



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

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A photograph showing two people in high-visibility jackets (one yellow, one red) standing in a grassy field, looking towards a large earthen dam structure. The dam has a large tree growing from its crest. The ground is muddy and there are some debris piles in the foreground.

*Honolulu District Geotechnical Engineers Assist
Hawaii with State-wide Dam Inspections*

Commander's Comments



Lt. Col. David E. Anderson
District Commander

The Center of the Formation

The following statement in an Army strategy document recently caught my eye:

"In a time of profound change, the Soldier remains the center of our formations.

In this conflict of daunting complexity and diversity, the Soldier is the ultimate platform."

The "center of our formation," is a term used to describe the single most important attribute of an Army unit.

It is not our weapon systems, technical superiority, or automated command and control systems that make our Army the greatest land force on earth. It is the Soldier.

All other aspects of generating combat power are *enablers* to the young men and women who populate the Army's units.

Recently I was talking about the "Center of the Formation" with some fellow district commanders. If the Soldier is the center of the U.S. Army's formation, what, we wondered, might one consider the "center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' formation?" To me, the answer is simple.

The center of our formation in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is our technical expertise!

It is because of our technical expertise that our nation has turned to the Corps for 230 years to solve its most vexing problems. From the establishment of the Corps in 1775 until today, we have been the Nation's "go-to" engineers. Let me cite some examples here in the Honolulu District:

- Because of our technical expertise the U.S. Department of the Interior came to us to design and construct the Palau Compact Road;
- Because of our technical expertise we were called upon to design and construct the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam, the largest flood control project in the State of Hawaii;
- Because of our technical expertise we were able to deploy a team of engineers and geologists to the Philippines after a horrific mud slide on Leyte;
- Because of our technical expertise the Nation called on us to regulate the nation's waterways and to protect her wetlands. We have protected and created some of the most ecologically diverse wetlands and marshes in the country right here in Hawaii;
- Because of our technical expertise we have responded to our Nation's needs by rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq, helping strengthen these fledgling democracies;
- Because of our technical expertise we were able to demonstrate our relevance to the needs of the state of Hawaii after the Kaloko Dam breach on Kauai. We deployed geotechnical experts from around the country to make a quick assessment of all dams in the state;
- Because of our technical expertise we have constructed many miles of flood control features in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas, saving untold millions of dollars in flood damage; and
- Because of our technical expertise we have provided thousands of updated barracks rooms, state of the art training facilities and modern command and control facilities for Soldiers and Airmen in Hawaii.

***The Honolulu District
The best place where the best
people serve...
...singularly focused on
executing quality projects...
...reliable and responsible...
...and having fun!***

There is much ado about the Corps "sacrificing its technical expertise" in the name of a new military construction strategy known as "MILCON Transformation." I can assure that this cannot and will not happen.

Our reputation as the "world's premier public engineering agency" was earned on the back of our technical expertise.

I can tell you that in Pacific Ocean Division we are taking this issue head-on. It was the #1 subject of discussion at our recent Senior Leadership Conference.

"The center of our formation in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is our technical expertise!"

Over the next 2 years, our Regional Management Board will be making an assessment of our technical business processes and making recommendations that will insure that our technical expertise is not eroded across the region.

These recommendations, once approved, will be implemented.

Will our civil works, military construction and environmental technical forces be organized, staffed, and perform exactly as we do today? Probably not.

Will every Corps of Engineer district retain its own full in-house design capability? Maybe not. But will we sacrifice our readiness, relevancy, reliability, and responsiveness by becoming an engineering and construction brokerage house?

No way!

We will remain relevant, ready, reliable, and responsive, and our technical expertise will remain the "center of our formation."

This is a vital issue for the Corps. I encourage those of you who are interested to provide your input to our RMB members. They will be the District's key voice in this matter. We need to hear from you.

Enhancing Mother Earth

Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future

Story and photos by Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

Nearly 200 Honolulu-area boy and girl scouts and Earth Day enthusiasts began their quest to be the new “stewards of the environment” at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Pacific Regional Visitor’s Center (RVC) at Ft. DeRussy on Earth Day 2006.

“Providing free interactive exhibits, video presentations and hands-on environmental clean-up activities for Earth Day showcases how relevant the Corps of Engineers is today to environmental stewardship,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Park Ranger Garland Ireland.”

Earth Day events at the RVC began with inquisitive Boy and Girl Scouts being encouraged by local environmental preservation organizations to participate in year-round ecological activities. Scouts said their hope was to learn more about the environment and help preserve it for the future. Scout leaders said they wanted their “stewards” to be respectful of the environment they live in.

Amy Tsuneyoshi, a watershed specialist from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply manning an exhibit at the RVC said, “Earth Day helps educate tomorrow’s leaders that we must protect our natural resources today to preserve the watersheds in Hawaii for future generations to enjoy.”

The Corps of Engineers and Earth Day participants focused on what can be done with positive, hands-on volunteer efforts to preserve our island environment, stream/park cleanup, trail restoration, removing trash from streets, mulching and using oil change boxes.



Honolulu area Boy Scouts listen intently to Honolulu District Park Ranger Garland Ireland at the Corps’ Pacific Regional Visitor’s Center at Ft. DeRussy as part of Earth Day 2006. Also listening (second from right) is RVC Park Ranger Mike Carroll.

