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Two State Department of Public Works Projects Celebrated

The State Department of Public Works joined top Rowland Administration officials to celebrate the completion of one key project and the start of another during April 2002.

On April 11, 2002 Governor John G. Rowland cut the ribbon at a dedication ceremony for a new dormitory at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) in West Hartford. And on April 16, 2002 Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell participated in a groundbreaking for a new administration building/recruiting center for the First Company Governor's Horse Guard in Avon.

American School for the Deaf

The ASD ribbon-cutting was held to dedicate the \$1.5 million Butterworth Residence Hall additions (6,000 square feet) and renovations (5,000 square feet). The project consisted of converting an infirmary and classroom building into a residence hall. The dormitory contains 20 rooms with male and female wings and common spaces.

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The contractor was Conn-Strux of Farmington, Connecticut, and the architect was Kaestle Boos of New Britain.

The ASD event also marked the school's 185th anniversary. Governor Rowland recognized ASD's place in history as the first school for the learning disabled in the United States, and he called the project a key step in to ensuring the facilities will last another 185 years. DPW Commissioner T.R. Anson noted that DPW is currently planning a \$20 million campus-wide renovation program for the school.

First Company Governor's Horse Guard

The groundbreaking ceremony at the First Company Governor's Horse Guard facilities in Avon was also imbued with historical significance. The unit -- founded in 1778 and chartered in 1788 -- will mark its 225 anniversary next year.

The \$874,000 project is designed to replace an aging administrative/training building and will also serve as a recruiting center as well. The 7,000 square foot colonial style building will include a 2,300 square foot drill shed, a locker room, food preparation and serving area, and storage space.

Sixty men and women volunteers -- and 39 horses -- serve in the unit. They train regularly for military preparedness, search and rescue missions, crowd control, and participate in parades, ceremonial events, and community service programs.

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At the groundbreaking Lt. Gov. Rell and Lt. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, State of Connecticut, praised DPW's support in modernizing the state militia. DPW Commissioner T.R. Anson stressed the value of having first-rate training facilities, especially in light of today's security concerns.

The project was designed by the architectural firm Bianco Giolitto Weston of Middletown. The contractor is Cutter Enterprises of Tolland. Completion is scheduled for the fall of this year.

The state Department of Public Works is responsible for the design and construction of major capital building projects (except highways and bridges) for most state agencies, leasing and acquisitions statewide, and facility management, maintenance and security of state buildings in the greater Hartford area.

