

US Army

Arrival of Task Force 8408 in 1942 during World War II



Troops disembarking from the "Kota Agoeng" to go ashore at Aitutaki

Basic construction of the port facility and the airfield at Aitutaki had been completed by the time Task Force 8408 arrived on 14 November 1942. The Task Force consisted of 46 officers and 804 enlisted men, under the command of Cavalry Colonel, Rossiter H. Garity, and included the 890th Engineer Aviation Company.

The 890th Engineers carried out general construction work such as buildings and roads. A Quartermaster laundry was built, channels were dredged, and a sawmill was operated. Improvements were added to the airport including the construction of a concrete hardstanding area.