“Earth Day is a hands-on event,” said Iwalani Sato, Honolulu Department of Environmental Services. “Whether it’s a stream or beach clean-up or reintroducing fish to the wild, Earth Day means awareness — and action. Earth Day had all ages in the city working together to make an environmental difference.”

More than 500 volunteers and representatives from the Ala Wai Association, 20 local civic organizations and the co-sponsors provided manpower and exhibits for events around the Ala Wai Watershed area focusing on this year’s U.S. Army Earth Day theme of “Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future” and Honolulu’s Earth Day 2006 theme of “Protecting Our Waters For Life.”

Earth Day in Honolulu is held each year to increase awareness and broaden the base of support for ongoing education, efforts to build partnerships and grassroots involvement to cleanup the Ala Wai watershed year round.

A group of University of Hawaii at Manoa students in the Marine Option Program bagged nearly 200 pounds of trash from brush and foliage around Ft. DeRussy beach, the RVC and U.S. Army Museum.

“Earth Day is a chance for everyone to help restore the environment to a pristine state and also gives us (Marine biology students) the opportunity to gain valuable interaction with people who are concerned with the environment,” said Yvette Marquez.

Earth Day was established March 21, 1970 as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on our planet.



RVC Park Ranger Mike Carroll passes a piece of trash to University of Hawaii Marine Option Program student Yvette Marquez during the Ft. DeRussy Beach cleanup. The Earth Day 2006 Ft. DeRussy cleanup netted almost 200 pounds of trash and debris.



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Honolulu District Commander..... Lt. Col. David E. Anderson
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Engineers Provide Expertise for Hawaii Dam Inspections

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

Honolulu District deployed a Preliminary Damage Assessment team to the Hawaiian Island of Kauai March 15 after the privately-owned KaLoko reservoir dam was breached March 14 and caused a rush of an estimated 400 million gallons of water to speed down-slope, resulting in devastating flood damage to local homes, a major Kauai highway and the confirmed deaths of four people.

Honolulu District Emergency Operations Planner Lincoln Gayagas and Civil Engineers Ray Kong and Eric Li flew to Kauai and provided immediate geological reconnaissance and technical engineering expertise to Kauai County, State of Hawaii Department of Natural Resources (DLNR) and State of Hawaii Civil Defense officials for response efforts in the devastated area and other locations on Kauai.

Following a barrage of soaking rainstorms and a request for assistance by state officials, six stateside-based geotechnical USACE engineers arrived in Hawaii to assist the Hawaii DLNR with "visual condition survey" inspections of all dams on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Oahu.

The DLNR-led teams conducted the dam inspections simultaneously with each team fielding a Corps geotechnical engineer, a state engineer and county land guides. Dam inspections seek to identify any potential imminent danger and preclude any technical analysis such as core drillings, soil composition, hydrology, etc. The inspections of 54 dams were completed by April 30.



Civil Engineer Ray Kong photographs a Kauai dam site March 15. Honolulu District assisted Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources with emergency dam inspections after the Kaloko Dam breached on March 14. Photo by Lincoln Gayagas



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson observes Honolulu District and State of Hawaii geotechnical engineers collecting soil samples during a dam inspection survey on Kauai. USACE is assisting Hawaii DLNR with inspecting dams on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Oahu. Photo by Maj. Robert Kroning

Hawaii, Oahu Endures Six Weeks of Rain



March 31, 2006

Honolulu District engineers survey the rising water of Kahauiki Stream on Fort Shafter. Six weeks of rain culminated with a torrential rain storm on Oahu March 31 where streets and homes were flooded, streams overflowed, landslides and rockslides blocked roads, quickly rising waters trapped drivers in their cars, falling trees knocked out electric power and phone service, and forced evacuations of Kahala Mall as flood waters rushed inside. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



March 31, 2006



April 3, 2006

Kahauiki Stream spilled its banks March 31 flooding the Fort Shafter Elementary School's playground. Photos by Eric Li

Corps Contractor's Trailers Sustain Tornado Damage



A Traylor Brother Inc. employee surveys a trailer damaged after severe thunder storms spawned a tornado at about 9:35 p.m. March 23 on Lanai. The tornado struck several contractor trailers near Kaunapau Harbor causing an estimated \$50,000 in damage. Traylor Brother's, Inc. (Pacific) is using the trailers while repairing the breakwater at the harbor under a contract for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The trailers were unoccupied and no injuries were reported. Courtesy photo

HED Volunteers Help Oahu's Future Engineers



Civil Engineer Ed Yoshimura (left) and Chief, Construction Branch Louis Muzzarini assist with Oahu Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition at Kamehameha School Feb. 11. Thirteen Honolulu District employees volunteered to serve as proctors, scorers and monitors for the annual event which encourages young students to pursue careers in science or technology. Volunteers included: Anne Chang, James Date, Tom Goto, Maj. Robert Kroning, Eric Li, Johathan Mamiya, Louis Muzzarini, Ron Nakagawa, Kevin Nishimura, Matthew Rowe, Lynn Schaper, and Lorayne Shimabuku. Ten Honolulu District employees also assisted with the State MATHCOUNTS competition March 11: Paulette Choy, Tom Goto, Eric Li, Jonathan Mamiya, Paul Mizue, Louis Muzzarini, Michael Onuma, Matthew Rowe, Lynn Schaper and Darren Walls. Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Peabody: "Relevant, Ready, Reliable and Responsive"

More than 200 employees gathered at Fort Shafter's Richardson Theater April 10 for a joint POD/POH Townhall Meeting hosted by POD Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody.

