ground Broken for New LAFD Air Facility as Van Nuys Airport Salutes Air Support, Rescue

by Liz Montes, Club Counselor

Van Nuys Airport hosted a free community open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26. Public service and vintage aircraft were on display, airfield bus tours were given and Mayor Jim Hahn was there to present the new \$33 million, 15-acre Van Nuys Air Operations and Maintenance Facility.

The event's theme, "A Salute to Air Support and Rescue," will honor the LAFD's helicopter pilots, including those who battled last year's

California wildfires. Mayor Jim Hahn, Councilmember Tony Cardenas and LAFD Chief William Bamattre attended and gave brief speeches during the opening ceremony. They also broke ground for the development of the new \$33 million, 15-acre Van Nuys Air Operations and Maintenance Facility at the airport.

Many vintage aircraft were on exhibit, including the B-17 Aluminum Overcast, a vintage bomber that flew hundreds of WWII missions.



Mayor Hahn and others prepare to break the dirt for the new LAFD Air Operations Facility



Helicopter on exhibit



Sergio Guzman, Los Angeles Fire Department, 5 years.



Alfonso Lagos, Airport Police K9 Unit, 5 years, with Tosca, Alfonso's partner.



From left: William Cordero, Airport Police, 7 years; and son Liam.



From left: Tom King, Airport Police, 7 months; and Julio Perez, Airport Police, 7 months.



From left: Modesto Neberez, Maintenance Department, 23 years; Russell Tinoyan, Maintenance Department, 1 year.



A vintage airplane on exhibit.



The opening ceremony.



Jesus Rodriguez, LAFD, 5 months.



From left: Gary Ohare, Maintenance Department, 23 years; and Bill Stock, Maintenance Department, 5 years.



From left: Norm Ino, Airport Police, 2 years; Shawn Smith, Airport Police, 3 years; Iris Godov, Airport Police, 3 years; and Winston Griffin, Airport Police, 1 year.



Speeches during the opening ceremonies.



Airplanes on exhibit.



Mayor Hahn listens to speeches



Airport Police answering visitors' questions.



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