



QUALITY • SAFETY • TEAMWORK • INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT
STRONGHOLD ENGINEERING, INC
2026 FIRST & SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER



DURATION
November 2024 -
December 2027

TYPE
Electrical
Infrastructure
Upgrade

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM Oahu, HI

Stronghold Engineering is proud to be part of a major electrical infrastructure modernization project at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Scheduled from November 2024 through December 2027, this large-scale project will replace and upgrade critical electrical systems that support one of the nation's most important military installations.

The work includes installing more than 11,000 linear feet of new underground electrical duct banks and 22 underground manholes to support new medium-voltage electrical circuits. The project also involves reconnecting 22 electrical substations, with five receiving complete electrical rehabilitations that include new transformers, switchgear, distribution equipment, and modern monitoring systems designed to improve reliability and long-term performance.

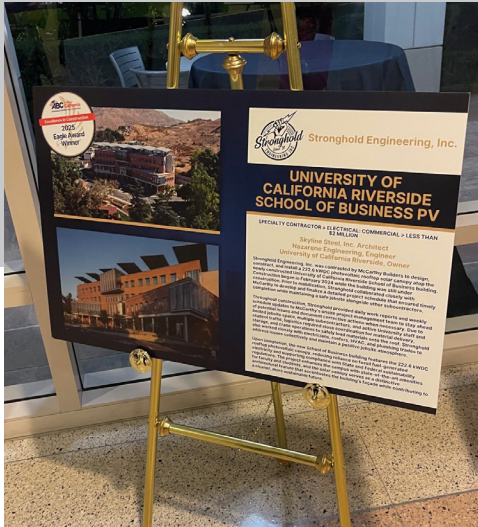
Working on an active military installation presents unique challenges. Construction activities must be carefully coordinated around daily military operations to ensure there is no disruption to critical missions. Crews are also navigating decades of existing underground utilities while safely excavating through volcanic tuff, petroleum-contaminated soils, and groundwater that require specialized environmental handling and disposal procedures.

One of the project's most complex components is the rehabilitation of the K-7 Substation, located on a pier overlooking Pearl Harbor. To complete the work, Stronghold constructed a large structural steel platform to support new electrical equipment and installed conduit systems beneath the pier using floating work platforms. These specialized construction methods, combined with careful planning and close coordination, demonstrate Stronghold's ability to successfully deliver complex infrastructure projects in highly sensitive environments.



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ABC AWARD-WINNING UCR SOLAR PROJECT



Stronghold Engineering was honored at the 2025 Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Excellence in Construction Awards, held at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, where the company received the prestigious Eagle Award for its work on the University of California, Riverside School of Business Photovoltaic (PV) Project. The annual event recognizes the region's most outstanding construction projects, celebrating excellence in quality, innovation, safety, craftsmanship, and overall project execution. The evening brought together contractors, project owners, architects, engineers, and industry leaders to recognize projects that represent the highest standards in commercial construction and showcase the collaborative efforts behind each successful build.

The award-winning project involved the design and installation of a 222.6 kWDC rooftop photovoltaic solar canopy atop UC Riverside's newly constructed School of Business. Working alongside McCarthy Builders, Skyline Steel, Nazarene Engineering, and the University of California, Riverside, Stronghold successfully integrated renewable energy infrastructure into the state-of-the-art facility while maintaining close coordination with multiple trades throughout construction. The completed system supports the university's long-term sustainability goals by generating clean energy, reducing reliance on traditional power sources, and enhancing one of UC Riverside's newest academic buildings with a distinctive architectural feature.

Throughout the project, Stronghold's team demonstrated the planning, communication, and technical expertise required to safely execute work on an active university campus. Daily coordination meetings, detailed scheduling, and ongoing collaboration with university staff and fellow contractors ensured the project remained on schedule while maintaining a safe and efficient jobsite. From preconstruction planning through final installation, the team's commitment to quality craftsmanship and attention to detail played a key role in the project's success.