After opening remarks from Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson, the townhall began with a video showcasing Army Civilians' contributions to the Nation and specifically highlighting disaster relief and the Global War on Terror (GWOT). The video narrator referred to Army Civilians as "unsung warriors."

The GWOT has increased the need for Army Civilians to fulfill roles traditionally reserved for active-duty Soldiers. Brig. Gen. Peabody said he is proud so many POD employees have volunteered to support the GWOT in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our volunteerism makes us relevant," he said, referring to one of POD's core values: Relevant, Ready, Reliable and Responsive.

Brig. Gen. Peabody shared his pride of working with such a diversely talented group as POD encompasses 12 million square miles and completes projects which are often dramatically different than its stateside counterparts.

"Since I arrived in July (2005), I have been continually amazed at your professionalism," he said.

Brig. Gen. Peabody stressed the importance of every employees' role in the team effort and feels all in POD should take pride in the most significant recent accomplishments:

He says he spends a lot of time with customers and that not all are satisfied. He views these dialogues as a vital part of the business process.

"It's not always a pleasant experience but helps show us our problem areas," said Peabody.

Although there is always room for improvement, he is impressed with the people of the Division and the way the organization adapts to the changing needs of the nation.

"There are two kinds of organizations—those that are changing and growing or those that are atrophying and dying, we are the former," he said.

He is confident that POD is leading the way in adapting to change and developing its leaders and cited the recent success of the Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP) which is scheduled for a Corps-wide launch in FY 08.

"We are a nation at war," he said. POD's impact and contributions are crucial. The Army is transforming and USACE is transforming," he said.

He expressed his appreciation to those who rapidly deployed recently to the Philippines after the devastating landslide in February and to Kauai after the Kaloko dam breach in March.

The meeting ended by honoring all POD employees who deployed to support the GWOT or relief efforts in natural disasters.

Reaching Out to Future Engineers

Engineer Matthew Rowe shares an anecdote with Hawaii Baptist Academy students April 7. EEO Manager Philip Mun coordinated the event and Chief, Construction Branch Louis Muzzarini provided opening remarks to the 22 students. Several Honolulu District employees shared their thoughts about the engineering world including Darren Walls, Project Management; Clayton Sorayama, Technical Support Branch; Jenelle Kim, Design Branch; Cindy Barger and Mark Arakaki, Environmental Branch. The students also toured various work areas including Design Branch and the CAD Section. Photo by Sarah H. Cox



Building a Safe, Strong and Healthy Workforce



HED Health Watch

Handling Emergencies in the Workplace

Workplace Violence

Harassing/abusive calls

- Hang up at once!! Wait at least 20 seconds before placing a call. *This will allow the telephone company's equipment to disconnect the caller even if the caller does not hang up.*
- Never give any information, such as your name and address, to unknown callers.
- If calls continue, talk to your supervisor about the problem and make a report with the military police.
- Supervisor and employee must decide together if the employee needs to be removed from the work area.

Threats at Work

- Remain calm and assess the situation.
- Take all threats seriously. Try not to provoke the person making the threat.
- Listen intently and maintain direct eye contact.
- Depending on the seriousness and severity of the threat, potential action could be:
 - Verbally calming the situation
 - Leaving the area
 - Calling for help
 - Physically defending oneself
- When the situation permits, report the incident to your supervisor, and the MPs.
- If you have warning, try to avoid the person and notify your supervisor, security manager and MPs of the potential situation.

Bomb Threats

- Remain calm.
- If threat claim is imminent, evacuate immediately, pull the fire alarm on the way out and call 911 from outside
- Use a prearranged "danger signal" that notifies a co-worker to listen to the call as well.
- Keep the caller on the line as long as possible to gather information on voice characteristics, familiarity with the facility, people mentioned, etc.
- Write down every word of the threat (use threat call checklist).
- Try to get someone to call 911 or the MPs from another line.
- Ask for the location of the bomb and what time it is set to go off.
- Be alert to the caller's voice and all background noises you hear from the caller's end of the line.
- Follow 911 or MP's instructions

Fire

- Notify personnel in immediate vicinity
- Calmly evacuate
- Pull the fire alarm on your way out
- Call 911 once clear of the building and provide the following:
 - Your name and installation
 - Building name/number
 - Office and floor number
 - Location and extent of fire
 - Your telephone number
 - After vacating, notify Safety Manager, 438-1316; Fire Marshall, 438-1278 and Security Manager, 438-7069.

Remain calm and evacuate even if your floor is not involved in the fire. Supervisors are responsible for accurately accounting for their staff and reporting to the Deputy Commander in person or by phone and informing the Fire Department if someone needs assistance.

In all emergencies, remaining calm is paramount.

In the event of an emergency, the Fire or Police Department will be in charge of life/safety issues – if requested; Corps employees will serve as support personnel.

