



PROJECT PROFILE

Project Name/Location:	Sikorsky Development Flight Center West Palm Beach, FL
Client:	Sikorsky Global Helicopters
Date of Install:	2009
Nature of Business:	To simulate landings on a pitching air craft carrier deck
Grasscrete System:	Single Use Molded Pulp Former
Approx. Square Feet:	8775 sq. ft.
Licensed Contractor:	Connery Concrete 946A Beachland Boulevard Vero Beach, FL 32963 TEL: 772-231-1224 (Vero Beach) TEL: 772-288-1072 (Stuart) FAX: 772-231-5582 Email: conneryc@bellsouth.net

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS/INFORMATION

Description:

The Sikorsky Development Flight Center installed a Concealed Grasscrete slope landing pad in West Palm Beach, Florida for trainings and is still using today. Bomanite Contractor, Connery Concrete worked with Sikorsky Global Helicopters in constructing and installing different sloped Grasscrete slabs to simulate landings on a pitching aircraft carrier deck using the patented Molded Pulp Formers.

According to the Sikorsky Commercial Newsletter “The new pad was officially opened in early January 2010. In addition to providing a world-class landing area for Sikorsky aircraft, the pad also will be used as a pilot training facility for Sikorsky pilots and customers’ pilots. The new landing facility was created to allow for landing capability on inclines up to 15 degrees, in accordance with Aeronautical Design Standard (ADS-33) requirements.”

Sikorsky implemented a green solution for the landing area by choosing Grasscrete, in lieu of a solid concrete slab, a natural selection to ensure that there will be no erosion of soil, low maintenance and proper absorption of water to avoid runoff. The voids were filled with soil and planted with Bahia sod.

The Sikorsky Development Flight Center (DFC) operations were started in March 1977 with two buildings and a 1500-ft runway. The facility gradually expanded to 12 buildings, extended its runway to 7000 ft and became a premier site for helicopter development testing. The DFC offers the capability to conduct all types of development flight testing including performance, structural and handling qualities flight test, tethered hover, slope landing, infrared and acoustics signature assessments, confined area night operations, external jettison, and ADS-33 handling qualities assessments.

Grasscrete provides the availability of using single-use formers such as the biodegradable Molded Pulp Former to create a monolithic reinforced ready mixed concrete pour that forms a pervious pavement structure with superior structural integrity and performance. Strong enough to handle a 15k – 27k pound helicopter landing and at varying slopes of 6 degrees up to 15 degrees. The voids that are opened after the concrete hardens can be utilized as an exposed application with crushed stone or concrete or utilized as a concealed system with vegetation such as grass or native ground cover to fit any style of use required. Common applications include; sustained access, fire and emergency access, daily parking, roadways, medians, overflow parking, pedestrian access and water management.