



### **Blount Island Opens New Paint and Blast Facility**

A new 46,300 square-foot paint and blast facility designed to process all retrograde vehicles from conflict areas was handed over to the Marine Corps on April 3 at the Blount Island Command Support Facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The \$18.5 million project was designed and built by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast.

“This new facility is state-of-the-art. It will alleviate the last and final choke point on Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island in support of the Maritime Prepositioning Force maintenance cycle,” said Colonel Matthew Crabill, Commanding Officer, Blount Island Command. “It will allow us to adequately and efficiently process the large pieces of equipment (such as tanks and MRAPs) that must be processed through three stages – paint, blast, cure – prior to their redeployment, ultimately allowing us to perform more functions in-house instead of offsite.”

The blast, paint and cure booths are each 100 feet long by 45 feet wide by 35 feet high. Each booth is further compartmentalized by an internal door in the center. The booths are capable of being further subdivided to process smaller vehicles and equipment with internal doors similar to the booth closure doors. An overhead monorail with two cranes can be used for moving pieces of immobile equipment through the booths. Additionally, the facility features:

- 2,500 square feet of conditioned office space
- 3,400 square feet of electrical and mechanical area
- 1,600 square foot preparation area
- 2,500 square feet of open mechanical storage area

The building uses innovative designs that feature an environmentally-friendly closed loop system where air is continuously recirculated within the cure booth so no make-up air/exhaust is required and ductless splits that provide climate control in four areas of the building. With these and other LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) features a LEED Silver Certification will be sought for the facility.



*Caption: Rendering of the new Paint and Blast Facility at Blount Island, Jacksonville, Fla.*