Evacuations

In the event an emergency requires you to evacuate the building, remain calm and briskly assemble in the following areas and await further instructions from emergency personnel or District management:

Assembly Areas

- Bldg. 230:
Parking area on ewa side of Bldg. 230
- Bldg. 214:
Parking area on ewa side of Bldg 230
- Bldg. 252:
Diamond Head-side of parking area
- Bldg. 223T:
Grassy area, northwest of Bldg. 223T
- Bldg. 525:
Parking area, mauka side of Bldg. 525, Diamond Head-Side of residential area
- Bldg. 2026:
Parking lot on Aleshire Avenue
- Bldg. 127:
Adjacent parking area
- Bldg. 1507:
Adjacent parking areas

Clip and save!

HED Emergency Numbers

911 for Police, Fire, Ambulance

POH Security Manager: (808) 438-7069

POH Safety Manager: (808) 438-1316 or
(808) 438-0401

POD Security Manager: (808) 438-1038

Military Police:

Fort Shafter: 438-7114
Schofield Barracks: 655-7114

USACE FEST Assists U.S. Marines



Story by Sarah H. Cox
Command Information Specialist

The U.S. Corps of Engineers recently deployed a Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) to the village of Guinsaugon, Leyte, Philippines after a massive landslide swept away homes and killed an estimated 1,800 people.

Within 24 hours the FEST deployed to assist U.S. Marines' search and rescue efforts and help local officials assess hazard of the surrounding hillside while ensuring the safety of rescue workers and nearby residents.

The FEST, comprised of USACE's senior geoscience experts: ground failure expert Dr. Rick Olsen, Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC); Doug Bliss, (Chief EC-D), Far East District; Geotechnical Engineer Ray Kong and Geologist Eric Bjorken from Honolulu District, assessed the safety of the surrounding communities and determined the factors contributing to the deadly landslide.

The team immediately began conducting on-site inspections and detailed eyewitness interviews and gathering soil samples. They also performed helicopter-based reconnaissance to assess the stability of the surrounding mountainside.

The data gathered helped lessen the danger to nearby residents and rescue worker. At one point during a rainstorm, the FEST advised the Marines to evacuate the search area.

According to Dr. Olsen, rainwater accumulation during a rainstorm can percolate through the excavated hillside allowing water pressure to build near the bottom of slope creating a potentially dangerous condition.

With the help of interpreters, FEST members interviewed at least eight eye-witnesses to the landslide.

The interviews provided scientists with crucial information to determine the sequence of events leading to the failure of the mountainside. According to Eric Bjorken, interviewing the witnesses was a necessary, but difficult experience he will never forget.

"Even though we asked questions specifically pertaining to the actual landslide, it was still tragic....to see the pain in their faces and the tears in their eyes as they remembered seeing the slide engulf their homes and loved ones," Bjorken said.

Both Bjorken and Kong have worked at Honolulu District for 29 years and had to call on their scientific objectivity on several natural disaster deployments. Both men deployed to Indonesia after the Dec. 2004 tsunami and compared their experience then to the devastation in Leyte.

Although the Leyte landslide caused fewer casualties, both events obliterated whole communities and seared an unforgettable image in their memories.

"It's a humbling experience to witness the force of nature....Sometimes things happen too quickly to do anything about," said Bjorken.

The team determined the debris flow on the Philippine mountainside was traveling at 50 to 60 miles per hour when it moved over the rice field.

He says witnessing devastation caused by natural disasters put priorities in proper perspective and makes him appreciate his own life and family.

"Only a fool would say it can't happen here, it can't happen to me," Bjorken said.

Leyte, southeast of Manila, has been plagued by a series of natural disasters. In 1991, 6,000 Leyte residents died in floods and landslides caused by a tropical storm; another 133 died in Dec. 2003 after heavy rains deluged the small island.

Panoramic view of the landslide in Leyte, Philippines. Heavy rainfall caused a massive landslide that killed an estimated 1,800 people. Photo by [unreadable]



U.S. Marines on their way to the landslide site.

Leyte Search and Rescue Mission



*de on the Philippine island of Leyte after two weeks of heavy
slide sweeping away an entire village and killing an esti-
Dr. Rick Olsen, ERDC*



*Aerial view of the debris field on Guinsaigon Village. The length
of the entire slide from the summit to the debris toe is more than
three miles. Photo by Dr. Rick Olsen, ERDC*



debris site in search of survivors. Photo by Eric Bjorken



*Left to right (back row): U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Biadog; Doug Bliss, Far
East District; Ray Kong, Honolulu District; Dr. Rick Olsen, ERDC, ;
Eric Bjorken, Honolulu District; front row: three eye witnesses who
provided the USACE team with valuable information about the tragic
landslide. Courtesy photo*

Guinsaugon Landslide Relief Mission

HED Geologist Describes Disaster Relief Assistance

Story and photos
by Eric Bjorken

Geologist, Honolulu Engineer District

"It started with a call on Saturday Feb. 18 from my supervisor alerting me that I may be deploying to Saint Bernard in South Leyte Island Province, Republic of the Philippines.

I had heard news of the landslide disaster where 1,800 people perished in a matter of minutes. Early Sunday morning, Tom Brady, Military Contingency Planner called to ask if I was willing to deploy to the Republic of the Philippines immediately. My answer: an emphatic "yes!"