Receiving an ABC Eagle Award is one of the construction industry's highest honors, recognizing projects that exemplify excellence from concept through completion. This achievement reflects Stronghold's continued commitment to innovation, teamwork, and delivering exceptional results for its clients. More importantly, it recognizes the dedication of the field crews, project managers, engineers, and support staff whose hard work and professionalism continue to set Stronghold Engineering apart as a leader in Southern California's construction industry.



SUBCONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT: ROCK SUPREMACY

Rock Supremacy has been a key partner on our Grand Canyon Pipeline Project, providing specialized rope access and rock stabilization services in some of the project's most challenging terrain. Their team repaired a 50-foot section of the River Trail that collapsed during trench excavation and has continued supporting our crews in difficult-to-access work areas. They have also helped develop work plans, solve complex access challenges, and provide expertise for specialized materials. Pictured here, Rock Supremacy is drilling rock stabilization anchors into the canyon wall below the damaged River Trail to help stabilize the slope and support ongoing construction.



PHOTO OF THE QUARTER

GRAND CANYON

Photo Credit: Shane Papp

Our Marketing Team is always on the lookout for photos showcasing our work in the field, with the best submission earning a \$50 gift card. This issue features the Grand Canyon Pipeline Team and the final fitting that connected the pipeline from the Havasupai Gardens Pumphouse to the Phantom Ranch Water Treatment Plant—a significant milestone in this remarkable project.

Welcome
TO THE TEAM!

BRETT GATES
PROJECT ENGINEER

ALAIN DAPPEN
SUPERINTENDENT

ARIEL GERONA
ESTIMATOR

JEFF ANDERSON
ESTIMATOR

BLAZE PORTALES
SITE SAFETY & HEALTH OFFICER

RYAN CALDERON
IT HELP DESK

DAISY SARMIENTO
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICK MCGOWAN
SUPERINTENDENT

ALYSSA DIGANGI
CONTENT CURATOR

PATRICK PAPP
LABORER HELPER

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM SEI'S IT SERVICES TEAM

Use service@vc3.com for any help with IT needs and concerns.
Always cc ITHelp@teamsei.com so our in-house IT team remains in the loop.
Remain on the lookout for Phishing emails, as they have been increasing in frequency and volume.
Be sure to report all Phishing emails to service@vc3.com.

IN THE LOOP

SPRING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Employees kicked off Easter weekend with a Spring Pancake Breakfast at the Corporate Office. The team gathered over a delicious breakfast before heading home early to enjoy the holiday with family and friends. It was a great opportunity to connect, share a meal together, and celebrate the start of the spring season.

FARM HOUSE FAMILY NIGHT: 80'S EDITION

The Farm House Collective hosted another memorable Stronghold Family Night with an 80's theme, complete with a special screening of Pretty in Pink in celebration of the film's 40th anniversary. Employees and their families enjoyed an evening filled with music from DJ Bibby Smalls, nostalgic fun, and plenty of retro fashion as everyone embraced the spirit of the decade.

STRONGHOLD MOTORSPORTS

Stronghold Motorsports hit the desert this spring as the team competed in the legendary 2026 NORRA 1000 Baja race. Employees were invited to follow the six-day adventure through live in-truck streaming and daily race updates as the team tackled one of off-road racing's most iconic events.

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

A favorite from last year

Although this photo arrived after our last newsletter had already gone to print, it was simply too good not to share! This candid moment from our SEI Ladies Christmas Craft Night at the Farm House Collective perfectly captures the friendships, laughter, and sense of community that make Stronghold such a special place to work.



STRONGHOLD'S SAFETY CORNER



SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER AWARD

As part of our commitment to safety, each quarter we honor employees who exceed our safety standards and embody "Safety" as a Core Value. Those who submit winning nominations also receive a \$100 gift certificate! **THE FOLLOWING SEI TEAM MEMBERS NEVER GIVE SAFETY A DAY OFF!**



Gerardo Guzman - Electrical Apprentice
Nominated by Scott King

"Gerardo is a reliable and safety focused employee. He uses tools and equipment properly and completes his work while consistently wearing the required PPE."