By mid-day Sunday, four USACE employees were committed to serving as landslide consultants to the U.S. Marine Corps as representatives of U.S. Pacific Command.

Our landslide team consisted of Ray Kong, Geotechnical Engineer, Honolulu Engineer District Technical Support Branch; Doug Bliss, Geotechnical Engineer and Chief of the Far East District's Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch; Dr. Rick Olsen, Geotechnical Engineer of the Geotechnical Laboratory, Engineering and Research Development Center (ERDC); and me, a geologist from Honolulu Engineer District's Environmental Technical Branch. Dr. Olsen, a subject matter expert on landslides and debris flows at ERDC, was designated the team leader.

Our initial mission was to assess the potential for residual landslides in the affected zones that endangered search and rescue workers and equipment. At the beginning of the search and rescue operations, the U.S. Military involvement was to be limited to one week of logistics and search and rescue support. Since our USACE team was serving as landslide consultants to the Marines, our involvement was also limited to the same week.

ENROUTE

Traveling to the remote disaster area was a logistical nightmare, as the 35-hour trip took us to Manila, Cebu, Clark Airfield, Tacloban and finally to the USS Essex (LHA-4) where we boarded a CH-46 helicopter bound for St. Bernard. Relief workers and our team converged at the U.S.



Transporting the search and rescue teams to the debris field of the Guinsaugon landslide was hindered by swampy conditions and required extraordinary measures.

Contingency Disaster Headquarters tent on the grounds of the St. Bernard Elementary School.

When we arrived on-site the relief worker tent city wasn't set up yet and there are no hotels in the remote area. We quickly realized we were nearly 'sleepless in St. Bernard' as we didn't have so much as a sleeping bag or a bath towel. Rick and Doug managed to find a spare room from our U.S. Marine hosts in a house donated for the mission by two sisters who lived in the U.S.

Ray and I shared a bedroom in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Goda, owner of a local store and pharmacy; who took us in out of the goodness of their hearts. The Godas were already housing members of the Philippine Health Department and a few other relief workers, but they took us in. We slept on wooden plank beds on pandanas mats or thin cushions on the floor and were ever so grateful for this when the rain began to pour on our first night.

SEARCH, RECOVERY

The loose, swampy conditions made the search mission extremely dangerous. During our first few days there, the priority was to find survivors, the safety of the rescue workers wasn't quite as important. The search and recovery operations center was a group of tents pitched on high ground (relatively speaking) on the opposing side of the river from the landslide and surrounded by rice paddies. It was about three miles out from St. Bernard on the floodplain of a meandering river. Silty water from the debris flow made the river water turbid and potentially contaminated from the contents of the deadly sediment.

The surface of the debris flow was barely visible from the operations center. But the scarp of the landslide was clearly visible from the rice-paddy floodplain to the clouded mountain summit. Its overall relief is more than 3,000 feet. The length of the entire slide from the summit to the debris toe is over three miles.

But as the grim futile reality of finding survivors set in the mission priorities changed. The search and rescue operations mission shifted from a generalized search of the debris plain for survivors to a site-specific search of the Guinsaugon School where hopes of finding trapped victims diminished hourly over the course of the week. The energy of the landslide was too great to be resisted by any of the man-made structures in the village. No survivors were found after the initial 24 hours of the search.

As the rescue operations transformed into recovery operations, work crews began excavating deeper into the sediment. This jeopardized the lives of the rescue workers who were attempting to recover victims. On two occasions our team recommended suspension of recovery operations as a result of inclement weather and unstable soil conditions.

The U.S. Marine Aviation Detachment from Okinawa, Japan continually flew in workers and equipment to the two excavation sites near the former village. As the conditions of the debris flow surface stabilized, travel paths for workers and equipment were established and rescuers were ferried across the river from the operations center to the debris flow in heavy equipment (loaders).

TURNOVER

On Saturday Feb. 25, the tents started coming down and rescue workers and equipment began demobilizing from the field operations center. Life in St. Bernard was about to return to normal except for the villagers evacuated to shelters.

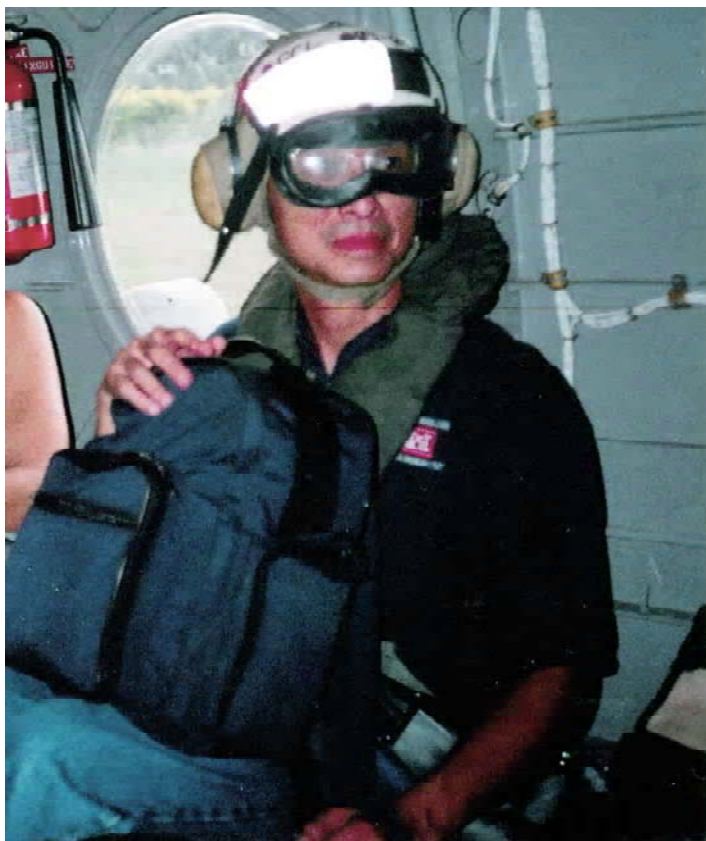
It was difficult to leave with so much work left undone. I couldn't help but be reminded of the fall of Saigon, as if everyone was bailing out. But our part of the work was done and our USACE Landslide Team relinquished our mission to the proper agency - the GRP Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Our team initiated several training sessions to provide the MGB geologists landslide evaluation criteria. Using this criteria, the MGB was prepared to recommend rescinding the evacuation order on all but three village areas evacuated by the time the USACE Landslide Team departed St. Bernard.

The Goda family, our gracious hosts who opened their home to us, would not accept any payment for the use of their house. To show our appreciation before our departure, we left money where they would find it.

Our departure was much less hectic than our arrival. We rented a private SUV through gracious host Romeo Goda. Somehow our driver, Christopher (he must be a saint) got us safely to Tacloban while demonstrating 'white knuckle' driving.

I know our team accomplished our mission. It's so humbling to be at the site of a natural disaster and I think I can speak for the USACE Landslide Team - the memories of this mission and people of Leyte won't be leaving us anytime soon."



Honolulu District Geotechnical Engineer Ray Kong flies on board a U. S. Marine Corps CH-46 helicopter bound for St. Bernard as part of the USACE team serving as landslide consultants for the Guinsaigon Landslide Relief Mission.

Eye Witness Account:

"...a large wall of earth moving towards me"



Lt. Col. (Chaplain) Biadog, U. S. Marine Corps (left) and eye witness Tony Cabbang discuss the landslide which swept away the entire village of Guinsaigon Feb. 17, 2006.

"It was mid-morning, about 10:25 a.m. when I heard rumbling noise coming from the mountain. I was weeding the rice paddies where the rescue operations tents are now. I could feel the ground trembling and I looked up. That's when I heard a sound like an explosion or a loud 'bang' and watched as the top of the mountain came sliding down. There was a great cloud of smoke (dust) and a large wall of earth moving towards me. I turned and ran as fast as I could and looked back only once to see if the wall was near. I didn't stop until I reached here (the church in Camaga village). I waited until the noise stopped then returned to rice paddies I was working. I knew the village was destroyed and began looking for survivors." – Tony Cabbang, eyewitness interview as interpreted by Lt. Col. Biadog, U. S. Marine Corps



Spotlight on the Customer

Corps of Engineers Workshop Conveys “....A Year for Transformation”

Story and photo by
Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

More than 170 local architects, engineers, construction contractors and others in related fields attended the 11th Annual Corps of Engineers Workshop April 11, 2006 at the Hale Koa Hotel.

The workshop provided local design and construction representatives the latest information on the Honolulu District's project workload, technical information and administrative procedures that affect how the industry does business with the Corps.

This year's workshop theme was, "2006 - A Year for Transformation." As the Army is in the midst of a historic force reconstruction while continuing to support the Department of Defense's number one goal of winning the Global War on Terrorism, the Corps continues to make transitions with the Army.

Information presented during the 2006 workshop allowed participants to better understand contracting methods and procedures, to be aware of new standards and codes affecting military projects and to learn about design, construction and legal implications of working with the Honolulu Engineer District (HED).

After welcoming remarks by Mr. Michael Leineweber, President, American Institute of Architects (Honolulu Chapter) and Lt. Col. David Anderson, Honolulu District Commander, James Bersson PE, Acting Deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management told the audience about projected future construction work and how work comes to the Corps.

The luncheon speaker was Brig. Gen. John Peabody, Commander and Division Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division. His presentation was, "An Army in Transformation."

In his presentation, Peabody highlighted how Corps and industry partners have a key role in the Global War on Terror, detailed



Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John Peabody (left, standing) answers an architect's question at the Corps of Engineers Workshop April 11 at the Hale Koa Hotel.

how the Army is transforming from a division-centric to a brigade-centric organization and emphasized what affect transformation is having on installation military construction.

"We are a nation at war and everyone with whom we do business has an equally important role to play in winning that war," Peabody said. "Our construction industry partners know it's important we work together, now more than ever," Peabody said.

The workshop and breakout session also provided opportunity for industry partners from the American Institute of Architects (Honolulu Chapter), American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii, General Contractors Association of Hawaii, Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Hawaii to discuss issues one-on-one with Corps' employees in the spirit of partnership.

Corps functional area specialists made presentations during a wide variety of breakout sessions, covering everything from Honolulu District's Construction Quality Management to Military Construction Transformation.