Ramiro (Yogi) Lopez - Carpenter Foreman
Nominated by Xavier Nevarez

"I nominate Yogi Lopez for a Safety Award in recognition of his outstanding commitment to jobsite safety and leadership. Over the past year Yogi has consistently demonstrated exceptional safety awareness and accountability on every project he has worked on. He strictly follows all OSHA and company safety protocols, properly uses PPE and actively encourages others to do the same. His attention to detail, a proactive mindset has directly contributed to maintaining a safe and productive work environment. In addition to following safety procedures, Yogi regularly speaks up when he identifies potential hazards and takes initiative to correct unsafe conditions before incidents occur. He has assisted in training newer employees, setting a strong example of safe work practices, and reinforcing a culture where safety is treated as a top priority rather than an afterthought. Because of his professionalism, reliability, and dedication to protecting both himself and his coworkers Yogi Lopez is highly respected on the job site. I believe his actions embody the values this Safety Award is intended to recognize."



Eric Gonzalez - Laborer
Nominated by Mike Ramirez

"The reason I nominate Eric is because he has exhibited exceptional growth from his start date till now. He was put in the role of aviation at CSF and then at the bottom of the canyon at phantom ranch. His role is almost completely dependent on safety. He's in charge of rigging materials and sending up loads as well as receiving the loads at the bottom. He communicates with flight ops above and is constantly sending pictures of his loads making sure everything he does is acceptable and safe. I have also seen him multiple times calling out subcontractors on PPE and fall protection."



Matt Hudson - JM Electrician
Nominated by Ray Goodson

"I'm really impressed by how thoroughly he planned for the work on Silver Bridge, Grand Canyon. He gathered and ordered what safety gear that was needed for the installation of pipe under bridge above the raging Colorado River. Watching the install no employee was ever untethered or in danger. The process went very smoothly and safely. Very impressive."



1ST & 2ND QUARTER TEAM PARTIES

SEI continued its tradition of celebrating employees with two exciting quarterly birthday gatherings during the first half of the year. The first quarter celebration featured the popular Papas El Guero food truck, serving up loaded baked potatoes for lunch while employees enjoyed raffles, company announcements, and time together celebrating their teammates. The second quarter combined birthday festivities with a Father's Day BBQ, where Smokey Steve's Smokehouse catered a delicious lunch for the team. Raffles and company updates added to the celebration, making both events a great opportunity to recognize employees, strengthen team connections, and show appreciation for the people who make Stronghold such a great place to work.



SUPER BOWL TAILGATE POTLUCK PARTY RECAP

Stronghold kicked off Super Bowl weekend with another exciting Tailgate Party at the Corporate Office, bringing employees together for an afternoon of football, food, and friendly competition. Team members sported their favorite jerseys while enjoying a classic game-day menu featuring grilled brats, wings, snacks, and ice-cold beverages. Big screen highlights kept everyone in the football spirit as coworkers gathered to celebrate before the big game.

The excitement continued with two Football Squares boards that kept participants cheering throughout every quarter. Congratulations to Board 1 winners Beverly Bailey, Nicholas Ciccarelli, Linae DiGangi, and Dan Rasmussen, and Board 2 winners Denny McGahey, Danielle LaRock, Scott Gates, and Alex Avila, who claimed the grand prize in the final quarter.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this year's Super Bowl Tailgate Party another winning Stronghold tradition!



TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT CHALLENGE

This spring, Stronghold employees accepted the challenge with the "Take It to the Limit" Weight Loss Challenge, running from March 20 through June 5. Participants competed to achieve the greatest percentage of weight loss while working toward their own personal fitness goals. A \$20 entry fee helped build the prize pool, which was matched by Stronghold to double the jackpot. In addition to cash prizes, employees who met their personal goals earned custom SEI "Take It to the Limit" swag, while the top three winners also received custom SEI Playmate Igloo coolers.

- 1st place, \$220: MICHELLE HERRERA**
- 2nd place, \$155: MARIA SANCHEZ**
- 3rd place, \$125: VICKY CUROW**