Breakout sessions presented by Honolulu District staff included:

- Military Construction (MILCON) Transformation - Andrew Kohashi

- Life-Safety Deficiencies - Michael Yatsushiro
- Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment - Justin Pummel
- Historic Preservation - Loren Zulick and Maydean Martin
- Construction Contractor and AE Performance Evaluation Systems - Timothy Phillips & Duane Arakawa
- Cost Escalation Issues - Gary Yamauchi
- AE Liability - Curtis Yokoyama
- Construction Quality Management Updates - Paul Regan and Russell Leong

The first annual HED Workshop was in 1996 at the Pagoda Hotel with the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii. Since then, they have changed their name to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii. In 1998 the workshop expanded to include the American Institute of Architects.

In 2000, it again expanded to include the General Contractors Association, the Building Industry Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors Association.

In 1999, due to the increasing number of participants, the site was changed to the Hale Koa Hotel, where it has been held ever since.

This year's workshop was co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (Honolulu Chapter).

Women's History Month

Anderson Cites Importance of "Military Community Support"

Story and photo by Sarah H. Cox
Command Information Specialist

District employees gathered March 22 to hear Mrs. Kara Anderson share her experiences of being a military wife and becoming involved in a new community every few years.

About 50 employees attended the Special Emphasis Program Committee-sponsored event which also included educational displays, literature and a video presentation honoring women of Honolulu District.

This year's theme, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams", honors generations of women who have brought communities together and restored hope in difficult times.

Mrs. Anderson, a mother of three, President of Hui O Na Wahine (All Ranks Wives Club) and wife of Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David Anderson, made her presentation as part of National Women's History Month.

The Anderson family has moved 13 times in 18 years and each new community brings fresh challenges and a chance to evolve.

"It hasn't been easy. With each new assignment, Dave would step right into a ready-made community surrounding his job," Anderson said.

Yet for the military spouse, Anderson says, it's usually not so easy.

"We have to do whatever it takes to step out of our comfort zone," Anderson said. "Giving to the community where you live, not only helps the community, it helps you too."

At Schofield Barracks, Mrs. Anderson conducts re-integration training for military members returning from deployment and their families. She feels strongly about the importance of supporting the community where you live.

"All of our roles are important, without all the small parts the whole doesn't work. You never know when touching someone else's life will cycle back to you."



Kara Anderson helped honor generations of women who have brought communities together as she addressed the District in honor of National Women's History Month.

Lt. Col. Anderson's assignment in Korea taught Mrs. Anderson how to lean on the support of the community. Learning to adapt to a new community and how to ask for help from virtual strangers was a new concept for her.

"I had no experience in building a community for myself, when I was growing up, I lived in one place, one house and I knew everyone," Anderson said.

She says learning to be flexible and becoming involved in the community helped her adapt to military life.

Women's National History Month began in 1987 as a project to address the absence of information in school curriculums concerning the important historical contributions of women and to honor the vital role women have played in improving our communities and helping to achieve equality and justice for all Americans.



Black History Month

"Honoring Our Heritage"

Honolulu District Architect Darren Walls opened the Black History Month event in Bldg. 230's Conference Room. The event included displays, poetry readings and "lunch on the lawn."

The Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) sponsors the annual event in honor of Black History Month. As an SEPC member, Walls works to break down barriers and obstacles for minorities entering the engineering profession. He recently represented Honolulu District at the Black Engineer Conference in Maryland. Feb. 15-17.

Photo by Sarah H. Cox

Returning Employees Share GWOT Experiences

Hydraulic Engineer Derek Chow, Civil and Public Works Branch (standing), joined four other Honolulu District employees in conducting a series of presentations on their personal experiences while deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Chow; Brad Scully, SBCT Resident Office; Richard Rodier, Real Estate Office; Paul Regan, SBCT Resident Office and Dennis Chung, Air Force Resident Office, who have all deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, shared their personal stories and they provided valuable information about pay entitlements, length of tours and working conditions in the war zones. All presenters agreed that supporting the GWOT has been one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of their careers and that the personal gains far outweighed the inconveniences and time spent away from family. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Honors “Extraordinary” Honolulu District Employees

Honolulu District employees were honored at the Pacific Region Civilian Human Resources Commander’s and Leadership Training Conference March 13 for their contributions to the Global War on Terror and disaster relief. Melinda McMillon Darby, SES Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel presented coins and certificates to employees who recently deployed including: Ed Alonzo, Rudy Atoigue, Cindy Barger, Wayne Birgado, Eric Bjorken, Ignacio Borja, Paul Bowen, Rolando Castillo, Benton Ching, Derek Chow, Didier Fusero, Lincoln Gayagas, Win Hargis, Pam Hayes, Joel Hendrix, Jon Hosaka, Timothy Inouye,



Roxanne Iseri, Randy Itamoto, Pauline Kahalioumi, Julius Kaneshiro, John Kawaakoa, Ray Kong, Erick Kozuma, Randall Kurashige, Hunjin Kye, Val Lee, Rodney Leong, Eric Li, Tammy Luke, Franklin Lum, Michael Mercado, Cliff Olivera, Frank Ono, Steve Paahana, Ron Pang, Tom Piazza, Al Ponciano, Justin Pummell, Romeo Querubin, Connie Ramsey, Paul Regan, Richard Rodier, Kennji Santiago, Paul Shimata, Gary Shirakata, Eric Sugiyama, Steven Takeguchi, Glen Takishita, Katie Tamashiro, Laureen Vizcarra, David Wong, Jyun Yamamoto and Ed Yoshimura. Photo by Sarah H. Cox

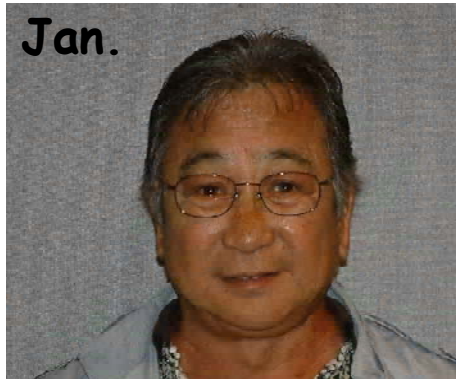
HED Employees of the Month

Employee Awards Program

Every month two employees are chosen as Honolulu District Employees of the Month. In addition to being immortalized on the "Plaque of Fame", they receive a special reserved parking space and a choice of Lokahi gifts.

The Employee of the Month program is managed by the Employee Recognition Committee which is empowered to act on behalf of the District Commander. The Committee, manages a number of award programs including: Lokahi, Top 60, On-the-spot, HED annual awards and special commendations.

Jan.



Mike Miyata, Construction Rep

Mr. Miyata's customers often express their satisfaction of his diligence, timely execution, attention to details and his professionalism in making the two renovation projects a success.

Jan.



Vecy Pascual, Staff Accountant

Ms. Pascual's involvement with issues such as the *effective rate analysis* exhibits her expertise and experience. She also serves as primary fund certifier for all appropriations allotted to HED.

Feb.



Clayton Sorayama, Electrical Engineer

In addition to supporting Project Delivery Teams in Honolulu, Alaska, Japan and Korea, Mr. Sorayama goes above and beyond to support the highly successful POH Outreach Program.

Feb.



Lilah Orrantia, Engineering Technician

Ms. Orrantia provides outstanding service and in recent months has covered three positions. She always wears a smile and proactively goes the extra mile to ensure the job is done right.

March



Carrie Wakumoto, Contract Specialist

Ms. Wakumoto voluntarily assumed duties of the Systems Administrator for Contracting. Her efforts allowed POH to successfully convert to FedTeDS prior to the USACE deadline.

March



Joseph Hohaia, Systems Administrator

Mr. Hohaia is the on-site task lead for CSC staff and a senior POH network administrator and voluntarily assumed additional duties due to the loss of key personnel in Information Management.

April



Ray Kong, Civil Engineer

Mr. Kong displayed outstanding team spirit during two recent emergency relief efforts—a landslide in the Philippines and assisting the State of Hawaii and Kauai County after the Kaloko Dam breach.

April



Loren Zulick, Archaeologist

Mr. Zulick assisted with hurricane relief efforts while diligently protecting our American Heritage in the State of Louisiana while continually keeping a positive outlook.

District Shorts

Aloha Means:

Hello:

A warm welcome to Regional Visitor Center Park Ranger Michael Carroll and GIS Specialist Josette Pullen

Good-Bye:

Lisa Clark, Darryl Hasegawa, Charles Hardee, Ronald Hirano, Robert Inouye, Ray Jyo, Steven Kim, Hunjin Kye, Carl Larson, Patience Nwanna, Eric Sugiyama, Roy Tamashiro, Katie Tamashiro, James Tamura, Linda Tomlinson and Craig Ueda

Welcome Back:

Ron Pang

Pacific Connection, Pacific Engineer Win Corps' Kassner Journalism Awards

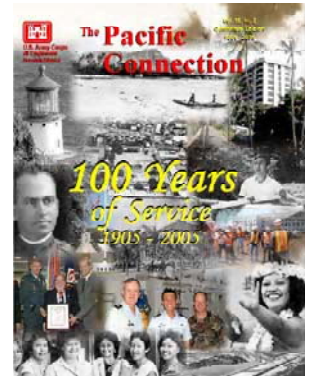
Honolulu District's *The Pacific Connection* and Pacific Ocean Division's *Pacific Engineer* news magazines recently received first place awards in the coveted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2005 Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Award competition.

Honolulu District's "100 Years of Exemplary Service," a one-time special edition of *The Pacific Connection*, won first place in the "Special Achievement" category. The special edition was published to honor the District's first 100 years of service. Significant contributors were *Pacific Connection* Editor Sarah Cox and public affairs staff members Joe Bonfiglio and Dino Buchanan.

Pacific Ocean Division's flagship regional news magazine, *Pacific Engineer*, was judged as the Corps' best in the Magazine category.

For his story on rockfall mitigation entitled "Corps, state officials working to prevent potential Moanalua Valley rockslides," Honolulu District's Media Relations Specialist Dino Buchanan also took first place honors in the "News Article" category.

Judging of 138 selected entries in 15 categories from Corps Divisions and District's worldwide was held Feb. 10, 2006 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters in Washington, D.C. by a panel of eight Washington D.C.-area professionals in the public affairs and journalism fields.



— On the cover

Dam inspectors from the State of Hawaii and Honolulu Engineer District conduct a "visual condition survey" of a Kauai dam to identify potential dangers after the KaLoko Dam breached on March 14. For the complete story see page 4. Cover photo by Lincoln Gayagas

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